



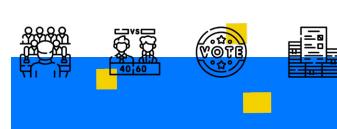


**BE HEARD: THE MTU SU** REFERENDUM

BOARD OF IRISH COLLEGE SOCS **AWARDS 2023** 

**MTU & HSE PROMOTE STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH** 

INTERNATIONAL **SOCIETY INTERVIEW** 



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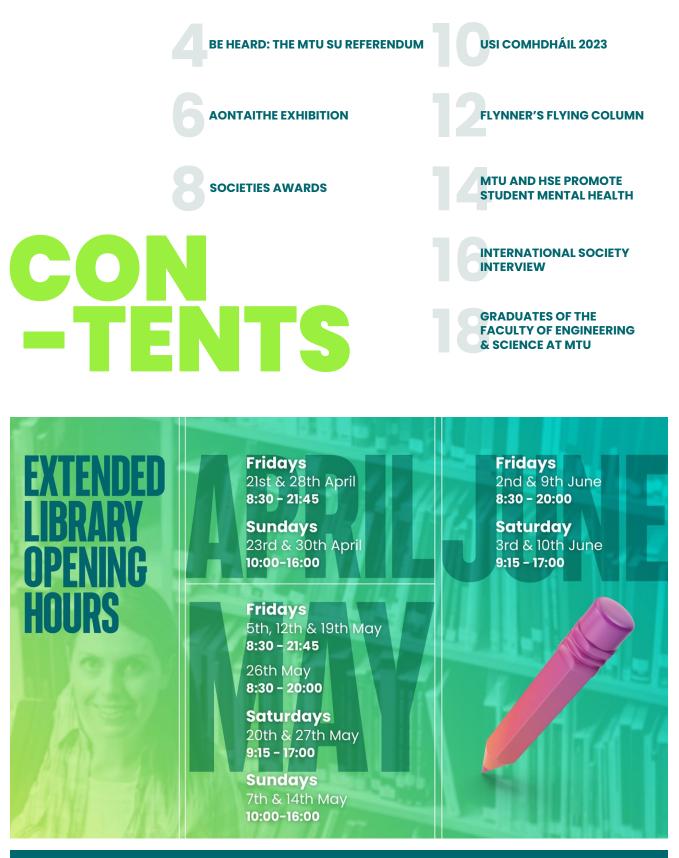
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### **MTU Cork SU**

YOU, the students will be asked to vote in the referendum to adopt an MTU SU constitution which will result in the merged MTU Students' Union.

# 

# <u>What is</u> a referendum?

A referendum is a vote on a specific question that is referred to the members of the Students' Union, you the students, for a direct decision.

# <u>What is this</u> referendum for?

The proposed MTU Students' Union Constitution is the subject of this referendum, which includes the merger of MTU Cork and MTU Kerry Students' Unions.

# <u>Why does it</u> <u>matter to me?</u>

As a member of MTU Cork Students' Union, your opinion matters, so we recommend that you use your voice and vote in the referendum.













# <u>If I vote YES,</u> <u>what will</u> <u>happen?</u>

If the referendum passes, the proposed MTU Students' Union Constitution will be adopted from the first of June 2024 and MTU Students' Union will be formed.



# <u>When, Where, </u> <u>& How?</u>

- Click on the voting link (to be published the day before voting)
- Use your ID number and requested identifiers to access the voting screen

Cast your vote by selecting **Yes** or **No.** 

Please exercise your right to vote – we look forward to a great turnout.









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**AONTAITHE** took place on the 17th of April at the MTU Gallery on the Grand Parade. The Exhibition was a collaboration between our students in the Crawford, NCAD, IADT, and LSAD. The purpose of this exhibition was to highlight the issues faced by creative students across our country and to show awareness for the lack of support from the government.









# Good Luck in your Exams & Wishing you a great Summer!

Firstly, WELL DONE on getting to the finish line for semester 2! You got through the ups and downs and the last hurdle is now in sight!

> We expect you're looking forward to chilling out and enjoying some fun times over the summer and we hope all your plans pan out.

### **MYCAREER HUB**

If you'd like to get organised and save time for when you get back to college next September, the MyCareer hub is open and available to access anytime from anywhere (for all those heading away!). There you'll find a CV Builder Tool, Job Search advice videos, an Interview prep tool and lots more! All you need to do if you haven't already registered with MyCareer, is to scan the QR code in the photo – follow the steps to set-up your account!

It's been great working with you during 2022-2023...the Careers Team thanks you for your positive engagement!

Annmarie, Maria, Mary Rose, Caitriona, Olga, Marta & Jenny

# UPCOMING JOBS FAIRS TO MEET EMPLOYERS

### JOBS EXPO CORK

Saturday, 20th May 2023, Cork City Hall – register on Eventbrite

### **GRADIRELAND SUMMER FAIR**

June 7th in the RDS in Dublin 11am-4pm, approx. 50 exhibitors from all sectors, many leading employers.

### **MTU CAREERS FAIR**

5th Oct. 2023, MTU Arena – up to 100+ regional employers (date for your diary).

# CLICK & CAREER

A STATE OF THE ART, ONLINE SUITE OF AI CAREER TOOLS **NOW AVAILABLE** TO YOU ON YOUR PHONE OR LAPTOP

Haven't got around to it yet or have forgotten your password? No Worries!





If you have already set up

a password to log in:

# Societies Avocieties

# MTU Cork Societies

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MTU Cork Campus was delighted to take part in the Board of Irish College Societies (BICS) National Awards 2023, which took place on Thursday 6 April at the Clayton Whites Hotel in Wexford. Many of MTU Cork Campuses Societies qualified for and attended the BICS awards this year, the following winning MTU Cork Campus Societies Awards.

We were delighted to enter 11 categories this year at BICS! Representing the MTU Cork Campus at BICS this year were:

International Student Society -Best Society (Academic/Cultural/ Social)

LGBT\* Society - Best Society (Charity/Civil) & Best Publicity Campaign

Glór Choral Society - Best Event

African & Caribbean Society - **Best** New Society

Start-Up Society - Best Intervarsity (Hack-a-thon Event)

Anime & Manga Society - Best Intervarsity (Cosplay Intervarsity)

Sharan Shaju - Best Individual

Zoe Lam - Best Fresher

Hannah Simmons - Best Poster

Aoife James - Best Photograph

Societies spent weeks working on their applications and portfolio which were submitted before they departed for Wexford on the morning of Thursday 6 April, where they each attended their respective interviews with a panel of judges. Afterwards, they attended Peer Review sessions hosted by our wonderful Societies Officer, Aoife Kelliher, where they got the opportunity to meet and network with other society members from other Colleges around Ireland.



Afterwards, it was time to glam up for the awards ceremony!

We are so delighted that Zoe Lam (1st year Creative Digital Media) from the International Student Society (Social Media Officer) and the Anime & Manga Society won Best Fresher (Small College), bringing home an award to MTU Cork Campus! Everyone was bursting with happiness and pride for her.

"This is my first year at BICS. Hopefully every year, I'll do even better for both myself and societies, and go beyond BICS!" I plan to join another committee position at the Design and Media Society, as it can help me to meet with students working in the same industry. I am also hopeful to have the opportunity to share my learned skill set with others who may be able to benefit from it while improving the environment for fellow design students." Zoe said on receiving her award.

Zoe also described how Societies has helped with her confidence and public speaking skills. "By participating in Societies, I got the opportunity to improve these skills by speaking in front of a large audience with diverse backgrounds and interests." Zoe has expressed interest in continuing in Societies, both in the International Students Society and Anime & Manga Society, where she hopes to create more impact within them. She has also expressed interest in joining the Design & Media society.

While MTU Cork Campus unfortunately didn't win any other categories, we were praised for our high quality of work and our societies are more determined then ever to come back to BICS next year and take home further wins!

The Societies Office would like to say a massive Thank You to all our societies, who every day, enhance the student experience here at the MTU Cork Campuses; Bishopstown, Crawford College of Art & Design, Cork School of Music & NMCI. In our eyes, you are all winners!

# Union of<br/>Students in<br/>Students in<br/>Ireland (USI)<br/>Comhdháil<br/>2023

# **MTU Cork SU**

From the 3rd to the 6th of April, your Students' Union attended the annual Comhdháil (Congress) in the Clayton Hotel, Sligo. This event is run every year by the Union of Students in Ireland and each third level institution has representatives known as delegates in attendance. MTU Cork's delegates were made up of your SU President Isobel Kavanagh, VP Education Oisín Gahan, VP Welfare Kelda McManus, alongside several students: Connor Cody (1st Year Mechanical Eng. Student), Alma Kraus (1st Year Home Ec & Business Teaching Student), Courtney English (1st Year Early Years Student), Stella Gilligan (2nd Year Theatre and Drama Studies Student), Kayley Glasheen (2nd Year Theatre and Drama Studies Student), Jennifer Garcia (PhD in Global Business), John O'Regan (2nd Year Sustainable Energy Eng. Student), Eva Corcoran (4th Year Early Years Student).

Between Monday and Thursday, your delegates attended many working groups and events where policies were passed for the students of Ireland on a variety of topics including Academic Affairs, Welfare, National and International Affairs, Equality and Citizenship, and voting on the new Executive of USI. It was an extremely rewarding week for everyone involved including the MTU Cork delegation and many positives were taken from the event. It was great to be a part of this event and positively influence change for the 374,000 students that USI represents across the island of Ireland. From this event, the policies and motions passed by the delegates present will become part of the USI policy book which the USI Executive team will implement over the next academic year.



# As always,

we in MTU Cork SU, greatly value working on a national level and with other Unions from across Ireland. This allows us to improve the capabilities of MTU Cork SU and offerings to MTU Cork students while having a platform to run campaigns and lobby the Government. Comhdháil requires a lot of time and dedication and we appreciate the efforts of the students who got involved to represent their fellow students with us, as part of our delegation at this event! What has been the most important referendum that the people of Ireland have voted in that has changed our lives in the past 30 years for the most profound? Divorce? Nice and Lisbon? Equality 2015? Repeal The Eighth 2018? Wrong. The most important referendum took place 25 years ago after successful negotiations to an end of 30 years of conflict and violence that was The Troubles.

### ] James Flynn

EXPLICIT MAG

six counties that would become the Irish Free State, later Republic of Ireland, while the remaining six counties that formed part of Ulster became Northern Ireland, remaining part of the United Kingdom with a London-sponsored Stormont-based Home Rule Government representing the Unionist/Loyalist majority, Protestants originating from the English Plantations, imposing a sectarian discriminatory regime on the native Catholic Nationalist/Republican minority for the next five decades.

From 1921 onwards, Ireland was partitioned into the twenty

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the 1960s, attempts by the nationalists to seek civil rights led to the conflict to erupt in 1968, exacerbated across the point of no return by the actions of the British Government and the antipathy of the Irish Government, leading to paramilitaries from both the Republican and Loyalist factions waging armed campaigns that led to 3,500 deaths and 40,000 injured, the conflict spreading across Ulster and into the Republic of Ireland, Britain and Europe for the next twenty-five years. Peace efforts by the Irish and British Governments and the parties of both sides of the divide began in earnest from the early 1980's onwards, leading to the Anglo-Irish Agreement in 1985, and through various but often tragic turning points, the 1988 Hume-Adams Talks and the Downing Street Declaration in 1993, by that year the demand for peace being imperative.

On August 31 1994, the IRA declared a ceasefire, the Loyalist Paramilitaries following suit on October 13th that year. Three and a half years of false starts, including the IRA returning to violence in 1996 but reinstating the ceasefire in July 1997, amid massive Loyalist unrest along that time, saw peace efforts and negotiations, overseen by US President Bill Clinton and US Senator George Mitchell and powered on by Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and British PM Tony Blair finally saw history being made in Stormont on April 10th 1998 with The Good Friday Agreement\*, which saw Peace come to the North and accommodations for all communities put in place, including Power-Sharing, Open Borders, Decommissioning and Sovereignty. (Even though the tragedy that was the Omagh Bombing by dissident Republicans of 15/08/1998 will always be the final bloody postscript.) The GFA referenda in both parts of Ireland saw unanimous results of support on May 22nd 1998, the first referendum I ever voted on (aged 20 and Yes Vote).

For the next 18 years this had the results of making Ulster politics boring but the only deal in town and people were able to overall get on with life without the gun in Irish politics looming. Meanwhile however, Blair would, along with the US Bush Administration, bring about the 2003 Iraq War, destabilising the Middle East to a whole new level that continues today, while, with Britain at the heart of the EU, erode its integrity with his right-on socio-economic policies, eventually passing on the baton onto Angela Merkel who knew how to continue such polices in her Teutonic manner, all along while Bertie in his mantra as FF leader used Ireland's position as the economic envy of Europe through the Celtic Tiger to sell out Ireland for the benefit of

his Golden Elite, manifesting itself via the 2008 Bank Guarantee, the 2009 Lisbon Treaty and finally the ruthless 2010 EU/IMF Bailout that saw Ireland lose its economic sovereignty indefinitely, by this time, Bertie and Blair having jumped ship. And then-US President Obama showed absolutely no empathy, let alone interest in Irish Affairs, while the EU continued to sell out its soul in the name of pragmatism.

Brexit, caused due to such policies on all sides, was the game-changer in all this. The **GFA\*** was the one obstacle that Britain had to contend with successfully if they were to make a clean break, while, much as powerful elements of the Irish elite wanted to see a Hard Border return for their own cynical interests, put the EU through crash-courses of what the GFA\* meant for peace in Ireland, Britain and Europe, the EU realising that what they did in 2010 to Ireland could and would not be repeated for the sake of what the European project that brought peace and prosperity to Europe since 1957 represented. The NI Protocol has managed to keep the peace and make all sides realise that whether in or out of the EU and whatever side in the Ulster divide one is on, working together is the only way forward, and it is significant that the US Government is back in it all seeing that stability is what is needed for global trade to prosper after all these turbulent years.

The GFA\* is flawed. Paramilitary prisoners have been released, and victims feel they have been cheated of justice. The Unionist/Loyalist Community, now the minority in NI, having voted for Brexit, are getting antagonised about feeling cut off from Britain, fuelled by the DUP and Loyalist Jamie Bryson's ridiculous and monotonous beliefs and intransigence, despite the Protocol having granted the best of both economic worlds. Investment on more social aspects remains at an all time low. But the main thing is that it kept peace for 25 years and it has never been more important to keep it going, especially with the original figures of the GFA\* - Hume, Paisley, Trimble and McGuinness – having passed on and the younger generations having no

memories of the past gone by.

The GFA\* also changed social aspects for generations across Ireland in more ways than one. In both jurisdictions, thanks to the Church-dominated cultures, abuses and taboos were able to flourish. But now new ways of thinking were in place, this enabled, when the times came and the structures came down, the referenda in favour of 2015 Marriage Equality and Repeal The Eighth 2018 delivering the results required for those historic milestones to go ahead. My memories at the 2017 USI Congress in Ennis saw a gay Belfast man cry on the podium for his desire for Equality to come to NI so he can marry his partner. This forced both Equality and Repeal to become realities soon afterwards, seeing that it was contradictory for the Unionists to demand equal Brexit status while maintaining laws similar to the past ones in the Republic that the old Stormont regime imposed as rigorously against fundamental human rights, ones that the rest of the UK have long dismantled.

My proudest moment on the podium in the Congress, the day before Britain triggered Article 16 and Brexit with it, was calling for all sides to defend the GFA\* as the alternative would be impossible to contemplate. And it is only good, despite it all for Ireland, Britain, the EU, the US and the NI Parties to continue to drive for peace and get the Assembly running again, however long Brexit lasts.. and it is testimony to the genius of Derry native Lisa McKee that the finale of Derry Girls is educating its importance of the **GFA\*** to schools across Ireland and Britain, something that the Brexiteers failed to paid heed to in the first place But peace in Ulster, Europe and indeed across the world, will only be finally possible when the late, great John Hume, commemorated with a statue in the EU Parliament, gets his words realised;

"The real division of Ireland is not a line drawn on a map but through the hearts and minds of its people."

# MTU and HSE promote student mental health

## $\mathbf{I}$ From the HSE

We are collaborating with the HSE on a campaign to raise awareness of common mental health difficulties among our student population. HSE research found that one in two adults had experienced a mental health issue.



Pictured at the official launch of this mental health student literacy campaign L-R are: Kelda Mc Manus, VP Welfare, Student's Union, Norma Deasy, HSE Campaigns Manager, Michael Hennessy, HSE Service Improvement Lead Mental Health, Prof Maggie Cusack, MTU President, Thomas Broderick, Lecturer, Sport, Leisure & Childhood Studies Department, Dr Honor Carroll, MTU Head of Student Counselling, Keith Brown, MTU Digital Officer and Michael Loftus, MTU Vice President for External Affairs MTU President, Professor Maggie Cusack, said "We are delighted to join with the HSE and the Students Union to raise awareness of the Your Mental Health campaign. At MTU, our students are the heart of our university, and we are committed to doing everything we can to support their mental health and wellbeing. The practical messages promoted through this campaign will ensure our students are informed and empowered to make better decisions around their mental health as they journey through MTU."

Head of Student Counselling for MTU Cork, Dr. Honor Carroll, highlighted how "fostering a culture of mental health awareness is a key factor in the wellbeing of individual students as they progress through MTU. Along with the HSE's **yourmentalhealth.ie** we have mental health and other support services for **Cork** and **Kerry** including our online peer support platform, digital mental health programmes, and the text 'MTU' to 50808 service, all of which are free and accessible to all MTU students and staff 24/7."



Mark Smyth, HSE senior clinical psychologist, said "If young people can spot small things in themselves that are starting to persistently bother them, seeking advice and support as soon as they become aware of them can really help. This isn't always easy as the busyness of life can distract young people from the impact that low mood, stress, anxiety and lack of sleep can have on them. If students become aware of their thoughts and feelings, the information on yourmentalhealth.ie or on and through MTU's supports can help them to understand the effects on them and to find solutions. Recognising the signs and their effects before they deteriorate can empower students to take control and seek support early on. The HSE research found that young people between the ages of 18 and 24 were more likely than all other ages to search for help online and from text services.

"What also helps students is knowing that they are not the only one who worries a lot or are feeling down because of a relationship or an exam result. Knowing many other students experience the same stress and anxieties and have the same low or sad feelings makes getting support seem less daunting. I'd encourage students to share their feelings with family and friends, knowing that mental health affects us all. For those who are not ready to talk to someone else, the online supports such as mindfulness, CBT or a stress control programme may suit some students."

The HSE's research also found that many people reported that sleep is key for maintaining positive mental health and equally that problems with sleep contribute to poor mental health. Mark Smyth added that "Keeping an eye on one's sleep pattern is essential. Students are juggling different aspects of academic life and need energy. Sleep gives their bodies, brains and minds time to take a rest, recharge and get strength for tomorrow. If any students have gotten into a habit of staying up late and want to change this, try starting with pulling it back by fifteen minutes a night."

He advises practical help for students "by focussing on four items, try getting some daily exercise - not running marathons or half marathons, just a light activity that you enjoy. Eat a relatively healthy diet, often when students are stressed they tend to eat fast food or they forget to eat. Try to keep to a healthy sleep pattern and finally being around other people really helps too. You can mix these up by meeting a friend for lunch on the college's spacious campuses. While these techniques may not make you extremely happy immediately, they will assist in improving your mental health to perhaps finding contentment."

Thomas Broderick, MTU Lecturer Sport, Leisure and Childhood Studies and Wellbeing Podcaster has recorded a podcast with Mark Smyth focussing on student mental health and is available <u>here</u>

### What is the International Students Society?

Our society is a group of students dedicated to introducing Irish culture and traditions to the many International Students of MTU, while creating opportunities for International and Irish students to share their cultures with each other.

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### Tell us about your activities?

Our activities vary largely, from social nights to oncampus events, and trips all around Ireland. Some of our stand out activities from this year would include our Irish culture night, our overnight trip to Galway, and our charity pub quiz.

# You have been named MTU Society of the Year – how does that feel?

It feels absolutely amazing to know that our contribution to our community and to MTU as a whole was enough to be considered for this title. We are especially grateful to our wonderful members who made this possible. There were many fantastic societies in the running this year, so being able to take the reins of one of MTU's longest running societies and giving it a win was a great experience.





Societies are a great space for creative, enthusiastic students to grow their ideas and seek people with similar interests.

Societies are student-led, which means the ideas and the planning come from Student Committees, who are funded and supported by the Societies Office.

# International Society

**Incerve** 



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### Tell us about your BICS experience.

Being able to represent our university and our members at a national level was an amazing experience. We were able to learn about lots of different activities and events done by other societies from around the country and we're brainstorming now as to how we can implement them here in MTU.

Though we didn't take home the crown, we're glad to have been competing in the first place, and we won't stop striving to do our best.

### Any upcoming plans for the Society?

We have some events set in motion for the coming weeks, so make sure to keep your eyes peeled! However, the main thing we have coming up is our Inaugural International Ball which we are hoping to host on May, 20th. (It ought to be a ball!)

# What challenges do you see for international students coming here?

Beyond the fact that just deciding to go abroad is a feat on its own, the international students who come to MTU often struggle with trying to fit in a brand new country, while managing cultural differences and language barriers.

We try to combat this by providing ample opportunities for our members to mingle, at a reduced price; we don't want to break the bank.

# Why should students join your society?

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Our society allows for students from around the world to get to know each other and to get to know Ireland. Whether you're from another country, or a Cork local, joining our society and attending our events is a great opportunity to learn from each other (Almost always for very cheap!).

What is the best way for students to get in contact with you?

Students can reach out to us on Instagram (@iss\_mtucork) or at our email (isscork@mtusocieties.ie), where we are always willing to answer queries.



MTU AWARD WINNER SOCIETY OF THE YEAR MTU International Student Society



Engineers Ireland Cork Region Graduate Awards for Academic Excellence in their respective Engineering Disciplines - All students from the Faculty of Engineering & Science MTU.

# **Graduates of the**Engineering **Faculty of Engineering & Science at MTU**



CIARAN DALY MEng in Mechanical Engineering



LEON DOMONEY BEng (Hons) in Sustainable Energy Engineering



SARAH SMYTH MEng in Structural Engineering



COLM CARMODY BEng (Hons) in Electronic



PATRICK HODNETT BEng (Hons) in Electrical Engineering Engineering



FINBAR REANEY BEng (Hons) in Advanced Manufacturing Technology



RUTH GALVIN BEng (Hons) in Process Plant Technology



KATE KEARNS MEng in Biomedical Engineering



SANDRA DINAN BEng (Hons) in Chemical & Biopharmaceutical Engineering





\* ID required when purchasing Student or Young Adult Ticket search TFI Go App \*\* Route 226 is Valid to Cork Airport only





Winners of the Graduate Studies Office Postgraduate Research Writing Competition

Congratulations to the winners of the Graduate Studies Office Postgraduate Research Writing Competition. MTU President, Prof Maggie Cusack, spoke and presented the prize winners at the Presidents Coffee Morning for Postgraduate Research Students event recently. Students were asked to submit a written article of no more than 500 words, the writing to take on any form, but the piece to be original, solely the work of the author and not published anywhere else in any format. A judging panel assessed the entries on the basis of three judging criteria: content, clarity and creativity.

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** Dr.Ellen Twomey pictured with Prof Maggie Cusack



### THE WINNERS OF THE COMPETITION WERE:

In 3rd place, with an entry entitled 'Spotify for Genetic Engineering' is Daniel Keaney, a PhD candidate in the Department of Biological Sciences. Drawing parallels with the world of music streaming and sampling, Daniel describes his research to develop a Mars-proof E. coli with the goal of detoxing Martian soils so that one day we can grow crops on Mars.

In 2nd place, with an entry entitled 'An investigation into the provision of trauma awareness training in the Irish Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) profession', is Catherine Sheehan, a PhD candidate in the Department of Sport, Leisure and Childhood Studies. In her submission, Catherine argues cogently and effectively regarding the importance of trauma awareness training for Early Childhood Education and Care practitioners.

In 1st place, the winning entry entitled 'Extra! Extra! A New Contender Enters the Ring! Staphylococcus aureus vs Bacteriocins' is Dr. Ellen Twomey, in the Department of Biological Sciences, who was recently ratified at Academic Council in February. In her essay, Ellen describes the ongoing fight to develop effective therapies to fight Staphylococcus aureus, an infectioncausing bacteria resistant to antibiotics and predicted to be responsible for approximately 100,000 deaths annually. Written in the style of sports journalism, Ellen reports on the ongoing fight between the new contender 'nisin', a bacteriocin against the currently undefeated champion Staphylococcus aureus.

At the coffee morning, the Graduate Studies Office launched a digital booklet entitled - **'A snapshot of Postgraduate Research 2023'** a compendium comprised of competition submissions from across all domains of MTU research. This compendium presents, in the words of our students, a fascinating snapshot of research being undertaken in MTU today. The booklet may be viewed by following this link <u>'A</u> **snapshot of Postgraduate Research 2023'** on the MTU Postgraduate Research webpage.



2<sup>nd</sup> Place Catherine Sheehan



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place** Daniel Keaney

Congratulations to the winners and to all who entered the competition and sincere thanks to the judging panel; Dr. Breda Dwyer, Head of CEED and Senior Lecturer in Entrepreneurship and Regional Sustainability, Kerry Campus; Professor John Barrett, NIMBUS Research Centre and Dr. Catherine Frehill, Dept of Physical Sciences, for their time and expertise in judging this competition.

# Cork School of Music's Fleischmann library 'The Listening Spot' Original artwork competition

### **ART COMPETITION**

As always student involvement is central to what MTU Library does and that is why we are giving all MTU students, the opportunity to be part of this exciting project and create a permanent, inspiring piece of artwork for future generations of students.

For more competition details, visit the **Fleischmann Library** page on the MTU Library webpage.

Cork School of Music's Fleischmann library has big plans for the development of its library space and resources. Always looking to provide the best facilities for students and staff in a user-friendly environment. Work is already underway to create a dedicated listening space, **'The Listening Spot'**. The Listening Spot will be a focal point for students to progress in their personal and academic development, as well as a great place to chill out and listen to the best music across multiple genres.

### PRIZE

The winner of **'The Listening Spot'** competition will receive a cash prize of **€300** and the winning design will be unveiled at the opening event in October.

### **CLOSING DATE**

With a busy schedule ahead in semester 2, it has been decided to extend the competition's closing date to **31st May 2023**.



The competition is being run in association with MTU Teaching and Learning Unit.

# Congrats,

to our own Kelda Mac for her successful campaign to become Vice President for the Southern Region with **Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn** (USI).

# WINNING WITH

# **Crocs, Socks & Attitude**

