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WELCOME

Welcome to the second issue of OVPTL News, the quarterly newsletter of the Office of the Vice-President for Teaching & Learning (OVPTL). Through this newsletter I hope to share with you some of the exciting work that is going on in Teaching & Learning at UCC. Detailed information on activities in Adult Continuing Education can be found at www.ucc.ie/en/ace.

The mission of the Office of the Vice-President for Teaching & Learning is to encourage a research enhanced teaching and learning environment for the benefit of our staff and students. To this end we have been involved in a wide range of activities in recent months.

UCC online has launched 7 new courses for the 2015/2016 academic year. These include the Online Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, the first fully online course to be offered by our own Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning (formerly Ionad Bairre). This adds to the portfolio of courses on teaching and learning offered by CIRTL, which are provided to staff at UCC as well as externally.

The OVPTL is actively involved in research on the scholarship of teaching and learning and has been part of successful bids for EU funding for a number of projects in recent months. Through our involvement with these projects we will partner with a wide range of national and international institutions.

The OVPTL has also been successful in securing funding for a number of other research projects through national competitive funding calls, further information on which I am delighted to share with you in this newsletter.

Support for technology enhanced learning at UCC continues and we are delighted to announce that the world-renowned Prof. Sugata Mitra will visit UCC in December to present his work on the pioneering 'Hole in the Wall' experiments.

In 2016 we will launch a centre for CPD at UCC which will consolidate the provision of professional education by UCC. This Centre will be part of the OVPTL and will provide central access to CPD at UCC and provide a CPD brand for all professional development courses.

We have also embarked on a body of work on the provision of teaching and learning space at UCC. This work will provide guidelines for the provision of space across our campus through consultation with students and staff.

This year also we welcome 17 new Quercus scholars to this successful programme which is now in its second year.

Professor John O'Halloran
Vice-President for Teaching & Learning
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Find out more about us at www.ucc.ie/teachlearn



President's Awards

DIGITAL LEARNING AT UCC

Following on from the approved new structure of the Online Learning Instructional Design team announced in the first edition of OVPTL News in July, Sophie Gahan has joined the team as our new Instructional Designer. Sophie started with us on November 2nd and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience acquired during her time at commercial eLearning companies. We are delighted to have Sophie working with us and hope she will enjoy her time in UCC. For further information on the supports available for digital learning please visit www.ucc.ie/en/teachlearn/tel/.

UCC Online

September 7th saw UCC launch 7 new OVPTL supported online courses (below), bringing to 24 the total number of online courses offered by UCC. The Office of Vice President for Teaching & Learning now directly supports 15 online courses across all four colleges. Further information is available at www.ucc.ie/en/online.

As part of our growth strategy, the OVPTL undertook a digital marketing assessment in August of 2015 to explore how we could best market our online offerings and subsequently ran a 10-day digital marketing campaign. The campaign included: Search Engine Optimisation; display advertising; advertising on the UCC homepage and postgraduate page; Linked-In, Facebook and social media advertising; Course

spotlight in existing newsletters at UCC. As this is a period where an increase in web traffic related to online education would be expected due to enrolments for the forthcoming academic year, the results of this campaign were compared with activity in January and February 2015 and showed a 40 fold increase in visitors to the website, a 20 fold increase in page views and corresponding reductions of 46% and 71% in time spent on the site and the bounce rate, respectively. The period of the digital campaign saw a huge increase in traffic which can largely be attributed to the advertising spend. Following on from this campaign, the OVPTL are working with the Office of Marketing and Communications to develop a strategic approach to future marketing of UCC's online courses

Launched in September 2015

- MA Work Organisation Behaviour
- MA in Gaelic Literature
- PG Cert in T&L in Higher Education
- MA Strategic Studies
- PG Diploma in Health Economics Practice
- MA Digital Cultures
- MA Digital Music & Media Composition

Lecture by Prof. Sugata Mitra

Educational researcher and winner of the 2013 Ted Prize, Sugata Mitra is Professor of Educational Technology at the School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences at Newcastle University, England. He is best known for his "Hole in the Wall" experiment, which helped to bring the potential for self-organised learning to the global stage.

Education innovator Sugata Mitra has accepted an invitation from the OVPTL to visit UCC and talk to us about his views on the future of education. This event will take place on December 10th and is an opportunity to hear the somewhat controversial views of a world renowned speaker on education. Watch this space for more details.



Exciting work continues with Wiley on operation and programme planning, with a view to commencing our new Master of Public Health online in May 2016. Online marketing of this programme will begin in the coming weeks. Three other programmes - MScs in Occupational Health, Nursing and a BSc Nursing (Top Up), are also in development for launch in September 2016.

CENTRE FOR CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

To date Continued Professional Development (CPD) at UCC has been delivered through Adult Continuing Education (ACE), Graduate Studies Office and through individual Colleges and Academic Units. In 2014 responsibility for the development of centralised CPD at UCC was assigned to the Vice President for Teaching & Learning. A number of initiatives have taken place to review the CPD model and to determine how best to deliver CPD and increase income and engagement with professionals and graduates for UCC.

These included a review of existing relevant CPD offerings, an international benchmarking exercise, and a UCC-wide workshop and consultation. The outcome of this process was a roadmap for the

development of a central hub to support CPD at UCC, which will be implemented over the coming months. A new Centre for CPD will provide a central hub for the provision of courses, providing a central marketing and access point and a central web portal.

CPD is the systematic maintenance, improvement and broadening of knowledge, skills and competencies, and the development of personal and professional qualities, necessary for the execution of professional duties throughout the practitioner's working life

The Centre is being created with a view to developing a strong CPD brand at UCC and increasing market

visibility. All existing CPD at UCC will be accessible through the Centre, and all new courses will be developed in line with the Centre guidelines. The centre will be led by a directorate, comprised of representatives of the Office of the Vice-President for Teaching & Learning, of the four Colleges and others where relevant.

The objective of CPD provision at UCC is engagement with the life-long learning community. CPD offerings will be income-generating and may be profession-specific or develop generic professional skills. All CPD will be underpinned by quality review and assurance for accredited and non-accredited courses at College or School Level, as appropriate.

TEACHING EXPERT AWARDS 2015

Learning Impact Awards

The National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching & Learning Teaching Expert awards aim to identify expert teachers who are models for excellence in teaching and whose knowledge about learning impact is strong and evidence based.

There was a total of 35 nominations for these awards, of which 11 individuals were short-listed to go forward to Stage 2. Two staff members from UCC are included in this short list: Dr Orla Murphy, School of English, and Dr Ciara O'Toole, Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences.

Further information can be found at <http://www.teachingandlearning.ie/teaching-experts-shortlist/>

NATIONAL FORUM FUNDING FOR DIGITAL LEARNING PROJECTS

The National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching & Learning has recently announced the results of Phase 1 of the review of proposals in response to the call for proposals under its 'Driving Enhancement of Digital Capacity for Impact in Irish Higher Education' initiative.

We are delighted to announce that, of the 14 projects selected to go through to Phase 2, UCC is the lead partner on two and is collaborating on a further three projects.

Dr. Pat Meere, School of BEES, is leading a proposal on The Geoscience e-Laboratory (GeLAB): Developing Digital Teaching and Learning Resources for the Virtual Microscope. This project seeks to develop open-access teaching and learning resources in the form of interactive exercises and assessment rubrics for the virtual microscope and to explore the potential application of the virtual microscope and teaching and learning resources to other scientific disciplines, particularly the biological and physical sciences.

The second project is led by Tom O'Mara, Office of the Vice-President for Teaching & Learning. This project will continue the work begun under Phase 1 of the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund, and bring together expertise attained in Southern Cluster Higher Education Institutes around the area of building digital literacy capacity among staff and more effective engagement with students through online tools.

Project teams will present their project plans to the National Forum's international selection panel in Dublin in November, following which approved projects will be announced.

The Office of the Vice-President for Teaching & Learning has overall responsibility for UCC's response to this call and is coordinating submissions from UCC.

For further information on National Forum funded research at UCC visit the dedicated OVPTL research project web page at: www.ucc.ie/en/teachlearn/tel/research

VISIT TO CHINA BY VICE-PRESIDENT FOR TEACHING & LEARNING

Vice-President John O'Halloran represented UCC on a recent visit to China to promote the Genius of George Boole at the Irish Consulate and in the Irish Embassy in Beijing with the Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O'Sullivan.

Prof. O'Halloran also represented UCC at the 16th China Annual Conference for International Education while there. This is the premier Chinese expo for international education and a wonderful opportunity to promote the high quality education opportunities at UCC. During this event Ireland took over from New Zealand as the country of honour for

China Education Expo 2016. During her acceptance speech Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O'Sullivan cited UCC and George Boole as an example of the global impact of technology in education brought about by the Irish Higher Education Sector.

During his to China, Prof. O'Halloran also met with a number of UCC's university partners in Beijing, including those whose staff have taken part in the Teaching & Learning courses at UCC such as Beijing Institute of Science and Technology (BISTU). He also visited Renmin University of China (pictured right), one of the top universities in

China who wish to collaborate with UCC on Teaching & Learning.



Prof. John O'Halloran with Prof. Tian Hongjie, Director of the Centre for Teaching Development at Renmin University of China

NEW RESEARCH PROJECT TO IMPROVE STAFF AND STUDENT CAPACITY IN RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

A new research project is underway at UCC under the EC Horizon 2020 Programme for making science education and careers attractive for young people. The Principal Investigators on this project at UCC are Dr. Catherine O'Mahony, Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning and Dr. Kenneth Burns, School of Applied Social Studies.

The EnRRICH project (Enhancing Responsible Research and Innovation through Curricula in Higher Education) is co-ordinated by Vrije Universiteit, Brussels, and was launched in Cambridge in July 2015. The project has a budget of €1.5 million, involves 13 partners across 10 countries, and will run from July 2015 until December 2017.

The EnRRICH project will build the capacity of staff in higher education to facilitate their students' development of knowledge and skills

relating to responsible research and innovation (RRI), to and respond to society's research needs, particularly under-served civil society organisations (CSOs).



Members of the EnRRICH project team, pictured at the project launch in July

It will do this through the identification, development, testing, and dissemination of teaching and learning resources, based on existing good practice and trialling of new initiatives, and embed these in academic curricula across Europe, with specific reference to science and engineering. Case studies will be developed which showcase examples

for students, professional trainers, teachers and academic staff of HEIs.

Through dialogue with academics, policymakers, and CSOs, EnRRICH will kick start debates at institutional, national and international levels to create awareness of, and enhance the policy context for, RRI in curricula and thereby produce more socially responsible and responsive graduates and researchers. Project deliverables will include case studies and policy papers, and teaching and learning resources for academic staff to involve students in experiential learning about RRI, including projects in partnership with CSOs.



Find out more about this project at www.enrich.eu

QUERCUS NEWS

The Quercus Talented Students Programme (www.ucc.ie/en/quercus) is now in its second year and we are delighted to welcome 17 new Quercus Scholars (pictured below) to UCC. This brings the total number of Quercus Scholars at UCC to 37 across the four Colleges. Two Quercus scholars graduated this Autumn.



Quercus Sports Scholars Amy O'Connor (left) and John Power (right) have had wonderful success at national level. Congratulations to Amy on Cork's fantastic win in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie final against Galway. This is Amy's second senior All-Ireland medal. Amy has also represented her country in soccer, being part of the first ever Irish Women's under 19 team to qualify for the UEFA Women's European Championships in 2014. Congratulations also to John Power on Kilkenny's All Ireland Final win over Galway. This is also John's second senior All-Ireland medal, having been on the victorious Kilkenny side again in 2014. He has also previously won a minor All-Ireland with Kilkenny in 2010.



World Suicide Prevention Day was on Thursday 10th September 2015. Congratulations to Quercus Active Citizen Scholar, Roisín Fox, on helping to organise the Paddle Against Suicide, an event for this day. Cork Dragons and Cycle Against Suicide joined forces to host this event on the Boardwalk in Cork City, to raise awareness, and share the message that 'it's ok not to feel ok; and that it's absolutely ok to ask for help'.

Roisín was supported on the night by many other Quercus Scholars (right), including Alan Hayes who performed his song Survivor at the event.



Quercus Scholars 2015/16 pictured at the Quercus Induction Day: Back row L-R Aidan Marnane, Calvin O'Callaghan, Conor Arkins, James McGlynn, Jennifer Chadwick, William Ormond, Cian Gallagher, Alan Hayes and Séafra Guilfoyle. Front row L-R Ann-Christin Bloch, Kaumal Baig Mirza, Sarah Jameel, Chris Mintern, Sam Grace, Alex Whelan and Rob Kerle. Missing from the picture is Kilkenny Hurler, John Power, who had to leave early in anticipation of the All Ireland Hurling Final 3 days later!!

TEACHING & LEARNING SPACE AT UCC

Teaching and learning spaces in university campuses around the world are evolving and moving away from traditional lecture theatres which were focused on teacher-centred delivery of information. The demands on our learning space are shifting towards those that are more relevant to learner-centred models. Modern teaching methods include active learning, where students learn by engagement in activities such as group work, reading, writing, discussion, and problem solving that promote analysis and evaluation of class content. Modern teaching technologies range from those widely employed such as PowerPoint, lecture capture and student Wi-Fi access, to emerging technologies such as audience response systems videoconferencing, and interactive white boards. While the space required at universities reflects these new pedagogies and technologies, so too is their implementation governed by the availability of suitable learning spaces.

Investment in learning spaces has a positive impact on learning outcomes in higher education, and a number of initiatives have been undertaken by the Office of the Vice-President for Teaching & Learning to address this opportunity at UCC.

A strategic group on teaching and learning space has been convened to support the teaching and learning

ambitions of UCC. This group is chaired by the Vice-President for Teaching & Learning, Prof John O'Halloran and met for the first time on October 5th 2015. Membership includes representatives from the OVPTL, Student Experience, Information Services, Buildings & Estates, Disability Support Services, the Students Union and each of the four Colleges.

The mission of this group is to harness knowledge, evidence and awareness to create a platform from which to deliver next-generation teaching and learning spaces in recognition of the pedagogical shift that has occurred in educational environments in teaching and learning spaces for students and for staff

The most important characteristics of university learning spaces that directly affect learning outcomes and student experience are:

- Flexibility of learning space
- Support for diverse pedagogies
- Support for educational technologies
- Quality of physical space

In order to assess these factors across the UCC campus, and to assess our space in terms of the capacity to support effective teaching and learning **a review of all teaching and learning spaces** was undertaken in the summer of 2015. While learning environments in

the 21st century include online and virtual environments as well as informal learning spaces and specialised learning spaces such as laboratories, this study focussed on physical on-campus learning spaces that are centrally bookable. The objective of the learning space review was to assess the status of all centrally bookable teaching rooms in UCC in relation to their teaching and learning capacity and experience, and to evaluate their physical condition and the adequacy of the instructional technology. This will help to inform the design and implementation of upgrades and of new learning spaces at UCC to provide the best teaching and learning spaces possible in terms of learning environment, classroom furniture, educational technology and comfort.

A key factor in the design of appropriate learning spaces is the input from a wide variety of students, teaching and learning professional staff, facilities staff, and security and maintenance professionals. The best learning spaces are those that reflect the current and future needs of staff and students. Therefore the next steps in this work will be to undertake **surveys of student and staff perceptions of learning space** and learning technologies currently available at UCC to get a picture of their views on learning spaces to support current pedagogies and technologies.

PRESIDENT'S AWARDS FOR TEACHING & LEARNING 2015

A number of UCC staff were honoured for their outstanding contributions to the 'Excellence of Teaching & Learning' at an awards ceremony in October. Dr Michael Murphy, President of UCC, who presented the awards praised the recipients for their dedication and encouraged staff to consider proposing a colleague in the 2016 call for nominations.

The recipients of the 2015 awards were Dr Robbie Butler (School of Economics), Dr Claire Murray & Dr Seán Ó Conaill (School of Law; Pictured right with Dr Michael Murphy, President of UCC), Dr Seamus O'Mahony (School of Food & Nutritional Science) and Dr Theresa Reidy (Department of Government).



UCC WELCOMES CHINESE SCHOLARS



We are delighted to welcome 22 Chinese scholars (right) to UCC's Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning (CIRTL) for the 2015-16 academic year. They will undertake a course in English Language Development and in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education while also networking with colleagues in their cognate disciplines. Currently, there are 11 scholars from IMUFE, 4 from BISTU, and 7 from ANHUI universities on accredited programmes.

Furthermore, CIRTL, in conjunction with the Language Centre and the International Office, has developed a new programme for visiting Chinese and other lecturers. Further information can be found on the website at www.ucc.ie/en/teachlearn/cirtl/vislec/

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR UCC STAFF AT CIRTL (Centre for the Integration of Teaching & Learning)

Online Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

CIRTL is delighted to put forward the first fully online course in teaching and learning in higher education in any university in Ireland for third-level staff who teach. There are now 84 members of staff, primarily from UCC, on this programme. We welcome 8 colleagues from other institutes who are also taking part. Participants will take two modules over the course of the academic year: TL 6003, Theories of Teaching, Learning and Assessment and TL 6004, Practice Approaches to Teaching, Learning and Assessment. UCC is also the only university in the country where over 60% of staff hold a qualification in teaching and learning in higher education. The director of the programme is Dr Marian McCarthy and she is supported in this venture by the following CIRTL Fellows: Dr Brian Butler, Daniel Blackshields, Dr Ciaran Dawson, Dr Tracey Connolly, Dr Declan Kennedy, Dr Eleanor O'Sullivan and Dr Anna Ridgway. The programme is much enhanced by the stellar work of Instructional Designer, Claire Fennell, and by the dedication and administrative support of Mary Clohessy.

Certified Programmes for Staff

We are again happy to report that we have 24 staff taking the Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education and 14 staff taking the current Masters programme, while 7 staff, will shortly present to the Winter Board. Dr Marian McCarthy directs these programmes and is supported by a team of CIRTL Fellows and Mary Clohessy, administrator.

Certified Programmes for Postgraduate Students

CIRTL welcomes the new co-ordinator, James Cronin, to these programmes. There are 43 postgraduate students taking the PG 6003 module, An Introduction to Teaching and Learning for Graduate Studies, in this academic year and 12 students will take the PG 6012, Scholarly readings in Teaching and Learning. James is supported in this role by the following CIRTL Fellows, Daniel Blackshields and Jacinta McKeon and by the Director, Dr Marian McCarthy.

Courses for Research Staff

CIRTL is to develop new initiatives for research staff in consultation with Prof. John O' Halloran, Dr Mark Jessopp, Dr Catherine O' Mahony and Dr Marian McCarthy. To date, CIRTL has run a successful programme annually for research staff who are also welcome to take the online postgraduate certificate in teaching and learning in higher education.

Information on CPD courses for UCC staff can be found at www.ucc.ie/en/teachlearn/cirtl/staff.

NATIONAL FORUM FUNDING SEMINAR SERIES 2015/2016

We are delighted to announce the National Forum Seminar Series for 2015/16. Funding for a Seminar Workshop has been secured by Dr Rosarii Griffin (right) in relation to 'Technology supported approaches to providing feedback on student academic writing' from the National Forum in Teaching and Learning. This seminar will take place in June 2016.

This follows on from National Forum funding to host seminar on 'Transitioning Critical Skills and Research Knowledge when working with the Adult Learner and Mature Student: Teaching and Learning Perspectives', secured by Dr Griffin, which took place in last May. Support for this was afforded by Colette McKenna, Valerie King (Library Staff) with other UCC colleagues.



TEACHEX – TEACHING EXCELLENCE IN ISRAEL

The Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning is part of the successful bid for the Erasmus TEACHEX project. TEACHEX is a large international project conceived to contribute to the continuous professional development of academic staff by offering adequate support structures (Centers for Teaching Excellence) and innovative, high-quality, flexible programs designed to promote better teaching and therefore enhanced learning. This new project has 16 international partners and will run for three years from October 2015. Dr McCarthy will travel to Israel for the first meeting of the project in November.

BOOLE, MATHS, MALAWI AND UCC CONNECTIONS

UCC Strategic Research Funded Malawi Visit - September 2015



Funded through UCC's Strategic Fund, Dr Rosarii Griffin (Chair of CREATE) and Ms Colette Cunningham visited Mzuzu University in Malawi in September 2015 on behalf of the UCC-CRESTE team. CREATE committee members include Prof. Ivan Perry, Ms Colette Cunningham, Prof. Tony Ryan, Dr Jacqui O'Riordan, Dr Patricia Leahy-Warren, Caroline O'Connor, Dr Patrick Henn, Ms Amy O'Flynn and Mr Patrick Kiely. The purpose of the visit was to further links between the two universities in relation to staff capacity building. UCC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Mzuzu University in 2012 as part of an EUFP7 €3.5 'Supporting Life' project. Rosarii's visit in was a great success and the resulting report will form the basis of further teaching, learning and research capacity building linkages between UCC and MZUNI, Malawi. It is hoped to leverage further funding through ESTHER and the Wellcome Trust, fulfilling one of the aims of UCC's Strategic Plan (2015-2019).

UCC Boole Legacy lives on in Malawi

During her research visit to Malawi, Dr Rosarii Griffin worked with Professor Fr John Ryan (Kiltegan Father from Thurles), who is a UCC Mathematics graduate and former student of UCC Emeriti Professors Desmond MacHale and Patrick Fitzpatrick. This year, in keeping with the bi-centenary of the birth of George Boole, Professor Fr John Ryan opened a Spiritual Centre in Malawi called the 'Chombe Boole Research Centre (CBRC) (www.mzuzu.org). Eerily similar to Professor George Boole (UCC's first Professor of Mathematics), Professor Fr John Ryan was not only the first lecturer to be appointed to MZUNI, but also the first Professor of Mathematics at the University of Mzuzu, demonstrating that UCC's Boole legacy lives on and is far reaching, including Malawi at the heart of Africa.



PILOTING OF A UNIVERSITY-WIDE MODULE FOR UCC UNDERGRADUATES

Dr Rosarii Griffin (PI) coordinated a consortium that was awarded National Forum Seed Funding to create an undergraduate university-wide module on 'An Introduction to Academic Writing, Research Skills and Digital Literacy'. This is currently being piloted by the School of Applied Social Science. This UCC-Led HEI consortium is an important Cross-College initiative involving the following members (names highlighted in italics are teaching on the pilot module): Dr

Rosarii Griffin; Prof George Shorten, Dr Siun O'Flynn, Prof Brian Dooley, *Dr Mike Cosgrave*, Prof. Alistair Christie; Dr Eileen Hogan; *Dr Jacqui O'Riordan*, Dr Angela Veale; Dr Patrick Henn; *Dr John Mackrill*; *Dr Eileen O'Leary*; *Dr Patricia Leahy-Warren*, *Caroline O'Connor*, Prof. Ivan Perry; *Colette Cunningham*, Dr Edward Lahiff and Library Staff: Colette McKenna, Valerie King, *Ger Prendergast*, *Ronan Madden*, Catherine Clehane, Dr Piaras MacEinri, Tom O' Mara and Patrick Kiely. The pilot

programme will be externally evaluated by Dr Laura Regan (UL). It is hoped that this module will be available for all new undergraduates by 2016. It is thanks to all the UCC-HEI consortium partners and dedicated individuals (including those aforementioned and Dr Cathal O'Connell and Dr Fiona Dukelow) that this pilot is taking place. We thank the National Forum and Dr Terry Maguire for funding this important initiative.