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DIT News Society

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SU’s feed students in crisis

Luke Holohan
News Editor

Students’ Unions across the nation are providing free food boxes and vouchers to students who are struggling financially.

A large proportion of those seeking help are believed to be people that are still awaiting grant payments from the Student Universal Support Ireland system (SUSI). SU’s have taken the step after receiving unprecedented requests from students who cannot afford to feed themselves.

The USI also encouraged SUs throughout the country to provide any further assistance they can, in order to alleviate some of the pressures of those struggling in the wake of the student grant fiasco.

Athlone Institute of Technology (AIT) has seen the greatest demand for basic assistance. Over the Christmas period 150 students were given food boxes, while a campus soup kitchen is currently still running on the campus. Father Shay Casey, the AIT chaplain, described it as “one of the worst situations I’ve seen. I’ve come through some bad times of the eighties but there wasn’t the problem of fees then, families are in serious personal debt. Financially, the parents are just as worse off as the students”. He estimated that between twenty to thirty people are being fed each day by the soup kitchen initiative, which provides those in need with a coupon for a bowl of soup and a roll. “Unfortunately the SU and the Chaplaincy don’t have the resources to pay student rents but we can provide some basic help to a lot of students on the bread-line”.

As students return for the second term of the year, over 5,500 are still desperate for financial assistance. In order to alleviate some of the hardship caused by delayed grant payments, a significant number of Students’ Unions across the country have provided food boxes for students who are coming to college hungry.”

The USI also encouraged SUs throughout the country to provide any further assistance they can, in order to alleviate some of the pressures of those struggling in the wake of the student grant fiasco.

SUs aim to provide food vouchers for students who are struggling financially.

DIT also has brought in similar scheme. Along with the assistance of the Chaplaincy, the SU is making food vouchers available to students who find themselves in a financially precarious situation. DITSU’s VP, Glenn Fitzpatrick, said there were a number of contributing factors to student poverty but that, “SUSI and the government are not doing students a whole lot of favours”. “The main thing we can do at the moment is to keep fire fighting”, he added.

The City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee (CDVEC), the company which is in charge of the SUSI grant system, has revealed that 5,757 students or 28% of the successful applicants are still waiting on their grant payments to be processed.

DIT merger discussed
HEA plans to cut the number of publicly funded third-level colleges.
P2

Tragic Deaths
Earlier this month, three members of the DIT community passed away.
P2

HMV sit in protests
Staff stage protest in Limerick store.
P3

Injunction granted against DIT
Michael Mulvey, Director of academic affairs and registrar at DIT, has been granted a temporary High Court injunction to prevent the college from proceeding with disciplinary action against him.

He claims that DIT is in breach of constitutional and natural justice, as they have failed to provide him with sufficiently precise details of the disciplinary breaches of which he has been accused, or any complaints that have been made against him.

He has also been alleged that Professor Norton has predetermined the outcome of an inquiry into Mr Mulvey’s proposal in 2011 to relocate the Learning Teaching and Technology Centre (LTT). This proposal, made in 2011 as part of cost-saving measures, involved moving the LTTC from Mount Street to Rathmines.

In an affidavit, Mr Mulvey said that a dispute arose over this proposed change, and disciplinary proceedings were initiated against him. He claims that this decision on the part of the college is unfair, and is prompted by the Teachers’ Union of Ireland (TUI) campaign to prevent the relocation of the LTTC. It is argued that this move by the TUI was motivated by a desire to undermine Mr Mulvey’s authority in DIT.

Mr Justice Michael Peart granted the application for an injunction, and made it returnable for today. He said that both parties will be available to comment after today’s hearing.

Follow this story on www.edition.ie
HEA plans third-level shake-up

People arrested in Belfast and Derry as loyalists stage protests over union flag controversy.

-7
Temperatures to dip far below freezing overnight in the north and midlands, as cold snap persists.

1000
People rescued by Royal National Lifeboat Institute last year.

50
Years of post-war reconciliation marked by French and German leaders this week.

5.8 million
Euro sought for apartment development off Baggot Street.

Tragic deaths: three members of DIT community

Mikey Clancy was a 22 year old Dubliner, competitor on the P.W.A (Professional Windsurfing Association) World Windsurfing Tour and had just returned to the world windsurfing stage in 2012 after being side-lined for most of 2011 by a serious ankle injury. He required painful fusion surgery and nearly a year’s rehab off the scene and away from windsurfing. His comeback on the 2012 PWA tour in the KIA Cold Hawaii World Cup saw him finish 13th and awarded sailor of the day during the contest.

A serious ankle injury, a career-defining setback last year when he suffered a cartilage-destroying injury to his ankle that required painful fusion surgery and nearly a year’s rehab off the scene and away from windsurfing. His comeback on the 2012 PWA tour in the KIA Cold Hawaii World Cup saw him finish 13th and awarded sailor of the day during the contest.

Clancy had achieved many accolades and awards including, 25th Overall P.W.A (Professional Windsurfing Association) World Tour in the KIA Cold Hawaii World Cup, Irish U19 Champion. He was also an accomplished student, gaining an Elite Athlete Scholarship to DIT for Marketing. His dream of competing suffered a setback last year when he suffered a cartilage-destroying injury to his ankle that required painful fusion surgery and nearly a year’s rehab off the scene and away from windsurfing. His comeback on the 2012 PWA tour in the KIA Cold Hawaii World Cup saw him finish 13th and awarded sailor of the day during the contest.

He went on to add, “Whilst we are extremely heartbroken and shocked at the news we want to celebrate that he had a good innings in a lot of aspects. He was really a warrior. He got to the very top of world windsurfing twice.”

According to the Mirror report, Mikey’s ashes are to be spread over several of his favourite beach spots in Ireland.

Staff member Marie Gonnelly also unfortunately passed away. Marie was a known to many colleagues and students through her role as a member of the DIT Career Service team of advisors. Marie had worked for many years at DIT and had been on a career break since the beginning of 2012. She was working with New York University in Abu Dhabi when her untimely death occurred. She was just 31 and it is thought she died of possible S.A.D.S (Sudden Adult Death Syndrome).

Mikey’s father, Michael Clancy spoke to many a windsurfers day. May you dance on the seas of the ocean.”

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Chiara Lynch mentioned: “I can’t speak directly for the decisions of other colleges, sometimes colleges will adopt certain stances in relation to announcements like this, to protect their negotiating position.

I wish to talk, DIT counselling is available. For more information contact Sister Mary Flanagan on (01) 402 3050, 087-6417309, or e-mail Mary.Flanagan@dit.ie

If anyone requires help coping or simply wants to talk, DIT counselling is available. Please contact the secretary Gabby Lynch on (01) 402 3352, text to 086 0820543 or email gabby.lynch@dit.ie to arrange an appointment.

THE EDITION | Wednesday January 23 2013
DITSU membership for Malala

Malala Yousafzai is awarded honorary membership of DITSU

Paul O’Connor

Malala Yousafzai has been made an honorary member of DITSU. DIT Student’s Union President David Keogan proposed the award of Honorary Membership to the Union to Malala Yousafzai before Christmas, which was seconded by the Executive Council.

According to Mr Keogan, the proposal was made in recognition of the work done by Malala in the pursuit of educational rights for girls in the Swat region of Pakistan and as an acknowledgement to the Union to Malala Yousafzai for her visit at the end of the month.

Malala has been a campaigner for the educational rights of girls in the north-western district of Pakistan in the past number of years. In 2009 the young activist wrote a blog for the BBC Urdu service, detailing her life in the Swat Valley where she was banned from going to school by the Taliban.

This region of the country is a Pushtun tribal area straddling the Afghanistan border and was the centre of a counter insurgency by the Pakistani government on the Taliban in 2009. The counter insurgency was thought to have been successful but last Thursday’s bombing in Mingora which claimed the lives of 22 people would suggest that the Taliban are still very much active in the region.

The long term future of that part of the world may be mired in uncertainty, but the immediate future for Malala is crystal clear. Her father, Ziauddin, has been appointed to a diplomatic post at Pakistan’s consulate in Birmingham.

Concerning the proximity, President Keogan would love to invite Malala and her father to DIT to accept her award, health permitting of course. President Keogan would prefer to hold the event in DIT so that the Student Council can attend but either way he envisages some kind of ceremony taking place in the next month or two to honour Yousafzai’s bravery.

Exams department introduce four day window

Claran Clark

New changes to the General Assessment Regulations at DIT mean students will be able to get feedback from lecturers after they receive their exam results.

After proposals from DIT Students’ Union (SU), the examinations department introduced new procedures for providing feedback to students on their assessments.

The alterations were made before Christmas, and students will be able to avail of the feedback measures after this year’s January exam results are awarded.

Glen Fitzpatrick, Vice-President of the S.U. said the measures “will foster learning through feedback.

“It’s a much more student friendly way of dealing with problems that arise with results”. The amendments were made, largely to deal with the rechecking, remarking and appealing of exam results.

The original regulations stated that students had three working days to have their assessment rechecked, five days to have it remarked and seven days to start an appeal process.

The new measures will mean students have a four day window after they receive their grades, to consult with the module lecturer before they decide if they want to challenge the grade.

“It will prevent unnecessary appeals by students. Sometimes students will be frustrated and start an appeal process but in some instances with the feedback, they will know where they stand,” Mr Fitzpatrick said.

The welfare and education officer went on to say that lecturers will now be expected to make themselves available for feedback consultations.

The S.U. had been pushing the reform through since last year as it is a commonly supported measure in most students unions and colleges. Barbara O’Shea former head of the school of media said, “Speaking for this school, it isn’t a massive change.

Lecturers here would always have an ethos of feedback, especially on courses that have continuous assessment.” She added: “We would always have encouraged students to engage with us.

This change formalises the process, but it’s probably the case other schools with other disciplines, where the assessment is heavily exam based, they wouldn’t have been used to giving feedback.

Mr Fitzpatrick also said, “A lot of schools would have an ethos of feedback as part of their best practice guidelines.

This change was about broadening that across DIT so it would be a best practice procedure across the whole institution.”

News Bulletin

Grad wins in Las Vegas

Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) was the headline this month with a gift of next-generation technology for use by its students of geomatics and spatial information, due to recent graduate Mohammad Akbari. David won the International Trimble Dimensions 2012 Student Paper Competition.

The prize for the competition was a trip to Las Vegas to participate in an international conference, and a donation of state-of-the-art equipment for his home institution.

The prize was awarded by Trimble, one of the world’s largest providers of positioning technology. Mr. Anthony Mills of Trimble Navigation Europe Ltd, travelled to Dublin to make the presentation to DIT.

New Post-grad Officer

David Keogan, President of the DIT Student’s Union (DITSU) has announced the appointment of Hoda Akbari as the post graduate student representative for the remainder of this academic year.

Ms Akbari who was elected, last month, will now join the ten-member Students’ Union Executive Council to represent the interests of the increasing number of DIT postgraduate and Research students.

Ms Akbari is a full time self-funded research student in DIT’s FOCAS Institute. Along with her role within DITSU as post-grad officer Ms Akbari will sit on a number of DIT committees including the Graduate Research School Board, the Library Committee and the Academic Quality Assurance Committee.

Top of the Apps

Recent DIT start-up, BitInsight Games, has gone to Number 1 in the Irish APP store after the release of their first game ‘Ku: The Shroud of the Morrigan’.

Eoin Harris, Basil Lim and Ralph Croy developed the game as part of their 2012 final project on DIT’s MSc in Creative Digital Media & Games.

The game took over popular titles such as FIFA 13, Angry Birds and Minecraft for the top spot. It is also performing well on the international charts and has already broken into the US TOP 100 Charts. A full Irish language version of the game is also available.

Welcome Brazilians

DIT is planning to welcome an influx of Brazilian students as part of the Science without Borders programme.

The initiative’s goal is to place over 100,000 Brazilian students in overseas higher education institutions over the next four years. The Head of the Graduate Research School, Prof Mary McNamera, member of the Ministerial Advisory Group on Irish Higher Education in Brazil, will coordinate the operation with the Brazilian Ministry of Education.

Irish delegations to Sao Paulo, in November 2011, and Brasilia, in July 2012, to promote Dublin Institute of Technology as a top destination for Brazilian students.
HSE: Mental health funds cut

Mark Meehan

Budgetary constraints in the Health Service Executive should not impede the investment of funding in mental health services. That’s the call being put forward by Mental Health Reform, a coalition of 32 organisations across the country which is campaigning for prioritising and improving mental health care in Ireland.

The HSE’s Service Plan for 2013 has committed it to an investment of €35 million in funding from Budget 2013 for mental health services. Using this funding, the health service plans to recruit 477 new staff to this sector. The HSE has also committed itself to completing the appointment of 414 new staff from last year, a process which has been “inexcusably delayed” according to the Mental Health Reform coalition.

While the director of Mental Health Reform, Dr Orla Barry, welcomed the news that the appointment of the new staff would be fast-tracked by the HSE leadership, she also indicated her hope that the delays seen in 2012 in appointing new staff would not be repeated.

She also voiced her concerns about cutbacks already planned by the health service. “Mental health services have seen an overall decline in staffing numbers since this time last year, with a drop of over 400 staff during 2012, so the prompt appointment of all of the promised new staff is a matter of urgency. We are concerned by the announcement in the Service Plan of a planned reduction of at least 102 acute inpatient beds. Such a reduction cannot happen until adequate community services are in place.”

Of major concern to Mental Health Reform is that the €35 million in funding has been made “subject to affordability”. Dr Barry and the wider coalition fear that the funding could be siphoned off into other areas of the HSE to cover deficits.

The group also hailed the increased HSE commitment to mental health services for forensics, for older people and for people with intellectual disabilities – areas that have historically been neglected, as well as the development of an information technology system for mental health and €2.5 million of funding allotted to the National Counselling Service. The mental health coalition has stated that it would like to see the counselling service extended to those on low incomes, not just those who are in possession of a medical card.

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HSE to slash nurses salaries: INMO urges boycott of scheme

Al McConnell
Deputy Editor

One thousand nursing positions have been advertised at reduced pay by the Health Service Executive, as graduates once again target in money-saving measures.

The new positions will be classified as reduced rate of pay under the new scheme, with some nursing unions arguing that this went against the principle of ‘equal pay for equal work’, and would leave entrants to the profession earning less than those ahead of them in coming years.

These sentiments have been echoed by nursing unions in the latest controversy, and unions have urged graduate nurses not to apply for the positions.

HSE Reform, Dr Orla Barry, welcomed the news that the appointment of the new staff would be fast-tracked by the HSE leadership, but unions maintain that graduates are once again targeted in money-saving measures.

Nurses who worked in HSE hospitals last year as part of their final clinical placement will also have to reapply for the jobs at which they were contracted, with the reduced rate of pay under the new scheme, which is called the Post Qualification Nursing & Midwifery Initiative.

Thousands protested in October over cuts in pay for newly qualified teachers, which, it was argued, went against the principle of ‘equal pay for equal work’, and would leave entrants to the profession earning less than those ahead of them in coming years.

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One thousand nursing positions have been advertised at reduced pay by the Health Service Executive, as graduates once again target in money-saving measures.

The new positions will be classified as reduced rate of pay under the new scheme, with some nursing unions maintaining that a nurse graduate in London can earn the equivalent of €30,000, and equivalent jobs in America offering over double the new Irish pay rates.

The latest Government cuts in the teaching profession have already reduced the starting salary of at least 3,000 teachers from around €41,000 in 2009, to €32,000 at present.

Current students will now be concerned about their prospects of working in the public sector, with Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Brendan Howlin, suggesting that public sector workers will have to “work longer, and more cleverly, and in different, smart ways.”

It is now understood that negotiations between union representatives and Government will include the possibility of money-saving changes to overtime, expenses, and allowances to be considered. The Croke Park Agreement’s guarantee of preventing pay cuts until 2014 remains off the negotiation table.

USI violence survey

Claran Clark
News Editor

Following the brutal stabbing of German student Thomas Heinrich, the USI aims to document students’ experiences of violence through its “Say Something” campaign.

The campaign has been launched after Heinrich died from stab wounds he sustained at DIT and that were inflicted by a DIT student Daniel Blain which left him permanently disabled in 2010.

In light of these incidents the USI is conducting an online survey with the support of Cosc – the National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence. It says, “The purpose of this survey is to better understand the extent and nature of violence experienced by third level students.”

They went on to say, “This survey also seeks to establish how safe or unsafe students feel in different environments. Regardless of whether or not a student has experienced any kind of violence or harassment, their responses will help us to understand and deal with issues of violence as experienced by third level students.”

The Survey is to take roughly 15 minutes to complete and the USI were keen to endorse the survey as a diversity enterprise, encouraging all genders, sexualities and ethnicities to complete the survey. They assured that the information is private and confidential.

Laura Harmon, USI vice president for equality and citizenship said, “This is the first time that we have undertaken a study of this scale for this age group. We hope that the information we receive will be useful in ensuring that the future campaigns USI and local Students’ Unions run in this area will be well informed and targeted.”

Gary Heylin, Director of Cosc said, “By increasing our understanding of the extent and nature of violence experienced by third level students we can improve our actions to counter such violence and support those who have experienced it.”

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Want to get fit or lose weight? Enter the “Lean Machine Challenge” where a chosen few will receive 12 weeks of personal training.

Training will be provided by fully certified personal trainers from RAW who have worked with the likes Olympic Athletes, inter-country footballers and hurlers, international rugby teams and many more. The first Irish winner of Mr Universe trains out of RAW.

The Challenge will be covered in The Edition and contestants will keep diaries to assess their progress. As well as three months free personal training, the winner will receive a free year’s membership to RAW Condition.

To apply mail John@RawCondition.com or phone the gym on 01 - 4789204.
Dublin Bus Nitelink services operating in the city have been slashed by one-third. They company have released the revised timetable.

Dublin Bus will no longer run half-hourly Nitelink services as cuts go into effect this weekend.

Although all eighteen of the current routes will remain active, fourteen of these will now run less frequently with the majority operating on an hourly basis.

Only the very busiest routes will run more than five buses a night. The routes affected are 7n, 25n, 39n, 41n, 42n, 46n, 66n, 69n and 77n.

Timetables for the other nine Nitelink routes are unaffected. For the most part, Dublin Bus has cut services on the most frequent routes, bringing them closer to the levels of quieter routes.

The company announced the timetable change last Friday. “The timetables have been revised to meet the existing level of customer demand,” wrote a spokesperson to social media users.

The biggest cuts are to the 7n and the 25n, which previously ran nine buses a night leaving the city centre every half hour between midnight and 4am.

From now just four buses a night will run, departing on the hour. The 39n remains the most frequent route, but sees its services cut from nine a night to just six.

“Dublin Bus increases since the new year. Fares and prepaid tickets are in line with London.

The reduction in services comes just two weeks after Dublin Bus announced a hike in cash fares from €5.00 to €5.70 – with the fare remaining at €5 for Leap card users.

These price amendments for all cash fares and prepaid tickets are in line with Dublin Bus increases since the new year.
Establishing the Edition's French connection

A December editorial meeting, this reporter was asked where he might see himself in ten years’ time. “In the arms of a beautiful woman,” I responded.

The editorial team doubted that this vision would come true, as they thought I lacked the necessary finesse to attract such a woman.

Over the past months, my obnoxious out-of-tune singing and shite talking had become unbearable even for the most judged of the Edition’s hacks.

Feeling that my etiquette must improve, the editorial team decided to send me to France on an Erasmus to replace my un-couth habits with French sophistication. The Breton town of Lannion was chosen for my grand refinement. However, on arrival I realised the town was located far from the style and sophistication more readily associated with Paris. Lannion is rural, very rural. While the town centre has plenty of pretty ancient stone walled French buildings, it is still a one horse town. And it seems that the horse has even left.

Surprised by the town’s isolation, Andrew (who makes up the other half of the Edition’s foreign desk) and myself were already looking for escape routes on the day in France; studying the train timetables that lead to Paris. However, this quietness did not last long as we moved on to campus residency and began lectures the next day.

With a university campus about the size of a large secondary school in a rural area, on the edge of town, it was inevitable that the arrival of the two Irish would make a big impact (last year’s students from DIT are still regarded as celebrities).

Our arrival was made bigger by the fact that Andrew and I are the whole of the Erasmus community. After a morning of administration and meeting professors, we were introduced to our first year journalism class.

No sooner had we entered the classroom, had the class organised a social calendar for the week, offering invitations to football matches and parties. We were never of so much interest to so many, despite our language difficulties.

My head still spins from the initial impact of the language barrier that day. Small talk becomes twice as difficult when faced with the language barrier that day. Surprisingly, the League of Ireland is also better known than I thought. One of my new French colleagues had heard of my own team Bray Wanderers. I asked how he knew of the Wanderers, and he said “I know them from playing FIFA.” I know now where to focus my refinement.

On moving on to campus residency, the language difficulties.

As the class ‘une soirée.’ However it is much better when they are going to a house party or as the call ‘une soirée.’ However it is true that the same as an Irish session, except with a higher wine to beer ratio.

The style of dress of new colleagues also appears more sophisticated. Scarfs are not just to keep your neck warm. They remain on during class, giving air of supreme sophistication. Following this French lead I should be refined and in the arms of a beautiful woman within ten years’ time.

First impressions of French Erasmus from our Foreign Correspondent

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The Edition has become the first Irish newspaper to open a foreign office in northern France.

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Oxford LGBT to protest Assange speech

Colm McGlinchey

Oxford students are to demonstrate against Julian Assange’s speech at the University’s award ceremony which celebrates prominent whistle-blowers today.

Students are to protest at the Sam Adams Awards, against a speech via video link made by Wikileaks founder and whistle-blower Assange, who is wanted in Sweden on allegations of rape.

Past awards winners have included Assange himself in 2010 and FBI whistle-blower Sibel Edmonds in 2004.

Julian Assange pictured in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London. Mr Assange has promised to release more than one million documents in 2013 through Wikileaks. Mr Assange has been in the Embassy for more than six months as of last December.

Vice President of the Oxford students union told reporters that the protests ‘hope to support survivors of rape and sexual assault’. Mr Assange, an Australian national, has been taking refuge at the Ecuadorian embassy in London for the past six months in order to avoid extradition to Sweden for questioning on rape allegations.

Oxford student Simone Webb, who is president of the University’s LGBTQ society, took to twitter to tell students the protests are ‘about challenging society’s treatment of rape allegations, and the way they are minimised and ignored.’ Webb also tweeted: ‘I do not think that someone who is actively fleeing rape allegations should have been offered this privilege.’

Assange’s mother, Christine Assange, took to twitter to defend her son, calling Webb and other protestors ‘a gang of rabid, irrational frenzied feminists’. She also encouraged Oxford students who did support Assange to arrange a counter protest, tweeting: ‘Not only a figure who generates controversy for recklessness of some Wikileaks activities. Assange himself in 2010 and FBI whistle-blower Assange, who is wanted in Sweden on allegations of rape. Assange himself in 2010 and FBI whistle-blower Assange, who is wanted in Sweden for questioning on rape allegations.

Thomas Finger, who is to receive the Sam Adams Award this year, also expressed concern with Assange’s involvement stating ‘I am appalled by the theft and distribution of US government documents because it violates the law, personal obligations, and professional ethics.’

The Oxford Union has invited protestors to attend the Q&A with Mr Assange to voice their issues. A spokesperson for the union said ‘Mr Assange is clearly a figure who generates controversy for reasons ranging from the charges made against him in Sweden, to the perceived recklessness of some Wikileaks activities. We would therefore encourage those who disagree with him, or with any of our other speakers, to participate in the Q&A session.’

87 dead in twin Uni blasts

Colm McGlinchey

Twin blasts at a Syrian University have killed 87 people. The explosions happened during the first day of exams at Aleppo University.

Activists blamed President Assad’s regime for the blasts, while state media blamed rebels. The death toll is expected to rise with over 150 wounded and human remains still being recovered from the site.

Syria has been engaged in a 22 month conflict between current President Bashar al-Assad’s regime and the rebel Free Syrian Army.

The explosions happened on Tuesday 15 January as students sat their exams at Aleppo University in the North of the country. The commercial capital Aleppo is under government control and has been subject to violent clashes with rebels since last summer.

The cause of the blasts has not been confirmed, with state television blaming ground-to-air missiles launched by rebels, and rebels blaming air strikes carried out by the government.

President Assad, who has rejected calls by world leaders to stand down, called for damaged parts of the University to be rebuilt immediately.

Universities across Syria closed on Wednesday 16 January to mark a day of mourning for victims of the blast.

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Kevin McGahern, a Hardy Buck

Luke Holohan talks to former Hardy Buck, Kevin McGahern, on his new movie career.

On my way to meet Kevin McGahern, better known as Sim Card from The Hardy Bucks and one quarter of the fictional indie political rock consortium “Slave Baby”, I begin to wonder whether he’ll turn up in character. He’s chosen Groggans as the location for our interview, and while I’m not complaining in the least: as I pass by Fade Street and the “trinkets” of Georges Street arcade, I start to think that it’s possible I’ll also be met by Vinnie Redbreast and the lads. Or even The Vipers.

As any reasonable person would expect, he turns up as himself and alone. To be honest I’m not sure why I imagined anything else anyway. We settle down over a pint of Guinness and begin to discuss McGahern’s burgeoning and diverse career in comedy, his upcoming show, as well as his somewhat unconventional relationship with hecklers. Unfortunately, I was unable to pry any further information out of him regarding the new Hardy Bucks film. Except for the fact that the show was getting the Hollywood treatment, something akin to “The Hangover” I guess.

McGahern, who is originally from Cavan, began stand-up back in 2009 after becoming familiar with the comedy circuit through friend and comedian, Robbie Bonham. “My interest was kind of encouraged by him. I’d go to some of his gigs and at this time, I guess I’d no idea what I wanted to do. I’d go to these gigs and see him up on stage, and I was like ‘yeah, I wouldn’t mind doing this, it seems interesting, he seems happy and gets paid for making people laugh’.”

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the part of Sim Card came about after a chance meeting with Chris Tordoff (The Viper). “Yeah, I got chatting after one of my gigs, turned out we lived near enough to one another in Ranelagh, we were hanging around watching videos. He just said to call down to the guys. I knew if I just gave myself a funny name then there would be more of a chance of getting something out of it.”

“It seems that Kevin McGahern, whether intentionally or not, inspires comedy. So much so, that the spoof Youtube documentary “The man who fell on the SixOne news”. The Youtube clip has so far received 400,000 hits with the likes of news presenter Brian Dobson and Satirist Charlie Brooker singing it out for personal praise. “That clip’s my Citizen Kane; I’m most proud of Brian Dobson liking it really”.

His role in “No Party for Billy Burns” and the idea for the film itself was inspired after he suggested that a group of his friends dress up as cowboys for a festival. “I suggested that we all dress up as cowboys and go a bit crazy. If you dress up as a gobshite it kind of gives you a bit of a licence to act like one. So, in the end anyway, I was the only one who dressed up as this cowboy and I had to embrace it, pulled guns on cops and stuff like that. This all seemingly inspired Padraig Conaty to write this film.”

By now a group of boisterous Americans have begun to put the recording of this interview in jeopardy. They’ve enquired about a painting behind us, which to the untrained eye, looks more like a badly plastered wall than art. Anyway, before I’ve been drowned out, I get to hear about the Cavan native’s interesting experiences with hecklers. “I punched a guy in the face, well I think I did, anyway he had to go to hospital. Anyway, before, I was the only one who dressed up as this cowboy and I had to embrace it, pulled guns on cops and stuff like that. “I suggested that we all dress up as cowboys and go a bit crazy. If you dress up as a gobshite it kind of gives you a bit of a licence to act like one. So, in the end anyway, I was the only one who dressed up as this cowboy and I had to embrace it, pulled guns on cops and stuff like that. This all seemingly inspired Padraig Conaty to write this film.”

Kevin McGahern will be performing his show “2 Grown Men”, his longest set yet, at The Stags Head on the February 5. Entrance is free into the Dame Lane venue with the fun set to kick off at 8.30pm. Also performing on the night will be TedFest champion, Edwin Sammon, as well as support from David Reilly and Conor O’Toole. Before leaving, he said that the punching of audience members was a rare enough occurrence, so don’t let that put you off. Comedians are generally very docile characters, that is, until you antagonise one in the grips of a Buckfast hangover I suppose. Besides, the suited man lived to tell the tale, so it is probably worth the risk heading to the Stags Head if only to see what madness ensues.

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**CULTURE**

**Shadows & Dust**

Luke Holohan  
News Editor

It is 9.30p.m. when the band ‘Shadows and Dust’ make it to the minimally lit and intimate stage of Whelan’s Live. It’s the ideal setting for the group’s acoustic style, not to mention a great atmosphere for their haunting lyrics.

For an unsigned band that hasn’t played live for nearly a year, quite a crowd has turned up. The large following is testament to their steadily growing appeal, and many are eager to catch this rare show before the band once again withdraw from the live scene to spend some time in the recording studio.

Luckily for me, I’ve been here since 7 o’clock and have one of the best seats in the house. While that may make me seem ‘o’clock and have one of the best seats in

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While that may make me seem...
Love/Hate dominate IFTAs

Rachael O’Brien
Deputy Culture Editor

On Wednesday 9 January, the Irish Film and Television Award nominations were announced.

Better known as the IFTAs, the award ceremony will take place in the Convention Centre, Dublin on the 9 February. There are 40 categories in this year’s awards, including Best Film, Best Director in Film, Best TV Drama and Best Director in TV Drama.

Popular Irish drama ‘Love/Hate’ has swept the board, picking up 11 nominations.

‘Love/Hate’ nominations include Best Drama, Best Leading Actor for both Robert Sheehan (Darren) and Tom Vaughan Lawlor (Nidge), Best Leading Actress for Charlie Murphy (Siobhan) and Best Supporting Actress for Susan Loughnane (Debbie).

Irish Sitcom, ‘Moone Boy’ has been nominated in five categories including Best Director, Best Script and Best Supporting Actor for Chris O’ Dowd.

After being nominated, O’ Dowd tweeted “5 IFTA nominations for Moone Boy. Swoon! Looks like we won’t have to send David Rawle [Martin] back to Calcutta after all.”

On the film front, ‘What Richard Did’ has picked up ten nominations including Best Film, Best Director and Best Script.

‘What Richard Did’ was the best performing Irish film in the Irish box office in 2012.

Newcomer, Jack Reynor is also up for ‘Best Actor’ and has recently been cast as the lead in the next Transformers 4.

It’s been a fantastic year for Irish Film and Television, and with ‘Love/Hate’ and ‘What Richard Did’ leading the nominations there is nothing stopping these two scooping up all of the awards on the night.

Les Misérables wins big at Golden Globes

Rachael O’Brien
Deputy Culture Editor

On Sunday 13 January, the 70th Golden Globes were held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California.

The main winners on the night were Les Misérables, Argo and Homeland.

Many A-list celebrities attended on the night, all dressed head-to-toe in glam. Nude and black gowns seemed to be a popular choice for the ladies, while all the men went for the obvious, yet handsome, tuxedos.

Les Misérables scooped three main awards winning in the ‘Best comedy or musical’, ‘Best actor in a comedy or musical’ and ‘Best supporting actress in a comedy or musical’ categories.

Upon receiving the award for ‘Best comedy or musical’ a producer of the movie, Eric Fellner, thanked “the Hollywood For formal tribute planned for the show according
digital voting system allowed the Academy to announce nominees two weeks earlier than last year.

Many people were shocked at some of the leading names that were snubbed in the nominations for Best Director.

Kathryn Bigelow (“Zero Dark Thirty”), Ben Affleck (“Argo”) and Quentin Tarantino (“Django Unchained”) were passed over, despite widespread expectations that one or all of them would be nominated.

This year Hollywood faces a somewhat longer than usual campaign period. A new digital voting system allowed the Academy to announce nominees two weeks earlier than last year.

This is more than six weeks before the awards ceremony, and is said to be a benefit to both the nominees and the voters.

The 50th anniversary of the James Bond film series will also be acknowledged in this year’s Academy Awards, with a special tribute planned for the show according to producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron.

The latest installment of the series, Skyfall, is up for Oscars in five categories, including Best Original Song for Adele’s “Skyfall.”

On the Irish front, there were two nods, one in the Cinematography category and one in the Best Animated Short category.

Armagh-born Seamus McGarvey has been nominated for his cinematography on “Anna Karenina.” Set in late-19th century Russia high-society, the aristocrat Anna Karenina enters into a life-changing affair with the affluent Count Vronsky.

Kerry animator Fodiola Cronin O’Reilly has also been nominated for her work on the animated short “Head Over Heels.”

Lincoln leading in Oscar nominations

Rachael O’Brien
Deputy Culture Editor

The 85th Academy Awards will be held on Sunday 24 February in Los Angeles, California.

This year’s nominations were announced on 16th January and included 12 nominations for Lincoln and 11 nominations for Life of Pi.

It also included eight nominations each for Les Misérables and Silver Linings Playbook.

Lincoln leads the field with 12 nominations in categories such as Best Picture, Best Director and Best Actor.

Another movie which proved popular in the nominations is Life of Pi, which picked up nominations in 11 categories, including Best Picture, Best Director and Best Original Score.

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“The fate of human dignity is in our hands.” - Lincoln
**CULTURE**

**Tarantino’s Western Spectacle**

**Django Unchained**

Eoin Livingston

Django Unchained is Quentin Tarantino’s latest Oscar-nominated movie. It follows the Western-themed adventures of Dr. King Schultz (Christoph Waltz) and Django (Jamie Foxx), who are bounty hunters in pre-Civil War America, as they travel across the southern states in search of bounties and money, among other things.

The first impression provided by Django Unchained is the fact that Tarantino pulled no punches in paying his homage to westerns. Everything about the movie is pulled from westerns; the music, the cinematography, the accents, it’s staggering! However, in typical Tarantino fashion, these classic western clichés are all served with a refreshing modern twist to stop the movie from becoming boring. Punching up the classic western clichés are all served with a refreshing modern twist to stop the movie from becoming boring.

Leonardo DiCaprio hands in a truly spectacular performance as Calvyn Candie, the movie’s main antagonist. DiCaprio plays Candie as he should, as an evil, malicious villain who thinks himself the hero. It is not just the main characters who deserve a mention though; some of the side characters are played and written to perfection. Samuel Jackson’s performance as Stephen and Kerry Washington’s performance as Broomhilda stand out as memorable performances. Jackson’s performance as a black butler who believes that black people’s place is in servitude and Washington’s performance as a slave are ones to watch out for. One scene involving Washington that stands out is the scene in which she is being whipped as a punishment and her performance makes it genuinely uncomfortable to experience. Another grim and uncomfortable scene is the mandingo fighting scene, which is basically two black people fighting to the death. It completely takes uneasiness and shock to a new level. The expression on the winner’s face is grim and reflects the sad, harsh reality of his world brilliantly.

Another exceptional thing about this movie is Tarantino’s use of music. Accompanying the classic western soundtrack is about 3 rap songs played at various points in the movie. Although rather startling at first, they really add to the score, and are amazing in inspiring powerful feelings within the viewer.

All in all, Django Unchained is spectacular viewing. The writing is spectacular, the acting is spectacular and the cinematography is, you guessed it, spectacular! Tarantino has really outdone himself with Django Unchained and he handles the issue of slavery and oppression really delicately, which is very impressive. This movie is a must see for any Tarantino fan and is a must see for any western fan. It’s charming and refreshing take on the genre makes for a truly great movie.

**Close-up on life as a war junkie**

**McCullin**

Stephen Bourke
Chief Sub-Editor

McCullin is a beautiful and brutal documentary that follows the eponymous subject through the warzones of the last fifty years. If you don’t recognise Don McCullin’s name, you will recognise his photography. He’s the man that captured the photos illustrating your Leaving Cert History. From the shell-shocked Marine in Vietnam to the charge of British soldiers in the days of embedded journalism, McCullin took his camera into nearly every warzone of the second half of the 20th century. Such is McCullin’s enthusiasm to show the human side of war that the 77-year-old came out of retirement to cover the ongoing conflict in Syria.

Directoral team Jacqui and David Morris have earned themselves BAFTA nominations for their filmmaking debut, and rightly so. By interspersing archive footage with interviews of the elderly Don McCullin pottering around his house and pulling out books of photographs, the man himself tells us his old war stories in a very intimate and honest way.

The film highlights McCullin’s success in bringing the truth of conflicts on the far side of the world to readers with his aesthetic and honest photography. In many ways, McCullin is as much a retelling of the wars of the past half-century as the saga of the man who saw most of them. It’s also a harrowing insight into how differently war was reported before the days of embedded journalism. Ultimately, McCullin is a horrific and dark film. It will leave you feeling emotionally drained as you try to comprehend the convergence of a war junkie and aesthete in the crucibles of working-class London and decades of conflict. This is the portrait McCullin the film paints of McCullin, the man.

If you think Zero Dark Thirty is too happy a film, McCullin is your cure. The Morrises have produced a masterful, insightful and harrying honest film of a man’s story in much the same way the man does in stills.

**Foodventure in Japan**

**Jiro Dreams of Sushi**

Colm McGlinchey

Jiro lives, breathes, and dreams sushi. At 85 he still has passion for a difficult job that he has achieved so much in. His tiny restaurant in Tokyo doesn’t even have its own toilets, but Jiro’s sushi is so good it has received three Michelin stars, the highest award going in the restaurant industry. Director David Gelb interviews Jiro and those involved with his life, examining the workaholic and his trade. It may not be of much importance, and barley leaving the cinema with a longing for sushi,lover or Japanophile.

His eldest son is next in line to take over Jiro’s restaurant, leaving him the hard task of equalizing his father, while the younger son has opened his own restaurant, but still lives under the shadow of his father’s legend. Gelb’s documentary follows Jiro and his sons around as they collect the finest fish from the markets, massage octopus, prepare rice and serve customers. It’s a very entertaining watch, and the chef’s passion for the food always comes across, as well as his tough views on life.

It also touches on more serious issues, such as the overfishing of tuna, and strict parenting, but it never fully explores them. Gelb’s film works best as a day in the life of the restaurant, and could have done with cutting out some tangents, as it never delves deep enough into them to make it worthwhile.

This is at least a good documentary if not a great one, but a must-see for any sushi lover or Japanophile.

Jiro, the sushi-master protagonist of David Gelb’s latest documentary.
Armstrong earns few fans from his weak ‘confession’

His Oprah interview will do little to save the sport that has given Lance Armstrong so much, says Colin Layde

Lance Armstrong’s televised confession to Oprah Winfrey confirmed what most suspected, but does little to help restore his own or cycling’s tarnished image.

The interview failed to dispel the impression that Armstrong’s decision to admit to orchestrating what the United States Anti-Doping Authority (USADA) report described as “the most sophisticated doping programme sport has ever seen” is motivated by financial concerns rather than a crisis of conscience.

The USADA investigation has led not just to the loss of the American’s seven Tour de France titles, but also millions of dollars in sponsorship. Sports underwear giant Nike, brewer Anheuser-Busch, and bicycle manufacturer Trek all ended their relationship with Armstrong in the wake of the USADA report.

In his interview with Winfrey the dis-graced cyclist cited the withdrawal of the sponsorships along with the Livestrong Foundation, the charity he founded to raise cancer awareness, as his most humbling moment.

“I believe it was a Wednesday. Nike called and they said basically that they were out. And then the calls started coming: Trek, Giro and Anheuser-Busch. The one I didn’t think would leave was the Foundation.”

British paper The Sunday Times has already launched proceedings against the cyclist in an attempt to recover a £300,000 settlement it was forced to pay Armstrong in 2006 for alleging he had used performance enhancing drugs. The paper is also seeking interest and legal costs; the total claim is likely to exceed £1 million.

In the wake of Armstrong’s confession, Dallas-based SCA motions have filed a $12 million law suit against the cyclist. The company insured bonuses paid to the cyclist after his fourth, fifth and sixth Tour titles. The company had previously attempted to withhold a $5 million payment after Armstrong claimed his sixth title in 2004, citing allegations he was engaging in doping.

Armstrong successfully sued the company in 2006 but now faces being charged with perjury for insisting under oath during the trial that he had never doped.

There is speculation the US Government might also launch legal proceedings against the cyclist. The U.S. Postal Service unwittingly funded Armstrong’s doping programme with federal money and the Government now seeks to recoup the $30 million it paid the team in sponsorship.

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Sean Flynn

DIT's Gaelic footballers can take a lot of positives from their O’Byrne Cup campaign despite not qualifying for the semi-finals of the competition.

Game 1

They opened up their campaign against Wexford in Kilcullen on the 6th of January. They registered an impressive win after going into the dressing room at half-time down 1-7 to 0-5. The college came out in the second half looking more comfortable with the ball and hit seven unanswered points in a second half comeback. DIT’s excellent fitness level helped them close out the game and ensures a 1-15 to 1-11 victory.

DIT (vs Wexford) - Robert Lambert; Kevin O’Brien, Bryan Menton (0-1), Gary O’Hare; Alan Nester (0-1), Nick Devereux, Ross Sheridan; Aidan O’Shea, Ross Hazley; John McGrath, Mark Collins (1-3), Ciaran Reddin (0-1); Harry Dawson; Jason Doherty (0-7), Paul Maguire. Subs: Bernard Allen (0-1) for Dawson, K O’Brien for McGrath, S O’Connor for Maguire, Conal Walsh (0-1) for Doherty, D Reilly for Reddin.

Game 2

Their second game of the O’Byrne Cup, the footballers played Kildare on a pitch covered with freezing fog on the 9th of January. In poor conditions, DIT put in a credible performance losing by 0-12 to 0-8 against a Kildare team which was not too far off their full championship team from last year. In the final 15 minutes of the game, a strong defensive performance from DIT held Kildare at bay, but they could not find a breakthrough of their own in attack to give them the win.

DIT (vs Kildare) : Robert Lambert; Kevin O’Brien, Bryan Menton, Gary O’Hare; Alan Nester, Sean George, Ross Sheridan (0-1); Aidan O’Shea, Mark Collins (0-3) ; Johnny McGrath (0-1), Conal Walsh, Ciaran Reddin; Paul Maguire, Ross Hazley (0-1), Bernard Allen (0-2)

Subs: Darren Reilly, Harry Dawson, Shane O’Connor, Oisin McGinty

Game 3

DIT’s final game was away against Carlow IT on the 13th of January. The college chalked up their second win in the competition with another impressive finish to the game. With 15 minutes left, DIT trailed by 1-9 to 0-11 and finished strong with four points to win on a score line of 0-15 to 1-10.

DIT (vs Carlow IT) Robert Lambert; Kevin O’Brien, Bryan Menton, Gary O’Hare; Shane O’Connor, Ross Sheridan; Johnny McGrath (0-2) ; Aidan O’Shea, Oisin McGinty

Subs: D Reilly for Walsh (43), E Murray for McGrath (64), C Gordon for McGinnity

Paul O'Connor

The San Francisco 49ers will join the Baltimore Ravens in Super Bowl 2013 on February 3 as they defeated the Atlanta Falcons and New England Patriots respectively, in last Sunday’s semi-finals.

In the first tussle of the night, The San Francisco 49ers edged out the Falcons by 28 points to 24 in the NFC Championship Game. However, it took some time for the west coast outfit to make their presence felt in the game as the Falcons raced into a 17 to zero lead after the first quarter.

Matt Ryan, quarterback for the Falcons, starred in that 15 minute period as he gained over a hundred yards for the Georgia football club. In fact, Ryan outscored his NFC counterpart Colin Kaepernick in virtually every department, scoring three times the number of touchdown passes (3-1) and gaining 163 yards more than the former Nevada Wolf Pack star.

Alas, it was not enough for the Falcons, as the 49ers rallied with tight end Vernon Davis stepping up to the plate, as his excellent receiving notched up 106 yards and gave us a touchdown on the scoreboard.

The game had a dramatic denouement as Matt Ryan’s 1:13 minute fourth down pass in the 4th quarter was knocked down by 49ers line-backer Na’Vorro Bowman. It was a critical moment in the game as the 49ers effectively ran the clock down and gained enough yardage to render a fantastic last second punt from Ryan moot, as time ran out for the southern side. It will be the 49ers first Super Bowl since 1995 when they defeated the San Diego Chargers in a 49-26 victory, becoming the first team to win five Super Bowls.

The other semi-final of the night was a more prosaic affair, as the Baltimore Ravens ran out comfortable winners against the New England Patriots in a 28-13 point victory for the AFC Championship. On this occasion the quarterback with the most touchdown passes prevailed, as Ravens thrower Joe Flacco outscored his Patriots counterpart Tom Brady by three touchdown passes to one. The final will mark the end of Baltimore line-backer Ray Lewis’ career as an NFL star, as he retires from the game at the age of 37.

New Orleans will be the venue for this titanic match up as Baltimore will hope to emulate their last appearance in the Super Bowl; a 34-7 point win over the New England Giants in 2001.

The biggest NFL game of the season will also mark a family reunion for the ‘American Antipodes’, as East coast team coach John Harbaugh faces off against his West coast based brother Jim.

John was preparing his side for the New England Patriots match up as he watched younger brother Jim on the stadium’s big video screen seal victory in the NFC Game.

“Hey, Jim, congratulations. You did it. You’re a great coach. Love you.” was the older brother’s message into a nearby TV camera.

One wonders if such brotherly love will be reciprocated in two weeks’ time for Super Bowl XLVII.

Kevin Street's strength and conditioning centre has been forced to relocate, after complaints from lecturers and students about the noise it had produced.

Complaints were made due to the impact that free-weights were having on the floor of the room, which were found to reverberate through the concrete building.

Kevin O’Callaghan, Sports Officer, has said: “the strength and conditioning room in that location was just not compatible with classrooms below and offices on either side, and people were right to complain. There will be a reconfiguration now. The strength and conditioning area will now be moved to an area in the sports hall, which had been ear-marked for an additional changing room. Relocations may also be necessary for the cycling room and spin studio, in order to accommodate the extra changing room and the new free-weights area.

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Mikey Clancy, who has died aged 22, will be sorely missed in DIT where he was an elite athlete and heavily involved with the Surfing Club. The Dollymount native will be well remembered for his prolific career in windsurfing where he was world ranked in the Professional Windsurfers’ Association (PWA).

The news of his death was especially tragic as he was just returning from injury that kept him from competing in most of 2011. In 2012 he attained a year best of 13th in Denmark last October at the Cold Hawaii Classic.

Called Mikey from an early age, to distinguish him from his father, Michael, the third year marketing student began windsurfing at 13. Initially he wasn’t taken with the sport and got a letter from his father to get him out of the event at a kids’ multi-activity camp in Malahide. However, after persevering for a year and growing in size and strength, Clancy found a new love.

By 2009 Clancy had turned professional but that December he suffered a cartilage destroying injury to his ankle. He then had to undergo painful ankle fusing surgery forcing him to relearn how to windsurf, after undergoing a year’s rehab away from the sport. However, Clancy once again persevered was on course to be ranked in the top 10 in the world and said to The Edition in November that he was finally back to top form. His dedicated comeback in 2011 and 2012 saw him nominated in Outsider Magazine’s Most Inspirational Person Category. Speaking to the Irish Daily Mirror, his father Michael said “He was really a warrior. He got to the very top of world windsurfing twice, once before the injury and once after the injury.”

Clancy had a career marked with heights that included 25th Overall PWA world ranking, Irish Junior Champion and Irish U19 Champion. He listed his favourite move as the Taka and his favourite board and sail combo as 75 Fanatic Quad and 4.2 North HERO.

DIT has high hopes for water polo inter-varsities

Al McConnell
Deputy Editor

DIT will be sending two teams to the 2013 inter-varsities water polo, in Magherafelt, County Derry, this weekend. Coach Darren Joyce has said that the women’s team is very hopeful that they can defend their title this year.

The college delegation will have ten participants on each team, with three Irish internationals in the women’s group. Last year, when DIT’s women lifted the inter-varsities trophy, there were five internationals in the squad, but Darren Joyce has said that the standard of the team remains exceptionally high.

Hopes are also high in the men’s draw. “We have one senior international on the team, and a couple of junior internationals in the squad, but Darren has found that the Athlete Support Programme has been a huge help to the club. I think a lot of athletes didn’t actually know that they would be able to avail of the programme,” he says. “There are international-standard athletes who weren’t aware that they could get a scholarship for swimming and water polo, but now that it has become more widely known, DIT is able to attract a lot more of them. It certainly helps that we have a good team here as well.”