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DIT: Students Union

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Be bold bright and colourful
It's time to throw away those old boring stale looking winter warmers and bound into spring summer, with a splash of colour

Sink or swim: Tracey Flinter gets the special treatment after being announced the new President of DIT Students Union for 2009/10. In what has become tradition Ms. Flinter was literally thrown into her new job and first on her list of engagements was a meeting with the pond in Bolton Street.

Familiar faces take up the roles of President and Vice-President of DIT Students Union

Nervous faces greeted people walking through Bolton Street last week as the results of the Student Union elections were counted out.

The candidates and their supporters came out in the hope that they would be going home happy but for some this would not be the case.

The first results to be counted were for Vice-President Services and Trading. This was always going to be a guaranteed win for Sean Campbell as he was the only candidate for the job unless voters chose to reopen nominations but that did not happen.

Sean, who won with 2273 votes, will be familiar to many of the students of OIT especially around Kevin Street where he is the convenor. Speaking to DIT News after his victory he said: “My plans for next year is to have a lot more fun, have a lot more events and have more facilities fixed.

“I won’t rule over on issues that are very important, the likes of Linen Hall and Portland Row not having enough computers and wifi access,” he said.

In the race for Vice-President for academic and student affairs it was a tight race between Jen Jordan and Peter Keeganin with Niamh Foley in third. Jen narrowly beat Peter by 366 votes.

Speaking at the vote count she said how the big issues in Bolton St. are the toilets and the canteen, calling the gents toilets, “the most disgusting thing you will ever step into”. She also highlighted the apprentices in Linen Hall and how they are “ignored” and the lack of facilities for the architects in Bolton Street as other major problems.

The final result, for the position of President of the Students Union next year, came down to Tracey Flinter and Mark Smith. It was the familiar face of Ms. Flinter that won the ticket and she will move from her current role of Vice-President for academic and student affairs to that of President next year.

Speaking minutes before she was elected she said how the students she met on her campaign said they want more “ents and events and more gigs on-site.”

“I hope to increase participation next year. Get people involved and let them know exactly what is going on.”

Communication is a big part of Flinter’s philosophy. She believes “DIT are so well known for dragging their heels,” when things could be answered with a simple chat. “Some times in DIT and in the students union were talking about things instead of doing things and I’m a doer. DIT are slow movers and you need someone who will put the fire up them and say come on the students need stuff,” she said.

See inside for info on RAG, Green and Rainbow Week as well as the DIT Toyota Fashion Show.
Wow, it’s such a crazy time in DIT. Something seems to be happening everyday at the moment. And we here at DIT News are trying to keep up with it and deliver all the important news and info to you.

Societies are taking over right now with so much going on. There’s the DIT Toyota Fashion Show next week, the Break Dance society has a huge international competition taking place in the Laughter Lounge on this Sunday. Rainbow and Green week and coming up at the same time!!

Meet the team...

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What’s hot:
- The DIT Toyota Fashion Show - It may feel like it’s taken forever to come around but it’s finally here!
- Hot Chicken baguette for €1.63 in Londis on O’Connell Street. Now if that’s not a bargain we don’t know what is!
- St. Patrick’s Day parade - bring on the American tourist
- Dublin Film Festival - celebs and good films, it was good.
- DIT News online - http://issuu.com/ditnews

What’s not:
- Dancing on Ice - will it ever end???
- Danielle Llyod jumping on the my boyfrined beat me bandwagon
- Max Clifford
- The All-Ireland Taht Show, ok it was ok for like a millisecond but please make it stop.
- Irish eurovision song selected zzzzzzzz

Let us know what you think
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Major cuts facing DIT departments

Funding for students is to be cut by a minimum of 20% in the near future, while some cuts will have an impact immediately. The Student Disability Fund is one fund which is seeing a cut of 20%.

In a response from DAWN (Disability Advisors Working Network) to the National Access Office they said: “The Fund for Students with Disabilities has been one of the biggest single factors in encouraging higher education institutions to target and effectively support students with disabilities. The reduction in funding is very significant and we are concerned that that impetus could be irrevocably reversed.”

The Student Assistance Funding is also being cut by 20% This fund is provided by the EU and the HEA (Higher Education Authority) and is utilised for students who are in severe financial difficulties.

Speaking about the cuts to the student assistance fund Deirdre Corcoran - Student Sport Recreation Support Administrator said: “Last year there were 319 students who received assistance for different purposes from the SAF fund. A 20% reduction in DIT’s budget (and all institutions) was implemented for the 2008/09 session from €480K to €380K and we were notified after the budget late October. DIT’s SSSS council did provide additional funding of €25K for student assistance funding. Currently, we do have funding left but could run out in April the same as last year.”

Ms. Corcoran is of the opinion that the problem will be next year when the higher capitation fees are introduced and students can not obtain P/T jobs to supplement their income. I will be reviewing the scheme in consultation with the various parties to ascertain what changes can be implemented considering the economic climate and needs of the students,” she said.

The sports department are also feeling the pinch as all sports clubs have been informed that their budgets for next year will be likely to be cut by a minimum of 20%.

Head of Sport at DIT Snead McNulty had this to say on the proposed cuts: “DIT - and all statutory bodies are suffering from funding cuts from central government as a result of the current economic environment.

“The Sports & Recreation service are along with all staff in DIT - trying to devise the most effective way to cut costs, without impacting on the student experience.

“However we have to prepare for the worst case scenario, which is potentially a 20% budget cut,” she said.

She expressed her worry and said: “Yes everyone in DIT is worried about budget cuts backs at the minute -everyone in campus life provides an essential service to students, and our priority is continuation of that excellent service.

“Consideration needs to be given to how the activities might be delivered in a cost effective manner - are there elements that are more important than others... tough decisions may have to be made - does a club want an extra hour of training/ coaching in a facility- or T shirts/ hoodies! Not pleasant choices but ones that have to be made I’m afraid.”

Next week sees the start of RAG week, that’s raising and giving if you didn’t know. All over DIT people will be dressing up, shave parts of their bodies and jumping from a height attached to a string all in the name of fun... ooh and raising money for charity! The charity being Console who do great work in helping people who are bereaved through suicide.

So what’s happening for the week I hear you say. Well Dermot Julian has been running around like a mad thing so that you the students all have a great week and raise as much money as possible.

Here’s some of the highlights for the week:

The 40ft dive off the Pier takes place Monday in Dun Laoghaire Buses depart Bolton st at 12 noon and Aungier St campus at 1pm fancy dress is essential. Everyone is more than welcome to come along and have a gawk!

Tuesday March 10th is the Bucket collection in Templebar square where we will have the Red Bull Dodge pumping out the tunes along with Freestyle soccer society, DJ soc and many more support for this is very much welcome so come along for the Banter.

Wednesday we have the annual Bungee jump in Aungier St campus kickin off from 10:30 am with DJ soc backing out the tunes. We also have Farmers day over in Culch land that is Bolton street where tractor racing and baiting are the order of the day, and don’t rule out a Bull and Heifer sale. red bull will also be carrying out their air wings challenge on Wednesday March 10th.

Wednesday night of RAG week see’s the return of one of the best nights DIT used to have - the Farmers Night. It’s been lying low for a few years but it’s gonna be back with a bang this RAG week. Lose the belt and replace it with baling twine. Leave the Ugs at home and hop into those wellies you never otherwise get to wear.

Entertainment on the night will be in the form of Revenge. A favourite among students they know how to keep ye all happy in your nappies and the night will be rounded off by DIT DJ Soc.

It’s on Wednesday 11th March in The Big Tree – I’m sure ye all know where that is!! Tickets are only €2 in advance from your local Students’ Union Office and will be the princely sum of €5 on the door that night.

Monday night of RAG Week sees the week kicking off in true style with a special performance by The Coronas. With long established links with DIT, The Coronas are a favourite here, especially over the Southside.

Now the important stuff – they’ll be playing in Dandelion on Stephen’s Green. Doors are at 10pm and tickets cost €8 in advance from your local Students’ Union office or €12 on the door on the night if there are any left.

Tuesday, 10th March in the Academy marks RAG Ball with the best Irish dance acts performing. Doors are at 9pm and tickets are €10 in advance from your local Students’ Union Office and will be €15 on the door if there’s still space in there.
March 9, 10, 11
‘THE PRESENT’
by Paula Gahan
[directed by Roisin El Cherif]

March 12, 13, 14
‘TWO’
by Jim Cartwright
[directed by Ian Fox]

March 16, 17, 18
‘THE COLLECTION’
by Harold Pinter
[directed by Lorraine Walsh and Caolin Rafferty]

March 19, 20, 21
‘ILL MET BY MOONLIGHT’
by Michael MacLiammor
[directed by Emmet O’Grady]
Large rise in number of students seeking advice on money issues and jobs

With the economic downturn taking a strong hold on the economy, students are finding themselves out of work and searching for ways to make money and keep them afloat.

Student Affairs Manager with DIT Students Union Aimee O’Callaghan confirmed to DIT News that “Without doubt money is the main concern at the moment. Considering the economic downturn, funding and grant questions have been hot topics of late.

“Employment matters, seeking part time work, accommodation enquiries, and referrals to health and welfare support services continue to be the bulk of our caseload,” she said.

Aimee explained how she has seen a shift from accommodation queries to students now wanting advice and help with money matters.

“Accommodation was our most popular enquiry during peak times in the past three academic years however financial queries of all sorts are coming our way and we do our best to offer advice or put students in touch with someone that can help.

“Many students have come to us looking for jobs and there is limited listing on our website at the moment. Employers aren’t coming to us like they used,” she said.

For those lucky enough to still be in employment she has some simple advice: “We recommend that if you have a part time job, hold on to it and do be mindful to balance it effectively with your studies.”

Some students who have been unfortunate enough to be let go from work are still having problems in getting their final wages. Aimee explained how "some have experienced difficulty in getting their due payments from employers from franchises that have folded in a very short space of time. Some students are still awaiting payment after weeks of finishing work. A number of student cases have been escalated to the Labour relations commission and in other situations students have had to seek legal advice to get their due," she said.

Students who are finding themselves in similar circumstances should avail of the help being given by the Student Union. They can help with issues regarding holiday pay, redundancy pay, unfair dismissal etc.

**Accommodation**

The accommodation market has improved and students should take advantage of this.

“The accommodation market has changed dramatically, with the recent Daft report announcing that rents have dropped by 12% in the last four months of this year. This is great news for students, compared to a year ago.” Aimee said.

On the possibility of students asking for a reduction in rent costs she simple said: “If you don’t ask you’ll never know.”

“I heard of a student who recently wanted to move because the landlord would not reduce the rent and the landlord came around and agreed to reduce the two bed city center apartment from 1350 to 1150- not a bad deal! It is worth asking within reason as the market rate has fallen,” she said.

For useful tips and advice it is worth looking at the following websites: www.mabs.ie, www.itsyourmoney.ie, www.studentfinance.ie and www.ditsu.ie

Students immerse themselves into the Grangegorman community

Students from first year Tourism Management and second year Event Management in DIT exhibited a series of display boards on the heritage of the Grangegorman area in the Macro community centre last month.

The students who studied heritage, culture and tourism as part of their course had to go out into the Grangegorman community and look at the concept of culture and heritage in that area.

Undertaking this assessment challenged students both creatively and imaginatively, and through the exhibition, provides real and active linkages between the DIT and the community in this area of Dublin.

This is the second year of these type of projects which are supported by the community links programme and students learning with communities.

Speaking to DIT News at the launch of the exhibition, Kevin Griffin Head of the School of Hospitality Management and Tourism said, “The students were given different locations in the Grangegorman area and to investigate it in terms of culture and heritage.

"Were going to be moving into Grangegorman with 20,000 people moving in and out everyday. It’s a quiet neighbourhood so we need to work with the people there and show them that students aren’t scary and that they can work together as they did for these projects," he said.

Mr. Griffin challenged the students in there approach to the project and its overall design. “The challenge I gave the students was to include as little text as possible which meant they were challenged to express what they found visually and that’s why some are very creative,” he said.

He went on to say how he sees the project as a way of “communicating with people, to interact with people and to give stuff back to them.”

The exhibition was officially launched by Dublin City Manager Mr. John Tierney who described the idea as “fantastic”.

Talking about the project and how college and city life can work together he said, “I would be a great believer of the third level institutions in the city being much more of the living of the city and we are working with DIT, DCU, Trinity and UCD on how they can become more involved in the city and look outward in the courses they are doing but also in the planning of the city.

Commenting on the displays Mr. Tierney said, “You can see from the photographs, there is a diversity in approach and the students have reflected on what they have seen. The images show that thoughtfulness and some criticism as well, in terms of some of the problems that are there. "But it also shows the layers of history that is in the area and how they have weaved themselves into a tapestry of what is here today.”

Robinson encourages women leaders to get on board

Susan Ryan went to hear the former President and one of our most recognisable figures speak recently.

Former Irish president and UN High Commissioner Mary Robinson has urged political leaders to embrace the increasing involvement of women’s groups in development issues.

Speaking at the Hilda and Robert Tweedy Inaugural lecture at Trinity College recently, Mrs. Robinson addressed a full house on the political role of female leaders in humanitarian work. The UN Elder directed particular praise towards the co-ordination and communication of disparate women’s groups across Sudan in engaging in negotiations to address women’s concerns over healthcare, education, political and social issues.

Ireland’s seventh president traced the Irish women’s political movement from Hilda Tweedy’s foundation of the Irish Housewives Association (IHA) to the present day, pointing out that now enough women occupy high-ranking political positions to enact positive change in humanitarian and development issues. Mrs. Robinson sits on the Council of Women World Leaders, composed of international female premiers including the current Irish president, Mary McAleese.
Body to Body

It's the most talked about exhibition in town, but what's it all about and where exactly did those bodies come from? Jennifer Bannon investigates for DIT News.

You can love it or you can hate it, but one thing is for sure: you will most definitely have an opinion on it. The controversial Bodies exhibition has now been in Dublin for over five weeks and has created an unprecedented level of response among the public.

The exhibition declares itself to be a celebration of the anatomical form; however, many believe that the contents of the showcase are crude and unnecessarily explicit. Bodies-The Exhibition displays fifty cadavers, all of which have been dissected to a certain degree. The bodies, once dissected, are then moulded into both stationary and action poses, showing what the directors claim to be 'the miracle of human existence.'

The bodies have now been viewed by an estimated 11 million people, retained in mint condition by a process of preservation called plastination. This method of preservation was developed by Gunther von Hagens, a German scientist who has been through the courts system on several occasions to respond on the origins of the corpses used in this process.

Following a tour of the world, Bodies is now creating quite the stir in Dublin. While many support the educational and scientific contribution to knowledge made by the exhibition, others remain adamant that an excessive number of suspicions permeate the exhibition. Some simply believe that the use of bodies in this exhibition is unnecessary; while others feel that the entertainment value takes priority over any benevolent purpose. The question of where the bodies came from is also central to the controversy as there has been reluctance in the past to produce the necessary release and disclaimer forms for the use of the bodies.

Dr. Glover, the chief medical director of the exhibition, has defended the exhibition and, in particular, the origins of the bodies. Dr. Glover has remained adamant that all the bodies were checked for trauma and abuse prior to the dissection and that the exhibitions primary incentive is not to shock, but to inform.

He has also stated that the controversial action shots of the bodies engaged in sporting activities is to highlight the level of neglect done to the body by the average person.

Despite the high level of complaints, the exhibition has thus far proven to be one of the hottest tickets in town, with thousands coming to Dublin to view the world famous exhibition.

While some have said that they were utterly horrified by what they saw, others admitted that it was a truly enlightening experience. It appears, curiosity continues to keep this exhibition of the living dead very alive.

Fees and the future

It's widely accepted that the 3rd level sector in Ireland is under-funded and that significant restructuring or investment is required to bring us up to international standards.

In April of this year the cabinet will meet to discuss the future of education in Ireland and they will consider proposals on funding models with this in mind. The decisions that they make will massively impact the Irish higher education sector and you as a student. The real question is what proposals are they considering?

Tuition Fees

Tuition fees for every student are currently paid by the Government in the form of the core grant system. There is now debate about removing this financial burden to students and their families.

Depending on the level and type of qualification you could be facing an annual bill of up to €6000 to allow you to participate in education. Tuition fees exist in some countries around the world and have been shown to place both a financial and mental barrier on people entering education.

Student Loans

The Australian model of student loans has been held up by the Government as an example of good practice in funding higher education. Education becomes "free at point of entry", effectively meaning that anybody can sign up to a course without a significant initial financial barrier.

The cost of education is picked up by the government until the student finishes or leaves their course. After leaving college students are left with debts of up to AUS$40,000. The Australian Minister for Education recently described their loans system as a disaster.

Many Australian graduates are being forced to emigrate due to the financial pressure of repaying their student loans leaving the student loan system millions in the red.

Graduate Tax

Under this system education is "free at point of entry", removing the immediate financial barrier of going to college. The graduate tax is then levied on students once they have completed their education and reach a certain threshold income per annum, in some cases as low as €18,000.

Graduates then have to pay an additional tax levy on top of the normal tax rate in order to repay the cost of their education. This can lead to a drop off in entry to higher education as people try to avoid additional tax, choosing instead to go straight into the workforce; leading to damage to the knowledge economy due to a lack of highly trained workers.

Countries which remove the barriers to education and choose to invest, creating a highly skilled workforce, are better positioned to recover from economic downturns and attract investment when the good times return.

This was the case in Finland who removed the financial barriers to education and invested heavily in creating a highly trained and skilled workforce – who among us doesn’t know Nokia?

Education is the silver bullet allowing people better themselves, their lives and their country as a whole and graduates already contribute 70% more tax to the pots over the course of their lifetimes.

It should be treated as a right and not a privilege for only those who can afford it. In April the cabinet will sit down to decide the future of your education. Tell them what you think and demand of them education as a right. If you want to find out more then pop into your local SU office or logon to www.ditsu.ie.

Martin Dunne,
President DIT Students Union.
Scéim Cónaithe Gaeilge 2009/10

Fáltaíonn Coiste na Gaeilge, ITBAC roinnt arratais do Scéim Cónaithe Gaeilge 2009/10 ar na hInstitiúidí. Tá an Scéim Cónaithe Gaeilge a eagru ag Oifig na Gaeilge agus Saol an Champaíse, ITBAC chun pobal Gaeilge na hInstitiúidí a láradh agus a chóthadh agus chun bás síne na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn i Mharta a bheith gniomhach i gcur chun cinn taispeanna oiriunacha a eagru roimh roimh Scéim licence).

Oifig na Gaeilge ag: 01 2898289

Failteofar in the USA.

na Gaeilge i 31 arasan t-arasan lanaimseartha de chuid na hInstitiúidí.

conaithe ar chathar a chaitheas do mhic sin is ceathrú mac i mbonadh na hInstitiúidí agus i measc mhic sin is ceathrú mac i mbonadh na hInstitiúidí.

DIT lecturer briefs

Oireachtas and protestors make their voices heard

V

alentine's Day saw a group of over 200 protestors gather outside the Central Bank as they urged the Government to grant civil marriage for same sex couples.

The protest organised by LGBT Noise reiterated their message to the Government, which is: “Justice, like love, should be blind, and the government has no business creating arbitrary differences between citizens by enacting discriminatory partnership legislation.”

The protest sparked debate on the issue of civil marriage in the media – including coverage of the protest on the RTE six-one news and on RTE One’s Seoige programme.

In related news: Dr. Fergus Ryan, Head of the Department of Law in DIT participated in a briefing to Oireachtas members on the Civil Partnership Bill. The briefing was organised by the Irish Council of Civil Liberties and was well attended by TDs, Senators, NGO representatives and Oireachtas staff members.

Dr. Ryan said: “Full equality undoubtedly demands equal access to civil marriage. However, provided that the Bill lives up to the draft version published last year, it will be a robust step in the right direction.”

He did note a number of difficulties with the proposed legislation, in particular the failure to deal with complex issues relating to children being raised by same-sex couples.

Summer Sunshine in America, anyone?

M

ost people have heard of the J1 programme which is basically a working holiday in the USA. Getting a visa to work in the US can be difficult. However this programme makes booking flights, organising employment and getting a visa simple.

The most well known of the companies to offer this programme is USIT. This year USIT is giving €279 off to anyone who books with them before 13th March so if you’re tempted now is time to get organised.

If you’re still not sure about whether or not to do it, here are some of the testimonials by previous J1ers.

Dave, 22 – “I worked in a fish bar in Montauk which was actually great fun even if I did smell of fish all the time. Me and my friends lived by the sea – we worked at day and had BBQs at night. It was just chilled out.”

Other J1ers enjoy the hedonistic pleasure of being out of Ireland. “The J1 TV programme made me cringe because the people looked so stupid but we lived the same way I suppose. We worked enough to make money to drink and party. At the end we went road-tripping across the midwest. Came home without a dime but I saw half of America so no complaints!” Sarah, 21.

“I worked as a waitress in San Francisco along with a friend from Dublin. Other people go in big groups but we just went together so we could meet more American people and less Irish. I didn’t want to feel like I was still in college. It was great – San Fran has a vibrant gay community so loads of fun meeting open, friendly people.” Caoimhe, 19.

J1 means different things to different people. If you think it could do something for you, check out: www.usit.ie and think about having a once-in-a-lifetime experience.
Media Man Dan visits DIT

Don Mullan is a man who has thrown his hand to many things, as Martin Guilfoyle found out when he attended a talk by him recently.

On Mullan paid a visit to DIT Aungier Street recently to give a talk and showcase some of his work. Don Mullan is an Irish humanitarian worker and media producer.

He spent two years travelling the world for Nokia taking pictures of what he saw using only a 3.2 megapixel Nokia phone. During this talk, which was organised by the Media Society, his audience learned about his history and got to view some of his best images.

Born in County Derry 1956 he is well known for co-producing the award winning “Bloody Sunday” and also “Omagh”. At the age of 15 Don Mullan witnessed Bloody Sunday while taking part in his first civil rights march where he watched one of his friends take a bullet from the firing paratroopers.

Following the horrific events of Bloody Sunday Don gave a statement which he went looking for in 1997. He found it amongst a pile of other statements which sparked him to write his best seller “Eyewitness Bloody Sunday”. This was the beginning for Don Mullan. From this point on, which he made clear in his talk, he was not afraid to dream big.

He told his audience about how he travelled Europe with a friend with only a tent and a budget of £2.50 a day, surviving on water bread and honey. He also discussed how his experiences travelling the world helped him realise that human beings are just human beings. He summarised this up in a clever little quote “when women fart it smells too.”

He was diagnosed with dyslexia in 1994 at the age of 38, which he exclaimed “opened new doors” to him. Being diagnosed with dyslexia helped him realise that he is not “stupid” as he told his audience.

He is constantly working on new projects. At present he is in the process of creating a “fans world cup”. This award will be designed to go to the “best” fans at world cups, those that behave the best and show to be most supportive.

A prototype of the trophy has been developed, which his audience were lucky enough to see a picture of.

Not only has Don Mullan succeeded in his career but he has succeeded in being an idol for others. He proves that no matter how big a dream is, if the hard work is put in, your goal can be achieved.

You’re Hired

These are the words every student would like to hear right now, but we won’t be hearing them until we learn how to succeed in these tough times. DIT students had the benefit of learning from one of the best in the business recently.

Students packed into the Gleeson Theatre in Kevin Street to hear top-shot businessman Bill Cullen speak about his life and how students can succeed in these tough times.

No better person so, to talk about succeeding in tough times. Mr. Cullen, while admitting things are hard at the moment, seemed to laugh at the fact that we are stuck in tough times saying, “we think were in tough times.

And he may have a point when you hear how, through hard work and determination, he succeeded in becoming one of Ireland’s biggest businesss men and a household name.

Organised by the BAM (Business and Marketing) Society, the Societies Office and sponsored by DIT HotHouse and Dublin City Enterprise Board, Mr. Cullen spoke about how he grew up in a family of fourteen. Born in 1942, into a house with eight rooms and one family in each of those rooms.

His book “Its a Long Way from Penny Apples” has sold over 550,000 copies and charts his life from when he was six years old and out on the streets of Dublin selling apples and oranges up until he joined Waldens Ford Dealer in Dublin as a messenger boy.

As he spoke to the eager DIT crowd he reiterated that people need to “work harder, work longer and work smarter” at the moment.

Something he did as he went from messenger boy to director of Waldens within nine years.

Expelled from school in 1955 at just 13, he was said to have been a “traitor to his school and country” for playing soccer. He later went to evening school and received a formal education for himself, not before he was turned away from the very institute he was speaking in.

Those at the talk got a rare insight into the life of Mr. Cullen, who is now known all over the country as the man who does the hiring and firing on The Apprentice on TV3.

Mr. Cullen shared with those assembled his six simple steps or his six golden apples as he calls them, to make a success out of yourself.

A - Attitude for achieving.
B - Plan of action.
C - People power.
D - Learn to be lucky.
E - Energy to excel.
F - Selling with a smile.

It is clear that his approach seems to have worked for himself. When he says we are all only using 25% of our potential, god only knows what he could achieve if he cranked it up to 30% even.

There is plenty more left in Mr. Cullen and he wont be retiring anytime soon as he has a big amount of projects still to undertake. Some of these include continuing his work with the charity Irish Youth Foundation, the Europa Academy and the next series of The Apprentice.

With money as no object there are no better person so, to talk about succeeding in tough times. DIT students had the benefit of learning from one of the best in the business recently.

Art and Design week in Mountjoy Square

Plans are underway for Art and Design Week, which will take place in the Mountjoy Square campus from the 23rd to the 27th March.

If you want to enter work it has to be submitted by the 20th of March for selection and evaluation. There will be cash prizes for the top 3 winner. Keeping it local the judges will be none other than the people you see everyday, yes the porters.

Sponsoring the event is Rich Creatives who have also given the team behind the week seven profiles on their website as prizes.

Speaking about the week, convenor for Mountjoy Square Jonathan Hayes said: “There will be many events happening over the course of the week, which is being organised by Design Soc and 80’s Soc and a few more.

“There will be a mask making session and a masked ball to follow, a primary school art day with finger painting and sweets, an art treasure hunt and a design your own fairy cake stand.

“Some of the night time events include the opening of the week long exhibition on the Monday night, the previously mentioned masquerade ball, a graffiti night (like last years in Messrs McGuires) and a movie night in CBST,” he said.

The organizer is Kathryn Payne, our Art and Design officer, and a few of our usual volunteers are helping out as well. If any one wants to help out or has any more ideas email Kathryn at kathryn.payne@student.dit.ie.
French company to see if DIT students are fit for their business

Business and finance students in DIT were treated to an informative talk recently by French company Lipton FIT. Lipton FIT are involved in consulting and information system design for banking and financial institutions, with a special expertise in Securities, Markets, Risks and Bank Accounting.

The company has strong links with DIT as a previous graduate has gone on to work as a consultant for them. Speaking to DIT News, Mathieu Decroix from Lipton FIT explained the reasons behind recruiting staff from outside France.

“We have decided to start recruiting abroad for several reasons, mostly in an aim to reinforce our recruitment approach. First, due to the “aging population boom” phenomena, it’s getting harder and harder to recruit in France.

“Also, our clients are interested in multicultural profiles. They look for people from a wide range of backgrounds, provided they speak both English and French. We thus launched a search for students who would fit our needs,” he said.

Commenting on why they decided to come to DIT he went onto say how, “Having myself studied at the DIT in 2002, we have been impressed with the fame of the School, the first in Ireland with regards to the number of pupils and second in Ireland in terms of excellence.

During the summer, President of DIT Professor Brian Norton commented in the graduate catalogue, “From, literally, ferrying portfolios and art materials across to Sherkin Island, developing environmental landworks in gale force winds and ordering library books and seeing them delivered to the hall in cardboard boxes, they (the students) fully acknowledged the unique aspects of this programme and used them to their strengths.”

Daniel Reilly, Chairperson of the Sherkin Island Development Society described how the degree provides vital links and support to the island.

“This programme is of huge benefit both economically and socially for the island. As the programme is run from September to June, which is off peak to our traditional tourism period, it gives our island businesses – ferry services, hotels, pubs etc a vital boost at a time which would normally be very quiet. The programme also provides much needed employment on the island.

“The social aspect, however, is even more important as the comings and goings of our students, their families and friends, together with the lecturers brighten up what would be otherwise dull winters,” he said.

Kevin Street, Bolton Street, Rathmines...... Sherkin Island?!?!

Yes we may as well add Sherkin Island to the list of campuses that make up DIT. This week saw seven students graduate from the BA (Hons) Visual Art. The seven students are: Sheelagh Broderick, John Desmond, Gill Good, Jill Hegarty, Tess Leak, Ciamad Ryan and Geoff Stephens.

They are the first group of students to graduate from this four year degree programme, which was established by the School of Art, Design and Printing at DIT and the Sherkin Island Development Society.

The students were conferred with their degrees on the island by Dr. Frank McMahon, Academic Council DIT. Also in attendance was the Minister for Education, Batt O’Keeffe TD.

To celebrate the occasion the BA Visual Art Degree Show 2009 is being held at the West Cork Art Centre in Skibbereen. The show will exhibit the work of the seven graduates and it will run from Sunday March 1st to Saturday March 21st.

This was the first time that third level education had been offered to an Irish offshore island, and no better place to be a student of a Visual Art Degree than in the beautiful surroundings of Sherkin Island and West Cork.

With a population of approximately 90 people Sherkin Island is a place where nature and art collide. A ten minute ferry ride from the village of Baltimore, the island becomes a popular spot for tourists, the island becomes a popular spot for tourists, the island becomes a popular spot for tourists, the island becomes a popular spot for tourists, the island becomes a popular spot for tourists.

Congratulations... to 22-year-old Michael Fagan. This second year student chef in Cathal Brugha Street DIT was crowned the Knorr Student Chef of the Year 2009 recently.

After picking up his award a delighted Michael expressed how he felt: “I’m thrilled, overwhelmed really. Everything went really well for me,” he said.

This year the competition was held in the new €27 million tourism and leisure building at Waterford Institute of Technology.

In other news: While Michael Fagan is one happy Cathal Brugha student, not everyone is in a good mood on the northside campus. Students were shocked and furious recently when they saw the price of food in the canteen increase drastically. The price for a dinner rose from €5.50 to a shocking €7 and we are supposed to be in a recession! We at DIT News would love to hear whatever the reason is behind this increase. It is a job that students have to fork out an extra €1.50 now for a dinner especially when you consider that they could walk a few hundred meters up the road and get a hot chicken fillet roll for €1.63 in the Londis on O’Connell Street. Also what makes it more ridiculous is the fact that the food DIT orders in for the culinary courses is tax-free as it is used for educational reasons. However extra food is ordered and used in the canteen and they then have the cheek to charge €7.50 for a dinner, while shops all around us are slashing prices on food.

Well done.... to Nathan Reilly, Niall Sweeney, Dan Teboy and Orla McHugh and their lecturer Pat Kenny who took part in the Newstalk 106-108fm Student Enterprise Competition. The competition is designed to foster a spirit of enterprise in students attending the IT’s throughout Ireland. The final took place in Sligo IT recently with the National College of Ireland winning.

News in Brief

Hello, Ya I’m in the library....

Library staff in Aungier street are having to hand out flyers reminding students that they are in a library and that mobile phones should be switched to silent. The staff had to take this action after increasing complaints about the levels of noise in the library. The sight and sound of people talking on mobiles in the library is common. Many choose to use the group study rooms to take calls however to those who do this, a reminder that those rooms are not soundproofed and those trying to study in the library can still hear you gabbing on. In other library news: Two exhibitions entitled Art and Archeology are taking place in Aungier St. library as part of Library Ireland Week 2-8th March.
Clive Owen leaves the Irish accent to the Irish

The stars of the silver screen were in Dublin for the Jameson Dublin Film Festival recently. British actor Clive Owen was in Dublin to launch the inaugural Jameson Film Experience. Famous for his roles in such films as *Closer, Sin City, Derailed and Children of Men*, Owen made his film debut back in 1988 with *Room* after many years threading the boards. Owen answered questions from Empire magazine editor, Mark Dinning as well as a host of Irish famous faces such as Ryan Tubridy, Jim Sheridan and Kian Egan.

In response to Kian Egan’s question to attempt an Irish accent Owen said, “If that guy thinks I am stupid enough to attempt an Irish accent in Dublin he must be ***ing stupid.”

On the making of *Sin City* Owen said, “A lot of the car scenes we were sitting on two little crates”. The film was created using green scenes and the scenes manipulated in the editing process. On the possibility of *Sin City 2* Owen said he was as much in the dark as the general public, confirming that, “what you read on the internet is as much as I know.”

Jim Sheridan attributed his best performance to his role in the film *Children of Men*. However Owen said, “I don’t run around doing movies that I think will be successful. When I look back in ten years time I think *Children of Men* will be one I’m proud of.”

Owen, who is married and has two daughters, said he notices it’s years sex whenever he walks into the room. He attributes this to Jennifer Aniston (whom he starred with in *Derailed*) and the sitcom *Friends*. “My kids are always asking me to call Jennifer Aniston,” he said.

Clive Owen can currently be seen in the film, *The International*, which is in cinemas now.

The Secret of Kells

Reviewed by: Stephen Comiskey

The closing Gala of the Jameson Dublin International film festival heralded the long awaited arrival of one of the most anticipated Irish film in a long period of Irish cinema, *The Secret of Kells*.

Directed by Tomm Moore and Nora Twomey *The Secret of Kells* is the first full length animated feature film to be produced by Irish cinema and the first film to be based solely upon Irish Celtic myths and history.

It is inspiring to any young aspiring film makers to see that there are still people willing to break the trend and defy conventional Irish cinema. It is also heart warming to see that there are still hidden geniuses amongst us who can produce a film that is in my opinion one of the finest Irish films of the decade.

*The Secret of Kells* is a stunning film, it is a masterpiece of animated collaboration and stars some of the biggest names in Irish cinema including Brendan Gleeson who starred in *The General* and last years hit *In Bruges* co-starring with Colin Farrell. With music provided by Irish group Kíla it gives the film an extra whimsical charm.

*The Secret of Kells* was part funded by Disney Ireland and a host of other contributing bodies. The story deals with the young brother Brendan and his desire to leave the fortified walls of Kells and his uncle’s protection Abbot Cellach (Gleeson) in search of adventure.

We are thrown back into the age of the book of Kells to a land of mystical forests and invading Viking warriors. The film is simply stunning, so beautiful and lush it contains its own stylised unique characters. It also combines classical 2D animation with newer 3D animation technologies to give an amazing blend of the old and new.

*The Secret of Kells* is the most original Irish film in years. It’s funny, witty and reminds us of the rich Celtic heritage that we hold in this country. It is a refreshing break from conventional Irish cinema that serves up gritty realism time and time again.

We need escapism in our cinema and *The Secret of Kells* has set the bar and paved the way for future films. Overall this film is a must see, while it is not perfect it will touch the hearts of old and young alike and gets a rating of 4/5.

The Heathers

Martin Guilfoyle reviews the band who recently played to an receptive crowd in Aungier Street.

On Thursday the 19th of February, *the Heathers* performed live in the student union of DIT Aungier Street. The band who comprise of twins Ellie and Louise McNamara captured the attention of a full student union.

They played songs such as “honey please” and “remember when”, from their debut album “*Here, Not there*”, which was released jointly by PLAN-IT-X Records and HIDE AWAY Records. Most gigs in the student union are shadowed by an uninterested talking student audience who pay little attention to the act on stage.

However as I scanned the room during the Heathers gig, I saw an audience deeply engrossed in their music and lyrics. Every song followed a huge round of applause and students looking at each other with a smirk on their face which basically portrayed “Yeah that was good!” an expression which I’m sure could be seen on my face also.

Their album “*here, not there*” is comprised of 11 tracks some of which are the expected 3 to 4 minutes along but also some that are under 2 minutes. It is a must listen to and can be bought off www.hideawayrecords.net for 7 euro (including postage).

It can also be purchased off Independant Record store Road Records in Dublin. At the price it is going for and the quality of the music it is an absolute bargain!
Coraline

Animated film Coraline has a lot to live up to as Alcine Miller found out when she went along to a special screening for DIT News.

Being described as “the most ambitious stop-motion animation film ever,” a sentiment mirroring director Henry Selick’s most famous animation “The Nightmare Before Christmas”, author Neil Gaiman’s latest book to make it to the big screen has a lot to live up to.

But with the enviable talents of Selick at the helm, backed by the vocal talents of French and Saunders, Teri Hatcher and Dakota Fanning, this film has been destined to succeed since its initial conception nearly seven years ago.

The special 3-D screening of the film was kicked off by Gaiman’s assurance to the uninitiated that the glasses provided should be worn over any existing eyewear should you be visually impaired, and then viewers were treated to a psychedelic trip through movie magic where mice dance and cats talk.

The film itself plays to the suspicion that all children have that grown-ups just don’t listen, with just enough of a twist on the fantasy genre to make it deliciously scary for adults and children alike. Although fans of the book may notice the odd detail not exactly as it appears in the book, such as the introduction of the bizarrely nervous and cowering figure of Wybie, Gaiman insists that he encouraged Selick to make the film his own, and why not? A fantastically chewy film.

Shout it Aloud

You know you like the Girls

Luc O’Cinneala examines why it’s finally cool to like Girls Aloud.

One question has recently had top scientists scratching their heads. Some argue it’s the exposure Cheryl got during her run on X-Factor, others say it’s as a result of better production and other egg-heads say it’s simply down to genuine talent. Regardless, they say an answer is expected sometime around 2012 as to why it’s suddenly okay to like Girls Aloud.

Their CDs have gone from embarrassing secrets you used to keep in other band’s covers to lucrative components of pop history. Their concerts have gone from cheap Louis Walsh tac to sell out monster arena shows.

Why is it that the girls have gotten so big or what is the one thing that has made them one of the most influential names on the European music scene? The answer lies in the simple and open nature of the band.

No they don’t write their own music (Did Frank Sinatra?), no they don’t choreograph their own dance routines (Does Justin Timberlake), no they don’t choose their own wardrobes (Did they ever say they did?).

It’s never been a crime for a band to outsource its management so why not build a full team who can do it all for you to make you the best you can be. All you have to do is smile and do what you’re told. As long as you don’t pretend otherwise you’re still respectable. It seems like music fans who have taken themselves too seriously for years may finally be opening up a little to this philosophy.

A respected celebrity following doesn’t do any harm either. Bono recently said: “They are a great band and deserve to be centre stage.”

While Kele Okereke of Bloc Party recently called them his “favourite band at the moment”. All signs point to a relaxation in musical snobbery; maybe as a result of more polished production or maybe because of better publicity. Icons of music have shown that there’s no shame in acknowledging that you have a favourite Girls Aloud song (because you know you do).

As it says on the band’s official website: “We are a manufacturing country, and that means we are also allowed to manufacture ourselves.” Now indie rockers, neon ravers and emo kids alike can all grab a slice of the sweet and heavily manufactured cake without any sense of guilt.

Checking out the body

Doing it for DIT News was Gary Fox.

The ambassador theatre, normally home to sell-out concerts has been transformed to host one of the most talked about exhibitions to open in Ireland in years.

The Bodies Exhibition has drawn lavish praise and damning condemnation in equal measure. Preserved bodies have been dissected to show various structures including muscular, skeletal, and the heart and circulatory system.

A section on the human reproductive cycle is both informative but extremely graphic; it contains displays of the human foetus preserved from five weeks through to full term and will not be to everyone’s tastes. However, you can easily skip past the section and early warning signs alert you.

The rules surrounding the exhibitions are strict in order to preserve the integrity and respect of the bodies, and photography of any kind is strictly prohibited.

It takes about 45 minutes to wander slowly through all the exhibitions. Each body and display is accompanied with a comprehensive explanatory note. You can also avail of an audio tour to guide you but again, this costs an extra €4. This is certainly not a recession friendly afternoon out.

Pick your time to visit, avoid weekends if possible and book online to avoid the long queues that the weekends attract.

Student rate is €16 with a valid student card but whether it’s worth the full price entry fee of €23 (£20 entry fee and a whopping £3 booking fee if booked online) that’s open to debate.

DIT News Verdict: Worth a look, alternatively check out Glasnevin cemetery if you’re on a budget.

Awards season in full swing

The start of the year always heralds the arrival of an onslaught of awards ceremonies. There’s nothing better on a miserable January or February evening than to sit in with a glass of wine and watch rich glamorous stars of movies and music walk up and down red carpets and listen to them babble a few thank yous after picking up their latest award.

And so here’s the run down on who won what recently.

Way back in January we had the Golden Globe Awards, which are often seen to give a good indication of who will also win an Oscar.

Slamdog Millionaire picked up Best Motion Picture, starting a steady ball rolling as it also went on to pick up seven BAFTA’s and eight out of a possible ten Oscars. Making it most definitely the favourite film of the year and rightly so. The simple story of a poor Indian boy who wins the top price on the Indian version of Who Wants to be a Millionaire touched everyone’s heart.

Mickey Rourke won the Golden Globe and the BAFTA for Best performance by an Actor for his role in The Wrestler. However he missed out on the Oscar, which went to Sean Penn who won it for his portrayal of Harvey Milk in the film, Milk.

In the female category it really was Kate Winslet’s year. She won the Best Actress Golden Globe for her role in Revolutionary Road but it was for her roles in The Reader that won her the BAFTA and the Oscar. It was Winslet’s six time to be nominated in the Best Actress category and her first win. But she will be remembered for her Golden Globe speech where she thanked her fellow female nominees but forget Angelina Jolie’s name briefly.

In Music: Oasis took the award for Best British Band, the fourth time in their career to do so. The Killers won Best International Band.

At the Brit Awards it was Dify’s year as she won three awards. Next up it’s Ireland’s turn with The Meteor Ireland Music Awards.
CLUBS & SOCS

Make a break for the Laughter Lounge this Sunday

This Sunday the 8th March is the day when people will be locking, popping and shaking their bodies as the DIT Break-dance Society hosts for the second year running the Irish International Break dancing Competition of the year Skill Masters. Skills Masters, which takes place in the Laughter Lounge on Eden Quay, is a Break-dance event which comprises of three main competitions: Popping Battle, Locking Battle and finally the main and most popular Breakdance Battle.

Speaking to DIT News Harvey from the DIT Break-dance society said things were coming together well for the big event.

"Yes there is a lot of work to do, lots of organising things in the background and making sure everybody knows what to do so the event will run smoothly on the day," he said.

The big attraction to this years' event is the appearance of the Break-dance, popping locking and street-dance Legend Zulu Gremlin who is a member of the famous L.A. based 7 Gems Breakdance crew. He will be travelling from L.A. to appear and judge at the competition and will also be teaching Break-dancing, Popping and Locking workshops on the days leading up to the event.

Special guest, DJ’s Timber from Omagh & Horba from Poland will be supplying the music and the judges for the competition are: Zulu Gremlin: 7Gems/L.A., HatSolo: FlowMcCrew/Finland, Vasquez: BG2/Poland, Taz: Streets Ahead/Ireland, Stiv: Street Dance Prodigy/UK, Shadow/Ireland. The competitions will be mc'd by renowned and popular MC, Mexy from The Sideline Project.

With guests flying in from all over the world, this brings its own problems as Harvey explains. "A big challenge is organising the logistics of everybody travelling to the competition from the many different countries," he said.

Competitors are flying in for the competition from and representing: France, Poland, Portugal, Estonia, South Africa, Thailand, USA, UK, Denmark, Holland, Spain, Lithuania and of course Ireland.

With 350 people expected to attend Skills Masters it is advised to turn up early and get in to see all the action.

As Harvey explains, "Skill Masters is certainly up there with many other events across Europe. Each year the competition is growing in size, prestige and reputation. It is definitely without a doubt the biggest Break Dance Competition and event in Ireland each year."

If you still in two minds about going then Harvey says come and "be amazed at the gravity defying moves, to be entertained by the many competitions and dance forms on display, to see something very different and unique in Ireland, to enjoy a great day out with their family or friends, to experience the competitiveness and amazing energy that the dancers have, to experience something that is worldwide a community of dancers form many different countries and cultures coming together to compete and have fun together, and finally most importantly to have a fun and very memorable day out."

If you fancy yourself as a mover and shaker and would like to give Break-dancing a go join and sign up to the DIT Break-dance society at our training sessions. Then you can go and join the break dance classes.

Currently Break-dance Classes & Training are held every: Tuesday: 5-7pm in Linen Hall, Bolton St., and Thursday: 8-9.30pm in Dance House, Foley St.

Although Tuesdays are more suited towards beginners as there are classes, students are of course welcome to come down and make some friends, learn something new, or just watch.

Strong performance by DIT at karting intervarsity

The First Intervarsity of the 2009 season was held on Wednesday 11th February in Kart City. The event was organised by DCU and 35 drivers were in attendance.

There were two teams from DIT and DCU and there were teams from National College of Ireland (NCI), Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) and Carlow IT also.

The drivers took part in four heats with the top 16 qualifying for semi final and the best 8 progressing to the Grand Final. DCU team A took first place with their drivers picking up the most points over the course of the evenings racing.

The DIT teams finished second and third respectively. There were impressive individual performances throughout the teams despite many drivers representing DIT for the first time.

Fresher Scott Colley excelled, finishing with the most points of the DIT drivers and high in the overall leader board. NCI came fourth with Cork and Carlow finishing fifth and sixth respectively.

On the track there were numerous closely fought battles with some drivers unfortunate with Kart malfunctions, another first timer for DIT James Dalton raced well but was cost a place in the Semi final when his clutch cable broke during the final heat.

The DIT teams gave a good account of themselves with seven of the ten representatives making the semis and three in the final. There will definitely be more to come from the team in the Karting Championship in the coming months.
DIT Toyota Fashion Show launched earlier this week

The DIT Toyota Fashion Show, now in its sixth year, was launched earlier this week with a line up of the eight dramatic short listed student designs which reflect the theme of "Tribal Expression – the urban theory" and which will compete against each other on Wednesday 11th March in Dublin’s Vicar Street.

The eight shortlisted designs for the DIT Toyota Fashion Show, who will compete at the final on Wednesday 11th March 2009 in Vicar Street, are: Suzanne Acton, Lynn Allen, Katriona Flynn, Aoihe Gallagher, Clare Geraghty, Carla Murphy, Joanne Power, all from NCAD and Jean Melia from Grafton.

The overall winner of the DIT Toyota Fashion Show will receive a cash prize of 2,500 euro and a Waterford Crystal trophy.

There is an impressive line up of judges for this year’s show including Bairbre Power – editor Irish Independent Weekend Magazine, Garrett Pritcher - Indigo & Cloth, Kate Nolan - Fable Clothing, Irish designer Caoimhe O’Dwyer and stylist Jan Brierton.

Feel the love during Rainbow Week

DIT Rainbow Week 2009 will be held from 23rd March to 27th March, in aid of the charity Aware.

Monday 23rd March there will be a Blind Date in Bolton Street’s common area. Anyone who is interested in getting involved in the fun can contact Alex on 085-1551707.

Monday evening at 7pm we will be showing a movie downstairs in Pantibar, followed by Panti’s weekly arts and crafts night, “Make & Do-do”.

Tuesday 24th March we will be in Bolton St. again, for a gay marriage debate. This event is intended to raise awareness over the issue of gay marriage.

Tuesday night is our main event, DIT’s Alternative Talent Show. All are welcome to take part in this event. Auditions will be held on 9th March at 6pm in the KOS Theatre, Cathal Brugha St, and 11th March at 6pm in the Black Box Theatre, Aungier St. We have some great spot prizes for you on the night, first prize will be an Apple iPod Touch ... Ooooo!! We will also have entries from various other Dublin colleges, such as UCD and Trinity, so do your part to represent DIT!!

DIT’s Alternative Talent Show will take place in The Village, Wexford St. The show will be presented by Queen Panti Bliss, hostess of Alternative Miss Ireland. There will be a performance by the band “Heathers”, who recently played in Aungier St. We will also have a DJ playing until late. And last but certainly not least, our fabulous students who take part! Tickets will be available from your students union soon, just €5 for students and €7 for non-students, don’t miss out on this great event!

Wednesday 25th March the festivities move to Aungier St. for a mock gay wedding ceremony. Here you will see our beautiful couple from Monday’s Blind Date tie the knot on the stage in the SU. Onto Pantibar later that evening for their newly launched student night "Soup Bitchin”.

To debate or not to debate, that is the question

Are you an argumentative person? Think you’re always right? Want others to know about it? The DIT Debating Society is rising from the ashes next year and we need you to lend us a hand.

We’re looking for ordinary members, committee members, moaners, whingers, complainers, debaters and anyone and everyone who wants to get on board.

We’ll be looking to hold weekly debates on a variety of topics suggested by our members, but we’re not going to throw people into the deep end unprepared.

We’ll be running workshops on the finer details of debating and we’ll be attending various intervarsity competitions, both as competitors and observers. We’ll be hoping to invite in some seriously classy guest speakers who’ll go down smooth (is Will Ferrell too much to ask for? We say no!)

If you’re interested in becoming a part of it all, we’ll be around on Societies sign-up day in September, but if you can’t wait ‘til then, give us a shout at didebatingsoc@gmail.com.
Time to start fundraising for Belarus ‘09

Justin Ronan with to Belarus last summer, an experience he will never forget. Here he gives some tips on how to raise money for this life-changing trip.

Belarus ‘09 here we come!

Okay guys and girls, the weeks are flying by and we’re getting very close to the midterm already. After that its time to start studying hard for the summer exams, so now is the best time to start fundraising for Belarus!

In case you haven’t heard anything about Student Aid Chernobyl, joined MAD Soc or even seen our photo display down by Java, allow me to explain a few details first.

This year, we want to take 100 students out to Belarus for a week that will change your lives, especially if you haven’t been involved in anything like this before. We will be visiting some of the people who were and still are being affected from the Chernobyl disaster in 1986, building a playground for the children (swings, see-saws, mazes etc.), visiting museums and landmarks and doing a wee bit of cycling; and don’t worry, the country is flatter than a pancake, my grandmother could do it. Oh, and there may be some sampling of that famous vodski!

The group will be split into two groups of 50 with the first going around the end of June and the second going in the first week in July, and we’ll keep you with all your friends so don’t worry, and if you have no friends don’t worry either, I guarantee you’ll come back with 49 new ones. Exact dates will depend on flights.

So what do you need to do?

This is the easy part, all you need to go on the trip is raise €2,000 over the next couple of months. This will cover flights, accommodation and food. And you’ll easily survive the week with very little spending money!!! If you don’t believe me, just check out the exchange rate for the Belarusian Ruble!

Here’s a few fund-raising suggestions if you’re having a mental block:

- Pub Quizzes.
- Local Businesses from your area are usually keen to help out.
- BBQ at your local sports club.
- Sponsored Silence  for a day.
- Sponsored Bungee Jumps.
- Give up your mobile phone for 48 hours.
- Or good old fashioned bake sales!

Whatever you decide on it’s a great opportunity to get creative and show off your business skills for a fantastic cause.

If you have any questions or want a sponsorship card, you can contact me by text or call, Justin Ronan (0879471567) or Contact Services Marketing Lecturer Joe McGrath via email jm McGrath@dit.ie

Belarus ‘09 here we come!

The battle of the Bands is open to all bands with at least one member in DIT (regardless of campus). As of now the dates for the heats are March 4th, March 10th, March 24th and March 31st and the final will be held in mid April.

The format will be 3-4 bands per night with a panel of 3 judges who will mark the bands on different aspects of their performance.

The band that ranks highest on each night will get a place in the final. Prizes will be announced in the coming weeks.

The first heat took place on Wednesday 4th in the Think Tank (formerly The Hub). The bands who participated included: bojiangled, Falter Ego, The Harm and Flying Columns.

Tickets for any of the heats are €7 with a student ID (doesn’t have to be DIT) or €10 without. Heat two will also take place in the Think Tank.

Report by: Dave from Gig Soc. Battle of the Bands Logo by: Rob Hunt.

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Tickets for any of the heats are €7 with a student ID (doesn’t have to be DIT) or €10 without. Heat two will also take place in the Think Tank.

Report by: Dave from Gig Soc. Battle of the Bands Logo by: Rob Hunt.

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DREAM ON IN NEON
The neon trend is setting hearts on fire this season.

Bright colours are perfect for the improving weather and silhouettes are flattering tulips and straight legs. Think generous volume with complementary shaping.

If you’re feeling the colour buzz but are a little scared of the raver look then down play the trend with feminine shapes, bright eye catching colours and a pro party attitude.

Bold patterns work for guys and girls when teamed correctly, and don’t be afraid to accessorise the hell out of your outfit. Be brave and rave for Spring.
Previous page:
Rebecca and Nikki wear matching tulip mini dresses, Belle by Oasis €100 each. They wear fluorescent tights, Penneys. Shoes models' own. Callum wears blue polo €55 and slate grey pinstripe pants €120, Pepe. He wears cartoon shoes by Size? €61

Left:
Nikki wears purple dress, Oasis €88. Pink tights, Penneys. Shoes model's own. Rebecca wears floral silk top €56, and blue one shouldered top as skirt €44. She wears tangerine tights, Penneys. Neon pink shoes €120 Pepe. All beads and bangles Penneys.

Left:
Nikki wears blue tights, Penneys. She wears denim mini skirt €75 and geometric multi coloured vest €90. Both Pepe. Shoes models own.

Above:
As above in top photo, in purple dress.
Above:
Nikki wears indigo denim dress €62, grey vest €19, both Oasis. Neon blue footless tights Penneys.
Shoes model's own.
Callum wears grey crested sweater €130, green Bleecker chinos €120 and purple gingham shirt €80, all Tommy Hilfiger.
Cartoon sneakers from Size? €61
Rebecca wears high white shorts with lobster detail €130, pink polo €55 and burnt orange mac €250, all Tommy Hilfiger.
Blue leather wedge heels by Pepe jeans €100.

Left:
Callum wears white chinos €130 with lobster detail. He wears yellow polo €60, with sky blue fisherman sweater €120. All Tommy Hilfiger.
Cartoon sneakers from Size? €61
Rebecca wears high white shorts with lobster detail €130, pink polo €55 and burnt orange mac €250, all Tommy Hilfiger.
He wears Puma reflective neon stripe MTV sneakers €41.
Rebecca wears pink vinyl heels €120, skinny jeans €100, both Pepe. Red mid length cotton top €18 from Om Diva.
Neon waist belt, beads and bangles, Penneys.
Photography by: Gary Fox www.garyfox.ie
Models: Rebecca Stack, Nikki Baune, Callum Edwards.
Stylists: Orna Cunningham, Luc O’Cinnseala, Jenny Whelan, Ellen Curham.
Location: The Light Exchange, 22a Fortescue Lane, Mountpleasant Ave. Lower, Rathmines, Dublin 6.
Clothes kindly donated by: Oasis, OM Diva, Pepe, Tommy Hilfiger, Size?, Penneys.
Om Diva give a ten percent discount to students except on sale items.
Pepe Jeans stores are in Exchequer Street, Dundrum Town Centre, Whitewater Shopping Centre, Laurence Town Centre in Drogheda, Athlone Town Centre and The Marshes in Dundalk. Pepe Jeans is also stocked in Arnotts, BT2 and Brown Thomas in Cork, Galway and Limerick. Please phone 01 296 3284.

Left:
- DIT News style team.
  From left to right: Ellen, Seamus, Orna, Rebecca, Luc, Callum, Jenny, Nikki.
  Behind the camera, Gary.

Right:
Nikki wears blue one shouldered top from Oasis €44, and horizontally striped skirt from Om Diva €20.
Rebecca wears pink bejewelled cardigan from Pepe €75, floral halter neck dress from Om Diva €30 and blue tights from Penneys.

Below:
Callum wears red floral shorts €100, green argyle sweater €120, and red vertically striped shirt €120, all Tommy Hilfiger.
He wears white plimsolls, Fred Perry €54.
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The price of the bus goes up, up, up....

Many students might have to revert to the old school method of transport, yes walking, seeing as all the main forms of transport have increased the cost of their tickets as Martin Guilfoyle found out on his return to college in January.

S o it was a freezing afternoon, was depressed being back in Ireland after getting away to Lanzarote for a week, waiting for the good old number 15 which is never on time.

I see it coming and as usual it stops about a mile ahead of me. I get on and say the usual “1.70 please”. This is when everything turned bad. The bus driver returns with a “sorry that will be 1.80 please”.

As you can imagine being a student and all, my mouth dropped. 10 extra cent! This means 20 cent extra a day and 1 euro a week. But this goes for everyone of course and not just me.

So you would think that Dublin Bus would be happy with its increased revenue but then they go make drivers redundant!

What happened to Dublin Bus being a semi state body existing primarily to provide a service for the public and not to make profits.

Not only did they increase fares and sack drivers but they also put an end to their nitelink service that ran during the week.

Being a student this means a night out will now cost that little bit extra. I don’t know what Dublin Bus were thinking but at the moment we are being encouraged to spend.

For the economy to remain competitive I think that public transport companies should be reducing their prices and not increasing them. But don’t think “ah sure I’ll get a LUAS or a DART and save a bit of cash”.

LUAS tickets now cost up to 5% extra and DART tickets being 15 to 25 cent extra also. So people could then think “right I’ll resort to the reliable car”. Bad idea again!

Driving through toll plazas will cost 10c more for car drivers and with petrol back on the rise again there really is no way out.

So you’re paying extra to get in and out of college and probably paying easily 10 euro for your lunch. Looks like it’s time to dig out that good old lunch box and put it to use again.

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Be my Valentine

Another Valentine’s Day came and went. Louise McHenry tells DIT News, whether single or not, why she celebrates this special day.

Love it or hate it. Valentine’s Day is always the subject of conversation around the 14th February. Like most commercial holidays it’s unavoidable – everything is forced down upon us by the retailers, the only people guaranteed to be smiling on the day.

Singles are reputed to despise it. Couples are divided between those who relish the opportunity to buy/receive gifts and shower love and those who drag their heels to restaurants where even a Big Mac has been given the Valentine treatment and now costs €20 but sure at least you get a wee plastic rose for your woman.

Personally I love Valentine’s Day. Sure it’s enforced cards and cuddles but it’s a dedicated day to love. You can express yourself in ways that don’t necessarily involve delving deep into your pockets. And it doesn’t have to just be for those in loved-up relationships.

For ten years I’ve been celebrating this “holiday” whether I’ve been single or in a relationship. More often than not it’s been the former and if I’m honest those were the best years. I organise a gathering with my closest friends, i.e. the people who I really love! We get together to eat; give each other poorly made cards and those gorgeous fake flowers.

Every big festival is commercial now – Christmas, Easter – events that once were about religion but now are about expensive presents and chocolate. Valentine’s has a tenuous religious link, I won’t even pretend otherwise but surely there is goodness in a day for love.
Health & Well being

Food on a budget: Top places around college unveiled

Northside Campuses

Bolton Street seems to have the best in terms of options, out of the Northside campuses. It is within walking distance of many fast food outlets available on O’Connell Street but it is also surrounded by many ethnic shops and restaurants on Chapel Street and Mary Street. I found the different ethnic shops around the Bolton Street campus were the best value if you were willing to do a bit of exploring! In the Asia Store (59 Chapel Street) you can buy a bowl of instant noodles with a 330ml bottle of water for €1.50. Noodles on their own cost as little as 55c. In Perestroika, one of the polish shops on Mary Street I found a lot of lunch staples such as sliced meats and soups were cheaper.

For the Cathal Brugha Street campus, O Connell Street is also within reach for your fast food staples. There is another branch of the Asia Store beside this campus which means more cheap noodles! The Epicurean food hall is another great option for students. You can find it on Lower Liffey Street and there is a huge variety of different meals available. Cheeseburger and chips for €5.50 in Istanbul, a filled bagel for €3.95 in La Corte or you could even sample some calamari for €4.75 in the Spanish Bar.

Mountjoy Square hasn’t got much in the vicinity of their campus and I’ve been told by a lot of students that they go to the Cathal Brugha Campus Canteen. Portland Row also has a lack of food choice as the campus has a total of one vending machine as its source of food.

Southside Campuses

Aungier Kevin Street Campuses are both within walking distance of Grafton Street where you can get the usual McDonalds Eurosaver menu but there is a lot more to offer than that. From Georges Street to Camden Street there is a vast array of restaurants, supermarkets and cafes. Beside the Kevin Street campus is the O’ shop. If you’re not in the mood for canteen food this shop, which is mere feet away from the entrance to the college, makes decent rolls for about €4. They’re the best bet if you don’t want to venture further afield.

If rolls are you’re thing there are loads of places to find them including Cafe Sofia, Subway and Quinoz. Romall is a really great chipper on Wexford Street, its great for lunchtime and also after a night out as its open until the small hours of the morning. The prices are just below average for chippers in town but the quality is far better!

DIT Rathmines has a lot of fast food restaurants surrounding it to choose from. There seems to be everything; KFC, Subway, Mizzonis and Subway. Dunnes Stores in Rathmines are good for their deli and you pick up some cheap deli rolls or salads here. There is also a Tesco in Rathmines, who can go wrong with Tesco Value?

Hopefully these ideas will help you stretch your euros a bit!

Students stock up on condoms over SHAG week

Louise McHenry looks back at SHAG week and all the information out there on how to look after your sexual health. Understanding the basic information and knowing what services the college offers means you are better aware to make decisions.

Remember SHAG week back in February – did you get your free condom? Did you pay attention to the advice given?

If you are choosing to have sex then it’s time to start thinking seriously about it.

Think about all the things you do when on a night out. You protect your drink to avoid spiking. You make sure you have enough cash to get a licenced cab home but do you carry a condom?

The archaic notion that only sluts or studs carry condoms is one that is belied firmly in the past. Even if you aren’t planning on having sex sometimes these things just happen and it’s best to be prepared. Expecting your prospective partner to carry a condom is silly – would you rely on them to give you the money to get home? No, it’s your responsibility and so is your sexual health.

By all means get out there and have some fun if that’s what you want to do but remember that cases of STIs in Ireland are all on the increase and that includes genital warts, chlamydia and gonorrhea. Some such as chlamydia can be symptomless so they may be doing damage such as causing infertility while you are blissfully unaware.

Everyone makes mistakes and if you have, don’t stress about it but now it’s time to pay more attention.

First go and get a check up at the DIT Health Centre – information and consultation with the nurse is free. Screening is €15 which is a small price to pay for ensuring good health. Don’t be embarrassed – everything is confidential and you will not be the first person to have been tested!

The next step is to be more proactive and careful about your sexual health. Carry that condom and insist on using it. Yeah it can seem a little off-putting to have to insist on using a condom but much less off-putting than having to tell your sweetheart that you’ve got an STI.

Do a bit of research at home – read the instructions, honestly!

Practise, I can hear you laughing but you’d be surprised about how many people do not know how to use a condom and are too shy to admit it because it’s supposedly something we all know (we don’t!).

Condoms are 98% effective in preventing pregnancy and incorrect use makes that percentage fall drastically.

If you think you may be pregnant go to the DIT Health Centre or visit www.positiveoptions.ie for free, confidential advice.

You are in charge of your sexual health so get smart – use protection.
Despite its reputation, Stockholm, possibly the most impeccably designed city in the world, is within a student holiday budget. With regular Ryanair flights to two airports nearby and hostels starting from €20 a night, the seaside city is an ideal destination for a break. The atmosphere is relaxed, and the natives are friendly.

The city’s most famous and popular tourist attraction is the Vasa Museum, housing “the world’s only surviving 17th-century ship”. The reason the Vasa survived to see the 21st century is because it sank almost immediately after its initial launch and rested unmolested on the bed of Stockholm harbour for the best part of three centuries. The ship, a Swedish national treasure, was salvaged in the 1960s.

A visit costs 50SEK (roughly €4.50) for students and is a good way to catch up on the history of Stockholm, and to see a really big old ship. The pleasant walk from the city to the museum runs by the quays and through a park which fills with locals at the weekend.

If you fancy dipping into more Swedish history, the changing of the guard outside the Royal Palace might be your cup of tea. The palace itself is worth popping into, particularly the armoury which houses the crown jewels – and the royal baptismal font, if that takes your fancy.

If weather conditions are favourable, the enormous Skansen park and zoo is a fantastic place to pass a few hours, and a great way to sample Swedish design. The park boasts architecture and design from a wide range of towns and villages across Sweden. Skansen is like a bigger Bunratty, complete with reconstructed ironmongers, bakery and cottages.

A day’s ticket costs 70SEK (about €6) and although there is no student rate, there is a good group rate if you band together with 9 or more mates for the trip. Stockholm has plenty of bars, restaurants and late night cafes to entertain you into the wee hours.

There is a lot more to Sweden then Abba and Volvo’s, as Susan Ryan found out recently on a visit to the capital, Stockholm.

A trip to the Ice Bar lasts about half an hour, which is enough time to enjoy your drink and get some photos in before losing the use of your hands and feet.

Tickets include the use of faux-fur trimmed parka and gloves (thankfully) and a drink; there is an impressive vodka-based cocktail menu which should warm you up. A trip to the Ice Bar lasts about half an hour, which is enough time to enjoy your drink and get some photos in before losing the use of your hands and feet.

Online bookings currently cost 180SEK (€16) but the organisers say it will be reduced to 170SEK (€15) from March 1. Buying at the door will cost a few euros more, but you might not be guaranteed entry if it’s a busy night at the bar.
Lyon le Magnificent

Louise McHenry stumbles across a little gem in the French Rhone Alps and discovers really does have something for everyone.

Nightlife in Lyon revolves around the numerous little bars. L’Escalin is a poky, pinkly lit wine bar with a friendly atmosphere or if you fancy your

Even the most hard up students like to take a break from Ireland every now and then. Instead of the usual city break culprits, why not try somewhere different and catch a flight to Lyon, in French Rhone-Alps.

The second largest city in France after Paris, Lyon has none of the sprawl that makes Paris so difficult to cover. It’s compact with all the main sights in easy walking distance around the centre.

The main square Place Bellecour is where, under the shadow of a huge ferris wheel, all the city’s manifestations, or protests happen. The French are stereotypically notorious for their peaceful protests and they can be very entertaining.

Across the river Saône the Vieux Lyon quarter, steeped in medieval history, is excellent for an afternoon wander. With tall old buildings, cobbled streets and impressive churches, it is a charming historic area. Try and find the traboules or secret passages which lead from street to street.

Take the funiculaire railway up to the imposing Basilique de Fourviere. From here the views stretch far over the city – it’s beautiful at night to marvel at the lights twinkling for miles. Try not to be disappointed by the mini Tour Eiffel which appears majestic from down below but up close looks every inch the TV mast that it is!

Eating out in France is always a delight as every region has its own cuisine. The Lyonnais pride themselves on their quenelles – a mixture of creamed pike, egg and white sauce or andouillettes – an acquired taste unless you’re a fan of tripe sausages. There is even a French version of Irish stew, tartiflette – creamier, cheesier and well completely different actually.

Try not to be disappointed by the mini Tour Eiffel which appears majestic from down below but up close looks every inch the TV mast that it is.

Flights to Lyon direct from Dublin are with Aer Lingus or to Grenoble-Lyon with Ryanair.
Above: Photograph taken by 2nd year student Anna Wickham.

Photograph Name: Derelict Station
Photographer: Noel Noblett 2nd year.
About the photo: This photo was taken in Hollyfort, in North County Wexford, where I am from and was taken as part of a personal project.

Above: Photograph Name: The Female Gaze
Photographer: Aoife O’Donnell 3rd Year.
This is an image from a series entitled The Female Gaze where I photographed several male nudes with a view to representing them as anonymous subjects with no past or future, only represented by the images in front of us. I was conscious that age, race, sexual orientation and body type not becoming a factor when considering the images however I found it is virtually impossible to detach the subjects from those topics when a portrait is formed of the person.
This Image is taken from a sequence of photographs titled "Little Red". The image is trying to show how children's books have helped in the development of our own imaginations and creativity.
DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama
BA in Drama Graduating Production

**A Midsummer Night’s Dream**

by William Shakespeare

Directed by Peter McDermott
Set Design by Fiona Leech

Lighting Design by Moyra D’Arcy
Costume Design by Helen Connolly

Fri 6th & Sat 7th March 2009
Wed 11th, Thurs 12th & Sat 14th March 2009
@ 7.30pm

Gleeson Theatre, DIT Kevin Street, Dublin 8
Tickets €20/€15 concession
Low Price Preview: Fri 6th March: €10

Tickets also available for sale in the Aungier Street DITSU shop
Booking through the Central Ticket Bureau
Phone: 0818 205205 Web: www.ctb.ie
Climbing to new heights

Intervarsities, trips away and upcoming elections. It's a busy time for the Mountaineering club as Patrick Carolan explains.

The DIT Mountaineering club (DITMC) had a successful weekend at the climbing intervarsities in Limerick. We had a full team, coming 3rd in the team competition. Richie Sands of DIT won the whole competition with a stunning display of what a person can do with enough effort and skill. He would have had a perfect score but only for one slip of the hand. The competition was tough with many good climbers unable to even get off the ground.

One climber said "The beginner climbs where for an advanced climber and the hard climbs where for the super advanced". UCD won the whole competition with a great performance from new climber Jonathon Redmond, whose nearest competitor had half his points.

The DITMC has had a booming year so far, with lots of new members. They had two great trips, up in Down and to the Burren. They're also going on a trip to Dingle for Paddy's weekend and some climbers are planning a trip to the Alps. They have lots of people on their way to becoming climbing and hiking instructors.

Every week the club is getting new members wanting to reach new heights. There have been loads of very enthusiastic members willing to get involved this year. The elections for next year's captain will be soon, with two nominees Karen McCabe and David Heffernan. It will be a close call but whoever gets the job I'm sure they'll do great.

The DITMC go's climbing in Larkin college every Monday and Tuesday from 7.00 - 9.00. All are welcome and will be taught everything they need to know. Come along and have fun. We also go hiking and hill walking so get in contact if you're interested. Check out the bebo on ditmc.bebo.com.

The DIT rugby year will take place on Wednesday 11th of March in the Grange gorman sports grounds. The Gleeson cup is an internal match between the Southside DIT faculties and the Northside faculties. This match will take place during the DIT Rag week, which is raising money for the Console charity. Although this match is essentially a friendly, both sides are taking it very seriously. The Northside team, captained by Padraig Mahon, have been rumoured to be seen doing warm weather training in the Algarve, while the Southside team, captained by Michael McElroy, has been seen in the early hours of the morning on team runs around the Phoenix Park.

This grudge match promises to be epic and all supporters are encouraged to attend. Keep an eye out for posters around the DIT campuses for further details, starting line ups and match info. On March the 11th these teams will compete for the Gleeson cup and hopefully settle once and for all DIT's North versus South rivalry.
DIT student make up 25% of the CFAI National Squad

Friday the 30th of January saw the annual trials for the College Football Association of Ireland (CFAI) National Colleges Team taking place. This year the trials were held in a rainy and windswept Athlone IT with over 70 players representing 19 colleges from every corner of Ireland.

DIT sent a strong contingent, containing seven of the first team who despite the difficult conditions all put in impressive displays. DIT has always been well represented on the national team down the years and this year was to be no different. The development squad of 30 players for 2009 was announced a few days after the trials and 5 DIT players managed to secure a spot on the squad.

Those players are Paul Whelan, David O’Sullivan, Stephen Roche, Dean Zambra and Conor McMahon and I would like to congratulate the lads on this great achievement which once again shows the great depth of talent in the DIT Soccer Club.

Subsequently on February 25th the CFAI National Squad of 20 player’s was named and all 5 DIT player’s from the Development Squad have been named on this panel. As a result DIT are the best represented College in the country on this National Squad for 2009 making up 25% of the final 20.

Football Facilitator for DIT John O’Carroll commented: “Although it has been an unsuccessful and quite unlucky year for DIT soccer the CFAI National Squad selection proves that DIT has some of the best soccer players in College football in the country. We hope to further build on this individual success with DIT player selection for the Irish team at this summer’s World University Games in Belgrade, Serbia”.

DIT Premier Team Manager Tony O’Connor commented: “I am very proud that our premier team have 5 players selected in a panel of 20 for the CFAI National Team. For Paul Whelan, Stephen Roche and David O’Sullivan it’s nothing new as they have been involved before and it’s reward for a consistent level of form shown by all 3 over the last 3years. Conor Mc Mahon has been unlucky with injuries and now gets his well deserved chance, and the one that gives most pleasure is Dean Zambra who at 18-years-old is our youngest representative and bodes well for the future. From Joe O’Brien and myself, we congratulate them all and wish them well in the future”.

13 students take part in first ever DIT Kick Start course

St. Catherine’s Sports Centre, on Marrowbone Lane in Dublin 8 was the host venue for the first ever DIT Student Kick Start 1 course. This course took place over two mornings on February 17th and 24th. It takes approximately 6-8 hours to complete depending on number of participants. 13 DIT students attended and successfully completed this course. The course normally costs €45 but a rate of €25 per person was charged as a student discount had been agreed.

This course is designed to give the participants an introductory insight into soccer coaching and is targeted at coaching 6-9 year old children. The course covers code of ethics, rules and regulations, health & safety and principles and practices of coaching. From a practical point of view coaching topics are demonstrated and performed by FAI coaches and students are selected into groups and they put together their own short coaching sessions. There is no formal assessment but full attendance is required to complete the course. You do not necessarily have to be into soccer to attend this course it can be for students with an interest in coaching.

The selected players have already started training with the squad and will hope to win starting berths for the upcoming matches against the Defence Forces and the Irish University Football Union (IUFU) National Squad.

Recreational soccer in DIT

Current & proposed recreational soccer league’s in DIT:

Monday – Larkin College - astro league - 7pm-9 30pm
Tuesday – Larkin College – Ladies Indoor Football – 6pm-7pm
Wednesday – Larkin College – Erasmus astro League – 8pm-9.30pm
Thursday – Digges Street Pitch (opposite Aungier Street) -12pm-2pm

Coming Soon – 7 aside league – Grangegorman

For further information any of the recreational soccer contact: John on 086 7954371 or john.o'carroll@fai.ie
Go and try Volleyball...

Volleyball is one of the truly global world sports, played in sports halls and arenas at the top international level and in the open air, in parks, in open spaces and on beaches throughout the world. Over 800 million players worldwide play volleyball regularly, at least once a week. This makes Volleyball one of the most popular indoor team sports in the world.

Volleyball is a game that can cater for all no matter what age or sex, disabled or able-bodied. It can be played both indoors, in a gym or a sports hall or outside in a park or on the beach.

Different versions of the game also exist so the game can be played two, three and four a side, as well as the more usual six a side.

It is as easy as 1-2-3!

Come along and join our session every Thursday from 7-9 pm in Larkin College Sportshall.

DIT B team crash out of the Umbro Cup

The DIT soccer team travelled down to Portlaoise to face a physical Carlow IT team. DIT were very much up for this game having won the competition for the two previous years and were keen to retain their title. It was DIT who started brightly with the opening chance coming to centre back Niall Flynn who saw his header scrambled off the line by the Carlow goalkeeper. With all of the resulting penalties being awarded to Carlow which was neatly converted byEoin Kavanagh and Conor Cochrane finished the ball to the back of the net. Full time and it was 1-1, 20 minutes extra time was now required to find a winner.

DIT kicked off and with an immediate pass in defence saw Carlow regain possession and a long range strike by the Carlow midfielder took a deflection and left Gavin Magee the DIT netminder with no chance. With both teams dead on their feet Carlow had now gone five at the back to cut out the through balls and to try see out the game. Second half of extra time had now begun and DIT were trying everything to break down the 10 men Carlow but just hadn’t anything left in the tank to give. Carlow were just sitting back leaving DIT trying to find a equalizer from half chances and long distance free kicks.

The full time whistle blow and DIT were left in devastated after a hard fought encounter saw them crash out of the Umbro cup.

Above: The DIT B Team who faced IT Carlow.

IT Tallaght too strong for DIT Premier A team

Despite taking an early lead in freezing conditions, DIT once again succumbed to their bitter rivals IT Tallaght, who have now knocked them out of the Umbro Cup in two of the last three years.

DIT started brightly and took the lead in the 5th minute. A long hopeful free-kick from deep in the DIT half caused confusion in the IT Tallaght penalty area and the ball fell to David O’Sullivan who lashed home a rasping volley from ten yards to give DIT the perfect start.

Having taken the lead, DIT sat back and invited pressure from their Tallaght counterparts without Aidan McGrane in the DIT goal having much to deal with in the way of shots for the first period.

However, just before the stroke of half-time, Tallaght dealt a body blow to the DIT resistance. Loose marking from a free kick enabled Tallaght full-back Paul Malone to nod across goal for an on waiting striker to calmly slot home. This proved a cruel blow for a DIT defence who had been quite comfortable in the game up to this point.

With a brief respite at half-time, DIT came out refreshed in the second half and started extremely brightly but unfortunately could not capitalise when presented with some good chances. As the second wore on Tallaght began to exert more pressure and had the DIT team camped in their half for long periods.

Despite the creativity from midfield of Richie O’Farrell and Eoin Kavanagh and the bright and dynamic forward play form Oleg Shiskarev and David O’Sullivan, DIT could not find the decisive winning goal. With both defences performing admirably the game finished as a draw with both sides very evenly matched once again.

Therefore, the two teams would have to face each other in the dreaded penalty shoot-out for the second time this year. Tallaght converted their first penalty. Then DIT’s first penalty taker, Dean Zambrano stepped up and agonisingly was not able to avoid the outstretched hands of Tallaght’s goalkeeper. With all of the resulting penalties being scored by both sides, Tallaght took the spoils once again and go through to the next round leaving this DIT side out of all competitions for the current year.

DIT Line-up: Aidan McGrane, Dean Zambrano, Killian Gallagher, Craig Mc Donnell, Conor McMahon, Mark O’Connor, Kyle Cawley, Richie O’Farrell, Eoin Kavanagh, David O’Sullivan, Oleg Shiskarev
DIT fight hard to tie against UL in Fitzgibbon Cup

Grangegorman was the setting for this enthralling match. UL, favourites for the Fitzgibbon cup having previously beat last years champions WIT, were expecting a leisurely game of hurling. This was not to be the case. DIT were like a wounded animal having been beaten by WIT and needed to win well to gain access into the quarter final.

Within the first minute Alan Egan sliced through to give UL the perfect start. An eerie silence descended over Grangegorman. DIT bounced back through the silky skills of Peter Kelly nonchalantly slotting over from a tight angle, a score reminiscent of his first cousin, the Great Eoin Kelly. Paul “Pabs” Ryan slotted two frees to make it 1-4 to 5 points after 20 minutes. Then disaster struck, Brian Carroll latched onto a long hopeful ball to flick to the net for UL. At half time the sides entered the dressing room with UL winning by 6 points 2-8 to 8 points.

DIT members, Niall Doyle, Harry Lyster, David Kennerick; Sarah Deegan and John Smith all went forward to the next round. In this round Niall and Kennefick, Sarah Deegan and John Smith all went arrow head to head match. Unfortunately, several of our team were knocked out at this stage.

DIT Archery Club are open to new members throughout the year. Training is from 5-9 on Mondays and 7-9 on Tuesdays in Linen Hall. All equipment and coaching is provided. For further information email: ditarchery@gmail.com

Above left to right: Sarah Deegan, Harry Lyster, John Smith and Amin Ali (UCD) at the Irish Student Archery Championships in Carlow recently.

Report & Photo by: Sarah Deegan

Strong come back not enough for DIT against NUIG

Clan Na Gael was the picturesque setting for this enthralling All-Ireland quarter final. The clouds parted to allow for a fluent and ferocious match.

It was NUIG that played with the wind at their backs in the first half and stormed into an early lead thanks to their centre forward, who was deadly accurate both from play and placed balls.

They led by 5 points to 2 after fifteen minutes. DIT courageously clawed themselves back into the match courtesy of Michael Maloney’s free taking.

DIT took the lead after 25 minutes and looked to be in cruise control when disaster struck. A 21 yard free was rifled to the roof of the net, leaving Finn McGary rooted to the line like a snow man.

Two frees and a point from play from Seamus Hennessey meant that there was 5 points in the difference at half time in favour of NUIG. 1-8 to 6 points.

However the gig was short lived as NUIG held firm and went on to win by 3 points.
Ultimate Frisbee may not be a sport many of you have heard of. This may be because it is a relatively new sport in Ireland, with the first clubs being set up just over 10 years ago. Up until the recent past the sport was mainly played in colleges in Dublin and in UCC. However, with players graduating from college, many clubs have been set up and the sport is spreading rapidly to every part of the country. This can be seen by the establishment of clubs in UL and NUIG.

Ultimate Frisbee in DIT was set up in 2002/3. The emphasis for the club was to play well but also play with spirit, which is an essential part of Ultimate. As matches are refereed by the players on the pitch, fair play and respect for the other team is the most important thing to a game of Ultimate. With such an emphasis on fair play, players on different teams, both new and old, get to know each other as friends rather than opponents. From this, the Ultimate community in Ireland is a tight-nit and friendly one.

If you want some more information about the club or you just want to train and see what it's all about. We train every Tuesday in Larkin College AstroTurf pitch from 17:00 – 19:00 or alternatively you can visit our website www.ditultimate.com or email us on ditultimate@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing some new faces at training soon.

Adam Wyse

No serious injuries after ski trip to Tignes

Mark Neylon gives the lowdown on the recent ski trip to the French Alps.

DIT ski club has had another successful year so far, providing skiing and boarding lessons to its members on the Kilternan dry slope to prepare them for the ski trip and also the intervarsities which is a snowsports competition that takes place annually between the top Irish colleges.

The annual ski trip took place in Tignes (a resort in the French Alps) from the 24th-31st January; just after the exams which was a nice way to round off the Christmas Holidays.

On the morning of January 24th, 114 DIT students met up in the departure terminal of Dublin Airport. This signaled the beginning of a week of snow, tomfoolery and debauchery. The group arrived to a snow covered Tignes between 11pm and midnight and eventually managed to find the apartments where bags were swiftly deposited before the first nights antics which involved exploring the resort and also interacting with the friendly locals!

The daily routine involved skiing and boarding during the day and themed nights every night; themes included rappers and slappers, graffiti night, fancy dress night to name a few. By the end of the holiday pretty much everyone was absolutely wrecked, a 9am start on the last morning didn’t help! We were lucky to escape with just a few minor injuries (and a broken wrist) given the nature of the holiday and a great time was had by all.

If you want some more information about the club or you just want to be friends then add us on facebook.

From Perth to Baltimore,
It’s all go for DIT sailing

Report by: Bryan Byrne in Baltimore & Conor Byrne in Perth

DIT Sailing club travelled to Baltimore last weekend for the Westerns inter varsities. They competed against 24 teams from 9 different colleges. The event started well with perfect sailing conditions.

DIT’s first rivals were CIT 1, a very experienced team that have won many events in the past. They struggled to get off the line which resulted in a loss. However, the rest of the day went well for DIT except for one loss to UL 1. They managed to win 7 out of 9 races. This put them third overall after the first day behind UL 1 and CIT 1.

The second day brought a little bit more wind, but still exceptional sailing and racing conditions. The day started slow but eventually DIT saw themselves in the quarter finals against TCD 2. They underestimated the ability of the Trinity team, which resulted in a very close race. But the outcome was not in DIT’s favour. They had lost with a 1,4,6 combination. The loss weakened the team and they struggled to get off the line in the following race. DIT were knocked out in the quarter finals.

UL 1 won to win the event against CIT1 in the final. The DIT team were disheartened but with the varisries coming up next week they are back out training to defend the title of Varsity Champions.

The team from Baltimore, Bryan Byrne, Hannah Herlihy, Alan Blay, Rach Guy, Will Atkinson and Richard Bruton.

DIT sailing is organising a beginners day on Saturday the 14th March, Any enquires, contact Alan Blay at alanblay1@hotmail.com by Friday the 6th March Places will be limited. Cost is €35 per person. Should be Good fun!

In Perth three DIT students made up half of Team Ireland in the World Team Sailing Championships in January, which were held in Perth, Australia.

Emer McNally (20, Marketing student, Skerries), Marty O’Leary (22, Engineering student, Blanchardstown) and Conor Byrne (25, Journalist, Ballbriggan) qualified their team to represent Ireland in April 2008.

Speaking to DIT News from Perth Conor Byrne said: “We finished 10th overall, beating GBR2 in a race on the last day which was a nice one to bag; they finished 4th.

“USA1 ‘Silver Panda’ won the event from AUS1 in the final. Although USA won it 3-0, AUS1 were not walked over. NZL1 finished 3rd.

“The only teams we didn’t beat at some stage throughout the week were USA1 and GBR1, and they weren’t that far ahead.

“We were all happy with our performance, and all are still talking to each other. A lot of things clicked racing wise as the week wore on,” he said.
DIT fall at final hurdle

The Mens GAA team enjoyed another very successful year but once again fell short of the much coveted All-Ireland Final Glory. The lads were beaten at the semi-final stage last year in a tense game with Northern rivals University of Ulster Jordanstown.

This year they were determined to take the next step. Having comfortably dismissed both Athlone IT and GMIT they again reached the Sigerson Cup weekend (this year being held in Cork) and set up a semi-final joust with Dublin rivals UCD.

In a tense affair it was DIT who got off to the better start with points from Dublin Senior Paul Flynn and the roving wing-back, David Hughes. DIT excelled at the back with Mickey "The Bear" Burke and Kevin McLoughlin doing a great job marking the UCD danger men. In a low-scoring game, goals were always going to prove the foundation for DIT's clinical offense who had to make the finals weekend of the Sigerson Cup.

Dogged defending and precise passing was the proposition for DIT. The well drilled outfit had too much in the end and ran out 5 point winners.

Things started brightly for DIT who found themselves 1-3 to 0-0 up after only five minutes. A good start for only their third time in history to make the finals weekend of the Sigerson Cup.

DIT began the second half with as much pace and recovery. They were much in the end and ran out 5 point winners.

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Cork IT, assisted by a strong wind, came storming back into the game and twice hit five points in a row to lead 0-10 to 1-4 at half time. Cork star Daniel Goulding was in superb form from placed balls contributing 8 of his sides ten points.

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The second half was a scrappy affair with DIT scoring goals at crucial times. The Dublin duo Paul Flynn and Kevin McManamon were on target for DIT to help keep their old foes at bay.

In the end DIT ran out comfortable winners 3-8 to 1-4 to set up an All-Ireland final with Cork IT the next day.

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DIT began the second half with as much pace and accuracy as the first and clocked up four unanswered points. John Coughlan began to win possession in the middle third and his brother Niall looked dangerous in the full forward line, with his second point leaving the score 1-8 to 0-10. This was as good as it got for DIT who soon conceded a goal and two points and they could only look on as Cork IT finished the game stronger to take home the gold.

Credit must be given to this great bunch of lads who battled tirelessly until the final whistle and we all hope to see the lads go one step further next year.

Sample the sealife with DIT Sub Aqua Club

The DIT Aquatec SAC has been running from DIT for over 40 years now giving students and staff the opportunity to experience the underwater world in Dublin Bay and all around the coast of Ireland. The club which is affiliated with the Irish Underwater Council has approx. 50 members and operates 12 months of the year.

New members don't just jump into the sea straight away. First there are trained in a swimming pool and shown how to surface dive, entries and ditch and recovery.

The first dives take place during the clubs annual weekly trip at Easter. To achieve your first national and internationally recognised training certificate known as your Diver 1* Cert you need to log 5 dives which is entirely achievable during the Easter week.

The club is very fortunate to have a team of 8 qualified instructors and examiners in the club and this year we expect 4 of our members to pass their final instructor exam on the 27th March.

The Irish Underwater Council have a pathway of training taking a novice member right through to Instructor and Examiner if desired.

If you don't wish to follow the training pathway you can get your Club Diver 2* grade which allows you to dive with any other member of the same grade and enjoy the pleasures of the underwater world.

The club dive 3 times a week during the summer in Dublin Bay and travel to various locations around the country on bank holiday weekends.

This year the club were successful in the Department of Sports, Sports Capital grant programme and have just recently taken delivery of a new boat that will be used on our Easter Trip this year in Ballinskelligs, Co. Kerry.

The club is actively involved in the promotion of Underwater Hockey and Rugby which are two sports played underwater with Mask Snorkel and Fins.

To find out more drop into the DIT Pool in Kevin St on a Wednesday night from 7:30 PM and we will be delighted to assist you on starting out on your diving career.