



STAIR CRAZY

On Thursday 3rd March, MI Students and Staff went Stair Crazy for 'Operation Paddy' in aid of Paddy Archibald our Level 6 Business Management student.

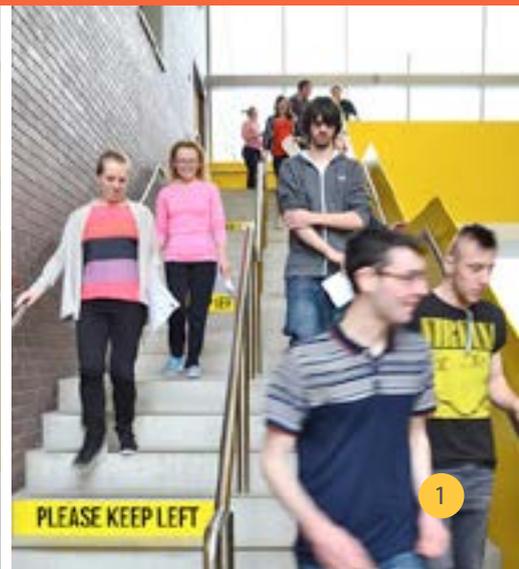
The aim of the fundraiser was to reach 'Ninja Status' by completing 36 laps of the building via the main stairway, through the canteen and up the back stairs. A total of 51 miles, the equivalent of walking from Monaghan Institute to Drogheda, were walked by everyone who took part. Congratulations to Michael O'Dowd, Level 5 Liberal Arts who completed an amazing 36 laps (3 miles) and took home first prize. Overall €300 was raised for Operation Paddy.

Well done to everyone who participated and to the organisers. A special mention to the Level 6 Business Management, Health, Fitness & Sports Performance and Level 5 Nursing Studies class groups and to our staff members Martina Rooney, Sinead Corrigan, Fergal Sherry and Laura Traynor who helped organise and coordinate the event.

A thank you also to The Batch Loaf for sponsoring the first prize of €50 for the winner.



#OPERATIONPADDY





STUDENT LIFE

LIBERAL ARTS STUDENT, BERNIE RUTH, TALKS ABOUT THEIR RECENT TRIP TO THE CARRICKMACROSS WORKHOUSE



MI STUDENTS SUPPORT LOLLIPOP DAY

Monaghan Institute students launched Lollipop Day 2016 on Wednesday 9th February by encouraging all staff and students to wear pink with the overarching aim of promoting awareness of oesophageal cancer. The MI Students' Union members actively sold the heart shaped lollipops on campus in the lead up to Valentine's Day. A further number of students and their family members volunteered to bag pack groceries in Dunnes stores in Monaghan on Saturday 27th February for National Lollipop day. Thank you to all those that donated for being so generous and to all the students who helped out in this very successful fundraising effort.



DAITHÍ'S WISH TO WALK

Thank you to all who supported our recent fundraiser. An amazing total of €935.53 was presented to the family. Further fundraising will be presented by the Level 5 Beauty Therapy students. Daithi, his sister and his mum Caroline want to express their thanks to Monaghan Institute for their generosity and for choosing Daithi's Wish to Walk as their designated charity.

WORK EXPERIENCE: JUNK ART

As a student on the Early Childhood Studies Level 6, programme, I completed my work experience in a primary school. I had the opportunity to plan curriculum based activities with the children. One activity that I planned was around junk art. The children came up with their ideas and build rockets and robots. This was a great experience for me and gave me insights into working with children in a school environment.

Patrica Mc Carra
Early Childhood Studies Level 6



As part of the Literary, Visual and Performance module of our Liberal Arts Course we studied three Irish artists. Art for me, and I suspect for many of my fellow students can be pretentious, bizarre and downright mind-numbing. I like landscapes, scenery, portraits, not squiggles, blobs, squares or lines.

Little did we realise as we started to study Irish artists that one of them would be a local contemporary artist. The Liberal Arts class travelled to Carrickmacross Workhouse on February 11th to meet with artist in residence, Orlagh Meegan Gallagher. I have been through the Workhouse several times over the past number of years and am ashamed to admit that I have walked by Orlagh's work with little or no appreciation for it. As a beautifully restored building, the Workhouse needed some way of conveying the history of the building and of those who sought refuge in it, in a time of dire need.

"As a beautifully restored building, the Workhouse needed some way of conveying the history of the building and of those who sought refuge in it, in a time of dire need."

Rather than using information boards, Orlagh's expertise and insight was called upon. The Workhouse has a dedicated group of historical researchers, so after examining the rich archive in great detail and conducting her own research on fabrics and materials. of the time, Orlagh was commissioned under the International fund for Ireland to create pieces that would convey the story of the Workhouse, the people who entered it and the surrounding area in the 1840's.

"The Last Resort" depicts the moments before the starving people entered the Workhouse. Families clinging to one another, old, young, frail, all knowing that as soon as they passed through this black doorway they would be segregated and probably never see each other again. The shadowy figures in the background depict those already in the Workhouse, or lost to starvation. The hand painted swirls surrounding the figures, convey the wealthy people, whose lives were uninterrupted by the plight of the poor around them.

"Departure" an installation which commemorates 38 teenage girls from Carrickmacross Workhouse who were sent to Australia under the Paupers Emigration Scheme, as servants, during 1848/1849. The painting of a young girl with an accusing look, has the names of 19 of the girls on the frame. Their names were found on surviving shipping lists. For the 19 names not found, little white crosses represent their existence. This mixed media installation is a symbolic snap shot in time of the girls lives, the painting and the significant addition of names and crosses to the frame, the original dormitory door, the travel boxes and the contents the girls were to be provided with for their journey, the pretty bonnet and shawl, a far cry from what the girls would have worn in, or before entering the Workhouse. This is a very poignant but beautifully executed piece of art.

"Land of Plenty", this stunning 36 panel piece depicts what we today generally call the Great Famine, which in fact we should call the Great Hunger. While millions starved due to the failure of the potato crop due to blight, Ireland still had an abundant supply of butter, porter, corn, grain, vegetables, fruit, animals, fish etc. but all this was sold and exported out of Ireland. The vibrant centre panels illustrates the abundance of food available, but the darker outer panels representing the decay of potatoes, abandoned cottages and misery. The 36 panels were created using many techniques - embroidery, hand painting, hand dyed, applique, beaded, quilted etc. and are accompanied by a touch panel where one can feel the various techniques used.

Orlagh carries out extensive research before embarking on each creation and explains or displays where the information was sourced from. By the end of the tour I had a new appreciation of Orlagh's work, in fact I was blown away by the amount of research conducted, the attention to detail, and the obvious passion that Orlagh infuses into each piece. I thoroughly recommend anyone interested in art or history to avail of this wonderful resource which is just on our doorstep.

Bernie Ruth
Liberal Arts Level 5



Like us on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter



Find us on Flickr



MY EXPERIENCE OF MONAGHAN INSTITUTE

Level 5 student, Evelyn Burns talks about her experience on the Tourism & Travel course

Last year I made the decision to return to education after being made redundant from my job. While I was researching the options available to me I looked at the Monaghan Institute prospectus and was immediately drawn to the Tourism and Travel course. After discussing my options with my family I decided to attend the College Open Evening to gain more information about the course content and the facilities available. On arriving at the college I was met by very friendly staff and was introduced to Melanie Keith, the Course Co-ordinator. Melanie explained the course content and told me that this year students would have the opportunity to study Ready to Fly alongside Cabin Crew Skills. This was a major plus in deciding to choose the Tourism and Travel course.

such as Cabin Crew Skills and Ready to Fly. The valuable skills we have gained throughout the modules enables us to use them in all aspects of life, from customer service skills to grooming skills as we wear a cabin crew uniform for our weekly class. The course covers a wide range of tourism and non-tourism related subjects and has provided us with a solid foundation for further studies in tourism related courses and for entering the Airline Industry.

The class age ranges from 17-34. At first I thought this might be a problem, but I was worrying over nothing as each member brings something unique to the class in the way of life experience from school leavers to mature students. My original plan at the beginning of the course was to re-enter the work place however as the course has progressed and I became more confident in my abilities, I have decided to apply for the Level 6 in Tourism and Event Management for September 2016. All the tutors I have spoken to within MI have offered nothing but support and encouragement in pursuing my future studies. I would encourage anybody who is thinking of pursuing a path of study to consider Monaghan Institute as they have an excellent and modern Campus that offers a wide range of courses across numerous disciplines.

Having returned to education as a mature student I was a little anxious about starting the course. When I arrived at MI in September I was worried about fitting in with my fellow students, but I had nothing to worry about as they are a lovely group of people and I have made some really great friends. We are a small group and this has made being involved in the classes more enjoyable. I have particularly enjoyed the practical elements of modules



ANIMAL CARE & ANIMAL SCIENCE STUDENTS STUDY REPTILES

Thank you to Annmarie who brought in Inca, the Green Iguana and Savanna, the Bearded Dragon for our students to study.

Inca is a five and a half year old male iguana. He loves areas of high humidity, subtropical and tropical climates. Iguana's are native to Latin America. These animals are vegetarians but have been known to eat small insects while young. As hatchlings they can be about seven inches and grow to about 8kg and nearly two and a half meters long. They can live for more than 20 years in captivity.

Savanna is 7 years old. Bearded Dragons will eat both insects and vegetables for a balanced diet. They originated from Australia and prefer arid and subtropical scrubland. They can survive in captivity for just longer than 10 years. They are generally quite lazy spending the day basking and sleeping. They are ectothermic meaning they cannot generate their own heat. They need to bask in artificial light to obtain heat.

ANIMAL CARE & ANIMAL SCIENCE

We take a look at some of the hands on experience our students have been receiving over the past few weeks

VISIT TO LOCAL FARMS

As part of the Level 6 module Large Animal Husbandry, MI students have visited a number of farms to carry out animal related skills. As part of the module, the students had to be able to confidently approach the animal, apply appropriate restraining and handling techniques. These visits were extremely worthwhile and while it was obviously a great learning experience, the students also had really enjoyable days out. After all, it is important to put theory into practice and dressing up like CSI Monaghan was definitely something different.

As a group, we would sincerely like to thank the number of farmers and the equestrian centre who facilitated these visits and answered students questions with no hesitation. Without them the module practicals would not have been possible.



MAKE-UP ARTIST, PADDY MCGURGAN VISITS BEAUTY THERAPY STUDENTS

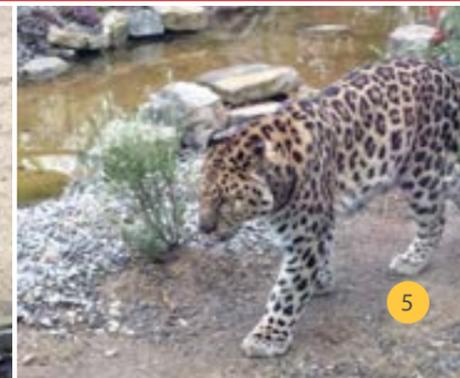
Thank you to Paddy McGurgan a Make Up Artist who visited our Level 5 Beauty and Hairdressing students. The girls learned a lot from the demonstration, feedback and questions and answers session with Paddy.

Paddy is a highly successful makeup artist and has used Make-Up Studio products for many years. Now he has taken on the role of creative U.K. director and distributor for the products. He works along with some of the top UK Models in the fashion industry and has two professional studios in Belfast and Newry.



VISIT TO TAYTO PARK

On Tuesday 8th March, the Level 5 Animal Care, Laboratory Techniques and some of the Pharmacy Assistant students went on an Ecology Trip to Tayto Park, Ashbourne, Co. Meath. The weather was cold but kind to us. This was a thoroughly enjoyable trip which including theory, sampling an area using a range of equipment and finally a whistle stop tour of the zoo.



INTRODUCING MONAGHAN INSTITUTES SPORTS SCHOLARS FOR 2016

The MI Sports Scholarships have been awarded to reward excellence in recognition of talented sports athletes and to encourage outstanding performance in a variety of sporting disciplines. Our scholars were selected on their current and previous sporting achievements. Congratulations to Gary McKenna, Michael O'Dowd and Adam O'Driscoll who were selected to receive this year's scholarships.

Gary McKenna is currently part of the Irish High Performance Boxing team. Gary is a dedicated sports enthusiast and is currently completing the Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Health, Fitness and Sport Performance programme in MI. His previous sporting achievements include participation at both World and European level. Gary will represent Monaghan Institute in the Irish Third Level Boxing Championship next Saturday where he is competing to win the Irish Third Level Senior Elite title. He has firmly set his goals on competing for Ireland at the World Championships and Olympics in the coming years. Gary has been offered a place in the BSc in Sports Studies at the University of Ulster Jordanstown next year where he will pursue his career goal of becoming a PE teacher.

Adam O'Driscoll competes in various sporting disciplines including Gaelic Football and Soccer, currently playing for both Sean McDermotts and Armagh City FC. Adam has represented Monaghan GAA at various age levels and is determined to progress to the U-21 panel in the coming years. He is currently studying on our Pre University Arts programme, with plans to continue his education next year pursuing a career in primary school teaching at St Pats College in Dublin.



Michael O'Dowd plays Senior Gaelic Football for Clontibret and is a member of the Monaghan U21 County Team. He is a student on the Pre University Arts course in Monaghan Institute and next year hopes to progress to DCU to complete an Arts degree to progress to teaching. Michael has won numerous accolades at both club and ulster level and has ambitions to secure his place on Monaghan Men's Senior County Team in the coming years.

We want to wish our scholars well in their future sporting and academic endeavours.

COMPUTER GAMES STUDENTS TO DEBUT GAMES AT OPEN DAY

Callum Wharmby and Josh Carnew from our Level 5 Computer Games Design class have created a game called MIZ (Monaghan Institute Zombies).

This difficult and devastating zombie attack on the college is being created using Unity. The point and shoot game includes realistic footage of the college downstairs area and is true to detail with the actual paintings from the college displayed on the walls in the game. The game will be on display at Monaghan Institutes Open Day on Thursday 10th March.

Well done Callum and Josh on a very impressive standard of work.



ART STUDENTS VISIT CREATIVE SPARK

On Monday, February 29th the Art Students visited Creative Spark Studios in Dundalk where there is a state of the art Print studio, offering use of facilities in a range of fine art printmaking techniques. The studio is managed by Heather Cassidy and she was workshop leader for the day. The class had been working on images for 1916 in the form of an Easter Rising Timeline, illustrating events from easter week. The historical images were photographically manipulated and collaged together in photoshop in the Institute in advance of the visit, and the resulting images were taken into the photographic screenprinting process at the Creative Spark Studios. Heather was very impressed with the results.

The workshop at Creative Spark gave an introduction to Screenprintint and back in the college the class will develop their ideas and responses to 1916 in more individual ways in an extended Screenprinting project, using what they learned over the day.



NATIONAL FLAG POST-PRIMARY PRESENTATION CEREMONY

On the 7th March, Monaghan Institute was invited to the 1916 national flag ceremony in Croke Park Dublin. All secondary schools and further education centres from up and down the country were invited. Liberal Arts Student Chelsea Halpenny, Maria Ward Brennan and Director Dr. Fiona McGrath attended this presentation. The ceremony was held thanks to the Thomas F. Meagher foundation. The guest speakers included President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, Ryan Tubridy and Reverend Michael Cavanagh. All three men drove the same message home to the young audience and that was to respect our flag that Irish men and Irish women have fought and died for the freedom our countries had today. One student from each school/college was presented with a handmade flag and a copy of the Irish proclamation. Our receiver was Chelsea Halpenny from Liberal Arts. It was a fascinating and well informed event, and it really taught the next generation on how important national pride is.



Commemorating the 1916 Easter Rising

The Art, Craft and Design class was successful in gaining sponsorship from Monaghan County Council to go on research trips and collaborate with artists to make artwork commemorating 1916. The work will be on show to the public in The Markethouse from April 28th. As part of Work Experience the students will be participating in the Monaghan 1916 celebrations on Saturday, 30th April, where they will carry out printmaking workshops on site in the gallery.

As part of the project, local Historian, Michael Burns was invited to the college to give a talk, "1916, Local and National". Michael's talk was very informative, he is a historian from Castleblayney with a great reserve of information about the area. He brought the event to life so well by giving detailed accounts of the people involved and their actions in the lead up to the rising. This was enhanced by his ability to give us a vivid account of what life was like at the time, from a local perspective.

Next on the agenda is a visual research trip to Dublin where Art students will gather inspiration for their final screen print and sculpture project. Kilmainham Gaol, the volunteer exhibition at the Adelphi and Collins Barracks will be on the itinerary.

After Easter the art class will visit the painting studio of Conor Walton, painter of national acclaim, and take part in a day long life drawing workshop. Both Conor's grandfathers fought in 1916 and his family has an original portrait painting of Michael Collins painted back in 1922. We look forward to the visit.



STUDENTS VISIT PAYPAL

On Tuesday 8th March 2016, 37 of our learners from Multimedia and Business courses Level 5 and Level 6 visited PayPal in Dundalk for a company visit in association with FIT. Learners were given a tour of the company which showcased its excellent employee facilities including working environments, training facilities, staff gym, canteens, coffee stations, basketball court, games room and giant chess board.

A big thank you to Sarah Louise Gordon, the enthusiastic Talent Acquisition Manager from PayPal. She gave our learners an honest and informative insight into their recruitment process and current available employment opportunities within PayPal. Sarah Louise explained what she looks for in a CV and outlined useful guidance and advice for learners when creating a CV or applying for position in PayPal. For further information visit their recruitment website at www.paypaljobsireland.com.





HOODIES ON SALE NOW

College Hoodies are now on sale from Tue - Fri in the canteen.

Cost of Hoodies €25 (€10 deposit required)

Please contact a member of MISU for more details



GOOD LUCK

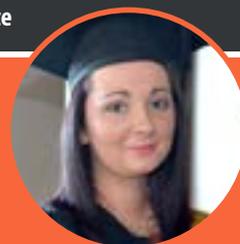
Good luck to our Nursing students who are currently completing interviews for places in nursing degrees for the coming year. Furthermore congratulations to those who have already received their offers for places next year – we are very proud of you!



COMPLETING A DEGREE IN MONAGHAN INSTITUTE

Bachelor of Business student Nakita Traynor talks about her experience on the newly introduced degree course in Monaghan Institute

In 2014, I decided to return to study. I chose Monaghan Institute as its facilities are fantastic and it is local and convenient. I completed the QQI Business & Office Administration Level 5 course. The support and encouragement I received from the staff at Monaghan Institute played a massive role in making my return to study so enjoyable. I was gaining confidence in myself and had a sense of achievement every day I learned something new or passed another exam, because of this I found a new love for learning. I wanted to advance my education and decided to study a Bachelor of Business (Honours) Level 8 Degree through Dundalk Institute of Technology that is hosted in Monaghan Institute for the 1st and 2nd year with the final year based in Dundalk. The benefits of this are immense, essentially I have the support of the staff at Monaghan Institute and the staff of DKIT as well as access to all the facilities at both institutes. I am currently in the second semester of year one and I love it.



The course is structured and the material and content delivery and implementation is really efficient and effective. The timeline of exams and CA due dates is organised and easy to understand. Some of the course modules are; Management and Marketing, Quantitative Techniques, Financial Accounting, Introduction to Business Computing, Entrepreneurship, Economics and Research & Writing Skills. Most of these subjects were completely new to me, which was quite daunting at the start and sometimes even now they can be quite challenging, but as the saying goes "Nothing worth having comes easy". The lecturers are friendly, approachable, understanding and always willing to help. Even when I find I am struggling with a particular topic I never feel like I am struggling on my own. I know if I ask for help I will get it. It's new and it's challenging but it's also really interesting and exciting. I highly recommend this degree course. Returning to study was the best decision I've ever made.

Nakita Traynor
DK817 Bachelor of Business



WELL DONE

To our Level 6 Multimedia & Web Development students on the filming of their Psychological Thrillers. We look forward to the screening.

Film Name: Seesaw
Group members: Gussy Hughes, Stefan McKenna, Megan McKenna, Fergal Ryan

Film Name: The Space Between
Group members: Noel Marron, Mateusz Kowalski, Cathal McPhillips, Connor Duffy, Aine Gillanders, Adam Brennan

Join Student Accommodation Monaghan

If you are:

- A student - searching for accommodation
- A landlord – with houses or apartments to rent
- A B&B or home owner – with rooms or lodgings to advertise
- An estate agent – with rental properties to let

Search Facebook for the secure group called "Student Accommodation Monaghan" and join for free



mi GET INVOLVED

Interested in a career in journalism? Have a passion for photography? MI times are now accepting articles/ photographs for our next issue. For more information contact Rynagh McNally Email: rynaghmcnally@cmetb.ie.

Comment: