

The Journal

Winter 2023



**Article from The Journal
on the one-day IST Conference 2023**

Written by Tony Roberts FIScT

IST Technical Conference 2023

London South Bank University

Delivering Excellence and Innovation in a Changing Technical Landscape



Reflections from 2023 Conference host coordinator, Tony Roberts.

This year, London South Bank University hosted this year's technical conference in September. The conference was an exciting opportunity to promote and celebrate key themes as well as recognising 75 years of the IST supporting technicians. Therefore, technicians were at the heart of the conference and made the day an absolute success.

The conference was opened with a warm welcome from the IST President Helen Sharman CMG OBE who in her opening remarks spoke about the importance of professional registration, and the work of the IST in emphasising the wider importance of technicians and recognition of the role they play in our daily lives.

LSBU's Vice Chancellor Professor David Phoenix OBE

similarly welcomed all delegates and whilst reflecting on the need to address the issues around technician visibility, noted the ideal timing of the conference with such wide interest in the need for technical skills.

In the morning keynote address, Dr Kelly Vere MBE spoke about her journey as a technician, including the challenges that so many technicians have felt in trying to navigate through the complexities of higher education and it was equally as inspiring to see how the landscape has changed as a result of the technician commitment and MI Talent. It was also an opportunity for delegates to hear more about several key initiatives, including the very recently launched Institute for Technical Skills and Strategy – as the 'new home' for the technician commitment.



There was a full and varied programme of workshops throughout the day with talks and presentations under the themes of Career Development Pathways, Artificial Intelligence, Arts and the Creative Industries, Digital and Media, Health & Safety and Environment and Sustainability.

These along with the interactive tours were delivered by over 40 volunteers from the technical community and was very well received by the 320+ delegates.

Photo insights from the day



Awards to Fellowship



Murray McMonies, FIScT CSci



Alicia Colson, FIScT



John Amaechi OBE, FIScT CSci



David Smart, FIScT

Unfortunately David was unable to attend the event to receive his award, and it was presented at a later date.

Awards to Fellowship of the IST were presented to Murray McMonies, Alicia Colson, John Amaechi OBE, and David Smart.

This senior class of membership indicates a very high level of achievement in the field and an outstanding contribution to the profession. Fellowship candidates have considerable experience gained over a number of years of responsible work and are able to demonstrate important achievements relating to the application of science, technology and/or management skills.

Fellows of the Institute are elected by the IST Executive on the recommendation of a Fellowship Panel which comprises at least 3 Fellows of the Institute in good standing. The Fellowship Panel take into consideration, in support of each application, qualifications, professional work experience, and contribution to the advancement of science and/or technology.

Fellows contribute in some way to the activities and/or development of the IST and/or the UK technical workforce and the nature and extent of that potential contribution are taken into account when Fellowship applications are assessed and renewals reviewed. Contributions can include the submission of Journal articles, support for professional registration, enhancement of the IST profile in the workplace – to name just a few examples.



Well done all new Fellows

2023 Image Competition Winners

The IST image competition invited technicians to submit photography related to their disciplines, the theme for the 2023 competition was 'Technical excellence & innovation'. This attracted 42 excellent entries covering many technical disciplines. Third, second and first places prizes were awarded for images depicting Crime Scene Processing and Management by Laura Elsey, Infection and the Importance of PPE by Ameila Stubbs and Instrument measurement preparation in an RF Anechoic Chamber by Peter McKenna.



1st Place Winner

Peter McKenna
University of Glasgow

Assisting PhD student mount antenna
for measurement in the
RF Anechoic Chamber.

2nd Place Winner

Amelia Stubbs
University of Surrey

Two teaching technicians, Chloe Tait and Amelia Stubbs demonstrating infection control precautions and the importance of PPE in a simulated viral disease outbreak, which is typically carried out by veterinary students, with the use of UV spray to mimic airborne microbes. As teaching technicians, we simulate the practical contents to ensure sessions are delivered to the highest standard, using innovative concepts to create realistic scenarios which students may come across within their careers.



3rd Place Winner

Laura Elsey
London South Bank University

A Crime Scene Processing and Management
Assessment produced
for the students.

Many thanks to our Conference Key Sponsors and Exhibitors

2023 CONFERENCE KEY SPONSORS

Uni
Green
Scheme

 **WESSINGTON**
CRYOGENICS

 **siso**


www.labcup.net

2023 CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS

Astell 

Asynt 

 **calibre**
SCIENTIFIC

CEM

emco

laserlines 

 **BioLabs**
INC.


OHAUS


SciQuip

 **SHIMADZU**
Excellence in Science

 **starlab**

YORLAB

2023 CAREER ZONE SUPPORTERS

EST 1892

LSBU

 **HEaTED**

 **National
Technician
Development
Centre**
for Higher Education

 **Royal Society of
Biology**

 **ROYAL SOCIETY
OF CHEMISTRY**

 **Science
Council**

**SCIENCE
MUSEUM**





Photo insights from the day

The conference incorporated an industry exhibition with four key sponsors, 16 industry exhibitors and wide support from key networking groups and organisations, all of which gave delegates the opportunity to network with their peers, whilst learning and exploring sector and technology innovations.



Keynote 1: Dr Kelly Vere MBE - Transforming the Technical Profession: Shifting Narratives & Building a Positive Culture

Very engaging topic and really highlights the difference we make, from someone who has made it their life's work! Inspirational.

Keynote 2: Professor David Phoenix OBE - Post 16 Technical education and the need for sector differentiation FE - HE technical universities

Inspiring as to how he's helping the area, the youth and the more mature students achieve something by making it a better fit than the standard pathway to HE from FE.

Great to hear this has been set up and it seems very simple to use. All speakers very enthusiastic and informative.

Interesting, relevant and can be applied in my workplace.

A great inclusive supportive talk, no feeling of us & them.

A thoroughly enjoyable day with wide ranging topics. It was great to hear about the progress on the creative practitioner registration and to meet fellow technicians from the creative sector.

Good range of topics relevant to my role. It was hard to choose just one per session but my colleagues attended different topics so we will share learnings.