

Sue Ronan presents the Sport Bursaries

The Sports Bursary Evening took place on 30th November at the Oriel House Hotel, Ballincollig. The event saw 105 student athletes across 18 different sports presented with a prestigious sports bursary. The guest speaker, Republic of Ireland Ladies Soccer Manager, Sue Ronan performed the presentations along with sharing her sporting experiences as both an international soccer player and manager.

The Institute allocates sports bursaries annually to students who display a high level of achievement, commitment and dedication in their chosen sport. The standard and competition for bursaries is exceptionally high with many recipients boasting All Ireland titles, Provincial honours, M.V.P.'s, World titles and International caps. The bursary scheme is designed to help students reach their full potential both in their sport and also in their academic careers.

In total 105 bursaries were awarded: 77 CIT bursaries, 11 Munster Council GAA Bursaries, a Cadbury's GAA Bursary, and an EMC GAA Bursary. A welcome addition of 12 Munster Rugby/CIT Rugby Bursaries were also presented on the evening to highlight the commitment of Munster Rugby to the Institute which is now home to the Cork based Munster Rugby players. Two Cork City Bursaries and 1 John Herlihy Foundation Bursary for Soccer were presented for the first time.

Following on from CIT's success at the Intervarsities for the 2nd year running, a remarkable 5 bursaries were presented for Hockey. Andrew Daunt, David Smith and Roger Gray will receive bursaries along with fellow club members and Irish players Yvonne O'Byrne and Ciódhna Sargent. The addition of an 1100 seated Athletics Stadium to the Institute has certainly promoted a prominent athletics club. Among the athletes who were recognised was sprinter Cathal Owens and pole vaulter Thomas Houlihan who have both competed in the European Youth Olympics. Sinéad O'Connor also received a Bursary, she is the current holder of the U19 National title for triple jump.

Among the bursaries allocated for soccer was Emma Farmer who played in the U19 UEFA Championships with Ireland, Orla Barry who is currently playing on the Cork Women's team competing in the FAI Women's National League and Cian O'Connor who won the treble with Cork City Youths in 2011. On the rugby front, Richard Moran and Cian O'Donnell are both Munster Schools Senior Cup winners with Rockwell and were both selected on Munster underage teams. Superleague basketball players Ciarán O'Sullivan and Mark Mitchell were recognised on the night, both of whom have played at U18 level for Ireland at the European Basketball Championships and currently play with Neptune basketball club.

Others recognised on the night were Naomi Coonghe who is the current best overall junior Tae Kwon Do female in Europe; Paidí O'Brien for cycling who is a former professional cyclist for the Sean Kelly An Post Team; and Cork Golf Club members John Hickey and Mark Lehane and Cobh Golfer Ross O'Sullivan. A first for the Institute is a bursary for Motorcross which was presented to Aaron Beausang, who came in 2nd position in Southern Centre U21 Championship 2010. Munster U21 Number 1 ranked table tennis player Ian Brown was also awarded.

The standard for rowing and sailing continues to grow with recipients including Gillian Hosford (Irish Championship Winner Women's Senior Quad) and Lisa Dilleen (4th Place finish in the Women's Double at the Junior World Championships). After a commendable 3rd place podium finish at the Student Yachting World Cup, CIT also presented to Denis Good & Dermot Coughlan for Sailing.

On the GAA front, Cork Hurlers Stephen McDonnell and Lorcan McLoughlin along with Kerry U21 Football captain Mark Griffin were recognised. Cork Camogie player Mariah Reidy, and Danielle O'Shea, Senior Club All Ireland Championship winner with Inch Rovers, were also awarded at the event.

It was a wonderful night with a huge array of sporting talent being recognised, a true reflection of the Institute's commitment to the development of sport amongst its student athletes.



James O'Driscoll (Athletics recipient); Guest Speaker, Sue Ronan, Miriam Deasy, Sports Officer; and John Collins (Athletics recipient).



Rowing recipients Gary O'Donovan, Gillian Hosford, and Shane O'Driscoll with Miriam Deasy, Sports Officer.