

- Annual Achievement Awards
- Cool FM
- Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
- Student Success
- New Student Point
- Open Day

## students' union election results!

Did you know that the College has a Students' Union on the Lisburn, Bangor, Newtownards and Downpatrick campuses? These fellow students on the **Student Union** are there to represent you.

Do you want to start a social club? How about a football or rugby team with other College students? Do you have a passion for writing and want to start a College newspaper? The **Student Union** is there to help you start up these types of activities.

**Student Governor/President**  
Hannah McCreery

### Hannah's Policies:

- Students should be treated equally and like adults, but also that all students should have respect for their tutors.
- Supports current rules on the campus against drugs and other illegal substances and raise awareness amongst students of the dangers of these substances.

**Entertainment Officer**  
Aiden Flanagan

### Aiden's Goals:

- Drug & Alcohol Awareness Day, No-Smoking Day, Charity Fundraiser, and Gala Ball.
- Gaining rapport with his fellow students and addressing their needs and wants for events.

**Student Welfare Officer**  
Adrienne Peltz

### Adrienne's Goals :

- Student safety both on and off campus.
- Female self-defence classes.



Lisburn campus student's union officers at the Valentine's raffle

For more information, contact **Jennifer Reid** by email at [jreid@serc.ac.uk](mailto:jreid@serc.ac.uk)

## students serve up football fest

**Congratulations** to all students who recently took part in the 5-a-side tournament held at the Lagan Valley Leisureplex. The event was organised by a group of **second year BTEC National Diploma Sports Studies** students. As part of their course, the students are required to organise a sports event. This year a group of them decided to host a football tournament for Lisburn based students.

The tournament was held on Friday, 30th January with over **60 students**, male and female, taking part. Eight teams entered with representatives from the following: Plumbing, Joinery, Business Studies, IT, and Sports Studies. The eventual winners of the tournament were the first year National Diploma in Sport students, clearly using their sporting expertise to their advantage.



The organisers secured **sponsorship** for the tournament from **Cadbury**, ensuring every player received a chocolate treat for their efforts. The students also supplied trophies and medals for the winning team and a Player of the Tournament Award, and let's not forget the dreaded Wooden Spoon awarded to the losing team.

## further education open day - 11th march



## campus-wide cookery competition

Are you a student enrolled in a professional catering course? If so, we have a competition for you!

The College, along with Sodexo, is sponsoring a campus-wide competition for all culinary students to showcase their skills and share ideas.

The competition that will be held on the **12th of May** at the **Bangor campus**, is open to all South Eastern Regional College culinary students. More information will be distributed to all campuses in the near future, with full details on rules and judging.

## further education achievement awards

**Congratulations** to all the students who received achievement awards for their **hard work** and **dedication** to their studies! The College is **extremely proud** of those who have gone above and beyond to further their education and hopes they continue to persevere in their learning.

The theme of the ceremony was **“Creating Success Stories”** and this year 133 students were awarded for their achievements in a range of subjects. **Congratulations again to all students!**



lisburn awards



bangor awards



downpatrick awards

## cool fm visits bangor



Students at the Bangor campus recently hosted local Cool FM DJ, **Paul Kennedy**. Approximately 65 Media students met with Paul to gain first-hand knowledge of the industry. Paul ran a morning seminar in which he discussed aspects of the radio Industry. The students got information on **skills development** as well as freelance work and how to promote themselves within the Industry.

Media courses in the Bangor campus include: BTEC National Award in Media, National Diploma in Media, First Diploma in Media and HND in Media. The College will also be offering **short courses** in **Radio Production, Video Production** and **Creative Writing**.

For more information on Media courses, contact **Liane Radcliffe** at [lradcliffe@serc.ac.uk](mailto:lradcliffe@serc.ac.uk)

## student worth gold

Congratulations to **Marc Nesbitt**, a BTEC Sport student at the Lisburn campus. Marc recently competed for **Team GB** at the **Australian Youth Olympics**, and has returned home after winning archery gold medals in both the individual and team events.

Mark was one of 250 young people representing Team GB in Sydney at an event where over 2000 elite athletes from over 20 countries competed in 21 Olympic sports. The British Olympic Association regards these young people as **'the 2012 hopefuls'**. We wish Marc all the best and hope he achieves his **Olympic dreams!**



## second life

Ask your tutors about learning in Second Life! **Second Life** is a virtual world where students and teachers can interact online using Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) and text messages. Not only can you use this software to learn, but you can use it to "virtually" visit places around the world!



A virtual classroom has been developed and is currently being used by the **Foundation Degree in Creative Multimedia** (FDCM) for virtual meetings, assessment and lectures. The students have created their own "avatars" or characters in the virtual world to help them navigate.

Students on the FDCM have embedded the use of Second Life in their learning. They have been on the College's first ever virtual school trip visiting sites such as Harvard University, Dell, the Dresden Gallery and even ancient Rome!

The software is **free**; all you have to do is download! If you want to join Second Life then you need to set up an account (<https://join.secondlife.com/>) and install the software on your machine. Type "SERC" in the search window within the second life software to visit us or type in :

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Klens/57/16/53>

## enterprise at the college

The entrepreneurial spirit is alive and thriving in the Bangor Multimedia department. Students in the **Foundation Degree in Creative Multimedia** programme have started their own multimedia companies.

The companies have already started to work with **live clients** and have developed everything for their own businesses including logos and marketing campaigns.

One particular company composed of three young students is "**digitalDEVIL**." Kyle Murphy, Jim Dynes and Jordan Brown are the founders of "digitalDEVIL," and specialise in **graphic design** and **web design/development**.



Do you want to **start your own** company? Do you have an existing company that needs more **development**? Do you want to **expand your business**? Then contact **Olivia Kennedy**, Entrepreneurship and Business Start-Up Officer at **07919 597702** or email her at **okennedy@serc.ac.uk**.

## lights, camera, action!

Do you love film? Do you want to meet other students that love it as well? The Jam Jar Film Club is now operating. The club hopes to give the students the opportunity to widen their knowledge of film and culture.

This was the first screening of the Jam Jar Film Club at the private cinema or local film maker Roy Spence. As Film Students and Multi-Media Students enjoyed a showing of 'The Innocents' an outstanding psychological ghost story that stays with you long after you leave the cinema.

If you are interested in joining this Film Club, contact Ivan Kehelly at **IKehelly@serc.ac.uk**





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## dermot o'leary visits the college!

Students from the College's **Bangor** campus attended a range of workshops organised by **Cinemagic**. One of these events was a two day workshop in radio production, delivered by **Dermot O'Leary**. Ten Media students were chosen to attend this event at **BBC Northern Ireland**.

The candidates were mainly first year National Diploma, second year National Certificate and first year National Award in Media students.

The event was a **fantastic opportunity** for the students as they were given direct coaching on presentation skills, interview techniques, production skills and freelance work by Dermot himself.

A student stated, "It was fantastic being able to work with such a professional and to be able to ask questions about how best to get employment in the industry. Some of us were not sure of what areas we would like to concentrate on but after the workshops we now feel more passionate about the radio industry than ever. We even got to ask questions about his work on the X-Factor which was amazing."

Not only did Dermot give direct coaching but he also gave the students the opportunity of work experience on his Radio 2 show.

The students will be looking forward to organising this in 2009.



This programme is organised through the **Business Education Initiative** (BEI) and is funded by the British Council and sponsored by the Department for Employment & Learning. The BEI scheme is a **wonderful opportunity** for students to broaden their experience and outlook; it also provides a great opportunity to travel in the US and meet new people. The BEI programme is widely recognised, participation would **enhance any CV** or job application. Places in the scheme are in **high demand** and applicants have to go through a rigorous selections procedure.

Training is provided for those students who apply to **help them prepare** for this. Whilst it should be seen as a wonderful opportunity, it does require a considerable amount of work on the student's part and you should therefore **think carefully before applying**.

For **more information**, please log on to the BEI website [www.bei-ni.com](http://www.bei-ni.com) or contact **Jim Hunter** at [jfhunter@serc.ac.uk](mailto:jfhunter@serc.ac.uk)

### Marty Orne

Marty Orne, a College student studying in America, is having the time of his life. Marty is currently studying at **Dakota Wesleyan University** and in addition to his studies, he plays on the University men's golf team. He also has the opportunity to travel throughout the US for university golf competitions.

**"I couldn't recommend it more to those who are applying,"** Marty says.



### Peter Curran

Peter Curran, another College Student studying at **Arcadia University** in America, had a tremendous, once-in-a-lifetime encounter with new President **Barack Obama!**

**"I had to interview a shop owner for a marketing project and on the day we went to meet him, Barack Obama was in the flower shop across the street! He came within inches of my face!** It was an amazing experience," he said.



## meet the new "student point" team

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce a new part of the student network within the College, **'Student Point'**. This area has been created as part of an initiative to **help you** during your time at the College.

If you have questions but don't know where to find the answers, then contact Student Point and they will be sure to help. They're **committed to helping** you during your time with the College, making it as **enjoyable** and **beneficial** as it can possibly be.



*"The Student Attendance & Retention Support Officers are committed to establishing strong effective working links between students, their tutors and the support services. We want to enhance your learning experience not only educationally but also socially. We aim to provide a warm, friendly atmosphere amongst students and staff and promote a strong sense of community."*

### Student Attendance & Retention Mission Statement

The team is made up of **Julie Smyth** and **Sian Harvey**.

You can email Julie at [jmsmyth@serc.ac.uk](mailto:jmsmyth@serc.ac.uk) and Sian at [sharvey@serc.ac.uk](mailto:sharvey@serc.ac.uk) or you can call them on **02891 276662**.

## do you know who invented the wind-up radio?



**Trevor Baylis** did – he also invented the first wind up MP3 player and lots of other cool stuff. To help us embed innovation and entrepreneurship in everything we do, the College have appointed Trevor Baylis **Chair of Innovation and Invention**. Trevor will be working with students and staff over the next two years as a mentor.

To find out more about Trevor visit:  
[www.trevorbaylisbrands.com](http://www.trevorbaylisbrands.com)  
or speak to your tutor.

## what's new at the college?

Many exciting new happenings at the College!

The College gained national attention by winning the **UTV/Business Eye** Award for business/education. The College was among 16 organisations and individuals recognised for their contribution to business in NI.



The accolade was awarded based on the College's long-standing relationship with Canyon Europe, a world-leading manufacturer of trigger sprayers, industrial sprayers and dispensers. College staff worked with Canyon Europe, part of Japan's Canyon Corporation, to create prototype samples of nozzles, which led to a three year contract being won, providing 5 million nozzles a month to SC Johnson for the Mr Muscle product.

The College secured **£400,000** through the Innovation fund (provided by the Department for Employment and Learning). This money will go to help in the three areas of Innovation and Enterprise, Specialist Support for Innovators and Renewable Energy.

Identifying opportunities for **energy savings** and energy generating technologies is the focus of a series of events being hosted by the College. The first event was an Energy Efficiency for Industry Seminar held recently in Belfast. Representatives from local businesses and students from the College came along to hear about innovative energy solutions.

It was an excellent seminar highlighting to businesses cost savings they can achieve through applying energy efficiencies and renewables. The businesses who attended had a unique opportunity to speak with industry experts specific to their own business.

One of the most important features of the event those who attended were able to get more information about courses of study available for those who want to learn more.

As part of an ongoing programme of Energy Opportunity Events, the College also announced that they will be hosting an Energy Efficiency Fair at the Ramada Hotel, Belfast on Tuesday, 24 March 2009. Duncan Stewart from RTE's Eco-eye will open the fair, which will feature other special guests. Open to students, businesses, and industry professionals, the fair will provide a platform to network, source and meet suppliers and to keep up-to-date on energy saving systems and technologies.

All of these events are sponsored by the Department for Employment and Learning and supported by the team at **Action Renewables**.



## do you have any story ideas?

Email them to [studentxpress@serc.ac.uk](mailto:studentxpress@serc.ac.uk)