



Damien Mason,
co-founder
of FlexiBod



Kevin McCaffrey, founder of Tr3Dent



Michael Dillon

Conor Flaherty, founder of Pursue

An event like no other

Up to 30 mentors are ready to share their experiences with the next generation



Fionnuala Wall

There isn't another event like The Entrepreneur Experience in the world. This 24-hour affair is a unique opportunity for emerging entrepreneurs to gain access, advice and mentoring from some of Ireland's most successful entrepreneurs. It includes one-to-one sessions, deep-dive analysis, constructive group sessions, pitching sessions and inspiring plenary sessions.

Every year, up to 30 international seasoned entrepreneurs share their experiences, learnings and successes with the next generation. Their purpose is to critique, examine and challenge the emerging founders. Seasoned entrepreneurs like Larry Bass of ShinAwill come back year after year. He has said that this event is "the single most inspiring business best-of-breed learning event ever".

This year, a number of seasoned entrepreneurs will be joining the team for the first time, including Linda Kiely, co-founder of VoxPro, Ireland's largest, international provider of customer experience and technical support solutions to iconic global brands like Google, Airbnb, Stripe, Nest, Etsy, Red Bubble and Weebly.

Also coming on board is Pat Byrne, executive chairman of CityJet. Last year, Byrne returned to CityJet to take up the role of executive chairman and lead a transformation of the airline, which has gained huge momentum and is emerging as a fast-growing aviation mixed

business of 'own network' flying and extensive wet-lease operations for leading carriers, including SAS and Air France.

The Entrepreneur Experience challenges, tests and pushes the participants like no other event. There is no room for sitting back or complacency. Everybody is expected to get stuck in and assist the emerging entrepreneurs to come up with clear, concise and impactful strategies to grow their businesses.

Some of the emerging entrepreneurs are SMEs that are scaling. This year, they include Keohane Seafoods, a family-run seafood company from Cork, set up in 2010, now employing 68 people. Keohane exports to Britain, the Dutch market and has also begun exporting frozen product to the US.

Also participating this year is Dublin-based Oisín Kim from WebDoctor, an online-only doctor service offering a round-the-clock alternative to GPs. British-based Andrew Weaver, founder of LawyerFair, is also taking part. This firm helps business owners to find, compare and get the best value from commercial lawyers.

Over the past five years, the Entrepreneur Experience has gone from strength to strength.

More than 120 emerging entrepreneurs including start-ups, investor-ready companies and scaling companies have participated from more than ten countries.

Sixty seasoned entrepreneurs have participated, including Liam Casey of PCH, Sean O'Sullivan of SOS Ventures, and Eleanor McEvoy of Budget Telecom.

More than €26 million has been raised by former emerging entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs have come from countries across the globe, including Britain, Spain, France, Portugal, Italy, Chile, Rwanda, the US and all over Ireland.

Fionnuala Wall is marketing manager of event organiser Cork BIC

is ready to serve in a matter of minutes. Keohane's Seafood was the first company in Europe to manufacture microwavable skin film packs.

The company is providing product to Irish and European large supermarket chains, and commercial users including hotels and restaurants.

It has a variety of products such as the fresh fillet range, which includes salmon and haddock, and ready meals with fish, rice and vegetables.

The company was listed by SuperValu and Dunnes Stores in 2011. It is forecasting strong growth for the coming year and will carry on expanding and developing with trends and customer demand.

Wishbone

Wishbone is promising a comprehensive internet of things (IOT) strategy for companies that don't have the resources to take on this task themselves.

Based in Cork, it was founded in 2014 by Rory Curtin, Lothar Walliser and Fergus Curtin. All three have a background in developing solutions for industry.

Wishbone is designed to provide clients with infrastructure, hardware and support for an IOT system. This means companies looking to implement an IOT strategy do not have to endure the challenge of bringing together the many and varied skillsets necessary for a commercial solution.

It is geared towards low-power, secure, wireless connectivity that is easy to deploy and robust in performance. Wishbone has technology experts in Ireland, Poland and Germany. Wishbone can work with all companies, from SMEs right up to big corporates.

Chawk

Chawk is a communications app at the intersection of instant messaging, a calendar and a social network. Unlike mainstream social network platforms, its mission is to streamline the organisation of face time and activities, promoting more face-to-face interactions. It targets the 25 to 35-year-old demographic, who are active online but also busy of-line too, meaning that they need a tool where plans and communications can be centralised.

Chawk was created by siblings Tomas and Lorna Kelly. Tomas has a background in leadership and innovation within academia, with a specialisation in geographic information systems and statistics.

Lorna is a software developer and holds a first-class masters degree in innovation in European business. They aim to use the tools of the virtual world to enhance our real-life experiences.

Tr3Dent

Galway's Tr3Dent makes visualisation tools, helping companies identify and capitalise on opportunities to improve performance by seeing their business data in ways they have never seen before.

Its tools enable non-technical users to interact with existing business mod-

els, processes and data in an immersive natural 3D environment.

Its platform uses gaming technology to give companies and cities the ability to manage the internet of things ecosystems, in which everyday objects have network connectivity, allowing them to send and receive data. It does this through interactive 3D models integrated into clients' existing data sources.

Tr3Dent has more than 4,000 users in 100 countries, including clients like Huawei and Software AG. Early next year, it will release its enterprise visualisation platform to enable global enterprise clients to address issues they are having while trying to obtain decision-grade information through visual exploration.

Set up by Kevin McCaffrey, who has over 25 years' experience in the ICT sector, Tr3Dent is currently based in the GMIT Innovation Hub. It has received initial investment from Enterprise Ireland and is planning to close further private/angel investment in 2016.

Gentian Services

This Shannon-based electronic design and manufacturing company was set up in 2007 by Aidan McMahon.

It works with customers in a variety of sectors, including medical devices, remote monitoring products, metal detection and detection products with policing and security applications.

The technologies it applies include radio frequency communications, Bluetooth and ZigBee communications, bespoke sensor development and customised detection technologies, as well as the mechanical design and product styling required for the demanding environmental conditions where the products are used.

Over the last two years, Gentian has invested significantly in its own in-house research and development programme. It is now at the commercialisation phase of an electromagnetic detection product range for the security and policing sector.

Gentian currently has customers in Ireland, Britain, US and Australia. A graduate of the University of Limerick, McMahon has a degree in electronics and a masters in project management. He has over 20 years' experience in the electronics industry spanning both the multinational and SME sectors.



IRISH ACCOUNTANCY AWARDS 2016

Thursday, 21st April 2016, Ballsbridge Hotel, Dublin 4



Congratulations To The Finalists

Best Use of Technology in Accountancy & Finance

- Accountantonline.ie
- Continuum
- Drohan Ryan Wynne & Company
- FEXCO
- HLB Sheehan Quinn
- HTH Accountants
- TaxAssist Accountants

Part-Qualified Accountant of the Year

- Nicole Curran - PKF-FPM Accountants
- Louise Guinan - Friel Stafford
- Hugh Martin - Dawn Meats Group
- Aine McKavanagh
- Caoimhe O'Reilly - Bemis Healthcare Packaging
- Valerie Price - Dublin Airport
- Steven Scullion - Invest NI

Young Accountant of the Year - Practice

- Simon Byrne - HLB Sheehan Quinn
- Caroline Crowley - CPC Outsourcing
- Gary Redmond - EY

Young Accountant of the Year - Industry

- Melanie Jolliffe - Salesforce
- John Lawlor - BT Communications Ireland

Accountant of the Year - Practice

- Simon Byrne - HLB Sheehan Quinn
- Paul McCann - Grant Thornton
- JP Wynne - Drohan Ryan Wynne & Company

Accountant of the Year - Industry

- Alan Buckley - Coca-Cola International Services
- Ewan Dunbar - Virgin Media Ireland
- Alison Ritchie - Polar Ice
- Lydia Ritchie - Content Media Corporation International

Finance Team of the Year

- Alkermes Pharma Irl
- Coca-Cola HBC Ireland
- Dublin Airport
- Dun & Bradstreet
- FEXCO
- VMware

Corporate Finance Team of the Year

- BT Communications Ireland
- Russell Brennan Keane

Tax Team of the Year

- BDO Ireland
- Grant Thornton
- Kilbride Consulting Tax Partners

Advisory Team of the Year

- Amatino Accountants and Business Advisors
- Grant Thornton
- Russell Brennan Keane

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- FEXCO
- PKF-FPM Accountants

Small Practice of the Year

- Accountantonline.ie
- Connors & Company
- Drohan Ryan Wynne & Company
- Excel Partners
- HTH Accountants
- Nyhan Tax Advisers
- O'Kelly/Sutton
- Quinlan and Co. Accountants

Medium Practice of the Year

- Amatino Accountants and Business Advisors
- HLB Sheehan Quinn
- Kelly Rahill & Company
- O'Connor Payne & Co.
- Sherry McNabola Murray & Co

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- Grant Thornton
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- Mazars
- PKF-FPM Accountants
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