



GMIT Newsletter

Institute News



April 2019 (issue no 35)

Institute news Awards & Achievements Staff News Higher Education Teaching & Learning

Editor: Regina Daly, GMIT Communications Officer.

Production: Shane Langdon, Computing Services.

Photos: Mike Shaughnessy, Aengus McMahon, Keith Heneghan, staff, students and guest lecturers.

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Published Tuesday, 16 April, 2019.

Video address from

Dr Michael Hannon



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Update on Technological University (TU) process

The Deputising President, Dr Michael Hannon, and the GMIT CUA Project Manager, Dr Shirley Wrynn, gave an update to staff in all campuses recently about progress by GMIT, IT Sligo and Letterkenny IT (the Connacht Ulster Alliance) in working towards making a submission for designation as a Technological University (TU). The presentation covered:

- CUA Governance and Management Structure
- The advantages of becoming a TU
- TU Legislation
- Challenges
- CUA Project Plan and work completed to date
- Projected timelines

See the presentation in full [here](#) (click on the CUA/TU tab).

Draft TU Vision

The TU will be a collaborative, entrepreneurial, flexible, learning university providing a transformative experience for students and stakeholders through global, national and local engagement that impacts and supports the development of the W/NW region served by the university.

Draft TU Mission

The mission of the W/NW TU is to provide a transformative experience for students and stakeholders by concentrating on:

- applied learning, teaching, research and knowledge exchange reflecting the needs of business, enterprise, students and the professions in our region
- enabling access and opportunity for a diverse student community
- multidisciplinary education and research using a variety of pedagogical delivery techniques including, but not limited to flexible/blended delivery
- collaborative partnerships with further and higher education institutions, and organisations
- working with organisations across public and private sectors to enhance the development of the region.

Naming of Technological University (TU)

As the members of the Connacht Ulster Alliance (CUA) of IT Sligo, Letterkenny IT and GMIT continue to make progress towards meeting the metrics required to become a TU and begin the process of drafting a TU submission document, the CUA Steering Group will shortly be inviting students and staff to become involved in naming the new Technological University for the Connacht-Ulster/West-North West region.

The name of the TU will reflect its vision and mission and will be supported by a branding strategy which will be developed once the name has been decided. After Easter, the President's Office will issue an email to all staff and students inviting everyone to vote for one of three suggested names for the Technological University.

New Strategic Plan ratified by GMIT Governing Body

The Minister for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O'Connor, TD, will visit GMIT on Friday week, 26 April, 3pm, to launch GMIT's new Strategic Plan. All staff are invited to this event. The Strategic Plan 2019 – 2023 represents the next stage in the evolution of GMIT as it transitions to a Technological University (TU) together with our CUA Alliance partners LYIT and IT Sligo. Our commitment and ambition to become a TU permeates this strategic plan and our vision and mission as currently stated is equally applicable to a Technological University.

This strategic Plan adopts a different approach to previous plans by placing the emphasis predominantly on the student experience and life cycle. The student enters GMIT as an individual and is shaped both personally and professionally through engagement with the GMIT community. As the student transitions to the workplace or further education the impact of the GMIT experience becomes evident through the added-value they bring to their new community. Hence, the three strategic pillars of individual, community and impact permeate the structure of the plan.

- Dr Michael Hannon, Deputising President of GMIT

Work progressing on iHub extension

Work on the iHub extension in the south-west corner of the Galway campus is underway. GMIT competed for and was successful in gaining €3m funding from Enterprise Ireland for this project.

The builder is Burns Construction and the design team is led by Van Dijk architects who are working closely with the buildings and estates week to week matters on this project.

In tandem, George McCourt and the Innovation team are busy on furniture procurement, IT installation and equipment to be installed in the building once it is complete. The building is on schedule to be completed in the first quarter of 2020 .

- David Lee, Manager of Buildings & Estates and Commercial Services



1 - At the signing of the contract (Nov 2018), L to R: Cormac MacDonncha, Chairman GMIT Governing Body, Dr Rick Officer, VP for Research & Innovation, Michael Burns, Manager, Burns Construction Ltd, David Lee, Manager, Building & Estates, GMIT, Dr Michael Hannon, Deputising for the President, GMIT.



2 - View of the new iHub extension from the Dublin Road.

Plans to upgrade Cluain Mhuire campus

GMIT has lodged a funding application to the Higher Education Authority (HEA) seeking several million euro in capital funding to invest further in the GMIT Dept of Creative Arts & Design at Cluain Mhuire. All third level educational institutions are competing for this funding. A core team comprising Jim Fennell, Vice President for Finance and Corporate Services, Dr Paddy Tobin, Head of the Galway Design School, GMIT, and David Lee, Manager, Buildings & Estates and Commercial Service, was assembled by Dr Michael Hannon, Deputising President. The details required in this submission broadly sit in two categories, one relating to student numbers, academic activity, future projections and academic strategic plans for the campus and the other category into value for money, costs, capacity to deliver, program and project management and project risks.

- David Lee, Manager Building & Estates and Commercial Services



3 - GMIT Dept of Creative Arts & Media (CCAM), Cluain Mhuire.

STEM building design phase concluded



4 - Taylor McCarney Architects' drawing of the proposed STEM building.

Plans for the new STEM building are expected to be lodged with Galway City Council by the end of May. The proposed building is to be constructed on the eastern side of the Galway campus, providing a new public, high-quality facade to match the best third level building standards.

The building will encompass some 5,500 m² of science and engineering laboratories and support spaces. A number of iterations of layout have been prepared and consultation with Engineering and Science staff and user groups is ongoing.

GMIT is working closely with the design team appointed by the HEA and NDFA. Week to week work associated with this project is being coordinated and managed by Buildings and Estates, with room layouts and details being undertaken by the School of Science and Computing and School of Engineering.

- David Lee, Manager of Buildings & Estates and Commercial Services

Mayo campus building upgrade



5 - Mayo campus [Photo by Keith Heneghan]

GMIT was awarded circa €2m last year to upgrade the buildings at the Mayo campus. This will incorporate works to the roofing and external structure. The building was originally constructed in the 1840s and older buildings require significantly more attention than newer ones.

Following a competitive process the design team has been appointed and are currently progressing the necessary certificates to allow the first phase of construction to take place this year and the second phase in 2020.

This project will involve some disruption to activities in the Mayo campus but it is planned that in the main the construction activities will take place during May to September when there is less activity in the building overall. This project is being managed by Buildings and Estates.

- David Lee, Manager of Buildings & Estates and Commercial Services.

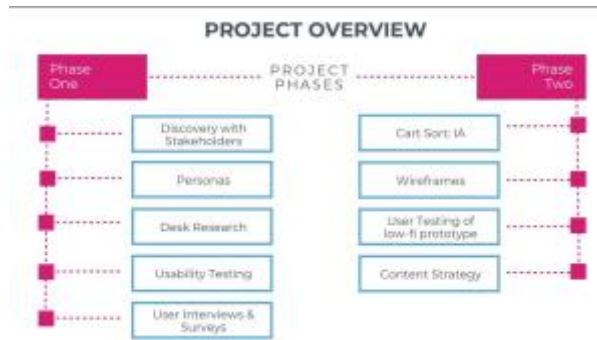
Plans underway for redesign of GMIT website

GMIT's public website www.gmit.ie is over six years old, and needs to be redesigned to deliver a better user experience for prospective students, staff and other stakeholders. Funding has been allocated by the Executive Board, and the research process to inform the new website design commenced in February, 2019. Annertech, a leading Irish open-source digital agency, was the successful bidder for this research project. www.annertech.com

The research is broken into two phases: Phase 1: Discovery meeting, personas, desk research and user research, Phase 2: Proposed site structure in the form of a new IA, wireframes and content strategy.

As part of the user research in Phase 1, all staff will be invited to give feedback. Our objective is to ensure that users are placed at the centre of the design and decision-making process for the new site. To read more about the User Experience (UX) Plan and the initial Personas being used to guide the project, go to the SharePoint link under Marketing.

-Karen Smyth, Marketing Officer



6 - Project overview

Jane Doyle
57-year school student

"I want to find a course where I can combine my interests before finally finishing. I am passionate in learning a language which allows a further opportunity after college."

AGE: 57
LOCATION: Cork, Ireland
BACKGROUND: University (1st year)

Goals

- ↳ To find a course
- ↳ Website easily browsable
- ↳ To see relevant and relevant content
- ↳ To have a good experience
- ↳ To view course coordinator biography and contact details

Frustrations

- ↳ Lack of an on-boarding guide to assist
- ↳ Difficult accessibility finding programme list to navigate
- ↳ Website overly cluttered
- ↳ Lack of content
- ↳ Website - One click to access taking different per programme page on example of graduate or course or example of type of course available after course

Channels

- ↳ Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn
- ↳ User also contact find a course and help
- ↳ Government - QQI - QQI for - College

Technology

- ↳ Users mobile and desktop for social media
- ↳ Also has a tablet and laptop for study

Motivations

- ↳ Higher education
- ↳ Accessibility and user experience
- ↳ To find a course
- ↳ To find a course
- ↳ To find a course
- ↳ To find a course

Typical online scenario: Searching for a graduate course

Peter Kennedy
47-year Undergraduate International Student

"I want to study in English and see a new city, preferably in Ireland"

AGE: 47
LOCATION: Dublin, USA
BACKGROUND: College in the USA and Ireland, USA

Goals

- ↳ To gain a higher level nationally recognised award
- ↳ To see a list of learning opportunities
- ↳ To have job focus opportunities
- ↳ To gain the award
- ↳ To find a well-learned award with high rates
- ↳ To see list of features

Frustrations

- ↳ Don't find a suitable offering
- ↳ Website information is fragmented
- ↳ Lack of clearly presented on-boarding
- ↳ Lack of clear process and sequential steps
- ↳ Lack of clear navigation and information and social media

Channels

- ↳ Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn
- ↳ Websites to help find a course for their international students - International - QQI or - College

Technology

- ↳ Users mobile and desktop for social media
- ↳ Also has a tablet and laptop for study

Motivations

- ↳ To find a course
- ↳ Learning in English
- ↳ To find a course
- ↳ To find a course
- ↳ To find a course
- ↳ To find a course

Typical online scenario: Searching for a postgraduate course abroad

Alexia Lima
Working Full-time Worker

"This year, I want to assist and see how the course is functioning."

AGE: 42 years
LOCATION: Dublin
BACKGROUND: High School, University, Education

Goals

- ↳ To gain recognition/qualification
- ↳ Website a good one
- ↳ To see a list of learning opportunities

Frustrations

- ↳ Don't have a list of
- ↳ Lack of an on-boarding guide to assist
- ↳ Don't have a list of
- ↳ The lack of being a professional through their website
- ↳ The website is not user-friendly to help

Channels

- ↳ Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn
- ↳ User also contact find a course and help
- ↳ Government - QQI - QQI for - College

Technology

- ↳ Users mobile and desktop for social media
- ↳ Laptop for study for study

Motivations

- ↳ To find a course
- ↳ To find a course
- ↳ To find a course
- ↳ To find a course

Typical online scenario: Searching for a course to see how it is doing



New E-Thermal research lab first such test facility in Ireland

The Dept of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering has established an “E-Thermal” environmental test facility to assist Irish SMEs develop new sustainable energy products. This facility will be formally launched in May by Deputy Sean Canney, Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Department of Communications, Climate Action. The “E-Thermal” Lab will be the first such test facility in Ireland capable of offering product development and pre-certification testing to international test standards.

The laboratory can replicate a range of European weather conditions (temperature range -15oC to +35oC; relative humidity 10-90%) and also monitor the performance of the new product when exposed to these conditions. Many different types of tests can also be performed, from short duration (1-hour to 24 hour long) manual control tests, medium duration (1-day to 14 days) automated tests to long duration (1-week to 26-week) endurance, automated tests. This secure facility will facilitate Irish SMEs controlled and monitored access, 24/7. The first innovative product being tested is an integrated heat-pump and heat recovery ventilation system from Galway based ProAir Heat Recovery Ventilation Systems. The laboratory can also be used to support undergraduate and postgraduate projects for students of GMIT’s Energy and Mechanical Engineering programs. This 68m² facility is located adjacent to Barbarista on the Dublin Road campus and has been funded by a €360,000 research grant, jointly funded by Enterprise Ireland and local SME ProAir. The project commenced in July 2018 and will run until June 2020.

- Dr John Lohan, Dr. Laurentiu Dimache, Dr Naoise McSweeney and David Hunt, integrated Sustainable Energy Technology(iSET) research group, Dept of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering



7 - Pictured in front of the new E-Thermal facility at the Dublin road campus, L to R: Dr John Lohan, Principal Investigator, Dr Naoise McSweeney, Research Fellow, David Hunt, Research Assistant, visitor Roman Salomoun, MD, Jablotron, Dr Laurentiu Dimache, Principal Investigator, David McHugh, MD, ProAir Heat Recovery Ventilation Systems.

Employment prospects positive for GMIT graduates - survey

87% percent of GMIT graduates (Class of 2017) were in employment or further study nine months after graduating, the latest GMIT graduate employment survey shows. The survey findings are included in “HEA Graduate Outcomes Survey – Class of 2017”.

69% of graduates were working full-time, 10% working part-time, 7% were engaged in full-time study or training while 1% were engaged in part-time further study or training. 1% were due to start a job three months thereafter, 7% were unemployed and looking for work, and 6% were engaged in home duties or other activities.

GMIT Careers Officer Bridie Killoran, says “The total cohort surveyed was 1,692. Of these 1,214 received the survey. 478 were continuing graduates in GMIT.

Read more: <https://www.gmit.ie/news/87-gmit-graduates-employment-or-further-study-class-2017-survey>

Largest ever attendance at 9th Construction Conference



8 - L to R: John O'Regan (Director AECOM); Dr Martin Taggart (GMIT Conference Chair); Richard Harral (Technical Director, CABE); David Courtney (Chair, CABE Ireland); Justin Molloy (Regional Director, CIF); Chris Blythe (CEO CIOB); Mary Rogers (HOD, Dept. Building & Civil GMIT); Paul Oakley (Director, BRE); Gerard MacMichael (HOS, School of Engineering, GMIT); Pat Lucey (President, CIF).

The annual GMIT International Construction Management Day Conference will celebrate its 10th anniversary next year (2020). It is now the largest annual construction event in the west of Ireland. This year's 5th March event attracted the largest attendance.

The conference was conceived by GMIT lecturer Dr Martin Taggart in 2009 in the depths of the recession which hit the construction and property sector particularly badly. The intention was to provide a focal point for the industry at a time of great hardship where the future strands of a sustainable and efficient industry could be discussed and planned for.

The annual event is supported and sponsored by the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland (SCSI), the Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE), and the Construction Industry Federation (CIF).

In recent years the conference has grown to such an extent it has become a driver for research and innovation in the construction industry. GMIT is particularly proud that the National Construction Industry Research and Innovation Working Group Ireland was established in 2018, following discussions between GMIT staff from the Department of Building and Civil Engineering and CIF Past President Dominic Doherty, who was speaking at the conference.

CIF Director Sean Downey recently noted that the GMIT International Construction Management Day Conference is now a national construction event, which was unusual in that it is held outside of Dublin.

Several local and national media organisations covered the event. Watch the TG4 and RTE Nuacht reports by journalist *Shane Ó Curraighín's* [here](#)

[Link between oceans and human health focus of International Women's Day talk](#)

GMIT marked International Women's Day with a full programme of public events and activities in all campuses including public talks, seminars and an art exhibition by inspirational and award-winning guest speakers including GMIT scientists, researchers, lecturers and students.

GMIT Mayo Students Services welcomed champion surfer, environmentalist and ambassador for women's surfing and gender equality Dr Easkey Britton who gave a presentation entitled "*We are ocean: cross-cultural connections between people and the sea.*"

Dr Britton is an inspirational figure who combines her passion for the ocean with her day job as a marine social scientist in her role as a post doctorate research fellow in NUI Galway where she researches the link between oceans and human health as part of the EU-funded Horizon 2020 Seas Oceans and Public Health in Europe (SOPHIE) project. She is a lifelong surfer. Her parents taught her to surf when she was four years old and she channels her passion for surfing and the sea into social change. Named an 'Agent of Change' by Surfer Magazine in their special Ocean Edition, surfing is Dr Britton's active metaphor for life.

Her work is deeply influenced by the ocean and the lessons learned pioneering women's big-wave surfing in Ireland and introducing the sport of surfing with women in Iran which led her to be invited to give an inspiring TEDx talk 'Just Add Surf'. Her ground-breaking journey to Iran in 2013 introduced the sport of surfing to women and local communities and is featured in the award-winning documentary film 'Into the Sea'. Passionate about facilitating creative and collaborative processes, she founded Like Water, a platform to explore innovative ways to reconnect with who we are, our environment and each other, through water.

Dr Britton drew on all these experiences and more as she invited the audience to explore and discuss gender, diversity, inclusion and what 'we are ocean' means in an engaging audio-visual presentation. She presented award-winning short film clips of her work and surfing from around the world to spark insight and conversation.

GMIT Mayo Sports Officer Nigel Jennings said: "It was an extremely engaging, informative and enjoyable event which GMIT Mayo were delighted to host." Here's a link to surf images from Dr Britton's award winning short film A Lunar Cycle - please credit: Andrew Kaineder: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/qhe18jq5dc5w23q/AACKNeaTYtffH1XA8fpf9YUda?dl=0>



9 - Photo courtesy of Easkey Britton_GoPro.



10 - Photo by David Gray/ Finisterre. Courtesy of Dr Easkey Britton.



11 - Photo courtesy of Easkey Britton. [David Gray/Finisterre]



12 - Photo courtesy of Easkey Britton [David Gray/Finisterre]

Graduate numbers need to increase dramatically say employers in Built Environment

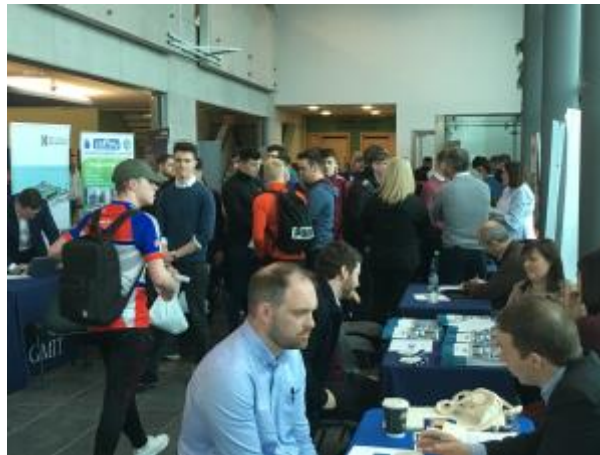
Over twenty employers from Ireland and the UK attended a careers fair in GMIT offering numerous positions for graduates in the Built Environment sector. Final years students from the Department of Building & Civil Engineering in GMIT attended the event and spoke to the employers about future employment positions.

GMIT offers Ordinary Degree (Level 7) and Honours Degree (Level 8) programmes in Architectural Technology, Civil Engineering, Construction Management and Quantity Surveying. Lecturer Shane Newell says: “There is currently a very noticeable demand from employers looking for suitably

qualified graduates to work in all sectors of the construction industry. Because of the shortage of graduates, the starting salaries and employment conditions for graduates have increased significantly to try to attract skilled professionals.”

“The Ulster Bank Construction Purchasing Managers’ Index, a benchmarked measure for assessing economic activity, recorded a surging rate of job creation in March. The exceptional growth in the construction sector in recent years has led to an ever increasing demand for Architects, Architectural Technicians, Civil Engineers, Site Engineers, Quantity Surveyors, Project Managers, and all positions throughout the wider Construction industry.” Explains Mr Newell.

“The ‘Engineering 2019’ report published by Engineers Ireland last month stated that the supply of civil and building engineers must dramatically increase to meet country’s current and future needs. Almost all (94%) engineering employers surveyed however consider a shortage of experienced engineers to be a barrier to growth – and almost half expect this situation to get worse in 2019. Civil and building engineers are most in demand with 59% of organisations surveyed looking to hire engineers in this discipline.” Adds Mr Newell.



13 - Pictured are engineering students and employers from the build environment attending the recent GMIT Careers Fair.



14 - Pictured are students and employers attending the recent GMIT Careers Fair.



15 - Pictured are students and employers attending the recent GMIT Careers Fair.



16 - Pictured are students and employers attending the recent GMIT Careers Fair.

School pupils show big interest in engineering lab demos

Over eighty students from secondary and primary schools in Galway attended laboratory demonstrations in the GMIT Building & Civil Engineering Dept, designed to give pupils a flavour of the various career opportunities in civil engineering, as part of Engineers Week (March). The students learned about the positive contribution which civil engineering can make to their futures and to the future of the planet.

Engineers week is a week-long festival of nationwide events celebrating the world of Engineering in Ireland. “Engineering touches every part of our lives and offers young people the chance to make a positive difference to the world in which we live”, says Shane Newell, lecturer in the Building & Civil Engineering Dept, and co-ordinator of this year’s GMIT programme of events.

“The ‘*Engineering 2019*’ report published by Engineers Ireland recently states that the supply of civil and building engineers must dramatically increase to meet the country’s current and future needs. Almost all (94%) of the engineering employers surveyed however consider a shortage of experienced engineers to be a barrier to growth – and almost half expect this situation to get worse in 2019. Civil and building engineers are most in demand with 59% of organisations surveyed looking to hire engineers in this discipline,” explained Mr Newell.

For further information on GMIT’s Engineering programmes, see:
<https://www.gmit.ie/engineering/school-engineering>



17 - Pupils attending GMIT Engineering Week events.



18 - Pupils attending GMIT Engineering Week events

[“Struggles for Empowerment”- new book by Dr Teresa Bruen](#)

A new book *“Struggles for empowerment – Higher Education stories from East and West”*, co-authored by Dr Teresa Bruen, GMIT Mayo, and Prof Ambreen Shahriar from the University of Sindh, Hyderabad, Pakistan, was formally launched at the Mayo campus on 10 April.

The book, published by UCL Press, examines the stories of mature students from the region of Sindh in Pakistan and the west of Ireland, looking at their journeys and their struggle whilst they navigate the world of Higher Education. The narratives are explored utilising the theoretical lens of the sociologist Pierre Bourdieu and his theoretical framework of Habitus, Capital and Field.

Dr Teresa Bruen, lecturer in the GMIT Dept of Nursing, Health Sciences and Social Care, says: “Whilst the students appear to come from extremely different backgrounds and cultures, the study illuminates similarities in their experiences in relation to social inequality and the challenges and obstacles they have to surmount in order to access Higher education and throughout the ir time in higher education. Seeking to understand why some are able to persevere with studies against enormous odds, our book draws on Bourdieu’s theories of social and cultural capital, habitus and field to analyse the students’ very personal narratives. The accounts are truthful and moving and inspirational and lead us to engage with the very real questions of how we support non-traditional students within higher education”.

Read more: <https://www.gmit.ie/news/new-book-struggles-empowerment-dr-teresa-bruen-and-professor-ambreen-shahriar>



19 - Dr Teresa Bruen, GMIT lecturer and co-author of "Struggles for Empowerment" with Professor Neville McClenaghan (left), Vice President for GMIT Mayo campus (left) and Justin Kerr, Head of the GMIT Mayo Department of Nursing, Health Sciences and Social Care.



20 - Dr Teresa Bruen (right), GMIT lecturer and co-author of "Struggles for Empowerment" pictured at the book launch with Dr Maura Fitzsimons, lecturer.



21 - Dr Teresa Bruen, GMIT lecturer and co-author of "Struggles for Empowerment" pictured at the book launch with her son Seamus Cunniffe, assistant lecturer in psychology, GMIT.

Design is the focus of Digital West 2019

Design thinking, trends within the design industry, design innovation and entrepreneurship, raising brand awareness and getting to market digitally were the key topics discussed at this year's GMIT Mayo's 'Digital West' annual event. Organised by academic staff in collaboration with the GMIT

Innovation Hub, the event was opened by Professor Neville McClenaghan, the new Vice President, GMIT Mayo campus.

Speakers included Derek Cassells, Creative Director at Orangeye Media (median arm of iRadio), Nicola Corless, Marketing and Communications Manager at LERO, the Irish Software Research Centre, and Alan Finneran, Business Development at IE Domain Registry, Declan Folan who designed the iconic Carlberg tulip glass, business mentor and consultant Alastair McDermott, and creative technologist Martin Fitzgerald. -Turlough Rafferty, GMIT Mayo iHub Manager.

Watch the presentations here: <http://digitalwest.biz/missedouevent/digital-west-2019/>

Over 120 members join new GMIT Environmental Society

Following some early attempts to start a GMIT Environmental Society in the 2017-18 academic year, 2018-19 was to be the year, and the society has now been officially set up and is still growing. We have hopes to grow it much more again in the next academic year.

The society currently has 74 Facebook followers and is interacting with other environmental societies and groups around Ireland. There have been 120 individuals who have signed up to the society email notifications. By the end of the academic year the main activities carried out by the society this year will have included:

1) regular fortnightly meetings, including movie screenings; 2) an information booth during Clean Air Week highlighting biking to GMIT, and plants that can help clean the air; 3) an information booth on minimising waste; 4) a DIY beeswax food wrap workshop; and 5) an environmental pollution clean up in Merlin Woods and Ballybane beach. While this academic year is coming to a close, and the next academic year is a long way off, we would like to take this opportunity to encourage all staff to promote the society among their students.

– Dr Katie O’Dywer, Assistant Lecturer in Aquatic Ecology



22 - Society members and participants after the clean-up



23 - Society members and participants

Students and staff raise funds for Galway Lifeboat

GMIT students and staff have been hosting events in aid of the RNLI Lifeboat for many years. The latest event was a lunch organised by staff and students of Hotel Management and Culinary Arts degree programmes. Representatives from the group presented a cheque for €418 to the RNLI Lifeboat's regional fundraising manager Tony Hiney last week. Photo (top right). Pictured, L to R: Melissa Allen, Ulrich Hoeche (lecturer), Orlaith Burke, Tony Hiney, RNLI Lifeboat Fundraising Manager, West region, George Kozlov. Donatos Zaronkis, Eoin Warner (lecturer). Photo 2. L to R: Ulrich Hoeche (lecturer), Melissa Allen, Orlaith Burke, Tony Hiney, RNLI Lifeboat Fundraising Manager, West region, Regina Daly, LPO Galway Lifeboat, George Kozlov, Donatos Zaronkis.



Awards & Achievements



GMIT Voices win “Best Newcomer” at prestigious choir competition



24 - Members of the new GMIT Voices choir, before their performance in the annual SCCUL Choir Factor competition.

GMIT’s new workplace choir, GMIT Voices, were crowned *Best Newcomer* on Saturday evening (13 April) at the annual SCCUL Choir Factor event which took place in Clarinbridge. The choir of 65 took to the stage singing choir director Sean Rowland’s own acapella arrangement of “*Down to the River To Pray*” followed by Katy Perry’s “*Rise*” with piano accompaniment for the judge, Dr Brendan O’Connor, and the audience who responded with rapturous applause.

Against tough competition from ‘High Fidelity’ from Fidelity Investments and ‘Local Vocals’ from Galway Corporation/Council, the choir were thrilled to take home the winner’s trophy for their category. Formed just two months ago as part of the college’s Healthy Campus workplace initiative which promotes positive mental health and wellbeing, GMIT Voices is under the direction of local pianist and teacher Sean Rowland. “The choir have worked extremely hard and I am so pleased for

them. It's a great boost for the staff and the college itself. This was the choir's first ever public performance outside of GMIT and I couldn't be any more proud" said Sean.

With participation from all departments across campus, the new work place choir has been a huge success. Chair person of the Healthy Campus Committee Anita Mahony had this to say "GMIT Voices has had a wonderful effect on the staff of GMIT and the culture of the Institute. Over 100 staff have come to some of our choir practices and more are still planning to join when their schedules are less hectic."

With further plans already in place for more upcoming performances, GMIT Voices are also looking forward to returning to Choir Factor next year and competing in the Established Choir section and the hope is that GMIT will also have another choir in the Newcomer section as a student choir is planned for September supported by the Students Union, with Sean Rowland as Director.

The sold out event was in aid of the SCULL Sanctuary who run tailored therapeutic retreat days for community groups and members of the public who are facing a crisis in their lives or in need of healing. More information can be found on www.scculsanctuary.com. GMIT Voices can be found on Facebook.

- Anita Mahony, Chair of the Healthy Campus Committee and Sean Costello, Choir Director



25 - "Rise" by GMIT Voices



26 - Down In The River To Pray - GMIT Voices

Graduate Kate Dever to represent Ireland at European conference

At the biannual LabCon2019 conference co-hosted by the Academy of Clinical Science and Laboratory Medicine (ACSLM) and the Medical Laboratory Scientists Association (MLSA), two GMIT graduates won prizes.

Kate Dever from the 2018 4th year Medical Science class won the President's Prize for her final year project on "*Antibiotic Resistance Reversal in Multi-Drug Resistant Klebsiella pneumoniae: Exploring the soxS Dependant Regulon*". Kate will now represent Ireland at the European Association of Professions in Biomedical Science (EPBS) International Conference in Geneva this October.

As part of the same competition, graduate Alanna Maunsell did a great presentation on her project "*Equivalence Study of the Lyophilised EntericBio Norovirus Assay (EBVP2) to the Original CE-IVD (European Conformity – In Vitro Diagnostics) Marked EntericBio Norovirus Assay (EBNoV) on the Market*". Four other students, Lisa Anderson, Megan Sheridan, Claire Lyons and Adam Spain exhibited their projects as part of the undergraduate research poster competition. Adam was awarded a prize in this competition.

"Well done to all the Medical Science students and to all involved in the Medical Science programme" says Dr Seamus Lennon, Head of Dept of Biopharmaceutical and Medical Science.



27 - L to R: Dr Debbie Corcoran (left), lecturer in Medical Science, graduate Kate Dever, winner of the President's Prize, and Dr Brigid Lucey, President of the Academy of Clinical Science and Laboratory Medicine.

'Prototype Avalanche Backpack' and 'Smart Hurling Helmet' win top awards in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Poster Expo 2019

An engineering student's prototype of the Avalanche Backpack has won him the overall Engineers Ireland's Project Award at GMIT's Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Expo 2019. The overall Mechanical Engineering - Year 4 Competition winner John O'Toole from Inishturk, Co Mayo, was among 45 students who submitted and exhibited their posters in the Café Foyer in early April.

Speaking about his win, John explains: "The revised bag can be inflated and deflated after a fixed time period multiple times. The backpack works when the user deploys the airbag out of the backpack which inflates to a volume of approximately 150L. It saves lives through a process known as inverse segregation which means that larger particles are more likely to rise to the top of the snow drift than smaller ones. Essentially it allows the user, such as a snowboarder, to become the larger particle when caught up in an avalanche. The design incorporates a novel electrical blower which is more advantageous than the one-shot compressed air canister. The device is made up of a 3300kv Brushless motor and is controlled using an ESC and a simple embedded controller. The system can be programmed to be automatically deflated after a fixed time period. The prototype

casing and guard around the programmed motor is 3D printed using a PLA material, the airbag itself is made from oxford nylon which inflates to a U-shape around the user, thereby preventing major traumas and saving lives”.

Product Design stream winner Shane Molloy from Furbo Hill, Spiddal, Co Galway, won in his category for his 'Smart Hurling Helmet'. Speaking about his product, Shane says that he designed and developed the smart hurling helmet with the assistance of Cooper Ltd, a local and very popular hurling helmet manufacturer based in Ballinasloe. “The purpose of the hurling helmet is to provide coaching staff with not alone a live TV feed from the prospective of the hurler but a way of directly and furtively communicating with the hurler.”

“Hopefully the integration of such technology will provide real-time footage from the players’ perspective and assist the coaching staff in maximising the team’s performance. The project is completely novel and there are currently no products available on the market for the sport of hurling. I would also like to take this opportunity to formally thank Cooper, my industrial partner for assisting me in every practically possible with the project.”

This year’s competition was judged by industry experts Alan Heneghan, Senior Programme Manager, Thermo King, Donal Collins, R&D Manager, McHale, Ronan Gibbons, Senior Design Engineer, JFC Group, Doru Boblea, Senior Design Engineer, Caragh Precision, Michael Cummins, Senior Development Engineer, TE Medical (formerly Creganna), Colin Langan, Senior Engineer, Advanced Quality, Stryker, Tomasz Wlosinski, R&D Engineer, Boston Scientific, Karl Dooher, Process Manager, Medtronic, Derek Haynes, Technical Director, Unitherm Heating Systems, and John Paul Butle r, former Chairman of Engineers Ireland West Region. All the industrial representatives kindly sponsored the various awards for the event.

Colin Langan, R&D Engineer for Stryker, says: “I really enjoyed my time being back at GMIT, and looking at the level of expertise the students have is a credit to the department. This exhibition will bring the Engineering school into the spotlight both publicly and within industry.”

Michael Cummins, Senior Development Engineer for TE Medical (Creganna), says: “The level of diversity presented in the posters/projects was high, and ranged from the very practical to the highly theoretical. The quality of the work in generally was impressive and reflects well on the institution, the students and the faculty.”

Ronan Gibbons, Senior Mechanical Design Engineer for JFC Group, says: “I was impressed by the quality of work on display, but more importantly, giving the students an opportunity to present their work to industry professionals will allow them to build confidence in communicating with their peers. This is a vital skill of an engineer.”

Alan Heneghan, Senior Programme Manager for Thermo King, says: “The final year projects showcased the students’ practical application of all the technical engineering knowledge they have gained throughout their educational journey in GMIT to solve some very exciting and novel problems. It was a pleasure to be involved in judging all these very interesting final year projects on show. It was a credit to the students, lecturers and GMIT.”

Donal Collins, R&D Manager for McHale, says: “It nice to see a buzz about the place and its always interesting to see what the students have been working on, some of its really ingenious.”

Derek Haynes, Technical Director of Unitherm Heating Solutions, says: “It great to see the work on display, and as always time is short when judging the event.”

Dr Oliver Mulryan, Dept lecturer and Expo organiser, says: “It’s a privilege and an honour to teach some of the brightest minds in the Institute. This was evident not only by the quality and ingenuity of the work on display, but also by the confident way our students interacted with industry. We hope to run this competition annually to proudly promulgate to all, our students’ capabilities. Small events like this will leave an indelible mark on the students’ learning experience and assist the department in forging, fostering and fortifying permanent links with industry.”

Dr Carine Gachon, Head of Dept of Mechanical and Industrial engineering, says: “The department would like to formally acknowledge the ongoing contribution which local industries are making towards increasing the profile of our students and department. We are extremely grateful for your sponsorship, guidance, time and assistance! Now that the event has roots, we plan to include more engineering employers in the coming years.”



28 - Dr Michael Hannon, Deputising President of GMIT, Shane Molloy (Furbo Hill, Spiddal), award recipient, and Ronan Gibbons, JFC Group Representative



29 - Dr Michael Hannon, Deputising President of GMIT, John O’Toole (Ballyheer, InisTurk), award Recipient, and John Butler, Engineers Ireland West Representative



30 - L to R: Deputising President of GMIT Dr Michael Hannon, Denisa Graham, Weronika Kaspera, Tomasz Wlosinski (Boston Scientific), Pdraig O Rahallaigh, Hubert Creaven, Brendan Donellan, Jonathan Walsh, Ian Maloney, Kevin Waldron, John O'Toole, Shane Molloy XX, John Butler (Engineers Ireland West), Donal Collins (McHale), Alan Heneghan (Thermo King), Ronan Gibbons (JFC Group), Derek Haynes (Unitherm Heating Solutions), Carine Gachon – Head of Department, Michael Cummins (TE Medical), Doru Boblea (Caragh Precision), Karl Dooher (Medtronic) and Gerard McMichael, Head of School of Engineering.

Shane McHugo awarded Allergan Innovation Award for his research on congenital heart disease

Shane McHugo, a postgraduate researcher in GMIT and Enterprise Ireland's Medical and Engineering Technology (MET) Gateway, has been awarded the Allergan Innovation Award for his research on congenital heart disease. Along with this prestigious award, Shane received a bursary of €9,000 to fund his ongoing work on the replication of surgical procedures for the treatment of congenital heart disease within the MET Centre.

Congenital heart disease is the most common type of birth defect which affects the heart with 500 to 600 babies born in Ireland each year with the condition. Supported by the GMIT research and development fund, the congenital heart disease research programme was established by GMIT's Dr Liam Morris, Dr Patrick Delassus and Dr Eugene McCarthy in conjunction with clinical partners Professor Colin McMahon, Paediatric Cardiologist, and Lars Nölke, Cardiothoracic surgeon, Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin.



31 - L to R: John Martyn, Associate Director, Quality, Allergan; Conal Corduff, Associate Director, Manufacturing, Allergan; Patrick Ruddy, Director, Plant General Manager, Allergan; Shane McHugo, MET, GMIT; Dr Eugene McCarthy, Technology Gateway Manager, MET Galway, GMIT; Dr Patrick Delassus, Principal Investigator, MET, GMIT.

Shane's work is currently assessing a number of different surgical procedures within an advanced bio-simulator in an attempt to optimise clinical results. The full development of this bio-simulator

replicating congenital heart defects will provide surgeons and researchers next generation technology to test various surgical options and assess their clinical outcomes.

Dr Cormac Quigley wins top award for lightboard project

Dr Cormac Quigley, GMIT lecturer in Chemistry & Forensic Science, has been awarded 'Best Use of Educational Technology' on behalf of the School of Science and Computing at the Education Awards 2019. Dr Quigley, who is one of the recipients of the 2017 GMIT President's Award for Teaching Excellence, led a project entitled "Blending Chemistry".

Selected from a shortlist of projects from Universities and Institutes of Technology across the country, this project brings new and innovative teaching methods into use to allow the GMIT ethos to prosper - an ethos which relies upon student-lecturer interaction to embed industry ready practical skills. Key innovations which set this project apart are the creation of the GMIT lightboard studio – the first in the country, an adaptive personalized online workspace and the use of learning analytics.

The lightboard studio allows lecturers to move their blackboard work into an online setting while keeping the interactive feel of a traditional classroom which is so important for effective teaching. It allows educators to produce online ready content in real time in a fast, user-friendly and familiar environment.



32 - Dr Cormac Quigley in GMIT's lightboard studio.



33 - Donal McAlister (right), International Education Specialist, presents the Best Use of Educational Technology/ICT Initiative of the Year to Dr Cormac Quigley, GMIT School of Science & Computing.

Dragons chose 'Petite Treat' as Best New Food Product

'Petite Treat' gluten-free frozen coconut-based desert wins best product

A selection of unique food products created by third year BA Culinary Arts students in GMIT were showcased to the public in the Galway International Hotel School recently with student Jarlath Mc Dermott from the Lady Gregory Hotel, Gort, topping the show with his product, 'Petite Treat, a healthy, gluten-free, frozen, coconut-based luxury dessert, that was judged to have "excellent potential, in both the retail and the wholesale market".

Assessing the viability of the food products were Nigel Murray, Gran Grans Artisan Foods, Caroline McDonagh, Senior Enterprise Development Officer, Galway Local Enterprise Office, Elaine Donohue, Co-Ordinator, Galway & West of Ireland, European Region of Gastronomy, James Gilchrest, Chef lecturer, and Food Product Development lecturer Richard Nielsen.

Summarising the showcase, the assessing dragons found "the standard very impressive, with the products following food trends" and showing "excellent creativity". Judge Caroline McDonagh of LEO noted that "the collaboration between culinary students and business marketing students was a key to success. The level of preparation and detail was excellent". Presenting their products, the students were "very knowledgeable, informed and well prepared for questions and answers." Although most of the products focused on the health benefits, the dragons suggested that the products could also be suitable for children snacks and could be sold onto a larger food producer for export.

Lecturer, Richard Nielsen, says "The showcase is the culmination of the students' Food Product Development module in which they create a new food product based on market trends, from concept to launch".

"A new feature this year is the coupling of the culinary students' product ideas with marketing and event students from the GMIT School of Business, to develop a marketing plan and the launch of the students' new food products.

The students who took part in this event were Michal Buzynuk, The Huntsman, Galway, Collette Grealish, White Gables, Moycullen, Jarlath Mc Dermott, Lady Gregory Hotel, Gort, Mirjana Murat, Danaghers Hotel, Cong, Patrick Philips, Wa Café, Galway, Ewelina Pajak, Mohill Resource Centre, Leitrim, Dara O' Neill, The Huntsman, Galway.



34 - Jarlath Mc Dermott launching his product 'PETITE TREAT'



35 - Showcase Assessors (Dragons) L to R: James Gilchrest, Caroline McDonagh, Elaine Donohue, Nigel Murray, Richard Nielsen

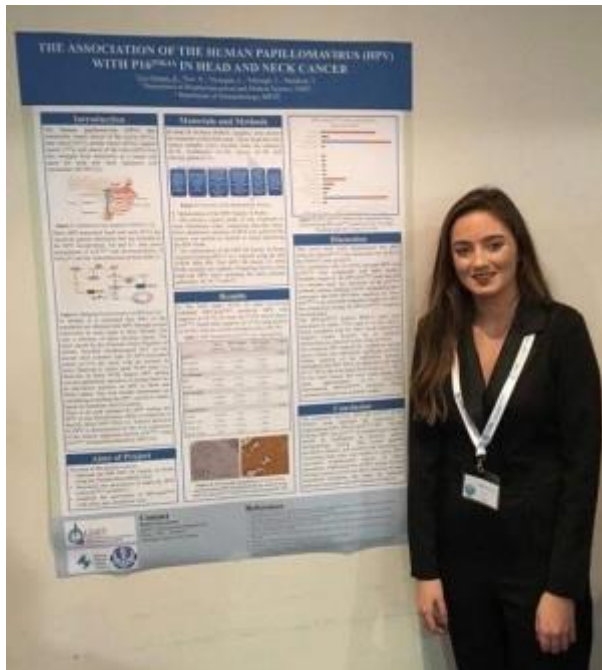


36 - On hand to provide feedback were Martin, Marketing Associate, Pallas Foods, Andrew Keady, Manager Galway Bay Seafoods, Richard Nielsen, lecturer and Noel Leahy, Leahy Beekeepers



37 - L to R: Michal Buzynuk, Collette Grealish, Jarlath Mc Dermott, Mirjana Murat, Patrick Philips, Ewelina Pajak, Dara O' Neill.

Hayley Foy-Stones wins numerous awards for final year project



38 - Hayley Foy-Stones, who has won national and international awards for her final year GMIT research project.

A GMIT Medical Science graduate Hayley Foy-Stones from Rhode in Co Offaly, won top national and international awards for her final year GMIT research project, titled *“The association of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) with P16ink4a in Head and Neck Cancer”* at a conference of the Academy of Clinical Science & Laboratory Medicine in Dublin.

Hayley took the top award in the undergraduate competition, winning the president's prize for her paper and presentation on the project. Last year she was chosen to represent Ireland at the European Association for Professionals in Biomedical Science (EPBS) in Portugal, winning the ‘Martin Nicholson overall award’. This award is granted by the EPBS to the medical scientist with the best scientific poster presentation in Europe and following the extensive judging of projects from all over Europe. Hayley then proceeded to win the ‘Student Research Project of the Year 2018’ at the Irish Healthcare Awards which took place that same month (Oct) in Dublin.

Dr Seamus Lennon, Head of the GMIT Department of Biopharmaceutical & Medical Science, paid tribute to Hayley for her hard work and talent, saying: “Hayley’s great work ethic paid off and she deserves the several accolades which she has obtained for her research work.”

Read more <https://www.gmit.ie/news/medical-science-student-wins-top-european-and-national-awards-her-final-year-research-project>

[Paul Casey wins top prize in national MIDAS electronics competition](#)

Paul Casey, a third-year student on the Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Services & Automation Engineering, scooped the top award in the national 2018 third-level MIDAS Electronic Project Competition, for designing, building and programming a product called ‘Check Weigher Conveyor System’, for his final year project. Paul came joint first with Anthony Wall, a final year PhD student from University College Cork (UCC).

The Check Weigher Conveyor System automatically loads product, weighs it and sorts it based on its weight. The project encompasses many of the skills and technologies Paul learned and practiced throughout his degree studies, notably the Automation and Electrical design module.

Paul, from Portumna, says: “To be shortlisted and to win the MIDAS Electronic Project Competition is a huge honor. It’s been hugely gratifying to have the work that I put into the project pay off. I’ve been extremely fortunate to have such a helpful cohort of lecturers throughout my degree programme who were always there to offer advice and support. I would especially like to thank Paul Ryan, my project supervisor, who was always available to offer advice and who helped me throughout every stage of the project development, Ray Weldon for making Industrial Automation such a dynamic and interesting subject to learn and also Barry Finnegan, Thomas Mullin, Seamus Leonard, Pat Cassidy, Clare Lundon and Mairtin O’Conghaile who all played a part in making my time at GMIT a memorable and enjoyable experience.”

Ray Weldon, Course Director of the B. Eng. in Electrical Services and Automation Degree, says staff are very proud of Paul’s achievement. “Attaining such an accolade brings great honour to GMIT and to all in our department.”

Read more: <https://www.gmit.ie/news/portumna-student-wins-top-prize-national-midas-electronic-project-competition>



39 - GMIT student Paul Casey (centre right), joint winner of the 2018 third-level MIDAS Electronic Project Competition, pictured with L to R, Ray Weldon, Course Director of the B. Eng. in Electrical Services and Automation Degree, GMIT, Leonard Hobbs, Chairman of Midas Ireland, and Dr Michael Hannon, deputising President of GMIT, at the Midas Gala Dinner in the Ambassador Hotel Cork on 8 November.



40 - Paul (left) after he was honoured with a Galway Crystal presentation by Dr Michael Hannon, deputising President, at the annual conferring of special awards in the Galmont Galway. Paul is pictured with his lecturer Paul Ryan (right).

Top accolade for Dr Fiona Malone at 25th Bionengineering Conference

Fiona Malone, PhD who graduated last year, won first prize within the Cardiovascular Section at the 25th Bioengineering in Ireland conference hosted this year by University of Limerick. Fiona was ranked first out of 30 presentations. Bioengineering in Ireland is a series of presentations from postgraduate and graduate PhD students based in the Irish Universities and IoTs for biomedical and health related research.

The title of her presentation was *“An in vitro assessment of blood clot trajectory paths through a patient specific aortic arch model under various flow conditions”*

Fiona’s study was supervised by Dr. Liam Morris (Lead Supervisor) and Dr. Patrick Delassus and Dr Eugene McCarthy, both co-supervisors.

Separately, research findings from GMedTech/MET centre have recently being accepted for publication in the prestigious American Heart Association Journal of Stroke (impact factor 6.24, acceptance rate of 16%, inside the top 5% of worldwide ranked journals). Stroke is a Journal of Cerebral Circulation and publishes reports of clinical and basic investigation of any aspect of the

cerebral circulation and its diseases from many disciplines including biomedical engineering. The title of this study was “An investigation of the haemodynamics influencing emboli trajectories through a patient specific aortic arch model” with the following authors: Fiona Malone, Eugene MacCarthy, Patrick Delassus, Jan-Hendrik Buhk, Jens Fiehler, and Liam Morris.

The major authors of this work were Dr Fiona Malone (First author) and Dr Liam Morris (Last author and Lead Supervisor). This work was in collaboration with Prof Jens Fiehler and Dr Jan-Hendrik (Both Interventional Neuroradiologists, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany) who provided a series of medical data on stroke cases with atrial fibrillation.

[Dr David MacHale wins four titles at World Powerlifting Championships](#)



41 - Dr David MacHale, School of Science, who won four top titles in the 2018 100% Raw World Powerlifting Championships in the US.

Dr David MacHale, lecturer in chemistry in the Science & Computing Dept, won four top titles in the 2018 100% Raw World Powerlifting Championships in the United States after only taking up the competitive sport three years ago. Teams from all over the world competed in the event including the US, Canada, Australia, China and India. The Irish team consisted of a ten strong ladies’ team, while the men’s team consisted of six athletes. David competed in six events for the men’s team, winning first place in the World Push/Pull event, second in the World Powerlifting and World Bench Press events, and third in World Deadlift.

Dr MacHale who has also lectured on the Sport and Exercise Science course, says he was delighted with his performance. “I started powerlifting three years ago after completing a mobility and rehabilitation course with my new coach Max Lauth. Max runs Maximum Results Gym in Parkmore, Galway and has overseen my progress, designing bespoke training programmes to suit my abilities. I

am extremely grateful to Max for investing so much of his time and effort into helping me develop as a powerlifter. I was privileged to be a small part of a brilliant, fun and talented bunch of athletes who flew the Irish flag with pride. The Irish team achieved fifth place in the competition overall, in the process breaking several world records. I would like to thank my GMIT managers, Dr Lisa Ryan and Dr Seamus Lennon, for accommodating my request to represent my country". Read more <https://www.gmit.ie/news/science-lecturer-wins-four-titles-world-powerlifting-championships-2018>



42 - Dr David MacHale (left).



43 - The trophies won by Dr David MacHale, GMIT School of Science & Computing.

Eight GMIT students compete in Ireland Skills

Eight students from GMIT were shortlisted to compete in this year's Ireland Skills Live competition. - six from Letterfrack, one from the School of Engineering and one from the International Hotel School.

Six students from Letterfrack's National Centre for Excellence in Furniture Design & Technology in Letterfrack competed in Cabinetmaking, Joinery and Carpentry, and all studying full-time degree programmes in Furniture Design, Wood Technology and Teacher Education. They are Shane McLoughlin, Jack Lynch, Aidan Devine, Lauren Casey, Brian Dillon and Benen Lynch. Motor Apprentice (phase 4) student Jack Comer, who recently completed studies in GMIT, participated in the Automobile Technology Section of the Ireland Skills Competition while Tara Saliweczyk, a fourth year student on our BA in International Hotel Management programme, was shortlisted to represent the International Hotel School in the Restaurant Service section. Tara also works part-time in Dromoland Castle. They were all great ambassadors for GMIT, said Deputising President Dr Michael Hannon.



44 - Back Row L-R: Shane McLoughlin, Westport, Co Mayo; Jack Lynch, Killycannon, Co Cavan; Aidan Devine, Tulsk, Co Roscommon. Front Row L-R: Anthony Clare, lecturer, GMIT Letterfrack, Lauren Casey, Newtowncashel, Co Longford; Brian Dillon, Knocklyon, Co Dublin and Benen Lynch, Tullaghan, Co Leitrim.

"Cookalicious" start-up wins Empower pitch competition



45 - Participants on the EMPOWER Start 2018-2019 delivered in GMIT iHubs with Maria Staunton, EMPOWER Manager (second left) and Tony O'Kelly (right), New Frontiers Manager, GMIT iHubs.

The second cohort of women entrepreneurs on the EMPOWER Start Programme in GMIT iHubs marked their completion of the course by taking part in a final pitch session, Dragons Den style, in the GMIT Galway campus in January. Fifteen women pitched their business to a panel of judges

comprising Gillian Buckley (WDC), Diane Nevin (Galway Business School) and Tony O Kelly (New Frontiers at GMIT) to win funds from the Western Development Commission (WDC) along with enterprise space in iHubs or Roscommon County Council Building and membership to Network Mayo, Roscommon or Galway.

Cepta Mahon, founder of Cookalicious, emerged the winner with runners-up including Olga Klofac, Fairy Specs, Assumpta Gallagher, Best-Practice, Caitriona Fahey, O/T Coach, Lou Brennan, Lou Brennan Design, and Anita Patil. Cookalicious provides a bespoke cookery class experience delivered to clients in their own home or workplace. Contact cookaliciousgalway@gmail.com to arrange your groups cookery class experience today.

Gillian Buckley, Investment Manager with the Western Development Commission who chaired the judging panel, said that the calibre of entrepreneur and businesses presented was very high, and complimented GMIT for taking the initiative to develop a bespoke programme that encourages and support female entrepreneurship in the region. Maria Staunton, EMPOWER Manager, says: "This year we had over 80 ladies applying to the EMPOWER Programme. Those who pitched today all have a very bright future ahead of them. They all had to carry out extensive market research during the programme testing the viability of their idea. They also learned other skills such as marketing, sales, finance, social media and pitching their business ideas at the end of the Programme. We worked with them on developing their confidence and developing a good support network."



46 - Gillian Buckley (WDC) awarding €500 to Cepta Mahon (Cookalicious) and Maria Staunton (iHub GMIT Mayo and EMPOWER Manager).



47 - Winners and runners up of EMPOWER Start to Finish Pitch 2018-2019 Group, L_R: Mary Hennigan (VP Network Roscommon), Gillian Buckley (WDC), Olga Klofac (Fairy Specs), Cepta Mahon (Cookalicious), Anita Patil, Lou Brennan (Lou Brennan Design), Cairtriona (O/T Coach), Asumpta Gallagher (Best-Practice), Maria (ihub Mayo and EMPOWER Manager) and Maura Glynn (President Network Galway and representing Network Mayo).

Katharine West, new Fulbright Alumni Ambassador

Katharine West, Centre of Creative Arts & Media (CCAM), has been announced as the new Fulbright Alumni Ambassador for GMIT. The Fulbright Commission in Ireland annually awards grants for Irish citizens to study, research, or teach in the US and for Americans to do the same in Ireland. The aim of the Fulbright Alumni Ambassador programme is to have a contact on-campus so that students, researchers & lecturers can easily access guidance on how to approach their Fulbright applications.

A Fulbright Awardee to the New York State College of Ceramics Alfred University in 1988, Katharine currently lectures in Ceramics, Contemporary Art and Industrial Design at the Centre for Creative Arts and Media at GMIT and makes work from her studio in Roscahill, Co Galway. She takes on the Fulbright Ambassador mantle from Dr Ian McLoughlin who has served in this role at GMIT for the last two years and has contributed greatly to enhanced engagement on campus. Dr Patrick Mannion, Assistant Lecturer in Computing at GMIT, was awarded a Fulbright-TechImpact Scholarship to the Collaborative Robotics and Intelligent Systems Institute at Oregon State University for 2018-2019.



48 - Lecturer Katharine West, new Fulbright Ambassador for GMIT.

Film graduates Jessie Fisk and Sean Clancy selected for Berlinale



49 - Graduate Jessie Fisk who, along with Sean Clancy, another GMIT graduate, has been selected to take part in the Berlin Film Festival's Berlinale Talents 2019.

Each year the Berlin International Film Festival selects emerging filmmaking talent from each European country to showcase rising talent. This year, three Irish Filmmakers were selected to attend Berlinale Talents, two of whom are GMIT graduates: Jessie Fisk from Kildare and Sean Clancy from Leitrim.

Jessie Fisk's first narrative feature as lead producer, 'Song of Granite' (2017), premiered at the prestigious festival South By Southwest in Austin Texas and was subsequently released in the US. It was Ireland's submission for the foreign language category of the 2018 academy awards and nominated for three Irish Film and Television Awards. Jessie has now partnered with Nathalie Biancheri to form the production company, Feline Films, and their next project will be a feature film called Shadows, which will be directed by Fabio Mollo, due to shoot in May. Shadows is an Italian-Irish co-production with the prominent Italian production company Ascent Films.

Sean Clancy has directed both commercials and music videos extensively and is best known for his short film 'Cavalier' which he wrote and directed. His debut feature film 'Locus of Control' will be released later this year.

Read more: <https://www.gmit.ie/news/two-gmit-film-graduates-selected-prestigious-berlinale-festival>

Three students selected for University Box Cup

GMIT Galway boxers Jack McHugh and Cullen McDonagh and Mayo campus student Isabel Buchanan have been selected to represent the Irish Third-level Students Boxing team at the inaugural University Box Cup in UK. Isabel had great success at the IATBA championships and from there went on to be selected to represent the Irish Third-level Students Boxing team at the inaugural University Box Cup, April 27 - 28. This event is being held at the University of Birmingham, England. We wish them the very best of luck.

Nigel Jennings, Mayo campus Sports Officer



50 - Isabel Buchanan

GMIT Sports Round Up

This year, GMIT has competed in 29 different varieties of sports, with 36 teams and numerous individuals representing the college at competitions both nationally and internationally. GMIT Rowing, Basketball and Karate will be wrapping up the sports year with their intervarsities in the coming weeks. See below a brief roundup of the amazing successes our students have had on sports teams and in individual sports this year so far.

GMIT Cheerleading - International World Champions at the UCA College World Championship in Orlando Florida & back to back national champions.

GMIT Senior Hurlers – Ryan Cup Champions 2019, beating University Ulster Jordanstown in the final.

GMIT Ladies Soccer - Division 1 CUFL Champions 2019, beating UL in the semi-final and Trinity College Dublin in the final.

GMIT Ladies Football - LGFA Donaghy Cup Champions 2019, beating Marino Institute in the final.

GMIT Equestrian - GMIT's Aurelia Tansey won first place in Dressage at the National Equestrian Intersivity's, a first ever for GMIT.

GMIT Fresher Hurling - Completed a unique double by winning both the Fresher hurling league & championship.

GMIT Boxing – IATBA Intersivity Champions 2019, a first ever for GMIT. The club took home 6 Gold medals and 2 silver. As a result GMIT students Thomas O'Toole, Rachel Buchanan (GMIT Castlebar),

David Giles, Jack McHugh and Cullen McDonagh have been selected to represent Ireland at the University Box Cup in Birmingham England.

GMIT Swim – Paulo O’Brien won a silver medal in the 50m Butterfly at the Swimming and Life Saving Interschools.

GMIT Rugby – Mens rugby were narrowly beat in the Division 1 Cup Final against UL

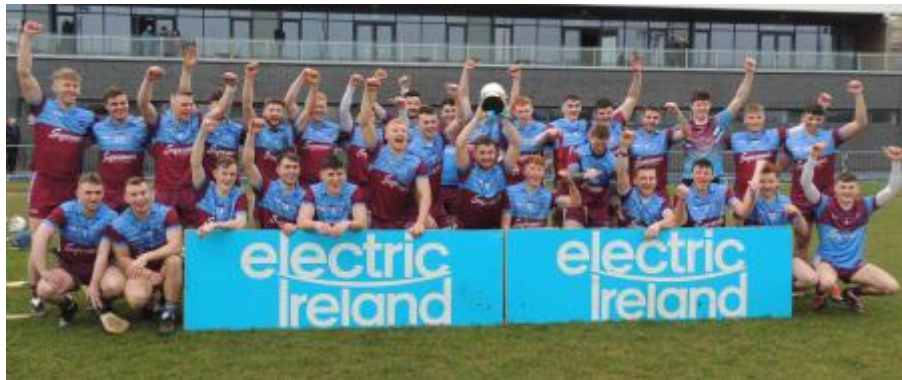
Corofin All Ireland Success – Congratulations to Corofin GAA on their recent club All Ireland success. GMIT Students Dillon McHugh, Brian Rafferty and Thomas Healy were part of the successful panel.

Irish U20 Rugby - GMIT Students Ryan Lomas and Dylan Tierney Martin were part of the successful Irish U20 Grand Slam Six Nations Championship winners. Huge congratulations too both players on a unique achievement.

- Molly Dunnes, GMIT Sports Officer



51 - GMIT Sports Champions 2018/2019 The GMIT Cheerleading Club became International World Champions at the UCA College World Championship in Orlando Florida in January and went onto become Irish back to back champions in March at the National Intersivity's.



52 - GMIT Senior Hurlers became Ryan Cup Champions 2019, overcoming University Ulster Jordanstown in the final.



53 - GMIT Ladies Soccer became Division 1 CUFL Champions 2019, beating UL in the semi-final and Trinity College Dublin in the final.



54 - GMIT Ladies Football were convincing winners of the LGFA Donaghy Cup, beating Marino Institute in the final.



55 - GMIT's Aurelia Tansey won first place in Dressage at the National Equestrian Intersivity's, a first ever for GMIT.



56 - GMIT Fresher Hurlers completed the double in winning both the Fresher hurling league & championship.



57 - GMIT Boxing made history by winning the IATBA Boxing Intervarsity's for the first time ever.

GMIT Sports Ball & Awards Night

The annual GMIT Sports Ball & Awards night took place on Wednesday, 27 March, in the Clayton Hotel, Galway. The awards, sponsored by Supermacs, recognise GMIT sports students who have excelled in GMIT clubs during the 2018/19 college year. Special guest and MC on the night was RTE sports commentator Marty Morrissey. The two main awards presented on the night are the GMIT Sports Team of the Year and the GMIT Sports Personality of the Year. This year's winners were GMIT Ladies Soccer as Team of the Year and Senior Hurler Declan Cronin who won Sports Personality of the Year.

-Molly Dunnes, GMIT Sports Officer



58 - GMIT Team of the Year, Ladies Soccer pictured with awards sponsors Supermac's and Special Guest Marty Morrissey



59 - Declan Cronin, GMIT Sports Personality of the year, pictured with special guest Marty Morrissey and Supermac's representatives.

GMIT Mayo Surf Club wins Surfing Intervarsities 2019

Congratulations to the GMIT Mayo campus Surf Club who won the National Surfing Intervarsities championship in Co Sligo's Strandhill at on 30 March. The Mayo Campus team are: Captain David Hartley, Joseph Corrigan, Jaggie Whelan, Kieran McElhinney, Seamus O'Donoghue and Mike O'Boyle.

- Nigel Jennings, Mayo campus Sports Officer



60 - Team and supporters from the GMIT Mayo campus Surf Club.





















Staff News



Professor Neville McClenaghan appointed VP for GMIT Mayo

Professor Neville McClenaghan has been appointed to the post of Vice President for GMIT Mayo campus. Professor McClenaghan comes to GMIT from the University of Ulster where he held a number of roles including Course Director of the B.Sc. (Hons) Biomedical Science, Head of School of Biomedical Sciences (2007-2017), Professor of Bio-innovation and Enterprise (since 2009), and member of the Senate. Prior to joining Ulster University, he held research positions in the University of Uppsala, Sweden, and Hannover Medical School in Germany, with long-standing interest and expertise in fundamental and translational diabetes research.

Professor McClenaghan is a recipient of numerous awards including: University of Ulster Distinguished Research Fellowship Award; The Physiological Society Sharpey-Schafer Prize and Lecture; University of Ulster Distinguished Business Fellowship Award; Coleraine Borough Chamber Innovation in Business Award; and European ACES Academic Enterprise Award for Innovation in Life Sciences.

He has maintained an active international research profile in experimental diabetes research, with interests most recently extending into cystic fibrosis-related diabetes; and core membership since establishment of Ulster's internationally renowned Biomedical Sciences Research Institute (BMSR). Read more <https://www.gmit.ie/news/professor-neville-mcclenaghan-appointed-vice-president-gmit-mayo-campus>



61 - Professor Neville McClenaghan, Vice President for GMIT Mayo campus

The beginnings of GMIT workplace choir

On Saturday, 13 February, 65 nervous but excited members of GMIT's new workplace choir 'GMIT Voices' took to the stage with their exuberant Choir Director Sean Rowland at the SCCUL Sanctuary Choir Factor event in Kilkerrin, Clarinbridge. GMIT Voices were in the New Choirs Section for choirs of under 24 months together with High Fidelity from Fidelity Investments and Local Vocals from Galway Corporation/Council.

In front of a full house, GMIT Voices walked on stage in order to take their places and actually take over most of the stage in the process, given that they were twice as big as the next sized choir and had probably more members than the rest of the other choirs put together. In their first public performance outside of the college, GMIT Voices sang their Choir Director's own arrangement of "Down to the River" acapella and then Katy Perry's "Rise" with piano accompaniment for the judge Dr Brendan O'Connor and the audience who gave rapturous applause.



After listening to the excellent performances of the other choirs, it was time for the presentation to the Choir Directors and when Sean Rowland went up to pick up his beautiful wooden trophy (which actually was made by Paul Leamy, graduate and now lecturer in GMIT's Centre for Excellence in Furniture Design & Technology, the Galway Voices practically lifted the roof in appreciation of their Choir Director who has done such incredible work and taught this choir so much in such a short space of time.

Then it was time for the announcement of the winners by the Judge, Dr Brendan O'Connor, and GMIT Voices were ecstatic when they heard the name of their choir announced as the Newcomer Choir of the competition. While being overjoyed for themselves, they were so pleased to have won for Sean Rowland as GMIT Voices is his first workplace choir.

Congratulations to Alkermes Allegro from Athlone under Director Andrius Koslovskis from the established choir section of the competition who were announced as the overall winners of Choir Factor.

GMIT Voices look forward to returning to Choir Factor next year and competing in the Established Choir section and the hope is that GMIT will also have another choir in the Newcomers section as a student choir is planned for September supported by the Students Union, with Sean Rowland as Director.

GMIT Voices was formed just two months ago. Tuesday, 5 February, 2019 was a momentous day for GMIT Workplace choir. Not only was it the day the choir held their first practice (karaoke style with 38 people) but a number of coincidences that happened that day led to the choir appointing a choir director, being entered into a competition and agreeing to sing at Ash Wednesday mass just a few weeks later.

The idea for a choir had come up just a few weeks earlier during a conversation over lunch when Michelle Healy from the International Hotel School mentioned to Anita Mahony, the Student Services Officer and Chair of Healthy Campus, that it would be lovely if GMIT had a choir. Anita realised this was a great idea and something that could be driven by Healthy Campus as a positive mental health and well-being initiative and immediately set the wheels in motion to see what musically minded people or experienced choristers might be on campus. With not that many of either coming forward, Anita called a meeting to see who would be interested in a choir if one was set up, and approx. 30 staff turned up to the meeting and a committee was formed, a date set to start (5 February) and Anita started a recruitment campaign through Healthy Campus.

On Tuesday, 5 February, 38 staff from several departments, many of whom had never met each other before, came together and spent 45 minutes singing Karaoke and enjoying every minute of it. On returning to her desk, Anita posted about the start of a new workplace choir on her facebook page. She immediately got a phonecall from a former colleague who used to work in the Chaplaincy team, William Browne. He now works for SCCUL Enterprises and he was trying to source choirs for the SCCUL Sanctuary Choir Factor competition on 13th April and he wanted to meet with her the following week to discuss entering GMIT into this event.

That evening Anita attended Chinese New year celebrations for GMIT students in the Druid Theatre hosted by Mayor Niall McNelis. On telling him about the new choir, he asked who the Choir Director was and when told we hadn't yet thought about that, he recommended that Sean Rowland, whom he had worked with on various events be considered. Anita contacted Sean the next day and on

Thursday he came in for a meeting with the committee and to see the choir at practice (48 people, this time with guitar accompaniment by John Joe O Farrell from the International Office). The committee were very impressed with Sean and Sean was interested in working with GMIT Voices (the name which was later suggested by a member and chosen by a poll).

Two weeks later, having agreed to enter Choir Factor, Sean started with the Choir, financially supported by Healthy Campus and SCCUL Enterprises and everyone knew straight away he was the perfect match for GMIT Voices. Even though Choir Factor was fast approaching, he had to spend the first few weeks working on religious songs as Anita had already committed the choir to singing at Ash Wednesday Mass on campus as Bishop Brendan Kelly was coming to celebrate it. That day, 65 members sang four songs in what was described as the most joyful Ash Wednesday Mass that he had ever been at.

After this the hard work began as Sean introduced the two competition songs and the harmonies and moves for these. After every session, members receive the video of the practice and the music of their various harmonies to learn before the next practice. A choir flashmob was organised in the canteen in the week before Choir Factor to fundraise for SCCUL Sanctuary and to practice singing in front of people

What's next on the agenda for GMIT Voices. Deputising President, Dr Michael Hannon, has invited GMIT Voices to sing at the launch of the GMIT Strategic Plan on 26 April (time tbc) and the choir has been invited by Healthy Campus to sing at the launch of Healthy Ireland Healthy Campus Framework and Charter in late Sept/early October. The Workplace Choir competition is in Dublin towards the end of the year and interest has already been expressed in competing in that. Sean also has some ideas of events for the choir. It's important always to have something to work towards but also to ensure that each practice remains an enjoyable experience.

GMIT Voices has had a wonderful effect on the staff of GMIT and the culture of the Institute. Over 100 staff have come to some of our choir practices and more are still planning to join when their schedules are less hectic. Sean Rowland has a difficult task on his hands trying to manage such a huge choir especially given that because of work and other commitments, not everybody can attend all practices.

- Anita Mahony, Healthy Campus Chair



63 - Some of the choir at practice in GMIT, with Anita Mahony, Healthy Campus Chair (third row, first left), and Choir Director Sean Rowland (second row, first left).

[Photo by William Browne, SCCUL Sanctuary, organiser of the Choir Factor]



64 - Pictured at the February launch of the SCUUL Choir Competition, L to R: William Browne, SCCUL Sanctuary Coordinator, Anita Mahony, Healthy Campus Chairperson, Sean Rowland, GMIT Voices Choir Director.

Make-over for Galway campus common room



65 - Computer generated image of the new common room, Dublin Road (Galway) campus.

The staff Common Room (371) in the Dublin Road (Galway) campus is currently undergoing a refurbishment. The upgrade will involve newly plastered walls, new LVT wood effect flooring, new blinds and freshly painted walls! There will also be all new furniture comprising of café style seating and tables and a small lounge area in one corner. Facilities available after the refurbishment will include microwaves, fridges, toaster and burco with hot water. Below is an indicative image of what the room will look like. -Cathal McHugh, GMIT Buildings & Estates Office

New Healthy Campus developments

The Healthy Campus working group has been in existence since January 2018. It has two sub-groups – Healthy Campus and Mental Health. Healthy Campus are rolling out various initiatives for staff and students while the Mental Health group are focused on developing the Student Mental Health Policy.

With Dr Lisa Ryan as the Management lead and Anita Mahony as its Chair, the group consists of representatives from Student Services, Buildings & Estates, GMIT Catering Company, HR, Students Union, Green Campus, Lecturers from Science and a representative from CCAM, Mayo and Letterfrack campuses. Going forward it is also the intention to co-opt students to it.

GMIT have signed up for inclusion in the Healthy Ireland Healthy Campus Charter and Framework which is being launched in September. This means we must promote health and wellbeing throughout the Institute's mission, strategy, policies, plans and practices wherever possible. By

appointing a working group and having recently provided funding for same, GMIT has adopted a strategic approach to achieving this on campus.

Healthy Campus are keen to combine the many internal resources as well as the expertise and experience which can be found on campus to make GMIT a healthier and happier place to work and study and to impart knowledge to the students and staff to help them make more positive life choices.

The working group have identified five target areas:

1. Making GMIT a smoking and vaping free Institute (all campuses) from September 2019
2. Introducing a nutrition traffic light system to foods prepared in the Galway campus canteen
3. Rollout of Consent workshops to all first year students in all campuses
4. Addressing Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco use
5. Various mental & physical health initiatives.

- Anita Mahony, Student Services Manager

Higher Education News



Brexit and Irish Higher Education

The EU and UK have agreed a further delay to Brexit until 31 October. The UK could leave earlier if a withdrawal agreement is ratified by MPs but in the meantime the UK must take part in European elections on 23 May. If the UK doesn't, it will have to leave the EU on 1 June without a deal.

The Irish Government has been preparing for Government Brexit plans on the basis of the most likely “No Deal” scenario. If the Withdrawal Agreement (WA) is ratified by the UK parliament, there is a commitment to maintain grants, funding and travel. If the WA agreement is not ratified and there is a crash-out, the bedrock of planning underpinning this scenario will be the ‘Common Travel Area’ agreement which was in place before the UK and Ireland joined the EU. The Irish Withdrawal Bill will be enacted which covers every area of Irish governance for which legislation is required in order to continue (post crash-out), along with an MOU between the Irish Dept of Education & Skills and the UK Department of Education.

Section 5 of the Withdrawal Bill deals with education and under that section student mobility and the SUSI scheme is supported and will continue to operate for UK-based Irish students. The Government will rely on the overarching principles in the Common Travel Area and there will have to be mutual recognition of profession qualifications between Irish and UK Professional bodies.

The principals of the Education MOU were agreed in September 2018. In the case of a crash-out, the UK commitment to the current Erasmus Programme which continues until 2020 remains in place. But there is currently no involvement mechanism for the UK to participate beyond that date. [See here](#) for regularly updated information.

CUA awarded €2.85m to develop new flexible learning options



66 - At the reception at Letterkenny IT (LYIT) to announce the funding for the ‘Innovative Opportunities Transforming Education (iNOTE) Project’, L-R: Ann Higgins, IT Sligo CUA Project Manager; Dr Lynn Ramsey, Programme Manager, West, North -West Higher Education Cluster, LYIT; Paul Hannigan, President, LYIT; Dr Michael Hannon, Deputising President, GMIT; Dr Seán Duffy, LYIT CUA Project Manager; Minister Joe McHugh, TD, Minister for Education and Skills; Martin Cronin, Chair, Connacht-Ulster Alliance (CUA); Dr Brendan McCormack, President, IT Sligo and Michael Margey, Head of School of Business, LYIT.

The Connacht-Ulster Alliance (CUA) of GMIT, IT Sligo and Letterkenny IT 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 announced the funding for the ‘Innovative Opportunities Transforming Education (iNOTE) Project’ led by LYIT at a reception in the Donegal institute in February attended by the presidents of the three institutes, staff and invited guests.

Minister McHugh said: “It is great 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.

Read more: <https://www.gmit.ie/news/cua-awarded-eu284m-develop-new-flexible-learning-options-west-northwest>

Future of Work outlined at HEA conference

The Higher Education Authority (HEA) and MIT Sloan had a very successful joint Summit at Dublin Castle earlier this year (Jan 2019) on 'Work of the Future'. The HEA continues to work on how we can prepare our graduates and citizens generally for the challenges of a rapidly changing workplace and society. Presentations by the speakers and other material is available on the HEA website: <http://hea.ie/2019/01/25/presentations-at-the-recent-hea-mit-conference-on-work-of-the-future/>

-Malcolm Byrne, HEA Communications Manager

Public has positive perception towards Irish Higher Education

The Higher Education Authority (HEA) commissioned Kantar Millward Brown to conduct a survey of public perceptions of Irish higher education six months ago (Sept 2018). The purpose was for us to understand how the public view higher education and research, and to assist in how we communicate and shape policy. The findings are mostly positive – with over 90% of respondents saying that higher education is important to grow Ireland’s economy, to attract investment and to improve communities, and over 80% believe that third level equips graduates for life and for the workplace. The report is available on the HEA website: <http://hea.ie/2019/03/01/survey-shows-public-have-positive-perception-of-irish-higher-education/>

-Malcolm Byrne, HEA Communications Manager

Teaching & Learning



Proposed M.Sc. in Design and Innovation

Six departments across GMIT have collaborated to develop a ground-breaking masters programme intended for working people who want to upskill in the area of Design and Innovation. Expertise developed through the programme will enhance careers in a variety of industries ranging from technology and agri-food to design, manufacturing, the service industries and the public sector.

The interdisciplinary programme is a response to National and Regional reports, such as the *National Planning Framework: Project Ireland 2040*, that have stressed the importance of innovation and creativity for the future needs of the West of Ireland. The Masters was initially inspired by the Stanford *d.school* "Design Thinking" philosophy which is having a growing impact in third level colleges around the world.

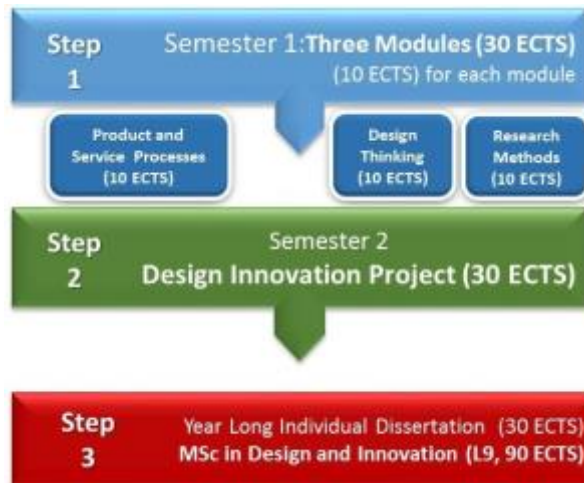
Dr Gabriel J Costello, Project Leader, and lecturer in the Dept of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, says: "The programme was co-created with industry and the service sectors, which involved discussions with organisations such as Thermo King, IBM, Avaya, Proverum and the IDA. It will be delivered using a blended learning approach and will be 100% project based."

The new masters has been designed to meet the TU criteria for structured post-graduate professional programmes. This criteria has been drafted in a new guidance document/booklet by Dónal Loftus and Dr Shirley Wrynn entitled "*Masters programme Design for Technological Designation*." The new masters will be delivered over a calendar year with project-based classes every second week on Friday evenings and on Saturdays. It is suitable for people holding a level 8 degree in Engineering, Design, Business, Computer Science or related disciplines, that wish to move into leadership roles in research and development (R&D) and the broader areas of new product, new service and new process management. " adds Dr Costello, a Chartered Engineer and member of the Engineers Ireland West Committee.

The figure below shows the masters structure, consisting of three modules in semester 1 with a major team-based cross-disciplinary project in semester 2. Students must also complete an individual dissertation based on a project in their own organisation. While the programme can be completed in a year, there is the flexibility to extend the dissertation over two years. The MSc in Design and Innovation will have an External Panel Review on May 13th and, all going well, will begin in October 2019.

If you know of anyone who might be interested, please ask them to contact Dr Gabriel J Costello at gabrielj.costello@gmit.ie

MSc in Design and Innovation Progression Pathway below



New Digital badge enhances graduates' employment prospects

A lecturer in the Dept of Building & Civil Engineering, Wayne Gibbons, has developed a Digital Badge in association with RPS, a multinational engineering consultancy firm, which recognises and rewards students who demonstrate outstanding communications and mentoring talent as well as technical proficiency in civil engineering software.

Mr Gibbons, who developed the Digital badge as part of his doctorate studies, says the innovative micro credential award complements the formal degree qualifications and verifies for employers that a range of skills have been acquired by the graduate.

"The Dept has developed a suite of digital badges for a first-year module pilot study. The "Best Mentor in Class" digital badge is unique in that it is presented to only one first year student each year. The student is chosen by their fellow classmates, through peer (student) nominations, as well as in consideration of high technical proficiency using the design software. This year's digital badge was awarded to Civil Engineering student Conor McLoughlin from Swinford, Co Mayo earlier this week. In addition to the Digital Badge, Conor also won a day to attend the RPS office in Galway.

Read more: <https://www.gmit.ie/news/gmit-engineering-lecturer-designs-digital-badge-will-benefit-graduates-and-employers>



67 - GMIT Building & Civil Engineering student Conor McLoughlin (right) from Swinford, Co Mayo, winner of the digital badge, pictured with GMIT Engineering graduate Paul O'Leary in the RPS offices, Mervue.

New forum aims to establish EU network of hotel schools

Tutors in the hotel, catering and tourism industry in five European countries including Ireland took part in a three-day consultation forum in GMIT in January to start the process of creating a new European network of Hotel and Catering Schools that will improve employability for students and

staff in the sector. Twenty-one delegates from schools and hotels in France, Spain, Bulgaria, and Macedonia are leading the new EU initiative along with GMIT's International Hotel School, the only Irish third-level college in the partnership, presenting Ireland. The GMIT team is led by Dr Sarah Berthaud, lecturer in French, and her colleagues in the International Hotel School, lecturers Colin Gilligan, Mary Reid, Ulrich Hoeche and Dr Francesco Noci. The EU initiative, led by the French team, is part of the KA202 Erasmus 'REVER' project which has been awarded €121,000 for 2018-2020. The partnerships were set up with the support of the HEA, FICAHT (the French Irish Forum for Culinary Arts, Hospitality and Tourism), and the French Embassy in Ireland. Read more: <https://www.gmit.ie/news/gmit-hosts-eu-forum-aimed-establishing-new-network-hotel-schools-europe>

New coaching course launched by Mayo GAA and GMIT Mayo



68 - Front row, L to R: Cllr Michael Maher, GB member, Maria Staunton, iHub Empower programme manager (guest speaker), Nigel Jennings, Sports Officer, Mayo campus, Dr Deirdre Garvey, Head of Lifelong Learning, Mayo campus, Dr Michael Hannon, Deputising President of GMIT, Pauline Jordan, lecturer. Front row, L to R, Mike Connolly Mayo GAA Chairman, Stephen Hannon, lecturer, Alan Dillon, former Mayo footballer (guest speaker).

An innovative part-time course developed in association with Mayo GAA and Outdoor Education staff called 'Contemporary Sports Coaching Practices', was formally launched at a reception in the Mayo campus in January. The 13-week course was delivered with online video/slide presentations, documents, two-way discussions/tutorials and interactive practicals by guest speakers who have coached or participated at the highest level in sport.

Speaking at the launch, Dr Deirdre Garvey, Head of Lifelong Learning Dept, GMIT Mayo, said "The emphasis was placed on real life applications of theory to practice with unique insights and knowledge from these marquee coaches and players, into best coaching practice within an Irish context."

Mike Connolly, Mayo GAA Chairman, said: "The GMIT community has always been advocates of GAA & physical exercise and we are delighted to partner with them on this course".

Read more: <https://www.gmit.ie/news/gmit-mayo-offers-exciting-new-course-contemporary-sports-coaching-practices>

Business School launches Cert in Agricultural Entrepreneurship

The School of Business was awarded funding through the Government/HEA funded Springboard+ programme to provide an online course in Agricultural Entrepreneurship to 40 successful applicants. The new Certificate in Business in Agricultural Entrepreneurship (Level 6) provides learners with a foundation in business and entrepreneurship education in the context of the agricultural sector.

Students will learn how to develop and potentially launch product and service ideas in the agricultural sector.

Kevin McDonagh, programme chair, says: "It is a unique course, free for eligible applicants and delivered online which allows people greater flexibility in completing the programme of study. It is of particular interest to individuals who have, or wish to develop, a business idea for the agricultural sector, individuals who have a small business in the agricultural sector but require an understanding of business acumen to progress and grow their business, or anyone interested in participating in the agricultural sector."

Applications are made through www.springboard.ie Further info kevin.mcdonagh@gmit.ie

Heritage Studies modules offered to non-CAO applicants

GMIT has a long-established tradition of excellence in delivering programmes in Heritage Studies to undergraduate students. In January 2019, a selection of modules from the full-time Heritage Studies programmes went on offer on a stand-alone basis to non-CAO applicants and to the general public. All modules are fully accredited at levels 6, 7 & 8, and delivered by a team of lecturers who have both national and international recognition for their knowledge, expertise, and experience.

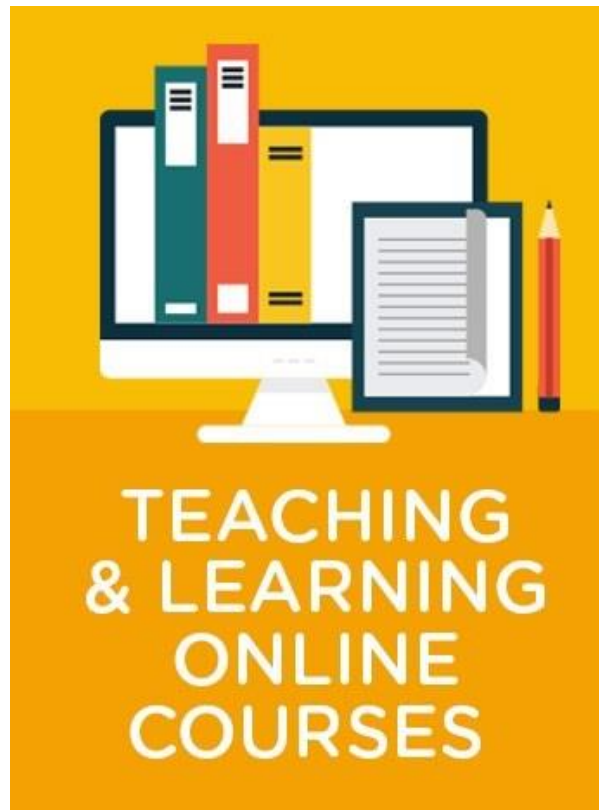
The modules on offer are across six broad subject areas, namely: History – Irish, European and International, Natural Heritage – Geography & Natural Environment, Built Heritage – Archaeology & Field Studies, Cultural Heritage – Literature, Folklore, Cinema, Music & Art, Heritage Tourism & Museology, Technology in Heritage

Read more: <https://www.gmit.ie/news/gmit-heritage-studies-modules-offer-general-public-january-2019>



69 - GMIT Heritage Studies lecturers Cian Marnell, Dr Cilian Roden, Dr Jennifer Farrell, Dr John Tunney, Dr Mark McCarthy, and Diarmuid Ó Conghaile; Head of Department for Heritage and Tourism, GMIT

Teaching & Learning courses

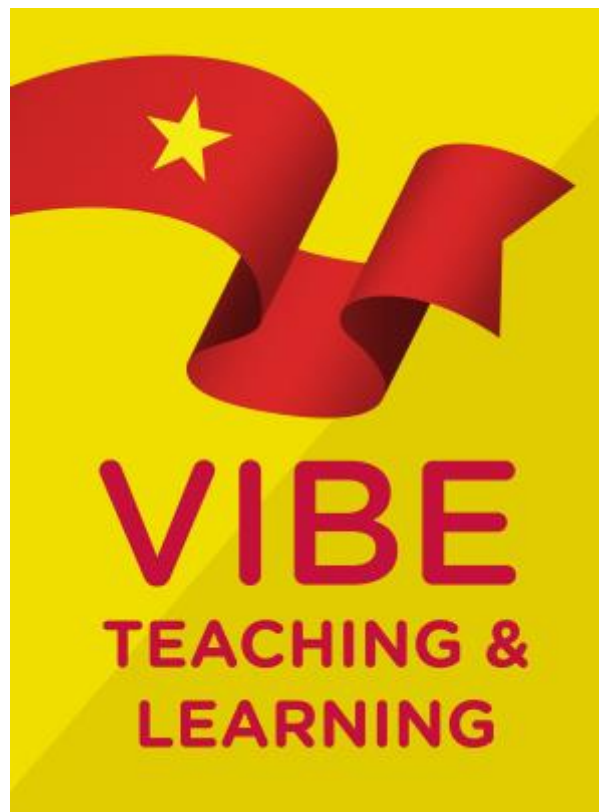


GMIT Teaching and Learning Office develops and publishes a range of online teaching and learning development courses on a dedicated online learning environment called www.cpdlearnonline.ie.

Sample online courses and resources include RPL Assessor Skills in HE, Online Teaching Development Skills, First Steps in Teaching & Learning, Peer Learning Leadership Skills, External Examining in GMIT, Programme Design & Assessment Resources, Learning & Innovation Skills (FYE course) Enrol for access at www.cpdlearnonline.ie.

For further information contact Dr Carina Ginty, GMIT Teaching and Learning Officer and Lecturer in Teaching and Learning carina.ginty@gmit.ie

Vibe Teaching & Learning Project



GMIT was awarded VIBE funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Irish Aid in Vietnam to deliver a teaching and learning development programme to Nong Lam University in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The project commenced in Jan 2019 and will run until Feb 2020. It involves the transfer of knowledge and skills into developing a teaching philosophy, technology enhanced learning skills, student centred learning, curriculum design, online teaching skills and building a teaching portfolio. Participants will engage with an online course created on www.cpdlearnonline.ie, the GMIT Teaching & Learning Office, virtual learning environment. GMIT Teaching and Learning Office, VIBE Project team includes Dr Carina Ginty, Annette Cosgrove and Dr Pauline Logue.





Curriculum design in 90 minutes

GMIT's Teaching and Learning Officer introduced colleagues in Galway, Letterfrack and the Mayo Campus to a 90-minute game-based curriculum design workshop. The workshop suite of tools is based on an established theory *Conversational Framework*. It is a widely used method internationally and it draws from resources developed by the University College London, JISC UK and the Erasmus + ABC Learning Design Programme.

The workshop supports module leaders and programme board teams in creating stimulating, creative and engaging learning experiences for students and the teachers. It is particularly useful if you are planning to design a new module or programme or re-design an existing course for online, blended or face to face. A sample of the workshop activity is presented in the images below. Contact Dr Carina Ginty for further information or email TLO@gmit.ie to book a group session.



Programme review & assessment checklist



A new guidebook is now available from GMIT Teaching and Learning Office to help you during the programmatic review process. It is recommended programme boards work together in a team and engage with the range of checklists provided and this will help inform enhancements and changes to a module or programme design. In addition, the following teaching and learning workshops are available to programme boards to support the design of programmes.

ABC Learning Design for Modules or Programmes (Online, Blended or Classroom based), Curriculum Design – Integrated Approach to Assessment, Managing Assessment and Student Feedback. Sessions can be booked by contacting TLO@gmit.ie. To access the guidebook go to the Programmatic Review sharepoint site at <https://galwaymayoinstitute.sharepoint.com/sites/GMIT/registrar/>

Upcoming Teaching and Learning development projects

In January 2019, GMIT was awarded funding for three interesting projects that will build teaching and learning expertise in Building Information Modelling, Learning Analytics and Digital Learning. The project titles are outlined below and they will run from 2019-2021.



Project Title: The BIM-Futures Toolkit - designing, developing and piloting a professional development capacity framework for staff, students and industry stakeholders involved in BIM-related practice. For further information on this project contact Dr Mark Kelly, Dept. Building and Civil Engineering or Dr Carina Ginty, GMIT Teaching and Learning Office.

Project Title: Developing All Learners Through Analytics Initiative (DALTAI). Professional development in learning analytics project that will examine how to obtain actionable intelligence from learning data that supports student success initiatives. For further information on this project contact Phelim Murnion, School of Business or Dr Carina Ginty, GMIT Teaching and Learning Office.

Project Title: Innovative Opportunities Transforming Education (iNote). GMIT along with CUA partners LyIT and IT Sligo have been awarded a HEA Innovation in Teaching and Learning fund to build digital capabilities in the region over the next 3 years. The iNote project provides opportunities to transform the higher education experience in the CUA institutes. The project includes five work packages:

Work Package 1: The development of quality assurance policies and procedures to enable digital learning (Project Lead Letterkenny IT, Dr Simon Stephens)

Work Package 2: The development of a digital training programme and online education courses for all staff to build digital capabilities and pedagogic expertise, in order to design, deliver and support flexible, distance and e-learning programmes. This work package will also include consultation and mentoring from an international partner (NY State University/SUNY) with a focus on replicating best online and flexible delivery practice. (Project Lead GMIT, Dr Carina Ginty)

Work Package 3: The development of an online learning student support services model. (Project Lead IT Sligo, Prof. Jacqueline McCormack)

Work Package 4: Design and development of three online learning programmes in Galway-Mayo, Sligo and Letterkenny.

Work Package 5: Evaluation and dissemination of all project outputs across the CUA.

For further information on the iNote project, contact Dr Carina Ginty, GMIT Teaching and Learning Office at TLO@gmit.ie