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As Chairman of the Governing Body of Athlone Institute of Technology, it gives me great pleasure to present the annual report for the academic year 2012/2013.

The past year has been extraordinarily successful for AIT with one of the highlights being the conferral of Institute President, Professor Ó Catháin with an honorary doctorate in management by Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP) in an elaborate convocation ceremony. Associate Professor Dr Hazry Desa, Dean of School of Business Innovation and Technopreneurship at UniMAP, described Prof Ó Catháin’s stewardship in AIT as having developed the Institute into a global-facing organisation, eager to attract the brightest minds from around the world.

The Presidents of NUI Maynooth and AIT also announced the formation of a new strategic partnership between their institutions. The partnership will facilitate collaboration in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes; student access and progression; research, commercialisation and entrepreneurship; and internationalisation.

The growth and development of such partnerships bodes well for the future of AIT, building the institute into a truly global organisation but with deep seated roots in the Irish education system.

AIT staff and students continue to play a very important role in the growth of the institute and I would like to take this public opportunity to commend all staff and students for your effective ambassadorship of the institute. Your dedication to the institute and to the development of a positive path forward during difficult economic times in Ireland is very much appreciated.

I look forward to working with the institute’s President, Governing Body members, management and staff in the forthcoming academic year.

Paul Breen
Chairman
This annual report covers the period from 1 September 2012 to 31 August 2013.

This year the Higher Education Authority (HEA) published a document entitled “Reconfiguration of the Irish System of Higher Education” amid widespread debate that the higher education system in Ireland requires reform.

In response AIT have prepared a response providing its institutional strategic vision and indicating where and how it sees itself within the future higher education landscape. In this response AIT is forward thinking, outlining a prosperous future for the institute while remaining dedicated to the promotion of the Midland region and third level education within its hinterland. As the term of the current strategic plan for the institute draws to a close in 2013, the planning process for the design of a new strategic plan has begun. The view of stakeholders, students and staff will all feed into the development and implementation of the new plan which will be forward looking and innovative in design and development.

The support of the members of the Governing Body during the period of review is imperative to the success of the institute. I would also like to record my appreciation to the management team and all staff of the institute for their continued dedication and commitment to the institute.

Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin
President
2.1 Governing Body Members

Ex-Officio Members as per Section 4 of the 1992 Act
Mr. Paul Breen [Chairperson Section 2(a)]
Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin [Director, Section 2(b)]

Governing Body Members as per Section 4 of the 1994 Act
Under Section 4(1)(a) and (b)
Cllr. Jim Henson
Cllr. Orla Leydon
Cllr. Jarlath Mc Donagh
Mr. Edward Mc Evoy
Ms. Mary Toher
Cllr. Joe Whelan until 2 October 2012
Cllr. Gabrielle Mc Fadden from 15 May 2013

Under Section 4(1)(c)
Mr. Kevin Mc Loughlin
Ms. Brigid Delamere

Under Section 4(1)(d)
Ms. June Daly

Under Section 4(1)(e)
Mr. John Madden
Ms. Michaela Hannick

Under Section 4(1)(f)
Mr. Joseph LaCumbre

Under Section 4(1)(g)
Ms. Breda Crehan-Roche
Ms. Yvonne Kennedy
Mr. Liam Rhatigan
Ms. Natasha Kinsella
Mr. Fergal Lynam

Secretary to the Governing Body
Mr. John Mc Kenna

2.2 Management and Senior Staff
The Institute has four schools: Schools of Business, Humanities, Engineering and Science, which in turn are further divided into Departments to provide courses/programmes of study to students. Each School has a Head of School and relevant Heads of Department.

President
Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin
Registrar
Dr. Joseph Ryan
Secretary/Financial Controller
Mr. John McKenna
Head of School of Business
Mr. Eoin Langan
Head of Department Professional Accountancy, Financial Services and Business Computing
Mr. Peter Melinn until December 2012
Mr. Brendan Doyle (Acting) from January 2013

Head of Department of Business and Management Studies
Mr. Owen Ross
Dr. Marian Fitzgibbon
Mr. Oliver Heparty
Head of Department of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Studies
Mr. John O’Hara
Dr. Austin Hanley
Mr. Fergal Sweeney

Head of School of Humanities
Mr. Joe Lawless
Vacant
Dr. Don Faller
Dr. Pearse Murphy
Mr. Paul Killeen
Mr. Brian Lynch
Mr. Michael Tobin

Head of Department of Humanities
Ms. Jackie Farrell
Ms. Betty Buckley
Mr. Liam Brennan
Ms. Josephine Corkery
Ms. Rossa Coleman
Mr. Gerad Connolly until February 2013
Mr. Cormac Cloonan from March 2013
Ms. Helen Fitzsimons / Ms. Lorna Walsh
Ms. Mary Simpson
Ms. Sarah La Cumbre

Head of Department of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Studies
Ms. Natasha Kinsella
Ms. Noreen Kennedy

Head of School of Engineering
Mr. Joe Lawless
Vacant
Dr. Don Faller
Dr. Pearse Murphy
Mr. Paul Killeen
Mr. Brian Lynch
Mr. Michael Tobin

Head of Department of Civil, Construction and Mineral Engineering
Ms. Jackie Farrell
Ms. Betty Buckley
Mr. Liam Brennan
Ms. Josephine Corkery
Ms. Rossa Coleman
Mr. Gerad Connolly until February 2013
Mr. Cormac Cloonan from March 2013
Ms. Helen Fitzsimons / Ms. Lorna Walsh
Ms. Mary Simpson
Ms. Sarah La Cumbre

Head of Department of Mechanical, Mechatronics, Software and Electronic Engineering
Mr. Eoin Langan
Mr. Peter Melinn until December 2012
Mr. Brendan Doyle (Acting) from January 2013

Head of Department of Mechanical and Polymer Engineering and Trades
Mr. Eoin Langan
Mr. Peter Melinn until December 2012
Mr. Brendan Doyle (Acting) from January 2013

Head of School of Science
Ms. Brigid Delamere
Ms. Michaela Hannick

Head of Department of Life and Physical Sciences
Ms. Jane O’Hara
Mr. Cormac Cloonan from March 2013

Head of Department of Nursing and Health Sciences
Mr. Cormac Cloonan from March 2013

Director of Research
Mr. Cormac Cloonan from March 2013

Marketing and Communications Manager
Mr. Cormac Cloonan from March 2013

Head of Department of Lifelong Learning
Mr. Cormac Cloonan from March 2013

Academic Affairs & Student Administration Manager
Mr. Cormac Cloonan from March 2013

Finance Manager
Mr. Cormac Cloonan from March 2013

Human Resources Manager
Mr. Cormac Cloonan from March 2013

Librarian
Mr. Cormac Cloonan from March 2013

Information Technology Manager
Mr. Cormac Cloonan from March 2013

Estates Manager
Mr. Cormac Cloonan from March 2013

External Services Manager
Mr. Cormac Cloonan from March 2013

Director of International Relations
Ms. Sarah La Cumbre

Student Services Manager
Ms. Sarah La Cumbre
3.1 Academic Council Membership

Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin (Chair), Dr. Joseph Ryan, Dr. Austin Hanley, Dr. Marian Fitzgibbon, Ms Jo Corkery, Ms. Sarah La Cimbre, Mr. Eoin Langan, Mr. Marcus Rahilly, Mr. Oliver Hegarty, Dr. Don Faller, Mr. Kevin Mc Loughlin, Ms. Geraldine Mc Dernott, Ms. Marie O’ Halloran, Mr. Jim Maguire, Mr. Des Casey, Ms. Miriam O Connor, Dr. Paul Archbold, Mr. Stephen Hanney, Mr. John O’ Connor, Ms. Alison Sheridan, Mr. Jarlath Nolan, Mr. Marc Cashin, Mr. John Maddies, Ms. Michaela Hannisk, Mr. Thomas Berry, Mr. Vincent Walsh, Mr. Owen Ross, Dr. Pat Timpson

3.2 Academic Developments

3.2.1 General

AIT President Awarded Honorary Doctorate by Malysian University

The president of Athlone Institute of Technology, Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin was conferred with an honorary doctorate in management by Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP) in an elaborate convocation ceremony. Delivering the citation for Prof Ó Catháin, Associate Professor Dr Harry Desa, Dean of School of Business Innovation and Technopreneurship at UniMAP, said: “Under Prof Ó Catháin’s stewardship, AIT has developed into a global-facing institution in recent years, the new formal partnership will bring developments in complementary research areas such as biosciences and chemistry. Commenting on the partnership, President of NUI Maynooth, Professor Philip Nolan said: “NUI Maynooth and Athlone Institute of Technology are committed to excellence in teaching, and research and to working in partnership with enterprise and our community. We are central to the development of our region as a place to live and work. There is a natural fit between our two institutions, both geographically and from the perspective of creating a cohesive educational pathway for students across many disciplines. We have shared visions in relation to the future provision of third level education in Ireland, which is why we are confident the partnership will prove extremely effective.”

President of Athlone Institute of Technology, Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin said: “We are developing this formal strategic partnership for the benefit of our students and the wider economic and social development of the Midland and Mid-east regions. Together we can enhance the current and future provision of education and opportunities for progression of our students. By collaborating on specialist areas of research we can enhance our collective expertise and achieve efficiencies within the educational system.”

NUI Maynooth and AIT Partnership

The Presidents of NUI Maynooth and Athlone Institute of Technology announced the formation of a new strategic partnership between their institutions. The partnership will facilitate collaboration in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes; student access and progression; research, commercialisation and entrepreneurship; and internationalisation.

Building on the success of collaborative work between the institutions in recent years, the new formal partnership will bring developments in complementary research areas such as biosciences and chemistry. Commenting on the partnership, President of NUI Maynooth, Professor Philip Nolan said: “NUI Maynooth and Athlone Institute of Technology are committed to excellence in teaching, and research and to working in partnership with enterprise and our community. We are central to the development of our region as a place to live and work. There is a natural fit between our two institutions, both geographically and from the perspective of creating a cohesive educational pathway for students across many disciplines. We have shared visions in relation to the future provision of third level education in Ireland, which is why we are confident the partnership will prove extremely effective.”

President of Athlone Institute of Technology, Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin said: “We are developing this formal strategic partnership for the benefit of our students and the wider economic and social development of the Midland and Mid-east regions. Together we can enhance the current and future provision of education and opportunities for progression of our students. By collaborating on specialist areas of research we can enhance our collective expertise and achieve efficiencies within the educational system.”

3.2.2 School of Business

The School hosted Julia Yang, Dean of Accounting from Shanghai Industry & Commerce Foreign Language College (SICFL) on her visit to AIT. Dean Yang was visiting AIT with a view to establishing links with the Business School in the area of accounting. The Business School has strong links to other Chinese Colleges and Universities in the area of Accounting & Business.

The Business School congratulates Maureen Kin narney who completed her study on the accounting technician programme in AIT. Maureen’s commitment to her study saw her finish 2nd in Ireland and once again this reflects positively on the academic staff of the School delivering the programme.

Business degree students Mark Fitzpatrick and Lauris Peips completed their year of study in Germany on an Erasmus programme. The social aspect of the Erasmus experience was excellent with many new friendships formed with students from all over Germany, indeed all over Europe and the rest of the world. In particular, the Erasmus journey will always be remembered by Mark and Lauris as a ‘cross-cultural’ experience where they have formed a greater understanding and respect for the German and many other cultures through the friendships they formed. The students wish to express their thanks to the International office for their assistance in organising the exchange which Mark and Lauris would recommend to all students.

CIMA have partnered with the BSTAI (Business Studies Teachers’ Association of Ireland) to run a series of school quizzes on a regional basis across Ireland and AIT hosted one such quiz in October.

The Academic Council is the Statutory Body appointed by the Governing Body to assist in planning, co-ordinating, developing and overseeing the academic/educational activities of the Institute. The Academic Council, and its sub-committees, protect, maintain and develop academic standards throughout the Institute, and advise the Governing Body on all relevant matters relating to academic standards.
3.2.3 School of Humanities

The School conducted interviews for applicants to the President’s award and made three appointments. Successful candidates will take up positions to complete the Master in Arts degree by research under the supervision of Dr. Sheila McGree, Dr. Ashling Jackson and Teresa Brown.

The President of AIT and Mr. Cormac Lally, Chair of Midland Simon, signed a Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Humanities/Social Care section and Midland Simon with targets relating to internships, student placements, research and symposia.

A collaborative, cross-disciplinary project commenced between Visual Communication and Social Care students. One aim of this project is to show the extent to which design can, in turn, enhance research.

Karen Leonard is part of a Project Team to design a National Strategy to meet the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) needs of social care workers and social workers. This team comprises representatives from the HSE, Third Level sector and Registration Body (CORU).

Two culinary students – Emily Vargas and Matthew O’Hara – from Johnson & Wales University (JWU) in the US attended AIT for the Fall Semester. They spent 4 weeks working in the Ashlone Sherraton Hotel and the remainder in AIT.

3.2.4 School of Science

Dr. Cepta Brougham published a paper entitled ‘Screening for Genotoxicity and Oestrogenicity of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals In Vitro’ in the Journal of Environmental Protection.

Dr Damien Brady and MSc candidate Patricia Hughes attended the Autumn meeting of the Society of General Microbiology in University of Warwick. Patricia’s work was selected by the SGM for release to the British media.

The MSc Environmental Health & Safety continues to attract mature students from senior positions within the Irish Public sector. A number of these students has aspects of their continual assessment linked to tangible outputs in terms of journal articles.


Dr Damien Brady was one of the researchers from the 14 Irish Institutes of Technology who visited Brussels on 13th & 14th November to learn more about EU funding possibilities for Irish researchers. During the two day visit they met with the European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science - Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, as well as Mr. Wolfgang Burcher, Deputy Director General of DG Research and Innovation (see photos). During the visit, the group was briefed on the various funding mechanisms available to researchers including those under FP7 and the future Horizon 2020 – the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation which will run from 2014 to 2020.

Dr Mary McDonnell-Naughton presented a paper titled: Maternal Smoking and Alcohol Consumption during pregnancy as risk factors for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) at The 2012 International conference on Stillbirth, SIDS and Infant Survival held in Baltimore, Maryland in October. The conference focused on improving the health of women before they become pregnant, increasing the number of women who receive early prenatal care and ensuring that mothers and babies receive the follow up care that they need after delivery.

3.2.5 School of Engineering

The School of Engineering was the successful bidder in a tender with the Road Safety Authority. The contract valued at €1.5 million was awarded for the delivery of trainer services to HVM testers for the RSA.

Mr Michael O’Rourke, Lecturer, Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering, presented a paper at the European and Distance E-learning Network (EDEN) Open Learning Generations Conference. The title of the paper was ‘The Development of Online Assessment in the Moodle VLE as a Replacement for Traditional Written Assessment’.

A journal paper by Dr Ronan Flynn and Dr Edward Jones (NUI Galway) was accepted for publication: “Feature selection for reduced-bandwidth distributed speech recognition” Speech Communication, vol. 54, issue 6, pp. 836-843, July 2012.

Dr Ronan Flynn and Dr Edward Jones (NUI Galway) contributed a chapter entitled “Robust Distributed Speech Recognition Using Auditory Modelling” to the book Speech Recognition (ISBN 979-953-307-790-0). Ms. Amy Butler, Mr. Michael Russell, and Dr. Mark Daly had a paper, entitled Wains: A pattern-seeking artificial life species, accepted for publication in the Artificial Life Journal - MIT Press (http://www.mitpressjournals.org/loi/artl). It is based on work Amy undertook for her Masters in Software Engineering, which was funded by the Software Research Institute (SRI).

The following journal paper by Dr Ronan Flynn and Dr Edward Jones (NUI Galway) was published in Speech Communication: “Reducing bandwidth for robust distributed speech recognition in conditions of packet loss”, Speech Communication, vol. 54, issue 7, pp. 881-892, September 2012.

Liu Shidong and Brian Mullerney, were formally approved for the title of MEng following completion of their research masters. Liu’s project was entitled “Natural Frequency Changes as Indicators of Structural Damage in Steel Beams”, while Brian’s thesis was entitled “Assessment of the Influence of Gait Parameters on Pedestrian Loading”. Liu and Brian are the first ever research postgraduates to graduate from the Department of Civil, Construction & Mineral Engineering. Liu’s project was funded under the TSW Strand 1 Scheme, while Brian was funded under the AIT President’s Seed Fund 2010.

Dr A. Hanley had a paper accepted at the 3rd ICoHSE, organized by the Centre for Communication Technology and Human Development, Universiti Malaysia Perlis.
success in new initiative to assist the adult learner

3.2.6 Department of Adult and Continuing Education

Ms Caroline Burke researched and developed a booklet to assist potential students (unemployed) to access finance. The booklet lists possible sources of finance and contact details.

The Department held an Open Evening on the 6th September. The numbers attending this year was greater than the previous two and indeed the conversion rate to students registering was up. However, it is important to note the changing characteristics of the part-time student - the majority all now seeking accredited programmes, the majority requiring detailed discussion prior to making a commitment, the majority now also seek partial payment plans and finally after engagement the majority require continual support and assistance as they progress through the semester.

The Department was successful in the new initiative to assist the adult learner ‘return to learning’. The initiative is titled ‘Take the First Step with our part-funded Return to Learning Programmes’ where students may attend one of either:
1. Learning to Learn
2. Assertiveness and Self Confidence

The Department commenced a course tailored for employees of Rosderra Meats in Co. Leitrim. The course, in Lean Six Sigma, aims that on conclusion, individuals will be able to take the Lean Six Sigma Green Belt examination.

The Department enrolled 16 people on a Bridging programme, to be delivered in Tullamore, with the intention that they continue on to the BA in Childcare Management year two. This was arranged in conjunction with the Co. Offaly VEC and the Offaly Childcare Committee who are in the majority funding the programme on behalf of the participants.

3.3 Course Approvals

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

BSc (Hons) in Bioveterinary Science

DEPARTMENT OF ADULT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

SPA for a Cert in Lean Six Sigma Level 7 (10 credits)
SPA for a Cert in Fundamentals in Quality Assurance Level 6 (20 credits)
SPA for a Cert in Quality Mgt Lean Six Sigma & Creativity Level 6 (60 credits)
SPA for a Cert in Quality Management Level 7 (20 credits)
BA in Applied Addiction Studies Level 8 (ab initio) + Add-on

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS STUDIES

Higher Certificate in Computing for Business
SPA Certificate in Learning & Teaching & Assessment L6 (20 credits)
BA (Hons) in Business Psychology Level 8

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

BA in Culinary Arts (add-on) Level 7

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Manufacturing Technology Level 8
SPA for a Cert in the Fundamentals of Communications Systems & Programming Level 8
Masters of Eng. in Energy and Communications Infrastructure Level 9, post graduate diploma in Energy & Communications Infrastructure and SPA for single modules.
MSc in Applied Software Engineering Level 9
Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering Science Level 7
BEng (Hons) in Mechanical & Polymer Engineering Level 8
BSc in Project Informatics & Management with German (Springboard)
Certificate in Project Management Level 6 (Springboard) Special Purpose Award Certificate in Welding Processes for Advanced Manufacturing (Springboard)

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

BSc in Project Informatics & Management with German (Springboard)
Certificate in Project Management Level 6 (Springboard) Special Purpose Award Certificate in Welding Processes for Advanced Manufacturing (Springboard)
3.4 Student Statistics
A brief summary of student statistics is given.

3.4.1 Central Applications Office (CAO) Preferences
The Central Applications Office (CAO) processes applications centrally for admission to undergraduate courses in member institutions of third-level education. The statistics for entry to Athlone Institute of Technology in September 2012 were as follows:

1. Total number of preference mentions of Athlone Institute of Technology in the total CAO preference list.
2. Number of CAO applicants ranking a course at Athlone Institute of Technology as their first choice.
3. The number of acceptances of CAO offers for a place at Athlone Institute of Technology that are not superceded by an offer elsewhere.
4. The number of students offered a place at Athlone Institute of Technology by the CAO who actually took up their place at the Institute.

All Preferences: 21,839
First Preferences: 4,539
Acceptances (net): 1,435
Registered: 1,243

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3.4.2 Number of students registered by course level as at 31st January 2013
- Honours degree/professional (1,545)
- 28% part-time (1,558)
- 21% ordinary degree (1,157)
- 19% higher certificate (1,050)
- 3% postgraduate (190)
- 1% foundation cert (71)
total 5,571

3.4.3 Number of students registered by course mode as at 31st January 2013
- Full time students (4,013)
- 72% part-time (1,558)
total 5,571

3.4.4 Number of full-time students registered by school at 31st January 2013
- School of humanities (1,154)
- 26% school of business (1,066)
- 24% school of science (957)
- 21% school of engineering (836)
total 4,013

3.4.5 Gender balance of full-time registered students
- Male students (1,967)
- 49% Female students (2,046)
total 4,013

3.4.6 Conferred awards (graduation ceremony November 2013)
- Level 8 students (615)
- 31% Level 7 students (607)
- 26% Level 6 students (510)
- 9% other students (170)
- 3% level 9/10 students (67)
total 1,969
3.4.7 Domiciliary Origin of Students Enrolled on Full-Time Courses

The catchment area normally associated with the Institute includes Counties Westmeath, Offaly, Longford, Roscommon (south) and Galway (east). This chart shows the breakdown of domiciliary origin of students attending the Institute.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Westmeath</td>
<td>831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galway</td>
<td>478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offaly</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longford</td>
<td>1037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roscommon South</td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galway East</td>
<td>347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest of Ireland</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

European - EU Members (excl Ireland) 175
European - Non EU Members 13
International (Excl Europe) 270

3.4.8 Reasons for Withdrawal of Students Enrolled on Full-Time Courses

Each year a significant number of students leave the Institute without completing their examinations. The following is an analysis of the reasons given by students for leaving the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Withdrawal Code</th>
<th>Total Count</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>Not Declared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Medical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Did not like course/not suited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Financial Reasons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>To Repeat Leaving Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>PLC/NCVA - training course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>Other Third Level College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Other IT/University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Apprenticeship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.4.9 The Number of Students availing of European Social Fund (ESF), Local Authority and other Grants/Awards administered by the Institute is contained in Appendix I
### Annual Report 2012 - 2013

#### 3.5 Student Achievements

3.5.1 Sports Scholarships

In 1996 the Institute introduced a Sports Scholarship Scheme for students who had reached or had the potential to reach a very high level of performance in their chosen sport. For the 2012/2013 academic year seventeen scholarships were awarded and it is hoped to maintain the number and value of the scholarships in the coming years. Additional bursaries were also offered by the Leinster Council of the GAA. The generous sponsorship of industry and the sporting organisations in making this scheme possible is greatly appreciated by the Institute.

The recipients of Athlone Institute of Technology Sports Scholarships for 2012/2013 were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sport</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CARLOW</strong></td>
<td>Ronan Farrell</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mick Mannion</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CAVAN</strong></td>
<td>Regina Dolan</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grace Reilly</td>
<td>Ladies Gaelic Football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jimmy Fallon</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CLARE</strong></td>
<td>Leanne Boyle</td>
<td>Women’s Soccer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CORK</strong></td>
<td>Meadbh Flynn</td>
<td>Ladies Gaelic Football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alanna Murphy</td>
<td>Women’s Soccer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DUBLIN</strong></td>
<td>John Travers</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GALWAY</strong></td>
<td>Ronan Coyle</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cormac O’Laoi</td>
<td>Gaelic Football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jake Mulvany</td>
<td>Karate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Martin Murray</td>
<td>Kickboxing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michelle Burke</td>
<td>Ladies Gaelic Football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stephen Joyce</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alan Forserty</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emma Curley</td>
<td>Ladies Gaelic Football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Noel Varley</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shaunağ Jackson</td>
<td>Women’s Soccer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dan McArdle</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conor Loughrey</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leanne Boyle</td>
<td>Women’s Soccer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KILDARE</strong></td>
<td>Emmet O’Keefe</td>
<td>Gaelic Football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KERRY</strong></td>
<td>Cillian Fitzgerald</td>
<td>Gaelic Football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LAOIS</strong></td>
<td>Aisling Kehoe</td>
<td>Ladies Gaelic Football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LONGFORD</strong></td>
<td>Michael McHugh</td>
<td>Gaelic Football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Timothy Jackson</td>
<td>Gaelic Football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James McGivney</td>
<td>Gaelic Football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Darren Farely</td>
<td>Gaelic Football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MEATH</strong></td>
<td>Shane Aston</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shane Gallagher</td>
<td>Gaelic Football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brian McGovern</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cian O’Reilly</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OFFALY</strong></td>
<td>Brian Grehan</td>
<td>Gaelic Football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kelley Cunningham</td>
<td>Ladies Gaelic Football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Martin Lyons</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gary Pyke</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kevin O’Connor</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laurence O’Reilly</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peadar Hennessy</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ROSSCOMMON</strong></td>
<td>Joseph Brennan</td>
<td>Hurling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cathal Shane</td>
<td>Gaelic Football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Luke McCabe</td>
<td>Judo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TIPPERARY</strong></td>
<td>Chris O’Meara</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rossa Raylor</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jack Feeney</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WESTMEATH</strong></td>
<td>Luke Corless</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Aoife McCarthy</td>
<td>Handball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Killian Murphy</td>
<td>Hurling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pietro Scannichio</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ger Egan</td>
<td>Gaelic Football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alan Stone</td>
<td>Gaelic Football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paul Fennell</td>
<td>Hurling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paul Maxwell</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEXFORD</strong></td>
<td>Conor George Wilson</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WICKLOW</strong></td>
<td>Ben Porter</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Josh O’Rourke</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*New recipients*

*Continuing recipients*
3.5.2 Sports Awards

Winners for 2012/2013 were:

John Travers  Mens Athletics
Louise Holmes  Womens Athletics
Angela Rigney  Mens Basketball
Caroline Daly  Senior Camogie
Emma Richardson  Freshers Camogie
Colm O’Brien  Sigerson Football
Olga Sheridan  Intermediate Football
Alan O’Connell  Freshers Football
Kiera Ward  Senior Ladies Football
Laura O’Dowd  Ladies Gaelic Football (Donaghy Cup)
Aisling Keohoe  Freshers Ladies Football
Kara Ward  Senior Ladies Football
Emma Curley  Womens Soccer
Shaunaigh Jackson  Freshers Womens Soccer
Francesca Mauro  Futsal
Christy Rohan  Swimming
Sylvain Gibet  Mens Volleyball
Bruna Banese  Womens Volleyball

3.5.3 Student Activity

A short film by Catherine Mooney, a fourth year digital media student was shortlisted in the national Dare2BDrinkAware.ie competition. The shortlist was announced by the alcohol social responsibility organisation drinkaware.ie. The films, which were all produced by third-level students, challenge the deeply ingrained Irish custom of drinking in rounds and promote a more moderate pace for alcohol consumption.

In Catherine’s film, ‘Reality Realised’, a girl recalls her night out drinking only to realise that her recollection is not as glamorous as she would like to think it was.

Pictured at the media event to announce the shortlist of the 2013 DARE2BDRINKAWARE.ie film competition were AIT students Mary Stevenson, from Kinnitty, Co. Offaly and Catherine Mooney (right), from Athlone; Co. Roscommon, who were shortlisted for their film, ‘Reality Realised’.

Teams of students from Athlone Institute of Technology (AIT) won first and second place in the Health and Safety Authority’s first Occupational Safety and Health in Healthcare competition aimed at nursing undergraduates across higher education. The winning team was Arlene Conny, Noreen Minogue and captain Leanne Murphy. The second placed team, also from AIT, featured Ann Buglan-Kavanagh, Joanne Forde and captain Aine O’Reilly. The aim of the competition is to provide an environment where undergraduate students can collaborate and work together to enhance, develop and embed their knowledge and understanding of occupational health and safety in a healthcare setting. The competition involved posing a real life scenario using problem-based learning which undergraduate nurses had to address and make a submission to the HSA. Dr Anne Drummond, Chairperson of the HSA’s Third Level Education Group said: “All nursing professionals need to have a sound understanding of occupational health and safety and be able to apply this knowledge in their everyday working life. A safe working environment facilitates nursing professionals to provide optimum care which benefits both patient and carers.”

Dr Pearse Murphy, Head of Department of Nursing and Health Science, AIT, congratulated the students on their success. “This is a fantastic achievement and builds on previous successes of our nursing students in winning scholarships, for example, and in conducting research for the HSE. This says a huge amount about the motivation and capability of our students and it bodes well for the calibre of our future nursing graduates.”

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3.6 Staff Activities
The following are staff publications:


3.7 Sports Activities
Some of the major sporting achievements by Institute teams and individuals throughout 2012/2013 are detailed in Appendix II.
3.8 Student Services

New Look, New Outlook - AIT Student Resource Centre

A major output of a consultative strategic review was the decision to rebrand the Student Services Department as the AIT Student Resource Centre. Feedback from a campus wide DIRECTIONS evaluation indicated that work needed to be done in fostering better awareness of the service, and that a confusion and lack of knowledge as to the role of Student Services existed, with students confusing the remit with the work of the Registration Department, the SU, with Computing Services, the Library, parking etc. The colourful squares represent our multi-disciplinary team. Each coloured square in the new logo represents a different service area, overhead door signage has been developed to reflect the service area e.g the Careers Office has a purple sign and when you click on the purple square on the website it brings you directly to the Careers Section.

Disability and Learning Support Service

A total of 220 students were registered with AIT Disability & Learning Support Service comprising of 210 full time and 10 part time students. 144 full time students were eligible to receive funding from the National Access Office ESF Fund for Students with Disabilities (FSD). To be eligible for funding students are required to provide documentary evidence of their disability from a recognised specialist and to undergo a Needs Assessment with the Disability Office. In total the Institute received €282,757.37. The FSD is used to fund educational support services to students as displayed in the table below. Services are delivered by Educational Support Workers (ESWs) who are employed both internally and externally. ESWs are categorised as Academic Assistants, Alternate Format and Assistive Technology trainers, Note-takers, Personal Assistants (PAs), tutors and Sign Language Interpreters. The FSD also supports a Learning Support Tutor who provides one to one learning support and Dyslexia screening and an Assistive Technology Tutor.

Peer Assisted Student Support (PASS) project:

PASS (Peer Assisted Student Support) is a post-entry programme in which trained second year students (PASS leaders) facilitate weekly study sessions with first years from the same discipline. Among its aims, PASS is intended to help first years adjust quickly to higher education.

- For this academic year, 8 PASS sessions ran successfully during the year, covering 13 programmes. These sessions were available to 305 first year students.
- 37 PASS leaders were trained over 6 days in August and September. 26 leaders carried out sessions and 21 completed their journals in order to receive an additional 5 ECTS credits.
- 5 PASS leaders attended the PASS National Leader Conference which was held in GMIT.
- During the year, six staff members completed the Supplemental Instruction Supervisor Workshop. The PASS Coordinator was employed for a maximum of 14 hours per week.
4.1 Research Activities

A story regarding an AIT research project into the effectiveness of coconut oil in fighting tooth decay generated an extraordinary response from the global media, with over 100 outlets publishing the story from Canada, India, Korea, Russia, the US, the UK, Philippines, continental Europe, etc. The research is being carried out by postgraduate student Patricia Hughes, supervised by Dr. Damien Brady.

EMBARK Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme

Athlone Institute of Technology (AIT) researcher, Laura Grehan, was a successful applicant to IRCSET’s (Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering & Technology) EMBARK Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme. She is one of a prestigious group of researchers in the country to receive this award, as highlighted by the fact that less than 15% of applicants were successful in the 2011 EMBARK award call. Director of AIT’s Materials Research Institute Prof. Clement Higginbotham and Dr. Sinead Devery.

AIT Researcher to Develop Synthetic Alternative to Bone Grafts

A new treatment for patients suffering large areas of bone loss is being developed at Athlone Institute of Technology (AIT). The research, which is exploring a synthetic alternative to bone grafts, will benefit patients who have had surgery to remove cancerous tissue, or who have had bone loss due to accidents or infections. Senior researcher at AIT, Dr Declan Devine, is taking up a position at Harvard University’s Center for Advanced Orthopaedic Studies to continue his research. He will be based at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center for two years, which is being funded by the Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowship. The treatment will consist of a polymeric scaffold bonded together with proteins which have been proven clinically to aid the healing of bone. The scaffold developed in this work will be based on the natural structure of bone and will also have similar properties to natural bone. According to Dr Devine: “As the proteins are trapped within the artificial bone, lower concentrations are needed to heal bones compared to doses currently used by clinicians. This will have the added advantage of reducing the overall cost of the surgical procedure compared to using current protein treatments. If proven successful, this study could be developed into a platform technology to treat a wide range of human ailments.”

Development of novel high strength thermoplastic composites

Researchers at Athlone Institute of Technology (AIT) secured funding to employ two new researchers for the development of novel high strength thermoplastic composites (TPC) from post-consumer waste. These materials will be designed to meet the needs of the transport, construction and renewable energy sectors here in Ireland. These sectors were identified as high potential growth areas for the use of composite materials in a market analysis report commissioned by Senior Researcher at the Materials Research Institute (MRI) at AIT. Prof. Clement Higginbotham Director of the MRI and Principal Investigator on the study indicated that “thermoplastic composites are becoming the materials of choice for replacing traditional materials such as steel, aluminium and thermosetting composites, in areas such as renewable energy production, transportation and construction, all of which are vitally important sectors in the Irish economy.” According to Dr. Luke Geever Senior Researcher at the MRI and collaborator on the current study, “the market need for construction/industrial products are based on multiple innovative market requirements that can be derived from TPC with metal substitution being particularly prominent’. This is mainly been driven by the recent increase in the price of steel which has forced companies to seek low cost alternatives.

4.2 Campus Development

The AIT International Arena with a footprint of 6,818m2 and an overall building floor area of 9,715m2 was officially opened by An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny T.D. Some 850 tonnes of structural steel and 50,000 concrete blocks went into the construction of the facility which can house 2,000 spectators.
5.1 Staff Training and Development
The Professional Development Committee, chaired by the HR Manager/HR Generalist met on five occasions during the 2012/2013 academic year. Continuing budgetary constraints impacted on funding for higher qualifications. However, changes and uncertainty in the third level sector influenced a greater number of staff to embark on study for higher qualifications with a view to re-skilling in related disciplines.

Learning and Teaching programmes organised through the Institutes L & T Unit were invaluable in meeting the Institutes aim to achieve a level of excellence in the learning environment by providing to all academic staff access to current up to date Learning and Teaching strategies and methods.

The total approved funding of the PDC for the year amounted to €260,289.

6.1 Student Mobility
A total 180 European students studied at Athlone Institute of Technology during the academic year 2012/2013. The International Office at the Institute, under the management of Ms. Mary Simpson, provides a focal point for the students where all their queries are dealt with in a professional manner.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Student Nos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>180</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AIT shows growth in International student numbers

A major area for development for the Institute in recent years has been the growth in the number of Non-EU students studying at the Institute. The Institute is justifiably proud of the services provided to such students and every effort is made to ensure that they adapt to the cultural and economic differences of living and studying in Ireland. This year 251 Non-EU students were enrolled at the Institute under the following headings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Student Nos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduates</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Graduates</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repeats</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>251</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
students raise funds for Motor Neurone Disease Association

AIT business graduate, Brendan P. Farrell Jr., was selected as a member of the 2012 Ireland INC inaugural Global 100, which honours the top 100 most influential business leaders across the global Irish network. The Global 100 lists the most influential and distinguished honours from a diversity of fields; Irish individuals who have demonstrated a strong connection to Ireland and have a record of high achievement in international business. The Global 100 will create an annually-updated index of the 100 most influential business leaders across the global Irish network and the inaugural group has been carefully validated and chosen by an esteemed group of advisors. “Through the Global 100, it is our aim to create a really strong connection to Ireland and have a record of high achievement in international business,” said Ian Hyland, publisher and CEO of Business & Finance Media and Founder of Ireland INC.

7.1 Guests/Visiting Lecturers
The experience of human rights defenders in the diamond fields of Zimbabwe and in the Russian Federation was the subject of a public lecture held at the institute. Entitled “Reporting from the Front Line”, the lecture, organised jointly by the human rights organisation, Front Line Defenders, and by the School of Humanities, took place in the Earl of Rosse lecture theatre. The lecture featured contributions from three distinguished speakers: Mary Lavitor, Founder and Executive Director of Front Line Defenders; Olga Sadowskaya, Deputy Director, Nizny Novgorod “Committee Against Torture”; Russian Federation; and Farai Maguwu, Director of the Centre for Research and Development, Zimbabwe. Dr. Chris McDermott, lecturer in law at AIT said: “This is a very valuable opportunity to hear at first hand of the experiences of front line defenders operating in very challenging situations. While there are increased levels of awareness of the difficulties faced by these workers, we must fight against complacency and continually strive to highlight the plight of people in the world’s trouble spots.”

7.2 Institute Events
The formal launch of the American Friends of Athlone Institute of Technology, Inc took place in Atlanta, Georgia on 13 November. The board members are chairman, Kevin Conboy, Dr. Donald Panoz, David Fitzgerald, Brendan Farrell and Paul Breen. The meeting was also attended by Professor Ciara O Cathain and Brian Lynch. The purpose of the American Friends of AIT is to raise monies to enable the institute to deliver upon its strategic priorities for the region. The board discussed various approaches to fund-raising, including identification of high net-worth individuals, AIT graduates in the US, functions and events.

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The formal launch of the American Friends of AIT took place in the Consulate General on Peachtree Road, Atlanta on Wednesday evening 14 November. The function was attended by representatives from the Irish-American community in Atlanta. Guests were welcomed by Paul Gleeson, the Consul General; while the Chairman of the Board, Kevin Conboy, also addressed the gathering, drawing on his own connection to the Midlands. Professor O Cathain spoke about the institute and outlined AIT’s vision for the future and the role that the American Friends will play in realising this. The final speaker was Dr. Panoz, who delivered a powerful speech about setting up Elan in Athlone, how the institute supported industry in the region, and the importance of AIT to the knowledge and enterprise life of the Midlands.
The final and semi-final of the prestigious Irish Daily Mail Sigerson Cup were hosted at AIT on 22 February and 23 February. In addition, AIT hosted the Irish Daily Mail-sponsored Trench and Corn na Mac Leinn Cup, a total of six semi-finals and three finals, as well as the inaugural Corn Comhairle Ardoideachais final. AIT President, Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin, said “the Irish Daily Mail Sigerson Cup Weekend is a highpoint of the GAA calendar, and this year’s semi-finals and finals hold the allure of watching some of the finest footballing talent on the circuit.” Sinead Lambe, Marketing and Sponsorship Manager of the Irish Daily Mail said: “It gives us great pleasure to see the Irish Daily Mail Sigerson finals being held in the superb new AIT sports campus. It is fitting that such an important and prestigious third level competition be hosted by one of the finest sporting facilities in the country.”

The Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD, officially opened Ireland’s first world-class indoor athletics arena at Athlone Institute of Technology (AIT). In a ceremony attended by legendary Irish athletes, Dr Ronnie Delaney, Senator Eamonn Coghlan, John Treacy, and Ireland’s first female Olympian, Maev Kyle, the Taoiseach declared the new €10m AIT International Arena open for business. Describing the arena as “good news for not only for the people of Athlone, but for the wider area,” the Taoiseach said that it is “kind of development that attracts more students, more attention, more investment”.

The International Arena, Mr. Kenny said, is “an excellent addition to AIT and is certainly in keeping with your own and the government’s view of the critical link between physical and mental and emotional health. The potential this arena offers is self-evident. Crucially, it supports, directly, the institute’s academic offerings in areas such as sport management, sport science and sport therapy; disciplines where a new generation of sporting professionals are being educated and trained.”

The Taoiseach continued: “This best-in-class resource will give AIT students the perfect environment in which to apply their skills and knowledge. It’s an excellent investment in what has the potential to be an equally excellent future.”

Speaking at the opening, President of AIT and Athletics Ireland, Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin described the International Arena as a “theatre of dreams”, saying it would become: “the springboard for new Irish sporting heroes and legends, names that will enter the lexicon of greatness.”

The International Arena is part of a comprehensive programme of investment in AIT which has exceeded €115 million since the start of the millennium. While much of the funding has come from the Exchequer, the vast majority of the €10 million spend for the arena has been raised directly by AIT. The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport awarded €737,500 in funding towards the construction of the facility in 2012 under the Special Athletics Tracks Initiative. Athlone Town Council is contributing €250,000 over five years.
ATHLONE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31 August 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOTE</th>
<th>2013 €000's</th>
<th>2012 €000's</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INCOME</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Grant</td>
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<td>Tuition and student contribution fees</td>
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<td>16,211</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amortisation of deferred capital grants</td>
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<td>3,958</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research grants and contracts</td>
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<td>3,303</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4,781</td>
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<td>Student support funding income recognised</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancillary activities</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>49,968</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXPENDITURE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic departments</td>
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<td>24,739</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic services</td>
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<td>1,626</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilities costs</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2,746</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central administration and services</td>
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<td>7,319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student services and general educational expenses</td>
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<td>2,111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research grants and contracts</td>
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<td>3,529</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student support funding income applied</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3,945</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loss on disposal of fixed assets</td>
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<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancillary activities</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1,931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>48,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPERATING SURPLUS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to Capital Development Reserve</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>(2,524)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accumulated Surplus at Start of Year</strong></td>
<td>3,073</td>
<td>2,654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accumulated Surplus at End of Year</strong></td>
<td>1,892</td>
<td>3,073</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are no gains or losses other than those recognised above.
The statement of accounting policies, cash flow statement and notes 1 to 23 form part of the financial statements.

Signed:
Mr. Paul Breen
Chairman of AIT Governing Body

Signed:
Prof. Ciarán Ó Catháin
President of AIT
ATHLONE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2013

NOTE  €000's  €000's

FIXED ASSETS
13  94,188  91,748

CURRENT ASSETS

Stock
Debtors and prepayments
Cash at bank and in hand

14  3,840  6,569

8,314  9,845

12,192  16,455

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Creditors and accrued expenses - Amounts falling due within one year

15  10,170  11,108

NET CURRENT ASSETS

2,022  5,347

NET ASSETS

96,210  97,095

Represented by:

Deferred capital grants
Income and expenditure account
Capital development reserve

16  94,188  91,748
1,892  3,073

130  2,274

96,210  97,095

The statement of accounting policies, cash flow statement and notes 1 to 23 form part of the financial statements.

Signed:
Mr. Paul Breen
Chairman of AIT Governing Body

Signed:
Prof. Ciarán Ó Catháin
President of AIT

Annual Report 2012 - 2013
**Appendix II**

Some of the major achievements by our college teams and individuals throughout 2012/2013 include the following:

**Athletics:**

AIT Athletics kicked off with a strong showing in the Road Relays in Maynooth in November 2012. The team of five finished a very credible tenth out of the twenty-five teams starting, which was a great result considering that this was the first time AIT had a team on the start line.

In February, with the opening of the AIT International Arena - the new venue for the Indoor Intervarsities - our teams, both men and women, finished in sixth place overall. To top this off John Travers broke the Irish University record for the 1,500m by seven seconds.

In March, AIT lined out a men’s team of eight in the Cross Country in Jordanstown. John Travers led the team to its highest ever finishing position of seventh place beating Champions WIT in the process.

**Equestrian:**

Our Equestrian Team attended the Annual National Intervarsities Championships which were hosted by UCD. A strong team of thirteen riders attended the weekend competing in Dressage, Show-jumping and Prix Caprilli over the two days. It was a very successful weekend for AIT – the best year to date.

The Dressage team did a great test and were placed fifth in the Team Event. It was a very good year for our Show Jumpers with four of the six making it into the Second Round Top 32. The remaining rider had strong tests and solid rounds of jumping.

The standard of competition during the weekend was extremely high with nineteen colleges competing and it was a great team effort to come home with fifth place in the Overall College Category. This shows that even though we have a small club in comparison to other colleges, we have just as many talented riders.

**Gaelic Football:**

**Sigerson Football**

AIT hosted the Sigerson Championship 2013. Our Senior Footballers qualified to participate in the league semi-finals but were defeated by eventual League and Sigerson winners DIT.

**Intermediate Football**

Intermediate Footballers had a great league campaign winning the Cornnacht League and qualifying to play a semi-final against Carlow IT in which AIT was beaten by two points. They reached the last four of the Championship but were defeated by a very strong DCU team.

**Freshers’ Football**

Once again, our Freshers Footballers did well, winning against NUIG and GMIT, with a draw against Sligo IT. We had won the Leinster Freshers’ 7’s final against Carlow IT but were defeated by the team in the League semi-final after extra time.

**Basketball:**

The Mens Team finished third in Division Two South while the Women’s Team reached the Division three final but narrowly lost out to Marian College.

**Camogie:**

Having had a very poor start to the season it would have been very easy for the team to give up but they stuck with it and showed great resolve and determination which paid dividends by their success in the Meagher Shield final and also by their displays in the All Ireland Freshers’ 7-A-Side. With the desire shown by the players this year, the future looks much brighter.

Also, congratulations to Caoimhe Mahon, our Team Captain, for being selected for the Purcell All-Stars Team.

**Ladies Gaelic Football:**

**Ladies Senior Football**

Having won the Lynch Cup, the AIT girls were moved up a division in the league and championship. Our league campaign started well, defeating NUIM in round one. A heavy defeat followed in Sligo IT but a win over DT meant qualification for the league semi-final in which we were narrowly defeated by Carlow IT.

In the Championship, AIT was in the same group as Mary I and NUIM. After losing to Mary I, a titanic battle against NUIM followed, which our girls lost by a single point. NUIM went on to win the Giles Cup.

**Ladies Second Team**

Success brings growth and the development of a second team was a credit to all involved in the Ladies Club. In the League, AIT played well but lost out on score difference in qualifying for the League semi-finals. In the Championship we beat GMIT and lost narrowly to Sligo which set us up for a Donaghy Shield semi-final versus UUM and a final against Mary I, which we lost in a close game.

**Ladies Fresher’s Team**

The ladies participated in the All Ireland Fresher’s Competition defeating NUIG and NUIM but losing narrowly to the eventual winners. A great effort by everyone involved!
Handball:
Aoife McCarthy represented AIT in the World Collegiate Championships in Arizona. Despite a great effort, she was narrowly defeated in the final.
Aoife and her sister Natasha also represented AIT in the 40x20 Intervarsities in Kingscourt.

Hurling:
**Senior Hurling**
AIT Senior Hurlers defeated Sligo IT, lost to NUIM in the League but qualified to play Tipp/LIT in the quarter finals in which we were defeated. In the Ryan Cup, we did well – a terrific win over TCD followed by a defeat to Queen’s which set us up for a return fixture versus Tipp/LIT. AIT lost to the eventual winners of the Ryan Cup who showed their pedigree against a brave AIT challenge.
**Freshers’ Hurling**
This year’s League was played in a round-robin series between AIT, Sligo IT and NUIM with the overall winners, AIT, qualifying for a League quarter final versus LIT who, on the day, proved too strong for AIT.

Hockey:
The AIT Ladies Hockey team reached the semi-finals of the CUSAI competition. The Mixed team played some friendly games.
There was a very welcome international dimension to the camp this season with some of the French Erasmus students participating. All in all, the Hockey Club had a very sporting and enjoyable season.

Martial Arts:
**Judo**
Luke McCabe won two gold medals at the All Ireland Intervarsity Judo Championships. Luke is also the current Irish National Senior Mens Champion under 100kgs.

**Kickboxing**
Martin Murray won the Men’s Senior K-1 Light Middleweight All Ireland Title Fight.

**Karate**
Jake Mulvany won the Men’s Senior Brown/Black Kata Event at the 2013 Intervarsities Karate Championships.

Rugby:
The club had arguably the most successful season ever with large numbers at training throughout the year.
The Senior team won the group in convincing style and then staged a remarkable comeback against WIT to qualify for the fourth final in a row.
The first Andrew Claxton Memorial game was held in January and we hope to make this an annual event against Wilson’s Old Boys.
For the first time ever the 2nd XV won an All Ireland which showed the in-depth quality of rugby players there now are in AIT.
A talented Freshers Team reached the All Ireland final by winning all their group games and trouncing Carlow in the semi-final. This augurs well for the future of AIT Rugby.

**Soccer**
The Men’s First Team finished joint top of the CUFL Premier West and then beat WIT in the quarter-final, before getting knocked out in the semi-final against DIT after extra time. They also reached the CFAI Cup quarter-final.
The Second Team reached the CUFL quarter-final but was knocked out by a strong IT Carlow side.
The Third Team had a magnificent season and reached the Bob Eustace Cup final for the first time ever but was narrowly beaten by IT Carlow.
The Fourth Team reached the League quarter-final but were knocked out by Griffith College.
The Women’s Team was beaten in the Premier quarter-final by UCC and then went on to reach the Shield Final but lost out to NUIG. They won the WSCAI Intervarsity Plate after beating NUIG, UUJ and NUIM.

**Futsal**
The Men’s Team won the CUFL Regional Finals and took part in the National Finals. The Women’s Team also reached the National Finals but after losing out in the cup semi-final to the eventual winners, they went on to win the WSCAI Futsal Shield.

World University Games:
The Summer games took place in Russia and we had three players in contention for selection for a place on the Ireland teams. Neil Harney is on the Extended Men’s Squad and Shaunagh Jackson and Emma Curley are on the Extended Women’s Squad.

Swimming:
The Swim Team competed in the Swimming and Lifesaving Intervarsities for the first time and was very successful with Simone de Russi bringing home three medals – one gold and two bronze.

Volleyball:
Both the Mens and Womens Teams reached the quarter-finals but lost out to DCU and Queen’s University respectively.