



Galway International Hotel School Times ∞ 2020

The 2020 Times shares student and faculty stories, news from various events, and updates from colleagues, to help keep you abreast of our work and progress.

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to the 12th edition of the Galway International Hotel School newsletter where we hope to update you on our work over the last twelve months.

In the early hours of January 1st as we embraced a new year and decade, we never envisaged what lay ahead. COVID-19 has become the global pandemic that has truly turned our worlds upside down. As I write I hope you and your families are safe and healthy, at such troubling times nothing is more important.

The global Tourism Industry is undoubtedly struggling and we in the GIHS are working on solutions as to how we can assist. Earlier this year, we submitted an application to the HEA through the Springboard call to continue delivering the Certificate in Culinary Arts and have won funding to deliver this course to 32 potential culinary learners due to start next month. In July, we launched an industry focused CPD call offering industry employees an opportunity to study online from September. This call offers opportunities to take a module or two or maybe convert existing qualifications to the next level e.g. those with a Level 7 Diploma /Ordinary Degree can take their L8 award from September entirely online. We also participated in a written submission to the national Tourism Taskforce outlining capabilities opportunities for a brand-new tourism world.

We also have two international success stories to share with you. Last year the school submitted a joint application to the Chinese Ministry of Education to collaborate with partners at Lingnan Normal University regarding the BA Hons in Culinary and Gastronomic Sciences. This application was successful, and the Chinese programme begins in September 2020. GIHS plan to provide opportunities for our faculty to teach at the Chinese campus from 2022 and we expect many of their year 4 students will transfer to Galway to complete the degree. In 2018 the school won a HEA funded International Academic Mobility scholarship to partner with St. Lawrence College in Ontario to help develop a new hotel management award for their students. This development is now complete and final articulation agreements were signed in late June. This collaboration will support study and work placement opportunities for students on both courses at no extra cost to them. In addition, GIHS students will be able to take their thirty-week placement in Canada and Canadian students will be able to transfer to GMIT for degree completion opportunities.

In July, some more good news reached us from a well-known international education magazine Education.com. The school has been listed in the Top Ten Hospitality Institutes in the world and the announcement was followed up with a series of interviews and significant support across social media channels. Huge thanks to our many alumni who reached out to share your good wishes on this news, your support is greatly valued and very welcome.

During the 'lockdown' the very sad news reached us of the passing of former Head of Department in GIHS, Dennis Murphy. For those of you who knew Dennis you will know of the significant impact he made across GMIT. He served as a Head of Department in the school for many years and played an important role across many school developments. My first two days in GMIT were spent almost entirely with Dennis as I was 'formally' taking over his HOD role. On my first day the TMPD students were also starting and when Dennis shared the schedule with us, I noticed I was due to give them a tour of the campus. When I quietly pointed out to Dennis 'I don't know where I am going, he just smiled and suggested we find the canteen'. Dennis was a passionate advocate for the student and his role with the Students Union has been well documented over the years. In recent times, Dennis and his family have gifted GMIT with their art collection, and this work is currently being curated ready for display. With lockdown restrictions in place at the

time of his death, few could only attend his funeral. However, his family very kindly arranged for his remains to stop outside the Dublin Rd campus on the journey home, where many staff – past and present, students and alumni gathered to say their goodbyes. Our condolences to his son Conor, sister Ger and his extended family and friends.

In November we were shocked and deeply saddened to lose our colleague and talented language lecturer Paul O’Neill. Paul’s contribution to the development of languages in GMIT was highly valued and he provided many essential supports for students and colleagues throughout his time with us. On the evening of Paul’s removal, hundreds of people lined the streets of Galway to say goodbye to a dear and well-loved colleague who left us all too soon. Our condolences to his wife Eithne, his family and friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

As always, we are delighted to hear from friends and alumni so please do not hesitate to get in touch, you can email me cait.nooone@gmit.ie . In addition, you might consider following us on any of the social media sites you engage with.

Best wishes,

Cáit Noone.

Head Galway International Hotel School



What the students have to say...

In a series of interviews with Students and Graduands, we asked them to share their experiences of Galway International Hotel School. These are their stories...



Tiago Souza Capeletti- BA in Culinary & Gastronomic Science L8

“After few years working with a renowned Portuguese chef in Lisbon, I decided that I needed to have a proper education to expand my knowledge and understanding in order to enhance my possibilities of a good and promising career in the food industry. I have chosen Culinary Arts and Gastronomic Science at GMIT, after finding out the level of excellency and recognition that I would acquire, and which they would be able to provide. It is a great campus in beautiful Galway City, with great and experienced lecturers, and with high standard training kitchens available to us, since day one. The number of practical classes we have are one of the best things I’ve experienced while studying. The many different competitions organised throughout the country and internationally, has helped expand my knowledge and experience in different aspects of the food industry. My work placement in the five-star Merrion hotel in Dublin gave me an even greater opportunity to immerse myself into a top-class kitchen. An experience that I will carry with me for ever. I will always think greatly of GMIT, for it was my first strong foundation step towards a great future”.

Hannah Porter-BB in Hotel Management Y3

“I have just completed my Bachelor of Business in Hotel and Catering Management at GMIT. Researching as a mature student, I chose to study the Business Degree at the Galway International Hotel School in GMIT, as it offers a thorough and practical content. You cannot manage staff unless you have a complete understanding of the role. At GMIT, you study from the grass roots upwards, with many practical modules throughout the course allowing you to obtain a thorough knowledge prior to setting out in your career. I worked in the hospitality industry throughout my degree and spent my 30-week placement in the USA where I was employed in a 5 -star hotel, Hotel Hershey in Pennsylvania, as part of the beverage management team. Working in this Industry, allows you to work anywhere in the world and facilitates networking for future employment. I am currently planning to travel abroad for several years to gain further experience, before returning to Ireland to hopefully continue my career in Hotel Management.



Max Reid –BB Tourism Management Y3.

“All the way from the Wicklow Mountains, I decided to move to Galway and study the Bachelor of Business in International Tourism Management at GMIT. I chose to study this course because I felt it offered a diverse taste of what the tourism industry offers as an exciting career. Over my 3 years, I have had many memorable moments. My highlights would have to be, our course trips to Ireland’s most popular tourist attractions, our overnight stays at the Aran Islands, and our international mandatory study trip to Lisbon, Portugal. The work experience I have

also gained was also very enjoyable. For my 12-week international placement I travelled to New Zealand, where I worked in the hospitality and tourism industry for the summer. The work experience was an important part of the course, that gave me an invaluable insight into the tourism industry. I have received so many amazing opportunities thanks to the Galway International Hotel School, who have all given incredible support to their students.

Aisling Alexander-BA Heritage studies Y3 (Progressing to Y4)

“I have recently finished my third year studying BA Heritage Studies at GMIT. I chose GMIT, as I liked the idea of having a close lecture/ student relationship and how practical the course was. I am a practical learner and with multiple trips each semester, it made me more confident and I was able to enjoy the course. I went on placement during the summer of second year, and it was one of the best things I have experienced. GMIT supported and helped me with the process. The placement was challenging but intriguing, and I was offered a job permanently to join the team but intend on finishing my course.

While attending GMIT, I have grown as a person, made life- long friends, and broadened my professional network”.



Michelle Walker-BB in Event and PR Management L7

“I chose GMIT, as I wanted to study for a degree in Event Management with Public Relations but was also seeking a course that had practical elements to it. Year 1 in the course was focused on learning the basics along with practical aspects that you need to know to work in a fast-paced industry, which I enjoyed thoroughly. In Year 2, we progressed adding new modules and enhancing our practical skills and knowledge. Year 3 then started in the summer for our 30-week work placement. I undertook my placement in Dublin, as I felt that this is where most of the opportunities are in the Events Industry. I thoroughly enjoyed it and had some exciting opportunities such as being invited to Portugal, on behalf of “Republic of Experience” on a FAM trip and organised by the Lisbon Tourism Board. I gained many contacts on Work Experience whom I still engage with, and my plan is to now hopefully to continue my studies in GMIT, studying Event Management with Public Relations to Level 8”.

2020 Galway International Hotel Careers Fair

Galway International Hotel School welcomes National and International Hospitality employers to its 2020 Careers Fair

Over 80 stands and 150 employers in the hotel and hospitality industry at home and abroad attended the GMIT’s International Hotel School’s annual Careers Fair on Wednesday 4 March, in GMIT’s Sports Hall at the Dublin Road campus.

Representatives from the Irish and international Hotel, Tourism, and Hospitality industry took stands at the event offering information on vacancies in various positions and career opportunities including work placements for undergraduate students, graduate programme and other full-time opportunities for final year students.

Diarmuid Ó Conghaile, Head of Department for Tourism & Heritage says, “our annual Careers Fair has gone from strength to strength and its success is driven by our Links Office, who coordinate with our industry partners at home and abroad to offer both placement and graduate opportunities to our students. It is the only event of its kind in Ireland that is hosted by a third level institution specifically for the Tourism and Hospitality sector”.

Aibie Hanrahan, a 3rd year student studying Event Management says “The Galway International Careers fair is a great opportunity for both GMIT students and the general public to gain access to job opportunities in the tourism and hospitality sectors, in Ireland and abroad. The fair is also beneficial for students seeking work placement opportunities”. The fair is open to all students, graduates, alumni of GMIT, as well as students from other Institutes of education and the general public.



What's been happening...



Galway International Hotel School in GMIT named in the Top 10 Hospitality Management Institutes worldwide.

GMIT has an international reputation for offering industry relevant courses to the Tourism industry since opening in 1972. It may come as no surprise to hear that The Galway International Hotel School in GMIT has been listed in the Top 10 Hospitality Management Institutes worldwide by global publication Education.Com <https://www.theeducationmagazine.com/the-10-best-hospitality-management-institutes-of-2020/>

The school was the first Higher Education Institute in Ireland to offer a degree in Hotel Management in 1977 and since then it has grown to offer courses in Culinary Arts and Gastronomy, International Hotel Management, Heritage Studies, International Tourism Management and Event Management and Public Relations.

The school has developed an international reputation through delivering industry relevant courses that enable graduates succeed in one of the world's largest industries. All courses are developed with enterprise partners and all have accredited work placement in the course. This ensures that students acquire essential knowledge and skills to enable them to thrive across this global industry. Many courses host guest lectures and masterclasses from industry partners, this action ensures students are familiar with the latest developing trends and current enterprise developments. Many of the faculty have held leadership positions across the globe and staff are supported to take part in annual stagés to support their work. Some courses include international education visits where students visit European counterparts to collaborate and deepen their understanding of this vibrant industry.

Cáit Noone, Head of the Galway International Hotel welcomes this acknowledgement and adds "The tourism industry is a global employer and a qualification from the Galway International Hotel School provides graduates with multiple opportunities. For some this is a steppingstone into a leadership career, for others it is an entry route to setting up their own tourism enterprise. Some graduates will successfully join graduate programmes with Dalata, Fáilte Ireland and IBEC and become industry leaders, some will join the many sectors this industry offers including hotels, restaurants, food product development, tourism businesses, event companies, heritage organisation, the options are many and varied. In the last decade more graduates continue their studies with post graduate options and some progress to teaching".

"Qualifications from this sector open up so many doors to graduates, never has one qualification provided so many options for learners. The school has always worked very closely with industry partners and as a result when we develop any new courses, we can reach out to the Irish Hotels Federation, Chef Network, the Restaurant Association of Ireland and the Irish Hospitality Institute for input and support. We are very aware of how COVID-19 has negatively impacted the Tourism industry however we will work with industry partners as this dynamic industry emerges from this terrible pandemic. The industry will evolve, and I expect new job opportunities will emerge for future graduates, plus the school is offering a series of learning opportunities for industry employees in order for them to upskill and/or convert existing qualifications to the new level"

President of GMIT, Dr Orla Flynn, says, "I want to congratulate the entire team at the Galway International Hotel School on achieving this recognition - the school has always had an international focus with a global alumni network supporting strategic developments and accredited work placements. For example, earlier this year the school received approval from the Chinese Ministry of Education to collaborate with Lingnan Normal University in China to co-deliver the BA Hons in Culinary and Gastronomic Sciences, the only award of this type in Ireland. In 2018 the school won a Government of Ireland academic mobility scholarship to begin the process of co-designing a new International Hospitality Management course with St Lawrence College in Ontario and this course will begin in September 2020. For this industry, a global outlook is truly essential, and students will receive that here at GMIT."

To learn more about the Galway International Hotel School visit the Institute virtual open day site at <https://openday.gmit.ie/> . If you are interested in upskilling or converting your existing qualification check out **Upskill yourself today for a better tomorrow** - <https://www.gmit.ie/hotel/upskill-yourself-today-better-tomorrow>

Celebrating Women in Food – International Women’s Day

On 09th March, 2020, on a day when Ireland’s St. Patrick’s Day Celebrations were cancelled and international rugby matches postponed amidst mounting concerns about the onslaught of Coronavirus; a celebration of women in the Irish food sector was being hosted by, Jacinta Dalton, Head of Department of Culinary Arts along with food writer and GMIT Fellow Dr. Sally Mckenna in the Galway International Hotel School. The day was designed as a networking opportunity for artisan producers, restaurateurs, hoteliers, chefs, food writers and retailers to gather with like-minded people to discuss the food industry, the opportunities it presents and indeed the challenges. But more importantly this day was about profiling the work of so many women who are the backbone of the Irish food and hospitality sectors and showing students that this is not a one-dimensional industry that requires both creativity and business acumen. Amidst, a motivational talk by legendary broadcaster Bibi Baskin, a series of panel discussions and in “conversation with” sessions, guests were treated to a feast of artisan beverages and local food from female artisans and prepared by Springboard culinary students under the tuition of their lecturers.

At that time no one knew precisely what was ahead, but one thing was certain, this network of women would face the testing times ahead and rise to the challenge. Since that day, which seems like a lifetime ago, many of the entrepreneur’s present have adapted and changed their business models from Business to Business to Business to Consumer via online sales and any other possible sales avenue. This indeed is a time of change and a time for solidarity. Never has the phrase “All in this together” been more poignant. The future is uncertain, but we look forward to March 2021 with hope, that yet again we will be able to network and discuss lessons learned from these unprecedented times. The Galway International Hotel School, is proud to support local and will take every opportunity to ensure that students will learn from these great female leaders whom we will continue to support into the future.



Left to Right- Maria Flynn, Ballymakenny Farm: Eva Milka, Gaelic Escargot: Aisling Flanagan, Velvet Cloud: Siobhan ní Gharbhaith, St. Tola Farm: Caroline Hennessy, broadcaster & food writer: Mags Riordan, Bumblebee Flower Farm: Olivia Duff-Sharkey, Headfort Arms Hotel & Maperath Farm.



Staff from the Galway International Hotel School who attended and participated in staging the event.
Left to Right- Orla O’ Doherty, Beatrice Colleran, Maria Murphy, Colin Gilligan, Helen Owens Scully, Tomas Mangan.



In Conversation with Dr. Sally Mckenna- Coleen and Anne McMahon – Rua Castlebar

GIHS competes in IHI Business Management Games 2020

A team of five students from year four of the **BB (Hons) in International Tourism Management** –represented GMIT in the 35th Irish Hospitality Institute (IHI) Business Management Games 2020. The annual competition took place on March 1st and 2nd at the Clayton Dublin Airport Hotel. The competition was open to all final year third level courses in Hotel and Catering disciplines around Ireland.

The team spent two days devising a strategy for their business while managing financial constraints aligned to other challenges which reflected the specific concerns facing the tourism and hospitality industry today. A leading hospitality business management simulation software provided an online revenue management programme that was used by the teams during the competition, working within achievable budgets and using the marketing tools available to deliver results.

The students gained a wide range of skills and experience from the competition, including the opportunity to participate in a Heads of Department mock meeting, in front of a leading industry panel. It gave the participants an opportunity to test the theory from their academic studies and to apply the knowledge gained during their work placements.

The competition was a great opportunity to profile the skills and experience of the students on a national platform and against competing third level institutes. Big thanks as always to Lecturer John Carty for the mentorship and support he provides for this event.



Left to Right: Aine Doyle (Group Learning & Development Manager Dalata, sponsors of the competition), Eimear Birch, Noreen Duffy, Hannah Smyth (team captain), Oonagh Cremins (President IHI), Emma Collard, Roisin Corrigan, John Carty (Lecturer, GMIT).

Irish Hotels Federation Annual Conference 2020



Left to right: Michael Vaughan (Vaughan Lodge and GIHS graduate), Hannah Smyth, Roisin Corrigan and Paul Kelly (CEO, Fáilte Ireland)

The Irish Hotels Federation (IHF) Annual Conference 2020 was held in the Galmont Hotel, Galway from the 23rd to the 25th of February. The theme of the conference was ‘Mindset to Achieve’ and John Carty (GIHS lecturer) participated in a panel session entitled “Junior Managers & Career Development Opportunities”. The IHF kindly invited two students to attend the conference and they are pictured below with Michael Vaughan (Vaughan Lodge and GIHS graduate) and Paul Kelly (CEO, Fáilte Ireland).

Mayo Ideas Week 2019



John Carty (GIHS lecturer) delivered a presentation on Digital Trends in Tourism as part of Mayo Ideas Week on 24th September 2019 at Knockranny House Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo. Mayo Ideas Week is a week-long series of idea generation, entrepreneurship and business events hosted by the development and enterprise support agencies and organisations in County Mayo.

Running every September since 2010, Mayo Ideas Week celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2019 with the theme of "Building Resilience". Events covered areas such as supports for early stage entrepreneurs, scaling your business with angel finance, using technology to build your brand and developing your business.

Mayo Ideas Week is very much a collaborative initiative, with more than 40 organisations and agencies co-hosting events over the years. Mayo Ideas Week is an initiative of the Nuálann Mhaigheo / Mayo Ideas Lab collaborative project, which was established by the development and enterprise support agencies to support innovation and idea generation in Co. Mayo. The Nuálann Mhaigheo / Mayo Ideas Lab project is managed by WestBIC Business Innovation Centre and overseen by a Management Committee made up of representatives from the following partners: Mayo Co. Council, Local Enterprise Office Mayo, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Enterprise Ireland, Galway Mayo Institute of Technology, iHub at GMIT, Mayo Education Centre, South West Mayo Development Company Ltd, Mayo North East LEADER Partnership Company Ltd and WestBIC.



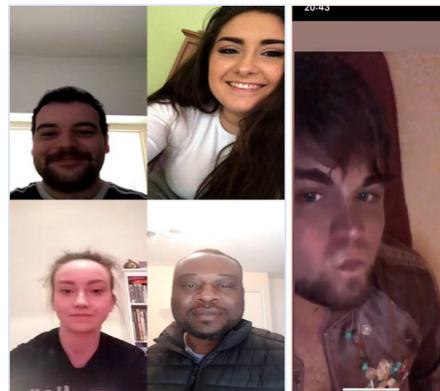
Event Management with PR – Wrap 2020

It was another very busy year for the students of the Bachelor of Business in Event Management with Public Relations programme. Who knew active learning could be so much fun. All students excelled in planning, preparing and producing events of a very enjoyable nature with great attention to detail. Here is a brief snapshot of some of the events produced by students to showcase their learning. Hats off to the third-year group that produced the Silent Disco on March 2nd, 2020 in the Róisín Dubh in aid of Jigsaw – a mental health charity for young people. This venture in conjunction with the GMIT Student Union raised €425 for the charity.



Silent Disco Team from Left to right: Máire Joyce, Fatima Mahmood, Laura Walsh, Jennifer Hannrahan, Annmarie Clarke, Karen O' Shea.

Another first was the team that worked alongside the current members of the GMIT student union to organise and promote the GMIT Student Union election 2020. The team actually ran two campaigns with a strong social media bias to firstly, raise awareness of nominations process and encourage students to run and secondly the hashtag #BEHEARD2020 was created to promote the message of getting involved in the election. Despite the looming arrival of the COVID 19 pandemic and the associated public health measures the team managed a campaign that was well received and a template for future GMIT Student Union elections.



SU Election Team Back (Left to right): Alex Donnelly, Aine Brogan, Adam Elberse, Kerry Mullarkey, Opelson Dipson



GMIT Tourism Day 2019

On 4th December 2019, GIHS hosted the GMIT Tourism Day 2020, an event co-ordinated by 4th year students on the BB (Honours) in International Tourism Management that showcased some of the great student work. The day began with a poster presentation by 2nd year students of their Irish work placements, in exciting businesses like the Guinness Storehouse and Strokestown House. The audience of students, staff and invited industry guests also enjoyed viewing the vlogs of 3rd year student international work placements in destinations including New Zealand, France and America. The 4th year students presented a vlog on their trips to local businesses and guest lectures as part of their Food and Beverage Tourism module and the 4th year students also delivered presentations and a vlog detailing their visit to the Ireland's Association for Adventure Tourism annual conference in Cork in November 2019.

A highlight of the GMIT Tourism Day 2019 was the guest talks with GIHS graduates:

- John Byrne (Craic and Culture, Event Management with PR graduate)
- Sinead Collins (Fáilte Ireland, Tourism graduate)
- Gemma Duffy (Fahy Travel, Tourism graduate)
- Gosia Letowska (Galway Food Tours, Tourism graduate)

The graduates shared some great insights to the tourism industry and offered career and life advice for students. The students also organised a raffle in aid of the Irish Tourist Assistance Service (ITAS) www.itas.ie which took place whilst the audience enjoyed some finger food and a festive drink.



GMIT Tourism Day ... cont'd



Tourism day Team Left to right: Tara Smollen, Eimear Birch, Shauna Hehir, Aisling Connelly, Peter McGrath

On Tuesday 4th of December, GMIT Tourism Day was an event held for the students of the tourism programme in room 552 demo theatre of GMIT. It was organised by the students of the Event and Festival Management module in fourth year of the International Tourism Management programme with help from the lecturers John Carty, Maria Murphy and Margaret Gannon. A raffle to raise funds the Irish Tourist Assistance Fund was also held. The majority of attendees rated the event as very beneficial to their course of study. This exhibition and lecture gave the audience an extremely positive insight into the success based around the tourism courses in our college which participants found interesting and engaging.

IAAT Conference Cork

As part of the Tourism Learning Seminar module, 4th year students attended the annual conference of Ireland's Association for Adventure Tourism in Cork in November 2019. The students were tasked with preparing for the conference by research the speakers and they prepared a presentation of the highlights of the conference that was delivered during the GMIT Tourism Day.



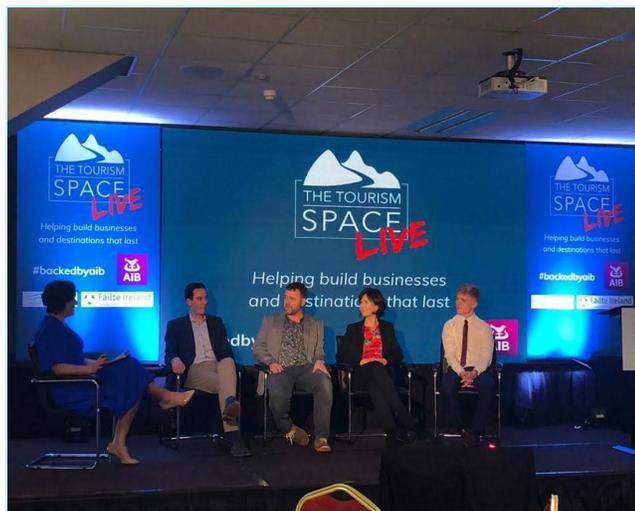
Tourism Space Live 2020

On the 23rd January 2020, The Tourism Space Live took place at Thomond Park, Limerick, a one-day industry event about business, self-empowerment and professional development. It blended motivation and inspiration with practical application and know-how and there was a key focus on sustainability. Five 3rd year BB (Honours) in International Tourism Management students volunteered to help with the running of the event.



Left to right: Roisin Corrigan, Abbie Daly, Max Reid, Rhiannon Hoey, Julia de la Fuente

Max Reid also participated in a panel discussion where he shared his perspectives as a tourism student and discussed work placement and field trips as some of the main highlights of his experience in GMIT.



International and National Engagement

GMIT AND CANADIAN COLLEGE PLEASED TO OFFER FIRST JOINT INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY COURSE

GMIT's Galway International Hotel School and St Lawrence College, Ontario, Canada, have signed a new articulation agreement which will support the global tourism industry by offering an international hospitality award to Irish and Canadian students and is due to begin later this year.

The new course marks an important milestone for both colleges since GMIT and SLC first signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2017. Both partners currently collaborate on Contemporary Arts courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

The new course will allow students from SLC to study in Galway for one semester and GMIT students to study for one semester in SLC at their Kingston Campus in Ontario, from 2021. SLC students who successfully complete their Diploma in Canada will be eligible to complete their bachelor degree (L7) and BA Hons (L8) in International Hotel Management at GMIT.

Cáit Noone, Head of the Galway International Hotel School (GIHS) and Vice President for International Engagement in GMIT, outlines the importance of this development for the School. "All great partnerships required the dedication and expertise of great teams and this agreement is no different. A dedicated team from GMIT led by Head of Department Jacinta Dalton first visited SLC in May 2018 with Culinary Arts lecturer Cormac Handy and Hotel Management Programme Chair Colin Gilligan. The SLC team was led by Assistant Dean Stephen Finnagan and his colleagues Beverley Bowley and Brad Greenwood. Academic oversight was another critical component of this development and was provided by GMIT's Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr Michael Hannon in GMIT and Eileen De Courcy in SLC."

"This is the first international partnership Galway International Hotel School (GIHS) has undertaken in Canada and I am very grateful to Don Young, former VP International Education at SLC for agreeing to develop the initial MOU in 2017 and to SLC President and CEO Glenn Vollebregt for asking GMIT to consider collaborating on a hotel management award."

"I am also very grateful to the HEA who awarded Galway International Hotel School an initial Government of Ireland Academic Mobility scholarship which was very important when we started this project."

St. Lawrence College President & Chief Executive Officer Glenn Vollebregt noted that this agreement is supported by a gift from Mr Elmer Strong, in memory of his late wife Anne McConnell, formerly from Galway, Ireland.

"St Lawrence College has seen a growing number of students participate in our many articulation agreements with the Irish institutes, but the Anne McConnell-Strong Experience Ireland Fund is the first of its kind in not only helping us to prepare students to learn in Ireland, but to also make the opportunity possible to students who may not have been able to participate," said Mr. Vollebregt.

For Irish students wishing to apply for this course it will be listed on CAO, course code GA370. Further details are available on <https://www.gmit.ie/hospitality/bachelor-business-hotel-and-catering-management>. Queries can be emailed to gihs@gmit.ie. Further information regarding GMIT can be found at www.gmit.ie and SLC at <https://www.stlawrencecollege.ca/>.

About the 2017 MOU

On 6 July, 2017 GMIT and St Lawrence College, Ontario, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to investigate new and exciting collaborative projects that would benefit staff and students. The first articulation agreement signed in 2018 with the Galway School of Design and Creative Arts agreed pathways for Canadian students to complete their Contemporary Art degree in GMIT and continue their studies with the MA in Creative Practice. In 2018, Galway International Hotel School was awarded a Government of Ireland International Academic Mobility scholarship to support the development of a new award in International Hospitality Management. GMIT has almost fifty years' experience in this discipline and was the first Institute of Technology to award a hotel management degree in Ireland in 1977.



GMIT President Dr Orla Flynn talking online with Glenn Vollebregt, CEO at St Lawrence College, Canada

International Study Tour – Lisbon Portugal

Twenty-seven students from the BB (Hons) in International Tourism Management participated in a four-day International Study Tour to Lisbon, Portugal in January 2020. This module offers a great learning experience that students helped organise and assessments were set before, during and after the trip. Previous trips took place to Berlin, Rome and Switzerland and the highlights from the Lisbon trip included being hosted at the Embassy of Ireland and a masterclass of Portuguese cuisine at the Hotel and Tourism School that the students helped to prepare in the training kitchen and eat in the training restaurant. Students also acted as guides for the group around the city and they enjoyed an informative food tour and visit to Lisbon Cruise Port. There were engaging talks from Visit Portugal and Lisbon Tourism. The students created a vlog of the highlights of their trip, which can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDTKTrOaqwg>



Embassy of Ireland



Lisbon Hotel and Tourism School – masterclass of Portuguese cuisine



As part of their Modern Irish Literature module, Dr Jenny Farrell took the third year Heritage class on a field trip to Thoor Ballylee and Coole Park to explore the poetry of Yeats onsite. The students read poems written by Yeats in the immediate physical context of their composition, which added greatly to their appreciation.

Another memorable outdoor assignment was a literary walking tour of Galway. Each Modern Irish Literature student took on one famous writer associated with Galway and did a short presentation on the life and writings of this author. These writers included *Pádraic Ó Conaire*, *Oscar Wilde*, *Synge*, *Yeats*, *Augusta Gregory*, *Liam O'Flaherty*.



Thoor Ballylee



Coole Park



Pádraic Ó Conaire in Eyre Square

Hotel Management and Hospitality Students Field Trips in 2020

Every year student Field Trips are a main highlight in the academic calendar. Following the success of 2019 Field Trips scheduled throughout the semester students travelled, experienced, and gained knowledge while visiting The Brasserie on the Corner, The Twelve Hotel, Dromoland Castle, Dough Bros., Trump International Doonbeg, Guinness Storehouse, and Great National Hotel Call Centre. All venues provided show-arounds and presentations from both graduates of GMIT, Company Directors, Business Owners, and Hotel & Restaurant Managers.

In 2020 both first year and second year students enjoyed their second outing and in doing so gained greater insight and appreciation of the hospitality industry. On the morning of February 19th second year students and lecturers set off to visit the Red Carnation Ashford Castle in Cong, Co Mayo. On route to this historic hotel a planned stop was first made at the Galway Hooker Brewery in Oranmore, which is in operation since 2006. Aidan Murphy (one of its founders) was on hand to give a very informative talk about the process of brewing, and the day to day running of the business.

On arrival at Red Carnation Ashford Castle, the group were warmly greeted by management and staff. A guided tour was followed by a presentation. This presentation was given by several select staff, many of whom were former students of GMIT. A brief history of the Castle along with the personal experiences of staff were recounted. The group enjoyed a very impressive afternoon tea in the main dining room before departing for Galway. This was an instructive educational trip for the second years as they saw first-hand the standards, dedication, and hard work that is involved in achieving and maintaining a quality hotel such as Ashford Castle.

On March 5th the first-year students and lecturers set off for Co Clare. The first stop was Hotel Doolin, Ireland's First Certified Carbon-Neutral Hotel. Students enjoyed a sustainable breakfast and a tour of the operation. On arrival at Hotel Doolin the group were greeted by the Assistant Manager, Liam St. George, a Hotel Management Graduate of GMIT. The group were given a very informative talk on how the establishment achieves its aims to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. The next stop after Doolin was the renowned Dromoland Castle. The group were once again warmly greeted by staff. A beautiful lunch was provided on arrival. Following lunch students were greeted by Managing Director and GMIT Graduate Mark Nolan and the Assistant Manager. Both of whom spoke to the students about the operation of the hotel, their own career paths, and the hospitality industry in general. They were happy to give advice and answer the many thoughtful questions students posed. Following a tour of the Castle the next stop was Bunratty Folk Park.

In contrast Bunratty Folk Park provided a look at a different element of the industry. Students were free to explore this popular attraction at their own pace before the trip drew to a close.

Field trips play an integral part of student development, socially, academically, and collaboratively. Students get to meet, engage, question, look up to, and admire the success of our Hotel School Graduates. These enriched active learning experiences forge long lasting memories while initiating a new network of community hospitality lovers. Synergizing practical and theoretical module teaching with field trip activities reinforces the programme learning outcomes.



Ashford Castle



Dromoland Castle

RHÔNE VALLEY MASTERCLASS

One region, in two parts...

by Elizabeth Fox

Tuesday 18th February 2020 a Master class on Rhône Valley Wines was presented in the Galway International Hotel School GMIT, to Retail and Hotel Management Students.

The Rhône Valley Master class was presented by Joe McLean who travelled from France's southern Rhône Valley representing Inter- Rhône in Avignon, France. The event was hosted and supported by Elizabeth Fox, Wine & Beverage Lecturer in the Galway International Hotel School, GMIT.

Rhône Valley wine tasted during the Masterclass;

- ◆ Marrenon Grand Marrenon Blanc AOC Luberon 2017
- ◆ Le Caillou Côtes-du-Rhône white 2018 Château La Diffre Sablet Blanc CDRAOC 2018
- ◆ Château Bois D'Arlène 2017AOC Vacqueyras
- ◆ Domaine Grand Veneur CDR 2016 Domaine du Chêne
- ◆ Famille Rouvière Anois St.Joseph AOC 2016



Joe McLean with Elizabeth Fox



One region, in two parts..

Attending the Rhône Valley Masterclass were First year Bachelor of Business in Retail Management and Second year Bachelor of Arts in International Hotel Management students.

The Rhône Valley is the second largest fine wine producing region in France covering over 70,000 hectares of vineyards, as it stretches 200km from Lyon to south of Avignon, taking its name from the River Rhône. The Rhône Valley vineyards form a corridor between the Mediterranean and Northern Europe, and have been producing wines for at least 2000 years.

This is a long and narrow wine area that can be divided into the north where the wine is dominated by Syrah (Shiraz) and the south where Grenache dominates. A total of 27 grape varieties are grown here.

The Rhône Valley played an active role in the establishment of French wine-industry appellations when a local wine grower secured the Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée status for Châteauneuf du Pape wines in 1933. The terms of reference he presented became the model for all AOC quality wines in France.

The Rhône Valley is like a tale of two 'regions' producing completely different wine styles between the north and the south.



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