DIT News, 1st.-31st. of May, 2009

DIT: Students Union

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DIT student among 74 killed on Irish roads

By: Seamus O'Neill

A s staff and students gathered in DIT Aungier Street last week for a college awareness of road safety showcase event, special mention was given to DIT student Simon Maher who was killed while driving in March.

A deathly silence descended on the crowd as everyone realised a friend and classmate to many, had become one of the 74 to be killed on Irish roads so far this year.

Speaking at the road safety awareness event Head of DIT Community Links Dr. Tommy Cooke said, “One of our first year students, Simon Maher, from the BSc Food and Pharmaceutical Technology was killed while driving in March this year. Our condolences to his family.”

This was the second year in which Students Learning With Communities in conjunction with the Road Safety Unit of the Garda Siochana worked on a multi-disciplinary project to focus attention on the issue of road safety.

Students across disciplines in DIT used their subject skills to explore different aspects of road safety and presented their work at the showcase.

T2 might not open

By: Seamus O'Neill

T his time next year Terminal two at Dublin Airport, or T2 as it is being called, is expected to open to the public.

However an engineer involved in the project, who is a graduate of DIT Bolton Street, has disclosed to DIT News that it is a possibility that T2 will not open at all.

Under the Dublin Airport Authorities (DAA) Transforming Dublin Airport programme the new facilities being built will “radically improve passenger comfort levels and increase the efficiency of the airport by providing additional aircraft parking stands and taxiways.”

The public may not get to see the inside of T2 though due to falling passenger numbers, and with 600 staff needed to operate T2 when complete it might not be cost effective to open the new terminal.

David (not his real name) who is a resident engineer with the DAA and works on the telecoms and communications networks throughout the airport said, “the airport are in a position they’re not sure what they will do with the building and whether they can actually afford to open it.

“It’s going to take 600 staff to run the airport and the DAA don’t have the money as they were basing it on an eight per cent growth on a yearly basis and so far this year they are ten per cent down in numbers and it is expected that will follow on.”

continued on page 3
Have a great summer everyone

As you can see from the advertisement to the right, DIT News is indeed looking for a new editor. As I come to the end of my year as editor it’s time to hand over the reins. Anyone interested in the job or if you want to find out more contact Teri at: teri.oboyle@dit.ie

Since this is my last issue I have some people I must thank but not before I tell you about this issue. Inside this issue you will find all the latest news from DIT.

Making the front page is the College Awareness of Road Safety Showcase which was held last week in Aungier Street. Unfortunately a student of DIT Cathal Brugha Street died last month in a road accident and is one of the 74 people killed so far this year on Irish roads. DIT News was very sad to hear of this death and also the death of another student who died while on his Erasmus year in France. May they both rest in peace.

It was award season for students recently with the Smedias, the DIT Society Awards and the DIT Sport Awards all taking place recently and all covered in this issue.

If you missed the DIT Toyota Fashion Show fear not as we have all the pics from it in our fashion spread. DIT News was lucky enough to get an exclusive interview with X Factor contestant Ruth Lorenzo. For more reviews and entertainment, opinion pieces, travel and health news take a peek inside. Enjoy!

Meet the team...

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What's hot:
- Summer’s hot!! Yeah it’s finally here. While it’s not roasting hot yet, we live in hope.
- Ruth Lorenzo. This Spanish diva sent DIT News weak at the knees when we met her recently. See page 11.
- Summer equals festivals. The country comes alive to the sound of music. Whether it’s Oxygen, Slane, Electric Picnic, Live at the Marquee or the Lisdoonvarna match making festival, get out and enjoy yourself!
- Runaway bull in Ballinrobe Su erValu. Hilarious. Check it on Youtube.
- What’s not:
- It’s bad enough we are in a recession, we’re all going to die from swine flu. Apparently.
- Susan Boyle. Anyone thinking all the hype is just slightly overrated?
- Eurovision. Cheesy and tacky. If you’re not a fan of the contest but are of Moscow (where it’s taking place this year) see page 23.
- RTE. What a mad place to be. If your not being kicked out the door like the poor Seoige cailins then your up on alleged bullying charges. Sort yourselves out!

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From page 1

Present at the event were Chief Superintendent Gabriel McIntyre of the Garda Traffic Corps, Gay Byrne Chairman of the Irish Road Safety Authority, and President of DIT Professor Brian Norton.

Dr. Tommy Cooke said: “We are celebrating your achievements in terms of your own thoughts in how we reduce deaths on the road and perhaps in different ways inform policy within the authority and Government thinking. It is wonderful to see some of the research that has been done by DIT students.”

Gay Byrne also expressed gratitude to the students for the time and effort they had put into their projects.

Commenting on the number of people who have died so far on our roads this year, Mr. Byrne said, “it is a frightening figure.”

While he hates talking about it in terms of a “football league of death” he said we are making progress. The figure at the time of last weeks event was 69 and while Mr. Byrne pointed out that “69 is a shocking figure it is 20 less than at this time last year.”

While Chief Superintendent Gabriel McIntyre believes “the projects and initiatives that are going on here help contribute to the reduction of road deaths.”

Aware of the audience he was preaching to Mr. Byrne highlighted that of the 69 killed so far, a third of those were between the ages of 17 and 24.

He advised the students to “think on.” He also addressed the problem of young male drivers who he said are 86% more likely to have a fatal accident if they are carrying two of his contemporaries in his car.

In order to continue to reduce the numbers killed on our roads Mr. Byrne believes we need a new driving test. In his own personal opinion he said the current driving test is “not worth the paper it’s written on.”

“The problem up to now was that driver instructors have not been teaching people how to drive they have been teaching people how to pass the test,” he said.

The RSA are now working on a new driving test which will be a more extended and more difficult test. Hiding at what people can expect with the new test Mr. Byrne said, “there might be considerable restrictions imposed on people such as a curfew for maybe the first six months after passing your test. A limited on the size of the engine in your car and a limit on who you may carry in the car with you.”

“Where we are trying to get to is that if you have this driving permit you would be ten times over a fool to do anything which would lose it for you,” he said.

He still collected 28 votes on Monday as he was still on the ballot sheet. Peter Mannion was elected president of USI by default.

DIT gained several nominations for awards at the gala dinner on the final night. Darren Bates (DIT Bolton S1.) won. Jen Jordan, our upcoming DITSU vice-president, was nominated for “Best angry female”, quite a comical award actually. Lorna Geraghty (DITSU Rathmines) was nominated for “Best female speaker”. And Martin Dunne received a nomination for “Best quote” award for his passionate saying “I wrote it, I like it, so vote for it!”.

We also got through all the submitted motions and emergency motions in a record of two and a half days. However this reflects on the fact that there was a few too many “9As” throughout congress this year, so we didn’t get to debate everything.

However the majority of our delegates got to speak and voiced their opinions very well. This contributed to us winning “Best University Delegation”. That was the true highlight for all involved.

Above: Chairman of the Road Safety Authority Gay Byrne speaks at the road safety event last week.

DIT win Best University Delegation at Congress

Jayne O’Malley reports from the USI Congress in Bettystown for DIT News.

The Union of Students in Ireland had their annual national congress on the 5th April 2009, in Bettystown, County Meath. In preparation for this each C.O. (constituent organization) submitted up to ten motions each.

For Dublin Institute of Technology, we submitted ten motions. Of which were four education motions, four union organisational motions and two equality motions. These motions were submitted by the DIT governing council. All our ten motions passed and are therefore in the USI constitution/policy book for the next five years.

There were elections for the new USI officerboard for the upcoming year, on Monday 6th April. Martin Dunne (DITSU president) was nominated for the position of USI president, however he withdrew his nomination the previous night.

He still collected 28 votes on Monday as he was still on the ballot sheet. Peter Mannion was elected president of USI by default.

DIT gained several nominations for awards at the gala dinner on the final night. Darren Bates and Jayne O’Malley were nominated for “Best virgin speaker”. Darren Bates (DIT Bolton St.) won.

Jen Jordan, our upcoming DITSU vice-president, was nominated for “Best angry female”, quite a comical award actually. Lorna Geraghty (DITSU Rathmines) was nominated for “Best female speaker”. And Martin Dunne received a
When all facilities under the Transforming plan is complete the airport will have the capacity to handle up to 35 million passengers but with an ailing economy and fewer people travelling plans might have to change.

According to David the DAA have a few options. “They can open T2 under the original plan and put international flights through T2 and use T1 for commuter flights to the UK and then they were going to do up terminal one,” he said.

“They were pretty much going to close T1 as it’s pretty old and is due a facelift. The building was built in the 70s and it’s completely outdated.

“Their choices, now the economy is going down, is to either do that and leave T1 and don’t go near it. Or else they can mothball T2, finish the building but don’t open it and keep on running with T1.”

David believes it really comes down to the amount of staff they need to put in to open the place. “600 additional staff and with the numbers going through at the moment it’s just not cost effective to do it,” he said.

Whatever decision is made regarding the new terminal it won’t be made until 2010. He said. “While the DAA are saying everything is hunky dory they are really going to have to make a call on this.”

This comes on the heels of the latest announcement from the DAA that they may be forced to cuts jobs across Dublin, Cork and Shannon airports in order to save €25 million.

With profits for 2008 down by 28% and passenger numbers down for the first time since 1991 the future of T2 is very uncertain.

The decision will also be a political one and the future of terminal two could mean political suicide. As David explained, “The whole project was two billion euro, which includes development of the runway. So it would be political suicide to spend that much money on a building and then not use it.”

David also highlighted that the new terminal will “probably not” be completed by the deadline of April 2010. While his own section is on schedule and on budget the overall project is behind schedule.

The DAA divided the project up into 18 contracts, a delay in one sector often leads to delays in other areas.

Some contractors as it turns out would be happy if the terminal was delay as David explained. “They (the DAA) want to achieve their deadline but you will find that with a lot of the contractors and with the slowdown in the economy they don’t have other jobs to go on to.

“So they are not enthusiastic to do nightwork and weekend work. They want the job to last and to it on a nine to five basis cause they have no other projects to go on to. That is causing a delay as contractors just aren’t as keen to get it complete,” he said.

The hassle of working airside is a lot of security checks and paperwork and permits. To get any work done David explained planning is hugely important.

Graduating from DIT Bolton Street with a degree in Civil and Structural Engineering he emerged into a boom period and worked with MCI Worldcom and Vodafone in Australia and now works with a specialist telecoms consultancy in Ireland.

David believes, “Bolton Street engineers, within the industry, would be considered more suitable for actual on-site engineering.

“When I am interviewing for staff on-site I like to see Bolton Street people cause they have a greater understanding of the practical surveying rather than Trinity engineers who would be very much theory and office design based,” he said.

However David does acknowledge the future looks bleak for engineering graduates and he does not see the good times coming back very soon.

“Certainly in Ireland it will never go back to the way it was,” he believes. “It was a boom period and I can’t see that kind of development coming back in my lifetime. People were throwing money at projects and that’s not going to come back.”

His advice to graduates is to maybe travel and work and gain experience that way.

Of his class in Bolton Street he said, “90% of people in my course went on to work within the industry but 50% of the people I know have either lost their jobs or are on a three day week.”

David thinks he is lucky as he specialised in telecoms and there is still some work there.

“The Government are investing in telecoms because broadband is a must and we are miles behind the times with broadband. There is still money being put into that area,” he said.

With regard to the new terminal at Dublin Airport and whether it opens or not David is proud to be working on one of the biggest projects in Ireland at the moment.

“What we have done so far in the airport is a quality product. I sign off in terms of quality of the product. Anything that is being put in there I am happy that it is of a good standard and quality and I would stand by it,” he said.
Aisling Kenny met Paul Duffy who is off to attend a Space University in June and found out what exactly he will be getting up to.

When the editor of DIT News suggested I interview Paul Duffy, a postgraduate researcher in the School of Manufacturing and Design Engineering in Bolton Street who is off to California to a Space University I thought now what on earth do I know about space?

Like everyone else I knew a bit about the planets and like every girl, I read my horoscope every week, but that was about it. But I thought, hey, I could learn something from this guy.

So off I went to Java City in Bolton Street to meet Paul. I wondered would he be a genius, a space nerd or is he just an ordinary clever guy?

Turns out he is a really ordinary nice guy who just happens to be really clever and very intelligent and passionate about space.

Aisling: So, Paul have you always been interested in space?
Paul: I’ve always had a mild interest in space, but it’s only in the last few years that I’ve really taken an active interest in it.

A: How did you become interested was it through TV programmes such as Star Trek or Dr Who?
P: I suppose from watching programs on the T.V.

A: What does the course involve?
P: It’s got a very broad syllabus. There’s lectures most days on aspects of aerospace from the technical to the political. And there is a series of evening lectures by industry professionals ranging from administrators to astronauts. Also there are practical classes which can involve anything from scuba diving to dissecting a heart. Finally there’s a group project and exams as well.

A: How many people will be taking part?
P: There will be about eighty of us from all over the world. The Space studies programme is run by the International Space University which is the education arm of the Canadian Space agency, it’ll be held in the Nasa Ames in California.

A: Will the course be difficult - will you have to study hard or will it be fun?
P: It’ll be a bit of both I suspect. They do run a few fun events and stuff like that so it won’t be all study.

A: How useful will the programme be in your future career? Could you become an Astronaut maybe?
P: (laughs) No it’s not as easy as that to become an astronaut. There will be some exercises to give us the feel for what it would be like to be in space.

For example they weight you down in water so you don’t sink or rise - that’s the way astronauts train. They also give you hearts to dissect to show the effects of weightlessness on the body. But in terms of my future? well it depends on what I want to do really. The course itself is well recognized within the aerospace industry and it can also lead onto a Master’s Degree.

A: How long are you going for?
P: The course lasts from the end of June to the end of August.

A: Where do you see yourself in ten years time?
P: Hopefully happy and finished college. Ideally I’d like to be working in aerospace so probably in Europe or America where the main industry is.

A: Are you the first DIT student to do this course?
P: No, the second, last year Mark Wiley, a former DIT student, headed off to Barcelona to complete the same course. He absolutely loved it; I hope my experience will be as enjoyable.

DIT News wishes you the best of luck.

Paul: Thanks I’m looking forward to it.

Paul’s trip will be sponsored by the European Space Agency, Enterprise Ireland, along with the Manufacturing and Design Engineering department at DIT Bolton Street.

DIT RAG Week raises €12,000 for Console

DIT RAG Week has come and gone for another year. This year saw DIT students raise €12,000 for Console, the charity chosen by the students to benefit.

Given the current economic climate, this was no mean feat. People are simply not as quick to part with any amount of money at the moment. This didn’t stop over 100 DIT students volunteering to take part in the Street Collection in Templebar on the Tuesday of RAG Week.

This, on top of the Sponsored Swim at the 40ft, the bungee jump and all the usual student ideas and notions that they got sponsored for all amounted to €12,000.

There are also DIT students who are still fund raising on behalf of Console, and are partaking in events over the summer, so there will be some more money raised that way also.

Aside from all the fund-raising, there was the usual mix of daytime entertainment across the various DIT sites as well as 3 big night-time events.

The Coronas saw Dandelion packed on a Monday night – a first, we’re sure – and they didn’t disappoint, despite having a 5am flight to Japan the following morning to look forward to!
Winner takes it all

As the DIT photography students clean up at the Smedia awards, Jennifer Bannon is left wondering where are all the journalists?

April started with a resounding pop as the champagne bottles were corked, spraying the tangy spritz of sweet victory over a lapping crowd of zealous students. The gala took place in Dublin’s popular hang, the Mansion House, but even the ritzy decadence of the summit didn’t manage to dissuade DIT students from making a splash in the pond.

Collecting four awards on the night was just the beginning, as DIT students roared their undying solidarity with Ray Foley, past student and host of the event.

To say the night descended into debauchery would be putting it lightly but the resounding feeling among those present from DIT was that it could have been even better.

Despite having a fantastic media arts school here at DIT, the number of entries made to the Smedia awards was disappointing to say the least. The Smedia’s offer an opportunity for all journalism students, from broadcast to print, from photo to film, to shine like the stars they are.

According to the editor of the Oxygen website, Jack Horgan-Jones, who is a lot of talent on campus, there is “a lot of talent on campus, it seems like a waste!”

Nodding my head in agreement, I gently beckoned to a fellow student to come to my assistance in grabbing a couple of bottles of select Merlot from the celebrity table.

These awards are wide open and waiting for students to enter. Not only is it a great way to get your name out there, but it is also a really good chance to meet fellow minded peers, something which brings out a solidarity that I had not experienced at DIT before.

All it takes is willingness and enthusiasm. And, as that night proved, DIT students are flush with both.

"I really think it’s a shame that students don’t make the most of the opportunity that is offered by these awards. There is a lot of talent on campus, it seems like a waste!"

Representatives from DIT, the Faculty of Applied Arts, the School of Languages, the Faculty of Business, the Chaplaincy, the Counselling service and the International Office attended the funeral. The University of Dijon was also represented.

College in shock over death of student in France

A third year student of International Business and Languages at DIT died during his Erasmus year in France.

Joseph Kett, or known to his friends and family as Joey, died in France on the 15th March this year. The 22 year-old student from Navan was in his Erasmus year and was studying in the Universite de Bourgogne in Dijon, eastern France.

Sr. Mary Flanagan of the Chaplaincy Service in DIT said, "it is a very traumatic experience for everyone. We are dealing with the family. Any death is a sad event."

Head of the School of Languages Helene Conway said there was no foul play involved and went on to describe Joey as a “great character, full of life and motivated.”

She said Joey loved his Erasmus year in France and had “enrolled in all sorts of clubs there.”

Helene paid tribute to the Irish Embassy in France who was very helpful. She said everyone is still in shock, “you don’t believe you’re going to die in your twenties.”

Josianne Deloire who taught Joey French language and culture in his first and second year and was his academic supervisor this year said, “He came from a lovely family and had one sister and two brothers.”

She described Joey as a “lovely person, always happy, with always a smile on his face. He was very much loved by his peers. Everybody is shocked, very upset and distraught.”

DIT News understands all the third year Erasmus students in France were flown back to attend the funeral, coming from colleges and universities all over France.

DIT News also understands counselling was offered to students and staff right from the start, DIT, the School of Languages, the Student Union, the Counselling service, and the Chaplaincy all offered psychological support. Financial help was provided by the Student Union.

Representatives from DIT, the Faculty of Applied Arts, the School of Languages, the Faculty of Business, the Chaplaincy, the Counselling service and the International Office attended the funeral. The University of Dijon was also represented.
Students feeling brunt of recession

Aisling Kenny examines the stresses and strains that are put on students now that we are in a recession.

As the economic doom and gloom continues to affect everyone in the country, students like everyone else are feeling the pinch and are struggling to fund their student lives.

Since the downturn began, it appears that banks are more reluctant to part with cash for loans to hard-pressed students. According to the Chaplain Service at DIT Rathmines more and more students are coming to them seeking emergency funding after being turned down for a loan.

With thousands of people losing their jobs each week, part-time jobs are no longer two a penny - some students can’t even afford basics like groceries. Some International students have had to return home because they can’t afford basic amenities.

At the start of the college year, Aoife Murray (not her real name) a student at DIT in Aungier Street was turned down for a loan by her bank. “I applied for the loan for the first time in August, and initially everything seemed fine I was only looking for two grand says Aoife, but when the underwriter got back to me, they said, “no” they would not be giving me a loan”. I was very disappointed; I’m in my final year. I really did not want to have to get a job, I’ve loads of college work on, and I just don’t have the time to work”. “To be honest,” says the student “With the recession, I probably won’t even be able to get a job”.

According to the Chaplain Service in DIT, Rathmines, students are constantly bemoaning the fact that banks are much slower to hand out money. Reverend Neal Phair says “Far more students than ever before have been coming to me in recent times to seek emergency funding.

“There is a lot of financial distress around and students are worried about the fact that they can’t get part time work to fund their college life. To make things worse, in some cases one or both parents have lost their jobs, ‘it seems everything is against them’” says Reverend Phair.

“This situation is putting huge amounts of stress on students, as well as the pressure of exams; they are finding it hard to get credit from banks because the banks are seeking more guarantees. “With their parents out of work also this is not easy” says the Reverend.

DIT News contacted Bank of Ireland who denied that they are reluctant to give out loans to students at the moment. The bank insisted that their lending policy to students has not changed and students are still seen by them as being a “key market”.

According to Dermot O’Sullivan from the Group Corporate Communications at Bank of Ireland, Students are seen as future customers. When DIT News put the question that even in people in well paid jobs are being turned down for loans, Mr O’ Sullivan insisted that their policy towards students had not changed and they were very much “open for business” despite the economic doom and gloom.

However, the doom and gloom is likely to make things difficult for students when it comes to finding part-time jobs to fund their student life. According to Aimee O Callaghan DIT Student Affairs Manager there is well over twice the amount of students looking for funding compared to last year. “There’s a huge problem with part-time jobs and students are stuck for cash” she says.

With five hundred people applying for thirty five jobs in Burger King last month this doesn’t bode well for students, many of those people had been made redundant from their jobs and were desperate to find work; it’s surely not surprising that students will be way down the pecking order when it comes to picking up jobs like these. “Students do not know what they are going to do in September, especially now with fees moving up from €900 to €1500” says Aimee.

If you’re having problems financially this year you can log onto http://www.mabs.ie/ a money advice and budgeting service or call the mabs helpline on 1890 283438. The Chaplain Service can be contacted at 01 4024112.

The advice from the experts is, don’t let yourself get stressed about money, try not to get into debt and help is always at hand.

08/09 How was it for you

So another academic year is drawing to a close – only the dreaded exams left before having fun, earning some cash or entering the real world. But how has this year been?

Louise McHenry caught up with a few DIT students to get their views on the year gone by.

An overwhelming amount of students seemed to be disappointed with the lack of organisation in the DIT:

“This year has been stressful. Nice college but there’s no organisation and no structure in setting out goals” – Agnes, 25, MA student, Aungier Street.

“Topsy-turvy man. All over the place. Some of it has been my own making. Some of it not. My course could have been better organised. But perhaps I spent too much time in Whelans” – Ryan, 30, MA student, Aungier Street.

For some, the excitement of being a fresher overcame all other things:

“Dublin is mad craic. I’m from Donegal and when I first came here I couldn’t cook; I hadn’t a clue where anything was – I was always lost. But I met some mad eejits on my course and it was just brilliant. I still can’t cook but I know how to get to Hogan’s and the Purdy Kitchen!” – Aoife, 18, 1st year student, Kevin Street.

“Love college! Love DIT! Had a great year. I joined ten societies at the start of the year – never went to any of them. Wish I could have that subscription money back now – I’m broke!” – Sean, 19, 1st year student, Bolton Street.

And some answers were just a little bit weird:

“What do I remember most bout this year? One of my mates told me that all the fit girls go to Aungier Street. So every day for two months we used to go there for lunch. Even though it took us a good half hour to walk over there. Totally worth it though. Aungier Street girls are hot!” – Matt, 20, 3rd year student, Bolton Street.

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What a difference a year makes

DIT News talked to DIT SU President Martin Dunne and Vice-Presidents Dermot Julian and Tracey Flinter to see how the year went for them and what exactly they were doing on your behalf.

DIT SU President Martin Dunne

Q: How has the year been for you as President of DIT SU?
A: It's been an exciting and stressful year. There's been plenty going on from the Linenhall issues, library opening hours, college opening hours for Portland Row and the national fees debate on top of the normal issues. It's been enjoyable mind you!
Q: Did you find the job as tough and challenging as you thought it might be?
A: I think it's been more of a challenge than I expected. Coming from the Vice-Presidency last year I thought I fully understood the role, responsibilities and challenges of the Presidency. Within the first few weeks I realised I didn't know half as much as I thought! The role is completely different and a lot tougher than anything I had experienced in the 12 months previous.
Q: What were the main challenges faced by you throughout the year?
A: Some of the main challenges involved resource issues, trying to get the most bang for any given buck which became all the more difficult as the economic situation has worsened. Working to revitalise student involvement and democracy and engage with people in new ways has also been a challenge. Then there have been the issues of trying to get the voice of DIT students heard on a national level and ensuring that our interests are represented - not to forget mobilising the troops for the fight against fees!
Q: Are you happy with how you did in the role as President?
A: In a word, yes. In a few more words I might say that I haven't achieved everything I would have liked and in some areas we haven't made anywhere near as much progress as I hoped or dreamed which can be a bit disheartening. Looking back though I can say I did my best and at the end of the day that's the true measure of success so it's hard not be happy.
Q: Would you change anything throughout the year or do anything differently?
A: Definitely but then hindsight makes it easy to realise where you could, and maybe should, have done things differently.
Q: What do you think were the main issues that were affecting DIT students this year?
A: The old problems of quality and resources and the like are still about but this year I think it's been financial plain and simple. With the way the world has gone part-time jobs are disappearing, costs are going up and we're all starting to really feel the pinch. Looking to the future it's only going to get worse so the union will really have to focus on helping students in financial difficulty in the next 12 months.
Q: What was the highlight for you during the year?
A: Standing in front of Aungier St at the start of the Dublin protest in October with well over a thousand students ready to march against fees. Then hearing the sound of drums as the thronging masses from Kevin St and Rathmines came round the corner to join us. It was at that point I realised student apathy was dead.
Q: And what was the lowlight during the year?
A: Not getting a proper resolution to the Linenhall debate - not to forget mobilising the troops worse so the pinch.

Vice-President Services & Trading Dermot Julian

Q: How has the year been for you as VP for services and trading?
A: It's been an exceptionally challenging year one which I couldn't have foreseen at this time last year. It's been a year I have thoroughly enjoyed and I am extremely honoured to have held such a position.
Q: What were the main problems and issues that kept cropping up throughout the year for you?
A: ...the agenda was crammed with facilities issues. Trying to ensure annex sites like Portland Row received longer opening hours, and then there was the Linenhall debacle for example.
Q: Were you involved with discussions on the future of Linenhall? What do you think will happen to Linenhall next year?
A: I was indeed involved in these discussions which remain a very contentious issue. This has been consistently on the agenda throughout the year since it reared its head late last July, and to be honest, the question still remains “will it or won’t remain as it is”. From my own personal viewpoint I would like to think that it will remain a sports facility for the foreseeable future. It's a fantastic facility one of the best in the country.
Q: What was your highlight during the past year?
A: The Recession.
Q: What was your lowlight during the year?
A: The Reccession.
Q: Was the role as VP services and Trading as challenging as you thought it might be?
A: Definitly but then hindsight makes it easy to realise where you could, and maybe should, have done some things differently.
Q: What do you think were the main issues that were affecting DIT students this year?
A: The old problems of quality and resources and the like are still about but this year I think it's been financial plain and simple. With the way the world has gone part-time jobs are disappearing, costs are going up and we're all starting to really feel the pinch. Looking to the future it's only going to get worse so the union will really have to focus on helping students in financial difficulty in the next 12 months.
Q: What will happen to Linenhall next year?
A: Standing in front of Aungier St at the start of the Dublin protest in October with well over a thousand students ready to march against fees. Then hearing the sound of drums as the thronging masses from Kevin St and Rathmines came round the corner to join us. It was at that point I realised student apathy was dead.
Q: And what was the lowlight during the year?
A: Not getting a proper resolution to the Linenhall debate - not to forget mobilising the troops worse so the pinch.

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Shaping our world

Cecily Quetin-Weeks met world-renowned architect Glenn Murcutt for DIT News.

It doesn’t come as a complete surprise to find that Glenn is a regular down-to-earth guy; this is because after studying his buildings and listening to him talk you will realise that he does not have any high flying, convoluted ideas. Further demonstrated when he quoted “since we spend most of our lives doing ordinary tasks, the most important thing is to carry them out extraordinarily well”.

I mean when you have been awarded practically every prize, medal and award going can there be any stones left unturned? Still Glenn remains eager and enthusiastic “There is always a future and the future is still left untold, so you have to have a quickness of mind to adapt. However you can’t turn every stone, so I just try and turn the stones as they emerge, taking the opportunities as they arrive. I’m nearly 73 so I don’t know how many stones I have left.”

With a career as successful as Glenn’s you have to wonder at what point did he realise that he had made it, but Glenn remains casual and passes off his success as if it was not something to brag about “I still haven’t really realised what my career has become. I’m still nervous and anxious before giving lectures. I never asked for this exposure, while I always made my work available for publication and facilitated interviews and publications, I never actively sought publicity or publication so it still comes as a surprise to me when I win things.”

Above: Glenn on a field trip with students.

Then instead of describing his extensive list of prizes he proceeded to recount some quite funny stories about how incredulous even he was at receiving these awards, for example, when Glenn received the Alvar Aalto Medal; he received a letter sent to him by the SAFA board; and was so convinced that it was a hoax, it took his family two weeks to persuade him to ring the office in Finland.

After more confusion and another phone call, he spoke to the Chief Executive of the board and it took him twenty-minutes to convince Glenn that he was the man he claimed to be, and that he would indeed actually receive the Alvar Aalto Medal.

His modesty was further reinforced when he said “that I would rather people go past my buildings but then go back because they find it interesting.” Most architects these days seem to misinterpret his buildings as objects in the landscape, but this is not so; Glenn likes to think of his buildings not as objects but “as instruments” and while some of us often feel that a difficult site can be a hindrance and choose to completely remodel them, Glenn feels that “the conditions of the site are gifts, gifts to be used by instruments.”

For an architect with such innovative methods of designing and thinking, why does he still keep his practice so small? He is the first to admit that he has no staff, and thus cannot train anybody directly. This in part is why he has taken these kinds of professorships in Australia and abroad, he quoted the aboriginal phrase “you must give it away to keep it”. Indeed he has given a lot away, teaching at such prestigious schools as Yale, Pennsylvania IT and Helsinki.

We here at the Dublin School of Architecture are the last of his commitments to teach abroad – after this he will take up a professorship at the University of New South Wales. Glenn’s desire to focus on his home life and work in his practice are primary factors in this decision, not his age.

Infact the 8 days he spent tutoring us saw more 9am starts in one week than I have had all year, the pace was faster than a David Grol drum solo.

So for a one man office who only designs in his native Australia, how does he feel about all these “iconic” buildings that are being designed by the new generation of starchitects?

“I’m glad of many buildings that have been done. But these iconic buildings were reserved for very special experiences, such as religious experiences such as cathedral churches or monasteries or mosques. These were traditionally the iconic buildings.”

Many cities have tried to brand themselves with some kind of international status symbol, Bilbao being the most obvious example. It’s quite refreshing to see that despite his success architecture remains a sacred practice for Glenn; “When materialism and wealth becomes the icon then it is difficult for serious artists and modernism to make art.”

As lunch wrapped up I realised that Glenn Murcutt was much like his architecture, you may walk by him apathetically on the street but once you explore the detail you will find an extraordinary mind at work, something those bustling by us on a frenzied Saturday afternoon in Dublin might not be so likely to notice.
Movie Review: The Boat That Rocked

Reviewed by: Louise Finn

Cordelia Fiction (and originally named) Radio Rock. The government aren’t happy with the broadcast of all this crazy pop music and set out to shut them down....

Featuring Rhys Ifans, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Kenneth Branagh, Nick Frost, Chris O'Dowd, Rhys Darby, and Bill Nighy, it’s a wonder there were any comedians left on dry land. But they are lovely, especially Darby – better known as Murray from Flight of the Conchords – who, in some truly awful trousers, shines as a Seekers obsessed, sex-starved, pipe-smoking Kiwi.

Following the fortunes of the ragtag DJs on board it combines boozing, schoolboy high jinks and puerile one-liners with a toe-tappingly addictive soundtrack.

Sure it features some of the trademark Curtis schmaltz, a gratuitous wedding and lots of naked ladies and it’s a little on the long side but heck everyone left the cinema smiling. What more can you ask for? Nick Frost naked? It’s already in there.

As the inevitable moment of parting approaches, Léa and Chéri try to come to terms with their imminent separation, but the roots of their life of ease and pleasure reach deeper than even they imagine and they begin to understand, too late, how much they mean to one another.

Set in the luxurious demi-monde of pre-First World War Paris, CHÉRI is the story of the love affair between the beautiful retired courtesan Léa (Michelle Pfeiffer) and Chéri (Rupert Friend), the son of her old colleague and rival, Mme Peloux (Kathy Bates).

Léa has educated the spoilt and callow boy in the ways of love, but after six years Mme Peloux has secretly arranged a marriage between Chéri and Edmée (Felicity Jones), daughter of another rich courtesan, Marie Laure (Iben Hjejle).

Book Review: Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell

Reviewed by: Siobhan Connor

As the author of Blink and The Tipping Point, Malcolm Gladwell is not a new name on the bestsellers list. Gladwell’s latest book Outliers seeks to put reason and clarity together to explain some of the greatest ever success stories.

Gladwell attempts to account for the success of the Beatles, Bill Gates and even successful hockey teams from Canada by analysing their behaviour and attitudes before they became successful.

Surprising perhaps, is the fact that the underlying answer to their success is not only hard work but also being in the right place at the right time.

Outliers is an interesting and thought-provoking read.

Film: Chéri

Release date: May 8th

Set in the luxurious demi-monde of pre-First World War Paris, CHÉRI is the story of the love affair between the beautiful retired courtesan Léa (Michelle Pfeiffer) and Chéri (Rupert Friend), the son of her old colleague and rival, Mme Peloux (Kathy Bates).

Léa has educated the spoilt and callow boy in the ways of love, but after six years Mme Peloux has secretly arranged a marriage between Chéri and Edmée (Felicity Jones), daughter of another rich courtesan, Marie Laure (Iben Hjejle).
Ruth’s got the XL Factor

DIT News editor Seamus O’Neill met X Factor’s senorita Ruth Lorenzo who paid a flying visit to Dublin recently.

The Spanish diva talked about her time on the X Factor, her self-consciousness and tabloid rumours.

Above: Ruth and Alexandra relax while on holidays in Mauritius. Ruth believes she looks fat in the photos and hates seeing them. Ruth also said she is still friends with Alexandra contrary to tabloid rumours otherwise.

Ruth says performing to small crowds make her more self conscious and think “my bum is bigger and I don’t have enough make up on.”

Her tanned skin, beautiful long hair and good looks captured the judges attention when first auditioned for X Factor, with one judge in particular taking a shine to her.

At her audition for the X Factor, Simon Cowell called her “firey” and from then on the two shared a strong on screen chemistry often flirting with each other.

“I didn’t consider it as flirting. It was more like a little game cause he is too old to flirt with, she said.

The singer revealed Simon is a really “cool guy and a sweetheart” but that she would have no interest in kissing him.

However she is attracted to his sense of power. “He has power in his eyes. Not because he has money or anything but just because he has this attitude and when he walks into a room he catches everyone’s eye. I really like that about people,”

Ruth who is busily playing gigs all over the OK meant “the votes that I got were from my own place in London,” she said.

Being Spanish on the X Factor was both a positive and negative for Ruth. She believes “it worked because it caught Simon’s eye.” Although at the same time she knew no-one and had no certain region voting for her to keep her in.

However Ruth is very grateful to her fans and those who voted for her. Not knowing anyone in the UK meant “the votes that I got were from people who liked me.”

With auditions for the X Factor 2009 already underway Ruth hopes the fans will remain with her.
Amy Adams leaps to Ireland

Yes, it's true, double Oscar-nominee Amy Adams is gracing our fair shores filming her latest Hollywood flick 'Leap Year'. The film follows Adams as she flies to Ireland to propose to her boyfriend on February 29th; she soon ends up lost with only a cheeky (and ruggedly handsome) Irish innkeeper to guide her to Dublin. Clichéd hilarity ensues and this odd love triangle soon rights itself and she lives happily ever after, or so we hope.

DIT News is lucky enough to bring you an exclusive from the set of next year's must-see Romantic Comedy.

The atypical romcom is being shot in multiple locations around Ireland, including Galway, Dublin and Wexford. When we visited the film production at Dublin Castle we were astonished at the lengths they had gone to to create the set. The entire façade in the courtyard was clad with polystyrene bricks to give the stately building a more homely appearance; there was a winter garden complete with leafless plastic trees and six inches of snow and even an ancient, Father Ted-esque telefon box had been fashioned from some plywood for the occasion.

Given the size of the production we can only hope that director Anand Tucker (Shop Girl) will do our lovely country justice, but I'd expect plenty of the hackneyed Irish stereotypes that Hollywood loves to throw at us instead. Prepare yourself also to recoil in horror from cringeworthy Irish accents, more specifically from the male lead Matthew Goode. Fresh off the set of Watchmen, Goode must have limited his research for the role to renting Intermission and The Commitments, whilst in between takes he reverted to the AbFab sweetie darlingness of his toffish heritage!

In the flesh Amy Adams seemed to be just as sweet and nice as all of her previous characters have been, however, one extra overheard the starlet's awful, awful Irish Dental standards, of all things! Nonetheless, she managed to combine one part Disney princess with two parts nun to charm nearly all of the DIT students we met appearing as extras who swooned at her smile and luscious strawberry locks.

So keep an eye out for your fellow students when 'Leap Year' is released next year.

By: Cliona Ward

Oasis to rock Slane

As Ross Leahy looks forward to Slane it seems Britpop is definitely back.

Oasis are set to perform to around 80,000 music fans at Slane Castle this summer. The Manchester 4-piece are set to headline Slane Castle on the 20th June with support from electronic powerhouse The Prodigy, indie rockers Kasabian and The Enemy.

Oasis, who released their 7th studio album "Dig out your soul" in October last year, previously played the prestigious venue when they supported REM in 1995. Oasis' lead songwriter Noel Gallagher, speaking at a recent press conference, said; "I'll be nice for us to finally headline Slane. I'm looking forward to playing for our own fans."

Acknowledging his Irish roots Noel said; "Ireland is a massive part of my youth, I spent six weeks of my life every summer over here until I was 16."

Lord Henry Mount Charles added; "Slane's roots are in rock 'n' roll - so I see having this marvellous band headline this year as carrying on a great tradition."

Slane began in 1981 with Ireland's own Thin Lizzy headlining. It has ran largely uninterrupted since and has boasted such internationally acclaimed stars as Bob Dylan, U2 and Queen.

This years Slane Concert will be a welcome return to many music fans, as the event was not held last year. The concert has proved to be less of an annual certainty in recent years.

It was cancelled in 2005 due to rapper Eminem pulling out of his headlining slot. The concert did not continue until 2007 when the Rolling Stones headlined the festival, returning 25 years after their first headlining slot in 1982.

With Oasis playing Slane and their 1990s rival, Blur, headlining another major Irish music festival, Oxygen, it is safe to say it will be a Britpop summer for Irish music lovers.

Summer movie guide

DIT News entertainment editor Cliona Ward checks out this summer's blockbusters and highlights what films you should look out for in the cinemas.

Action:

We would have said Wolverine: Xmen Origins but thanks to some sticky-fingered folks over in Hollywood it's on the internet now for all to download, huzzah! Instead, this summer's must-see action flick has to be Terminator Salvation! The story is set in a post apocalyptic world where John O'Connor (Christian Bale) is leader of a resistance. When he comes across a stranger named Marcus he has to figure out whether he's been sent from the future or rescued from the past.

This sounds like a kickass premise and has the potential to redeem the Terminator franchise after the awful, awful Rise of the Machines. Rumours are running riot that the Governor himself, Arnold Shwartenegger, will be making a cameo appearance which is reason alone to go see the film.

We can expect Bale to work some of that Batman magic and add some character curves to O'Connor, I mean if he was willing to go freak at the DP for walking around on set he's bound to have his badass mojo back!

Comedy:

Bruno! Bruno! Bruno! Prepare to be violated once again by Sasha Baron Cohen's latest politically incorrect, socially deviant mockumentary. Cohen takes the lead once again as Bruno, a camp, overdramatic, Austrian fashion reporter keen to break the United States. Amoung his many misadventures Bruno takes a hunting trip with some redneck types, destroys a movie fashion show, and most hilariously adopts an African child.

From learning dildo self defense to being whipped at a swinger's party, this film is going to be a laugh riot! Bruno isn't going to be all about camp jokes though, it's documentary format allows it to be observant and perceptive and will undoubtedly have you gasping at insights and opinions from some of the less 'open minded' members of American society and, of course, the usual toilet humour hilarity.

Be prepared to be quoting extensively from this film for the next two years. Wawaweewa!

Drama:

Public Enemies is set to be one of the best films of the year. With Johnny Depp, Christian Bale and Marion Cotillard starring and Michael Mann (Ali, Collateral) directing it's a winning formula.

Based on the life of the notorious depression era gangster John Dillinger (Depp) the film follows the mobster as he outwits and outcharms the law, falls for a beautiful girl and wins the hearts of the poverty stricken masses.

Expect to see baseball, movies, good clothes, and fast cars all wrapped up in a beautifully presented 1930s time capsule.

We predict this film will be Oscar gold.

Left: Johnny Depp who stars in Public Enemies which is due for release in July. He will be appearing alongside Christian Bale (above) who will also be starring in the action film Wolverine: Xmen Origins which will be out in May.
Organised by DIT Gig Society, the Battle of the Bands (BOTB) Final takes place on Wednesday 29th April in the Button Factory. 4 bands are on the lineup – Falter Ego (metal), J-Walkers (indie rock), A Futurist Theatre (alternative/progressive rock), Aggro-Culture (rock), followed by a club night 'till late.

The finalists have qualified from 4 heats at ThinkTank in March. Falter Ego are a 3-piece metal act from Clondalkin, formed in 2005, who are influenced by bands such as Tool, Biffy Clyro and Smashing Pumpkins. Drummer Peter is a 1st year Computing student in Kevin St. The J-Walkers only came together in 2009, despite the two main songwriters writing tunes together since secondary school. Frontman Steven Cassells is a 4th year Building Services Student in Bolton St.

A Futurist Theatre recently released their debut album Caviar to Pigs to some critical acclaim. Frontman Ruairi is studying Mathematical Sciences (2nd year) in Kevin Street.

Hard-rock act Aggro-Culture have been together for 2 months, but the songs have been around for longer, having already been written and recorded by the bands frontman. Lead guitarist Daffyd is in Bolton St studying Mechanical Engineering.

The competition is sponsored by Elektra Studios, and tickets are available from DIT Students Union shops in the Aungier Street, Kevin St, Cathal Brugha St, Mountjoy Square and Bolton Street campuses for €7 in advance, or €10 at the door.

As part of our promotional effort, we also put on a free show by Chequerboard in the DIT Aungier Street Students Union stage on Tuesday 28th April from 1.2pm.

For more information on the final of Battle of the Bands contact:
Dave Sheehan
Email: gisocdit@gmail.com

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Radio soc welcomes Ray D’Arcy

Caoimhseach Connolly tells DIT’ News about the newly formed Radio Society and their first guest speaker, TV and radio presenter Ray D’Arcy

The Radio Soc is a new society to DIT this year; it was founded by the third year students of the BA Media Arts course. The society’s highlight of the year was a guest appearance by Today FM’s Ray D’Arcy.

On the 1st of April 2009, the function area of the School of Media DIT Aungier Street was brimming with excited students and staff members alike, who were ready to relive some nostalgic moments. This popular radio personality is inevitably known for his nine year spell as the presenter of RTE’s The Den. And the nostalgic moments were plentiful.

Ray spoke of the many skits that he performed with his pair of zany side-kick puppets Zig and Zag, saying how whenever he was dressed up for performing a skit he was often more embarrassed to be seen walking the halls of RTE dressed in the comical attire, as opposed to being live on television to an audience of thousands.

He explained how he started out in his broadcasting career at the age of fifteen and the creative process he undertook when he applied for the presenter position on The Den.

The interview also covered more serious topical matters as well. He answered questions on the Ray D’Arcy Show’s involvement in Conor Casby’s satirical portraits of An Taoiseach Brian Cowen and he also shared his views on current the speculation of the next face of RTE’s Late Late Show.

To hear the interview with Ray D’Arcy in full, tune into The Big Show on DIT FM 97.3, on Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th of April from 1-2pm.

All the world’s a stage

Lorna Geraghty looks back on the Drama Society Festival and the talent displayed by the students of DIT.

To review the drama society festival was one of the biggest challenges I have faced as a theatre goer, an actor, a director and a drama student. I didn’t know what to expect as a judge of the festival and was awed at what I received: two full weeks of extremely organised plays that honest to god could have received Oscars.

I don’t want to reference anyone play, or character for that matter, as I feel I’d be here all day congratulating many of the talented actors and backstage crew that the festival put forward.

The festival contained original and extravagant work. Where certain creativity and organisation lacked, it was however clear that the process of making the play was enjoyed by the students. As Augusto Boal says what defines the difference between amateur dramatic and professional work is that the amateur is more concentrated on the process of the actors, directors, stage crew, etc. (and rightly so) where as the professional is concentrated on the end result for the audience; any thing that happened before is irrelevant.

It was wonderful to see how much the students had enjoyed their time in the drama society; this could particularly be seen on the festival award night, where all the hard work was embellished by close friends.

From having the honour of being a judge at this years drama society festival I could but no more highly recommend that every DIT student who likes the dramatic arts needs to preferably join the society, and if that is not possible to certainly support it in seeing its whole hearted productions.

Roll on Drama Society Festival 2010!
The fashion spread is brought to you courtesy of the DIT Toyota Fashion Show, which won 'Best Event' at 2009 Society Awards. The fashion show was held during March in Vicar Street. Proceeds from the show, which is organised, controlled and directed by students of DIT, went to the charity Teen-line Ireland.

All photography by: Gary Fox
www.garyfox.ie
Meet you at the Metro

With the state of the economy going down hill and the Government left looking for ways to save money it could mean the proposed Metro system for Dublin being scrapped.

Jenny Conlon found that some people were not in favour of the Metro plans anyway.

The construction of The Metro North, which is due to commence construction in 2009, is set to cause major disruption to all businesses operating in Dublin’s City Centre if it goes ahead. The proposed route will run from Stephens Green directly to Dublin Airport and then on to the surrounding hinterland.

If it goes ahead it will be good news for some as it will establish Dublin as a truly metropolitan city but for others this could mean the loss of business or livelihood. A concierge at the Fitzwilliam Hotel predicts ‘It will be more convenient from my door to my place of work but not from a business perspective’.

The proposed route is going to cost taxpayers over an estimated 80 million euro and surrounding businesses such as Hotels and services industries will be affected due to road closures and inaccessibility. Horse and Cart Drivers who have lined the Stephens Green Park for generations will be evicted from the area if the proposed Metro is to go ahead. Jim O’Brien describes the degree of this disruption to his future livelihood. The taxi and horse carriages are out of here in May. They are arguing where to put us. We have nowhere to go. We had a meeting in the Hop stores but they never came back to us with anything.”

In addition, Stephens Green will receive an extreme makeover. The historical Fusilier Arch at the front of Stephens Green Park will be removed during the construction only to be replaced by skips and noisy construction equipment. Stephens Green Park is a city centre sanctuary away from the congestion of the city streets. If construction starts over 40 mature trees are expected to be removed from the park to aid the Metro construction. ‘Everyone is devastated especially the public, they are very upset. It was said that they will take 50 trees from the front of the park. I reckon some of the lake will be taken too. People won’t be able to bring their cars near town at all. You are hardly going to pay tax and insurance to leave your car outside your house’, said a local proprietor. While controversy continues over the proposed Metro many believe that the construction may not go ahead due to economic strain at this time.

How to get a free launch

Being in a recession means students have to be thrifter than ever. Brian J. Herron dispenses a little wisdom of his own to this regard.

I’t’s cliquey. It has its moments of pretension. And yes, it can be pedestrian and dull. But I dig the art scene in this city. And you should too.

Here’s why: the launches. Where there is a launch, there will invariably be free booze. And where there is free booze, there go I.

The best thing is, that when stumbling in the apartment door, keys-a-clattering on the laminate floor, rather than admitting to your waiting, propped-up-in-the-bed girlfriend; her knuckles white, tightly gripping the hardback she’s preparing to fire at your head like an errant scud missile, that you’d pissed yet another night away in some seedy bar stuffed full of scrubbers, you’ll be able to proudly exclaim: ‘Babe! I was at an exhibition! Yes! I’m drunk, but I got drunk with art!’

Not that it’ll make a difference; she’ll throw the book anyway. But at least the next day when asked by a co-worker, bruise on the forehead aside, you’ll be able to make your night sound less degenerate and your life more urbane. Nothing like the fragrant seasoning of sophistication to disguise the rotten meat of alcoholism.

A carefully planned evening can mean spending practically zero cash, getting smashed in the company of beautiful hipster girls with names like Angelique and Cocoa, and possibly even contacting some culture in the process.

Thanks to the formerly ubiquitous Celtic Tiger the days of a half glass of horrific red bleaching trading as Côtes du Rhône are gone. These times we’re more likely to find gallery openings being over branded by some ultra-trendy Euro-beer that’s targeting the ultra-trendy over branded scene-sitters in attendance. Although, with the recession maybe the dark days of objectionable plonk will make a comeback. Maybe that’ll make it all feel more authentic.

But how does one iminse oneself into the scene? Easy!

You can find when events are on by watching out for likely looking flyers, posters, and listings. If a flyyer says that an exhibition is running from the 8th of December to the 15th, show up on the 8th at about 6.30 and you won’t go far wrong.

Facebook is great for launch spotting. Keep an eye out on which events people are attending, and if they’re being run by a collective or a gallery join their group.

Monstertruck Gallery and Versus both regularly hold exhibitions, and there’s usually a good turn out.

Foster any contacts you have in NCAD or Dun Laoghaire. They’re bound to have a show every once in a while, or if they’re too crap to exhibit they may know someone who isn’t.

Festivals – they’re the events that you intend to immerse yourself in and say ‘I’m so definitely going to catch loads of the shows this year,’ but by the time you get around to actually buying tickets you’re two months too late and it’s all over, but it was probably anyway – are good targets too. Better, in fact, as they often have major sponsorship from well-known drink companies.

The Jameson Film Festival, the recent DEAF launch, and the Darklight festival, were all good prospects for free grog this year.

Once you know what’s on, pick your day. Getting a day when you can line up three or four events in succession is a good idea. Thursdays seem to be current preference of the art-set, but Wednesdays are also a perennial favourite. It’s important to have a few openings lined up because, while it’s OK to arrive drunk at events, it’s improper to be seen getting sloshed at them. Improvised artists get angry when they think people are getting drunk at their expense. Everyone is there to do that, make no mistake, but we all must work hard to keep up the pretense that we’re there as elite opinion makers.

It’s true that the crowds at these soirées can come off as a little ‘trendier than thou,’ but you have to keep in mind, that these were the kids that got picked on in school. So don’t worry, they’re probably more scared of you than you are them.

The one drawback in all of this is that you might get drunk enough to actually buy one of the atrocious over-priced scribblings that is passed off as art in this city. Or maybe not. I doubt there’s enough free booze in the world for that.
Comment & Opinion

Your one stop shop for career advice

Deciding what to do after college can be hard. An ailing economy does not help matters either, but as Siobhan Connor found out there is only one place to go for advice on jobs and college applications - the DIT Careers Office.

The saying 'your career path depends on what runway you choose to leave from' does hold some strong home truths. In these tumultuous times, getting your foot in the door of any career or Masters course is a difficult and daunting task.

As a final year student myself, I decided to visit the D.I.T. Careers Office in April to see if they could assist me with my Master applications and job interviews. I was not disappointed with their advice and help. The dedication and helpfulness of the staff is next to none and I gathered some valuable information and tips on how to tailor my C.V. towards different jobs.

Looking back, it is clear that my visit gave me invaluable advice which helped me create a new and up to date C.V. As an outgoing person, I was surprised to hear that I was underselling myself on my C.V. (Usually I have no problem talking about myself!)

The Careers Office also have a detailed portfolio of sample C.V.'s, interview questions and letters of motivation for students to use as templates. Mock interviews can also be arranged if you book in advance. This is a great way to learn how to present yourself in a confident and professional manner.

Constructive feedback is given and the overall process gives you the extra practice needed so that when the real interview arrives, you can sell your skills and experience well.

Getting in contact is easy. Simply drop into your local Careers Office and arrange an appointment. Keep an eye out in your library for free career advice flyers and C.V. templates.

A far cry from Aungier Street

Direct from Columbia journalism student Louise Tierney gives the lowdown on her student exchange experience in the University of Missouri.

There are 4012 miles and 6 hours separating Missouri and Dublin. You would not expect this journey to merit 30 hours of travel. Then again, you are not fully entitled to complain about the length of your journey when you book your flights to the country you have been trying to get into for over a year a week and a half before you are due to arrive.

My first truly “American” experience was visiting Wal-Mart, king of the supermarket world. It was not until the second visit to the giant store that it sank in. There actually were “greeters” at the doors. These are people whose sole job role is to say hello to people. This was only the first of many suggestions that Americans do not do anything by halves.

The university orientation was an attack of Americanization or more specifically Missourization than an introduction to the country. From the Bluegrass band playing in the welcoming hall that seemed so impossibly stereotypically. With the University President getting the entire room to perform the Mizzou cheer, it was clear from the start that we were not in Aungier Street anymore.

I didn’t have any particular preconceived notions of the American lifestyle outside of what television programmes portray, the first five minutes of the first lecture made it clear that this was not going to be a J1 summer.

With weekly reading requirements equaling entire semester’s worth of readings for courses at home, group projects and daily online quizzes, the workload karma for every class I had ever missed, not only in college, but taking secondary and national school into account as well.

My first American exam changed my opinion of their education system slightly. In the place of the essay questions of Irish exams were multiple choice, fill in the blank and true or false questions. The exam just about stopped short of asking us to join the dots to get answers.

If the typically dressed Mizzou student were to set foot in D.I.T., they would be chased out of Aungier Street by the time they could reach Java. Even the O’Neills tracksuit bottoms and county wearers in Bolton Street would have something to say about the dress sense here.

Firstly it seems like there is an unwritten rule that you cannot set foot on campus without Mizzou written somewhere on your clothes. Ideally you should be clad head to toe in the weirdly ill fitting Mizzou branded sports gear. Once you get back the initial shock of thinking you forgot to wear a school uniform do begin to notice the sense of school spirit that people seem to have for Mizzou.

American college students seem to lack any element of cynicism for anything and are without doubt the most enthusiastic group of people I have ever met. The day of Obama’s inauguration was like Christmas meets Paddy’s day rolled into Rag Week. People here were so excited.

Huge crowds gathered around televisions throughout the campus, lecturers ended classes early; people were watching videos of the event on YouTube for days in lectures. There really is a sense of belief here that this man is going to change the world. Obama himself actually visited the college a week before the election in November and clearly left an impact on the students here.

Mizzou boasts an overwhelmingly impressive campus -18,021 acres in total. The main campus alone is 1,358 acres. To examine this in an Irish context, the UCD campus is 365 acres. Along with its sheer size the facilities Mizzou has to offer includes one of the top gym in the country and more libraries than you can count. The gym has two Olympic size swimming pools to offer, and the main library rivals the national library of Ireland in size. Last year Mizzou Alumni raised over 1 billion dollars to build a new basketball stadium.

Local entertainment however leaves much to be desired and brings me back to my karma theory that I’m paying now for the nights out over the years that may have resulted in missed lectures. Columbia itself, where the university is situated is a ridiculously small town that is not that different to Irish towns in terms of entertainment. We have two night clubs and you need a car to get to the cinema.

To put it in context: Missouri - essentially a more enthusiastic version of Offaly.
Budget doesn’t bode well for students

A rise in fees and fags, among other things, makes student Clare Cullen very unhappy at the moment and she knows exactly who to blame.

In late 2007, the budget put up the price of cigarettes to over seven euro. I was paying more for a packet of cigarettes than I was for a return adult bus fare to Co. Kildare. So I gave up smoking, thinking I was clever and that the budget “couldn’t get me now!” As I and all the other students in the country now know, I was wrong, so wrong.

I am originally from the West of Ireland. I am studying in Dublin. As I come from divorced parents, I get the education grant from the Government. (Which I am grateful for, please don’t take that away from me too!) My grant is around the four thousand mark for the year. My rent this year alone was six thousand euro. My capitation fees were 950, my deposit on my flat was 850, and although I didn’t have to pay electricity bills extra I still had living expenses.

Since the recession hit, it has been hard to get a part-time job. Since the recession started worsening, it’s been nigh impossible. I have applied to over thirty jobs, with only one call-back for interview. There were others interviewing too, however, so whether or not I get the job is very uncertain, considering I am a student and there were people applying to that job with degrees, and age experience. Jobs in pubs are supposed to be students’ jobs, jobs we get to keep us going through college. Teachers and Architects and Accountants should not be applying for bar work—its just wrong!

So far this year has been a staggering deficit for me and my finances, with decreased income and increased expenditure.

When I gave up cigarettes, I thought I was out of the governments reach. I never realised the Government would just find some other way to extract money from my empty purse. Just before the budget came out I failed my driving test, and after the budget the price to book it had soared from 60 to 75, almost 100% increase! I want to get my licence to increase my chances of getting a job, but having spent over 400 on the required amount of lessons, 400 on booking the test and 40 on renting the driving schools car to take the test the first time, I am in no fiscal position to try again, especially not now.

Let’s not forget fees. I know everyone is sick of hearing about fees, but we students are sick of being victimised and taken advantage of just because “there is nothing we can do about it”. The government needs to realise that there is something we can do about it, we can go elsewhere. The pull to get education in Ireland was that there were no fees, but if, or when, they come back in we can all just fly out. If we have to pay fees here, we might as well take to the skies and go pay fees somewhere sunny and less dreary and dismal.

The defence used by the government is that fees are “means-tested”. What this means, in reality, is that those who cannot afford the fees will not have to pay them, those who can afford them will, and those who are just above the mark to qualify for the lower category will be left out in the cold, making too much money to qualify for free fees but not enough to be able to afford to pay the fees. Let’s not forget, also, that the capitation fee has been increased.

“So far, this year has been a staggering deficit for me and my finances with decreased income and increased expenditure”

Goody gone but won’t be forgotten

With plans of a musical about her life, one woman dominated the headlines so far this year. However Siobhan Connor believes it’s time the Jade Goody circus moved town.

Saturday March 4th 2009 was the final instalment in the Jade Goody story. Goody’s funeral encapsulated her life by allowing her one last opportunity to showcase herself to the media. The funeral was broadcast live on Sky news and made front page headlines in newspapers and magazines the following week. Goody’s carefully orchestrated funeral was planned with precision and sought to provide the media with one last chance to cover her death.

Goody, who first made her name by being a contestant on the Big Brother reality TV show in 2003, had a tumultuous ride on the celebrity life rollercoaster. Often disparaged by the media for her lack of intelligence and wit, Goody captured the hearts of the general public who could associate with the Essex girl who epitomised the fairy tale story of rags to riches. The reality TV star whose father died from a heroin overdose and whose mother has long-term health problems, found herself accepted by the public as a girl who was honest and guileless.

Highlights of Goody’s life included opening her own beauty salon and launching her own perfume. Success was short-lived and Goody was swiftly removed from her reality TV pedestal in 2007 when she racially abused Bollywood star Shilpa Shetty on the Celebrity Big Brother show.

The media furore against Goody following her brief stint on Celebrity Big Brother portrayed the malevolent style of relationship the media had with Goody. PR damage control was in place when Goody appeared on the Indian version of Celebrity Big Brother in 2008 to atone and to also regain the publics’ approval. It was during her appearance on that show Goody learned she had cervical cancer.

Whilst Goody can be credited for raising awareness of cervical cancer, it is now time the media let her story rest. The media circus should move on to another town and cover more pressing and relevant issues. Let Saturday March 4th 2009 be the final removal of Goody from the limelight.

Goody above won’t be forgotten if the tabloids have their way.
Travel

Bustling Budapest gets the thumbs up

A city of unique culture & heritage, spas and wellness, food and wine.
Sandra Gaffney reports from Budapest which offers a unique combination of a Mediterranean atmosphere and age old character.

On arrival in Budapest the students took a city bus tour, the best way to see a city on your first day. The bus journeyed past world heritage sites such as Andrassy Avenue, the Danube Embankment and Budapest Castle and gave the group a bird’s eye view of sights they may like to visit later. On the Buda side Gellért Hill offers spectacular views of the city and the 400 roomed Parliament building which dominates the landscape on the Pest side.

Although the students had a set itinerary there was plenty of time to do their own thing both day and night. Some took a boat trip on the ‘Blue Danube’, which was made all the more enjoyable with cups of steaming hot chocolate topped with a dollop of cream, this was the highlight of the trip for Rosita Cherlinova.

Others perused the markets munching on tasty ‘tit bits’, visited Budapest’s zoo or hit the shops hunting for bargains. The city comes alive at night with entertainment to suit all, and by all accounts ‘Budapest rocks’.

Budapest is ranked among the most attractive cities of the world and it doesn’t disappoint. The city can be compared to Prague and Vienna, its major tourism competitors, and the developments and renovations are evident throughout the city are testament to the future of this pearl in the Danube. The Architecture in Budapest has strong central European influences throughout the city and reminded some students of their home towns.

The 6 million annual visitors to Budapest can enjoy an eclectic mix of historical monuments, famous spas, theatres and ecclesiastical buildings, top class hotels such as the Four Seasons, concert halls, markets, parks and squares.

There are a variety of shops restaurants, legendary coffee houses and bars nestled in downtown streets, offering ‘delectable Hungarian delights’ at the right price and yes, there is a McDonald’s if the local cuisine is not to your taste.

On returning home and reflecting on the visit the students could appreciate how history has left its mark on this charming city and its inhabitants. It would be interesting to visit again at some time in the future to see what changes there are both in the city and its people.

Is Budapest worth visiting? Yes, and bring an extra few bob, there are plenty of bargains to be had.
Russia’s capital has been drawing tourists for centuries with its museums, art galleries, historic sites, and palaces are strewn throughout the city. Here’s a small selection of the best:

It may sound like comy tourist bait, but a good way to ease into your trip is to take a river cruise through the city. Lots of locals take the tours, bringing bags of beer cans and spending the afternoons sunning on the open-decked boats. There are a variety of tours to choose from along the Moskva River, with some operating a useful hop-on-off ticket.

However you feel about the river cruise, don’t miss the Metro. Metro stations in Moscow are famed for their breathtaking architecture, with stations differing widely in their style and subject. Some of the best are: Mayakovskaya, Novokuznetskaya, Ploschad Revolyutsii, Komsomolskaya, and Taganskaya. Note though that photography is forbidden in Metro stations. The trains are very frequent so are useful for city centre navigation, although the web-like layout may not suit you.

As the 53rd Eurovision Song Contest takes place in Moscow in May, Susan Ryan profiles the Russian capital and tells DIT News what visitors can expect.

Queuing for Kremlin museums is an art form. You have to be in the right queue at the right time for the release of tickets to the tour for the museum you want to see that day. This system could shorten your life so it’s best to check what is open and of interest to you on the days you are planning to be by the Kremlin. One particularly stunning museum is the State Diamond Fund Museum which houses some truly exquisite jewels, including Catherine the Great’s stunning crown. It’s in the same building as the Armoury; you could coordinate the two.

If you don’t feel it’s too grotesque, a free visit to Lenin’s Tomb is essential when in Moscow. Lenin’s embalmed body lies in an impressive mausoleum in Red Square, in sight of both old Moscow and the new - St Basil’s basilica sits to the south and the extravagant shops of the GUM store sit to the north. Queuing early for the tomb is worthwhile. The mausoleum is guarded outside and in, and visitors should know that it is completely unacceptable to take photographs, laugh or loiter. The stream of visitors is kept in constant flux so you literally walk right through the mausoleum, past the coffin. The queue may have taken you an hour and a half; the visit takes 15 minutes. It’s a very eerie and surreal experience, but can you really come this far and not clap eyes on the father of the Soviet Union?

St Basil’s Cathedral is one of the most easily identifiable of Russian sites. The ornate basilica is open to visitors, although an extra fee is charged for taking photos inside. The highest floors offer great views of the city and most of the building is very well preserved and restored.

The Russian circus is an incredible experience and puts all Irish attempts to woeful shame. The circus is a long-standing Russian tradition, housed in a permanent conical building with an interchangeable floor which switches from a trampoline to sand to water to ice. Shows change every season. The “Circus on prospect Vernadskovo” is one half of the famous Moscow State Circus, although tickets must be bought from the box office (www.bolshoicircus.ru).

A visa is vitally important for any trip to Russia and must be obtained from the Russian Embassy in Dublin before travelling. The embassy is located at 184-186 Orwell Road, Rathgar, a ten minute walk from the Windy Arbour Luas stop. Check out their website: www.dublin.rusembassy.org for details as to opening hours, prices and visa requirements, and expect to queue, so go early. Visitors need to register again upon arrival in Moscow which means giving your passport to the hostel or hotel for registration (this may take overnight).
Above photograph by: Ciara O'Halloran 2nd year B.A. Photography.
The image is from a sequence of photographs titled "Little Red". The images are trying to show how children's books have helped in the development of our own imaginations and creativity.

Above photograph by second year photography student Catherine Coleman. The image was taken at a sailing race in Dun Laoghaire.

Above photo: 'Abundance' by Aoife O'Donnell year 3 B.A. Photography
Description: The image derived from a collaborative project with fellow DIT student Anna O'Hare from the project entitled Imagined Communities: National Identity. The image which is part of a triptych was influenced by 17th Century Dutch still life paintings, in the sense that it highlights the value we place on material goods. It describes Ireland as a nation that up until recently enjoyed a thriving economy which our population over-indulged upon.
Above photo is titled 'Doll Face'.
The image is a studio image shot a few months ago, by Rebecca Kinsella, where the central theme was romance.

Above photo by 2nd year photography student Stephen Comiskey. Image entitled: Pride of the Peacock.

Left:
Title of photo: 'Passing Place' by Aileen Miller 2nd year photography student.
Description: Taken on the road to Tongue, near Thurso, in the Highlands of Scotland. Inspired by the play of the same name by Stephen Greenhorn.
Health & Wellbeing

20,000 a month logging on to teenbetween.ie

Teenagers who have been affected by the break-up of their parents’ relationship should not bottle up their feelings, as this can affect their studies and involvement in out-of-school activities.

That’s according to Teen Between, a support service operated by the Marriage and Relationship Counselling Service (MCRS).

According to Francesca McGuinn, Counsellor with Teen Between, “The economic downturn is contributing to increased pressures on relationships: job losses, income reductions and lack of security are tipping points for many couples. Now that we have entered exam term, it’s important that teenagers access all of the help available to them so that they can concentrate on things other than their parents’ relationship difficulties.”

Teen Between offers a web-resource whereby teenagers and young adults can secure general advice and information (www.teenbetween.ie). The Teen Between website was launched in November 2008 and currently secures an average of 20,000 hits per month.

In addition, Teen Between offers teenagers a support service whereby they can talk to a professional counsellor. As a proportion of the overall numbers seeking professional counselling from MCRS, teenagers now comprise eight per cent of the client-base, an increase of three per cent on last year.

“It is our experience that adolescents are the age group most affected when parental relationships are under strain. That’s not surprising, given that they have significant external pressures to deal with, including exams, decisions about future careers and generally making the transition into adulthood,” said Ms McGuinn.

Recent research – published by Headstrong (The National Centre for Youth Mental Health) – indicates that the majority of young people felt they could not cope with a problem they faced. From a survey conducted by Headstrong, only 38 per cent of young people reported that they were able to cope with the problems they faced, while 10 per cent have had serious problems and did not seek professional help.

“Teen Between gives teenagers an opportunity to access advice and information on our dedicated website. In addition, there’s a facility on the site which allows users to ‘dump’ their problems. Simply giving a teenager the opportunity to express their problem can offer some immediate relief. The site also offers a facility where users can keep a secure personal diary, which allows teenagers to express their feelings in a confidential space,” said Ms. McGuinn.

Dying to be size zero

With around 300,000 people suffering from some kind of eating disorder in Ireland, Jennifer Bannon reports on this serious issue for DIT News.

From Pro-Anorexia websites to Holistic acupuncture, the world of an eating disorder is one that is not only eclectic, but also highly threatening and ominous in the lives of those it consumes. Primarily viewed as a product of fad culture, eating disorders affect a huge percentage of the population, not all of whom care about what size Kate Moss or Keira Knightley was in the latest issue of Image. For many, the origins of this strange and largely inexplicable illness remain unknown to even themselves, but in a society that tars it all with the skinny brush, there is little opportunity for trying. This needs to change.

In Ireland, there are presently an estimated 300,000 people suffering from some form of eating disorder. These disorders range from the most commonly known, such as anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa to those that are currently coming to fore, such as binge and purge, obesity and relapse syndrome. These conditions range in severity, but in broadly speaking terms they are all considered to be part of a wider cycle of internal issues and past experiences. While many explain eating disorders as a size zero based illness, this culture of thinness often plays a minimal role in the development of eating disorders. Most eating disorders are curable and there are various methods available in Ireland for the treatment of all eating related disorders. These treatments include hospitalisation, counselling and holistic treatment.

Treatment depends on the person’s own individual experience and not all treatments will suit all people. This is why it is absolutely essential that the correct provisions be provided by government to treat these disorders. There are presently an astonishingly low 30 beds in the entire country for the treatment of all eating disorders, all of which are based in three Dublin hospitals. This has led many people to explore other routes, such as holistic treatment, acupuncture and talk therapy. Food Diaries, yoga and relaxation classes are all elements of developing areas for treating eating disorders. As Suzanne Horgan, Director and Founder of the Eating Disorders Resource Centre of Ireland, said, ‘there is a complete dismemberment of the mind-body line and it is through positive lifestyle change that this line can be reset.’

Contrary to common belief, eating disorders are not self-inflicted and they can hit anybody, of any age, in any walk of life. They are now a serious issue in Irish society and as they are estimated to affect almost 10% of the population, they are an issue that need addressing. The first step to better understanding an eating disorder is to better understand how common they are and how much help is out there. They are not just a wish to be thin and as long as they are treated as such, they will not get the medical attention that they are long owed.
DIT Men’s Gaelic Football Club held their AGM recently in Bolton Street, with a large crowd present on the day.

The officers of 2009 looked back on the year gone by and it was viewed, by all, as a year of progress. The highlight, of course, was the Senior team reaching the Sigerson Cup final for the first time ever and although CIT ensured their quest for success ended in failure, they will be doing everything they can to try and go one step further next year.

Away from the Sigerson team, there was plenty more action with six teams competing in 24 matches over the course of the year. The Senior B’s were crowned Leinster Champions, while the Intermediate’s topped the Division Three league. The latter’s achievement means they will be up against mainly Trench Cup opposition next year in the league and that will be a big challenge for them.

Also at the meeting, it was decided that next year’s membership fee to join the Men’s GAA Club will be set at €10.

After much discussion, the officers for next year were decided and they are as follows:

Chairman: James McEvoy (Crosserlough, Cavan) Property Economics
Secretary: Kevin Diffley (Ballymahon, Longford) Accounting & Finance
Treasurer: Darragh Smyth (Bective, Meath) Accounting & Finance
PRO: Alan O’Mara (Baileborough Shamrocks, Cavan) Journalism
Registrar: Ciarán Hickey (St. Sylvesters, Dublin) Engineering

UTAER BAKN
COLLEGES
ALL-STAR TEAM

DIT had four players selected on the 2009 Ulster Bank Colleges All-Star Team. After reaching the final for the first time, it came as no surprise that the college obtained the second most amount of recipients in the country.

The players who were acknowledged were:
1. Eoin Somerville: Goalkeeper (Construction Management) (St. Oliver Plunketts Eoghan Ruadh, Dublin)
2. Michael Burke: Corner Back (Retail Management) (Longwood, Meath)
3. Paul Flynn: Full Forward (Plumbing Apprentice) (Fingallians, Dublin)
4. Kevin McManamon: Corner Forward (Msc Strategic Management) (St. Judes, Dublin)

The awards night, where both the hurlers and footballers were honoured, took place on April 20th at the Ulster Bank’s headquarters, on Georges Quay.

Ulster Bank Rising Stars 2009 - Football

1. Eoin Somerville (DIT and Dublin)
2. Michael Burke (DIT and Meath)
3. Ray Carey (Cork IT and Cork)
4. Conor O’Driscoll (Cork IT and Cork)
5. Tom Waberton (UCD and Westmeath)
6. Aidan O’Sullivan (Cork IT and Kerry)
7. Gareth Bradshaw (NUIG and Galway)
8. Paul O’Flynn (Cork IT and Cork)
9. Declan McKiernan (St. Pats and Cavan)
10. John Connellan (NUIG and Westmeath)
11. Paul Kerrigan (Cork IT and Cork)
12. Shane McCarthy (Cork IT and Cork)
13. Daniel Goulding (Cork IT and Cork)
14. Paul Flynn (DIT and Dublin)
15. Kevin McManamon (DIT and Dublin)
Six DIT soccer players nominated for World University Games 2009

Six members of the DIT Soccer Club have been nominated for the Irish Soccer Team for the World University Games to be held in Belgrade, Serbia in July.

The World University Games are held every two years and in 2007 the games were held in Thailand with 4 DIT students representing both the men's and ladies soccer team's. Paul Whelan captained the Irish Team in Thailand and along with Stephen Roche and Killian Gallagher made up DIT's representative's. Rachel Jenkin's represented the DIT ladies Soccer Team on the Irish Squad who lost out to eventual winner's China at the quarter final stage.

This year the nominations are:

Paul Whelan – Monaghan Utd, CFAI National Squad 09, World University Games 07.

Conor Mc Mahon – Monaghan Utd, CFAI National Squad 09.

David O’Sullivan – Sporting Fingal, CFAI National Squad 09.

Stephen Roche – Greystones, CFAI National Squad 09, World University Games 07.

Dean Zambra – Bray Wanderer's, CFAI National Squad 09.

Killian Gallagher – Belgrove, World University Games 07.

Trials will be held on April 29th to select the squad that will travel to the University of Belgrade in Serbia on June 25 2009.

DIT soccer introduces community coaching programme in North inner city

FAI Facilitator for DIT John O’Carroll and FAI Community Development Officer Christy Lougheed for the North Inner City have initiated a community coaching programme linking in with the Dominic Street Community Group in the North Inner City.

Coaching started on April 20th and will run for 4 weeks up until May 11th. Over the 4 weeks 4 DIT Soccer Scholarship recipients will be coaching this group of 20+ kids both boys and girls ranging in age from 5-12. As this is the first step the soccer club have taken in community involvement it is being run on a pilot basis up until the end of the current term.

It would be the clubs intention to run additional community coaching programme’s again in the next academic year term linking in with Dominic Street group and other community groups in both the north and south side of the city.

All the student coaches have a minimum of Kick Start 1 coaching qualification which is an introduction to soccer coaching and are undertaking the community coaching as part of the conditions of their sports scholarship.

If any students are interested in getting involved in community and both primary and secondary school coaching for the academic year 2009/2010 please contact John O’Carroll on 086 7954371 or email: john.ocarroll@fai.ie

On behalf of the DIT Soccer Club we would like to congratulate Paul on his award and achievements throughout his time at DIT.

Paul Whelan receives DIT Sports All-Star Award 2009

Paul Whelan received one of only two All-Star Awards handed out at the DIT Sports Awards in Croke Park on April 23rd. Paul is in his final year studying Property Economics.

Paul’s soccer achievements while studying in DIT include:

DIT Sports Scholarship recipient 2006-2009
DIT Premier Team Captain 2007-2009
CFAI National Squad – 2006-2009
World University Games - 2007
World University Games (nominated) 2009
Monaghan Utd Senior Team – 2005 to present.

DIT Karting perform well in Longford

By: Thomas Maguire

Above: The DIT Karting Club outside the Midland Karting Track in Longford.

DIT’s round of the 2009 Karting Intervarsity took place at Midland Karting County Longford on Tuesday 21th April. The event was organised by DIT and 30 drivers were in attendance from DCU and Tallaght I.T.

The season ended on a high note with an excellent grand prix taking place on what must be a contender for the warmest day of the year so far. The sunshine was a welcome change from the hailstones and almost torrential showers experienced at the same fixture last year.

DIT teams A and B performed well with very few points between them at the end of the days racing. An incident in the last of the four qualifying heats cost DIT team A dearly with jostling at the first corner resulting in many Karters losing valuable seconds and James Dalton almost becoming airborne.

Two fifty-fifty decisions by the race official went against DIT, leading to two drivers being docked seconds without any warning by the marshals.

Ultimately costing Higginbotham and Sweetnam a place in the final. Despite this DIT were well represented in the final by Chris Armstrong, Carl White and Cormac O’Neill all of who fought well throughout.

Willie Cogney won the final clinching the points to give first place to DCU with the DIT team A and B closely following in second and third overall. It was a great effort by the DIT teams and a special mention must go to first year Cormac O’Neill who came second in the final and claimed the fastest lap on the day on his first time at the venue.

This concludes this year’s intervarsity but with talented young drivers coming through and a clean sweep of fresh faces taking over the committee there is much to look forward to next year. We’d like to thank everyone who came to the trips and helped out all year and hope to see most of you out in September.
DIT soccer players secure the treble with the CFAI National Squad 2009

The College Football Association of Ireland (CFAI) National Squad for 2009 secured a clean sweep of victories in their annual representative fixture’s against the best of FAS, The Defence Forces and the Irish Universities Football Union (IUFU) national squad.

DIT had the best representation of any College in the CFAI squad with five player’s making up the twenty man squad. Four of these players, Paul Whelan, Conor Mc Mahon, Stephen Roche and David O’Sullivan made the starting 11 in the final game against the IUFU.

**CFAI 6 FAS Cabra 0**

The CFAI National Team played their first match of the season on Wednesday, April 8th with FAS Cabra providing the opposition in a warm-up match for the annual matches due to take place against the Defence Forces and the Irish Universities team. DIT were heavily represented with 5 players taking part in the afternoon’s proceedings, Dean Zambra, David O’Sullivan (Captain for the day), Paul Whelan, Stephen Roche and Conor McMahon respectively.

The game began at a brisk pace with FAS Cabra shading the early possession without having many opportunities at goal. CFAI eased their way into the match and created some extremely good openings without being able to breach a stubborn FAS defence. Just before half-time CFAI got their reward when a slack throw-out by the FAS goalkeeper was latched upon by Rory Kiely and he centred for Kevin Cornwall to slot home. This was immediately followed by another lightning break from CFAI which resulted in a second for the students. These two strikes seemed to demoralise FAS who would have been relieved to hear the half-time whistle when it came.

CFAI started the second-half in a similar fashion which saw them totally dominate their opposition, adding four more goals after the break in what turned into a facile victory for the team with DIT’s David O’Sullivan and Stephen Roche finding their way onto the score-sheet. Dean Zambra, Paul Whelan and Conor McMahon defended admirably to trouble the CFAI team without being able to breach a stubborn FAS defensive line.

**CFAI 3 Irish Defence Forces 0**

The College Football Association of Ireland (CFAI) team emerged victorious in the competitive curtain-raiser to their season on a gloomy Wednesday evening in Whitehall. The starting line-up contained three representatives from DIT with David O’Sullivan, Dean Zambra and Conor McMahon with Stephen Roche unlucky to only secure a place on the substitute’s bench.

The CFAI team started reasonably well but were not allowed to settle into their usually slick passing game by an eager Defence Forces team. Clear-cut chances were at a premium and it took a pin-point accurate pass from DIT’s Dean Zambra to unlock a well-organised Defence Forces defensive line and release Kevin Cornwall who calmly slotted home to break the deadlock.

The breakthrough did not diminish the enthusiasm of the Defence Forces who continued to challenge the CFAI team without creating many goal-scoring opportunities. With the game evenly poised, it took a mazy dribble from Garda College’s Kevin Williamson to invite a rash challenge from the Defence Forces right-back and earn CFAI a penalty which was duly converted by the Captain, Paul Doohan from Letterkenny IT.

The CFAI team now had the momentum and took advantage with a quickfire third goal from DIT’s David O’Sullivan who placed the ball home after a good passing move. This proved a sucker punch for the Defence Forces from which they never truly recovered. The second half continued to be quite even but with the three goal advantage for CFAI, the game peters out into a comfortable victory.

This victory sets the squad up nicely for a tough encounter against the Irish Universities team next Wednesday, April 23rd in Belfast. The squad go into the game with plenty of confidence but know they will have to up their performance to gain a result in what promises to be difficult game.
Sporting Highlights for 2008/09

Archery Club
2nd Place Overall in the Intervarsity Championships finishing with the Highest Male and Female Scorers of the League

Basketball Club
DIT Ladies won Division 2 of the Basketball Intervarsity Championships

Boxing Club
1st Place (67kg) in the Novice Boxing Intervarsity Championships
1st Place (67kg) and male sparring in the Senior Boxing Intervarsity Championships

DIT Canoe Club
Gold Medalists in Rodeo, Wild Water and Slalom in Kayaking Intervarsity Championships

DIT Cue Sports Club
Runner Up - All Ireland Snooker Championships
Representation in the Home International Event
Winners of the 8 Ball Leinster IV League

Downhill Mountain Biking
2nd Place in the Irish National Champions
Represented Ireland in the world champions and the world cup

DIT Men’s Gaelic Football Club
Finalists in the prestigious Sigerson Cup

DIT Ladies Gaelic Football Club
Runners up in the equally prestigious Lynch Cup

DIT Handball Club
Numerous accolades in the All-Ireland Intervarsity Championships

DIT Hockey Club
Winners of the Mixed Hockey Colleges/Universities Championships

DIT Judo Club
Won numerous medals at the Judo Intervarsity Championships

DIT Karting Club
Runners up in the Dublin Intervarsity Event

DIT Mountaineering Club
3rd place overall in the team event and 1st in the male category of the Climbing Intervarsity Championships

DIT Orienteering Club
Gold Medalist – Orienteering Intervarsity Championship & Fell Mountain Running

DIT Sailing Club
10th - World Championships Team Sailing in Perth and numerous placings in the various Sailing Intervarsity Events
DIT Shotokan Karate
Numerous accolades at Kyoshi O’Connor Tournament

DIT Ski Club
1st Place in Ski Slalom, men’s Snowboarding Slalom at the Ski Intervarsities

DIT Swimming & Waterpolo Club
Gold and Silver Medalist – Swimming Intervarsity Championships
Waterpolo Intervarsity Champions
Representation on the Celtic Nations Team
Silver and bronze medalists – Celtic Nations

DIT Tae Kwon Do Club
Silver & Bronze Medalists – Sparing Event in the Internationals

DIT Rugby Club
Qualified for Semi Finals of the Division 1 Irish Rugby Colleges League and a number of players represented DIT on the Irish Colleges and the Leinster Colleges Teams

DIT Ultimate Frisbee Club
Competed successfully in the Indoor and Outdoor Intervarsity Championships

DIT Windsurfing Club
Gold Medalist - Irish Wave Intervarsity in March 2009.
ACHIEVEMENTS 2008–2009

DIT Archery Club
Results from UCD Intervarsities
Team came 1st beating UCD by 1 point

Individuals
1st Place Compound Section
Harry Lyster
2nd Place Recurve Section
Niall Doyle
3rd Place Compound Section
John Smith

1st Place Female Recurve
Mairead Cuthbert
3rd Place Female Recurve
Charlotte Maguire

Results from DCU Intervarsity:
1st in the DCU IV

Individuals
1st Harry Lyster Grace Yeat (K St)
2nd Sarah Deegan Bolton St
3rd John Smith Bolton St

Results from Dundalk Intervarsity:
2nd in team event

Compound
Harry Lyster 1st place
Sarah Deegan 3rd place
Male Recurve
Niall Doyle 2nd
Female Recurve
Mairead Cuthbert 3rd
Female Beginner
Claire Michelle Daly 1st place

DIT Basketball
DIT Ladies won Division 2

DIT Boxing Club
Novice Boxing Intervarsities - UCC
1st Place in 67kg weight
Category
Paddy Kelly (Bolton St)

Senior Boxing Intervarsities - UCD
1st Place in 67kg weight
Category
Brian Daly (Bolton St)

1st place male sparring

DIT Canoe Club
Kayaking Intervarsities
1st in Rodeo
Mark Leonard
4th in Rodeo
Dave Crerar
1st in Wild water
Eamon Rheinisch

1st in Slalom
Eamon Rheinisch

DIT Cue Sports Club
Snooker Intervarsities
Paul Ennis, (DIT Snooker Scholar) reached the finals of the All Ireland Snooker Championships in a field of eight players with great wins over former Irish International Steven O’Reilly 2-nil and former all Ireland under 18s/21s Champion Tom McKeown in an exciting semi final 2-1 with great wins over former Irish international Steven O’Reilly 2-nil and former all Ireland under 18s/21s champion Tom McKeown in an exciting semi-finals 2-1.

HESP Sc Pool Intervarsities
James McDonald from DIT Bolton St reached the quarter finals in the HESP Sc Pool Intervarsity event.

8 Ball Leinster IV League
Team in quarter finals, finals day
1st April in UCD

DIT Cycling Club
Results, Free Flow Race – Downhill, Sugarloaf Mountains
sport
3rd No 122 James Maguire
21st No 133 Earl McClenaghan

Experts
14th No 141 Luke Beattie

Elite
3rd No 252 Ger Wolfe
5th No 245 Karl O Sullivan

DIT Equestrian Intervarsities
DIT had 2 Teams competing in this years event in Dressage and Showjumping in Broadmeadows Equestrian Centre in Ashbourne, Co. Meath.
Sarah Glynn (Aungier St) 2nd overall in the Dressage Section and Anna Dunne came 4th overall in the Show Jumping event.

DIT Men’s GAA
Finalists in the Sigerson Cup, lost to CIT by 5 points

DIT Hockey Club
Winners of the Mixed Hockey Tournament in UUJ, Belfast

DIT Judo Club
Judo Intervarsities
Throw of the Day David Kane
1st place Mens -100kg

Daire McCabe
2nd place Mens +100kg
Richard Kiernan
3rd place Mens – 81kg
Michael McKenna
3rd place Mens Middle Kyu
Richard Kiernan
2nd place Women’s – 71kg
Sophie Lehun

DIT Ladies Football
DIT Ladies Football Club are in the Lynch Cup Semi Final against UCD
(2) in UUJ, Belfast

DIT Mountaineering Club
Climbing Intervarsities
1st in Male Category
Richard Sandes

DIT Orienteering
1st in Intervarsity
1st in Fell Mountain Running

DIT Sailing Club
Results of DIT Sailing Club
1st in Easterns,
1st two trips to England,
2nd UCD invitational,
2nd in Southern
2nd Recession Invitational.
10th World Championships in Perth.

4th Western
3rd Varsity

DIT Shotokan Karate
Kyoshi O’Connor Tournament in Galway
1st place female kata
2nd place male kata
1st place male kata
2nd place male sparring

DIT Ski Club
Ski Intervarsities
1st Place in ski Slalom Women’s
Laura Sands (Postgrad Aungier St)

DIT Waterpolo beat Queens University 16 – 1 in the waterpolo intervarsity.

Other notable achievements include:

- 18 week training sessions with over 60 active members in attendance
- Organised a number of bleep tests to monitor player fitness levels
- Offered new Tag Rugby training sessions
- Revived the Gleeson Cup after a full period of four years.
- Five players represented DIT and played on the Leinster Colleges side that won the Inter-Provincial Championship and one player went on to play for the Irish Colleges side that finished second in the Colleges 6 Nations Tournament
- And finally their 7’s side team has qualified through the Leinster regional qualifiers for the All Ireland 7’s Finals, to be played next week.

Long Outstanding Contribution to Sport at DIT

Padraig Mahon – Rugby Club

Outstanding Contribution to Sport at DIT

Student Members
Pat Carolyn – Mountaineering Club
Sarah Deegan – Archery Club
Paddy Lindstrom – Judo Club
Keith Rogers – Gaelic Football Club
Michael O’Keefe – Hurling Club

Staff Members
Colm Gercy – Wada Ryu Club
Adrian Cummins – Hurling Club

DIT Waterpolo beat Queens University 16 – 1 in the waterpolo intervarsity.

DIT Rugy
Snr Team lost in the Semi Finals of the Irish Rugby Colleges League to Carlow
2nd Team lost in the quarter finals of Div 2 Cup to IT Tralee

Gleeson Cup Competition – Nothside Colleges v’s Southside Colleges
Southside beat Northside 33 - 4

DIT Ultimate Frisbee Club
Siege of Limerick Tournament
8th place out of 22 Teams

DCU Whacking Day Beginners Tournament
Woman’s division team 3rd place out of 5 teams
Open division – 8th place out of 16 teams

Irish Indoor Varsitys
Day 1:
Team 1, finished 5th out of 12 teams
Team 2, finished 12th but won the spirit prize
Day 2:
Woman’s division finished 3rd out of 7 teams

Uni League – round 1
3rd place out of 7 colleges
DIT Sports stars shine at awards night

This year's annual sports awards to acknowledge the achievements of Sports Clubs, Teams and Individuals were hosted in Croke Park last night.

Guests in attendance on the night included President Professor Brian Norton, our prestigious guest speaker Bernard Dunne, the new WBA Super-Bantamweight World Champion and all of the sports coaching personnel/volunteers, and of course members of the DIT Sports Clubs - the Students!

Participation in Sports and Recreation Clubs is an integral part of college life and the Sports Awards is an annual event that celebrates the sporting achievements of the year both on and off the playing fields. On the night the outstanding sporting achievements of clubs, teams and individuals were recognised and 14 awards were presented from individual All-Star Awards to the Club of the Year Award and many outstanding contributions to Sport at DIT.

DIT Sports Awards Winners 2008/09

All-Star Awards

Paul Whelan – Soccer Club
• This student has been a Scholarship Recipient for 4 consecutive years 2005 – 2009
• Captain of the DIT Men’s Premier Soccer Team for 3 consecutive years 2006 – 2009
• Selected for the College Football Ass of Ireland national Squad for 4 consecutive years 2005 – 2009
• Selected and captained the Irish team at a World University Games in Thailand 2007
• Nominated for the Irish Team for the World University Games in Serbia 2009
• Regular starter for Monaghan Utd in the Eircom League 1st Div Team 2005 - present

Harry Lyster – Archery Club
• DIT Sports Scholarship Recipient
• This year set new Senior Irish Compound Record at UCD Intervarsity 581/600 beating the previous record of 574/600
• Current Holder of the Irish Student Archery League Compound Record
• Won 4 gold medals and one silver in this year’s Intervarsity League
• Won the Irish National Indoor Championships
• Won the National Student Championship Ships in IT Carlow
• Represented Ireland on an International stage

Club Executive of the Year – Mark Neylon

This student has worked tirelessly and at times single-handedly to increase the profile of the Club
• He was heavily involved in the successful recruitment of record numbers for the club bringing a strength and depth to a growing club
• Organised ski lessons during the year for more than 50 students on the artificial ski slope in Kilternan
• Organised and prepared club members for the intervarsity championships in which the club won 2 gold medals
• He organised ski trip to Tignes in the French Alps for 104 students
• He had sole responsibility for the financing of the trip which involved the handling of almost €100,000 and managed the budget meticulously maintaining all of the Clubs financial records

Most Improved Club of the Year – Archery Club

This Club is now in its seventh year as a fully fledged DIT club
• The participation numbers have increased by 30% this year
• The Club finished 2nd place overall in the Intervarsity League improving on the 4th place achieved in 2008
• The Club achieved 6 individual medals doubling on their medal tally from last year
• This year the highest scoring male and female of the overall Intervarsity league were members of this Club
• The Club currently has 4 scholarship students who are all of elite standard representing both their club and country of which two are members of the Olympic Development Squad for 2012.

Club of the Year – Rugby Club

This Club has been a huge success story for DIT Sport this year; the Club fielded three teams this season
• The 1st team in their first season in Division 1 qualified through the Northern Group and went on to the All Ireland semi final where they were narrowly beaten by an extremely strong Carlow side.
• The 2nd fielding many young and inexperienced players had an excellent league campaign in Division 2, winning their group and progressing on to the All Ireland quarter final where they were narrowly beaten by an older more experienced Tralee team.
• The Freshers side missed out on the play-offs by the narrowest of margins.

continued on page 30 & 31