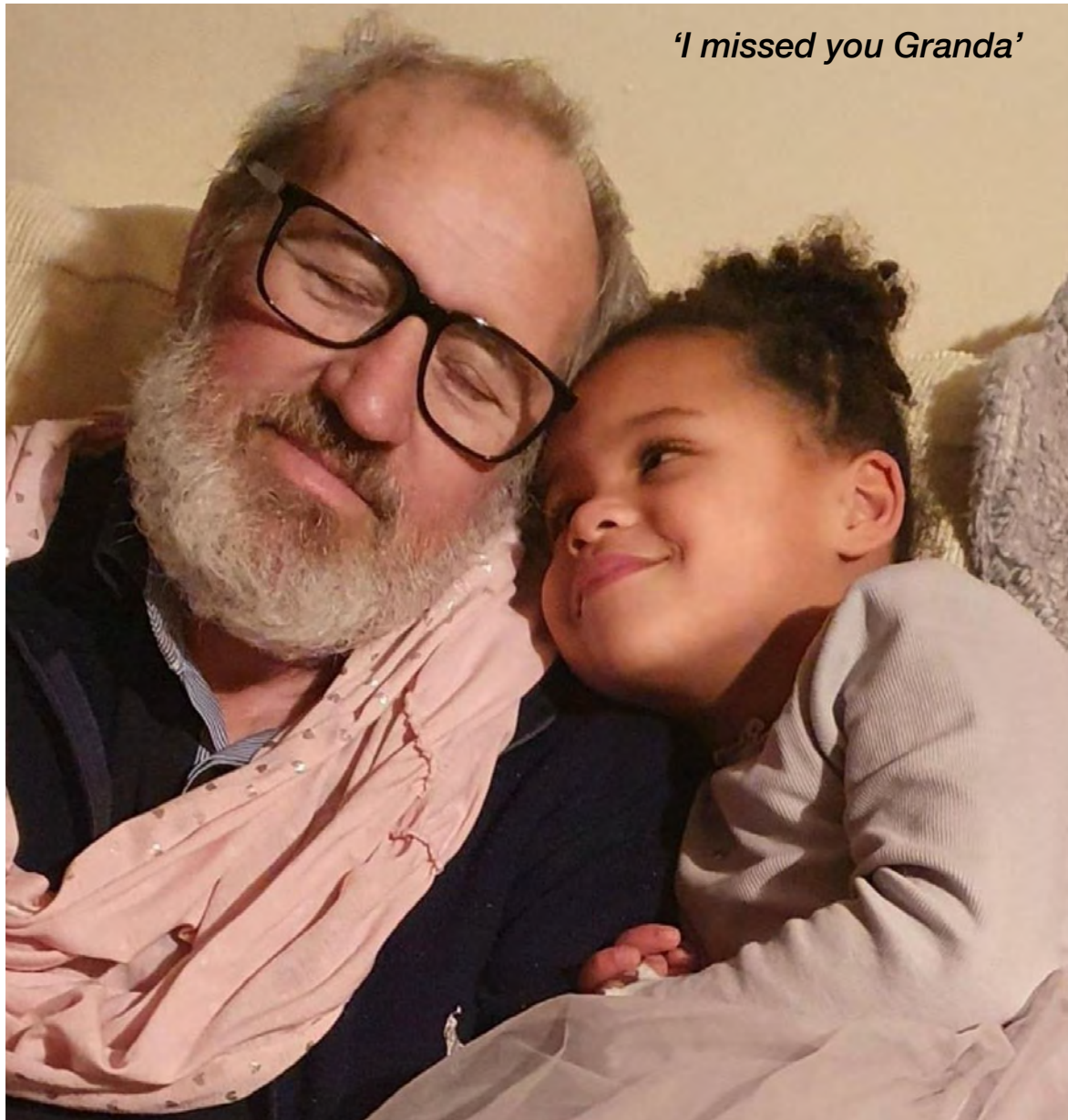


EXPLICIT MAGAZINE

MTU Cork Students' Union Magazine, Volume Twenty Three, Issue 8



'I missed you Granda'

Moments: Teaching and Learning at MTU, photo & caption competition
Congrats to overall winner - Denise O'Keeffe, Dept Of Mathematics.

**MTU Cork
Students' Union**

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The 'MTU Wellbeing Hub' is a new initiative in MTU to support students on their journey through higher education.

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We are creating monthly podcasts dealing with many topics such as taking care of your mental wellbeing, positive sexual health and many more to come!

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Make sure to check out our Instagram for competitions, short videos and give us a follow!

As you journey through MTU try these 5 ways to wellbeing!



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Explicit Production, Design & Advertising
Keith Brown, Keith.Brown@MTU.ie

MTU SU Cork President
Aisling O'Mahony, SUPresidentCork@mtu.ie

VP Education
Cian O'Driscoll, SUEducationCork@MTU.ie

VP Welfare
Sinead O'Mahony, SUWelfareCork@MTU.ie

Projects Officer
Isobel Kavanagh

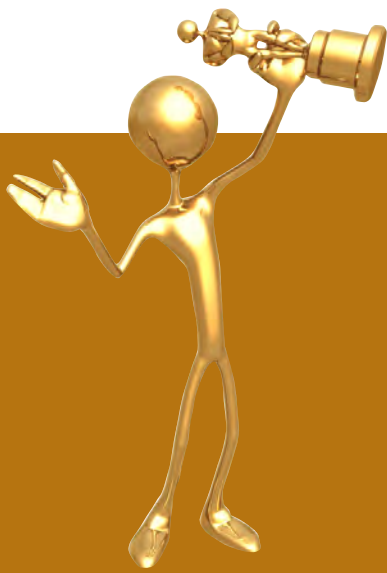
Communications Officer
Óisín Gahan

Entertainments Officer
Niamh Cronin

Entertainments Manager
Mick O'Mahony, MichaelG.OMahony@mtu.ie

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Students' Union



The MTU Cork Students' Union Council Awards were held on Thursday 4th May in recognition of Class Representatives for their outstanding voluntary contributions to the University and the Students' Union.

Presentations were made to the awardees of 2020 and 2021 (as the last two ceremonies were held online), and this year's award recipients were also announced. This was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the hard work and dedication of these students. Class Reps play a very important role in the work of the Students' Union and underpin its success in actively representing all the students of the University. Class Reps are pivotal in ensuring students feel a sense of belonging in their classes. They are key to fostering a culture of inclusivity for our diverse student population.

MTU Cork SU President, Aisling O'Mahony, Dr Áine Ní Shé, Registrar & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr Dan Collins, Academic Administration & Student Affairs Manager, Cian O'Driscoll, SU VP Education, and Sinead O'Mahony, SU VP Welfare, paid tribute to the Class Reps.



Council Awards 2022



Awardees - 2022

Sebastian Beausang
CMD Year 2

Hannah Hayes
Home Economics and Business,
Year 1

Matthew Kenneally
Marine Engineering, Year 4

Shona McCarthy
Social Care, Year 2

Siobhan Quinlan
Contemporary Applied Art, Year 4

Ian Roche
Biological Sciences, Year 2

Awardees - 2021

Aine Ryan
Contemporary Applied Art, Year 4

Alan Murphy
Cybersecurity Management, Post
Graduate Studies

Ellen Foley
Theatre and Drama, Year 3

Aodan Healy
Chemical and Biopharmaceutical
Engineering, Year 3

Arissa Tan
Hospitality Management, Year 2

Cian Ryan
Marketing, Year 2

Darragh O'Shea
Accounting Year 4

Marie Singleton
Social Care, Year 4

Ruairí Mc Clintock
Electronic Engineering, Year 1

Sean Hoban
Nautical Science, Year 1

PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

Marie Singleton
Social Care, Year 4

Awardees - 2020

Shannon White
Marketing, Year 4

Isobel Kavanagh
International Business, Year 2

Kyle Byrne
Electronic Engineering, Year 3

Oisín Gahan
Recreation and Leisure, Year 2

Jack Ahern
DCE, Year 2

Colm Healy
Social Care, Year 3

PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

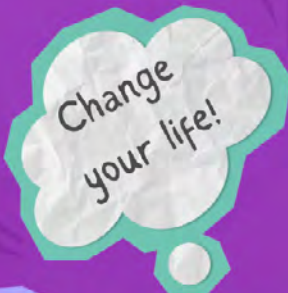
Colm Healy
Social Care, Year 3

Sincere thanks to the Students' Union staff members, Mick O'Mahony, Keith Brown, Fiona Leddy and Mella Leonard, who supported the organisation of the event. We also very much appreciate the assistance of Aoife Kelliher, Mervyn O'Mahony and Edel Kelly who participated in the selection panel. The ceremony was held in the Bistro and the ambience created by the staff of Campus Catering was incredible and the food and excellent service was thoroughly enjoyed by the awardees and guests – thank you for making the event so special.


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MTU Cork Students' Union together with EDelia Group are offering free Life Coaching sessions for all students.



THE SU AND COUNSELLING SERVICE HAVE LAUNCHED SOMETHING REALLY BENEFICIAL FOR STUDENTS...



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WHAT IS IT?

50808 is a free, anonymous, 24/7 messaging service providing everything from a calming chat to immediate support. 50808 provides a safe space where you're listened to by a trained volunteer. You'll message back and forth, only sharing what you feel comfortable with. By asking questions, listening to you and responding with support, they will help you sort through your feelings until you both feel you are now in a calm, safe place.

This is a national service run independently of MTU and the support is now available to all students of MTU! Please avail of this service if you need it.



'Prof. Maggie Cusack, Dr. Dan Collins, Dr. Honor Carroll, SU Vice President for Welfare, SU Vice President for Education and students launching the Text MTU to 50808 service.'

BUILD YOUR EXAM STRATEGY



As you prepare for what may be your first in-person exams for a while, you may find it helpful to consider how best to use your time on the day of your exam. Read on for some practical tips on getting prepared so that you're well placed to sit your exams with confidence.

Practicalities

You will recently have received your exam timetable. Since you may not have taken an exam on campus for a while (or

perhaps ever!), it would be a good idea to take some time to visit your exam venues before the exam session starts. Doing this will ensure that you won't lose time looking for the hall or room on the day. It may also be worth checking out how best to travel to the venue on the day of your exam so you can be sure that you can arrive in plenty of time.

What's different about in-person exams?

You usually can't bring notes and resources to the in-person exam with you, and there will be a time limit, so exams can seem a little unpredictable. However, even though the exam situation is different to continuous assessment, there are still plenty of things you can prepare for so that you know what to expect from your exam. For instance, by analysing past exam papers (which you can find at exampapers.cit.ie) and making use of your lecturers' advice, you can plan:

- how best to allocate your time in the exam. You can do this by determining how many marks are available per section / question, etc.
- which questions to do first, second, and last, etc., based on which topics you feel most confident with.
- how to answer different types of questions (multiple choice, short answer or essay-style, for example).

A closer look at timing

Since exam time is limited, it makes sense to consider how much time you should ideally devote to each section or question of the exam. Referring to a selection of past exam papers from the relevant module, you may find it useful to consider the following:

1. How much time is available for the exam in total?
2. How much of this time do you need to read instructions and qs?
3. How much for checking and proof-reading (realistically)?
4. How many marks are available in total?

5. How many marks are available for each section? What portion of the overall marks does this make up?
6. Based on the above, how much time should I dedicate to each section?

Let's take an example: imagine that you're completing a **two-hour exam** with **two sections**. Each section is worth **50 marks**. Section A has 10 questions worth 5 marks each which must all be answered. Section B has three questions, each worth 25 marks, and you must choose and answer two of these three questions. In this case:

1. Two hours – or 120 minutes – are available in total.
2. I estimate that I will need 10 minutes to carefully read instructions and questions and to brainstorm some ideas.
3. I plan to allow 10 minutes for checking and completing any questions I didn't quite finish.
4. 100 marks are available in total.
5. Section A and Section B are each worth 50 marks (half of the total), so each section should be given half of the available time.
6. plan to use 10 minutes for reading and planning and 10 for checking, therefore I have $120 - 10 - 10 = 100$ minutes available for writing answers. Each section will require half of the available writing time, therefore, I'll spend 50 minutes writing answers to each section.

While there is always a little flexibility, it's usually best to stick to your planned timings as closely as possible to ensure you accrue as many marks as you can from each section of the paper.

Allocating time to individual questions

In the example above, Section A contains 10 questions worth 5 marks each, and section B contains two questions worth 25 marks each. Using the same principles we applied to section timings, we can also estimate how long we should give to each question.

	Section A 50 marks 50 mins	Section B 50 marks 50 mins
How many marks / q?	5	25
What portion of overall section marks / q?	5 marks / 50 mins = 0.1	25 marks / 50 mins = 0.5
How much time for each q?	50 mins / 10 qs = 5 mins	50 mins / 2 qs = 25 mins



Managing your exam: exam hall tips

Now that you've made a plan, you know how much time you have to complete the exam, how much of that time is available for writing answers and how much of this time needs to be allocated to each section / question. In order to keep track of this, you may find it helpful to quickly note your time plan at the back of your answer book, or even beside each question on the exam question paper. There will be a clock in the



As you're working through the exam, you may find that one particular question may not work out for you on the first attempt. If this should happen, you may prefer to stick to your time plan and move on rather than losing time on trying to work out that tricky question. You could, however, have time to come back to this question before the exam ends, so please make sure to leave plenty of blank space after it so that you can easily and quickly revisit it.

Sometimes, you may get the 'first draft' of your questions finished more quickly than you had envisaged. If this happens, you could be tempted to leave the exam early. As we have already seen, though, additional time before the end of the exam can be extremely valuable and you could have that flash of inspiration that helps you to finish or improve an answer. By staying until the end of the exam, you give yourself the best possible opportunity to keep adding marks, so it really is in your interest to use all of the available time.

exam hall, but you might find it easier to keep track of time by bringing a watch with you (note, though, that no smart watches will be allowed in the hall).

Everyone at AnSEO – the Student Engagement Office wishes you all the very best of luck with your upcoming exams and assessments!

EXAM TIPS
Checklist to help you succeed!

ENSURE YOU ARE IN THE RIGHT VENUE AT THE RIGHT TIME!

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EXAM TIPS
Checklist to help you succeed!

BRING YOUR STUDENT ID CARD TO ALL EXAMS

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EXAM TIPS
Checklist to help you succeed!

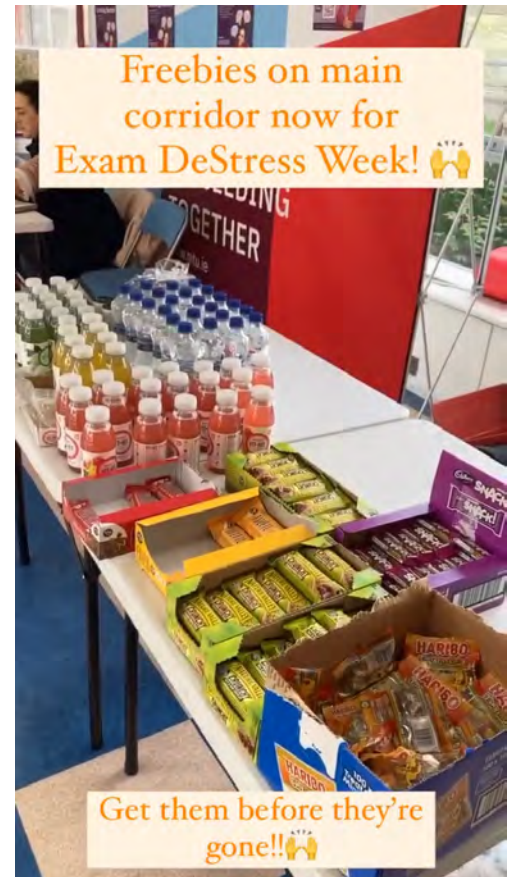
ENSURE YOU BRING THE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT. EG. PENS PENCILS, CALCULATOR ETC.

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EXAM TIPS
Checklist to help you succeed!

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH EXAM REGULATIONS...
www.mycit.ie/examinations/regulations

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EXAM TIPS
Checklist to help you succeed!

SIT IN YOUR ASSIGNED SEAT. THE SEATING PLAN WILL BE ON SHOW IN THE EXAM HALL.

MTU MTU Cork Students' Union

For more tips, learning resources and videos please, [click here](#) to access the MTU Academic Learning Centre webpage

We hope you managed to grab some goodies on the main corridor during Exam De-Stress! Kindly sponsored by: AnSEO, The Student Engagement Office

Q&A from our Student

Our Student Alumni Ambassadors recently caught up with two MTU alumni and asked them questions on behalf of current students.



Sonali Vaidya, Masters student, Cybersecurity and Student Alumni Ambassador



Charlotte Lok-Lam, Pharmaceutical student and Student Alumni Ambassador



AUTUMN O'DONNELL

PhD Student and Part-time Lecturer at UCC

My name is Autumn O'Donnell and I am currently undertaking a PhD in Statistics at UCC. I graduated from CIT (now MTU) in May 2017 with an honours degree in Biomedical Engineering.

Q1. Why did you progress to further studies/go straight into the industry instead of the other?

Before I graduated I started working as a Clinical Engineer in the South-Infirmary Victoria University Hospital. It was the role I had wanted to get into from starting out in my undergrad and the jobs don't come up that often so when the opportunity presented itself, I took it straight away. However, since then I have gone back into education, completing an MSc in Data Science and Analytics last year and now following on with a PhD. The experience I gained through industry has really stood to me in terms of my own development.

Q2. What skills or knowledge did you learn throughout the course that you found most useful in your career?

During the course of your studies you take many different modules which often involve steep learning curves and it's the exact same in the rest of your career. Being willing to keep on learning and change how you do things remains key.

Q3. What do you enjoy the most while in university apart from studying?

The canoe club and going of Erasmus. Being involved in the canoe club or any sports club, gives you the opportunity to get to know people outside your course and all pursue interests outside of academia. Erasmus also provided this and gave me a different perspective on studying and university life.

Q4. What do employers look for in new graduates from MTU?

Being adaptable. The work you do is always different to what you did in university and you need to be able to adapt to this.

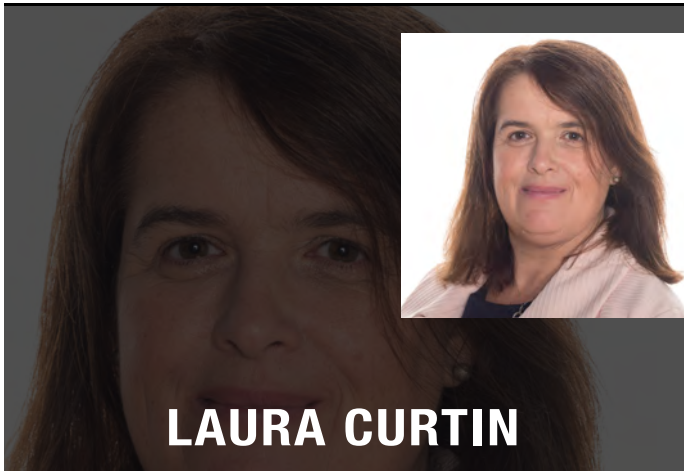
Q5. What is the biggest challenge that you faced when you left university?

Being unsure if I had made the right career choice and then actually making that change.

Q6. What advice do you have for the current students at MTU?

Take advantage of all the opportunities presented to you. Go on Erasmus. Take an elective you're interested in. Join a club or society. Put yourself forward for anything you want to be a part of.

Alumni Ambassadors...



LAURA CURTIN

Founder of Platinum Brand Communications and Platinum Data Protection. I have thirty years working in the FMCG, food, tech, services, financial and agricultural sectors as a manager, consultant, mentor and trainer. My areas of expertise lie in corporate marketing, branding, digital marketing and data protection. I graduated from MTU with a National Certificate in Business Studies.

Q1. Why did you progress to further studies/ go straight into the industry instead of the other?

I went on to obtain a Bachelor of Business Studies from UL. Unfortunately MTU did not have a degree course when I was studying so I had to change college. At the time, I believed it was important to get a degree as this was a requirement by several large employers for graduate programmes.

Q2. What skills or knowledge did you learn throughout the course that you found most useful in your career?

My course provided me with several great skills; communications, marketing, business planning, project management, financial costing, and management practices. In addition, I gained great knowledge of the business 'real world'. Our lecturers brought real examples into the classroom which gave me good insights into what was required to work in a commercial organisation.

Q3. What did you enjoy the most while in university apart from studying?

I was actively involved in the Business Studies Society (PRO and Chairperson). I certainly benefited greatly from the social element of the society and had many a good night out! I also made a lot of good friends, many of whom are still in my life. Importantly the society gave me opportunities to network and build up contacts in business.

Q4. What do employers look for in new graduates from MTU?

Employers are looking for individuals with strong transferable "soft" skills. Organisations need graduates with effective communication, project management, collaboration, negotiation, influencing and client relationship skills.

Q5. What is the biggest challenge that you faced when you left university?

When I completed my degree I moved to Dublin to participate in a graduate programme. The salary was very low, I didn't know a lot of people, and accommodation rent was high. Sometimes you have to put your pride aside and reach out to family. My aunt and uncle put me up for two years and having that security allowed me to really focus on starting my career!

Q6. What advice do you have for the current students at MTU?

Don't be afraid to reach out to the Alumni network. We have a lot of experience, contacts, and could provide you with great opportunities once you leave MTU. Also, look after your physical and mental wellbeing.

Prof. Maggie Cusack, MTU President with Student Alumni Ambassadors Sonali and Charlotte who volunteered their time to support the Alumni Office at the MTU BHAA 5k road race in March.



MTU Graduate Studies Office collaborated with the Department of Media Communications to develop stories about postgraduate research education in MTU. Research can sometimes seem intangible and indefinable, so through this collaboration we aim to paint a picture and provide insight into the what, the why and the impact of research education.

Interview

By Dylan Morley,
MA in Public Relations Student

PROFESSOR JOHN BARRETT, HEAD OF THE NIMBUS RESEARCH CENTRE IN MTU, TALKS ALL THINGS RESEARCH: THE IMPORTANCE OF FUNDING, WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY AND HOW WE CAN MAKE OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDY BY RESEARCH MORE ACCESSIBLE.



Prof. Barrett is a huge advocate of research. He believes research is core to human progress, especially with regards to technology. He describes research as being the generation of new knowledge.

“It could be anything from discovering a new state of quantum physics at the most fundamental level of research or new knowledge of, say, what brings a product to market, which would be at the opposite applied end of research. The research that is done in MTU largely has an application in mind. It is ultimately leading to something practical and useful for people and society.”

When it comes to his own research area, Prof. Barrett describes it as “digital smart technology applied to almost anything you can imagine. We take smart digital technology and we connect people and things to the internet and other areas like that. Looking at data collection, data analytics, machine learning, artificial intelligence, wireless sensing, you name it. That broad spectrum of the modern digital world. However, we always keep in mind the potential impacts on people and society and we strive to make those impacts positive.”

Research and education always seemed the route that he was going to go down, rather than working in industry. “It was something that I preferred, rather than a career in industry. It just interested me more. I started out nearly 40 years ago and I haven’t regretted a minute of it. It is incredibly stimulating; you are always doing something that keeps your brain alive.”

Prof. Barrett is Director of the Nimbus Research Centre in MTU. This involves managing large research projects and 50 researchers, who encompass both full-time professional researchers and PhD students. “The team is split into two functions, those who primarily do longer-term research and those who do applied research projects for industry and transfer our research out to real-world applications. It is all in the areas of smart digital technology, particularly what we called the Internet of Things.”

Funding research is an issue that really hits home with Prof. Barrett, as it helped him to be where he is today. “I came out of college with a masters and PhD, and I literally could not have afforded to do this unless there was a scholarship. I would not be where I am today without having

got those initial scholarships to pay my way. It is challenging to complete a PhD that lasts four years or more if you also have to work. Scholarships make a major difference as they allow students to conduct high quality research without the added stress of having a job at the same time”.

“

...research helps to innovate, creating new jobs and making the world a safer place.

”

He highlights, however, that funding is become more difficult to obtain. “Winning funding for postgraduate research is becoming much more competitive as more and more research centres across Ireland and the EU are competing for a relatively limited pool of funding. ‘Excellent students with excellent supervisors in excellent research environments’ are needed to be competitive. MTU has a strong track record in winning

competitive funding for research and we are developing strategy to continue that funding growth.”.

The reason why Prof. Barrett chose to come and work in MTU is simple. “MTU brought a better work/life balance. There is also a strong sense of collegiality in MTU and that is a characteristic that I hope we never lose,” he said.

This exchange between a current post-graduate student and one of our professors helps to highlight the importance of research and funding research to the benefit of not just academia but the positive impacts it can have on wider society. Prof. Barrett outlines the need for increased research funding, especially through scholarships for post-graduate students. He claims that

the research helps to innovate, creating new jobs and making the world a safer place. He also outlines how MTU provides students and faculty with the right learning, teaching and research environment that enables people to excel within academia or in non-academic career paths.

Interview

By Róisín FitzGerald,
MA in Public Relations Student

MAEVE O’CONNELL, PHD STUDENT, SPEAKS TO HER ABOUT HER JOURNEY INTO POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH AND HOW THE RÍSAM SCHOLARSHIP MADE IT ALL POSSIBLE.



A lot of research had been carried out into a subject Maeve O’Connell was interested in, the effects of physical exercise on ageing - but to a much lesser degree with nutrition.

As a healthcare student who had a keen interest in nutrition, it piqued Maeve’s interest when her lecturer approached her to consider a PhD to examine both nutritional and physical impacts on older adults. “One of my lecturers mentioned it to me, that she was going to do a particular project that I was working on and try to get funding for it and would I be interested. I looked at the proposal and thought that sounded perfect, especially with my nursing background.”

“I was really lucky that it happened because otherwise I wouldn’t have considered it.

Maeve explodes the myth of the lonely PhD student spending long hours doing solitary work. “There’s a bit of a stigma there, but that’s not the case. Our department is the Biological Sciences and we are so lucky to have our own building, which is called the Create building.

I think there must be 20 researchers based there. And it’s actually very social.”

She stressed the importance of having the right frame of mind when approaching such a major life commitment. Having a positive outlook and being organised were essential for Maeve when it came to project managing the PhD. “It’s very important to have a healthy mindset and set your boundaries.”

The scholarship funding not only enabled Maeve to do the PhD, but funding timelines also placed a definite deadline to complete the entire project. The scholarship provided three years and three months of financing, and this was the motivation for her to complete her PhD within that timeframe. “I just knew, being a little bit older, that I couldn’t be without money, so I put the skates on towards the end, as in I have to get this done. It’s doable in three years.”

Practical reasons, such as paying for accommodation, also crystallised her decision in wanting to complete the PhD within the funding period. “I don’t have family living up in Cork

City. So, I was renting and that put pressure on me as well. I just didn’t give myself a choice. I was like you have to get this done.”

MTU Cork’s Rísam scholarships are one of the options available to many of the PhD scholars. For Maeve this option worked well, however the process to be accepted into the scholarship programme is competitive. Maeve said: “They allocate a certain amount of funding to the Rísam PhD scholarships, there were five given out the year that I did it and that was more 50 applicants, so they are quite competitive.

“They try to strike a good balance, as in they try not to have too many scholarships from one academic department. They look at the quality of your research proposal, your academic background, and maybe lecturers’ history as well. Of course, it must be important research that’s actually meaningful. I was lucky to get one of those internal scholarships. They cover your fees; they give you a stipend to live off every month. And then they cover a certain amount of expenses on top of that

Maeve feels that the scholarship programmes are vital to allow the research to happen and without the funding, the quality of the research may suffer as the studies being undertaken may be more rushed. It is possible that the greater good of society is influenced positively by the scholarship programme.

Maeve spoke about the positive benefits of research to humanity in further detail. "It leads us to develop solutions to problems and to questions we might have. It allows for the identification of markets, which leads to the development of products and services that we need that are beneficial to everybody. In my case it was the identification of health problems and the solutions to them.

"I identified some nutritional issues in our older population and then, through my research, I guided the development of initiatives to deal with these issues. Disease and mental health problems have been

addressed and progressed through research."

Companies should consider funding a PhD student, as invaluable information can be discovered if the research relates to their products. "It gives the company or organisation an opportunity to learn about their product or service and how effectively it performs. If you have a research student working with the company, they will usually attend scientific conferences that publish findings in research articles....this can highlight what the company is doing, if their product or service is found to be effective, that it does what it's supposed to do - that's good marketing!"

Finally, there are pitfalls and disappointments associated with researching a PhD, particularly around getting one's research published and the rejections a student will have to go through before finally getting into print. However, Maeve describes

the rewards as one of the reasons to consider taking up a PhD at MTU Cork.

"I find research very rewarding. In particular, when you come up with a new finding or when you get an article accepted in a journal, then it is very satisfying because you feel like you're contributing something to the area and you feel like you're doing something right and you're actually coming up with something new, which is very rewarding."

A passion for Maeve O'Connell's research subject sparked a complete change of direction in her life from studying nursing to becoming a full-time PhD student. Maeve is now a published author and researcher at UCC.

Anyone considering following Maeve O'Connell's example and undertaking a PhD should visit this page on MTU Cork's website for further information.

Interview

Dylan Morley,
MA in Public Relations Student



AIDAN DUGGAN, A PHD STUDENT RESEARCHING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) TECHNOLOGY AND AN ADVANCE CRT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, OUTLINES WHAT RESEARCH MEANS TO HIM AND THE IMPORTANT ROLE IT PLAYS IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY AND SOCIETY.

Aidan Duggan is a huge proponent of research. He believes research is about investigating an issue and helping to solve that issue, or at least contributing to existing knowledge. "Research is really all about answering questions, about coming up with a very interesting question that has not been answered before and then trying to figure it out by spending the next year, or four years in my case, to answer it.

“

...research is about pushing the boundaries of knowledge

”

"Research is about pushing the boundaries of knowledge, finding out stuff that people do not already know and ultimately the output should be that you're adding your piece to the knowledge community."

Aidan is very passionate about his area of research. His PhD is about trying to use artificial intelligence on satellites in outer space. He says artificial intelligence is very good at processing data and analysing data.

“It is a relatively old technique, it is around the same age as satellites, but it has not been used much on board satellites yet. There was lack of technology to support the use of artificial intelligence. My question is ‘can we use artificial intelligence techniques to process imagery on-board a satellite?’”

Having spent almost 20 years working in industry, Aidan decided to go back to college. He wasn’t challenged with his career and felt he needed a change of scenery. “I have a curious type of personality, an engineering brain. I got to a crossroads – I’d been working for a long time and I had got the good job and the titles, but I was bored. My career was just not doing it for me anymore. One day, I came across this Masters in Artificial Intelligence course in MTU and it was the first year of it. It immediately grabbed my attention and I thought that is what I want to do. I took to it like a duck to water and from there, I have not looked back.”

As a current PhD student, Aidan describes the impact that research has on society as huge and believes it does not get enough publicity. “Research impacts everything we do at nearly every level, be that at undergraduate, masters or PhD. Technology progresses through research. For the impact that research has on society, it does not get enough press. You may only hear a snippet of information on the radio or TV every once in a while from an entrepreneur or a professor on the positives of research. When, in actuality, it has an enormous impact across the board.”

Research funding and scholarships made the decision for Aidan to go back to college a little easier than if he had had no funding. “If I did not have a scholarship, I may not have made the decision to pursue

a career in research. It would have made the decision a lot harder, that is for sure.

“It helps that I am a bit further down the track in life, but for young people who have not got certain resources, it is going to make a huge difference. The stipend that I receive is €18,500 and while that is not going to make you any money, it provides you with enough to survive. To be able to focus on your education and research, so it makes all the difference.”

Aidan thinks funding and scholarships should be made more accessible to research students. “Like research itself, the funding part is not very well publicised even though, it is a huge problem facing researchers and students all the time.”

“Funding and grants can bridge the gap by allowing people the opportunity to take on research projects and produce good quality research. From the funder’s point of view, like the Science Foundation Ireland in my case, they are building up their reputation and a huge knowledge base under their umbrella and that will pay dividends in the long run.”

The decision to choose to come back to MTU to study by research was an easy one for Aidan. He wanted to be one of the first people to get qualifications from the college when it was first Cork Regional Technical College (RTC), then Cork Institute of Technology (CIT), and now Munster Technological University (MTU). However, the standard of education was also a determining factor.

“To be honest, the quality of the lectures is what I think sets it apart from everywhere else. The staff are fantastic, and I could not imagine a better supervisory team for my PhD. Diversity also plays a significant part. The college has changed from

when I did my undergraduate degree many moons ago, with people from all over world coming together to learn with and from each other. I think this is a real strength and asset for MTU,” he said.



Research impacts everything we do at nearly every level, be that at undergraduate, masters or PhD. Technology progresses through research. For the impact that research has on society, it does not get enough press.



This interview highlights the importance of research within our academic institutions and how it can have a profound impact on society and our everyday lives. Through Aidan’s personal journey with the college from undergraduate to masters and now PhD level, we see the imprint that MTU has on individuals, their education, and their careers. We also see from Aidan how important it is to fund research, investing in researchers by offering them top-level scholarship opportunities, so they can conduct quality research that gives back to academia and advances society.

MOMENTS 2022

Photo & Caption Contest

[Click here for winners video](#)

To celebrate MTU Innovation and Enterprise month back in March, The Teaching and Learning Unit, AnSEO and The Arts Office brought you 'Moments: Teaching and Learning at MTU', a photo and caption competition.

The aim of the competition was to capture moments in the lives of students and staff across all campuses at MTU, celebrating our diversity and collective, as well as individual, experiences.

This is the second year of this competition which showcases life in MTU and not just our classrooms but our canteens our pitches our studies and all kinds of other spaces where learning happens. It also showcased the kind of life that we have all been leading for the last year and where we have found joy.

There were 8 prizes awarded...

Overall Winner: Canon Camera and Printer worth €1000

Presidents Prize: iPad

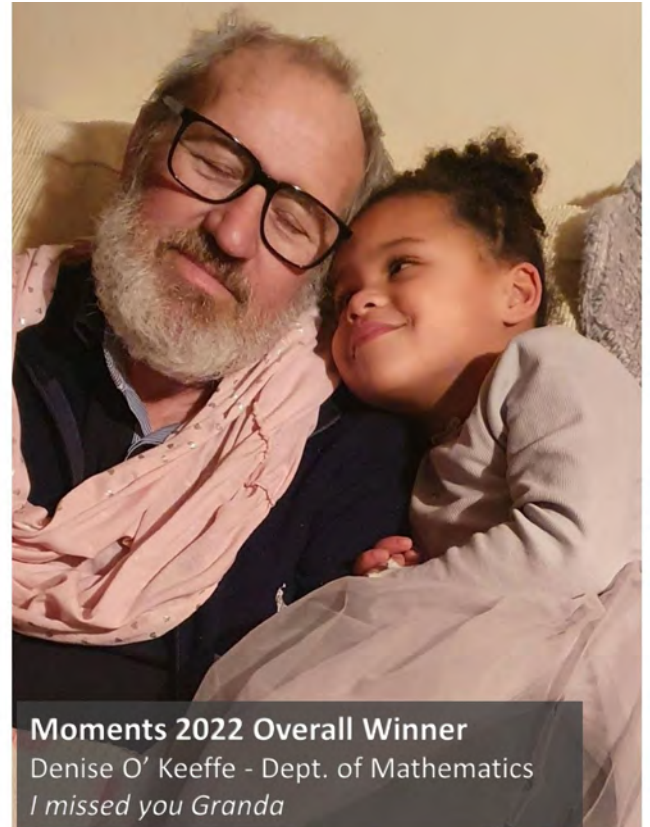
Together Again: Fuji Instant camera + €50 One-4-All

My MTU Learning: Fuji Instant camera + €50 One-4-All

Make Me Smile: Fuji Instant camera + €50 One-4-All

Runners up all got €50 One-4-All

Thanks to over 200 photographers who took a moment and shared their photos!



Moments 2022 Overall Winner

Denise O' Keeffe - Dept. of Mathematics

I missed you Granda



Moments 2022 Presidents Prize

Róisín Reilly - Animation, Visual Effects & Motion Design

A catch up at last



1st Place in My MTU Learning
 Avril O' Sullivan – Photography & New Media
Do Not Disturb



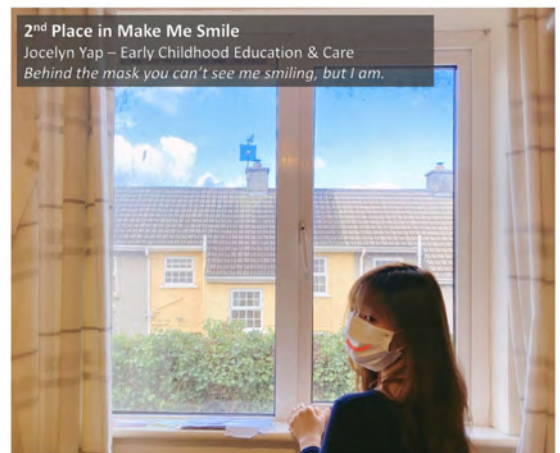
2nd Place in My MTU Learning
 David Hayes & Philip Corkery
Focus!!!



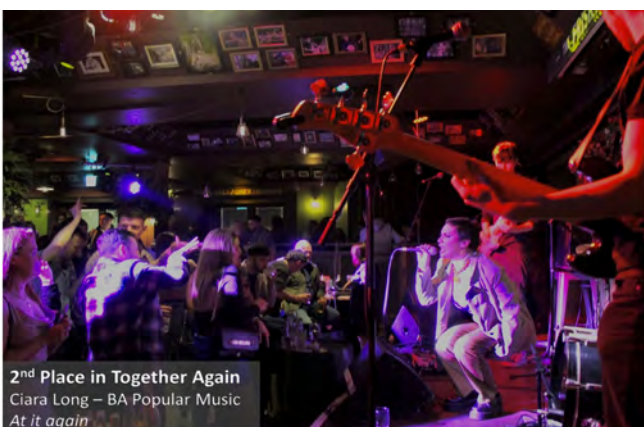
1st Place in Make Me Smile
 Róisín Reilly
 Animation, Visual Effects & Motion Design
The look of love



1st Place in Together Again
 Christine Kunz – Early Childhood Studies
Diversity: the art of thinking independently together



2nd Place in Make Me Smile
 Jocelyn Yap – Early Childhood Education & Care
Behind the mask you can't see me smiling, but I am.



2nd Place in Together Again
 Ciara Long – BA Popular Music
At it again

The Judges this year:

Jean François Turbide, O'Leary's Cameraworld, sponsors of our Overall Prize.

James Crombie, Inpho Agency, Irish Press Photographer of the Year 2021 and 2022

Vickie Maye, Features Editors, Irish Examiner

[Click here for winners video](#)

CAREERS

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Careers Advisors **Mary-Rose O'Sullivan** and **Olga Mitchell** with the **Award for Best Business & Third Level Institution Collaboration** in the Education Award 2022 for the Ready Steady Work career development programme. Offered with the Disability Support Service & in partnership with DELL Technologies.

If you are registered with the DSS and would like to participate in the 2022-2023 programme, please email: rsw@mtu.ie



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Flynnner's Flying Column

In *Celebrity News*, there has been blanket controversy at the 2022 Academy Awards on March 27th when Will Smith, winning an Oscar, slapped comedian Chris Rock on stage, then presenting the ceremony, for making inappropriate jokes about Will's wife Jada during the presentation. Though Will has apologised, the Academy has barred him for 10 years as punishment, which Will has accepted.

Yes, Will's behaviour cannot be condoned. But what about investigating the Academy for not properly vetting the choice of MC, being prone to making unacceptable jibes about people? And why has Rock not apologised either? Even more worryingly, HIS comedy shows have surged in popularity since the incident. Because this speaks volumes regarding the levels of respect people have towards each other, and this can be seen manifesting itself in the social scene across Ireland every weekend. And believe me, some of the things people dish out to each other are really sickening – racist, sexist, homophobic taunts, stuff about people's personal lives, filth that would really make you wonder about the types of people who make obscene gestures about unfortunate situations people find themselves in with their day-to-day lives! What is this? Answer: The "Culture" we live in.

In an incident with all the echoes of MUFC Captain Eric Cantona similarly assaulting an abusive fan at Selhurst Park in January 1995 (Eric being fined and punished but going on to redeem himself in the English FA 1995-96 season), one will have to wonder where the real bankrupt characteristics lie to say that the Acad-



emy would allow their standards to sink to such levels. And this reinforces the importance for all of us to be respectful, to talk to each other instead of gossip about one another and to care instead of jibe. Insecurity is never a barrier in all this, and remember, the Students' Union and other college bodies are always there to help.

Meanwhile, as the nation still grapples to come to terms with Aisling Murphy's death, Violent Ireland strikes again as two men, Aidan Mofitt – a local FG Activist – and Michael Snee have been found brutally murdered by a Hate attack in their homes in Sligo City, sending shockwaves throughout the communities once more. Tanaiste Leo Varadkar, having spoken out against a recent wave of homophobic attacks across Ireland has expressed horror while Justice Minister Helen McEntee has accelerated plans to bring in laws to tackle violent crime. This horrific

incident, along with many others this year, serves to remind of the need to reinforce the Gardaí with the funding and resources necessary to tackle this scourge and for communities all over to redouble their campaigns to make Ireland safer against all violent crime.

Again, the vulnerable and marginalised suffer once more - women, children, elderly, those of different race, culture and sexual orientation - reminding us that of the long way to go in this, not only in Safety but Equality as well. Let us all redouble our efforts to campaign actively for change and to look out for each other in a true sense of community. May Mofitt and Snee Rest In Peace and their families come to terms with their loss.

DA FULL MUNSTER DERE...

With MTU-Cork Race Day having made its return, the word is about that MTU's Cork and Kerry are proposing Race Days at each other's tracks; Cork Students going back to Killarney on the first visit and Kerry returning the serve by hitting Mallow. It would be great to build on the successful MTU Merger, promote positive student relations and, at the same time, generate further the legendary Cork/Kerry sporting banter! Which begs the question. In what manner will the MTU Merger profound the rivalry between Cork and Kerry Football, now that the GAA Championships are starting again?

I was born in Cork, and live in Macroom, a community renowned for its GAA History and generating some great footballers, many whom won All-Ireland Senior Medals. However, I do have maternal relatives in Kenmare, County Kerry, and my paternal side is from Waterford/Wexford/Kilkenny, (where the Three Sister Rivers meet to be precise), which adds a bit of intrigue towards my sense of allegiance. And this is what makes being a supporter of the Rebel County all the more enjoyable when it comes to travelling to the games. Semple Stadium Thurles is a

home-away-from-home with the Munster Hurling Championship and its cutting-edge rivalries to go, as well as the Minor and Underage Championships that have been growing in popularity recently, as Cork's successes in these fields last year have shown. And a weekend in Dublin for a game in Croke Park certainly creates the memories as well as the thrills; make sure you book the weekend off though!!

But the one game that delivers the sense of Mardi Gras to Ireland during the summer is the Munster Championship Senior Football matches between Cork and Kerry in Killarney. Yes, it is an away game, but something that Cork fans cannot miss; the journey cross the bounds, the honky-tonk hotels, bars and restaurants, the blazes of green/gold and blood/bandages merging down the Killarney streets, the good-time banter between both sets of fans – including plenty of young couples – and the Macguillycuddy Reeks acting as the perfect backdrop as the game goes ahead in Fitzgerald Stadium with the atmosphere to go, especially if the weather is fine! And win (we Rebels are still waiting for the away win to come!), lose or draw, the great feeling about a great day had when



it is time for the Cork fans to return home that evening if we are not diehard enough to stay for another night! The MTU Merger, and Inter-County Race Meets, will only enhance these occasions when the Cork Students head back later for footballing rivalry with their Kingdom Counterparts; here is hoping we can entice more of them to come to the Southern Capital and fill Pairc Uí Chaoimh when it is Cork's turn to host the matches!

Additionally, many GAA players at both Club and County level travel and study in MTU's Cork and Kerry, having much service to offer the Campus teams in the college championships, delivering success on many an occasion. With the MTU Merger in place, I wonder in what manner will this affect the teams and the Championships, when it comes to Cork and Kerry inevitably meeting again this summer?



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Words of Wisdom Competition!

After another crazy year at MTU Cork, What tip or single piece of advice would you offer to your fellow students going forward into the next semester?

Two students will randomly WIN €50!

Winners will be announced at the end of May.

Don't forget to add your name, course and year to your email entry.

With thanks to AnSEO, The student Engagement Office for sponsoring prizes

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Societies Awards Winners 2022!



The Award Winners with MTU President Maggie Cusack and Societies Officer Aoife Kelliher

MTU Societies Awards

Huge congratulations to the winners and nominees of the MTU Societies Awards 2022. The Awards were hosted in the Nexus on the Bishopstown Campus and were a celebratory and joyous affair. Attendees were treated to complimentary refreshments before a fantastic performance by the MTU Musical Society ahead of their trip to the Musical Theatre Intervarsities in Thurles.

Societies Officer, Aoife Kelliher, then took to the stage graciously joined by President of MTU Maggie Cusack, Vice President Áine Ní Shé, Students Union VP for Welfare Sinead O'Mahony, Societies Intern Sarah Kelly and Head of Student Affairs, Dan Collins, who was the MC for the night. Following thoughtful and inspiring addresses by Maggie Cusack and Áine Ní Shé, committee members were presented with certificates acknowledging their hard work and participation. Then it was onto the highly anticipated awards for societies, events and individuals.

Photographer Vitaliy Makhnanov, alumni of the Photography Society, took photographs of the winners. Finally, everyone headed into the Mardyke for bowling – a well deserved treat after a year of hard work and planning, against all odds.

SOCIETIES Awards 2022
Bringing people together through shared interests

Group Awards

<p>PROGRAMMING Society of The Year</p> <p>MECHANICAL & BIOMEDICAL Best New</p> <p>CHRISTIAN UNION Most Improved</p> <p>ANIME & MANGA ART COMPETITION Best Small Event</p>	<p>GLÓR NA NOLLAIG Supreme Event</p> <p>PROGRAMMING Best Academic</p> <p>WISTEM COLLABORATIONS & OUTREACH Rísam Uile</p> <p>MATURE STUDENTS PET PHOTO COMPETITION Best Virtual Event</p>
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Societies: Connecting In Colour

The Societies Office are proud to present Connecting in Colour, a visual celebration of the vitality, creativity and community that make Societies so beautiful and important. A collection of photographic and digital prints displaying painting, photography and graphic design created by Societies over the last year, Connecting in Colour is open to the public in the West Atrium for the entire month of April, we invite you to come take a look!

Sofia Dolera Perez and Kenneth Delos Reyes examine the work!

BICs Awards

MTU societies are celebrating double success winning two national award titles at this year's Board of Irish College Societies (BICS) Awards.

The MTU Programming Society was awarded the Best Departmental Society for their diverse and high level of activity which enhanced the student experience and enjoyment. The society aims to be a community for all who use programming in their studies and helps them socialise with and learn from their peers.

Co-Chairpersons of the society: 4th year Software Development students Roshan Sreekanth and Aphral Griffin were very aware of the impact remote learning had on students getting to know their classmates. With the majority of classes returned to in person and on campus this semester, the social aspect of students getting to know each other better was a priority...



MTU Programming Society members Fearghal Hayes, Eoghan Spillane, Viktoria Cseke, Samyukta Sreekanth, Aphral Griffin, Roshan Sreekanth won Best Society



Aoife Kelliher, MTU Societies Officer with WiSTEM society members, Laura Condon, Laurn Murray and Emily Murphy

“We switched from running only workshops and academic events to having a focus on getting students who are interested in programming to socialise with each other. This was done by running games nights, movie nights, quiz nights and more.”

It was celebrations also for the WiSTEM committee who were presented with the Best Society Civic/Charity award. The **WiSTEM Society** aims to bring together female STEM students from courses across MTU, allowing them to make friends and network. The Society also reached out to post-primary students to educate and inspire them to consider careers in STEM which is what this award was particular acknowledging. Vice Chairperson Laura Condon highlighted the importance of STEM role models...

“We hope that by holding outreach events we will give female students the same confidence and passion as their male counterparts when looking into the CAO courses offered by MTU as prospective options once they finish their leaving certificate.”

Other students representing MTU included students from a vast variety of societies such as the **radio society BANG FM, Anime & Manga, Civil & Structural, Board Games & Pool and NAG Nursing & Agricultural Students.**

Societies Officers Aoife Kelliher (Cork Campus) and Kevin Ross (Kerry Campus) both expressed how societies have had a great year and the accolades at the National BICS Awards are a testament to their excellence. ***“We have over 50 societies across all campuses and 350 students who volunteer in committee positions. Involvement in societies is an important part of students’ social and emotional well-being. Making friends is such an important part of college life and getting involved in societies is a key opportunity for this.”*** Student societies are a path to a greater experience of higher education, to build friendships which will last beyond their college years and gaining skills which are just as valuable as you learn in a lecture hall.”

Sports Semester Roundup



AFL Club

Well done to our AFL Club who were 2nd in both the Rebel Shield and the Cork Colleges Cup. The Club expanded this year to include a womens team.



Men's Basketball

Well done on reaching the Intersivarsity Semi Final.



Karting Team

Well done on finishing 4th in the SSI League.



Badminton SSI League Finals Day

Well done to our Badminton team who reached the Student Sport Ireland Badminton League Finals Day. Our team consisted of Adam Barry (Biomedical Engineering 1), Gavin O Regan (Construction Management 2), Kate Foley (Tourism & Hospitality 1), Rachel O Rahilly (BIS 1) and Kaitlyn Kelleher (Social Care 2).



Kayaking Varsities

Well done to our Kayaking Club who were 5th at the Kayaking Intersivarsities, where they won the "Evan Mc Ardle Cup" for the Best Freestyle performance and also won "Most Improved Club".



Tetrathlon Team

Congrats to our Equestrian Club members Lea Wynn and Sarah Lucey on two firsts in showjumping at the Tetrathlon.



France Sailing Team

Well done to our Sailing team from NMCI who finished 9th in the EDHEC Sailing Cup in France.



Fun Run & Walk

Well done to all who took part in our annual Fun Run & Walk! Great to see a good turnout & lots of smiles in the sun! Be sure to keep up the physical activity levels and keep involved in the various weekly fitness classes! Until next time, keep, moving!



Ultimate Frisbee

Well done on finishing 6th in the Intervarsities



Volleyball Team

Well done to our Volleyball Club members who competed in both the Student Sport Ireland League and the Volleyball Ireland Mixed league.



Tae Kwon Do Team

Well done to our Tae Kwon Do members Dylan O'Leary (Engineering 1), Amy Sullivan (Pharmaceutical Biotechnology 3), Alex Mc Carthy (Business 1), Alexander Walsh (Science 2) and MTU Tae Kwon Do Club Coach Joshua Byrne who won a remarkable 9 medals at the University Tae Kwon Do Championships in Manchester.



Sailing

Congrats to our Sailing Club members, Harry Durcan (Accounting 4), Mark Murphy (Accounting 4), Morgan McKnight (Nautical Science 3), Charlie Moloney (Engineering 3) and Ronan Courmane (Civil Engineering 3) who won the "Student Yachting Nationals" hosted in Howth Yacht Club. MTU 1 captured the title and notable also that MTU2 including David Jones (Construction Mgs 1), Martin Fleming (Marine Eng 2), Aisling Finnegan, Shane O'Brien (Business) and Daniel Thompson (Nautical Science 2) finished eighth overall.



Hieu Power

Congrats to Hieu Power (Nutrition & Health Science 1) who won gold at the Karate Intervarsities

Rag Week Soccer

The Rag Week Soccer Tournament was organised by the MTU Soccer Club in partnership with the Students Union. 17 teams consisting of 120 students participated in the event. It was great to see recreational games back again, providing opportunities for all students is a priority for the MTU Soccer Club. Thank you to Craig Robinson for his involvement in this event and for all the work over the past couple of extremely challenging years.

BNM Team:

David Yoannou Recreation & Leisure (Captain)
 Emmanuel Alamu Recreation & Leisure
 Emeka Asiegnu Recreation & Leisure
 Marvin Ekhouseuhi Biomed Engineering
 Nelly Ahamefula Sustainable Energy Engineering
 Agape Malanada International Business
 Norell Jamani Electrical Engineering

Ronan Bucks FC:

Ronan Buckley Accounting (Captain)
 Joshua King Accounting
 Sam Gbadero Accounting
 Jamie Murphy Accounting
 Kyle Donovan Accounting
 Joshua Hurley BIS
 Richie Hartnett BIS
 Ben Hurley BIS



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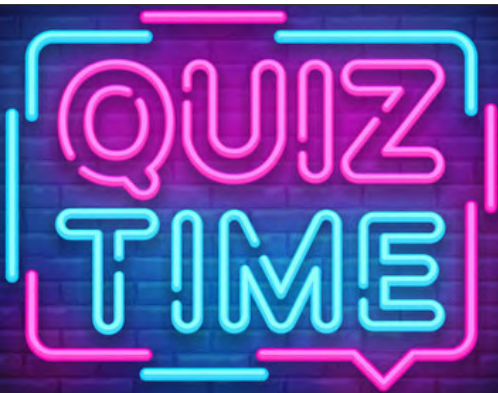
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Last issue's winner: Colm McSweeney