



The network for women studying Science, Engineering,
Technology and the Built Environment in Scotland

News from the network

Interconnect's first ever site visit: ExxonMobil SAGE Gas Processing Plant

On March the 9th, Interconnect took 15 engineers to visit the ExxonMobil SAGE gas reprocessing plant at St Fergus. It was a fantastic day and the feedback from everyone was very positive:

"Essential overview for anyone wanting to work in the oil and gas sector"

"The tour of the plant was brilliant – it finally reinforced theory learnt in uni and felt like real, practical learning"

Thanks to Lynda, Laura and Steven and everyone else at ExxonMobil for all their time and effort. As well as to those who came along and made the day such a success. Following on from this, we'd like to organise more in the 2011/2012 academic year. We'd love to hear which companies you'd be interested in visiting. Please leave any suggestions on the [Interconnect Facebook page](#).

Interconnect Student Impact Survey

Earlier this month, over 100 students took the time to fill in the Interconnect Student Impact Survey – many thanks to everyone who took part, your views will both help us shape Interconnect in the future and provide feedback to funders about the impact of the network. Reading the responses has been really great – there are lots of ideas, comments and brilliant stories. We will be issuing a full summary report in the next few weeks, but here are some highlights to keep you going:

- Over 95% of those who attended Interconnect events found them useful or very useful
- 98% of those who accessed the Interconnect website found it useful or very useful
- 92% of those who took part in an Interconnect group or society found it useful or very useful
- 68% of people developed their personal networks (Industry, academia and social)
- 80% of people have increased or developed transferable knowledge or skills
- 70% of people have increased or developed employability knowledge and skills

Also congratulations to Alison Young, from Aberdeen who won the £75 Amazon Voucher.

Interconnect Communications: Update from Lorna McCallum, Online Communications Developer

My main aims on joining Interconnect last year was to increase the network's online visibility and heighten its profile amongst Scottish students. So it is incredibly heart-warming, since the beginning of 2011, to see our followers on Twitter and Facebook increase by nearly 100 and 90 respectively. Thanks to everyone out there who has joined the network (it is you that make the network what it is). Thanks must also go Interconnect Student Champions (Monika, Emma, Emma, Alexis, Kit, Marzena & Claire) for all their hard work.

What were you up to on Sunday?

While many of us were studying or enjoying the sun, Mhairi Sellar, a member of Strathclyde Interconnect was running the London Marathon to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support. I'm sure you'll agree this is not to be sniffed at. Here's why Mhairi was running: *"I am currently a member of the Strathclyde Interconnect Committee studying Chemical Engineering, however I am about to undertake the biggest challenge of my life so far. I am running the London Marathon on the 17th April 2011 to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support as they gave my auntie amazing support through her 3 and a half year illness before dying at the age of 39. My reason for entering the marathon came about a few years back as I was watching the London Marathon with my mum at home. My mum suggested that I should enter in 2011 with her as she ran the London Marathon in 1991 when she was pregnant with me. Therefore we both made a deal on that day to enter after the 2010 race had past. Unfortunately my mum was unsuccessful in the ballot whereas I got a place.*

Despite this my mum encourage me to take part so I am to complete my first marathon this year at the age of 19 as my mum cheers me on from the streets instead of carrying me around the course like she did 20 years ago"

If you would like to support Mhairi and make a donation to her charity then please visit: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MhairiSellar>

Upcoming Events

9th May, Interconnect 'Meet the Professionals Networking Lunch: Bio and Life Sciences'

Stevenson College Edinburgh

This networking lunch is a chance for female students and professionals in **Life & Bio Sciences** to meet, chat and share experiences. The event aims to bring together women students, professionals in the industry, professional bodies and teaching staff. Please register at the following links: [Student Registration](#) & [Professional Registration](#).

10th May, Girl Geek Scotland: Moving beyond the Boy's Club

Hilton Doubletree Hotel, Aberdeen

The event, run in partnership with Girl Geek Scotland; Women in Technology and Shell, will feature keynote speaker, Dr Suzanne Doyle-Morris, author of 'Beyond the Boy's Club: Achieving Career Success as a Woman Working in a Male Dominated Field'. Suzanne is also a director of Doyle Morris Coaching and Development, which works to help companies retain and develop their valuable, well-trained female executives. Tickets cost £15 and all attendees will receive a copy of Dr Doyle-Morris's book. Further details and ticket purchase are available at www.girlgeekscotland.co.uk

7th June, Scottish Technology Showcase 2011

SECC, Glasgow

This year's event, hosted by Scottish Enterprise, is Scotland's largest cross-sectoral technology event. This one-day showcase aims to equip you with technical expertise and inspiration and is an opportunity for you to access innovative technologies and expertise, providing practical solutions to real business challenges. For more information please visit the [Enterprise Europe Network](#) website.

News from Elsewhere

Placement Opportunities: Bright Business Partnership

Bright Business Partnership run three student and graduate placement programmes, each of which offer you paid work experience in businesses across Scotland to carry out a specific project.

Step Classic and the Environmental Placement Programme run for 8 weeks over the summer and offer undergraduate students the chance to do something productive with your time off from university. Linking you with some of Scotland's more dynamic businesses to carry out projects with identifiable outcomes and benefits for both you and the company. Step Classic places students in projects covering Science, Technology, Engineering and Business while EPP projects all have an environmental focus. Graduate Step is a year round, 12 week, graduate placement programme open to all graduates from a UK university who have completed their course in the last 3 years. Again, these placements are with companies across Scotland carrying out specific roles which will help the business develop. Graduate Step placements can be in any discipline including those about and many more such as Design, HR, Product Development, Systems and Procedures and Languages. All of these programmes are paid £210 per week (Tax and NI free) and offer you the chance to prove to both you and the host business what you can achieve.

If you would like any information on the programmes, please see the websites: Step – www.step.org.uk and EPP – www.greenbusinesspartnership.org.uk/epp or contact Louise Evison on louise@thebusinesspartnership.org.uk

Placement Opportunities: e-Placement Scotland

The e-Placement programme was especially created and designed for students studying computing, computer science, software engineering and IT in Scotland. The programme is aimed at increasing your skills and employability through gaining a work placement in industry. The programme is supported by industry and the Scottish Universities and Colleges. To find out more, check out the website: www.e-placementscotland.com or join the [facebook page](#).

The IChemE Awards, including applications for Young Engineer of the Year, are now open. Downloadable forms from <http://www.icheme.org/awards>

The Scottish Government's Annual Report 2011 on the Gender Equality Scheme is now available at

Please feel free to forward our newsletter onto friends and colleagues. A PDF version will be available on our website, shortly.

Kind regards

Allison

To be the first to hear about Interconnect events and receive our e-newsletter, please add your name to our mailing list: <http://www.interconnect.org.uk/subscribe>

www.interconnect.org.uk

Facebook: [the interconnectnetwork](https://www.facebook.com/theinterconnectnetwork)

Lorna tweets www.twitter.com/theICnetwork

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