Matt Johnston
Matt is serial entrepreneur, sailor, actor and writer. He owns Mac-Sys Ltd, runs the Digital Circle (the trade association for digital companies in Northern Ireland) and writes, directs and acts in films and television. He has just co-founded Raise Ventures, the first private startup accelerator in Northern Ireland.
Twitter: @cimota

Jim McClean
Jim McClean is a freelance journalist and film-critic who has worked with Cool FM, Radio Ulster and NvTv.

He’s also the editor-in-chief of Banterflix, a Belfast based film review website and hosts the Banterflix podcast, which gives local bloggers and film enthusiasts an opportunity to share their thoughts on some of the latest cinematic releases.

Website: http://banterflix.com
Twitter: @banterflix
Facebook: @Banterflix
Banterflix on Soundcloud

Shane Rafferty & Deaglan Marken, Kainos
Shane had left St Patrick's College Dungannon after completing A-Levels, including Maths and Software Systems Development, and joined Kainos as part of their Earn As You Learn Scheme. As a member of the Earn As You Learn scheme Shane receives a full sponsorship from Kainos to study Computing Systems part time at Ulster University, while being able to work with developers on real projects.

Deaglan joined the Kainos Earn As You Learn scheme in 2016 after completing his A levels at Rathmore Grammar School. Since joining Kainos he has worked on a number of projects across the company. He currently works in the Kainos WorkSmart Business Unit developing an automated testing platform for a large number of worldwide customers. As part of the scheme he receives a full sponsorship from Kainos to study Computing Systems part time at Ulster University.

Twitter: @KainosSoftware
Kainos Blog Posts
Tara Walsh, MakeMatic
Tara Walsh is the Senior Learning Designer at MakeMatic - an educational media company that develops short films and animations to help teachers learn new skills. Prior to working at MakeMatic Tara has worked in Europe and Australia in education and learning and development. At MakeMatic she works with partners and educators to ensure that the content that is created in not only pedagogical robust but interesting and engaging too.

Orla McGreavy, 4c Executive
Orla McGreavy is Head of Sales and Marketing at 4c Executive, Northern Ireland’s leading headhunting firm who identify and attract the best talent for critical roles, alongside being Head of Sales and Marketing for SeeMe, an innovative technology platform that offers a 360 degree recruitment process, truly revolutionising how we attract employees.

Orla is a Global Shaper (an initiative of the World Economic Forum), a volunteer Creative Writing teacher for the NOW Group and also sits on the Board for Cancer Research UK’s Business Beats Cancer. Twitter: @4executive

Rainer Pagel, Production Services Ireland
PSI is the leading production company in Northern Ireland, providing lighting, audio and rigging services for productions ranging from local amateur theatre to large scale concerts, dance and sports events, TV and film. In its continuous pursuit of excellence, PSI takes quality control very seriously and invests heavily in staff development and training. This manifests itself in PSI being the first, and to date only business in the industry in Ireland to have established its own Training Department. This department organises industry specific skills training for staff of PSI and other organisations, works with schools, and manages PSI’s Technical Theatre and Business Administration apprenticeships. PSI is also proactive in the development of UK and international Rigging Qualifications. PSI contributes actively to Northern Ireland’s blossoming creative industries, which offer numerous new career paths in technical production for young people. PSI also offers short and longer term work placements for pupils and students.

PSI website: www.productionireland.com
Facebook: Production Services Ireland
Richard Gordon, JAM Media

Richard heads up the JAM Media production studio in Belfast. Richard joined JAM in 2013 upon the expansion into the UK. JAM Belfast facilitates animation production processes for JAM’s own productions and provides co-production and service facilities to third party partners. He is responsible for overseeing the production processes in the Belfast studio, ensuring targets are achieved on schedule and in budget whilst maintaining the world class quality JAM is known for.

Having a background in finance, he also oversees the running of financial and budgeting processes for JAM. He is involved in financial and contracting operations for new and existing productions and developments.

Since joining JAM he has been part of the production management team on CBBC commissioned shows ‘Roy’ Series 3 and 4, ‘Zig and Zag’ Series 1, ‘The Roy Files’ and ‘Little Roy’ Series 1 and 2. In 2018, he executively produced a short animated film “The Wiremen” for the Irish Film Board and RTE which won Best Animation at the Galway Film Fleadh. He was a producer on the Nickelodeon commissioned show Becca’s Bunch and most recently series producer on Aha! Island for US broadcaster WGBH. Richard is currently engaged as a producer on an Amazon Prime Original series called Jessy & Nessy.

Twitter: @jampips
Email: richard.gordon@jammedia.com

Caoimhe Cassidy, JAM Media

Before joining JAM Media in 2015, Caoimhe gained experience in production management across a variety of channels & genres both nationally and internationally: News (RTE), Commissioning (Sky TV), Documentary film making (Channel 4, ITN and PBS) and Factual & Current Affairs (BBC). During her career, Caoimhe has managed Emmy & Bafta award winning series with both large and small budgets. Producing complex schedules & organising crewing for high profile talent shoots, crew filming in hostile environments and large scale live TV programming. Caoimhe is currently Line Producer on Amazon Prime Original series Jessy & Nessy, and while at JAM has worked on ‘Little Roy’, ‘The Roy Files’ and ‘Zig & Zag’ for CBBC & CBEEBIES, Aha! Island for WGBH and Becca’s Bunch for Nickelodeon - overseeing the projects throughout production. She holds a BA in English, Media and Cultural Studies from the Institute of Art, Design and Technology (IADT)

Email: caoimhe.cassidy@jammedia.com

Steven Donnelly, SJD Creative

Steven Donnelly, SJD Creative / Rackus Rattus Promotions Steven Donnelly is a geography and planning PhD student at Queen’s University Belfast. On the side, he operates as a freelance photographer and graphic designer under SJD Creative. He is the former Editor-in-chief and founder of Treason Magazine and former creative and events director of Blackstaff Music Belfast.

Email: s_donnelly777@live.com
Brendan Gallagher, Weavers Cross
Weavers Cross is a transport-led regeneration project being delivered by Translink. The project is situated in the heart of Belfast, it is an eight hectare site linking a modern high capacity transport hub, to be developed on the site of the existing Europa bus centre and Great Victoria Street train station, with impressive mixed-use development proposals.

The Belfast Transport Hub and subsequent regeneration project supports the Belfast City Council’s Agenda's new vision for Belfast in 2035, setting out the ambition to attract 50,000 new jobs and £1bn investment to regeneration projects in the city. The impressive transport hub design will be an important gateway to Belfast as a modern, confident and progressive city, stimulating economic opportunities, providing attractive and sustainable transport alternatives for the city and Northern Ireland.

Website: https://weaverscross.co.uk

Philip McAleese, See.Sense
Philip is a commuter cyclist who has over 20 years experience electronic and software engineering. He graduated from the Queen’s University of Belfast with a Bachelor of Engineering (Electronic and Software Engineering). Following University, Philip spent two years designing air traffic control simulators for National Air Traffic Services. He then went on to design, build and maintain trading systems for several multinational investment banks. He held a number of Vice President and Director roles and delivered dozens of large projects incorporating both hardware and software. Philip was hospitalised after a cycling accident and after years of commuting grew tired of hearing drivers say “Sorry mate, I didn’t see you”. Dissatisfied with the performance of current lights in making cyclists visible, he set out to design something better. Philip left his corporate job in September 2012 in order to focus exclusively on See.Sense.

See.Sense is an award-winning cycling technology and data company, designing innovative, connected products that solve real problems for cyclists today, whilst generating crowd-sourced sensor data that can be used to improve cycling infrastructure and policies, and help create the smart cities of the future.

We produce cutting edge, high technology cycling products, such as intelligent and connected bike lights as a consumer product as well as devices for integration into bicycles and city bike schemes. Our technology makes use of the latest in IoT technology, and along with this we provide innovative applications, real-time monitoring and data visualisation services and analysis to extract meaning from the data.

Twitter: @seesense_cc
Website: www.seesense.cc
Alec Parkin, Ulster University

Alec is Course Director of BDes Hons Animation. As a Lecturer in computer animation, Alec is deeply involved in the local animation & games industry within Belfast and is actively helping to grow the sector within Northern Ireland. He also helps run workshops for young people such as the Belfast 3D dojo, a non-profit group where kids get to try, learn and play with computer animation.

As an artist Alec Parkin has worked in the creative hubs of London and Belfast on broad range of digital productions such as TV commercials, TV shows, and games for mobiles, console and PC. Most recently working in a small team to develop and self-publish Astralis a 3D action game for Xbox live indie games.

Alec’s production experience includes industry standard 3D animation and post-production software packages and has worked primarily as a 3D generalist with a strong passion for character animation and digital composition. He continues to produce artwork and animation for games development and in turn continually increases his knowledge and methods to pass on to students at the Belfast School of Art.

BDes Animation (Bachelor of design) a 3 year programme or 4 years with an option of placement/study abroad year.
BDes course details
BDes course showreel

Twitter: @alecparkin
Animation Ulster Twitter: @animationulster
Belfast School of Art Twitter: @belfastschart
Belfast School of Art Instagram: @belfast_school_of_art

Vicky Potts, Whitepot Studios

I graduated from Queen's University Belfast with a First Class Honours in Computer Science MEng in 2015. During the final year of my degree I obtained an NVQ in Business Development and co-founded IVEA labs with three colleagues. I am now co-founder of an independent games development studio called Whitepot Studios, which I set up with my partner in 2016.

I am hugely passionate about using social media to reach out in new and interesting ways and enjoy delivering talks and presentations about my experiences. I am still a techie at heart - I am experienced in front-end web design and development using Photoshop, Illustrator, HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript, AngularJS, as well as C# and Java for larger systems.

Twitter: @whitepot
Website: www.whitepotstudios.com
Paul McKernan, STATSports

Paul McKernan has worked at some of N. Ireland’s fastest growing companies over the last 17 years since graduating from University of Ulster at Jordanstown. As Head of IT at Westland Horticulture in Dungannon he implemented two ERP systems and was heavily involved in the takeover of 3 competitor businesses and the opening a 500,000 square foot warehouse in England at a time when the business grew at a staggering rate.

Then moving to Chain Reaction Cycles, the world’s largest online cycling retailer, he operated as Head of Trading, helping a team of Buyers and Merchandisers meet the challenging daily sales targets and ensuring that the business held the optimum stock mix and levels for demand while still availing of one off ‘clearance’ deals to encourage growth. The role involved selling to over 180 different territories in 52 currencies with 90,000 SKU’s for sale at any one time, this brought with it significant focus on daily administration and people management. Working with others in the business keeping the product range relevant, in stock and attractive to the customer was great experience in one N. Ireland’s major success stories.

Now working with STATSports, the Newry based Sports technology company, as Joint Managing Director Paul is helping the business continue its phenomenal growth trajectory while also managing the many challenges that this brings. With the workforce tripling in the last 12 months, implementation of a new ERP system, a move to new offices and the release of the companies cutting edge APEX Athlete Series product for the individual athlete it has been a busy year for the business.

In 2008, a conversation between two Irishman on the side lines of a local soccer game would revolutionize the way sport is played, coached, and analysed. Founded by Alan Clarke and Sean O’Connor, STATSports is the global leader in the elite sports performance wearable market. A burgeoning client list includes illustrious European giants such as Liverpool, Manchester United, Manchester City, Arsenal, PSG, and Juventus.

On the international scene, STATSports provide all US Soccer teams with monitoring devices, as well as Brazil, England, and European champions, Portugal. NFL and NBA franchises, the Carolina Panthers and the Washington Wizards, are also partners. In Rugby, we supply England, South Africa, France, and Ireland among many others. The tracking device is worn in a base layer vest and positioned between the shoulder blades during training and matches. It measures and analyses physical attributes of players and can provide feedback on metrics such as distance and speed, as well as levels of fatigue and injury risk.

The analysis gathered can be streamed directly to a phone, tablet or smartwatch, making it simple for coaches to incorporate it into training schedules. Alongside the elite product, STATSports has also launched the pioneering consumer device – Apex Athlete Series. APEX Athlete allows competitive soccer players and other field sport athletes to reach their peak performance using the same technology worn by Cristiano Ronaldo, Neymar, and Paul Pogba.

Twitter: @statsports
Website: https://statsports.com
Sian Mulholland, Oh Yeah Centre

Oh Yeah Music Centre is Belfast's dedicated music hub, based in the Cathedral Quarter of Belfast it is home to a live music venue, rehearsal spaces for hire, various programmes and is houses a number of music industry companies including recording studios, record labels and festivals. The programmes Oh Yeah delivers focus on talent development, promotion and celebration, industry mentoring, youth development and community engagement.

Sian Mulholland is the Youth Engagement Manager of the Oh Yeah Centre and coordinates youth mentoring programmes within the music industry.

Jonny Woods is a live sound engineer and touring artist.
Dena Yakout is a songwriter, performer and DJ.

Twitter: @ohyeahcentre
Facebook: @ohyeahcentre
Website: http://www.ohyeahbelfast.com

Volume Control Applications here

Owen Bradley, Fujitsu

Owen is an Advanced Apprentice who has worked with Fujitsu for 1 and a half years in the role of Technical Support Trainee Specialist. In this role he works within the Wintel team to provide support to various clients. This involves daily use of programs such as Data Protection Manager, Hyper-V, System Centre (Operations Manager & Configuration Manager) alongside Microsoft Windows Server and use of PowerShell. He has participated in events across England to promote Apprentice and Graduate schemes for the company.

Twitter: @Fujitsu_NI
Daniel Neill
Hi, my name is Daniel Neill. I joined Deloitte through the BrightStart Scheme in September 2018. I sit within Transformation Services & Delivery Management (TSDM) within Deloitte Consulting. TSDM is a mixture between Change Management and PMO. Change management involves recommending and implementing critical changes to an organisation in order to increase their sustainability. The PMO side of our team help manage project timescales and budgets for our clients.Outside of Deloitte, my life revolves around keeping fit and my pride and joy, my car!

Ellen Caserly
My name is Ellen Casserly. I joined Deloitte in September 2018 through the BrightStart scheme. I currently sit within TSDM and am hoping to start some work in the change management side of thing. Our team specialises in PMO as well as change management. We help businesses manage each engagement in innovative ways and help train their team members on new programmes that may be implemented. Outside of work I enjoy going to the gym and going for coffee with friends.

Adam Bunting
My name is Adam Bunting. I joined Deloitte on 7th January 2019 after completing 13 weeks training with the Deloitte Cloud Academy in the Belfast MET. I am currently working in Cloud Transformation within Deloitte Cloud. In this role I must communicate with the clients, understanding the problems they face and figure out ways to use Cloud technology to solve these problems. Something I love to do outside work is mentor a social enterprise society at Queen’s. I provide my experience and opinion when it comes to what direction the social enterprise is going and helping them to prepare for grants and competitions.

Robbie Little
My name is Robbie Little. I joined Deloitte through the Cloud Academy and started officially in January 2019. I work as part of the TS&A team working in Cloud Computing/Transformation specialising in AWS (Amazon Web Services). Outside of work, I train and go the gym about 4 times a week along with playing football.

John Osano
My name is John Osano and I joined Deloitte through the second Cloud Academy and I officially started in January 2019. I’m currently in the Cloud Transformation team where we build business solutions in the Cloud (Amazon Web Services). Outside of work I like to watch Netflix, socialise with friends, and play basketball.

Joshua McGonigle
I’m Joshua, and I joined Deloitte in January through the Cloud Academy that was delivered by Deloitte and Belfast Met. I work as an analyst for the Cloud Transformation Team. Together, the team works in designing and implementing solutions for organisations who wish to move their IT systems into ‘the cloud’. Outside of work, I like to spend my free time planning and creating short films.

Twitter: @DeloitteDIGI_UK