Dundalk I.T. Table Tennis Team Represented by Tim Bruetner, Nagandra K C, Jonathan Brunerie, Dinesh Knadka, Zhoujing Zhao, did themselves proud with 2 great displays when they retained their All-Ireland Colleges Intermediate Table Tennis Title at U.C.D. sports centre on Saturday the 8th Dec and Saturday the 15th March. Remaining unbeaten on the first weekend they had to pull out all the stops on the second before eventually winning out. Also remaining unbeaten was Tim Bruetner as DkIT topped the League after the first weekend. The second weekend was a more competitive affair with DkIT losing their first game of the competition. IT Carlow was the team to inflict the defeat. The game went down to the last match with Nagandra playing excellent Table Tennis lost 13-11 in the final set to lose the match 3-2. It was then all down to the Final match against Royal College of Surgeons Ireland. As with the game against IT Carlow it went right down to the wire. A win was a must as a defeat would mean that DkIT would finish in 3rd position. With the game standing at 2-2 it was down to Tim Bruetner to use all his experience against the RCSI no.1 to gain a 3-0 win and secure retention of the title. Tim also remained unbeaten over the 2 weekends.

Saor conquer the world starting in Malta!

In an action packed few days Saor, a group comprised of students studying Music at DkIT. entertained guests at the Irish Embassy on St. Patrick's morning had them dancing in the streets at "The Dubliner" in St. Julian's that afternoon played for the President of Malta at an Irish Embassy reception that evening and afterwards were special guests at a St. Patrick's party in the historic Phoenixia Hotel which has recently been bought by an Irish consortium.

The following morning, the President of Malta received the group at the Presidential Palace in Valetta, and that evening Saor made their final appearance before an enthusiastic crowd of 2,500 in the Sky Club, Paceville, which is one of Europe's biggest night clubs. The group also got in a bit of sightseeing, including the ancient city of Medina and the great bastions of the Knights of St John. The students are hoping to continue their conquest of the world.... but not until after their Finals in a few weeks time....

Pictured right and above are the Saor group members with the President of Malta and out among the sights after their work was done.
A Seat at the Table: An Irish Advocacy Project in Action

Over the past five years both the European Union and the Irish government have given active recognition to the decision making powers of people with intellectual disabilities.

Now Dundalk Institute of Technology is at the forefront of this initiative supporting A Seat at the Table, an active citizenship project for persons with Intellectual disabilities.

Adopting an advocacy model, the School of Nursing, Midwifery, Health Studies, and Applied Sciences offers training to people with intellectual disabilities in leadership and citizen advocacy skills. The overall aim of the course is to equip peer-elected representatives with the necessary knowledge and skills to ‘speak up for themselves’, become involved in committees and consultative groups and in particular ‘lead’ the North Eastern Service User Forum (a discussion forum based on the European Parliament) and thus act as effective representatives for their peers.

Pictured above are, back row, Raymond Burke (Midway) Paul Carroll (St John of Gods) Brendan Carroll (Order of Malta) Andrew de Courcey (Midway). Middle Row: Pat Kenny (Midway) Michael Smith (Rehabcare Dundalk) Shane Loughlin (Drumlin House) Brian Watters (St John of Gods) Stephen Kernaghan (Steadfast House) Front Row: Regina McKenna. Regina was the first girl in the North East to attend the Certificate in Leadership and Advocacy in DKIT.

Dr. John McEvoy has been the DKIT co-ordinator in this project. He has indicated that this is a pioneering development in the provision of third level education for people with intellectual disabilities, with course participants studying Leadership and Advocacy skills; Teamwork; Communication skills; History of disability in Ireland; Standard awareness; Programmes and campaigns; and Inclusiveness. Practical assignments must be completed before participants are deemed to have completed the course.
The project, which addresses the need for people with intellectual disabilities to become active citizens, is run in conjunction with eleven statutory and voluntary agencies in the north east (including RehabCare, St John of God Service and the HSE) all working together to empower people with intellectual disabilities to make important decisions in their own lives.

As part of the School Lunchtime Seminar Programme initiated by Head of School, Dr. Edel Healy, on the 13th February, the class of 2007 all individually made presentations to the staff and students of the School of their experiences in third level education. Issues like not being able to find the canteen on your first day which is familiar to all new students were raised!!

Pictured above are Regina McKenna from Cairde Activaction Centre in Clones presenting to DkIT, and to her left is Paul Carroll (St John of God's) Brian Watters (St John of God's) and Shane Loughlin Drumlin House, Cootehill.

Don't forget that DkIT continues to produce podcasts of events. Contact Liam ó Gógáin.

Lunchtime series podcasts can be accessed at http://ww2.dkit.ie/about_dkit/podcasts/dkitalk/nursing_midwifery_health_studies_and_applied_sciences_lunchtime_seminars
Historical Perspectives; The Academic Council – One Hundred Meetings continued …

In this second part, the discussions and activities of the Academic Council at the end of the last century are examined. In the light of the current debate on university status and linkages it is interesting to recall the discussions around 1995/6 on the Irish Technological Universities. The issues are summarised chronologically.

1995

The issues during the first year of the Academic Council concerned some procedural issues with amendments or alterations to the constitution. A seminar on modularisation was held in September. A working group on course boards was established. The summer examinations were to start around 20th May. A broad ranging discussion on TEASTAS took place, it was the proposed body with responsibility for development, implementation, regulation and certification of all non-university third level and all further and continuation education and training programmes. Postgraduate training for students and the nature of the conferring ceremony, platform party etc were discussed.

1996

On Wednesday 28 February 1996 a seminar was held at the Carrickdale Hotel, the agenda for the day reflected some of the issues facing the academic council during the year. Sean McDonagh outlined challenges he saw facing the college, these included:

1. The debate on the Irish Technological Universities, a new name for the RTCs
2. The campus development plan including the new library
3. HEA designation, validating authority for the RTCs, Degrees and retention of the binary system

Institutional review and the designation of 1996 as the euro year of lifelong learning. Stephen McManus outlined college and programmatic review, diploma and degree admissions, John Connolly examined semesterisation while Peter Fuller looked at motivation, attention and discipline. On 19 June a special meeting to consider the European Policy statement for the college was held. Other areas of activity under discussion included: humanities, the commencement of the Development Centre expansion plan (January 1997) and Cert training and Hospitality. The national plan for nurse education meant that the college and Lourdes hospital were asked to cooperate in providing NCEA National Diploma courses and B.N.S. courses.

DkIT Academic Council member, Dr Pat Feenan pictured here at the celebration of his 60th birthday.
Colleagues gathered recently to share cake, stories and many laughs with the ever youthful Pat.

You’d never guess he was 60!
1996 contd.

Academic regulations in connection with continuous assessment (CA), examinations (results, consultation, rechecks etc) and cao/cas applications were all considered during the year. The implementation of the training of trainer programme with degree strands in engineering and master’s strands in education, computing and technology were introduced. Course development, panel visits, standing committees, quality assurance and academic services (e.g. library, computing) were discussed. Open day 1996 was organised by the careers office and was attended by approx 2300 from 56 schools.

1997

The drawing up of college regulations took up much time during the year. Changes were made to marks and standards in particular, ‘passing by compensation’. Entrance criteria for Diploma courses were introduced on a pilot basis that were adopted by NCEA nationally the following year. Rules for the conduct of examinations and reporting of offences were adopted, as were instructions for invigilating NCEA examinations. Special needs students were considered during the year. The TEASTAS report became available.

1998

The rapid expansion in Computing was noted and the pressures that this brought on resources and facilities. The need for adequate desktop facilities for staff was discussed as were the Library resources. The plans for the LiRC building were being developed. DKIT’s IT presence on the World Wide Web since 1994 by virtue of its web server was noted. The WeDG (Web development Group) was formed in 1995 to stimulate interest in the use of the web as an information tool and to initiate development of the Institute’s web presence. The need for efficient reliable information technology services in classrooms, lecture theatres and laboratories, to support and enhance the teaching function was acknowledged. All NCEA examination timetables were to be published eight weeks prior to the commencement of examinations. Among the courses to be introduced during the year were a National Certificate in Community Studies (supported by Peace and Reconciliation funds) and a National Diploma in Nursing in conjunction with St. Mary’s, Drumcar. The Inaugural Research day was held on 20 May.

1999

Seed funding for research was discussed. The Y2K committee reported on its findings and potential issues. A staff seminar on ‘Non-completion in the Institutes of Technology – A Comparative Study of First Year Students’ was held in March. A motion was carried that marked examination scripts be made available to students under supervision.

Historical Perspectives is compiled by DkITimes Historical Editor Seamus Bellew. Readers are treated to these insights into DkIT’s history as a result of Seamus’s tireless efforts to collect, retain and disseminate the past and ongoing history of DkIT. Mile Buíochas dó.

The Editor.
Transition students from Co Louth gathered recently in Dundalk Institute of Technology to compete in the Junior Achievement Student Company Regional Finals on March 12th 2008. Students from Coláiste Rís, Dundalk Grammar School, St. Vincent's Secondary School and O’Fiaich College attended the Regional Finals. At the end of January companies from the schools above were short listed to attend the finals after submitting a business report on their company. Pictured above receiving their award are the winning team from Dundalk Grammar School, L-R Mary Taaffe, Aoife Erraught and Cherry Leung. The competition was very strong with products and services on display such as “Crunch” a healthy eating book, “Cickety Clock” a company manufacturing clocks and a book called “Code Breakers” aimed at those who play computer games. Although there was only one winner on the day, and after much deliberating the judges awarded the prize to Dundalk Grammar School. They have now qualified for the National Finals of the RDS Student Innovation Awards. The winning company “Love Life” is a successful company who produced a book to provide information on various topics and issues that teenagers are faced in today’s world.

The judges, Mr Michael Mc Cabe Louth County Council, Mr Mario Mac Blain DKIT and Ms Nea Saarinen DKIT, judged the companies in three main areas - Business Report, In-depth Interviews and a Business presentation.

The RDS Student Innovation Awards is a national competition open to all students participating in Junior Achievement’s Company Programme. The JA Company Programme has been specifically designed to give secondary school students the opportunity to develop their entrepreneurial skills by allowing them to start up and run their own companies. They gain a real insight into the challenges, risks and rewards, which are all part of setting up a new company. The students establish a company, raise capital, agree on a company name and decide on a product or service. Each programme is delivered by a volunteer from a local supporting company, in partnership with the teacher, who gives advice and expertise in guiding the young entrepreneurs.

According to Siobhan Kelly Area Manager Junior Achievement Ireland, “The quality and range of products was excellent. The students showed an exceptional understanding of how companies operate. They were all very enthusiastic and it was an extremely difficult decision for the judges to choose the winning company. It is very obvious the students, teachers and business volunteers invested a huge amount of time and commitment to the project”.

Junior Achievement is also part-financed by the European Union’s Programme for Peace and Reconciliation and the Irish Government under the National Development Plan, and Managed for the Special EU Programmes Body by Border Action.
Pictured below are students from O Fiaich College with their Clickety Clock Project.

(Names not available at time of publication)

Pictured here are Students and staff from Dundalk Grammar School along with the judging panel members.
**NCGE sponsors Times Higher Award**

The National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship (NCGE) is delighted to announce it will sponsor the Times Higher Entrepreneurial University of the Year Award in 2008. The Award will recognise institutions that have embedded innovation and entrepreneurial activity into the fabric of their institution to the extent that their environment and culture not only fosters enterprising thinking amongst all members of its community but also delivers significant entrepreneurial impact at regional, national and international levels.

The criteria for the Award will focus on four main areas: Institutional Environment, Student Engagement, Innovative and Entrepreneurial Staff, and Entrepreneurial Impact. Entrants should identify their principal achievement between 1 July 2007 - 12 June 2008, and summarise in no more than 500 words what they were trying to achieve, how they set about achieving it and how and if their goals were met. Short listed candidates will be given the opportunity to explain why they deserve this prize to an editorial fact-finding team, which will visit their institution on behalf of the judges.

All entries must be submitted using the online application form on The Times Higher website, and the deadline for entries is 12 June 2008.

**Notes:**

The National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship (NCGE) was established in 2004 as the national focal point for graduate entrepreneurship. The Council, which is based in Birmingham, is not only focused on graduates starting businesses, but on understanding, developing and promoting a culture of entrepreneurship within Higher Education through research, education and facilitation.

Nominations opened on 13 March for the Times Higher Awards - the largest annual award competition in UK higher education. There are 18 categories in the fourth annual awards.

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*For the first time in the history of DkIT, the Students’ Union President and Vice-President have been re-elected for a second term. The winning team of Luke McGahon and Subhash Khanal are already drawing up their plans for the next Academic year where they hope to be able to deliver real change for improvement for the student body at DkIT. Watch out for a revamped website where students will be able to access and submit information. DkITimes wishes Luke and Subhash continued success in their roles and looks forward to a torrent of articles and news about students activities, successes, concerns and hopes in the coming year.*
On behalf of the Research Sub-Committee at DKIT, I am pleased to announce a call for applications under the following competitive initiatives:

1. Sabbatical Leave (formerly known as Research Secondment)

2. Research Seed Fund

This call covers the academic period September 2008 to August 2009. Application forms for both initiatives are attached to this email, with further copies available for the Institute's website.

Please note the following:
- Successful applicants under the Sabbatical Leave initiative will be freed from all of their teaching/administrative duties.
- The level of funding available under the Seed Fund initiative has been increased to €10K per application, with up to €20K potentially available for exceptional projects.

Please note that the closing date for receipt of applications for both initiatives is Friday, 18th April 2008.

These are competitive initiatives and the assessment process will involve experienced external research experts. We intend to advise applicants of the outcome of their applications before the end of the current academic year. Please feel free to contact myself if you have any queries.

On behalf of the Research Sub-Committee, may I encourage you to consider the above initiatives and wish you every success with your application.

Dr. David Getty
Chair - Research Sub-Committee

Download application form from:
http://ww2.dkit.ie/intranet/staff_only/general/research_sub_committee/documents_and_policies/research_seed_funding_application_form_2008

Attention Students!

Have you got news, article or opinions?

Send your articles to editor@dkit.ie

Remember send documents in word format, font 12, Arial and pictures as jpegs.
The DKIT basketball team took part in the 56th all Ireland Varsities before Easter. The tournament began on Wednesday the fourth of March and went on in to the weekend. The team were playing in the B division and had four other teams in their group with Griffith College, Letterkenny IT, NUIM and UUC. The first game was against Griffith College on the Wednesday and Dundalk took full advantage of fact that this was the Dublin team’s first ever varsities by winning 31-15. The second game was played on Thursday morning against UUC. Although Dundalk went on to win the game by six points 44-38 this game was most note worthy for the loss of one of D Kit’s star players Darren McGovern who went out with a torn calf which sidelined him for the rest of the tournament. NUIM were the next team and buoyant on the previous two victories DKIT again put in a brave display and came away with the points running out 48-44 winners. It had been a close game but with hard work from Gerard Cunningham Stephen Nolan, Brian O'Donnell and Zhang Chen Dundalk got the win they deserved.

Dundalk were now 3-0 and standing at the top of the group with Letterkenny IT left to play. Confidence was high even if The players were a bit tired and on Thursday evening the game began. Dundalk went in to an early lead and by half time were 13 points up. But the men from Letterkenny came back in the third quarter to level the game. Lack of concentration on defence eventually cost Dundalk the game with Letterkenny winning 62-50. At this time three teams were 3-1, DKIT, LYIT and UUC. It now came down to points to see which team would progress to the semi-finals.

Friday morning the team got the word. DKIT had finished third due to point difference. The loss to LYIT had been too great so UUC and LYIT progressed and Dundalk were left to play the Garda college in a standings match. After a tough game the Garda college managed to break the DKIT defence and come our winners by four points.

Submitted by Adhamh ó Maolagain.

Upcoming Events;

Don’t’ forget the DkIT Annual Clubs and societies Dinner is being held at the Park Inn next Wednesday April 9th at 7.30. A night not to be missed! Contact Diarmuid.cahill@dkit.ie for more information.

Also don’t forget about for the fundraising Grease themed night being organised by the Mature Students’ Society who are fundraising for the Tracey Lee Fund. Watch out for more coverage in the DkITimes in the coming weeks about how the campaign to send DkiT Student Tracey Lee for life changing medical treatment is progressing.
Caption Competition. Captions to editor@dkit.ie

Last issues competition.

“Five more pensions please and a milkshake for the kid”

All complaints or questions to the winner Pairic Duffy—congrats!