



Bulletin

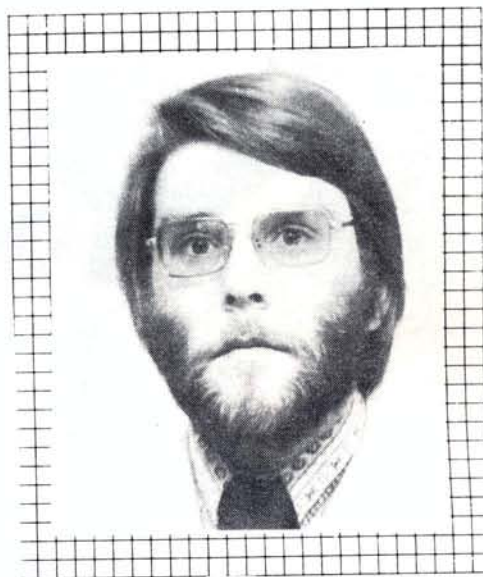
NEW MEMBER OF
STAFF

Mineral Science Extension

The past twelve months has seen some major changes in the Mineral Science section. Mineral Science which was initially housed in a room loaned by Chemistry, moved in July to new quarters within the College grounds. This extension to the College was designed exclusively for Mineral Science and consists of laboratories, offices and lecture space. An official opening of this building is currently being organised.

Student interest continues at a high level. The number of applicants continues to exceed the number of available places. The increase in exploration activity during the past twelve months and the coming into operation of the Tara Mines Ltd. complex at Navan have made our students highly prized with the industry. In 1976 for example the jobs available exceeded the number of qualified students.

To better serve this demand the course structure and syllabus content continues to be up-dated. In future years, subject to demand, options will be available to the students which will allow him/her to specialise in mining geology, mineral engineering or mineral processing.



Mr. Nigel Foley-Fisher

Recently appointed as Lecturer in Mineral Science at Athlone College is Nigel Foley-Fisher. In his late twenties, Nigel was born in Oxford, England and a graduate of Leeds University where he read Applied Mineral Science. Further research brought Nigel to Australia and New Zealand where he worked at the universities in Brisbane and Dunedin. He was awarded the James Park Scholarship in Applied Mineral Science and received his Masters degree from Otago University in 1976. On his return to England, Mr. Foley-Fisher took up a post at the University of Reading on a project which was funded by Shell International in the Sedimentology Research Laboratory. Nigel looks forward with enthusiasm to the challenge presented to him in helping develop the Mineral Science programme at Athlone where he hopes to set up home in the near future with his fiancée Barbara Cook - they are to be married before the beginning of the next academic year. He finds Ireland similar in many respects to New Zealand in respect of size, population, agriculture and more foreign in respect of dialect religion and culture.



Mr. Pat Herlihy,

Lecturer in Mathematics.

A pass (minimum grade D) in the leaving Certificate Mathematics is an essential entry requirement to all NCEA certificate and diploma courses.

In the Science department of Athlone RTC students pursue courses of study leading to the National Certificates in Applied Chemistry, applied biology or Mineral Science. In addition to these Mineral Science certificate graduates who obtain a sufficiently high standard may study for a further year in this College for a National Diploma.

All these courses include some branch of Mathematics or its applications. In the first year students of all three branches of Science mentioned above attend a course in Mathematics which follows on from the leaving certificate pass course and also fills in some gaps in that course.

The emphasis is considerably different from that of the leaving cert. Maths. Applications are stressed all the time. While it is important that students entering the Science Certificate and diploma courses should have a good foundation in theoretical mathematics, and indeed the leaving cert. student with honours or a good pass does have this, many students require considerable training in basic numeracy. In a chemistry or physics experiment it is important that students get accurate numerical answers. So there is a strong emphasis on graphical methods and numerical accuracy, as there is, also, on manipulation of mathematical formulae.

Mathematics

in the

Science Department

Athlone RTC

by Pat Herlihy, M. Sc.

The calculus also features prominently. Statistics and Quality Control form the main bulk of the second year mathematics courses. A certificate graduate in Applied Chemistry could find him-herself employed in a laboratory testing the quality of medicinal tablets where it is vital that only the correct quantities of different chemicals should go into each tablet. This is the type of work a quality control technician does. More and more industries are nowadays employing such technicians.

In the mineral science diploma course, the students take operations research as a module for one term. Though originally developed as an aid to improving military strategy in the Battle of Britain, this subject has many applications in industrial, mining and engineering projects. O. R. is an application of different mathematical methods to making the most efficient use of manpower and resources.

Throughout the entire mathematical courses use is made of the most modern mathematical teaching aids. The college has a good range of electronic calculating devices from the simplest pocket calculators to highly sophisticated computer facilities.

Our computer facilities consist of a terminal linked up by telephone line to an outside computer and also a micro processor built by a member of staff of the engineering department Mr. C. Scott. This micro processor is capable of handling advanced machine control applications in addition to ordinary student programming.

Management

Courses 



Wedding Bells



MANAGEMENT COURSES:

A variety of short term courses are organised by the College throughout the year to meet the needs of the various industries and public service. Seen here discussing the content of one of the Management courses is Mr. Gerry Grey, Head of Business studies. With him are (left to right) Mr. James McDonnell, Shannonside Milk Products, Ballaghadereen; Mr. Martin Smyth, Milchem Ltd., Tynagh and Mr. Ofko Holtkamp, Strider Ltd., Roscommon.

Short courses recently organised by the Business Studies Department include:

- (a) A general management course - 20 days (1 day per week for 20 weeks) developed to meet the needs of industrial and commercial firms in the region.
- (b) Computer appreciation for public service staff.
- (c) Communication courses for personnel employed in the public service.
- (d) Management courses for senior personnel employed in the hotel and catering industry.
- (e) Work study courses (6 weeks) organised in conjunction with ANCO and the National Manpower Service.



PAYE O'DOWD

Tom Paye and Cora O'Dowd will have a special place in the history of RTC Athlone — they are the first married couple whose romance began and flourished at the College during student days. Tom a native of Birr, was a Diploma student in the Business Studies Department when he met Cora who had come from Mullingar to pursue a course in Secretarial Studies. Mr. and Mrs. Paye now reside in Dublin where Tom is a Management Accountant with Calor/Kosangas Ltd.

EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS:

The Athlone Regional College has been singularly successful to date in having such a high percentage of its graduates placed in satisfactory careers. The figures listed below reflect the successes in 1976.

Total number of graduates: 109

Gone on to further education: 35

Employed in Ireland: 56

Employed in England: 13

Not yet satisfactorily placed: 5

Business Studies: The National Diplomas and Certificates conferred on our students are recognised by the major professional associations. These associations grant certain exemptions from their examinations to our graduates. Many of these are at present employed as accountants, internal auditors, assistants to personnel managers, managers, management trainees, general clerks and secretaries. While some of our students earn up to £5,000 per annum the average salary lies between £2,000 and £3,000.

Total number of graduates: 58

In further education: 10

In employment: 47

Not yet satisfactorily placed: 1

SCIENCE: Graduates find employment in industry, state or semi-state organisations, and in research establishments. Details of Mineral Science course is dealt with separately;

Total number of graduates: 15

In further education: 5

In employment: 10

ENGINEERING: The average salary is between £2,000 and £3,500

Total number of graduates: 36

In further education: 20

In employment: 12

Not yet satisfactorily placed: 4

■ V.E.C. SCHOLARSHIPS

£250 each

Several scholarships are offered by Vocational Education Committees of the following counties: Westmeath, Offaly, Longford, Roscommon.

The Scholarships are open to all Leaving Certificate pupils residing in those areas. Candidates should write to appropriate Chief Executive Officer for application form early in July.

■ THE MIDLANDS REGIONAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

£500

(Athlone, Longford, Mullingar, Roscommon Senior Chambers and the following firms: D. E. Williams Ltd., Salts (Ireland) Ltd. and J. & L. F. Goodbody Ltd.)

■ BANK OF IRELAND GROUP

£250

(Midlands Region)

For Business Studies course.

■ IRISH MINING & QUARRYING SOCIETY

£400

(Sponsored by Irish Industries Explosives Ltd.)

For students wishing to pursue courses in Mineral Science.

■ TARA MINES LTD.

For students wishing to pursue courses in Mineral Science.

■ WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL STAFF SOCIAL CLUB

£ 50