

€13.7m Capital investment announced for IT Sligo under Project Ireland 2040

IT Sligo has been successful in its application of funding for the development and upgrade of the K&L Block on the north campus. The €13.7m capital investment was announced this morning by The Minister for Education and Skills Joe McHugh T.D. and the Minister of State for Higher Education Mary Mitchell O'Connor T.D. and will be provided through the Higher Education Authority. This funding will facilitate the consolidation on campus of the recently established Yeats Academy of Arts, Design and Architecture and form a North-Campus Creative Hub in IT Sligo.

Minister Joe McHugh T.D. added funding would help IT Sligo and the Connacht Ulster Alliance towards their ambitions in becoming a Technological University: "The funding will also support IT Sligo as a member of the Connacht Ulster Alliance in



Artist's impression of the development plans to improve facilities on its North Campus.

working towards Technological University status. Significant new buildings for the other members of the Alliance, Letterkenny IT and GMIT, are currently being advanced as part of the Higher

Education Public Private Partnership Programme. Together these capital investments will greatly enhance the role of the planned TU as a driver of economic and social development in the West and North West".

This creative hub will allow art, design and architecture students to optimise the commonalities of the various disciplines in a fit for purpose, collaborative environment. This significant development is an integral part of the master plan of IT Sligo to grow to 10,000 students.

Minister Mitchell O'Connor said: "Lifelong learning is one of the key objectives of Ireland's National Skills Strategy 2025. IT Sligo has been, and continues to be, a leader in the areas of online and blended learning. I am pleased that this investment will support the Institute to further expand opportunities in this area."

President of IT Sligo, Dr. Brendan McCormack welcomed the announcement and hopes it will become a focal point for the creative sector in the Northwest:

"IT Sligo would like to sincerely thank The Minister for Education and Skills Joe McHugh T.D. and the Minister of State for Higher Education Mary Mitchell

O'Connor T.D. for announcing this funding today. We also acknowledge the work of Tony McLoughlin, TD in supporting our proposal.

The funding will facilitate a significant upgrade of the existing north campus in IT Sligo, bringing together architecture, creative design, fine art, interior architecture & design, performing arts and writing & literature programmes into a creative hub on campus. The upgraded facilities will encourage engagement with the creative industry and community and will act as a focal point for creative sector in the region.

I would like to congratulate all our colleagues for their support in this application as this is a reflection of the high esteem this institute is held within the Government and the HEA. I would especially like to thank Elizabeth McCabe, Una Parsons, Emmet Doherty and Ed Millar for their hard work and dedication in making this successful application."

The funding is being provided under Project Ireland 2040 which commits to exchequer investments of €2.2 billion in Ireland's higher education infrastructure over the coming decade.

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First Online Autonomous Vehicles Course Launched by Minister for Higher Education



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The first online course aimed at the Autonomous Vehicles industry was officially launched by the Minister of Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD recently at IT Sligo.

This innovative new part-time Masters of Engineering programme brings together interdisciplinary concepts such as computer vision, artificial intelligence, vehicle dynamics and advanced sensor systems to provide engineers with the skills required to design the next generation of self-driving cars. *Continued on Page 7*

Engineering Fair Inspires Next Generation



IT Sligo Open Day April 13th 2019



IDI Award for Creative Design Student



IT Sligo backing Wheelchair Access Campaign





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TOP EMPLOYER 2018:



Computing students present to Grange Armada Development Association

Year one computing students at IT Sligo recently engaged on a project with Spanish Armada Ireland, whose vision is to develop prosperity in the north-west region by promoting its historic link with Streedagh strand, Co. Sligo, where in 1588, three Spanish Armada galleons sank and, to-date, remains the largest collection of maritime wrecks at one site.

As part of the 'Design Thinking' module, over one hundred first year computing students experienced the Grange Spanish Armada visitor centre and its historic environs. Subsequently the cohort embarked on an industry informed process which required them to define and determine tourist issues through empathy, ideation and user testing. Thereafter a myriad of concepts were presented to members of G.A.D.A. and Sligo County Council for consideration in their future planning for the locale. From augmented reality apps to architectural structures, project

instigator, Ronan Gilroy, said that "the student outcomes were amazing, as they both challenged and confirmed our thoughts, sparking debate and the consideration of alternative ideas in improving the visitor experience."

Adrian Durcan, programme chair for the new B.A. App Design and User Experience (U.X.) degree at IT Sligo commented that "this industry-led module scaffolds a very important mind-set enabling students to determine, define and develop great products and services by focussing on a customer's experience. This is known as user experience design or U.X."

U.X. Design is the fastest growing design sector internationally and in response IT Sligo has established a level eight honours degree in the discipline. To learn more about studying a B.A. in App Design and U.X., please visit the IT Sligo website. For further information on Spanish Armada Ireland you can visit www.spanisharmadaireland.com



Chairman of Grange and Armada Development Association Eddie O'Gorman, with project instigator Ronan Gilroy, and B.A. App Design and User Experience (U.X.) degree students.

IT SLIGO OPEN DAY

Saturday April 13th 2019, 11am – 2pm



Click Here to Watch Video 

Are you thinking of starting college in September? Do you want to gain a degree, Masters or even PhD? Or do you want to upskill for that promotion or change careers completely? IT Sligo offers all levels of Degrees, Masters and PhD's in almost any course you could think of. From forensics to archaeological digs, from accountancy to digital marketing and from acting to autonomous vehicles, IT Sligo offers more than you ever imagined. Discover more about IT Sligo courses, attend workshops, meet our academic staff,

ask our current students what college life is really like and speak to our support staff. As well as this, Guidance Counsellors, students and lifelong learners can benefit from advice on grants & fees, sport scholarships, accommodation tours, access routes, support services and campus tours.

Get all the information you need to join us at the IT Sligo Open Day, Saturday 13th April, 11am -2pm.

For further inspiration on what course is right for you, visit our course pages www.itsligo.ie/courses/

OPEN DAY 2019

Where will your open day take you?

Saturday, 13th April
11am - 2pm



Tour Your Campus

Tool Rooms, Laboratories, Library, Studio Space, Wood Workshops



Be A Student For A Day

Attend real lectures
Meet your future classmates
Take Part in Clubs & Societies
VIP Access All Areas



SUSI Talk

Talks at 12pm & 1pm
Have all your Financial Questions answered or
Get 1-2-1 advice at the Fees & Grants Stand on the Main Concourse



Accommodation

Tours at 12pm & 1pm



Sports Scholarships

Get your slice of €190,000 available in funding!



Pick Up Your Gift

Simply complete a short exit survey before you leave today



Have A Go

Archery, Basketball, Garring
Football Challenge with Sligo Rovers



Win Tickets To Sligo Rovers Games

Enter competition at the Welcome Desk



Free Gym Pass

For all IT Sligo applicants
Collect at the Welcome Desk

For more information on how to take part in these great activities, please see the timetable.

Register your attendance at:
www.itsligo.ie/openday



Social Science Showcase

In Year 2 and Year 3, Early Childhood Care and Education and Social Care Practice students spend thirteen weeks working under professional supervision in a diverse range of settings. In practice placement, they learn how to enable, to

empower, to support and to advocate for and with the individuals, families and groups they meet.

The students' knowledge, skills and competencies are shaped by these experiences. The student work was

celebrated at the inaugural Social Science Showcase in February. Through their written pieces, photography and film, students shared their learning experiences and the positive contribution they have made to the lives of others.



Lecturer, Susanne Colleary launches new book "The Comic Everywoman in Irish Popular Theatre"

Lecturer at IT Sligo, Susanne Colleary has released her new book: "The Comic Everywoman in Irish Popular Theatre". The book was officially launched by writer and actor, Tara Flynn at IT Sligo's Markievicz building with NUIG lecturer Dr Ian Walsh.

This book is a comprehensive study of comic women in performance as Irish Political Melodrama from 1890 to 1925. It maps out the performance contexts of the period, such as Irish "poor" theatre both reflecting and complicating narratives of Irish Identity under British Rule. The study investigates the melodramatic aesthetic within these contexts and goes on to analyse a selection of the melodramas by the playwrights J.W. Whitbread and P.J. Bourke. In doing so, the analyses makes plain the comic structures and intent that work across both character and action, foregrounding comic women at the centre of the



Dr Ian Walsh (NUIG), Susanne Colleary (Author) and Actor, Tara Flynn at book launch.

discussion. Finally, the book applies a "practice as research" dimension to the study. Working through a series of workshops, rehearsals and a final performance, Colleary

investigates comic identity and female performance through a feminist revisionist lens. She ultimately argues that the formulation of the Comic Everywoman as staged

"Comic" identity can connect beyond the theatre to her "Everyday" self. This book is intended for those interested in theatre histories, comic women and in popular performance.

IT Sligo backing Wheelchair Access Campaign



Vicky Matthew

IT Sligo is backing a campaign by a student who can't start her course due to inadequate wheelchair accessible public transport in the region. Ballyshannon resident, Vicky Matthew was hoping to start a course in Applied Sport and Business in IT Sligo in September but is unable to do so as there is no suitable public transport available. The 480 bus from Ballyshannon to IT Sligo has no wheelchair access and the only other public transport available is the express route which requires at least 24 hour notice. Vicky explained the 24 hour notice is to allow Bus Eireann time to remove 4 seats from the bus to allow space for a wheelchair. The person is then lifted in through a window into the bus via a lift which Vicky described as "being lifted in like cargo". Ms Matthew became wheelchair bound after an illness eleven years ago and now relies on family and friends for transport. Vicky has since set up a petition online and has appeared in national media and has been left very frustrated by the experience:

"I've been told plans are in progress for the installation of wheelchair accessible stops at Ballyshannon and Sligo bus stations. However, it is likely to be 2020 or 2021 before those works be completed.

These plans are not needed, what is needed is a low suspension bus with ramp, the same as those which are available in Dublin

and other major towns and cities. I am campaigning personally for this bus not only to meet my needs of going to college, but for everyone on route 480 Ballyshannon to Sligo, who needs this service - people from Bundoran, Clifffoney, Grange and so on." To date Vicky's campaign has received over 5,000 signatures. If you would like to sign the petition please go to change.org



The
Education
Awards
2019

Congratulations to the Department of Social Sciences who were nominated in the category of Best College of Arts & Social Science at the National Education Awards in Dublin recently. An independent panel of recognised and expert judges nominated the department, commenting on the quality of programmes offered by the Institute and their broader impact in the community through industry partnerships, collaborations and research.

'Not Consent' Exhibition Comes to Sligo



Ruth Maxwell, organiser of 'Not Consent' Exhibition

The national tour of "Not Consent" exhibition came to IT Sligo in January to create awareness around the issue of consent. The powerful exhibition called 'Not Consent' displayed items of clothing worn by victims when they were sexually assaulted as well as hearing from a number of speakers.

The organiser of the event Ruth Maxwell decided to bring the event to the region in the wake of surviving her own experience of assault. Attacked by a man with a hunting knife on her way to work in Dublin on May 16, 2016, Ruth successfully managed to stop the assailant by grabbing the weapon in her own hand, causing gruesome injuries but managing to free herself. The case played a key role in a

Garda investigation linking this incident to two other attacks on women in the area and resulted in a conviction against the man for all three incidents.

Hosted in IT Sligo, the project was in collaboration with Sligo Rape Crisis Centre, Priscilla Grainger of SDVII, The Model Sligo and Survivors with Biros among other organisations. "The event was inspired by the photo exhibition Katherine Cambareri did for her thesis of clothing worn by sexual assault and rape victims as well as my love of art and my own personal experience. I wanted to bring this powerful message to life to create awareness around the issue of consent and I am delighted to be bringing this exhibition to Sligo with a number of

incredible organisations." Said organiser Ruth Maxwell.

VP Academic Affairs and Registrar Colin McClean welcomed the exhibition to IT Sligo: "I am delighted to welcome Ruth Maxwell and a number of other partners, including the Sligo, Leitrim & West Cavan Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre, and Survivors with Biros along with the 'Not Consent' Exhibition here to IT Sligo today. This exhibition is currently embarking on a national tour and sends a very strong message regarding Consent and what that means."

If you have been affected by this story, please contact Student Welfare Services or Sligo Rape Crisis Centre on 071-9171188.

The 2nd Annual Human Nutrition undergraduate research conference



The 2nd Annual Human Nutrition undergraduate research conference took place recently with 58 presenters on areas such as food development and bioactives, clinical nutrition, sports and exercise nutrition and public health nutrition highlighting a vast array of current

research in these thematic areas. The four award winners were as follows; An evaluation of a novel food preservative and its effects on Milk (Katie Herron). BMI and blood pressure in a paediatric outpatient clinic and its association with child and adolescent eating behaviours

(children aged 6-15 years) (Christine Houlihan). An evaluation of the anti-cancer properties of Irish food stuffs using vegetable extracts (Katie Marconi). Nutritional knowledge and attitudes of female elite athletes (Emily Mulvihill).

Inner Peace at IT Sligo Saturday 23rd February 2019



Do you feel the need to de-stress at one of the busiest times during the semester? Or feel like you just need a few hours to relax in a friendly environment? Join Inner Peace for a day of relaxation on the IT Sligo campus in J1002 on the 19th March 2019, from 11.15am until 2pm.

Inner Peace is a wellness event that will allow attendees to loosen up and forget about demanding work for a few hours during the week. The event will allow students and staff to have a better understanding of what is available in terms of minimising stress and encouraging relaxation, which in turn would help to improve wellness in the individual. We decided to hold our event in Mid-March as around this time is when deadlines for projects and assignments fall due causing a lot of students great stress.

This free event will include a relaxing Yoga session, which will be carried out by Clare Kelly Lahon, a short Meditation session with Geraldine Dowling and an insightful talk on Nutrition for Good Mental Health. In addition to this, there will be wellness giveaways on the day.

Inner Peace was created by third year students in the Bachelor of Business in Tourism with Event Management degree who are currently undertaking the Event Management module.

To register for our event visit our EventBrite pages. To get in contact with the team please email Innerpeace958@gmail.com.

Find us on Facebook for more information

Happy 65th birthday to Jimmy Shannon from all at IT Sligo!



Students Survey Land-Use of Sligo Town



The mapping and development of a Land-Use Survey of Sligo Town, by IT Sligo students is significant, not just for future land use but also town planning and design. It is vital resource for #Sligo now, and for decades into the future, and an example of a true collaboration between the Institute, Sligo County Council and the local business community.

Finbar Filan, a member of the CTCHC network for Sligo and Sligo BID, worked with the 3rd

year Architecture Lecturers and Students from IT Sligo and praised the work carried out:

“Having reviewed the worked completed to date by the students, I wanted to convey our deep appreciation for the completion of such a significant body of work

It is really a credit to all involved, who approached this project with commitment, enthusiasm and passion and I felt it was important to communicate this to you today.

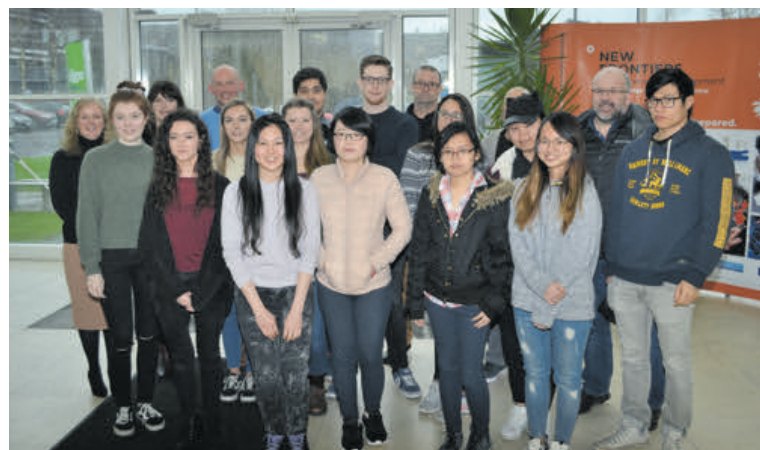
It is a fantastic job and one that is brilliant resource for Sligo now and



for decades into the future.

This is a great example of real collaboration between IT Sligo, Sligo County Council and the Sligo business community.”

For more information on our RIAI accredited degree programme BArch Architecture, visit www.itsligo.ie/courses/barch-hons-architecture



€13.7m Capital investment announced for IT Sligo under Project Ireland 2040

Continued from front page

Together with other infrastructural development funding received by county Sligo under Project Ireland 2040, this funding received by IT Sligo is a further indicator of the commitment by the Government to develop Sligo as a regional centre. Dr. McCormack added: “We will be making other applications for on-campus developments over the coming months to ensure that IT Sligo has the necessary infrastructure to transition into a technological university for the North-West of Ireland.”

Tony McLoughlin, TD also welcomed the announcement as another growth indicator for the region: “Today’s positive announcement for Sligo comes on the back of over €160 Million investment in upgrading our key roads this year, the 1450 new jobs announced here since January 2018 and the continued focus on helping Sligo to grow to reach its potential.”

Work on the development will start once a tendering process is complete.

Engineers Without Borders in IT Sligo

Our newest college chapter of Engineers Without Borders is now up and running at IT Sligo.

EWB-Ireland is a group of Irish engineers and scientists dedicated to bridging the gap between academia, industry and NGOs to give opportunities to learn about and contribute to sustainable development globally. Our mission is to partner with disadvantaged communities to improve their

quality of life through education and implementation of sustainable engineering projects, while promoting global experience for engineers, engineering students, and similarly motivated non-engineers.

During the past year several talks and lectures have been held to raise awareness of EWB and its activities. The new EWB branch kicked off their activities on February 12th with a screening of the

thought provoking movie "A World Without Water" in room B1201. More events like this will be held throughout the year.

A key EWB event is the annual Where there Is No Engineer competition, a design initiative open to students which gives participants the opportunity to design creative solutions to real-life development problems. Four IT Sligo students have



formed a team to enter the 2019 competition, and will present a “Modular Classroom” for refugee situations. Other themes of interest include housing/shelter, sanitation, water, and renewable energy.

EWB also partner with other charities and agencies including Irish Aid and Habitat for Humanity and this year are funding a number of student work placements in Zambia for Summer 2019.

Engineers Without Borders (ISF) was founded in France in the 1980s. National EWB organisations are independent in terms of governance, activities and funding however all share the common principles of promoting sustainable development through engineering. Engineers Without Borders Ireland was formed in 2010 by a small multi-disciplinary group of engineers, and was incorporated as a company in 2013. It recently became a registered charity (RCN: 20158101, April 2018).

For further information contact Gerard McGranaghan (McGranaghan.Gerard@itsligo.ie)



First Online Autonomous Vehicles Course Launched by Minister for Higher Education



Continued from front page

Speaking at the official launch, Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor said:

“Autonomous Vehicles is the future of the motor industry and IT Sligo is at the forefront of online education in Ireland. To have such a futuristic course delivered around the world to industry leaders, highlights how far third level education has come in Ireland. Institutes of Technology have always worked with regional industries in delivering relevant courses. But now, thanks to IT Sligo’s embracing of online learning, we can now deliver ground breaking courses to industries around the world.”

IT Sligo’s new online Master of Engineering in Connected and Autonomous Vehicles programme has been closely developed with the motor industry on the west coast of Ireland as well as with input from German automotive manufacturers and suppliers such as BMW and Continental AG through IT Sligo’s partner University of Applied Sciences, Kempten, Germany.

IT Sligo is one of the largest suppliers of

online courses in Ireland and is attracting many students from around the world with its innovative approach to online learning. Almost half of IT Sligo’s 6,000 students are now studying online.

Master of Engineering in Connected and Autonomous Vehicles programme is one of over 100 courses available online at IT Sligo and has proven very popular among engineers working in the automotive industry. The course has attracted students from around the world including; Russia, India and the United States.



Click Here to Watch Video **You Tube**

President of IT Sligo, Dr Brendan McCormack thanked Minister Mitchell O’Connor for her support and praised the work of the Faculty of Engineering and Design at IT Sligo for the innovative new online course:

“We are delighted to be the first third level institute in Europe to offer an online Masters course in Autonomous Vehicles. The popularity of this course has been proven by the enthusiasm of the industry and the number of students from around the world who have enrolled. We are always looking at opportunities to offer new courses in growing industries. Autonomous driving is one such industry and to be the only third level institute to be offering such a course online is a great achievement for IT Sligo.”

Modules of the course include: Machine Learning, Computer Vision, Environment Detection, Vehicle Dynamics and Control, Automotive System Safety & Cybersecurity, as well as an industry focused academic research thesis in the field of Connected and Autonomous Vehicle Design.

For further details please see: <https://www.itsligo.ie/courses/meng-connected-autonomous-vehicles/>

Chartered Accountants President Visits IT Sligo



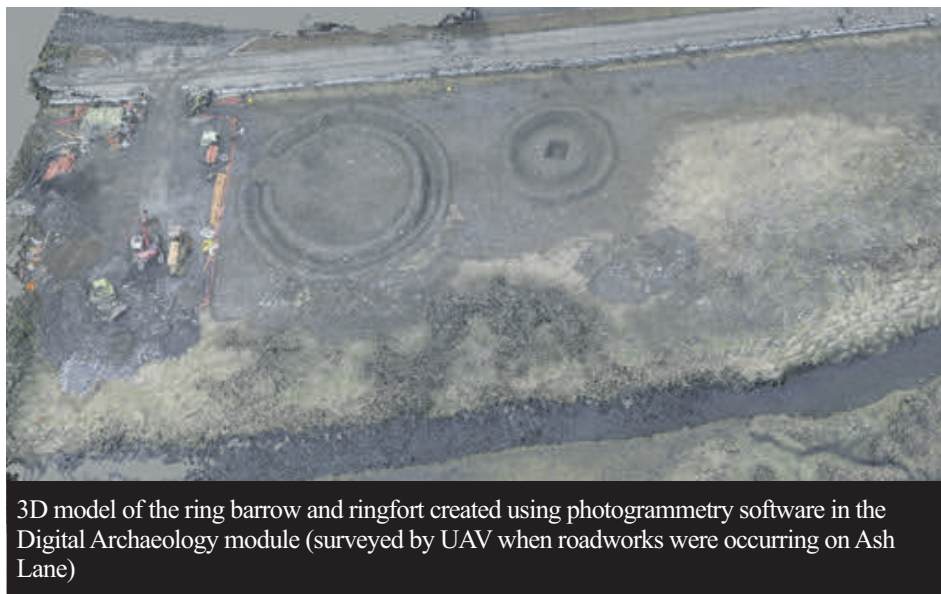
President of Chartered Accountants Ireland Fergal McCormack and Director of Member Services Becky Bristow were given a very warm welcome by the North West Society of Chartered Accountants at a recent visit to Sligo.

The exciting itinerary included a visit to IT Sligo hosted by John Gaynor Programme chair of the Masters of Business Studies and past ACCA president. At IT Sligo Fergal and Becky addressed the Masters of Business Studies students. A lively questions and answers session followed, where there was great enthusiasm from the students about the prospects internationally that are available to Chartered Accountants.

Commenting on his visit to the North West, Chartered Accountants Ireland President Fergal McCormack said, “I’m delighted to be in Sligo with the Northwest district society of Chartered Accountants Ireland. Our 500 members in the region, whether long-established or just starting their careers, make a huge contribution to the local economy and regional development. They also offer great local training opportunities for young people to join a truly rewarding profession. It was my pleasure to talk to some ambitious students in IT Sligo and Summerhill College about their options and I look forward to seeing the Northwest community of Chartered Accountants going from strength to strength in the years to come.”

‘New’ archaeological sites on IT Sligo grounds

(Sam Moore, Applied Archaeology)



3D model of the ring barrow and ringfort created using photogrammetry software in the Digital Archaeology module (surveyed by UAV when roadworks were occurring on Ash Lane)

LAST year, thanks to the Estates Office and Department of Environmental Science, two replica earthwork archaeological sites were constructed at the west end of the campus along Ash Lane.

The two sites are representations of a

typical ringfort and a ring barrow. Ringforts are the most common archaeological field monument in Ireland with over 50,000 examples and are enclosed farmsteads that typically date to around the 7th to 10th centuries AD. Ring barrows are ritual

prehistoric monuments that usually relate to funerary activities and tend to date to the Bronze and Iron Age, with examples dating from c.1800 BC and others to c.100 BC. These were made to be used by Applied Archaeology students as an on-campus resource in modules relating to field archaeology. These include practical training in modules such as Archaeological Surveying, Geophysics, Landscape Archaeology and Digital Archaeology where students map and plan the sites using different surveying techniques (tape and offset, engineers’ level, metal detecting, total station, GPS and UAV (drone)). The pit in the centre of the barrow can be used in the future for excavation training if needed. The site is now grassed over and since its completion has been used by year 2, 3 and 4 students. The structure of the Applied Archaeology course has approximately a third of its modules designed to be practical, a third laboratory and a third theory based. These replicas provide another fantastic resource and training asset for the Applied Archaeology students.

Technology & Accounting - thinking ahead

Think Ahead **ACCA**

The ACCA and IT Sligo will be holding an event on the 12th April to discuss technology and how it is influencing the future of accounting. Some of the topics will include the future of education in the industry and how robots could someday balance the books!

Venue: IT Sligo, Aurivo Auditorium

Date: 12th April 2019

Time: 10.00am – 5.00pm

Attendance is free for all delegates, to book your place for this event at bit.ly/technologyandaccounting

IT Sligo
An Institiúid Teicneolaíochta, Sligeach

Connacht-Ulster Alliance (CUA) awarded €2.84m under new education fund to develop new flexible learning options in the west and northwest

The Connacht-Ulster Alliance (CUA), comprised of Institute of Technology Sligo, Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT) and Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT), has been awarded €2.8m funding under the new Higher Education Innovation and Transformation Fund to develop new flexible learning options in the west and northwest.

The Minister for Education & Skills Joe McHugh T.D. announced the funding for the 'Innovative Opportunities Transforming Education (iNOTE) Project' at a reception in LYIT recently, attended by the Presidents of the three institutes, staff and invited guests.

Minister McHugh said: "It is a real privilege to be able to share news like this – €2.84 million in Government funding over the next three years to reward and support LYIT, and their close colleagues in IT Sligo and GMIT, as top class academic staff chase innovative ideas to attract more people to third level education and do more to create flexible options for learning in the north-west."

"LYIT is taking the lead on this project and it is heartening to see a college in Donegal driving this initiative and being rewarded for that. The Government has recognised we need to do more to open up third level education and now we are backing that cause by providing millions in funding



for the right initiatives." The CUA alliance is committed to the creation of a Technological University (TU), via a network of geographically dispersed campuses, in the west and north-west of Ireland. The iNOTE project aligns with, and will form a direct response to, the key system objectives for the Higher Education System 2018 -2020 in meeting criteria to become a TU.

Dr Seán Duffy, LYIT CUA Project Manager and iNOTE Project Lead, says: "We are delighted to have been awarded funding for this important initiative working with our colleagues in the CUA institutes. Between now and 2029, the Irish HE sector will

be required to accommodate a projected 20% increase in the student population. The majority of 'new' learners are predicted to be mature, lifelong learners. Offering a flexible education proposition, via enhanced digital capabilities, is regarded as being the optimum solution to meet this demand."

The iNOTE project objectives will be achieved via the completion of five work packages focusing on:

(i) developing a quality assurance policy for flexible delivery, (ii) building digital capabilities amongst CUA staff; (iii) developing a range of digitally enhanced student supports for those undertaking programmes through flexible

delivery, (iv) developing and delivering work based programmes (WBP) utilising digital capabilities for flexible delivery and (v) mainstreaming, disseminating and evaluating CUA digital capabilities for flexible delivery. This project, delivered by the Connacht Ulster Alliance (CUA), will have impact across the higher education system by implementing new methods of delivering digitally enhanced learning through shared approaches."

For further information see: www.cualliance.ie

CONNACHT-ULSTER ALLIANCE

Irish archaeology changed forever

Irish archaeology changed forever in 2016 when research by Dr Marion Dowd (IT Sligo) and Dr Ruth Carden (National Museum of Ireland) pushed back the date of

the earliest human activity in Ireland by 2,500 years. Up until then, the earliest human occupation of the island was believed to be 8,000 BC during the Mesolithic period. However, for more than a century archaeologists had been searching for signs of earlier human activities during the Ice Age, in what is known as the Palaeolithic period. Key to this was the fact that early hominins and modern humans lived in Britain intermittently for 800,000 years. It made no sense that 10,000 years of human history in Ireland was so short by comparison.

In 2016, Dowd and Carden reanalysed a butchered bear bone that had been recovered from a site in Clare, known as Alice and Gwendoline Cave, in 1902. The bone in question was the patella (knee cap) of a brown bear. It had a series of cut marks across the surface that had been created by someone butchering the bear carcass with a flint blade in an attempt to extract the tendons, which could then be used as string. The patella had remained in storage for over a century until the recent reanalysis. Two new radiocarbon dates indicated the bone was 12,500 years old, pushing back the date

of human activities on the island by 2,500 years. Published in *Quaternary Science Reviews*, the discovery was hugely exciting and was widely broadcast around the world.

Just this month the Royal Irish Academy have awarded Dr Dowd a grant to carry out an archaeological excavation and survey of Alice and Gwendoline Cave in summer 2019. The objective of the project is to further investigate the context of the bear patella, and assess whether other Palaeolithic material survives at the site. Marion has assembled a team of leading archaeologists and archaeological scientists from across Ireland and the UK, including several IT Sligo archaeology graduates who are purposing doctoral and post-doctoral research in UK and Spanish universities. Other team members include Dr James Bonsall and Sam Moore from IT Sligo, who will be carrying out the geophysical and topographical surveys in advance of the excavation.

The excavation promises to be an exciting one. Watch this space later in the year to hear the results!

A summary of the 2016 find can be found here: <https://www.academia.edu/30818511/>



Dr. Marion Dowd (IT Sligo)

Food, Culture and Identity in Ireland



Dr Fiona Beglane, Dr Susan Flavin and Dr Meriel McClatchie, 10th February 2019

Food, Culture and Identity in Ireland (FOODCULT), is the first major interdisciplinary project to establish both the fundamentals of everyday diet, and the cultural 'meaning' of food and drink, in early modern Ireland (1550-1650). This exciting project has received European Research Council funding of €1.43m. Key members of this exciting new interdisciplinary team are Dr Fiona Beglane (IT Sligo) the zooarchaeologist on the team, Dr Susan Flavin (TCD), historian and project PI and Dr Meriel McClatchie (UCD), the archaeobotanist on the team. They attended the recent IPMAG Irish Post Medieval Archaeology Group conference, where Susan kicked off the project with a presentation to the conference.

Congratulations to Robert Henshall, who graduated from IT Sligo Applied Archaeology



Robert Henshall, winner of the student conference presentation, and Dr James Lyttleton, 19th Feb 2019

Congratulations to Robert Henshall, who graduated from IT Sligo Applied Archaeology in 2018. Robert is seen here receiving the Irish Post-Medieval Archaeology Group Student Presentation prize from Chair Dr James Lyttleton at last weekend's IPMAG conference. A prize of €100 was sponsored by Archaeology and Built Heritage and Robert also received a copy of *The Post-Medieval Archaeology of Ireland 1550-1850*. His talk, "Bundle Rush Rafts in Ireland", was based on his final year undergraduate project.

Social robotics project update



IT Sligo is lead partner in an innovative EU-funded project that is investigating how we can prepare social professionals – such as social workers, teachers and early years practitioners – for a future where they will be working with Artificial Intelligence (AI) and social robots.

The 3-year PProSPERo project (Pedagogy of Robotics for the Social Professions in Europe) involves partners from Ireland, Denmark, Poland, the Netherlands and Spain. The latest project meeting took place in the city of Wroclaw in Poland and was attended by Dr Perry Share and Dr John Pender of the Institute's

Centre for Research in the Social Professions (CRiSP).

The first task of the project group is to complete a round-up of current knowledge in the dynamic field of social robotics. The Sligo team is reviewing the current status of government and other regulation of AI and social robots. Given the newness of the area, it's no surprise that national governments seem slow to regulate the use of these technologies in care and educational settings. This is often left to the technology companies themselves, although professional bodies such as engineers and computer programmers, and international bodies like the United

Nations and the EU, are getting involved in exploring the issues and setting standards.

The project group heard about some of the cutting-edge research being conducted at the University of Lower Silesia in Wroclaw. This involves the use of a robot called NAO to help in the diagnosis of autism disorders. It is a use of social robots that has great potential across Europe.

The next project meeting will take place at VIA University College in Aarhus in Denmark, where local researchers will conduct a workshop with students and practitioners to explore the ethics of social robots, based on a case study of a 'robot baby' used to educate prospective parents. It will be an exciting development for the project team as it will be the first opportunity to explore the project themes with a broader public. Further workshops will be held in the other partner countries and in Dublin, through project partner the Alzheimer Society of Ireland.

The ultimate aim of the PProSPERo project is to identify the best approaches to teaching in this area, to produce new educational resources and find the best existing ones, and to develop teaching modules that can be freely adopted by educators anywhere across the EU or more widely. It is an exciting area for IT Sligo staff to be exploring and has great potential to enhance the learning of the Institute's students today and into the future.

For more information on PProSPERo contact Dr John Pender at pender.john@itsligo.ie

Sad Passing Of Two Students



Adam Mulchrone

IT Sligo was struck by a double tragedy at the end of January when two of our students died within hours of each other.

Adam Mulchrone, 21 was in his first year at IT Sligo and was a dedicated and popular student. Adam was a very talented footballer and played for the IT Sligo soccer team and for his hometown of Westport. Adam sadly passed away from meningitis on the 29th of January at Mayo University Hospital.

Within hours, IT Sligo was notified of the death of another student. John Harley, aged just 24, from Fál Carragh, Co. Donegal was one of the four victims who died in the terrible car crash in Gweedore. John was an electrical apprentice with us last year and his death has come as a shock to us all.

President of IT Sligo, Dr Brendan McCormack extended his sympathy to family and friends of both students; "Our thoughts go out to Adam's and John's family and friends at this very difficult time, and we will continue to offer support to their fellow students and members of staff who may have been affected by this incident. It is with deep, deep sadness that we mourn the death of two students in the same week. Such is the tragic circumstances, Minister Mary Mitchell O'Conner also extended her sympathies to all at IT Sligo. Both Adam and John were regarded in the highest possible terms here at IT Sligo and in their own communities. For those students close to them, they have lost true friends and in your grief we offer you all our sympathy and support. As an institution we have lost two bright and talented students and our community is shocked and saddened to lose two fine people at such a young age in such tragic circumstances."

For any student affected by this please contact Student Services for support.



John Harley

50th anniversary of the foundation of Sligo Regional Technical College



2020 will be the 50th anniversary of the foundation of Sligo Regional Technical College, which has since become Institute of Technology Sligo. A programme of events is being organised to celebrate this very significant anniversary, and to celebrate the immense contribution that our Institute has made over those years to the social, economic and cultural life of the Northwest region.

A steering group, which includes participation from President of IT Sligo, Dr.

Brendan McCormack, the CEO of Sligo County Council, Ciaran Hayes and the CEO of Sligo Chamber of Commerce, Aidan Doyle, has been established with Joe Cox, former Faculty Head in the Institute, as Chair. Elements of the programme that is being developed include: Publication of a commemorative book outlining the history of the Institute; four major conferences on significant themes reflecting the Institute's strengths and interaction with the region; a barbecue for staff and former staff; cultural

events; displays of photographs over the institution's history; alumni reunions; and a civic reception and gala dinner open to all who wish to participate. Chris O'Malley, Vice President responsible for engagement, is taking the management lead on the programme, and will shortly be issuing an invitation for any further ideas to be added to the programme that could be worth considering by the Committee overseeing it. Please send on photos and articles to haughey.aidan@itsligo.ie

Welcome to the Spring Edition of **IT Sligo News**



As you can see from this issue we have had a very busy and exciting start to 2019.

The announcement this week of €13.7m in capital investment

for the development and upgrade of the North campus is warmly welcomed by all at IT Sligo and the wider community. This investment will help to build a creative hub that will educate and inspire art, design and architecture students for generations to come. IT Sligo is very proud of its arts and design courses, offering students a chance to be inspired by the unique forms, light, colours and people this rugged beautiful coast of Ireland offers.

This coastline has inspired poets, painters and performers of all disciplines over the years and with the improvements to our educational facilities for the creative arts, we will now be providing a suitable, inspiring learning environment for the artists and designers of tomorrow. As the Creative Hub develops and expands, we look forward to greater on-campus interaction and collaboration with the creative sector across the north-west. I take this opportunity to thank Minister Joe McHugh and Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor for this allocation of funds.

At the start of the year we launched Europe's only online Autonomous Vehicles Masters programme and the only such programme delivered through English in the world. This programme has attracted students from as far away as America, India and Russia and has put IT Sligo on the map as a world leader in online learning. The fast pace of our online presence has surpassed our expectations and we will soon have as many students online as we have on campus.

Engaging with the community is an important part of any third level institute and we pride ourselves in being an integral part of the community development in the northwest region, particularly where such developments resonate globally. Over the last few months we have worked with many local community projects including the Grange Armada Development Association, Survey of Land-Use of Sligo Town, Archaeological discoveries and local



environmental issues. We have worked with many local industries and are influencing developing countries through research and development. On one such project, Professor Suresh Pillai will be working from IT Sligo on developing a sustainable delivery of water which will improve the lives of millions of people in India.



Recently we celebrated Engineers Week. We started with the regions first ever Engineers Fair which attracted over 2,000 visitors from around the region. The aim of Engineers week is to celebrate engineering and inspire the next generation to consider a career in this exciting sector. It was a joy to see the exhibits of local national schools and the many young children moving between lecture halls and practical workshops to learn more about engineering.

This year, Engineers Week coincided with International Women's Day and a special event was held to explore how to encourage more women into this industry. As we heard from MEP, Marian Harkin, women in engineering are significantly under-represented with only 16% currently employed in the industry. This must be addressed at all levels of education if we are to close the gender gap.

This gender imbalance also occurs in our own sector. In institutes of technology across Ireland, women make up 45% of academic staff but just 29% of senior academic staff. We want to address this imbalance and we recently signed up to the Athena SWAN charter. The Advance HE's Athena SWAN Charter was established in 2005 to "encourage and recognise commitment to advancing the careers of women in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine (STEMM) employment in higher education and research."

The charter has since expanded to recognise work undertaken in arts, humanities, social sciences, business and law (AHSSBL), and in professional and support roles across the organisation, and for trans staff and students. The charter now recognises work undertaken to address gender equality more broadly, and not just barriers to progression that affect women. As we head towards our 50th anniversary, IT Sligo is fully committed to this charter and we will do all in our power to correct this gender-in-balance. We have a lot to learn about how to do this, and we hope to make significant progress on this initiative over the coming year.

Finally, we are making progress on achieving the criteria for becoming a technological university. This is considered to be of the highest priority by our Governing Body who have reaffirmed our commitment to being submission-ready by this time next year. To back this up, we are making an investment of the order of €2m in a range of initiatives to support staff in their research and to increase the number of students enrolled on post graduate programmes that meet the TU criteria. The key point here is that, unless and until we have achieved the criteria, we will not be eligible to make an application to become a TU – the criteria are like qualifying heats in a sporting event. While we are strongly encouraging our CUA partners to do likewise, the intention of our Governing Body is that we, at least, will be eligible to make an application. In achieving this goal, the substantial work and commitment of staff in developing new TU-compliant masters programmes, in completing their PhDs and in engaging in research and supervision is very much appreciated and acknowledged.

Dr Brendan McCormack
President, IT Sligo

Quantity Surveying visit to John Paul Construction site at Abbott Donegal



Students from HC in Construction Economics, BSc Quantity Surveying and BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying programmes recently visited John Paul Construction's site at Abbott in Donegal. John Paul are the 4th largest building contractor in Ireland and have significant phased contracts with Abbots healthcare in Donegal which will see the existing plant substantially refurbished and extended. The site visit was arranged by Bronagh Carty, Regional Manager West Midlands, John Paul and included presentations by Bronagh, Abbot's HR and Facilities Managers and John Paul's senior Quantity Surveyors and Contracts Managers. Students were also accompanied by lecturers from IT Sligo's Quantity Surveying and Occupational Health and Safety programmes as one of the key factors of the visit was to understand the cost of Health and Safety implications of a complex phased construction project in a functioning plant. The visit included tours of the large clean room facilities currently under completion and of the external site works including the commencement of a new extension of approximately 6,000m². The plant currently manufactures test strips used in its FreeStyle blood glucose-monitoring meters while the ongoing extension will manufacture the first flash glucose-monitoring system using a sensor/smartphone app. The photograph shows the students and lecturers in the Abbot canteen where John Paul/Abbot had their presentations.

100's of school children attended fun events as part of Engineers Week.



Over 750 budding young engineers visited IT Sligo on Wednesday 6th March 2019 as part of Engineers Week. Primary school students from Sligo, Leitrim and Roscommon were treated to a very enjoyable show titled 'Who wants to be a Superhero' by Ruth Perkins in the Aurivo Theatre. They had the opportunity to see just what exactly engineers do, such as how to build a bridge, how do planes fly, how do engineers make playgrounds safer to play in, and how are they saving the planet?



Once upon an Erasmus



By Swet Mei Samantha Tiang

The taxi driver said “A donde, por donde voy?” and as I attempted to regurgitate the 2 years I spent in Spanish classes into a compensable sentence, all I could nervously conjure up was “Err...si?” (and then comes my awkward use of semantics to point on my phone to where I needed to go). That was my first day in Madrid in September 2018.

Early 2018, the opportunity arose for Second Years to go on Erasmus in Third Year and I decided then and there that this was my one chance to go on the adventure of a lifetime, something fun and different in a vibrant city, a study holiday some might say! As an International Student, being away from home was second nature so the thought of packing up and moving to Spain was not be as daunting for me as it would be for many. Once applications were submitted and approved, all that was left was to

book my flights and take off. Next stop, Madrid!

Madrid is home to the renown football team Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid. A city that lives and breathes football, tapas, and fiestas. Madrid is the current central capital of Spain where different types of architecture ranging from the Renaissance period to current modernisation would take anyone’s breath away. “Don’t forget to look up” was the advice given to me by one of the first Spanish people I met during the first month and I still remember to look up wherever I go till this day.

Madrid is second to none when it comes to lifestyle as well. Bored? Why not have a walk in Retiro Park to sun off your Vitamin D deficiency! Or visit one of the many Art Museums (Most of them are free for students!) Madrid has to offer! Hungry but on a student budget? Grab a tapas and caña (a small glass of beer) for €2 in any cervarias!

Even with all that, I would be lying if I

said the experience started off as easy as it sounds. It was difficult not being able to communicate with the locals in their native tongue and vice versa. But like all things, it became easier with time. Once I learnt to embrace my new lifestyle, everything else fell in place. Everyday became a different adventure and a different lesson.

Without disregarding the other side of going on Erasmus, college life in Universidad Rey Juan Carlos was very different from what I was used to in IT Sligo. Nothing was the same, class sizes were bigger, lesson times were shorter, and the grading system was far from what I was familiar with. Fortunately, in the midst of all the confusion and worry that was my life at that moment, I found friends of different nationalities and backgrounds who were in the same boat but were always ready to help and share stories with. Its safe to say that I made lifelong friends from this experience from all walks of life. From travelling together during the long weekends to having drinks on the terrace bars at 20 degrees weather.

It is because of them, that I will never use the term “It’s just an Erasmus thing.” as a temporary mindset but more of an expression of how the Erasmus experience changed us and will forever connect us for life.

Fast forward to February 2019. Six months into Erasmus, “siestas” have become a vital part of my lifestyle, paella is a staple in my weekly dieting plans and communicating in Spanish has become second nature. Taking up the opportunity to travel around different parts of Spain (Valencia, Sevilla, Segovia, Toledo, El Escorial, Granada, Cordoba) has given me so many memories and helped me grow mentally and emotionally. If I had the chance to do this all over again, I would take it in a blink of an eye. So, what’s changed in these six months? Everything.

Tánaiste Visits IT Sligo to Discuss Brexit



Tánaiste and Minister for Trade, Simon Coveney TD addressed a large audience of over 200 people at IT Sligo recently on Brexit and the Northwest. The event was organised by Cllr. Sinead Maguire and hosted by IT Sligo.

The Tánaiste was welcomed on behalf of IT Sligo by Dr. Chris O’Malley, VP, Research, Engagement and Innovation at IT Sligo before Mr Coveney gave an overview of where Ireland stands as the deadline for Brexit looms closer.

Speaking at the Brexit event, Tánaiste Coveney stated he was hopeful a no-deal brexit would be avoided but warned the audience it is still a possibility and businesses in the northwest should and must be prepared for all scenarios.

Brexit has caused many headaches for the Government and has forced them to legislate for the most basic daily activities such as allowing trains to travel from Belfast to Dublin in the event of a hard brexit. But the main concern at last night’s discussion was the impact on the Northwest region and in particular the farming community.

In the event of a no-deal brexit tariffs in the dairy and beef industry could hit as high as €1.7bn according to the Tanaiste. The threat to the farming community is one of the most concerning to the Government and Minister Coveney asked farmers to prepare for difficult times ahead.

The possible outcomes of Brexit were discussed among a panel including; Damien McDonald, IFA, Oonagh Monahan, Sligo Women in Business Network, Aidan Flynn, Freight Transport Association of Ireland and Aaron Forde, CEO, Aurivo.

Green Campus for IT Sligo

IT Sligo is signing up for the Green Campus – as we commit to become more environmentally responsible.

Green Campus primarily aims to ensure that all members of a campus community can engage in a meaningful way to enhance sustainability on campus. The programme encourages a partnership approach to environmental education, management and action in third level

institutions. Waste and energy will be the first focus areas of IT Sligo’s Green Campus.

Frances Lucy, and Declan Feeney, Department of Environmental Science are enthusiastically leading this initiative. ‘We are glad to say there is a real appetite at every level in the Institute to get on the path to a more sustainable organisation! The estates office have been working for

years to reduce our energy costs, now it is time for us all to step up and make IT Sligo a more sustainable workplace’. Students are at the heart of all successful Green Campuses and our students from all faculties have answered the call to be on the IT Sligo Green Campus committee. From now on, staff members and students can choose to be involved in many activities to improve our environmental status.

The Green Flag is not an automatic right once we sign up for the Green campus– we will have to work hard to get it. This will take at least 18 months and require commitment to sustainability from all on site. The first issue we have to tackle on campus is waste. While the Flag will be a big achievement for us – the main goal is to become more sustainable as an organisation and for our graduates to become life-long ambassadors in their work-places and communities.

The Green Campus will be formally launched at IT Sligo on Wednesday April 10th. The Green Campus launch will be followed by an event organised by An Taisce on the Clean Coasts followed by the Rip Tide movement video on ‘Plastics pollution at sea’ and then an engaging Q and A session. All are welcome.



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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

North Wests First Engineering Fair Inspires Next Generation at IT Sligo

Drone racing, hydrogen cars, mechanical art, 2D game programming and 3D printing, were just some of the entertaining workshops at the North Wests first ever Engineering Fair.

The one day event at IT Sligo was supported by Abbott and Science Foundation Ireland and attracted over 2000 people from across the region.

The Fair was packed with talks, demonstrations and activities for all age groups, keeping families entertained over the damp weekend. Visitors to the Fair were welcomed by "Robot Ted" an eight foot tall singing and dancing robot who was joined by a flash mob of robotic dancers from Victoria Walker Dances. In another flash back to the eighties, the iconic DeLorean car made famous by "Back to the Future" landed at IT Sligo thanks to

Ward Automation.

Younger visitors were entertained through many workshops on the day and learned to create ice-cream without using a freezer and how to run a car on hydrogen.

The Engineering Fair is one of many STEM activities organised by IT Sligo with Abbott and Science Foundation Ireland to inspire young people to become engineers of the future.

Engineering companies across Ireland are struggling to fill the many opportunities available due to a shortage in graduate engineers. It is hoped by igniting a spark of interest in engineering at a younger age, this will encourage the next generation to take up a career in engineering.

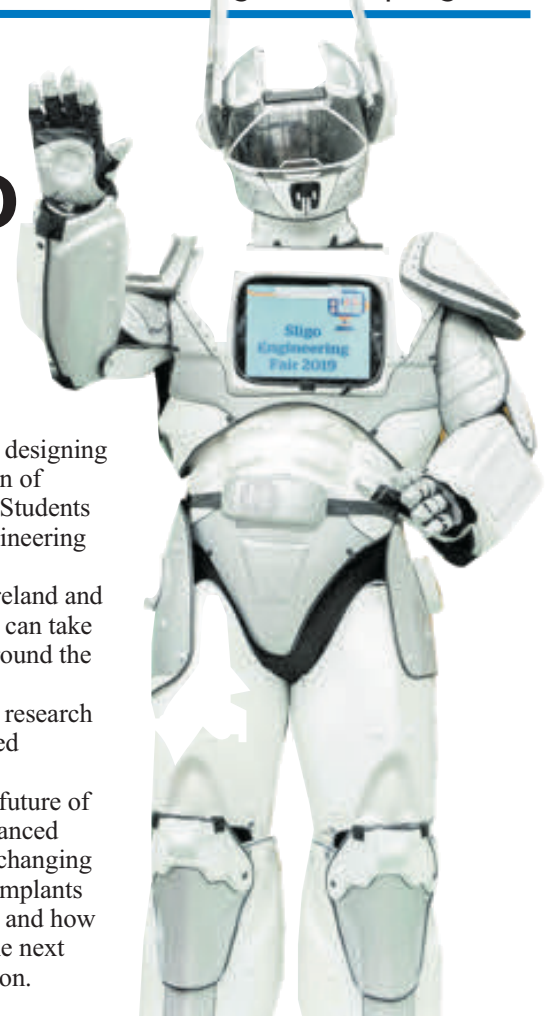
Speaking at the event, Conor Murphy, site director of Abbott's diagnostics business in Sligo, said, "Engineering is critically important

for our work to create breakthrough inventions that tackle some of healthcare's greatest challenges. By showcasing the many real-world applications of engineering in a fun and engaging way, we hope to inspire a passion in young people to become tomorrow's engineering leaders." Although this was a fun family friendly event, IT Sligo lecturer and project lead Dr Marion McAfee said there was a serious side to holding an Engineering Fair;

"It is fantastic to hear the positive news at the moment about engineering companies in the region expanding but we really need to ensure we have a good supply of engineering talent. Engineering is such an interesting, diverse and rewarding career and we want to inspire the next generation through events like this. This is a very exciting time to be an engineer and

to make a real difference in tackling challenges like clean energy, reducing waste or designing the next generation of medical devices. Students graduating in Engineering have multiple job opportunities in Ireland and their qualification can take them anywhere around the world."

I-Form, the SFI research centre for advanced manufacturing demonstrated the future of 3D printing. Advanced manufacturing is changing how things from implants to shoes are made and how this will lead to the next industrial revolution.



#FeelTheWest 2019 Tourism exhibition



Student Organisers; Valinda Brady, David Keane, Jessica Cummins, Sophie Lynch and Erik Nielsen with Lecturer Joanna Sweeney and guest speakers Micháel O'Domhnaill from Omedia (Sligo Walking Tours), Seamus McGoldrick from Sligo Surf Experience and Samuel Brett of Shanakee Adventures.



Tuesday 12th March saw the inaugural #FeelTheWest 2019 Tourism exhibition take place at IT Sligo.

This much-anticipated event was designed, created and presented by five third year students studying toward a Bachelor of Business degree in Tourism and Event Management. Valinda Brady, David Keane, Jessica Cummins, Sophie Lynch and Erik Nielsen came together with the initial idea to help familiarise International and Erasmus students to 'What's on offer' in the northwest area. Through local print media, social media and networking - it developed to become a successful tourism exhibition, with local tourism providers and enterprises buying into the concept and appreciating the value of it to grow northwest market share.

The Expo saw 10 local business and tourism providers showcase their product offerings on the main concourse from 12 pm – 4 pm. Failte Ireland, Local Link, Atlantic Crusades, Rose of Inisfree, Atlantic Sheepdogs, Sligo Surf Experience and Shanakee Adventures met with the invited international student body, students studying business tourism and business marketing degrees and the resident student body and faculty. Thanks go out to

Events Management lecturer Joanna Sweeney who was on hand throughout the entire event to advise and direct and also to the lecturers who brought their classes along to meet the Exhibitors.

At 1 pm the Aurivo Auditorium played host to a series of keynote speakers, Micháel O'Domhnaill from Omedia (Sligo Walking Tours), Seamus McGoldrick from Sligo Surf Experience and Samuel Brett of Shanakee Adventures. Each speaker brought their own unique and distinctive brand presentations which help make the northwest such an appealing and fascinating tourism destination.

The event committee would like to acknowledge all the contributors that helped make the event such a success. Thank you to all our Exhibitors and Speakers. The School of Business, IT Sligo Estates Office, the International Marketing Department, the Business Department, IT Services and the Student Union. To the generous sponsors – O Hehirs Bakery, AIB, Murphy's Stores and Spells Traditional Venue and finally to all the volunteers and attendees that helped to make this such a successful event.

#Feel The West 2020?? – Watch this space!!



IT Sligo Professor Awarded Prestigious Gold Medal for Chemistry

Professor Suresh Pillai will be awarded the Boyle Higgins Gold Medal Award by the Institute of Chemistry in Ireland for 2019 in April. The Boyle Higgins Gold Medal Award, instituted in 1985, is an award given annually for outstanding and internationally recognised scientists for their research work carried out in chemical sciences by Institute of Chemistry Ireland.

Professor Pillai joined IT Sligo in 2013 as a senior lecturer in nanotechnology and currently heads the Nanotechnology and Bio-Engineering Research Group. He is an elected fellow of the UK's Royal Microscopical Society (FRMS) and the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining and was responsible for acquiring more than €5 million direct R&D funding. He has published several scientific articles in leading peer reviewed journals has contributed to several book chapters, has presented in more than fifty international conferences and has delivered over forty international invited talks. His research work was featured in various international media such as BBC World, BBC London, RTE and in a number of national and international print media (Times UK, The Guardian, Irish Times etc).

He is currently working on one of several projects that have been selected under the EU - India Joint Call on Research and Innovation for Water.

The key focus areas of these projects are: improving the quality of drinking water, waste water management and real time monitoring and control systems are, which have been selected through a competitive peer-reviewed process. Professor

Pillai's work will help deliver clean drinking water to hundreds of homes in India through affordable sustainable projects. This is one of many awards Professor Pillai has won, he is a recipient of the 'Industrial Technologies Award 2011' for licensing functional coatings to Irish companies. He was also the recipient of the 'Hothouse Commercialisation Award 2009' from the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation and also the recipient of the 'Enterprise Ireland Research Commercialization Award 2009'. He has also been nominated for the 'One to Watch' award 2009 for commercialising R&D work (Enterprise Ireland). Head of the Faculty of Science at IT Sligo, Dr Jerry Bird welcomed the news: "This is an immense achievement and acknowledgment of Suresh's national/ international research impact in Chemistry and outstanding research record."



Professor Suresh Pillai

Ministerial Visit to IT Sligo

Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Josepha Madigan TD visited IT Sligo and met with students and staff from the Faculty of Engineering and Design. The Minister paid a special visit to some of our performing arts students.





Staff Profile

Your name:
Diane O'Brien

Where are you from?
I am originally from Drumquin, Co Tyrone.

Brief Career

Background: Prior to joining IT Sligo in 1995 as a part time lecturer, I worked as a Computer Technician in a high school in Co Antrim and in St Angela's College Sligo. To date in IT Sligo I have developed and lectured on various business and computing programmes and been programme chair for a number of courses over the past 24 years. In October 2018 I moved into the role of Head of Department.



Education: I began my third level education in Letterkenny RTC doing ACCA, I then completed a Diploma in Accounting in Sligo, finishing off my undergraduate education in the University of Ulster at Magee with a BA in Business. I then completed a MSc in Computing on a part time basis in the University of Ulster in 2001 while lecturing part time at the Institute of Technology Sligo. I have completed various professional computing certifications since including CISCO and Microsoft.

Brief summary of what you do? I manage the Department which includes programmes both in Computing and Electronic Engineering from level 6 to level 9. There are over 600 students in the department and over 30 staff. Our job as a department to ensure our students reach their highest potential and leave IT Sligo industry ready.

How has technology changed since you started teaching? Significantly, in 1995 technology was an acetate and an overhead projector, there was no moodle. It used to take all the students about 15 minutes to get logged into the computers at the start of a lab class because there was only one server processing all the logons. When students forgot their passwords they had to go and queue outside the technicians door to get them reset, which never ended well! 20 years ago a flipped classroom was when you moved the flip chart stand from the front of the room to the back and we had never heard of online.

Has life changed for women in engineering/IT and why are so few joining the profession? I don't believe life has changed anymore for women than it has for men in ICT/Engineering.

In terms of why so few women choose ICT as a career, I don't believe it is any one reason. The stats show its somewhere around 20:80 split, with Ireland having more women in ICT than the EU average. It is also worth noting that it wasn't always this way, back in the 80s the balance was more even. Some research suggests that this was when PCs entered the market. A lot of PCs were used for gaming which tended to be marketed more towards boys, but this is difficult to validate. I hope the new Leaving Cert ICT subject will give both males and females an opportunity to experience ICT and this may encourage more females into ICT. I also believe female role models such as myself and my colleagues in the faculty are key to encouraging more females into the industry 'if you can't see it you can't be it'

National Manufacturing & Supply Chain Conference & Exhibition



Over 6000 delegates from Ireland and Europe participated in the 2019 National Manufacturing & Supply Chain Conference & Exhibition at the Citywest Hotel, Dublin on Thursday, 17 January 2019, making the event the largest gathering of the manufacturing and supply chain community in the country.

Now in its sixth year, the National Manufacturing and Supply Chain Conference & Exhibition provides an excellent forum for manufacturers, operators and associated stakeholders involved throughout the supply chain from across Ireland – North and South – to gather to discuss pressing issues facing the industry. 183 speakers gave talks on different topics at the associated conferences. It covered the full spectrum of Irish manufacturing and related research and development activities in covered sectors, including the food, pharmaceutical, medical, chemical, life sciences and electronics sectors.

The theme for the 2019 exhibition and conference was: 'Maintaining Ireland as a High Value, Sustainable and Competitive Manufacturing Location'. The event will feature 386 exhibitors showcasing the latest technological solutions and business services.

The Renewable Engine Project which IT Sligo is a part of, was one of the exhibitors and presenters at the conference, as well as the Contract Research Unit (CRU) of IT Sligo.

The Renewable Engine Project is a cross-border Research and Innovation project aimed at facilitating direct knowledge transfer and technology development in the renewable



Mel Gavin of the IT Sligo CRU at the conference.

energy and advanced manufacturing sectors. The project is implemented across the eligible region of Northern Ireland, Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland. The project is supported by the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), with match funding provided by the Department for the Economy and Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in Ireland. Led by South West College, Renewable Engine operates across a network of research institutes including Queens University Belfast, Institute of Technology Sligo and the University of Strathclyde's High-Value Manufacturing Catapult. The project used the opportunity provided by the National Manufacturing Conference to communicate directly with the target renewable energy and manufacturing organisations in Ireland, disseminating the project concepts and outputs, and how their organisations can work with and benefit from the project R&I outcomes. Dr Ehiازه Ehimen of Research Office and the R&I Coordinator for the Renewable Engine Project was at hand to spread the message of the project. The programme manager Dr Alistair Quinn of South West College, Cookstown, NI provided a presentation on the project at the co-located National Sustainability Summit. For more information on the project check out the website <http://www.renewableengine.eu/>

The activities of the IT Sligo CRU - a part of the Research Office, which provides outreach external engagement in research, development and innovation support to organisations, regional enterprises, communities and individuals was communicated to the conference delegates by Mel Gavin, the CRU RD&I Coordinator. For more information on the IT Sligo CRU, check out the CRU webpage on the IT Sligo website: <https://www.itsligo.ie/research/contract-research-unit/>



Dr. Ehiازه Ehimen, R&I Coordinator of the Renewable Engine Project talking to a conference delegate at the RE stand.

Our Graduate Excellence Awards

Our Diabetes Care Donegal Graduate Excellence Awards were developed to recognise the academic achievements and values exhibited by students in science and engineering at IT Sligo.

We welcome nominations to any final year students from the School of Science and the School of Engineering & Design. Nominations can be submitted until April 15, 2019 online: <https://www.itsligo.ie/abbottgaward/>.


An award will be made to two final-year students: one, from the School of Science and one from the School of Engineering & Design. Both successful students will be offered the opportunity to work in our diabetes care business in Donegal for a year, giving them valuable experience contributing to a world-class team in life-changing technology.

Following the close of nominations, shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by Abbott. Award winners will be announced in May.

About Abbott

Abbott is a global healthcare leader that helps people live more fully at all stages of life. Our portfolio of life-changing technologies spans the spectrum of healthcare, with leading businesses and products in diagnostics, medical devices, nutritionals and branded generic medicines. Our 103,000 colleagues serve people in more than 160 countries.

Connect with us at www.abbott.com, on LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/company/abbott/, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Abbott and on Twitter @AbbottNews and @AbbottGlobal.



"At Abbott, we believe people with diabetes deserve to live healthy, active lives. Our culture is an important part of how we achieve this vision and when people join our team in Donegal, making sure they will embody our values is essential. The new Abbott Diabetes Care Donegal Graduate Excellence Awards are about celebrating these cultural values as well as academic achievement."

-Adrian McMorrow
Site Director, Abbott Diabetes Care
Business, Donegal



Women in Engineering: Addressing the Unconscious Bias

To mark Engineers Week and International Women's Day, IT Sligo held a special talk on: "Women in Engineering: Addressing the Unconscious Bias". The major agenda of the meeting was to discuss "what are the barriers for women in entering the engineering profession and how we can address them".

The event was attended by Marian Harkin MEP who gave a fascinating insight into the present situation when it came to equality in Ireland stating only 16% of engineering graduates in Ireland are women, yet in Poland it is 24% and Portugal 28%. The gender pay gap has incredibly widened in recent years with an increase from 12-14% between 2014 - 2017.

As an emerging knowledge based economy, Ireland require more female engineers to overcome the gender disparity in Tech Sector. Missing out on this talent pool is a major problem to be addressed. The event was organised by lecturer, Saritha Unnikrishn on behalf of the Faculty of Engineering & Design at IT Sligo. The faculty would like to thank MEP Marian Harkin and all the panellists for their insights. Thanks also to all who attended especially to the girls of Sligo Grammar School. We hope you were inspired!



Interreg North West Europe Research Workshop



Rita McGarvey from the Southern Regional Assembly was invited to IT Sligo by IT Sligo's Contract Research Unit (CRU) to host a Research Workshop on the Interreg North West Europe programme. Call 9 is currently open; submission deadline for step 1 is 14th June 2019. This call will be open to applications under; Priority 1 Innovation and Priority 3 Resource & Materials Efficiency only. If you are interested in knowing more about call 9, there is a project idea lab-taking place on 2nd April 2019 in Brussels. This is an opportunity to meet potential project partners, exchange ideas and find out more about the programme. www.nweurope.eu/news-events/events/project-ideas-lab-in-brussels-2-april-2019-save-the-date/. For more information please visit nweurope.eu.

CRU visit Sustainable Energy Communities

The IT Sligo Contract Research Unit (CRU) as part of the Research Office provides outreach external engagement in research, development and innovation support to regional enterprises, communities and individuals.

The CRU as part of Sustainable Energy Communities Mentor programme visited Arranmore SEC and Inishowen SEC.

Arranmore SEC

The CRU visited Arranmore Island in mid-January 2019 to meet community representatives and discuss the SEC programme. The CRU presented information on the various stages and benefits of the Sustainable Energy Communities programme. They discussed how to create a Community Charter, completed the Competency Assessment and reviewed how to make an application to SEAI for Energy Master Plan funding to help plan energy projects for the Arranmore community. The community have completed various energy projects in the past and are actively seeking to increase energy awareness, promote more energy efficiency and sustainability measures and avail of the Communities Energy Grant. It is fantastic to see that the Islands are really ramping up and leading the way in sustainable energy and climate action. Inis Mór have now completed their Energy Master Plan and Inis Oírr have commenced work on theirs.

Inishowen SEC

Working with Inishowen Development Partnership, we had two information sessions, with over 30 in attendance in Carndonagh and Buncrana. The information sessions were informal to encourage open discussion. All attendees were invited to offer their ideas and questions for goals, projects or initiatives. These ideas were collated by facilitators, then shared with the attendees to guide the formation of a Community Charter to progress the Sustainable Energy Community in Inishowen. The group are aiming to increase the community's awareness of climate change and inform them of the solutions to mitigate against this. Inishowen SEC will provide a focal point to support homes and businesses on their journey to a more sustainable energy independent future. For more information on the Sustainable Energy Communities feel free to contact the IT Sligo Contract Research Unit on 071 93 05825 or email mcnama.paul@itsligo.ie.

Shane Kennedy wins Joe White award 2019



IT Sligo student Shane Kennedy was presented with the Bronze Medal and commemoration certificate regarding the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) Best Student award.

The award is given to the best performing student in Construction related disciplines in third level institutions within the region.

Shane received the award for his performance in the BSc Advanced Wood and Sustainable Building Technology L7 and is currently attending the BSc Construction Project Management L8 at IT Sligo. Sean O'Brien the CIOB North

Western Region Hon Sec presented Shane with the award along with Rachel Corbally Development Manager Ireland with the CIOB, who also gave an overview of CIOB activities within the region.

Following on from his bronze medal award Shane had to compile a report titled: Can Offsite Construction Increase Build Quality And Construction Productivity?

This was then judged along with the other winners of the award from institutions within the region. Shanes report was announced as the winner of the Joe White award Shane was presented with the Joe

White Memorial Cup and Commemorative Certificate at the Hilton Hotel in Belfast, which hosted in excess of 200 attendees including mostly construction professionals, award winners and sponsors.

This year the Master of Ceremonies was sports personality Adrian Logan, and the after-dinner speaker was Shirley McCay, Ireland's most capped international Hockey player and World Cup silver medallist.

This was an outstanding result for Shane and a reflection of the high level of training he received at the Institute of Technology Sligo.

IDI Award for Creative Design Student Paul Roper



IT Sligo Student Paul Roper was recognised for his radical redesign of the clothing peg ‘MagPin’ at the Institute of Designers Ireland IDI annual design awards in Dublin recently. Paul is a final year student of the Creative Design course at IT Sligo and has been previously recognised for his motorised tail hitch at the Enterprise Ireland Young Entrepreneur awards.

His new IDI design award winning product the MagPin reinvents the clothing peg and he hopes to have it available in stores soon. Commenting on the design award Nevil Walsh his Creative Design Lecturer at IT Sligo said;

‘This is a fantastic achievement for Paul as he was up against some of the leading design professionals and businesses in the country’. Paul received a highly commended award for his new product the MagPin which was one of the most talked about entrant idea on the night.

Paul hasn’t taken a traditional route to design but has shown some incredible initiative. Having left school at 15, he took up an apprenticeship as a carpenter which he worked at for many years. When the economy slumped, Paul emigrated with his family to Canada where he worked in multiple jobs before returning to Ireland. He is also one of the best poker players in Europe and has played at some of the biggest tournaments in the world. However, Paul wanted to change his career path completely.

After some consideration, Paul decided to return to college as a mature student at the age of 43. He started studying Quantity Surveying. He received his degree in QS last year and then transferred to study

Creative Design after he won an Enterprise Ireland Award for his “Lock-on” invention. This ingenious device allows the hitching of trailers to vehicles with a press of a button. The invention wowed the judges and inspired Paul to consider a career in design.

Now Paul is back with his next invention and this time he has completely redesigned the simple clothes peg. After witnessing his ill mother struggling to hang washing on the line, Paul promised to invent an improved clothes peg which any person, regardless of ability, would be able to use easily.

In his first attempt, Paul created a

simplified version made of hinges, wood and magnets. Both his mother and partner were incredibly impressed with his crude prototype. Encouraged by early responses, Paul developed his designs and quickly accumulated a considerable amount of investment to create fully working prototypes. Within a few months Paul sourced tool makers in China and created fully working products of his new clothes peg which he has named “Magpin”. The name comes from “Mag” for magnet and “Pin” is what most Americans call pegs.

Great designers throw away the rule book and can completely divorce their design from tradition, and that is exactly what Paul has achieved. This product is a complete redesign of the clothes peg. It is much bigger than a peg, is designed to always be on your line and is “T” shaped. This unique design means clothes are hung from the side as opposed to being clamped on top as you would with a traditional peg. As well as the magnetic clamp option, it also offers a hole for hanging smaller items and a hook for trousers or shoes.

Today, he is in talks with a major retailer and distributor with access to an international market.

Speaking after the awards, Paul thanked the IDI for recognising his design: “I’m very humbled to receive this award from IDI Ireland. I was competing with some of the best designers in Ireland and some of the biggest design companies in the country. To be among this high calibre of designers as a student is a great achievement for me. This idea came from seeing my poor mother struggle with this simple task when she suffered with cancer. I hope this product will help others with similar issues. I couldn’t have done it with the help of so many people, my lecturers at IT Sligo, my investors and my family and friends including James and Kathleen Eagan for letting me use their beautiful garden for the demonstrations of the clothes peg photo-shoot.”

If you are interested in a career in Creative Design or Product Design please view our course here:

<https://www.itsligo.ie/courses/ba-in-creative-design/>



DMX Dublin Conference



Lecturers Lisa Dunne and Clodagh Crowe from the Department of Marketing, Tourism and Sport attended the DMX Dublin conference www.dmxdublin.com at the beginning of March. The event was held at the Aviva Stadium, Dublin and was organised by the Marketing Institute of Ireland (MII).

The DMX conference celebrates the crossover of marketing, digital, creative and media. This annual event brings together top international and Irish marketing leaders, marketers from multinationals and start-ups, advertisers, creative agencies, digital agencies, online publishers and vendors. The lecturers found the event very informative and look forward to sharing their insights with their classes at IT Sligo. The marketing programmes at IT Sligo are BBS in Digital Marketing (level 7), BBS in Marketing (level 7), BBS in International Marketing (level 8) and the MSc in Marketing (level 9).

IT Sligo Contract Research Unit (CRU) Innovation Clinics

IT Sligo’s Contract Research Unit (CRU) held two Innovation Voucher Clinics in January, collaborating with Precision Engineering and Manufacturing Gateway (PEM) for the Sligo clinic and Wireless Sensor and Applied research Gateways (WiSAR) for the Donegal clinic. The clinics were well attended with over 14 companies in the region attending. The attendee received 1 to 1 advice on the innovation voucher scheme, how best to develop their business/product/service and other funding streams.

The Innovation Voucher initiative has been developed to build links between Ireland’s public knowledge providers (i.e. higher education institutes, public research bodies) and small businesses. Innovation Vouchers worth €5,000 are available to assist a small to medium-sized limited company to explore a business opportunity or problem with a registered knowledge provider.

The next Innovation Voucher call is open 1st May and closes the 15th May 2019 at 3pm. If you would like more information on Innovation Vouchers, please contact mcnama.paul@itsligo.ie

Hundred's attend Postgrad & Jobs Fair at IT Sligo



There were 100's of jobs and thousands of postgraduate courses on offer at the IT Sligo Postgraduate & Jobs Fair held recently. Over fifty exhibitors lined the main concourse of the institute, offering postgraduate courses across almost all disciplines from across Ireland and the UK.

The ever increasing job opportunities were evident with hundreds of jobs advertised by exhibitors at the event. Among some of the bigger companies with openings were ESB Networks, Centre Parcs and Eir, offering an array of opportunities for all graduates.

Eir and ESB were also advertising their apprenticeship opportunities with both stands receiving great interest from students.

London based company Carey Group made the trip to IT Sligo in the hope of hiring graduates from Engineering to work on some of the largest civil engineering projects in England's capital city.

IT Sligo would like to thank all the exhibitors for attending the event.



THE POWER OF HUMOUR IN MARKETING

Marketing Conference

Venue: Aurivo Theatre, IT Sligo
 Date: Friday 29th March, 2019
 Time: 9 am - 2:00 pm
 Price: €20 (Students free)

In association with IT Sligo MSc in Marketing

Paul Dunkin
CMO
Maximum Media

Mick Flynn
CEO
Mattress Mick

John Rainford
Business coach and Educator
Strawberry Fields

Tom Mughal
Social Media Manager
Lidl Ireland

Gary Dolan
Ecommerce manager
ej Menswear

Eamonn Cunningham
Owner
ej Menswear

Book online: <https://humourinmarketingitsligo.eventbrite.com>

IT Sligo's Dr. Niall Rea chosen to represent Ireland at the Prague Quadrennial



The Belfast Tempest 2016 Titanic Docks Belfast (Designed by Niall Rea)

The International festival of design for performance in Prague has been the benchmark of world scenography since 1967. After an absence of several years Ireland will be presenting a national stand at the festival in June 2019. In January this year the Irish Society of Stage and Screen Designers organised a national theatre design exhibition across six venues in Ireland north and south. Irish PQ curator Jo Mangan selected a small team of designers from the various exhibitions to represent Ireland internationally this summer. Dr. Niall Rea, who convenes the Theatre Design degree at IT Sligo, was among the few chosen. Niall has been a professional Theatre Designer for twenty five years before joining us to teach on the only Theatre Design degree on the island of Ireland here in the college.

IT Sligo Collaborate with Company to deliver significant improvements through the InterTrade Ireland's Fusion Programme



Pictured at the final project presentation at IT Sligo was Niall O'Somachain; Fusion consultant, Trevor McSharry; IT Sligo, Stephen McGuinness and Ciaran Farren; Hawthorn Heights Ltd.

IT Sligo and Hawthorn Heights secured funding of almost €70,000 through IntertradeIreland's Fusion Programme to partially fund a graduate and academic supervisor. Over 18 months, the combined team implemented a process improvement programme and delivered significant improvements for the company.

Hawthorn Heights Ltd, based in Derry, design and install projects such as play parks and sports pitches. Graduate Ciaran Farren was hired as a design engineer to incorporate 3D design into their operations

in order to improve control and quality of the design phase and increase success at tender stage.

Ciaran, who has been kept on as an employee said, 'the Fusion programme was a great way to get excellent work experience on a new product or process improvement project, while at the same time getting academic mentoring and funding to upskill with a Post Graduate Diploma in Business and Management in Queen's.' Over the project duration, 3D design was implemented and the overall

supply chain was process mapped and optimised using best practices in lean and project management. Success rate for tendering increased from 15% to 48% and the number of projects tendered for increased significantly also. As a direct result, there has been a jump in employment. Permanent staff and contractors have increased from 19 to 39.

Further information about IntertradeIreland's funded Fusion Programme can be found at www.intertradeireland.com/fusion

WorldSkills/Irelandskills - Electrical Installations Competition

Recently a number of IT Sligo's electrical apprentices participated in the preliminary stage of the Irelandskills Competition. Four apprentices were chosen by their lecturers to compete in the competition, Caolán Carty, Knockvicar, Roscommon, Joshua Morrow, Ballina, Mayo, Ben Tuohy, Riverstown, Sligo and Paul Wynne, Moycullen, Galway, were the four competitors chosen. At the end of a highly competitive competition, the eventual winner was Joshua Morrow. Congratulations to Joshua who will now go on to represent IT Sligo and his employer ESB Networks at the Irelandskills final in the RDS which takes place 21st-23rd March

2019. Congratulations also to Caolán, Ben and Paul whom, together with Joshua, were selected from over 150 apprentices due to their demonstrated outstanding abilities within their chosen field. They were selected based on their demonstrated ability to; produce high quality electrical installation work, analyse complex circuitry, demonstrate a high proficiency of fault finding techniques, demonstrate their ability to produce high quality work under strenuous time constraints and their overall application including coursework, timekeeping and examination results. Caolán, Paul and Ben also all performed to a

very high standard but were pipped on the line by Joshua. Well done to them all!

It is important also to acknowledge the role of IT Sligo's Faculty of Engineering as an educator provider within the apprenticeship area. Thanks to the support of Una Parsons our Head of Faculty and David Mulligan our Head of Department for their unstinting support and help with the organising and running of the competition. Also, a big thanks to the electrical apprenticeship lecturing and support staff, for organising the competition and in their role as lecturers and mentors to the competitors. A particular thanks to, Peter Gilgan, Lecturer, Declan Healy, Lecturer, Eamon Comerford, Technician, Colin Harte, Technician and Peter Gillespie, Technician. Thanks also to Trevor McSharry, Head of Department, who kindly facilitated our request for a room to undertake the competition.

Joshua now goes forward to the national final in the RDS which takes place from 21st-23rd March. Should Joshua be successful he will then go forward to represent Ireland at the Worldskills finals in Kazan, Russia, from 22nd -27th Aug 2019. We all wish Joshua the best of luck in the RDS.

Footnote; the electrical staff would like to request; no bright spark jokes ...please!



Internship at CERIS From Germany to IT Sligo



Pia Bradler with Dolores Byrne, lecturer in Environmental Science and CERIS member

By Pia Bradler

I have always had an interest in exploring Ireland. Therefore, I was very happy to take the opportunity to join the 'Sustainable Futures' Summer Academy at IT Sligo in 2018. The topic of the summer school fit very well with my course, Environmental and Sustainability Studies and I was looking forward to working on topics of sustainability in an international group with students from different disciplines.

The Summer Academy is an annual two weeks course organised between five European higher education institutes from Sweden, Ireland, Germany, Switzerland and The Netherlands. Students work in international and multidisciplinary groups on projects concerning sustainability issues. This could be monitoring of fine dust, building an underwater drone to determine water quality or discussing issues of climate change.

Last year, it took place at IT Sligo, the year before, it was in the Netherlands and this year, it is going to be in Sweden. I can only recommend everyone to go ahead and apply; you even get credits for taking part!

The Summer Academy is a great opportunity for meeting new people, learning about sustainability and networking as well as traveling. During these two weeks, we worked on our projects, got to explore Sligo and went on a trip to Kocknarea, Carrowmore and Strandhill. I talked to Frances Lucy, head of the Department of Environmental Science here at the IT, and she offered me to come back and do an internship. I was delighted with that and as I had a gap of a few months between the end of my ERASMUS in Hungary and the beginning of the term in Germany, I decided to follow through with it.

The internship was at CERIS, the Centre for Environmental Research Innovation and Sustainability. It gave me great insight into a field that I want to work in. I now know which abilities I need to develop in order to follow this career path. I spent time with CERIS staff, helped with scientific publications, took water quality samples and assisted with lab work. I also got to attend two Environmental Science course modules which gave me the opportunity to learn more about ecology, join some practicals and meet students. It was great to see differences in cultures, universities and student life and I really enjoyed my experience at IT Sligo!

'Pia came to IT Sligo last summer on the 'Sustainable Futures' Summer Academy, where she spent two weeks interacting with 50 other visiting international students. We were on a trip up Knocknarea when she asked me if she could return here in January on an internship to CERIS. I could see how keen she is on sustainability and was delighted to have her return to us as an intern. She's been doing great work for our various European projects and with our postgrads'. Frances Lucy

Accreditation Standard Maintained for Forensic Science Course



conditions' were attached to the awarding of the accreditation. They were particularly impressed by the week-long crime scene exercise taught in year 4 for giving students an excellent grounding in teamwork and investigation skills as well as evidence management, problem solving and court preparation. They also commended the use of a learning journal at second year

that encourages students to reflect on the broad range of their learning experience and by the variety of guest speakers that come to ITSligo to talk to the students and give an insight into the real Forensic Science world. The accreditation gives graduates the assurance that they have an internationally recognised qualification and are ready to undertake a professional career in forensic science.



In early January this year the BSc in Forensic Investigation and Analysis, at the School of Science, was assessed by the Chartered Society of Forensic Science (UK) for continued educational accreditation of the BSc (hons) programme. The Report from the Chartered Society, confirmed that the programme was successful in maintaining the required educational standards for the forensic science and will continue to be formally accredited by The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences. This course was the first Forensic course on the

island of Ireland to be accredited in December 2015. Educational Accreditation is valid for a period of 6 years from the date of official award (16 January 2019). The accreditation panel composed of - Professor Jeremy Bradshaw (Independent Chair) University of Edinburgh, Professor Andrew Morrisson Emeritus Professor, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen & Dr Victoria Bowyer (Assessors), Cellmark Forensic Services, UK. The panel were highly impressed by the standards of the course at IT Sligo and no 'special

Carnival Workshop

IT Sligo had Artists Imelda Peppard and Cillian Rogers visit the campus to talk about their practice and share images/examples of their work. They both are graduates from the Sculpture programme in NCAD and moved to West Sligo 40 years ago where they set up their home and studios in the old Workhouse in Dromore West. Cillian and Imelda work in a broad range of visual art fields, including

Sculpture, Installation, Performance Art, Street Theatre, Carnival Arts and Spectacle. They have worked with many broad and diverse groups/communities, both nationally and internationally and are well regarded in their professional field of practice. Through the format of pageant and carnival, their work has helped unify and enliven communities by means of the creative process.

In the forthcoming weeks they will be participating in 'making & material workshops', which is hosted by The Yeats Academy, primarily working with students plus staff from the Fine Art and Performing Arts programmes.



Sligo Local Gas Network (SLGN)



SLGN, a 22km gas distribution network, is an example of a project that will help Ireland transition to a low carbon economy. Large energy users in Sligo town are reliant on oil and LPG for their heating needs. This €10m project will give large energy users access to natural gas thereby saving up to 30% on their energy costs and greatly reducing Sligo's carbon footprint by 1,500 tonnes per annum. Sligo Local Gas Network will enable the development of a renewable biogas market in the North West of Ireland through the deployment of Anaerobic Digestion technology on farms in the region. This project will enhance Sligo's ability to attract new jobs and allow for balanced regional development. SLGN is the result of a collaborative approach by the Sligo Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) whose members include IT Sligo, Sligo County Council, Plan Energy, IDA, Jennings O'Donovan, Sligo University Hospital, Abbott, Sligo Chamber of Commerce, AbbVie, Aurivo and Clayton Hotel. Sligo SEC has received funding from Gas Networks Ireland to develop the Business Case and complete a Front End Engineering Design of the proposed network. These outputs will be used to apply for national and EU funding streams. The next phase of the project will be overseen by a Technical Steering Committee (TSC) chaired by John Bartlett (Head of Research, IT Sligo) and will comprise members from the private and public sectors with experience in energy infrastructure projects. Watch this space for more information on how Sligo SEC collaborating to advance the economic, social and environmental sustainable development of the region.

IDA Ireland Life Sciences Division Visit IT Sligo



IDA Ireland brought their Life Sciences Division to the North West to meet with some of their client companies and higher education providers. Their visit to IT Sligo was one of the highlights of their visit to the North West and they received a comprehensive briefing from our staff. Over the course of their briefing they heard of three excellent case studies presented by Sarah Hehir, Ailish Breen and Colin Fowley. Each case study highlighted the very strong engagement between IT Sligo and regional and national life sciences industries.

IT Sligo Fusion Exemplar Award



The team being awarded at Corrick House, Co. Tyrone.

The Institute of Technology Sligo and the National Sprinkler Company Ltd. (NSC) have been awarded an Exemplar Project at a recent InterTradeIreland Fusion awards ceremony. The project team consisted of Nathanael Cooney and Paul Dwyer (Manager) of NSC and Dr. Tomas O'Flaherty and Sean McGagh of IT Sligo. NSC, a highly innovative company specialising in the design and

installation of fire suppression systems, employed Nathanael as a graduate engineer under the Fusion programme. Fusion is an InterTradeIreland programme which supports SMEs across the island to develop North/South trade and business development opportunities for the mutual benefit of both economies. They encourage better use of collective resources to accelerate trade and business growth across the island and create an

environment where it is easier to do business. They achieve this through co-operative business, policy and research programmes, partnerships and networks. The project has enabled NSC to tender for and win significantly larger contracts such as Lidl's new distribution hub in Newbridge Co. Kildare and Centre Parcs in Co. Longford, resulting in an increase in turnover and employees.

RED Wolf - Reducing Emissions

Carbon emissions from Irish households are on average the highest in Europe, nearly 60 per cent higher than the average EU household, according to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). Irish homes' intense use of coal, peat and oil is mostly responsible for the comparably high amounts of carbon emissions as well as the prevalence poor insulation levels. RED WoLF will seek solutions to address these problems.

Institute of Technology, Sligo is working with a number of international partners to research the commercial viability of reducing carbon emissions from homes by using renewable electricity from solar panels and the national electricity grid. The RED WoLF project is part funded by Interreg North West Europe and will investigate the technology required to reduce the energy consumed on the electricity grid during times of peak demand (4pm to 8pm). This research aims to demonstrate how local small-scale renewable energy generation and energy storage, optimised throughout Europe's energy system, could provide a solution to mitigate climate change.

The RED WoLF technology will be installed in 100 homes in Ireland, UK and France to test this new innovative system. Each pilot site will be equipped with Solar Photo Voltaic (PV) panels and a Hybrid Storage System (HSS), which merges a battery and storage heaters. The HSS will store the electricity generated by the Solar PV as well from excess renewable energy from the electricity grid. This stored energy can then be used during peak demand times on the electricity grid thereby reducing carbon emissions from electricity generation from fossil fuel power plants.

How do I find out more?

Contact Stevie Donnelly (R&D Engineer)
E: donnelly.stevie@itsligo.ie or T: 0833166379

The annual Raise and Give Week organised by the IT Sligo Students' Union

The annual Raise and Give Week organised by the IT Sligo Students' Union which ran from Monday the 3rd – 7th of March was a great success. In advance of the event, the IT Sligo Students' Union undertook a series of measures to ensure that Raise and Give 2019 was both safe for students and a success for our registered charity Pieta House. These preparations included; the continuation of the Campus Watch programme, which provides an emergency number that students, can contact in the event of an emergency; a leaflet drop campaign to all local houses in the Ballinode Area and the clean-up campaign which runs each morning from 8am – 11am.

The Students' Union put on a great week of entertainment with various events on and off campus each day but the focus was on raising money for Pieta House. A final figure of the money raised will be announced once a complete is finished.

"I would like to thank to the IT Sligo students for their generosity and co-operation throughout the week, to our student workers and volunteers who worked tirelessly in ensuring the week ran smoothly, to the IT Sligo staff and management, to the local residents associations and the Sligo Gardaí for all their assistance, and indeed anyone else that aided in making Raise & Give Week 2019 the success it proved to be", - ITSSU President Vanessa Molloy.



Congratulations to lecturer Shirley Markley who recently graduated with a PhD from Trinity College Dublin.



Congratulations to lecturer in Medieval Archaeology at IT Sligo, Shirley Markley who recently graduated with a PhD from Trinity College Dublin. Her doctoral research was undertaken in the School of Histories and Humanities, TCD where she explored medieval settlement and in particular medieval building construction. During her research she discovered a new medieval construction technique, earth mortared stone construction.

The title of her thesis is: Unearthing a forgotten medieval building technique: Earth Mortared Stone Construction in Later medieval Ireland (1100-1600AD).

This ground breaking research explains the enigma in the absence of domestic settlement in the later medieval archaeological settlement record in Ireland. It furthermore highlights its presence in standing buildings dating to not only this period but in preceding and succeeding time periods. Regional field survey in Counties Sligo, Leitrim and Roscommon has shown that on average circa 20% of standing later medieval buildings are of earth mortared stone construction. Remarkably, this building technique has gone unrecognised nationally to date.

IT SLIGO HEALTHY CAMPUS

The 4th year BSc Hons Health Promotion Public Health students have been busy this semester designing their healthy campus initiatives. This year projects addressed a range of issues which students had investigated in the first semester. In the new year one student aimed to encourage positive mental health through promoting the Recharge App which provides information on services and the Positivteam hosted a Positivity tea morning for students in Wheats encouraging positive self-talk.

Another group took on the task of reviewing the sexual consent talk which was delivered last September to first years. A successful STI screening promotion took place and these students are also trying to increase safe sexual practices through increased condom distribution. Two students are also assisting in the development of a smoke free campus for IT Sligo.

In an effort to reduce social isolation a group have been working with older adult groups in the community and in collaboration with Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership and Sligo County Council are organising training and a games festival for older adults. Breast Cancer was brought to the awareness of staff and students through Big or Small let's save them all campaign.

Meanwhile another group advocated for staff and students to put their phones face down while driving as 'the road is no place to socialise'. The IT Sligo Girls on the Go team have taken the National 20X20 campaign to ITSligo with the What's on Guide for Physical Activity for females in the college and a very active social media campaign.

ITS Girls on the Go is an innovative initiative aimed at increasing physical activity levels across the entire female population of IT Sligo.

The initiative led by three fourth year Public Health and Health Promotion students aims to build



capacity for a healthy college campus through establishing communication networks between students and clubs and societies.

The IT Sligo Sports Strategy (2018) survey highlighted a large gender gap in physical activity or sport participation with 87% of male students participating in sport or physical activity in comparison to female students at a much lesser 63%. IT Sligo Girls on the Go survey found that 28.3% of students surveyed play sport, 59.8% do not play and 11.8% sometimes play sport.

ITS Girls on the Go will strive to create opportunities for females to get involved and become active through development of a weekly "What's on Guide". Research has shown that developing a healthy and supportive college campus is crucial if we wish to increase female physical activity levels.



The Fastest Kid in the World



Finance office is buzzing with excitement at the moment. We welcome back Liz Haran to her Expenses desk in Payroll. Liz is the proud mum of Shane who earned the title of “The fastest Kid in the World” at the NYRR Millrose Games in New York on Saturday, February 9th. Shane got a hero’s welcome home to Curry on Thursday. Bonfires adorned the route as he travelled in style complete with a Garda escort to Curry. The Fire Brigade service also honoured the 8 year old superstar by providing him with an escort to a celebratory welcome home function in South Sligo AC in Tubbercurry.

This young athlete took all the fame in his stride. He enjoyed his moment of glory being interviewed by Ryan Tubridy on the Late Late Show. He told Ryan that while congratulating him on his success after the race Eamon Coughlan said that he has made him famous once again!

Shane attended the Late Late Show with his mum Liz, his dad, Ambrose and his sister Rachel. The family travelled to New York and cheered him on together with his coach Dermot McDermott.

The Initiative ‘The Fastest Feet’ was created by Dermot McDermott to encourage more kids to take up athletics and to show how sport can create and provide so many opportunities to children throughout their lives.

Congratulations to Shane. All at IT Sligo wish him well in his future endeavours. To quote the star himself “I don’t know yet what I will do, I’m only eight”

The IT Equestrian Club



The IT Equestrian Club were placed 3rd at the National Intervarsities, held at Daneville Equestrian Centre, Kilkenny on the weekend of March 2nd. Competitions took place in Showjumping, Dressage and Prix Caprilli with the showjumping team putting on a strong performance against 19 other colleges. The team consisted of Paul Dunleavey, Captain (Env. Science 3), Aaron Perrin (Civil Eng 2) and Michael Murphy (Mechanics 3). Aaron was also placed 6th overall in the individual competition.

IT Sligo Has Your Back



IT Sligo proudly announce their continued sponsorship of Sligo GAA. Chris O'Malley, VP Research, Innovation & Engagement presented the jerseys to the team at a recent event. We wish Sligo GAA the very best of luck for the future and know that IT Sligo always has your back!

Women's Futsal



IT Sligo women's futsal team were the winners of the Regional Futsal Tournament recently held in the Knocknarea Sports Arena. In an extremely tough group, they defeated GMT 3-2, AIT 5-2 and lost to Nuig 8-2. They meet NUIG in the final then which was a cracker with IT Sligo winners on a 7-3 scoreline.

They now play in the National Futsal Final's Tuesday the 19th of March in Waterford.

Men's Futsal



The IT Sligo men's futsal team were runners up at the recently held Regional Futsal Tournament held in the Knocknarea Sports Arena. Having dispatched of Moate Business College 5-0 and South West College 8-2 set up a grand final against AIT which ended 2-2 and after extra time the two sides couldn't be separated and AIT won on penalties.

IT Sligo Sport

New partnership agreement with Sligo Rovers



The Bit O' Red are delighted to announce a new link up with IT Sligo which will increase the number of local and regional players advancing to play with the club's first team and underage squads.

As part of the agreement, two scholarships will be co-funded annually by IT Sligo and Rovers. The scholarships will be available for male and female players, where the students will play professionally with the club and also participate in the college's football club, who participate in the CUFL & WSCAI leagues throughout the academic year.

The club will also have use of state of the art facilities at the Institute for first team and underage squads, including its

modern Knocknarea Arena as well as the grass and all weather pitches on site.

As part of the agreement, the IT Sligo logo will appear on the Sligo Rovers first team kits and IT Sligo advertising will also be displayed in The Showgrounds and our social media platforms.

Chairman Martin Heraghty spoke of his delight of the partnership:

"It has always been important to establish a link with IT Sligo and to create a scholarship programme that would be open to both male and female footballers. Everyone at the football club will really buy into this, as we feel the long term results will see more local talent coming through to the first team. Training times will be adjusted to allow

students to attend college and then train with the team afterwards, or vice versa. We are all delighted with the agreement and look forward to the future".

Spokespersons for IT Sligo Colm Jinks and Iain MacPherson spoke of their delight at the new partnership:

"At IT Sligo, we are delighted we have established this link with one of the biggest clubs in Irish football, Sligo Rovers".

"Behind the scenes, both parties have worked extremely hard to create this elite football scholarship programme, and put in place a pathway for players to succeed at professional level football and achieve academically with a third level education which is so vitally important".

"We are determined to work with partners such as Sligo Rovers to keeping those talented players, who have come through the club's underage squads and to help give them the best possible education at the same time".

"IT Sligo has established itself as one of the leading sporting, third level institutions in the region and are showing their intent in being one of the best in the country by offering this amazing scholarship programme along with all other scholarships available through IT Sligo's football club".

The first two players who will attend IT Sligo in September 2019 will be announced in the coming weeks, as we look forward to helping our young Bit O' Red players both on the field and off it.

IT Sligo Reach Basketball All-Ireland Final



IT Sligo Basketball team have reached the All-Ireland final with an 89 - 64 win over UL in the Knocknarea Arena recently. Top scorers for Sligo were Tobi Brockmann with 31, Zach Yonda with 23 and a towering defensive performance from Zak Balogun who also got 12 points. Congratulations to the whole team and best of luck in the final.

Ladies Team Semi-final Heartbreak



IT Sligo Ladies football A team had a heart-breaking last minute defeat to Garda College in the Ladies HEC Lynch Cup semi-final. The girls led throughout the game but lost to a single point, 2-11 to 2-10 in a hard fought match. After an impressive start the ladies led 1-7 to 1-4 at half-time. They soon extended their lead in the second half with a goal from Sinead Naughton. But a quick Garda College response, including a Sheila Brady goal, lead to the game being level with 3 minutes remaining. IT Sligo hit both the crossbar and upright with injury time efforts but Garda College got the winner on the whistle to send them into the final. We're proud of the impressive efforts and talent of our fantastic team and mentors.

Thirteen new Sports Scholarships awarded to students of IT Sligo



Thirteen new Sports Scholarships were awarded to students of IT Sligo recently. The awards provide financial and mentoring support to athletes of outstanding talent, many of whom may have already represented IT Sligo, their county or Ireland in their respective sports. Recipients are supported by IT Sligo in keeping up their sporting commitments at the same time as pursuing their educational commitments and goals.

IT Student makes Irish Rugby Team!



IT Sligo Alumni Nicole Fowley has been answering Ireland's call in her first the Six Nations! A graduate of the BB (Recreation & Leisure) degree, Nicole made her senior international rugby debut against England in the Six Nations. Nicole follows on from two other graduates Clodhna Moloney and Kim Flood who also made it through to play international rugby for Ireland at senior level in recent years.