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University of Ulster Staff Newsletter



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BELFAST ■ COLERAINE ■ JORDANSTOWN ■ MAGEE

Science Shop

The Science Shop, which offers students an opportunity to undertake a project with a community or voluntary group in Northern Ireland, recently awarded two students £650 and £350 respectively for their final year dissertation projects. The first award-winner was psychology student, Emma Curran and the second, criminology and criminal justice student, David Stevenson.

Both students worked closely with a dissertation supervisor to provide solutions for a live project in the sector. Their dissertation supervisors were delighted with the news and praised the Science Shop for the innovative initiative.

Dr Siobhan O'Neill, senior lecturer in psychology, said: "The Science Shop initiative is excellent, as it offers our undergraduate final year psychology students the opportunity to work with community and voluntary groups to produce socially-relevant research

projects. The experience always brings out the best in our students and helps to develop their confidence, enhance their communication and professional skills and contribute to their CV."

Dr Cathy Gormley-Heenan, senior lecturer in public policy, added: "I had no prior experience of supervising a Science Shop dissertation and was delighted to be involved. My student was confident of the rationale behind his dissertation idea, as he had planned the aims and objectives of his project along with myself, the Science Shop and his community partner – the Youth Conferencing Service. He was enthusiastic because he knew that there was a real world 'end goal' to be achieved. I was so pleased when he was announced as one of the Science Shop award winners – he thoroughly deserved it."



From left: Emma Curran, Dr Siobhan O'Neill, David Stevenson and Dr Cathy Gormley-Heenan at the Science Shop award presentations

What's Wrong with this Place?

A recent project – supported by the University and PLACE gallery – partnered staff and students from architecture and visual communications disciplines with representatives from local businesses, to explore and challenge preconceptions about the built environment around Ulster's Belfast campus.

The project involved a workshop with the Department for Social Development and Belfast City Centre Management. The students opened an exhibition of documentary film and visual/physical experiments – curated by Ulster lecturers, Saul Golden and Liam McComish – in the vacant shop units of Haymarket Arcade, Belfast.

A student-produced film will also feature in an exhibition at the PLACE gallery in May, as part of the ongoing project, which aims to develop further inter-departmental collaboration and external partnerships for future research, consulting and publication.



A Mobile Urban Experience Laboratory helps design students in Belfast learn about urban space

Spirit of Education

Participants recently celebrated the completion of the Wine and Spirit Education Trust Intermediate Certificate Course at the Belfast campus.

The course – which offered an ideal introduction to wine for enthusiasts – took place over six evening sessions during January and February 2010 and was delivered by Agnes Murray and Gary Elliott, lecturers from the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management. Participants learned about the major wine producing regions of the world and more importantly, how to taste wine professionally.

Dr Una McMahon-Beattie, Head of the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management, commented: "It was a really enjoyable and worthwhile course. Great teaching and great company! I always bought about five or six standard wines which I knew I liked, but now I am much more adventurous and am working my way around the wine producing regions of the world!"

The next course is planned to run from mid-April on the Coleraine campus and an additional course will take place at the Belfast campus in September. Each course requires a minimum of 12 participants. It can be just for fun, or for those who wish to study at a higher level, there is an option to take a final examination.

Further information and application forms are available from the Ulster Business School website at www.business.ulster.ac.uk/wset/

