

Regional Hub
Experiment with Industry Science
Biotechnology Science
Engineering Quality Courses
Sporting Life

Improving Our Campus Student Support
Assisting Business Growth Academic Affairs
Nurturing Start Ups Enterprise Training Start Improvement
Sustainability Networking Building Research Capability

Applied

Design Sustainability Research
Innovation Student Satisfaction
Community Focused
in Teaching and Learning
Retention

catalyst for attracting smart economy jobs to the region access, transfer & progression

Student Satisfaction
Community Focused
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to the region
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Improving Our Campus Culture he Sunday Times Supporting Our Students of Overall Institute Good University Guide 2011

Student Services wilding Research Capability earning A New Strategy Research

People Smart Setisfaction

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Annual Report



Graduate Charles Kilawee with his sister at the 2011 Conferring

Our student intake increased in 2010

and 2011, which we believe reflects our ability to provide interesting and relevant courses for students.



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Acknowledgements

IT Sligo gratefully acknowledges the support from the Staff, Students and Stakeholders in the development of this Annual Report. This document is intended to provide only a reflection of the achievements and progress at the Institute during 2010-2011. We also wish to acknowledge the support and funding provided by the following:



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Foreword

Education. Enterprise. Engagement.

These challenging themes, I am proud to say, have underpinned a year of growth in provision, achievement and ambition at Institute of Technology Sligo.



Jever Jood

Professor Terri ScottPresident

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The Institute continues to demonstrate its role as a vibrant engine for growth in the North West. In spite of the macro-economic difficulties. IT Sligo has continued to flourish in the year under review. We increased our student body to over 5,600 in 2011, an achievement we believe gives widespread acknowledgement of the relevance of our degree programmes, work placements and internships, professional accreditation and the quality of our staff and the learning environment.

Some 1800 students were conferred in our annual ceremonies. In line with demand and in response to student and industry needs, we added new courses to our portfolio.

As the Institute enters its fifth decade of Higher Education leadership and service, the year under review saw further enhancement of our reputation as a seeding ground for success and innovation.

Once again, outreach activities have been pivotal to our progress. They have included partnerships with industry and official agencies in training and research initiatives; showcase events promoting Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics to school pupils; a Strategy for Internationalisation, involving strategic alliances with universities in the USA, Korea, China and Australia.

New horizons have opened for IT Sligo this year. We have further embraced online learning in the expectation that it will meet a growing international demand and add to our student numbers and income. The Institute is also poised to embark on major refurbishment and infrastructural development which will include a new three-storey Science Block.

Staff and students brought us distinction, nationally and internationally, in academic awards, sporting accolades, artistic flair, digital design, research honours and other activities.

This report sketches life on campus in 2010-2011 and gives an overview of many of the highlights and the staff and students who have contributed to the success and achievements.

Academic Affairs





The class of 2011

Some 1.800 graduates were conferred over six sessions at the 2011 Annual Conferring on November 10th and 11th. The annual Corn Sheáin Mhic Mhagnais award was awarded to the Imagine Cup winning team, Aíne Conaghan, Calum Cawley, Matthew Padden and James McNamara, and their mentor, computing lecturer, Padraig Harte.

The first graduates of a unique BEng in Polymer Processing delivered jointly by IT Sligo and Athlone Institute of Technology were conferred. The online course was designed in 2009 in collaboration with First Polymer Training Skillnet to address what was a growing shortage of skills in the polymer (plastics) area.



The first cohort of graduates from a Master of Science in Biopharmaceutical Science, Bachelor of Science in Environmental Management, Graduate Diploma in Science in Biopharmaceutical Science and Higher Certificate in Science in Environmental Management were also conferred. Postgraduate awards included a number of Masters of Science by Research and Doctorates of Philosophy in Business and Humanities.

Referring to national developments in the higher education sector, the Registrar, Dr Brendan McCormack said that it was important that the North West was well represented in new alignments that would arise under the Government's National Strategy for Higher Education; "Gaining the status of Technological University is our ambition for IT Sligo and the region. This will empower us to continue to provide courses right up to PhD level and to gain standing that is on an equal par with the University sector," he said.

Developing courses to meet the changing needs of society

A number of new courses were developed in response to labour market needs. Some were entirely new and others were introduced to provide additional progression options for students.

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They included; a BSc in
Energy, Sustainability and the
Environment; BSc in Occupational
Safety and Health (Level 8);
BA Interior Design (Level 7);
BA Interior Architecture (Level 8);
BSc Sustainability (Level 7);
BSc Health in & Safety (Level 8);
MA Interior Architecture; Higher
Certificate in Engineering in
Advanced Carpentry and Joinery;
BSc in Advanced Wood and
Sustainable Building Technology
(Level 7); BSc in Construction
Project Management (Add-On

Level 8); and Postgraduate Diploma in Quality (Level 9).

A new part-time course in Development Education (5 ECTS, Level 7) was also offered with the support of Irish Aid. The course was tailored to suit those interested in learning more about sustainable development issues locally or globally and those who wish to undertake voluntary work at home or overseas.

First from Ireland to win first prize in the global finals

Four of our students became the first from Ireland to win first prize in the global finals of the world's most prestigious student software development programme in July – the Microsoft Imagine Cup.





Team Hermes was an interdisciplinary venture bringing together innovative ideas from the School of Engineering and the School of Business & Humanities. The team – Aíne Conaghan, James McNamara, Calum Cawley and Matthew Padden – that came up with a unique idea that could change the way in which road and human factors are associated with serious traffic collisions. Their mentor was lecturer Padraig Harte.

The triumph was received with pride, joy and praise at home and abroad and it was given widespread media coverage. The team was accorded a civic reception by the Mayor of Sligo, Councillor Rosaleen O'Grady on their return.



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More students choosing Sligo

Our student intake increased in 2010 and 2011, which we believe reflects our ability to provide interesting and relevant courses for students. In 2011 we had 3,901 full-time and 1,727 part-time students registered.

Full-time and part-time student numbers									
Registered students	Full-time	Part-time	Total						
Business & Humanities	2,236	559	2,795						
Engineering	690	721*	1,411						
Science	975	447	1,422						
Total	3,901	1,727	5,628						

^{*} Includes apprentices

Period	Full-time	Craft	All Part-time	Distance Education	E Learning	In Service	Total
2010-2011	4,100	788	1,186	323	527	3	6,074
2011-2012	3,842	207	1,149	248	762	3	5,198

PROVIDING UPSKILLING FOR INDUSTRY AND THE UNEMPLOYED

Baxter training scheme nationally recognised

Healthcare company Baxter received an award in the Large Manufacturing Organisations category of the IITD 2011 Awards. The Irish Institute for Training & Development accolade was in recognition of the company's Technical Training initiative which it has developed with IT Sligo. The initiative provides a specialised mechatronics programme that facilitates the professional advancement of the company's operators. The course is delivered through blended learning, with some training taking place on site at Baxter and some at IT Sligo.

Online courses selected for Springboard Initiative

The Institute secured 241 places on 12 online courses on the Government's Springboard Initiative, which is part of its Jobs Strategy. The initiative was designed to help reskill and upskill recently unemployed people to aid their return to the workforce. Institute courses included in Springboard were: BSc (Hons) Pharmaceutical Science: BSc Construction Management; BSc Environmental Management; Certificate Automation & Instrumentation/ Certificate Electronics; Certificate LEAN Sigma Quality; BEng Electronic Engineering; BEng Mechatronics; BEng (Hons) Electronic Engineering; BEng



Dr Mark Glynn, Bluebrick.ie, Dr Billy Fitzgerald, Head of Department of Environmental Science and Brian Mulligan, Springboard Co-ordinator at IT Sligo, pictured at the launch of Springboard.

in Polymer Processing; BSc Manufacturing Management; Higher Certificate Environmental Management and Post-graduate Diploma Environmental Protection.

Sligo secondary students with "mathemagician" Andrew Jeffrey at Maths Week.

Co Sligo-born 19th century mathematician, George Gabriel Stokes, an appearance by "mathemagician" Andrew Jeffrey, and a presentation about the Project Maths initiative. Lecturers Dr Etain Kiely, David Doyle, Fergal Gallagher, Liam Winters and Cillian O'Murchu also gave lectures on various maths-related subjects during the week, as did retired lecturer John D Sheehy. Student Calum Cawley, a member of Team Hermes which won the Microsoft Imagine Cup, outlined the mathematical dimensions of their winning project's plan to make roads safer by analysing driver behaviour.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SciFest 2011

More than 300 post-primary students from schools in Sligo, Leitrim, Donegal, Cavan, Roscommon and Mayo attended the fourth annual SciFest exhibition in May.



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Overall winners of Scifest 2011 at IT Sligo and winners of the Intel Award were three students from Coláiste Chomáin, Rossport, Co Mayo. Pictured from left to right are Head of School of Science, Dr Jeremy Bird; Stephanie O'Neill, Discover Science and Engineering; students Callum Bashford, Ryan McGrath and Shane Moran, their teacher Collette Nic Liaim; and Bill Crowe. IT Sligo lecturer and SciFest Co-ordinator.

SciFest is a series of one day science fairs funded by Intel Ireland and Discover Science and Engineering as project partners and hosted nationwide by Institutes of Technology. The overall winners of the event and the recipients of the Intel Award were Callum Bashford, Ryan McGrath and Shane Moran from Coláiste Chomáin, in Rossport, Co Mayo with a project on 'g-craPP science'. Runners-up were awarded the Abbot Ireland Award for a proposal for two artificial reefs in Enniscrone.

Maths Week

A range of events was organised at the Institute to mark national Maths Week in October. Features of the week included a lecture about the renowned

NEW DEPARTURES IN LEARNING

Peer Assisted Learning Piloted

A Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) scheme was piloted in the School of Science. Eight students and three members of staff, Aodhmar Cadogan, Maria Keeney and David Doyle, underwent training in PAL techniques. The scheme was piloted with third year Forensic Investigation and Analysis students mentoring first year Higher Certificate and first year Forensic Investigation and Analysis students.

Social Entrepreneurship

The Accelerating Campus
Entrepreneurship
(ACE) Initiative
launched a level
publication for centrepreneurship
education.

The booklet, Irish

Entrepreneurship,

Case Studies in

was launched at the Regional Development Centre in Dundalk. The cases will be of value to all

enterprise educators as part of their pedagogical toolkit for delivering enterprise education.

The launch of a new publication for entrepreneurship education in the third level sector by the Accelerating Campus Entrepreneurship (ACE) Initiative "Irish Case Studies in Entrepreneurship" in the Regional Development Centre at Dundalk.



RIBA Status for Interior Architecture programme

The BA (Hons) in Interior Architecture was awarded Candidate Status by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). This will put the degree on a par with UK and other internationally recognised universities when the validation process is completed successfully. UCD is the only other architectural programme recognised by RIBA in the Republic of Ireland.

Textbook Success for Students' Charity Drive

Students studying the BA in Marketing, PR and Event Management worked with chosen charities over a three month period during their final year's study. The hands-on module in non-profit marketing taught by lecturer Joanna Sweeney aims to equip students with the skills to work in the non-profit sector. Local and national charities benefited hugely from the students' participation in the fundraising drives.



Just What the Doctor Ordered

The School of Science worked in partnership with the Health Service Executive to evaluate a pilot initiative called the Green Prescription Programme.

The Programme was piloted in Co Donegal and involved general practitioners giving written advice to patients to be physically active in the natural environmental as part of their health and quality of life management. Lecturers Azura Youell and Máire McCallion and a Research Master's student conducted research, which included patient responses such as the effects on their levels of physical activity, body weight and blood pressure.



Pictured at the launch of Green Prescription
Programme in Colghan, Co. Donegal are Azura Youell
(IT Sligo), Lynda Mc Guinness (HSE), Máire Mc Callion
(IT Sligo), Dr Nazih Eldin (HSE Lead on Obesity
and Head of Health Promotion, Dublin North East)
AnnMarie Crosse (Eco Health Promotion Officer, HSE).

Fine Art lecturer selected as Culture Ireland participant

Lecturer in Fine Art Ronnie
Hughes was selected to present
solo projects in Chicago and Los
Angeles as part of the Culture
Ireland Imagine Ireland initiative.
The aim of the initiative was to
bring a wealth of contemporary
creators and a calendar of
culture to an American audience
in order reshape and reinvigorate
notions of Ireland, what it means
to be Irish and the potential for
Ireland into the future.

A STRATEGY FOR INTERNATIONALISATION

A Strategy for Internationalisation for 2011 was agreed focusing on strategic alliances with partner universities in key territories - Malaysia, Korea, China and the USA. The plan included ambitious targets for increasing the number of international students and linking programmes in cognate areas with our partners. Head of Research, Dr John Bartlett, attended the STAR Education Fair in Malaysia in January as part of a delegation organised by Enterprise Ireland. An agent was also appointed to work with the International Office in Korea.



of Applied Sciences

The President visited Kempten University of Applied Sciences in Germany in May. The Institute's relationship with the University in Kempten dates back over 20 years and has been supported by the Erasmus student and staff mobility programme. It was agreed that the existing Erasmus cooperation with the University would be continued and extended.

Visit to Kempten University

Visiting International Delegations

Delegations from China's Henan Province and Canada were among the visiting international delegations to the Institute.

In March a Henan delegation visited the Institute as part of a wider visit to Sligo organised by Sligo County Council. The visit led to formal discussions with a number of higher education institutions in Henan.

In April a delegation from Colleges Ontario came to the Institute as part of a trip to Ireland co-ordinated by IOTI. Colleges Ontario is a representative organisation of more than 20 colleges of Applied Arts and Technology in the Canadian Province. Links, including staff mobility and student exchange, were discussed.

EU Leonardo Programme

The Institute participated in the EU funded Leonardo Life Long Learning programme, which is led by the VIA University College in North Jutland, Denmark. Other participants included universities in Amsterdam and Bucharest and social care agencies in Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands and Romania. The different social systems and approaches to young people were explored as part of the project.



gets an online demonstration from Stephen Reid of the School of Engineering.

MOU with Buffalo State College

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Buffalo State College in the USA focused on research collaboration in the area of environmental science.

Led by Dr Frances Lucy, the partnership will focus on the threat to water sources by invasive species such as the zebra mussel and the Asian clam.

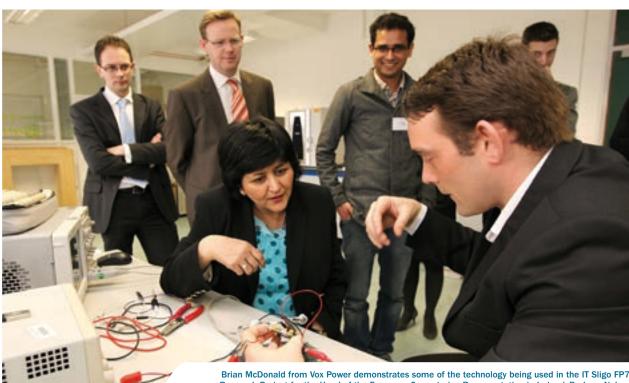
Building Research Capabilities





€1.2 million FP7 Research Project in Micro Machining launched **7**,

The Head of the European Commission Representation in Ireland, Barbara Nolan, visited the Institute in March to officially launch a €1.2 million project funded under the EU's FP7 programme, Research for the Benefit of SMEs.



Brian McDonald from Vox Power demonstrates some of the technology being used in the IT Sligo FP7 Research Project for the Head of the European Commission Representation in Ireland, Barbara Nolan. Also pictured are Project Research Partner, Carl Diver, CDMC Ltd, Co Donegal; Dr David Tormey, Head of Department of Mechanical and Electronic Engineering and Project Co-Ordinator; and Amit Gupta, advanced postgraduate diploma. Engineer.



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Chair of the IT Sligo Governing Body, Ray MacSharry; President of IT Sligo, Professor Terri Scott; Head of the European Commission Representation in Ireland, Barbara Nolan; and Dr David Tormey, Project Co-ordinator and Head of Department of Mechanical and Electronic Engineering.

Led by Dr David Tormey from the Department of Mechanical and Electronic Engineering, the consortium includes two Irish SMEs, CDAMC Ltd, Donegal, Vox Power, Dublin, and European partners Brunel University, UK, Vrije University, Belgium, German SME Sonplas Gmbh, and Belgium SME Elsyca.

The SME partners in the consortium also provided €400,000 in match funding to the project. The research is focused on the development of a 'next generation' micro machining process.



New Departures at NIBRT

The €57 million National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT) facility was opened in Dublin in June. The new facility represents a major strategic investment in bioprocessing and is an innovative collaboration between IT Sligo, University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin and Dublin City University, supported by IDA Ireland.

In August, a comprehensive online training programme by IT Sligo and NIBRT was launched for staff of Merck at its Brinny plant in Co. Cork, embracing Levels 6-9 of the framework of qualifications. Other training initiatives were also launched in autumn, including training for staff in Australian company, CSL.

MeTRIC Collaboration

The Institute was a founding member of the MeTRIC Consortium. Comprising five founding Higher Education Institutes, Athlone Institute of Technology (AIT), Galway Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT), Institute of Technology, Sligo (IT Sligo), National University of Ireland Galway (NUI Galway) and University of Limerick (UL), the Consortium also has two Associate Members, the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) and the Global Centre for Medical Innovations (GCMI), both based in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. The MeTRIC Consortium was established to embed the Med Tech sector in Ireland by offering a single contact point for industry to leverage the resources and facilities in Ireland's HEIs to undertake a range of in bioprocessing and of the Med Tech sector.

National Award for KITE project

The KITE (Knowledge and Innovation Transfer in Engineering) Project took first place in the 'Best in e-Learning' category at the 2011 Satellite Broadband Ireland Digital Media Awards held in Dublin in February. IT Sligo was the only HEI to be shortlisted for the award finals.

The KITE Project has been developed by IT Sligo in partnership with Northern Regional College (Northern Ireland) and Ayr College (Scotland) and is part funded by the European Union's Regional Development Fund through the



INTERREG IVA Cross-border Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body. It has facilitated the development of pioneering methodologies that allow students to develop practical techniques in a virtual learning environment.

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RESEARCH SHOWCASE

Almost 200 people attended a Research Showcase which was held at the Institute in January, including a range of regional agencies, academic partners and industry representatives. Forty-three student poster presentations and presentations on research activity at the Institute were on display and an industry workshop was held to provide businesses with a greater role in guiding research at the Institute.



IT Sligo ANNUAL REPORT 2011 Thinking, Learning, Living.

Chairman of the Research Showcase Committee and postgraduate researcher, Padraig Varley.

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Media attention for archaeological 'Deviant Burial' find

A 'deviant burial' dating back 1,300 years featuring two skeletons with large stones wedged into their mouths was discovered in an archaeological dig led by Archaeology lecturer Chris Read.

The discovery was the focus of a documentary produced for Channel 5 and subsequently caught the imagination of the wider wider media, being featured in *National Geographic* magazine, RTÉ Radio 1, *Irish Examiner*, *Irish Daily Star*, *Sunday Independent* and 100s of websites.

Students awarded InterTradeIreland Research Award

Research postgraduate student Linzi Ryan was awarded the Marion McAneney Graduate Research Award under the InterTradeIreland All-Island Innovation Programme. The Marian McAneney Award acknowledges excellence in reviewing academic literature on aspects of innovation.



The benefits of Electric Cars were highlighted to staff and students by the Managing Director of ESB Electric Car Division, Paul Mulvaney, when he visited the campus in March. Mr Mulvaney is responsible for the rollout of electric vehicle infrastructure in Ireland.







INVESTING IN STUDENT AND STAFF RESEARCH

President's Bursary Awards 2011

Six bursaries were approved under the 2011 President's Bursary Awards to fund postgraduate researchers in the Schools of Science and Engineering to MSc/PhD level. The staff members supervising this research were Dr Marion McAfee, Dr Frances Lucy, Dr Leo Creedon, Dr John Hession, Ms Maria Keeney, Dr Joe Gildea and Mr Steve Tonry. Some 73 postgraduate research students are registered at the Institute in 2011, a notable 25 per cent increase on 2010 figures.

Capacity Building Fund

€74,290 in funding was awarded to 11 research groups under the Capacity Building Fund to support research aligned with the Institute's strategic research areas.

Members of staff who were successful in applying for funding included Dr Frances Lucy, Noel Connaughton, Chris Read,
Carmel Moran; Dr David Tormey;
Dr John Donovan; Dr Marion
McAfee; John Hession; Dr Richard
Sherlock; Dana Vasiloaica;
Tony McCabe; Paul Powell;
Dr Con O'Loughlin; Dr Pat
Naughton; Dr James Murphy;
Doireann O'Connor; Joe Gildea;
and Dr Jerry Bird.

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President; Dr Brendan McCormak, Registrar; and

Niall McEvoy, Head of Innovation.



A SELECTION OF STAFF RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS



Dr James Moran, from the School of Science, received an EU Leonardo da Vinci Mobility contract for €37,000 to support the development of his project on "Capacity Building for Irish Commonages". In 2010 Dr Moran completed a conservation project in the Burren which was selected as one of the top six "Best of Best" LIFE Nature projects.

Dr Marion Dowd, School of Science, received a bursary from the National Museum of Ireland to be involved in the excavation of a newly discovered cave burial over the summer in Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare.





Dr James Murphy, Stokes Research Fellow, was elected Deputy Chair of the Irish Radiation Research Society in September.

Leading Regional Development





Campus developments supporting the region



Knocknarea Arena Welcomes Sligo Live

The Knocknarea Arena is a facility for the whole region and not just the Institute's staff and students. Every effort is made to ensure that a broad cross section of society can make use of the facility throughout the year. It is an impressive sport and leisure resource regularly used by senior sports stars including the Republic of Ireland U21 Soccer team and Sligo Rovers, but it is also suitable for holding conferences and events.

In a new departure, the facility played host to the Sligo Live music festival's two biggest acts on the October bank holiday weekend in 2011. Elvis Costello and KT Tunstall. This is the first time that the venue has hosted entertainment events on this scale and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Refurbishment of 1970s Building & New Science

Plans for a significant building and refurbishment project got underway. The project will involve refurbishment of the B Block, a new three-storey Science Building and the development of a modern 650 seat restaurant facility.



Gordon Ryan, Head of Development and Business Operations; Ireland Manager Guovanni Trapattoni; and Sligo Rovers Chairman Michael Toolan.



Agreement with Sligo Rovers launched

The Institute entered into a new partnership with Sligo Rovers which involves the co-funding of four scholarships annually. The launch in March was attended by

a number of high profile sporting figures including Ireland Manager Giovanni Trapattoni. Under the agreement, Sligo Rovers have use of the sporting facilities at IT Sligo for first team squad training, including the Knocknarea Arena facility, flood lit pitches and 3G Astro turf pitch.

DELIVERING FOR BUSINESS

Enterprise & Innovation Week 2011

Twenty four free public events were hosted during the second annual IT Sligo Enterprise & Innovation Week in March. Guests included high profile entrepreneurs Eleanor McEvoy and Sarah Newman.

More than 200 people attended the flagship event, a panel discussion on the 'Global Prospects for Irish Talent' chaired by broadcaster Anton Savage, and featuring contributions from international CEOs Danuta Gray (O₂ Telefonica), Steve Castree (Equinoxe AIS), and Larry Farrell (leading authority and writer on international entrepreneurship). The final day was hosted at The Model in Sligo and featured contributions from leading creative industry figures.



Innovation Centre Companies achieve High Potential Start Up Status

Epona Biotech, Hodgson Moore Pathology Services and Socrates – three companies which started their businesses in the Innovation Centre – successfully achieved High Potential Start Up status with Enterprise Ireland. They joined 70 companies to showcase their businesses to public procurement buyers, the financial and investment community and the media at the Enterprise Ireland Class of 2010 Showcase. The event was hosted by Richard Bruton TD, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, and Hugh Cooney Enterprise Ireland Chairman.

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DELIVERING FOR BUSINESS (continued)



Students enter the Dragon's Den

Dragon's Den star Sean
Gallagher (pictured above on
the right) was a guest judge
at an enterprise competition
for secondary students in the
region organised by Bachelor of
Business in Marketing students
in April.

A team of students from the Mercy College in Sligo took home first prize in the competition for a business idea which involved the research and development of a collection of children's books called *Gary Glasses*, *Angi Asthma*, *Ellie Eczema*, and *Danny Diabetes*.

Innovation Centre Company named 'Best Emerging New Business'

Innovation Centre-based software consultancy business, VentiSys Technology, was named as an Emerging New Business winner at the Small Firms Association's National Business Awards. The company's CEO, Joe Morrissey, is an IT Sligo graduate.

Innovation Vouchers Linking Enterprise with Academia

Enterprise and academic links continue to be strengthened through the Enterprise Ireland Innovation Voucher programme. In 2011 the Institute secured 37 Innovation Vouchers supporting regional and national businesses. This represents a five-fold increase in this important industry engagement benchmark metric.

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SUPPORTING GROWTH AND EDUCATION THROUGH INSTITUTE CONFERENCES

Minister for Children addresses Childcare Conference

More than 120 delegates attended the 'Our Children, Our Future' Conference hosted at the Institute in October. The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Frances Fitzgerald TD, and the CEO of Barnardos, Fergus Finlay, were the keynote speakers. The conference, the first to provide a forum for reflecting on the past and shaping the future for the children of Ireland, was organised by Pedagogy Learning Education, a network of 17 third level colleges that provide degree courses in early childhood

care and education. Early
Childhood Care and Education
lecturer Roisin McGlone is the
chairperson of PLE. Minister
Fitzgerald also opened the
Early Childhood and Childcare
Education's Play Skills Laboratory
while at the Institute.



The Accelerating Campus
Entrepreneurship (ACE) Interns
organised a Conference on Social
Entrepreneurship in April. The
Conference provided a forum
for existing and potential social
entrepreneurs to expand their
knowledge and network, as
well as insight and inspiration
to communities who may wish
to change their own future by
setting up a social enterprise.



Political Conference Sparks Debate

A half-day conference about 'Women and Men in Irish Politics' was held at the Institute in February. Guest speakers included Queen's University, Belfast, Politics Professor and Director at the Centre for Advancement of Women in Politics, Yvonne Galligan, Marian Harkin MEP and Politics and Social Policy lecturer, Dr John Pender. It was organised by Bachelor of Business in Marketing students as part of their European Studies module. under the direction of lecturer Joan Morrison. Dr John Gaffney, Mary Clarke, Manus Charleton, John Creed and Dr Chris Sparks also contributed to the Conference.



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Radiation Conference Hosted

The Irish Radiation Research
Society Conference was held at
the Institute for the first time
in September. The Conference
was chaired by Dr James Murphy
PhD, SFI Stokes Lecturer and
Head of the Mitochondrial Biology
and Radiation Research Group.

Wood Energy Conference

A conference on 'Wood Energy for Heat, Steam and Power' at the Institute in May organised by Conor Lawlor from the School of Engineering, featured contributions from a wide range of experts in the field including; Declan McGoldrick, HSE North West; Tom Bruton, Irish Bioenergy Association; Bernadette Phelan, Western Development Commission; Paddy Donovan, Clare Wood Energy Project; Joe O'Carroll, Imperative Energy; and Terence Cosgrove, Architect and Energy Consultant MRIAI. Brian Campbell, Confederation College, Ontario, Canada also contributed by video link.

Students are judge's choice at St Patrick's Day Parade

Fourth year students in the Bachelor of Business programme, Natalie Hunter and Jillian Tomas, co-ordinated the Institute's representation in the

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St Patrick's Day Parade in Sligo Town and were rewarded with the Adjudicator Award for their efforts.





Public lecture by Irish Times Environment Editor

Picking up the pieces after the Boom was the subject of a discussion by *Irish Times* Environment Editor and author Frank McDonald at a well attended public lecture organised by the Institute in association with the Society of Chartered Surveyors in March.

Student Achievements





First IRCSET Award

Engineering PhD student Cathal Colreavy (right) secured a prestigious scholarship worth €24,000 from the Irish Research Council for Science Engineering and Technology (IRCSET). This is the first time such an award was secured by a student attending the Institute. His supervisor was Dr Conleth O'Loughlin.



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IT Sligo students placed first in two categories at the National Skills Competition

IT Sligo students were placed first in two categories at the 2011 National Skills Competition held in the Cork Institute of Technology in April.



Mechatronics students Colm Frizzel from Ballymote, Co Sligo, and Shaun Henry Gillespie, Ballybofey, Co Donegal, won the Mechatronics Competition and Alan O'Reilly, from Hollymount, Co Mayo, took home gold in the Joinery Competition.

Students Ian McDermott from Keash, Co Sligo and Shane O'Hara, Knockmore, Co Mayo, were also placed second and third consecutively in the joinery competition.

IT Sligo has an excellent record at the national competition, which is now in its 54th year. More than 50 per cent of finalists and winners in the competition in the last 11 years have been IT Sligo students.



Innovative phone app

Computing student Enda McCormack (left) won one of only eight places in the country on the first ever 'app' camp hosted by leading IT company, Kainos, based in Belfast.

Student scores coveted Abbott position

Fourth year Forensic Science and Investigative Analysis student Elaine Dodd (below) secured a Professional Development Programme position with Abbott Laboratories. This is a highly sought role, with only two positions offered in 2011.



Representing Ireland at European Geotechnical Conference

PhD student Anthony Blake (left) won the Geotechnical Society of Engineers Ireland competition and was chosen as one of two students to represent Ireland at the 21st European Student Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference in Rotterdam, in the Netherlands, in September.



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Student recognised for volunteering

Applied Social Studies student Mark Millar was one of 20 students featured in a national exhibition celebrating the European Year of Volunteering 2011. He received a bursary to attend the launch of the exhibition in the European Parliament as a guest of Marian Harkin MEP.



CPA Accounting Award

Three accounting students received recognition from the Institute of Certified Public Accountants (CPA), under the direction of lecturer Caroline McNulty. The accounting students received the special Merit Award

from the CPA in recognition of their achievements in the Financial Accounting module of the Bachelor of Business Studies (Accounting) degree. Alan O'Rourke and Aveen Kelly, both from Sligo, and Marguerite Jennings from Carrickon-Shannon, Co Leitrim, recorded sessions in which they dealt with specific questions from past Leaving Certificate accounting exam papers. The recordings were then made available online as a free learning resource.



The end of year exhibitions staged by our students are an opportunity for them to showcase their work to their peers, parents, the wider Institute community and members of the public. Students of Interior Architecture, Fine Art, Creative Design, Performing Arts and Mechanical Engineering held end of year displays of their work.



Human Resources





Staff Development

The Institute has continued to invest in staff development with a number of targeted initiatives in learning, teaching and assessment and management development.

Of particular importance is the Institute's commitment to build upon its leadership

position in online learning in Ireland. A certified, three level, online learning competence based training programme for academic staff was developed and launched. In excess of 100 staff have completed the training with the aim of expanding overall Institutional competence to deliver a high quality online learning experience.



Workshops continue to be held on a variety of subjects in areas of best practice in Learning and Teaching. 110 staff completed training to the basic level on Moodle, a virtual learning environment tool. It is planned that all academic staff will have completed the specified training by September 2012 in line with our Strategic Plan, Priority 2.

Sporting Achievements

First year Health Science and Physiology student Liam Codd won six medals at the World Traditional Karate Association Championships in Italy.





IT Sligo has a strong sporting ethos and that is highlighted each year 77

IT Sligo has a strong sporting ethos and that is highlighted each year with a host of standout achievements by our students. Supported by the Institute's Sports Scholarship Scheme, students participate in a wide range of sporting activities, from surfing to soccer and GAA to golf.



Surfing Champions

The Surf Club were declared 'Irish Student Surfing Champions' at the Irish Student National Surfing Championships in Portrush in February. A team of six IT Sligo surfers captained and coached by lecturer Kerry Larkin took five gold and one silver medal as well as the title of Irish Student National Surfing Champions 2011.

European Lifesaving Championships

Engineering PhD student and Sports Scholarship student John Morton (picture second from right) was on the Irish team at the European Lifesaving Championships in Spain. The team came joint first in the simulated rescue event and John won a silver medal in a relay event. He also created a new record in the Warrior of the Sea Swim event from Rosses Point to Strandhill in the summer.





College Football Association of Ireland's National Team

Second year Health Science and Physiology student and Sligo Rovers player Mark McGoldrick was selected to play on the College Football Association of Ireland's National Team.



National Boxing titles

Two IT Sligo students gained national boxing titles. Maria Faney and John Tighe took the IABA Intermediate National Boxing titles in their respective weight divisions. Maria also won the Senior College Boxing Championship title for the Institute. Both are recipients of awards under the IT Sligo Sports Scholarship Scheme.



Women's Soccer

BSc in Health Science and
Physiology student and Sports
Scholarship recipient Deirdre
Doherty was awarded the
Intervarsities Player of the
Tournament award at the
Women's Soccer Colleges
Association of Ireland Awards
Banquet in Cork. Students
Roisin McCafferty (BSc in
Health Science and Physiology),

Lucy Hannon (Bachelor of Business in Recreation and Leisure), Maria Harrington (Certificate in Business), and Orla Devaney (Certificate in Science) also received Premier League All Star awards in recognition of the team's achievement in finishing joint top of the Premier League.

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All Ireland Junior Football Final

The Junior GAA Football team won the All Ireland Junior Football Final, taking home the cup for the third year in a row. They also won the Connacht Junior League.

2011 Irish Universities Athletics Championship

Spanish Mechanical Engineering student Alberto Sanchez won a gold medal in the 5,000 metres at the 2011 Irish Universities Athletics Championship. Sports Scholarship recipient Alberto also won a bronze medal in a 3,000m race at the Indoor Championships.



Under 19 Irish Ladies Soccer European Championships

First year Recreation and Leisure student Aileen Gilroy lined out with the Ireland under 19 Irish Ladies Soccer, scoring goals in matches against Portugal and Hungary in the European Championships.



First year Recreation and Leisure student Aileen Gilroy.

Staff take part in 'Get Active' Programme



56 staff took part in the HSEapproved Get Ireland Active programme. IT Sligo was the only third level institution in the country to rise to the 12-week challenge, and participating staff were put through their paces by students doing the Bachelor

of Business in Recreation and Leisure programme. The initiative saw staff undergo a range of physical challenges in a bid to meet the Get Ireland Active target of at least 150 minutes of moderate physical activity a week for adults. Roddy Gaynor,

Programme Chair of the course, and lecturer Sean Mooney co-ordinated the initiative.

Student Services





Breaking the Mould

Our access programme *Breaking* the *Mould* provides opportunities for school-leavers from Donegal and Connacht who may not otherwise be in a position to go on to third level education. Reflecting the economic climate in 2011, the programme experienced significant increases in applications and participation.

There was an increase of 42% in applications, with 111 applications received. After CAO offers were made, 34 students participated in the Summer School Transition Programme. That represented a 70% increase on participation rates from 2010. This free two week programme provides academic and other supports to students

to help them make an easy and successful transition to third level studies. Each student received a bursary to assist with initial costs associated with transition. Each was also provided with ongoing mentoring throughout their first year.

New Yeats Library resources online

During 2011, the Yeats Library developed its services taking advantage of the extended facility opened the previous year. The three areas, Infozone, Social Learning Zone and Quiet Zone each assumed its dedicated function and identity. Over 1,600 print items were added to stock and subscriptions were retained to 13 databases of online journal articles and other information. A total of 64,564 transactions were recorded at the library desk and (delete OR) self-service machine, of which 26,148 were loans of books or other material. There were 603 requests for inter-library loan or document supply, with the British Library and Subito supplying over 78%.



Distinguished Guests on Campus





The granddaughter and daughter-in-law of WB Yeats, Caitríona and Gráinne Yeats paid a visit to the Yeats Library at IT Sligo in July 2011 while in Sligo for the annual Yeats International Summer School.









Nobel Peace Laureate John Hume, with his wife, Pat, visited in June to inaugurate officially the Institute's "Hume Hall", a 250 seat multipurpose facility, in his honour.



FASTE RECEPTION

Presidential election campaign

During the Presidential election campaign, Michael D Higgins and Martin McGuinness visited the campus to meet staff and students.

Staff Conference Guest Speakers

During 2011, staff conferences were addressed by Seán Sherlock TD, Minister for Research and Innovation, Frances Fitzgerald TD, Minister for Children, John Hennessy, Chairman, Higher Education Authority, and the economist, Dr Colin Hunt, who chaired the Higher Education Strategy Review Group, which developed the National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030.

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The Ombudsman for Children, Emily Logan, visited the Institute in November to meet with students from the Early Childhood Care in Education course.

The Artistic Director of the Abbey Theatre, Fiach MacConghail, visited the Institute to meet staff and students on the BA in Performing Arts programme.



Australian Ambassador's Visit

The Australian Ambassador to Ireland, His Excellency Bruce Davis, visited the Institute during Science Week in November to hear the guest lecture by Professor Margaret Cox, scientific advisor to the Australian Government. A reception attended by the Mayor of Sligo, Councillor Rosaleen O'Grady, and Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council, Cllr Michael Fleming, was organised for his visit as well as well as information sessions about Institute projects with Australian links.

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Making the Headlines





Nationwide profile marks our 40th anniversary **77**

RTÉ One's *Nationwide* dedicated a full episode to IT Sligo in April as the Institute entered its 40th anniversary. The flagship regional news programme, which has an average viewership of 500,000, featured interviews with staff and students and focused on niche courses offered at the Institute, developments in research, links with the business community and the student experience in Sligo.



Facebook Page – finalist in the Social Media Awards

The IT Sligo Facebook page reached the finals of the Social Media Awards in May. IT Sligo was the only HEI to be nominated in the awards. The page was nominated under the category for Best Facebook Page for a Not for Profit organisation.



Governing Body and Academic Council





Governing Body Members

1st September 2010

Section 4 (1) (a) and (b)

Cllr Mary Barrett (Co Sligo VEC)

Clir Margaret Gormley (Co Sligo VEC)

Mr Shaun Purcell (Co Sligo VEC)

Cllr Tereasa McGuire (Co Mayo VEC)

Cllr Enda McGloin (Co Leitrim VEC)

Ms Mary McGowan (Co Donegal VEC)

Section 4 (1) (c)

Ms Maeliosa O'Brien (Academic Staff)

Dr Ted McGowan (Academic Staff)

Section 4 (1) (d)

Ms Sheelagh O'Gara (Non-Academic Staff)

Section 4 (1) (d)

Ms Breffni Gorman (President ITSSU)

Mr George Leetch (Vice-President ITSSU)

Section 4 (1) (f)

Mr Joe McDonagh (ICTU)

Section 4 (1) (g)

Mr Sean McEwen

(American Chamber of Commerce)

Mr Caoimhin Corrigan (Arts Council)

Mr John McGowan (Engineers Ireland)

Mr Declan Walsh

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(Institute of Chartered Accountants)

Dr Mary Hodson (HSE – North West)

Chairman Section 6 (2) (a)

Clir Joseph Queenan

Director Section 6 (2) (a)

Professor Terri Scott President

Secretary to Governing Body

Mr John Cosgrove

Secretary/Financial Controller

Advisors

Dr Jeremy Bird

Head of School of Science

Mr Jim Hanley

Head of School of Engineering

Mr Joe Cox

Head of Strategy & Policy

Dr Brendan McCormack

Registrar

Mr Gordon Ryan

Head of Development & Business Operations

Mr Terry Young

Head of School of Business & Humanities



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Head of School of Business & Humanities

Dr Brendan McCormack

Registrar

Mr Gordon Ryan

Head of Development & Business Operations



Academic Council

Academic Council Members 2010-2011

Scott, Prof Terri (Chair)

McCormack, Dr Brendan (Secretary)

Bartlet, Mrs Angela Bartlett, Dr John Bell. Mr Aiden Bird, Dr Jeremy **Brennan, Dr James Carter. Mr Frank**

Corcoran, Ms Grace

Cox, Mr Joe Creedon, Dr Leo **Cuffe, Mr Padraic**

Donegan, Ms Stephanie

Fitzgerald, Dr Billy

Foran, Mr Jim

Gallagher, Mr Kieran Gaynor, Mr Roddy

Gormon (SU), Ms Breffni

Hanley, Mr Jim Healy, Mr Ben Higgins, Ms Ann Joyce, Dr Oliver Kenny, Ms Paula

Leetch, Mr George (SU)

McArdle, Dr Fiona McCann, Dr Brian McCann, Ms Mairead McGuinn, Dr Catherine McManus, Mr Keith McManus, Mr Louis McSharry, Mr Trevor Mehegan, Ms Angela Moran, Mr Noel Mullarkey, Mr David O'Brien, Ms Maeliosa O'Halloran, Mr David Pender, Dr John

Savage, Mr Kevin Scanlon, Mr Pat **Share, Dr Perry** Sherlock, Mr Richard

Ryan, Ms Suzanne

Sparks, Dr Chris Tormey, Dr David Young, Mr Terry

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Academic Council Members 2011-2012

Scott, Prof Terri (Chair)

McCormack, Dr Brendan (Secretary)

Bartlet, Mrs Angela Bartlett, Dr John Bell. Mr Aiden Bird, Dr Jeremy **Brennan, Dr James Carter. Mr Frank** Corcoran, Ms Grace

Cox, Mr Joe Creedon, Dr Leo Dillon, Mr James (SU) **Doherty, Ms Patricia Donegan, Ms Stephanie Donovan, Mr Tony**

Fanning, Mr Shane Fitzgerald, Dr Billy Foran, Mr Jim

Gallagher, Mr Kieran Hanley, Mr Jim Healy, Mr Ben **Hegarty, Mr Gerry** Higgins, Ms Ann Hurst, Ms Anita (SU)

Joyce, Dr Oliver Kenny, Ms Paula McArdle, Dr Fiona McCann, Dr Brian McCann, Ms Mairead McGuinn, Dr Catherine McManus, Mr Keith McManus, Mr Louis McSharry, Mr Trevor Mehegan, Ms Angela

Moran, Mr Noel Mullarkey, Mr David O'Brien, Ms Maeliosa O'Halloran, Mr David Parsons, Ms Una Ryan, Ms Suzanne **Share, Dr Perry** Sherlock, Mr Richard Sparks, Dr Chris **Tormey, Dr David**

Accounts





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Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account

for the Year Ended 31 August 2011

		2011	2010
Income	Note	€'000s	€'000s
State Grant	1	17,082	19,580
Tuition Fees	2	11,011	11,768
Student Registration Charge	3	6,213	5,878
Amortisation of Deferred Capital Grants	17	3,152	2,811
Research Grants and Contracts	4	2,180	1,817
Student Support Funding Income recognised	5	235	220
Other Income	6	2,826	3,127
Interest Income	/	641	552
		43, 340	45,753
Expenditure			
Academic Departments	7	23,636	24,249
Academic Services	8	1,723	1,707
Facilities Cost	9	2,991	2,634
Central Administration and Services	10	3,590	3,322
General Educational Expenses	11	1,284	1,226
Student Registration Fees	3	1,226	1,030
Research Grants and Contracts	4	2,180	1,746
Student Support Funding Income applied	5	235	220
Other	/	525	572
Depreciation	14	3,158	2,816
		40,548	39,522
Operating Surplus		2,792	6,231
Transfer To Capital Development Reserve		(3,400)	(9,093)
Accumulated Surplus AT 1st September		5,875	8,737
Accumulated Surplus AT 31st August		5,267	5,875

There are no gains or losses other than those recognised above. The Statement of Accounting Policies, Cash Flow Statement and Notes 1 to 26 form part of the financial statements.



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Consolidated Balance Sheet

for the Year Ended 31 August 2011

		2011	2010
	Note	€'000s	€'000s
Fixed Assets	14	65,652	63,261
		65,652	63,261
Current Assets			
Debtors and Prepayments	15	3,105	6,179
Cash at bank and in hand	/	26,901	19,476
		30,006	25,655
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and Accrued Expenses –			
Amounts falling due within one year	16	8,079	6,519
Net Current Assets	/	21, 927	19,136
Net Assets	/	87,579	82,397
Represented by:			
Deferred Capital Grants	17	65,612	63,222
Income and Expenditure Account	/	5,267	5,875
Capital Development Reserve	20	16,700	13,300
		87,579	82,397

The Statement of Accounting Policies, Cash Flow Statement and Notes 1 to 26 form part of the financial statements.



Institute Balance Sheet

for the Year Ended 31 August 2011

<u> </u>	2011	2010
	€'000s	€'000s
Fixed Assets	65,612	63,222
	65,612	63,222
Current Assets		
Debtors and Prepayments	2,932	6,126
Cash at bank and in hand	26,751	19,286
	29,683	25,412
Current Liabilities		
Creditors and Accrued Expenses –		
Amounts falling due within one year	7,944	6,467
Net Current Assets	21,739	18,945
Net Assets	<u>87,351</u>	82,167
Represented by:		
Deferred Capital Grants	65,612	63,222
Income and Expenditure Account	5,039	5,645
Capital Development Reserve	16,700	13,300
	<u>87,351</u>	82,167

The Statement of Accounting Policies, Cash Flow and Notes 1 to 26 form part of the financial statements.





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