

# Hotel School Times, Autumn 2011



GMIT student chefs – winners of 24 awards at CATEX 2011 (see page 3)

## Dates for the Diary:

**10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2011:**  
GMIT Galway Conferring.

**16<sup>th</sup> November, 2011:**  
GMIT Open Day – Galway & Cluain Mhuire.

**7<sup>th</sup> March, 2012:**  
Hotel School Careers Fair,  
1.30pm – 4.30pm.

Dear Friends & Alumnus,

**Welcome** to the Autumn edition of the bi-annual Hotel School newsletter. Through this newsletter and our website ([www.gmit.ie/thehotelschool](http://www.gmit.ie/thehotelschool)) we continue to keep you updated on the many activities taking place in GMIT and the Hotel School.

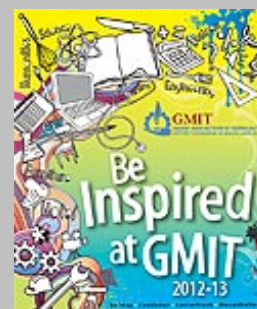
We have had an exciting eight months since our last edition of the Hotel School Times. Student achievement continues to prosper - the school culinary team won 24 medals at CateX in the Spring, and a team of GMIT/Faite Ireland Trainee Management Development students (TMDP) won the overall prize in the annual Irish Hospitality Institute (IHI) Business Games. You can read more about these fantastic achievements in this newsletter.

The role of volunteering has always been an important feature in many of our programmes. This opportunity has now been developed with the support of our colleagues throughout the Institute. Programme Chair for the Higher Certificate in Culinary Arts Ann Kelly has led the development of a Civic Engagement module and last year students from the BBS Culinary Arts took part in the pilot delivery of this module. In addition to academic theory hotel school students worked on a voluntary basis with the students in the Holy Family School in Renmore. Feedback from this new development was very exciting and encouraging and the module has now found a permanent home in the Hotel School. On a less formal note students and staff continue to give their time to fundraise for many worthy local causes including Cancer Care West, Galway Lions Club, COPE Galway and Croi but to name a few.

We have welcomed new colleagues to the Institute since our last newsletter. Mr. Michael Carmody, former President at the Institute of Technology Tralee joined GMIT as President in April 2011. Michael has been incredibly supportive of the Hotel School since joining us, and we look forward to working with him in the years ahead. John Carty, a former graduate of the school has joined the lecturing team on a full time basis in September and will be teaching across the school on a number of programmes. Maria Conboy joins the Culinary Arts lecturing team and will be sharing her great experiences and wisdom with various culinary students. We are delighted to have both John and Maria join our team. Finally, Mr. Robert Dagger, Head of Hospitality & Culinary Arts retired on August 31<sup>st</sup> 2011. Robert joined the School in January 1983 and has served the school, graduates and students so very well during his 28 years in GMIT. I am sure you join me in wishing Robert a long and healthy retirement and thank him for his amazing service to the education community and tourism industry.

Finally, if you know of any alumni who have not registered their details with the LINKS office, please send this newsletter to them and encourage them to join. My thanks as always to the LINKS office team who helped prepare this edition.

Best wishes  
Cáit Noone, Head of Hotel School



Prospectus 2012-13



## Hotel School students win IHI Business Management Game



GMIT winning team members Matti Reuter, Sligo Clarion Hotel, Sebastian Block, Knock House Hotel, Eoin Jacob, Lyrath County House Hotel and Estate in Kilkenny, and Patrick Hogan, Heritage Hotel in Portlaoise with their tutor George Finnegan

A group of GMIT students from the Trainee Management Development Programme (TMDP) won the 2011 IHI National Business Management Game in March this year.

The students, who work in the hospitality industry and attend the Hotel School for a block study period each academic year, scored top marks in the competition that attracted 11 teams representing young hospitality managers from all over Ireland.

## Guest Lectures in the Hotel School

As the leading hotel school in Ireland, we work closely with industry colleagues throughout the year to ensure our curriculum is industry-relevant and current. As part of this focus, industry colleagues give guest lectures to our students. Recent Guest Lecturers in the Hotel School included:

- Eva Dearie, Business Development Manager, Fáilte Ireland West presented a guest lecture to the 1<sup>st</sup> yr students of the Tourism Degree.
- Dr George Taylor (Director of the Centre for Public Policy SSRC, Director of Structured PhD Programme), Lecturer at Department of Political Science & Sociology at NUIG, gave a lecture on Risk, Science & the Politics of Food Safety Policy.
- Jane Riley, Loss Prevention Manager at TJX Europe, gave a presentation on stock losses and shrinkage to the 2<sup>nd</sup> year BB Retail & Customer Services degree students.
- Gary McGorrian, former NAP student and employee of Heston Blumenthal's "The Fat Duck" gave a demonstration to TCIP students.
- Caoimhín Ó Fátharta from Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Moycullen spoke to the HC in Business - Tourism students about Irish Culture, Language, Music and Dance as a Tourism Resource.

They competed against ten other teams from Institutes of Technology in Cork, Athlone, Dundalk, Dublin, Letterkenny, Galway-Mayo and Waterford, as well as the Shannon College of Hotel Management.

All of the participants spent two days devising a strategy, planning and managing a fictitious hospitality business in a simulated Irish business environment that reflects current economic and social constraints.

It is the first time in the history of the Irish Hospitality Institute (IHI) Games that the TMDP team won the overall prize.

GMIT lecturer George Finnegan said it is a fantastic achievement for the GMIT students given that they are level 6 programme students, competing against level 7 and level 8 students from hotel colleges from all over the country.

The judges in summing up said "it was really their industry experience and their tenacity in solving problems that won it for them in the end".

## Hotel School Careers Fair 2011



Disneyland Paris



Cava Restaurant, Galway



Irish Pubs Global



The Merrion Hotel, Dublin



Hilton Hotels, UK & Ireland

## Culinary Arts students win 24 medals in National Competition

Hotel School students in GMIT have won 24 medals - eight gold, eight silver and eight bronze medals, in the national Panel of Chefs CATEX Competition.

Two GMIT students, Kevin Ward and Avril O'Connor, scooped the overall Grand Prix award in the competition's Pastry Challenge and will represent Ireland in the world confectionary competition in Paris next April (2012).

Chef Ireland/Catex is an international competition run bi-annually, involving senior and junior teams from Ireland, Germany, Finland, and Italy.

Robert Dagger, Head of Hospitality and Culinary Arts in GMIT, paid tribute to the students for their hard work and dedication to their craft, and to their dedicated lecturing team who mentored the students prior to the competitions including Mary Reid, Mairtin Clancy, Martin Ruffley, Frank O'Connor, Sadie Davoren, Ann O'Leary, Maria Conboy and Noel Loughnane.



Yulia Babikova, Higher Certificate in Culinary Arts – Gold Medal Winner at Butter Carving in CATEX 2011

## Brian Walshe Collection donated to GMIT Library

A collection of books donated to GMIT Library by the family of the late Brian Walshe are now available for loan in the library. Brian, a lecturer in the Hotel School, died in February. His collection of books on wines and spirits amounted to over 260 volumes.

Brian had a lifelong interest in wine and was a member of the Irish Guild of Sommeliers and Association Sommelier International. He traveled

to the vineyards of many countries including France, Spain, Italy and Germany. Family, friends and colleagues attended a special reception in the college last term to mark the handover of the collection.

A section of the books are on display near the library circulation desk

(Regina Daly, Sept. 2011)



Cáit Noone, Head of Hotel School, with Richard Walshe, son of the late Brian Walshe.

## National Third Level Student Food Innovation Awards 2011

The inaugural National Third Level Student Food Innovation Awards competition, sponsored by Enterprise Ireland, was held in the Hotel School at GMIT on Wednesday June 1<sup>st</sup>. The three category winners were selected from the seven short listed entries.

The Entrepreneurial Award went to the 'Just Dippers' product that was developed by Rachel Lynch and Lisa Ryan of the Hotel School GMIT, the Innovation Award to 'Easy Peasy Pastry' made by Maureen O'Regan of Cork Institute of Technology and the Best Commercial Award to 'Seafood Spoonfuls' produced by Roisin Slattery, Suzanne McCarthy

and Claire Halpin of University College Cork, who were also the Overall Category winners.

'The purpose of the Food Innovation Awards is to encourage students of food related programmes in the third level sector to apply their creativity and learning to develop new food concepts and products that can give Irish food companies competitive advantage in export markets,' according to Cait Noone, Head of Hotel School, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, which hosted the 2011 competition.



Rachel Lynch and Lisa Ryan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Culinary Arts students – Winner of the Entrepreneurial Award

### Alumni: Join us on Facebook and LinkedIn

We have recently established a presence on Facebook and LinkedIn to keep in touch with Alumni. We will use these groups to keep Alumni up to date on news, work placement and career development opportunities, and upcoming events and reunions.

Join our "GMIT Hotel School Alumni" groups today:



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### Profile: Joe Quinn



Joe Quinn  
Chief Operating Officer – Jurys Inns

A graduate of GMIT, with a BA in Hotel Management and Business Studies, Joe Quinn has been involved in Hotel Management for almost 30 years.

Since joining Jurys Hotel Group in 1989, he has held various management positions at both Unit and Group level. He is the current Chief Operations Officer for Jurys Inn, a position held since the Inns were sold to Quinlan Private in 2007. Notably, he was Group General Manager Projects (New Builds & Refurbishments) for the Group when Jurys started its pipeline acceleration

in 2002 (new builds of Croydon, Newcastle, Glasgow, Leeds, Chelsea, Parnell Street, Heathrow, Southampton, Nottingham and Milton Keynes). In the former Jurys Hotel Group he managed two of their properties i.e. Waterford (3 years) and Cork (5 years), before taking up positions as Group General Manager-Hotel Division and subsequently Group General Manager-Ireland.

Prior to Jurys, Joe worked for IHG in Geneva, Ramada Hotels in Reading and Hilton on Edgware Road (formally Metropole Hotel). He also held management positions in Industrial Catering Institutions such as Lloyds of London and the Army & Navy Club, Pall Mall. He is a Fellow of the Irish Hospitality Institute (IHI) and holds a high certificate from the Wine & Spirit Educational Trust on the study of wines, together with various Hotel Trainer certificates.

Passionate about the business, ever since his earlier formal training at Ashford Castle, The Athenæum, Intercontinental and Europe Hotels, he has coached many General Managers in their current positions.

### Profile: Douglas Jordan

Douglas Jordan is Registrar and Manager of Accommodation Registration & Classification at Fáilte Ireland the National Tourism Authority. He oversees Fáilte Ireland's responsibilities in the entire area of accommodation legislation and approval, the monitoring of accommodation standards and the management of sub-contractors for the inspection, classification and approval of the various accommodation categories.

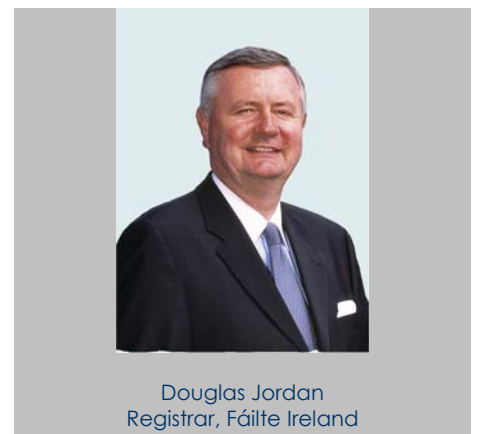
Following five years in senior management positions in the hotel industry he joined Bord Fáilte in 1979 as a Hotel and Catering Adviser.

From 1991 until his appointment as Registrar, Douglas had responsibilities for the administration of EU funds for tourism development and marketing.

Douglas is a past President of the Irish Hospitality Institute (the professional body for hospitality managers in Ireland), is a former Chairman of the UK and Ireland

Standards Committee and serves on the Advisory Council to the Commission for Taxi Regulation.

Douglas is a member of the board of the SKAL International Council and is a past President of SKAL International, Dublin. He is currently Chairman of the College of Fellows of the Irish Hospitality Institute.



Douglas Jordan  
Registrar, Fáilte Ireland