

Stran Takes Lead on Cyberbullying

In today's digital age, where social networking, online activity and messaging apps are part and parcel of young people's lives, cyberbullying is an increasing issue that can lead to a variety of negative consequences. 'Blurred Lives' is a major cross-national research project on cyberbullying that will be led by Stranmillis Director of Research and Scholarship, Dr Noel Purdy.



A Cross-National, Co-Participatory Exploration Of Cyberbullying, Young People And Socio-Economic Disadvantage.

The Blurred Lives team includes four other world-recognised anti-bullying experts:-

1. Prof Peter Smith, London;
2. Prof Antonella Brighi, Bologna;
3. Dr Trijntje Völlink, Netherlands; and
4. Prof Herbert Scheithauer Berlin.

The almost €300k Erasmus+ funded research programme will focus on cyberbullying among young people in five European regions. An innovative addition will involve training young people as co-researchers on the project.

The Blurred Lives project will provide accessible, up-to-date resources for teachers, pupils and parents/carers and make important recommendations to social networking. "We are confident that Blurred Lives will improve the lives of many hundreds of young people across Europe," says Dr Purdy.

'Leading innovative professional practice'

Page 1

- ◆ Blurred Lives

Page 2

- ◆ Master Your Career
- ◆ Primary Languages
- ◆ MBE for Sharon
- ◆ Lifelong Learning

Page 3

- ◆ Healthy Body, Healthy Mind
- ◆ Lisburn Learning Hub
- ◆ Panto: Hansel & Gretel
- ◆ Undergrads Take Awards

Page 4

- ◆ IET on Campus
- ◆ Finding their Voice
- ◆ Life After Stran: Australia
- ◆ DMU



Master Your Career

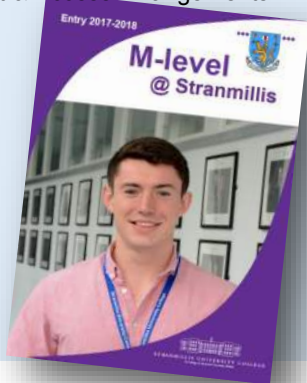
The world of education is constantly changing. New technology, new research, new techniques, new challenges. As a teacher or educator, continuing to develop your knowledge and skills is vital for personal and professional development. Stranmillis offers a wide range of Master's Level and CPD courses for individual and whole-school development. Last semester, a new masters module **Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD)** delivered by Dr John McMullen was hugely successful. This semester will see the launch of another new module, Barbara McDade's **'Young People, Community and Culture'**. From this year, tuition fee loans are available for Masters study. Stranmillis currently offers six Masters programmes:

- MEd Pastoral Care
- MEd Education Studies
- MEd Specific Literacy Difficulties
- MEd Individual Specialist Assessment & Access Arrangements
- MA Early Childhood Studies
- MTeach

For more information on M Level and CPD courses contact Louise

Ph: 028 9038 4327

Email: losullivan@stran.ac.uk



PRIMARY LANGUAGES

The Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series is a collaborative NI Assembly and local universities programme to inform policy and law making, and provide a forum to share and discuss key

research. In November I had the privilege of presenting the findings of the recent *Review of Current Primary Languages in Northern Ireland* alongside fellow linguists Ian Collen (QUB) and Kieron Sheehy (OU) and to discuss the inclusion of languages on the Northern Ireland Primary Curriculum. The full research report is available at <http://www.stran.ac.uk/media/media.748093.en.pdf>. It is disappointing that we do not have a functioning Assembly that can act on the evidence presented. The adoption of a strategy to incorporate language provision in the curriculum is needed if we are to keep in pace, not only with other devolved regions of the United Kingdom but with countries across Europe and beyond. In Scotland, for example, every primary school child must learn two languages in addition to their own. The opportunity to present our research and highlight the inequalities in language provision in Northern Ireland was very positive and worthwhile. What we need now is action or we risk our children being left behind in an increasingly global marketplace.

Dr Sharon Jones

MBE FOR SHARON

It's been a very busy, and rewarding, six months for Stran's Head of SEN Literacy Unit Dr Sharon McMurray. A world recognised expert in Dyslexia, Sharon has been instrumental in pioneering our online Masters programme, with the MEd SEN Literacy continuing to go from strength to strength, with students on the course coming from as far afield as India and Barbados.

Sharon has been on her 'travels' as well, with two very significant dates in the calendar standing out.

In October, Sharon was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the British Dyslexia Association, and in November Sharon made the trip to Buckingham Palace, where she



received her MBE from the Duke of Cambridge, Prince William.

The Awards recognise the immense contribution and impact Sharon has made in shaping SEN education locally, nationally and internationally.

Our congratulations go to Sharon, her family and the whole SEN team at Stranmillis.

Lifelong Learning

FREE lunchtime talks are scheduled at 1.00pm in the Moses Hill Room, Stranmillis House:

Tuesday 13.02.18 The building of Post War Britain

Tuesday 13.03.18 A Paradise Lost: Bog Meadows

Tuesday 27.03.18 The Fall of Lyndon Johnson

Tuesday 17.04.18 A brief history of Japanese Art

NEW: Mindfulness classes with Brenda Shankey



To keep up to date on the extensive range of Lifelong Learning courses and events, follow us on our new Facebook page, @stranlifelonglearning

Healthy Body, Healthy Mind

“A healthy mind is dependent on a healthy body,” says Dr Bronagh McKee, “and although that applies to every age, the foundations for healthy body, healthy mind stem from those early years.” The impact of a healthy body on



the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people is a core element of the course content on our BA in Early Childhood Studies and BSc in Health, Physical Activity and Sport (HPAS) undergraduate programmes and is a full module on the MA in Early Years. Two of our ECS team, Dr Brenda

McKay Redmond and Bronagh herself, have been putting theory into practice to help celebrate 21 years of our pioneering Early Childhood Studies degree. Brenda is on the final stretch of her challenge to run 21 Park Runs in 21 different venues across Northern Ireland, whilst Bronagh is on schedule in her challenge of losing 21lbs in 21 weeks, thanks to the fantastic plan, and mentoring, of HPAS's Stephen Wallace.

PANTO: Hansel and Gretel

Every year the Stranmillis Drama Society enter the magical world of enchanted forests and nonsensical chase scenes. A cast and crew of over 100 and a captivated audience of over 3,500, this was no small production! Hansel and Gretel was as sweet and delightful as sugar candy. Oh yes it was!



Friends School Lisburn: Learning Hub November 2017

Stranmillis Learning Hubs provide an opportunity for schools across Northern Ireland to avail of Stranmillis Continuing Professional Development opportunities at a regional venue. Each Learning Hub School acts as a venue for their own staff, and staff from neighbouring schools to come together to avail of expertise of Stranmillis Staff. Recently Friends School in Lisburn hosted a Learning Hub ‘*Connecting Theory and Practice: A Course for Aspiring and Practicing Leaders*’ taught by Stranmillis Tutor, Stephen Harrison. We took this opportunity to present the principal, Stephen Moore, with the school’s Learning Hub plaque and plan to host courses there in the future.

Undergrads Take Awards by Storm

Cited as the ultimate accolade champion for high-potential under-graduates, The Undergraduate Awards (UA) identify leading creative thinkers through their undergraduate coursework. “The Undergraduate Awards’ mission is to find and celebrate outstanding undergraduate work,” says Stranmillis’ Dr Richard Greenwood. “This year, UA received 6472 submissions and we are thrilled that one of our students, Lucy Coburn (pictured), won a Regional Award for Ireland and three others – Ciara Corr, Megan Wilson and Hannah Barnes - were Highly Commended.”



The UA assembles academics from around the globe to assess the students’ work and identify the best, most innovative and creative undergraduate coursework. There were 14 Highly Commended Education category winners globally. For Stranmillis to have three, including a Regional Winner, in the Education Category, and one of only 20 Highly Commended in the Business Category is a massive achievement for the students and a reflection of the dedication and quality of the teaching and learning at the College.

Stranmillis Joins IET on Campus

On Wednesday 13th December 2017, Stranmillis welcomed Professor Eileen Harkin-Jones (Ulster University), along with representatives from BT, the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and Queen's University Belfast, to view an exhibition that showcased the work and ideas of students from Year 1 to Year 4 in relation to teaching engineering at primary school level, and to celebrate Stranmillis University College joining 'IET On Campus'.

Led by Dr Irene Bell, the event began with a presentation from Professor Harkin-Jones demonstrating how engineering has the ability to provide practical, curiosity-fostering activities that will develop and enhance a range of thinking skills amongst children in the primary classroom, and the importance of engaging girls with this crucial science.

The occasion marked the acceptance of Stranmillis University College into the IET on Campus initiative. Dr Bell said *"Normally IET On Campus works with students undertaking engineering degrees, so we were delighted to be accepted into the association."* Professor Harkin-Jones concluded her presentation with a note on how the implementation of the IET On Campus Group demonstrated outstanding commitment to STEM across education in Northern Ireland by the staff and students in Stranmillis.



FINDING THEIR VOICE

Inspirational speakers and an inspirational guest speaker in Carrie Grant ensured a moving, thought provoking and inspiring Nasen NI Conference that fully lived up to its theme 'Promoting Mental Health in Children and Young People'.



Carrie Grant is a leading vocal coach and BAFTA Award winning TV presenter and reporter for the BBC. What is less known is that she is a keen campaigner for change in our health-care and education systems and for the celebration of Neuro-diversity.



Life After Stran Teaching in Sydney, Australia!

Jodie Blair was at Stranmillis from 2010-2014 studying for a BEd (Primary), with PE as her specialism. She says: *'Little did I know, that three years after graduating, I would be living and teaching in Australia!'*

Jodie works as the junior (primary) school PE teacher at St Andrew's Cathedral School in Sydney. *"Things work a little bit different at St Andrew's,"* says Jodie. *"It has specialist teachers as well as classroom teachers. The classroom teachers teach Maths and English, while specialist teachers teach PE, Art, Mandarin, Dance, Drama, Science and Christian Development."*

"At Stran, I specialised in PE and that has prepared me so well for this role, where I am teaching over 300 children from across the junior school, focussing on our infants' sport programme. There are so many possibilities and opportunities for teachers across the world. My advice—use your time at university well and build up your skill-set for more than just work in the classroom. You never know where you'll end up or what you'll be teaching!"

Year 4 DMU having a fun class with Dr Norman Richardson. Each puppet represents a different religion or community and the students learn how to use them in the classroom setting.



 Find us on Facebook