



Bulletin



Dr. J. Robinson

MIDLAND ENTERPRISE AWARD



Mr. D. Beddard

Two lecturers in the plastics section of Athlone Regional Technical College, Dr. John Robinson and Mr. David Beddard, recently took first place and a £1,000 award for their entry in the Midland Enterprise Award scheme sponsored by the Industrial Development Authority and the Chambers of Commerce. They were presented with the award by Mr. Desmond O'Malley, T.D., Minister for Industry and Commerce at a ceremony in the Prince of Wales Hotel, Athlone.

Their proposal is for the establishment of a company to manufacture a range of products made from polysulphone, an engineering material already widely used in the United States and ideally suited for microwave cookware. Recent market reports forecast a rapid growth in the sale of microwave ovens for domestic and commercial purposes throughout the E.E.C. which is expected to stimulate demand for microwave roasting trays, saucapans, casserole dishes, etc. It is these accessory items that Dr. Robinson and Mr. Beddard propose to manu-

facture. Initially the project would give employment to about twenty people, most of them trained in the College plastics section, but it is envisaged that this number would rise as the firm expanded.

John Robinson was educated at Brunel University where he took his Ph.D. in plastics technology. He was associated with the Athlone plastics course from its inception in 1972 and after a recent spell in industry, he has rejoined the College staff.

David Beddard, who is a plastics engineer, was educated at Aston University, Birmingham and joined the staff of Athlone Regional Technical College in 1974.

The College offers a two-year National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering(Plastics); a three-year National Diploma in Plastics Engineering and a four-year course leading to Graduateship of the Plastics and Rubber Institute, London.



Bartley Fannin

Bartley Fannin came to Athlone Regional Technical College in 1971 from St. Mel's College, Longford with a scholarship from County Longford Vocational Education Committee. He obtained a National Certificate in Science in 1973 and subsequently went on to Waterford Regional Technical College, where he obtained a National Diploma in Biology the following year. After a spell as a microbiology technician in Kevin Street College of Technology, Dublin, Bart moved to County Kilkenny as assistant quality controller with Avonmore Creameries. The post involved responsibility for the supervision of staff and the analysis of results, together with a certain amount of research. The latter stimulated his desire to return to academic life and in 1976 he was admitted to the final year of the B.Sc. (general) course at University College, Galway, graduating in 1977. He is currently engaged in a microbiology research project on photo reactivation in blue green algae at University College, Galway and hopes eventually to go on to take his Ph.D. Bart says that his course at Athlone gave him a sound practical training in laboratory techniques with a good grounding in the underlying scientific principles.

NATIONAL CERTIFICATE AND DIPLOMA COURSES AT ATHLONE REGIONAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE

- * Certificate in Business Studies
- * Certificate in Business Studies (Secretarial)
- * Diploma in Business Studies (Management Finance)
- * Certificate in Civil Engineering
- * Certificate in Construction Studies
- * Certificate in Construction Studies (Farm Buildings)
- * Certificate in Mechanical Engineering
- * Certificate in Mechanical Engineering (Plastics)
- * Diploma in Plastics Engineering
- * Science Technician Certificate (Applied Biology)
- * Science Technician Certificate (Applied Chemistry)
- * Science Technician Certificate (Mineral Science)
- * Science Technician Diploma (Mineral Science)

also

- * Graduateship of the Plastics & Rubber Institute, London
- * College Certificate in Art & Design

Industrial Safety Seminar



Athlone Regional Technical College was recently the venue for a highly successful seminar on industrial safety. The large attendance included representatives from industry located in the midland region, together with final year students from the college. The seminar was officially opened by Mr. M. Doyle, Chairman, Midland Regional Committee of the National Industrial Safety Organisation and the principal speaker was Dr. J.M. Nolan, University College, Dublin, who read a paper entitled **Risk taking in men**. Picture shows some of those involved in organising the seminar. Front row: Mr. P. Fitzpatrick, N.I.S.O., Dr. D. Fenton, principal, Athlone R.T.C., Dr. J.M. Nolan, U.C.D., Mrs. A. Delvin, Department of Education, Mr. M. Doyle, Bord na Mona. Back row: Mr. J. Hall, Irish National Insurance, Mr. S. Nevin, Midland Health Board, Mr. A. Hinton, head of engineering, Athlone R.T.C., Mr. S. Fleming, Irish Cable and Wire Co. Ltd., Mr. P. Deavy, lecturer in engineering, Athlone R.T.C. and Mr. P. Harrington, Irish National Insurance.

ART EXHIBITION

The Arts Council of Ireland travelling exhibition, 1977, was on display at Athlone Regional Technical College from 6 to 20 December 1977. The theme of the exhibition was **Images of Stone** and it consisted of extremely realistic glass-fibre casts of the 2,000 year tradition of stone sculpture from the Erne basin region of Ireland.

For a number of years Athlone R.T.C. has availed of the Arts Council's joint purchase scheme to build up a collection of paintings by modern Irish artists which are on permanent display in the College. Amongst those represented in the College collection are Louis de Brocquy, Maurice MacGonigal, Charles Harper and Colin Middleton.

COLLEGE ART COURSE

The Art section of Athlone R.T.C. offers a two-year course in art and design leading to the award of a College Certificate. After a foundation course in their first year, students specialise in graphic design, photography and print technology in their second year. The course prepares students for careers in advertising, design and printing, as design technicians.

GENTEX AWARD

For the first time this year, Gentex (1975) Ltd., through its subsidiary, Constellation Ltd., has generously offered an



Mr. Harman Murtagh, lecturer, Athlone Regional Technical College, with Mr. T. Jackson and Mr. John Curley, who helped set up the **Images of Stone** exhibition, admiring a representation of the three-faced 'Corleck' head, which dates from the Celtic iron age.

award to the art section, Athlone R.T.C. This was initiated by managing director, Mr. Hugo Milling, and production manager, Mr. Christy Reid. The award will go to the student who provides the best textile design for a tea towel, illustrating the attractions of holidaying on land and water in the midlands. Gentex expects to set up production, using the winning student's design, in time for the coming tourist season.

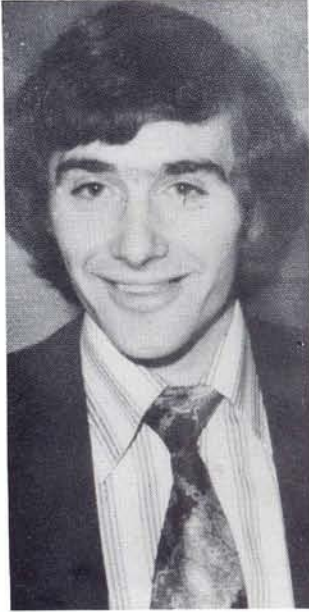
National Diploma in Business Studies (Management Finance)

Thomas and Dorothy Pey, Townsend Street, Birr, Co. Offaly, are the first members of the same family to graduate from Athlone Regional Technical College with the National Diploma in Business Studies (Management Finance).

Thomas completed his secondary education at the Presentation Brothers College in Birr and commenced at Athlone R.T.C. in September 1971, graduating in June 1974. By May 1977, he had passed the remaining stages of the examinations for membership of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants (his diploma had already entitled him to certain exemptions).

In the employment sphere Thomas has been equally successful. He joined Calor-Kosangas as assistant cost accountant in 1974 and reached the position of management accountant with this company before leaving in June 1977 to take over responsibility for the complete accounting function with British Leyland Ireland (Manufacturing) Ltd. Last December he started as chief accountant with Controlled Medications Ltd., the Athlone-based pharmaceutical manufacturers. With his wife Cora, a graduate in secretarial studies from Athlone R.T.C., Thomas now lives in Moate.

Thomas's sister, Dorothy, received her secondary education at St. John's Secondary School in Birr and came to Athlone R.T.C. in September 1974. She graduated in June 1977 and is now employed as assistant cost accountant with GAF (Ireland) Ltd., Mullingar. Encouraged by her brother's example, she hopes to emulate him by qualifying as a member of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants in the near future.



Opening of New Mineral Science Building



Mr. Nigel Foley-Fisher, lecturer in mineral processing, supervising the preparation by students of samples for beneficiation experiments in the mineral processing section of the laboratory in the new mineral science building. Picture shows (left to right) Dermot Caffrey, Mr. N. Foley-Fisher, Michael Keane, Brendan O'Donovan, Noel Singleton, Sean Hynds, and Sean Carr.

On 13 May 1977 the new mineral science laboratory was officially opened by the then Minister for Justice, Mr. Patrick Cooney, T.D. In his address Mr. Cooney emphasised the importance of our national resources to the economy and the valuable role that the College could play in the development of these resources.

The building which was purpose designed cost close to £100,000 to construct and equip. The addition of this facility

has allowed the College to develop courses in three broad areas of the mineral sciences: exploration geology, mining engineering, and mineral processing. These courses, which service a national demand from industry, are approved to Diploma level by the National Council for Education Awards. In addition to these, part-time courses on specialised topics are also offered.

AUDREY DEVLIN

Audrey Devlin has recently joined the staff of Athlone Regional Technical College as lecturer in behavioural science, having come from the psychological service section of the Department of Education. In the Department she worked as psychologist and inspector of guidance services in the Longford-Westmeath area. This entailed work in schools with teachers, pupils and parents, organising courses and lecturing. Amongst her other responsibilities was the selection of candidates for courses; she was also involved in the selection of students for European Social Fund scholarships at the Regional Technical College, Athlone.

A native of Athlone, Audrey holds an M.A. degree and H.Dip. in Ed. from Trinity College, Dublin and a Diploma in Psychology from University College, Dublin. She spent a year in America supervising teacher training at New York State University. She has lectured at the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin; the College of Catering, Cathal Brugha Street, Dublin; An Bord Altranais; colleges of education and various hospitals.

Audrey's sparetime interests involve music, gardening and ornithology. She is a member of the Athlone Madrigal Singers and, prior to moving to Athlone, was a member of the Culwick Choral Society in Dublin.

PART-TIME DAY COURSES

An essential aspect of the work of the College is the provision of a wide range of short courses in managerial and technical subjects. These courses are designed in conjunction with industry, commerce and the public service and this co-operation with employers is a vital factor in ensuring that the College continues to achieve its objects. Included in the range are courses in:

- Management and Management Techniques
- Communications
- Computer Appreciation
- Work Study
- Plastics Materials
- Injection Moulding (Plastics)
- Extrusion Moulding (Plastics)
- Structural and Fabrication Draughtsmanship
- Analytical Chemistry
- Mineral Science
- Food Hygiene

Development of Data Processing Laboratory



Mr. Cecil Horan, lecturer in accountancy, instructs students in the use of some of the equipment in the data processing laboratory, a developing aspect of the College's programmes.

The equipment in this area includes an I.T.T. 3330 computer terminal with a telephone link-up to I.C.S. Ltd. computers in Dublin and Belfast. The terminal is also used with the micro-computer in the College which was assembled by Mr. Cedric Scott, lecturer in mechanical engineering. Computer programming in basic language is taught on this equipment to students in the business, engineering, and science departments. Within the next year a full scale computer will be installed and a new visible record computer is being acquired.