

THE

# STUDENT NEWSPRESS

## Stuart Scoops Bronze at WorldSkills



Add us on  
Facebook  
SERCSU



Don't miss  
your chance to  
feature on  
Cool FM!

SERC Refrigeration Apprentice Stuart Miller has won a Bronze Medal at the global skills competition WorldSkills London 2011.

More than 150,000 spectators from across the world watched as 1,000 young skilled people from 50 countries compete over four days to be the best in the world in their skill, at the event which took place from 5–8 October at ExCeL in London.

In addition, Northern Ireland – the best performing region within Team UK won two further medals in bricklaying and landscape gardening, with a further two students being awarded Medallions of Excellence in Mechatronics.

Employment and Learning Minister, Dr Stephen Farry, who supported the competitors during WorldSkills, congratulated them on their success. The Minister commented *“This success is testament to the high standards of technical and professional training in our colleges and the commitment to excellence shown by our young people. Northern Ireland has once again demonstrated on the world stage that we have a talented workforce with the high level skills which keep us competitive in the global economy.”*

GRADUATION  
2011

TROPHY  
CABINET

BE  
ENTERPRISING

STUDENTS'  
UNION

 **SERC**  
INSPIRING. TRANSFORMING. ENRICHING.

# GRADUATION 11

CELEBRATING TRANSFORMATION

## Graduation 2011 Key Facts...

Graduation took place on Friday 2nd September at the Waterfront Hall, Belfast.

The theme of the ceremony was 'Transformation.'

The guest speaker was Geoff Wilson, Head of Marketing and Communications at the Irish Football Association.

Over 1,000 guests attended the ceremony which saw over 350 students graduate.



1. HNC Beauty Sciences students Jana McConkey, Laura McNamara and Jenny Tosh from Bangor and Newtownards. 2. HND Art and Design students Marelle Hanna and Adam Watson. 3. HNC Construction student Ivor Caldwell pictured along with Helen Winter. 4. BA Business Management graduates, Matthew Fitzpatrick, James Nyamutenha and Heather Campbell. 5. Foundation Degree Sport and Exercise Fitness graduates James Corry, Stephen Bunting and Chris Reynolds. 6. Newtownards HNC Computing graduates Caroline Robinson and Sarah Duckworth. 7. HND Computing students Brian Sugden and Kristian Graham from Lisburn. 8. Foundation Degree Sport Exercise and Fitness students Roisin Devine, Carolyn Watson and Jennie Wright. 9. Downpatrick HNC Media graduate Matthew Denvir pictured alongside his family members.

# GRADUATION

CELEBRATING TRANSFORMATION

# 11



**10.** SERC Student Company Copp'Arts' impression of the Beacon of Hope, otherwise known as 'Nuala with the Hula', which was commissioned for graduation. **11.** HND Business students Kelly Donnelly, Catherine Morris and Shirley Coates. **12.** HND Construction students Barry Saunders pictured with his family members. **13.** HND Built Environment with IT students Chris Boorman and Michael Smyth from Bangor. **14.** BA Business Management graduates Rachel Smith and Katherine Campbell. **15.** HND Music Production students George Sloan and Graham Davidson. **16.** HND Construction student Michael Green who collected the Dunlop Trophy for Excellence in Professional Development. **17.** The Megapak Cup for Excellence in Professional Development went to Joanne Kropf, HND Animal Management. **18.** BA Business Management graduate Catherine Garland received the Montgomery Shield for Commitment to Learning in the Face of Challenge. **19.** The Finlay Cup for Enhancing the Student Experience went to HND Performing Arts student Kat Kirk. **20.** HND Animal Management graduate Hayley Quinn receives the Dr Semple Cup for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship.





# TROPHY CABINET...

## TOP AWARD FOR ALEX



*Alex Prichard, pictured along with Engineering Lecture Stephen McKinley and Bennett Moore*

Engineering student, Alex Prichard from Bangor had more reason than most to celebrate, when he won the Northern Ireland WorldSkills UK Mechanical Engineering CAD final and was crowned Northern Ireland's top CAD student.

In a six hour competition and up against engineering students from across the province Alex had to produce drawings of a steam engine including exploded views and animations in 3D CAD. In claiming first prize Alex beat off stiff competition from university students as well as fellow further education students. To make his achievement even more remarkable Alex was the youngest competitor in the competition.

Originally from Nottingham, Alex moved to Bangor three years ago with his family and enrolled on an engineering course at SERC. Due to the difference in the education system in England Alex was one year younger than his fellow classmates, but this did not deter him and before long he was showing his ability in the subject, becoming one of the top students in the class. This was recognised when he won SERC's Engineering Student of the Year Award at a ceremony held in January 2011.

Kieran McKenna, Head of School for Engineering commented; "Alex is an exemplar student, he is very dedicated to his studies and the progress he has made during his time at SERC is remarkable. It was quite an achievement for him to win the regional WorldSkills final, especially when he was competing against students who were older and more experienced in CAD design. We are very proud of his success and have no doubt that he will continue to progress over the coming years."

## MARTIN PROVES HE'S 'BEST' IN CLASS

It was a double celebration for Bangor student Martin Conlon when in the space of a few weeks he received two Northern Ireland wide awards for an innovative engineering solution he developed. Martin, a HND Manufacturing Engineering student at SERC won the 'Best Engineering Project' award at the inaugural BEST Awards and followed this up by winning the 'Bombardier Aerospace Award for Working With Industry' at the Sentinus 'Young Innovators' Exhibition.

The BEST (Business & Education through Skills & Training) Awards were introduced this year to celebrate the creative and innovative talent within Northern Ireland's six Regional Colleges in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The awards brought together over 90 students from across Northern Ireland to compete in a range of STEM categories. Martin, who completed his National Diploma at the College in June, entered the Engineering category with his system for stretching a wire mesh engine cover over an aircraft engine pod. He developed the system while studying a National Diploma in Manufacturing Engineering at SERC. As part of his qualification he worked on a real life industry project, the aim of the project was to improve efficiencies in time and effort spent by an aeroplane manufacturer when installing engine covers.

Following on from this, in an eventful few weeks, Martin attended the Sentinus 'Young Innovators' Exhibition at the Odyssey Arena where his innovative design was recognised with a further award. During the annual one-day exhibition, Martin received the 'Bombardier Aerospace Award for Working With Industry'.

Kieran McKenna, Head of School for Electrical and Manufacturing Engineering at SERC commented; "Martin is a first class student and fully deserves this recognition. He worked very hard during his National Diploma and we look forward to continuing to nurture his undoubted engineering talent."



*Martin Conlon at the Sentinus 'Young Innovator' Exhibition*

# Study in the USA...



SERC students Jordan White, Gareth Smyth and Jamie McFarland along with Karen McCormick (Programme Co-Ordinator), Dr Tony Novosei (University of Pittsburgh) and SERC staff James Currie and Jim F Hunter.

Students in their penultimate year of any full-time Higher Education course at SERC are eligible to apply to study for a year in the United States through SUSA (Study USA) formally known as the Business Education Initiative.

The SUSA scheme is a wonderful opportunity for you to broaden your experience and outlook. It also provides a great opportunity to travel in the US and to meet new people!

Last year SERC students Jordan White, Gareth Smyth, Jamie McFarland, Daniel Scarr and Wilson Hall spent the year experiencing University life in the states.

Jordan commented "I had an amazing year studying and travelling in the US, I would recommend the experience to anyone as it is one I will never forget."

Places on the scheme are in high demand and applicants have to go through a rigorous selection procedure, but if you are chosen to go it will change your whole life!

Applications are currently open and with only 75 places available across Northern Ireland, you need to get in early. To find out more about the programme, contact Jim F Hunter by emailing: [jfhunter@serc.ac.uk](mailto:jfhunter@serc.ac.uk).



## NEWS FROM ZEST



Congratulations to **B Robinson (Bangor Campus)** who won £100 worth of Love to Shop Vouchers with the recent ZEST Customer Loyalty Reward scheme, which ran in association with Johnsons Coffee and the world famous Bellagio Bean.



Congratulations to **Wendy Maguire (Lisburn Campus)** who won a DVD Player after entering the Freshers' Day Competition.

### Customer Loyalty Scheme Coming to Downpatrick Campus in November

Submit your Customer Loyalty Card and be entered into a draw for cinema tickets at Eclipse Cinema for you and three guests!!

Any viewing of your choice – we do not accept any responsibility if you are traumatised after a scary movie!!!



Present this voucher at any **SERC ZEST Outlet** for a complimentary side dish (as listed) with any main course purchased to the value of £2.50.



# gem...

## Multilingual jobs in Belfast!



## Immediate vacancies with:



Apply today!  
[www.the-gem.com](http://www.the-gem.com)



gemSocial



gemSocial

[jobs@the-gem.com](mailto:jobs@the-gem.com)  
+44 (0) 2890 921717

# SERC Snaps...



**1.** Travel and Tourism students Elaine Magee, Liam Quinn, Joanne Townley, Laura Deegan, Michael Haughlan and Nicola McCaugherty from the Downpatrick campus who recently took part in a sign language lesson. Also pictured are SERC lecturers Mary Enright and Kieran Swail as well as Adam McCormick and Michael Mulvenna from Action On Hearing Loss. **2.** Mayor of Lisburn, Councillor Brian Heading is pictured alongside Hairdressing students Caithlin Dornan, Hayley Shwalbe and Jamie-Leigh Close at the Lisburn Fresher's Fair. **3.** A Level English Literature students from the Bangor campus were recently treated to a talk from local author Colin Bateman who has penned novels including Murphy's Law, Wild about Harry and Orpheus Rising. **4.** Foundation Degree Retail students who recently attended a workshop session on the Lisburn Road hosted by Hugo Thomas Menswear. Students visited retailers including Murphy's Butchers, Arcadia, Framer Health and Paperclip Architects. **5.** Catering student Aisleen McCormick along with lecturer Michelle McCarthy who undertook a weeks work experience at the 5 star Gleneagles Hotel in Perthshire, Scotland. **6.** Media students from the Newcastle campus who recently reported on the UEFA U17's Women's mini tournament hosted by the IFA. The students' video footage and photographs will be available on the IFA website - [www.irishfa.com](http://www.irishfa.com).

# SERC Snaps...



7. Sport student Joy Fleming who has beaten the odds and gained the title of World Powerlifting Champion just three years after suffering from two brain haemorrhages and a stroke. 8. Former bricklayer Paddy McAuley who due to the economic downturn is retraining as a chef by undertaking a Level 2 Professional Cookery qualification at SERCs' Downpatrick campus. 9. Engineering student Jonny Hamill who was awarded the Sentinus CREST Gold Technology Runner Up award at the Young Innovators Exhibition held at the Odyssey Arena. 10. A group of SERC trainees recently took on a different role when they volunteered to make over a garden for charity Autism Initiatives. Pictured are Michael Breen, Colin Lyndsey, Bryan McIlmail and Martin Devlin alongside lecturer Tom Trainor. 11. Some of the SERC students who attended a talk 12. SERCs' Student Affairs Officer Keelin McGrogan collects the award for On-going Support on behalf of the Students' Union from Gerry Kelly and Lynda Bryans at the Unite Against Hate Awards at Stormont.

# Be Enterprising!



There are loads of ways you can get involved in Enterprise at SERC:

- Enterprise Champions
- Enterprise Academy
- Student Companies
- SERC Enterprise Centre

## Enterprise Champions

Every student at SERC is assigned an 'Enterprise Champion' to offer advice and support on all things enterprise. So, whether you have an idea for a business you would like help with, or you would just like to get involved in some of the activities, then contact the Enterprise Champion for your School. Our Enterprise Champions have helped lots of students like you already.

## Enterprise Academy

Experience enterprise and entrepreneurship through SERC Enterprise Academy. Earn credits for every practical, fun, hands-on activity you take part in and gain a Bronze, Silver or Gold Enterprise Award to recognise your achievements.

Activities include ideas generation workshops, entrepreneurship master classes, skills seminars, networking events, one to one mentoring and pre-incubation workspace. All of which will look great on your CV!

## Enterprise Champions



Campbell Miller  
Computing, Software  
Engineering & Media  
[cmiller@serc.ac.uk](mailto:cmiller@serc.ac.uk)



Corrine Courtney-Lee  
Performing & Creative Arts  
[ccourtneylee@serc.ac.uk](mailto:ccourtneylee@serc.ac.uk)



David Greer  
Manufacturing & Electrical  
Engineering  
[dgreer@serc.ac.uk](mailto:dgreer@serc.ac.uk)



Elaine McKeown  
Health, Care & Early Years  
[emckeown@serc.ac.uk](mailto:emckeown@serc.ac.uk)

## SERC Student Companies

In an increasingly competitive job market what could make you stand out more than having set-up and run your own business alongside your programme of study!

By being part of a SERC Student Company you have the opportunity to experience all aspects of business including research and development, marketing, negotiation and finance.

Existing Student Companies include Copp'Art, who produce decorative sculptures using recycled copper, The Glass Umbrella Theatre Company and Impressions of Ireland, a unique Celtic-themed giftware company.

## SERC Enterprise Centre

At SERC we can help you develop your new business, right from the moment that you have the idea!

SERC Enterprise Centre provides an excellent environment to support pre-start, start-up and existing businesses. From exploration of the idea of becoming self-employed and starting a business, to specific assistance for established businesses seeking to expand.

**So what are you waiting for? Be Enterprising!**



Geraldine Boden  
Training Organisation  
[gboden@serc.ac.uk](mailto:gboden@serc.ac.uk)



Jim F Hunter  
Business, Hair, Beauty &  
Skills for Life  
[jimfhunter@serc.ac.uk](mailto:jimfhunter@serc.ac.uk)



Lynda Robinson  
Applied Science & Sport  
[lrobinson@serc.ac.uk](mailto:lrobinson@serc.ac.uk)



Mary Enright  
Hospitality & Tourism  
[menright@serc.ac.uk](mailto:menright@serc.ac.uk)



Stephen McGreevy  
Construction & Engineering  
Services  
[smcgreevy@serc.ac.uk](mailto:smcgreevy@serc.ac.uk)

# STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS...

## Could you be the next Gok Wan?

Cool FM, Northern Ireland's biggest commercial radio station are offering two lucky SERC students a slot on Sonya Mac's Saturday morning show.

The students (one male and one female) will put their fashion knowledge to the test by sharing their fashion tips with the NI public and informing us what's hot and what's not in the fashion stakes.

So if you've got a passion for fashion send us 200 words on why you want to get involved.

Email your entry to [otumelty@serc.ac.uk](mailto:otumelty@serc.ac.uk) by noon on Friday 25th November.



## Guards Guards!

Like many, SERC staff member David Brashaw is a lifelong fan of Sir Terry Pratchett's Discworld novels, so much so that he and business partner Leonard Boyd designed their very own board game based on the comic fantasy series.

Guards! Guards! is an action packed, fast paced adventure board game set in the streets of Ankh-Morpork, the Discworld's oldest, grubbiest and least law-abiding city. The game sees players taking on the role of newly recruited members of the City Watch. With the Eight Great Spells missing from the Unseen University the future of the city hangs in the balance. Each player is tasked to collect and return five of the spells to the University before the terrible consequences that may befall the entire Discworld come to pass.

Having gained backing from major board game company Z-Man Games, Guards! Guards! was granted a licence in 2010 by Sir Terry Pratchett himself. The game has since gone from strength to strength and was shortlisted as a finalist for Best New Board Game at this year's UK Games Expo.

David has kindly donated a board game, so if you're interested in Discworld or are looking for a fun game to play over the Christmas period just tell us who was the coach of the Unseen Academicals?

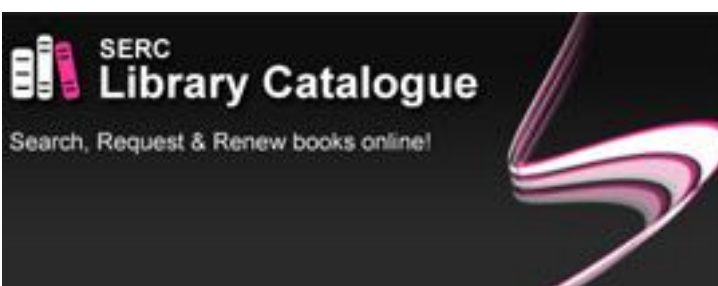


Answers can be emailed to [otumelty@serc.ac.uk](mailto:otumelty@serc.ac.uk) no later than noon on Friday 9th December. Three lucky runners up will also win a set of exclusive Stephen Player bookmarks.

Competition Time

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

- 14th-18th November Anti Bullying week
- 14th November Student Executive meeting
- 1st December World AIDS Day
- 8th December Jingle Bell Ball
- 23rd January Blue Monday
- 30th-2nd February Re-Freshers Week





# STUDENTS' UNION...GET INVOLVED

## Election Results

Congratulations to all involved! Your reps can be contacted at: [StudentsUnionExecutiveCommittee@serc.ac.uk](mailto:StudentsUnionExecutiveCommittee@serc.ac.uk)

Campus	Student Governor	Campus President	Entertainments Officer	Welfare Officer	Equality and Diversity Officer	International Student Officer
Bangor	Samia Ali	Jack Lindsey	Re-opened for elections	Re-opened for elections	Re-opened for elections	Re-opened for elections
Downpatrick	Samia Ali	Ciaran Maguire	Martin Redfern	Catherine Murray	Re-opened for elections	Re-opened for elections
Lisburn	Samia Ali	Aaron Lewis	David Doherty	Victoria McDowell	Adeel Tahir	Adeel Tahir
Newtownards	Samia Ali	Heather Ritchie	Re-opened for elections	Gemma Johnston	Re-opened for elections	Re-opened for elections

## Health 4 U Project

SERC are proposing a pilot project to promote health and mental wellbeing among the student population, initially within the Lisburn Campus. This is an initiative to support work that has taking place between SERC, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT) and local charity ASCERT, to address health issues among students.

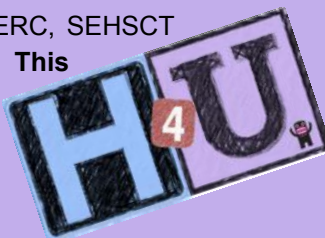
The Health 4 U Project aims to:

- Reduce the stigma associated with mental health problems
- Promote positive mental wellbeing
- Provide support strategies to students to reduce stress and improve mental health wellbeing
- Support access to helping services for all health related issues that may arise amongst the student population of SERC.

Students will be offered a facility to get advice and support. There will be an on-site clinic on a weekly basis where students can meet with the Student Wellbeing Worker to discuss their concerns and explore options for support. This will take a stepped care approach, providing students with progressive levels of support depending on their needs, from information through to linkage to professional services.

As part of the continuing effort to ensure the needs of all of our students are met, we are conducting a Health and Wellbeing Survey in conjunction with SEHSCT and ASCERT to ascertain people's perception on Mental Health, Alcohol and Drugs Misuse, Sexual Health and Awareness, and also to determine if there was to be Health and Wellbeing Clinics set up within SERC, would they be used.

All details within the Survey will only be used by SERC, SEHSCT and ASCERT to produce findings to the Survey. **This survey will be confidential and no personal information will be passed onto anybody internally or externally to SERC.**



## Samia Ali



Hello fellow students, I am Samia Ali, an International student studying BA Business Management on the Lisburn Campus and your recently elected Student Governor for SERC.

I represent all students on the Board of Governors of the College and can bring to them the views and opinions of students on how the College is run. During my time as Governor, I would like to present a unified voice of the student to senior management, in order for them to understand the issues that face students today.



The Students' Union is delighted to announce details of this year's student formal, the **Jingle Bell Ball**.

A great excuse for a night out with your friends before Christmas.

Tickets now available from Students' Union offices.

**Date:** Thursday 8th December 2011

**Venue:** Clandeboye Lodge

**Ticket price:** £30 (Deposit of £15 can be paid) includes Drinks reception, 3 course meal and Entertainment.

**Dress code:** Formal

- **Red carpet welcome**
- **Pre-dinner cocktails**
- **3 course dinner**
- **DJ after dinner**
- **Bar open until 1am and dancing until 1.30am**

## Are you a Class Rep?

The Students' Union will be providing training for Class Reps throughout November and December. The session will allow you to meet Class Reps from other disciplines and year groups and give you the information and skills necessary for you to get the most out of being a class rep. Keep an eye on your e-mail for further information and dates for our Training sessions.

## Competition time!



**Win 2 Tickets** to the Jingle Bell Ball!

Simply e-mail [studentsunion@serc.ac.uk](mailto:studentsunion@serc.ac.uk) with an idea for an event or campaign you would like to see run in college for all students.

Not only will the lucky winner receive 2 free tickets to the formal but their idea will be implemented by the Students' Union team!

# Get extra!

NUS extra is the ultimate, must have student card!

You can still purchase the NUS Extra card online and it will be sent to the Students' Union office for collection in around 7 working days.

NUS Extra gives you access to over 130 offers or discounts available online and on the high street, with more added throughout the year; from money off Fashion with clothes retailers like ASOS, New Look, JJB Sports, Paul's Boutique and Warehouse, to 5% off at Amazon.co.uk, and 10% off Superdrug. You'll even get 25% off the original student ticket price at Odeon cinemas!

For details of all the discounts visit [NUS](http://NUS).

