

## 100 % Employability

Employability is a key performance indicator for every university.



The latest results from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Destination of Leavers 2016 research show that 100% of our students who graduated last year were in employment or full-time

postgraduate study within six months of graduation.

For our Primary and Post Primary Education, Early Childhood Studies and Health, Physical Activity and Sport graduates this is fantastic news. As a College, to be one of only two universities in the UK with a 100% employability figure is hugely impressive and showcases the talent, total experience and rounded education our students get at Stranmillis.



## Top 10 for Student Satisfaction

The National Student Survey (NSS) is an important litmus test of undergraduate student experience in Higher Education. The latest NSS results show an overall student satisfaction score of 90% for

Stranmillis, putting us in the top 10 universities in the UK.

This is a huge success for the College and reflects the commitment of staff to work closely with students to provide an exceptional educational

experience. In a new category this year, *Student Voice*, Stranmillis scored particularly well for the work the Students' Union does in representing student interests and ensuring that student views are valued and acted upon.



*'Leading innovative professional practice'*

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# 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 M Level and CPD courses for individual and whole-school development. This semester, a new masters module **Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD)** delivered by Dr John McMullen is available. Next 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

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# Early Childhood Comes of Age



The Early Childhood Studies team at Stranmillis has been ploughing a furrow for the innovative development of Foundation and Key Stage 1 education in Northern Ireland and this year celebrates its 21st birthday. A series of exciting initiatives and programmes is being planned for the year, which will put ECS in the spotlight. To kick the year of celebration off in style, the team was invited to rub shoulders with Prince Harry at the Royal Garden Party at Hillsborough Castle, hosted by Secretary of State, James Brokenshire.



# Putting the Quality into Childminding

A special research workshop on quality childminding took place at Stranmillis in June. Led by Stran's Head of Early Years Education, Glenda Walsh, and Dr Lynn Ang from the Institute of Education, University College London, the event also featured a contribution



from Rosemary Snodden from Belfast Metropolitan College, who provided a fascinating insight into her personal journey working as a child-minder. Key topics explored included a synopsis of existing evidence within the field of quality childminding, and an examination of

childminding practices in England, Japan and Northern Ireland.

A rich discussion about quality childminding in practice concluded the session. *'It was a really interesting event that we thoroughly enjoyed'* (Aoife Hamilton, Policy and Information Manager, Employers for Childcare).

# Lifelong Learning

Guests at this year's Annual Lifelong Learning Lecture were thoroughly entertained by our special guest speakers **Sir Robert and Lady Rosemary Salisbury**.



An inspiring team, Sir Robert has built an international reputation for his thought-provoking ideas on educational leadership, whilst Lady Rosemary has worked in sixteen different schools and a Borstal Institution for young offenders.



To keep up to date on the extensive range of Lifelong Learning courses and events, follow us on our new Facebook page, [@stranlifelonglearning](https://www.facebook.com/stranlifelonglearning)

## The Importance of Professional Development



The annual Associate Placement Assessors event and CPD Lecture allows us to thank our APAs for the hugely important contribution they make to the College as they visit and assess our students in their placement schools. It also allowed us

to celebrate the hard work and dedication of the 330+ teachers and classroom assistants who undertook further professional development courses this year. Delivering the CPD Annual Lecture, Professor Sean MacBlain provided a very stimulating and thought provoking talk on the **“Importance of Professional Development”**.

## Schoolhouse to House of Lords

After graduating from Stranmillis in 1956, the young Ken Maginnis spent 24 years as a teacher at Cookstown Secondary School, Drumglass Primary School and as Principal of Pomeroy Primary School before swapping the school bench for the benches of the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

On a recent visit back to the College, Dr Anne Heaslett, commenting on student 5061 said: *“Lord Maginnis is a great example of how four years at Stranmillis and a career in the classroom prepares you for absolutely anything!”*



## Graduate Interns Tackle Underachievement

For a number of years Stranmillis has been working closely with Barnardo’s and with Dundonald Primary School initiatives aimed at tackling underachievement, with Stranmillis Graduate Interns developing and implementing innovative, results-driven programmes.

*“The Intern partnership is undoubtedly making a positive impact on our Underachievement Programme,”* says Karen Stevenson, Vice Principal at Dundonald Primary School.

The Interns bring creativity and up to date knowledge and skills to bear in developing innovative ways of tackling literacy underachievement. Working with groups of pupils, the programme has made a measurable and hugely positive impact on the pupils they have been working with.



## Talent in and out of Stran



**Jason Price**  
*“2017 Senior WORLD Champion Drum Major”*



**Jennifer Swann and Fiona Gibson**  
*shortlisted for UK-wide Critical Writing Prize 2017*

**Docendo Racing Team**  
*“Greenpower 24+”*



**Emma Mitchell**  
*Seventh place in 5000m in Taipei “World University Games”*

## African Adventure

This summer, 30 intrepid Stranmillis students spent a fortnight in Kampala, Uganda where they put their teaching skills into practice at two local schools, in conjunction with the charity organisation, Fields of Life. The Stranmillis Students Union have been fundraising for Fields of Life throughout the year, raising over £10,000 to commission a well in the Namutumba District, which they visited during their trip. You can follow the teams video blog on <http://bit.ly/2hBeb12>



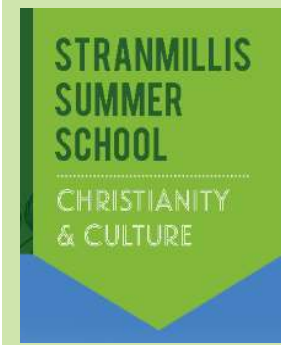
## Making a Difference

July 4 was a big day as the class of 2017 graduated and we recognised the outstanding achievements of our students at the Annual Celebration Event. The Awards and Degree Enhancement certificates were handed out by our own Dr Clifford Boyd, who retired as Vice Principal in August after 33 years distinguished service to the College.



A new award this year was the GTCNI Star Prize, which includes a bursary for professional development. The winners, Rachael Jess and Alice Hamilton, are putting the bursaries to great use. Rachael is now working with a small class of pupils with severe learning difficulties and sensory needs and is using her bursary to purchase additional sensory resources that will make a real difference to the lives of her pupils. Alice is now teaching in Kampala, Uganda and is using her bursary to start an after-school club and pay for special brightly coloured air-drying clay that will help develop motor skills, creativity and listening skills. The bursary will fund the after school activities for the first year.

## Stran Summer School



The inaugural Stranmillis Summer School was held in June; a three day forum on 'Christianity and Culture' exploring a number of key issues for educationalists and society as a whole. The programme included keynote speeches from Professor David Smith, Director of the Kuyers Institute of Teaching and Learning, US; Dr John Shortt, Professorial Fellow in Christian Education at Liverpool Hope University and Professor Crawford Gribben, QUB, as well as renowned Irish artist and sculptor, Ross Wilson, and Jonathan Rea, Creative Director of New Irish Arts.

## Building Bridges

It's been a busy, but highly productive, summer for those involved with our International programme, building and strengthening our partnerships with universities around the world. As part of An INI Trade Mission, Lois Totten and Barbara McDade were in Boston and New York meeting study abroad staff in 20 universities and colleges, whilst Sharon Jones was in Universidad de Leon, Spain with whom we have a strong exchange programme. Back in Belfast, the team hosted visits from a number of US Colleges including Marymount, Campbellsville, Taylor and Roger Williams.



## Students Go One 2 One



25 third year BEd Primary students have volunteered to work with five primary schools in some of Belfast's most socially deprived areas to provide one-to-one support for children with literacy difficulties. Following an intensive training programme, the students will be developing and delivering a tailored eight-week programme based around the specific needs and challenges of their child. The student volunteers will be working in Glenwood, Elmgrove, St Mary's, Curry and St Joseph's primary schools.