The European Day of Languages was celebrated in DKIT on Wednesday, 26th September. This initiative, organised by the Council of Europe, is held annually and its aims are to alert the public to the importance of language learning, to increase awareness and appreciation of all the languages spoken in Europe, and to encourage lifelong language learning.

The main event was a competition sponsored by the School of Business and Humanities. The challenge was to correctly match the stickers saying ‘Talk to me!’ in six European languages with their correct languages. Over four hundred students participated in the event with a whopping 202 correct entries received. Well done to all who managed to correctly identify the six languages – some more easily recognisable than others! The lucky winners drawn from the correct entries were:

1st prize (iPod Nano) went to Shao Chao (Mechanical Engineering) pictured below and 2nd prize (iPod Shuffle) went to John Levins (Accounting & Finance)

Shao Chao (pictured right), winner of the 1st prize in the European Day of Languages competition, is presented with his prize by Cathal Kearney, Head of School of Business and Humanities. Also pictured (left to right) are Language Lecturers Linda Butler, Marie King, Vicky Leahy, Marie McCallion, and Marie Bouquet.

DKIT Library also marked the European Day of Languages by displaying a selection of the materials available in the library in various European languages, and by compiling a list of books, DVDs, and audio material available on loan.

Missed the competition? Don’t worry- you can take it here on page 8.
DkIT Library gratefully receives book donations from Beijing International Studies University.

Last Wednesday at a presentation in DkIT Library, Jack Huang, visiting lecturer to DkIT from Beijing presented DkIT Librarian, Lorna O Connor with some books sent by his university to assist Jack with his teaching while at DkIT and as useful reference materials after his departure.

Jack is teaching in the School of Business and Humanities providing welcome help and assistance to lecturers teaching English and to our Chinese students. The donation, which consisted of multiple copies of titles covering Chinese language, culture and business is a welcome addition to the Library’s stock in those subject areas.

Pictured above at the presentation last Wednesday was Jack presenting Lorna with one of the books, Cathal Kearney, Head of School of Business and Humanities, lecturers Marie Bouquet, Marie McCallion and Cathriona Connor and Library staff member, Mandy Farrell.

We wish Jack an enjoyable and successful stay at DkIT.

“...to be able to present the donations on behalf of my university. What we have worked in concert to bring about, is such an enriching opportunity both for BISU, DkIT and for every member of the staff involved”

Jack Huang, DkIT’s Visiting lecturer from Beijing International Studies University

Founded in 1964, Beijing International Studies University has developed into a multi-disciplinary university incorporating liberal arts, management, economics and law, with the specialities of foreign languages and tourism as its most distinguishing feature. Selecting students nationwide, the university takes it as its main task to train professionals proficient in foreign languages, tourism, economics, trade and finance, for the national economic construction and social advance.
I joined the staff of the Regional Technical College, Dundalk in January 1972 on a very positive note. Having come from a period of 7 to 8 years in industry, mainly spent in England, I showed up for work at 9:00 a.m. on January 3rd, a Monday. The only person around at the time was Dr. Sean McDonagh, the college principal, who sent a very perplexed man off on a few days’ holidays. So I started in DKIT with a holiday and finished with a holiday last year. In 1972 the college was much smaller than it is now. The three schools shared the ‘old building’ with administration. Leaving Certificate classes were held for a short time in east block, ground floor classrooms – hence the name ‘Leaving Cert Corridor’ that has withstood the passing of time.

The first students I taught were apprentice electricians and Post Office technicians. I taught motors and generators to the electricians and electronics to the technicians. Syllabuses for both, and the associated examinations, were set by the Department of Education. The d.c. and a.c motor theory of operation hasn’t changed much but the electronic syllabus, dealing as it did with diode, triode and pentode valves was out of date even then. The laboratories and workshops were equipped using lists drawn up by people in or nominated by the Department of Education.

Pictured here in those early days is Tom Duff, now Registrar in DIT. When I joined the college Barry Macken was in charge - effectively the Head of Engineering although the post as such was not defined until many years had elapsed. Among the engineering teaching staff already in place that I had close contact with when I joined were:- Kevin Starrs, Bernard O’Connor, John Kerr R.I.P., John Redahan, Tony Quinlan, Michael Rodgers, Pat Broy, Joe Osborne, Joe Concannon, Andrew D’Arcy, John Minogue R.I.P., Peter McDonnell R.I.P., Christy McAreavey, S. V. Duffy, Tom Lamont, Pat Herr, Pat Malone. In general the staff were quite young at the time - some have recently retired while a few are still teaching. I am sure there were others I cannot recall or people I think joined after me. Among the non-engineering staff were John Gallagher, John Keane, Frank Carney, Marie Guilfoyle, and Mairead NiChiosoig. Of course Peter Fuller and Columb Collins were in charge of their Business Studies and Science respectively.

John Connolly retired from DKIT last year from his position as Head of the School of Engineering. In this article, compiled by Seamus Bellew, he recalls his time at DKIT.
As I recall my timetable covered 22 hours per week, initially teaching apprentice electricians and Post Office technicians. Standard practice involved chalk on the blackboard, handouts prepared on the banda machine or typed stencils if one did the typing on one’s own typewriter. The Banda machine, printing as it did multi-colour copies was a mainstay for a long time. The smell of alcohol that it employed was a source of delight or of displeasure to both staff and students depending on their tastes.

My understanding is that the syllabuses used for the first National Certificate programmes were prepared centrally and then issued by the Department of Education to the colleges although the examinations were set and marked locally. The first awards were presented by the fledgling National Council for Educational Awards (NCEA) – later to become HETAC - in Dublin at one National ceremony in 1972. These syllabuses may have run for one class group before the colleges drew up their own courses and established their own particular emphasis on content. It was effectively a green field situation and we had great freedom in syllabus design. In electronics especially this was a very exciting time because we were able to get rid of such things as diode, triode and pentode valves and introduce not only transistors but also operational amplifiers and a little digital electronics and Boolean algebra. We also had sufficient spending power to purchase industry standard equipment and components.

In Dundalk the traditional heavy industry was in decline although there were some heavily skills-based, mechanical engineering companies still in operation such as S&S and CRV. Ecco was making transistors and a small company, Qeleq were designing and manufacturing analogue computers based on the ‘741 operational amplifier. In 1974 Qeleq recognised the assistance given by graduates from the college by presenting two £50 prizes for the best students to graduate in electronics in 1974. Around that time Accuray, now ABB, started business as did Centronics in Drogheda. Both employed a number of RTC Dundalk mechanical and electronic graduates. Barry Macken left Dundalk in 1974 to head up the electronic department in NIHE Limerick, later to become U.L. I took Barry’s place as effective ‘Head’ of engineering in March 1974.

Continued next week.
Currently in its 3rd year of student intake, students from the BA in Video & Film Production in DkIT have been involved in many projects for charity & community organisations over the last year.

A group of 2nd years – Patrick O'Connor, Shane Birdy, Christopher Mooney & Suzie McCormack - have been rubbing shoulders with the rich & famous, including An Taoiseach while shooting footage for the Gary Kelly Cancer Support Centre, based in Drogheda. The group recently travelled to Elland Rd in Leeds where they interviewed many footballers & managers including Mick McCarthy and Howard Wilkinson. This was all part of a ‘This is Your Life’ tribute to Gary Kelly, which the students shot & edited. The footage was screened at the Gary Kelly Cancer Support Centre Golf Classic in Baltray in June.

Another group of 2nd years – Kevin Bennett, David Thorpe, Fiona Taaffe & Eimear Burke – have been working with Dublin-based group DESSA (Disability Equality Specialist Support Agency) who are running a Childcare Inclusion Programme for disabled children with various childcare providers in the capital. The group have produced a DVD to assist DESSA in securing additional government funding for their next programme.

Stephen O’Farrell, a 3rd year student, has recently returned home from taking part in a 3-week development education programme in Tanzania entitled ‘Development Perspectives’, funded by Irish Aid & Youth Work Ireland (Louth). The group were led by Bobby McCormack, a lecturer on the BA (Hons) in Community Sports Leadership. While in Tanzania, Stephen assisted in the filming of the group’s activities, which included manually building a basketball pitch for the youth in a small rural village and visiting schools and community centres in the region. Stephen is currently working on cutting the footage together to screen during the group’s exhibition in Drogheda in November.

Finally, a group of 3rd years – Damien Dunne, Ashling Graham, Denise Fogarty & Sean Markey – are currently working with the Respond Housing Association, based in Dublin. In conjunction with Respond, the students are designing and delivering a 4-part workshop to a group of 8 young people from Dundalk with the aim of producing a short film exploring the positive aspects of their local community.

External real-life projects like these serve to further enhance the students’ core skills & competencies in the area of film & video production. Congrats to all those for getting involved! Watch this space for further news of our up-and-coming Stephen Spielbergs!
Mathamagician coming to DKIT! October 16th Whitaker Theatre.

This year sees the second ‘National Maths Week’ with events around the country in the various colleges. DKIT is fortunate in that Andrew Jeffrey, a mathematician and magician from the UK is coming to Ireland and is visiting on Tuesday October 16th. His emphasis is on the fun and entertainment aspects of Mathematics while at the same time challenging people to think and even managing to get people to do calculations and maths that they ‘normally would not entertain’.

Check out his website: 
http://www.andrewjeffrey.co.uk/
For all the maths events check out: 
http://www.calmast.ie/

Andrew Jeffrey will be in the Whitaker Theatre at 11:30 AM on Tuesday October 16th. Those interested in attending should contact Seamus Bellew (ext 2295) or Shane Dowdall (ext 2570).

The other maths event in DKIT that week should appeal to the political anoraks where the workings of PR (proportional representation) will be discussed on Thursday October 18th at 7:30 PM.

Article submitted by Seamus Bellew.
Executive MBA class hears that target of €3 billion new export sales by indigenous sector between 2005 and 2007 is achieved

As part of his Executive Speakers programme, John Sisk, Lecturer in Marketing hosted a presentation from Mr Gerry Murphy of Enterprise Ireland to his Executive MBA class, last Friday October 4th. This was the opening session of Johns’ module on Strategic Sales & Export Strategy.

In a comprehensive and highly interactive session, Executive MBA students were told that the future success for Irish indigenous rests upon the ability to have a business model which includes Market Knowledge, Innovation and Export Sales & Internationalisation at the centre of everything the SME sector does. Success for Ireland in the future is to be determined by its ability to deliver on the following: being a hot-spot for new product and service innovations, market knowledge and Innovation will characterise company formation and competitive differentiation, superbly positioned in key emerging growth sectors, having SME’s of scale and and being competitive on a global level, the capacity and determination to commercialise world-class technology and absorption mechanisms, the existence of highly skilled innovative and customer driven management teams, yielding a cadre of large indigenous companies competing on the global stage.

Gerry Murphy is an Executive Director of Enterprise Ireland with specific responsibility for International Sales and Partnering and manages the overseas network of offices in Enterprise Ireland. Enterprise Ireland is the Irish Government Trade and Industrial Development organisation, which works with Irish companies to help them grow and compete in world markets. He was previously European Director for the Irish Trade Board based in Brussels and has managed Irish Trade Board operations in London and Sydney.

He has served on a number of Irish Government Advisory Boards relating to the Electronics and Engineering sectors and was a Director of the Irish National Software Centre. He has lectured in Business Studies at University College Dublin and the Dundalk Institute of Technology and has engaged in consultancy in a number of countries on business / marketing issues. He is currently a member of The UCD Michael Smurfit School of Business Advisory Board on Internationalisation.

Continuing the Executive Speakers Season later this semester, John Sisk will play host to Mr Martin McVicar of CombiLift, one of the world finest Entrepreneurs, and from Mr Mark Fielding of ISME.
European Day of Languages celebrated in DKIT

The European Day of Languages was celebrated in DKIT on Wednesday, 26th September. It is an initiative of the Council of Europe, is held annually, and its aims are:

- to alert the public to the importance of language learning
- to increase awareness and appreciation of all the languages spoken in Europe
- to encourage lifelong language learning.

John Levins (pictured right), 2nd prize winner in the European Day of Languages competition, being presented with his prize by Cathal Kearney, Head of School of Business and Humanities.

The main event was a competition sponsored by the School of Business Studies and Humanities. The challenge was to correctly match the stickers saying ‘Talk to me!’ in six European languages to the corresponding languages. Over four hundred students participated in the event, and 202 correct entries were received. Well done to all who managed to correctly identify the six languages – some more easily recognisable than others! The winners drawn from among the correct entries were:

1st prize (iPod Nano)  Shao Chao (Mechanical Engineering)
2nd prize (iPod Shuffle)  John Levins (Accounting & Finance)

Congratulations to both of them! If you’d like to know how you would have fared, have a go! The six possibilities are: German, Greek, Finnish, French, Polish, and Spanish.

Answers on page 10.
Following on from the success of their debut single *Love Like Nicotine*, Dublin-based electronic pop act **Dark Room Notes** will release their first EP *Dead Start Program* on **12th October 2007**.

Building on the sense of dark drama, of love and loss and fevered emotion created in *Love Like Nicotine*, *Dead Start Program* provides us with another layered, complex set of pristine pop songs.

Comprised mainly of tracks that have proved extremely popular in the band’s energetic live set, the EP opens with the insistently catchy *Slow Puncture*. With it’s soft melody and boy/girl vocals, after a couple of listens expect incessant humming along and daydreams of perfect boy-meets-girl moments. New track *I Walked To The River* was written half-way through the recording process and immediately added. *Oh How Your Roses Wither Fast* is one of the band’s most popular live tracks, with it’s experimental edge and pulsing allure. *Shake Shake My Ceiling* finishes off the EP with a driving drumbeat and metal undertones.

Formed in Galway in 2004, **Dark Room Notes** perfected and honed their sound before recruiting the elegant Arran Murphy on synths/vox and drummer Shanahan in 2006. Signed to Dublin Independent Label **Gonzo Records** in September 2006, they have been compared to New Order, Depeche Mode, Joy Division, Talking Heads and Interpol among others.

The **Dead Start Program** EP is DRN at their poppiest while newer material is proving to be darker and heavier. The music is somewhat retro, and yet current, experimental but not alienating. Recorded in a studio called The Loft, in Clara, Co Offaly, all aspects of writing, recording, production and mixing were done by the band. Some new instrumentation used on the EP include a Glockenspiel, a Wine Glass (see if you can spot where!) and a baking tray filled with rice.

The anthemic debut single release *Love Like Nicotine* received rave reviews from media – ‘*sharp, edgy, seamless electro-rock* (Hot Press), “*Killer indie-rock tune*” **** (*Irish Times*) - and was remixed by **Tom Rixton** (The Chalets, Tom Vek, Elastica) and **Flood** (New Order, Depeche Mode, The Killers, Smashing Pumpkins, U2, Shakira).

**Dark Room Notes** will tour Ireland in October and November including dates at The Spiegeltent in Dublin on the final night of the Dublin Fringe Festival, a Hallowe'en fancy dress party in Kennedy's on Westland Row and a gig for the pupils of Glenstal Abbey by special invitation from the Benedictine Monks!

**Dark Room Notes** are currently rehearsing, writing their debut album due for release in 2008 and supporting an eclectic number of British and Irish acts.

**SEE DARK ROOM NOTES LIVE**

**Wed 10 Oct**

Spirit Store, Dundalk

**Doors 8pm**

**CHECK THEM OUT ON THEIR MYSPACE AND BEBO**

[www.myspace.com/darkroomnotesireland](http://www.myspace.com/darkroomnotesireland)

[http://www.bebo.com/DRN07](http://www.bebo.com/DRN07)
Attention all you budding entrepreneurs!
Have we got a challenge for you!

"An excellent opportunity for you to hone your entrepreneurial skills, and earn yourself a bit of hard cash – quick!"

This competition is simple – You can invest a maximum of €10 in your venture. Then you try to double it, triple it or even quadruple it - in a matter of days (Mon 8th, Tue 9th, and Wed 10th). Working individually or in teams of any size, you must come up with ways to make as much money as possible!

Rules:
- It must be ethical
- It must be legal
- Each Team can only invest €10 to their venture.
A record of trading must be submitted on the final day -Wed 10th (using a form provided)

Registration- Mon 8th Oct 11am-4pm (Outside Whitaker Theatre)
If you are unable to register at this time please contact 0871267727

Return Entries- Wed 10th Oct 12-2pm (Outside Whitaker)

From page 7.
Answers to Answers to EDL competition:
A. Polish, B. German, C. Spanish, D. Greek, E. French, F. Finnish

Reminder:
Minutes of Governing Body, Academic Council and Executive Board meetings are all available on the Intranet.
Tuesday 16th October - RDS - Dublin

FREE ENTRY

Your careers service would like to invite all final years level 8 students to the largest careers event of 2007! The Graduate Careers Fair will feature 150+ companies, including not only some of the largest graduate recruiters in Ireland and abroad, but several postgraduate providers, small to medium size companies and volunteer organisations. A series of talks and seminars will run throughout the day and careers advisors will be at hand for one to one careers advice sessions. This event is THE OFFICIAL careers fair for your institution.

For more information, including directions, exhibitor lists, pre-registration and talks timetables visit: www.thegraduatecareersfair.ie

Register NOW to jump the registration queue, get updates on talks and seminars, and to receive further information on the companies attending. The Graduate Careers Fair starts at 11.00 am. Make sure you are there early so you can make the most of all the services available and get to talk to as many companies as possible! You can’t afford to miss it!

For free DkIT bus ticket to this event contact the DkIT Careers Service to avail of the free bus ticket, students must pre-register on www.thegraduatecareersfair.ie before collecting their bus ticket at the DkIT Careers Office
Attention Students; Newstalk 106-108 fm Student Enterprise Competition 2007 is launching in DkIT this week!

Don’t miss your chance to go to the Caribbean for a week.

When; Tuesday, October 9th at 12.00 p.m
Where; Whitaker Theatre
What; Official DkIT launch, meet last year’s DkIT finalists and enjoy some refreshments.

What the competition is about;

The competition asks students in teams of four to read case studies of real companies and come up with strategies that should lead to success.

Speaking at the launch of the competition in GMIT last week, Denis O’Brien said: “This competition is intended to stimulate students to co-operate and work together to achieve a set of goals. It allows participants to put into practice the knowledge they gain in their studies.”

The level of enthusiasm for the competition was reflected in the 260 teams that entered last year.

The overall prize for the winning team and its mentor is a study trip to the Caribbean where they will shadow ‘real time’ decision makers in the Digicel Group.

The closing date for entries is 11th October, 2007 and entry forms must be completed through the competition website www.newstalkenterprisecomp.ie.

The first case study will be available online from Thursday 25th October and proposals must be submitted to the local co-ordinator on Thursday 8th November.

Pictured here is the DkIT team that made it all the way to the final of the competition last year. They were finalists Paul Megarity, Alistair Megarity, Donna Mathers, Joanne Callan, and they are pictured with Denis O’Brien, Ann Heraty, Elaine Geraghty and Paul Farrell

For more info visit http://www.newstalkenterprisecomp.ie/
This week’s Caption Competition.

Email captions to newsletter@dkit.ie with ‘caption’ in the subject box.

You see I was told you were in Fallible, but I can’t find it on this map”

“I may be infallible George, but I can’t perform miracles”

Congrats to Linda Graham, School of Business and Humanities.
LOCAL PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR
Access/Outreach Project for Border Region (Cavan)

National University of Ireland, Galway, in partnership with Dundalk Institute of Technology and Letterkenny Institute of Technology, has been awarded funding under the Strategic Innovation Fund to develop the above project in the Border Region over the period 2007-2009.

Applications are invited for the position of Local Project Co-ordinator which will be filled on a two year specific purpose contract basis.

The person appointed will be located in Cavan. Salary within range of Grade IV University administration scale.

Further information and application forms can be downloaded from our website at:
http://www.nuigalway.ie/vacancies

or by contacting:

Human Resources Department,
National University of Ireland, Galway
Galway
Telephone No: 091 492151
Fax No: 091 494523
Email: hr@nuigalway.ie

Latest date for receipt of completed application form is:
Friday, 19th October, 2007.

The National University of Ireland, Galway is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from people with a disability.

Funded by the Government’s Strategic Innovation Fund under the Higher Education Authority.