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## WELCOME



Welcome to OVPTL eNews, the quarterly newsletter of the Office of the Vice-President for Teaching and Learning. This is my final newsletter as Vice-President for Teaching and Learning, a position that I have proudly held since 2014. During this time we have worked to continually enhance learning and teaching at UCC and to improve the supports that we provide to staff and students.

In this issue we celebrate the graduation of the latest cohort of students on the accredited certificates and diplomas in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. We welcome a new group of twenty talented students who were awarded Quercus Talented Programme Studentships, supported by Ford, at the Annual Awards Gala in December.

I am delighted to announce the launch of two new initiatives in learning and teaching. The first is the launch of Digital Badges at UCC. Digital badges are offered by many of the world's top ranked universities as students increasingly seek recognition for non-accredited extra-curricular contributions made during their studies. These are now offered at UCC, where they can be issued to staff or students and refer directly to the university's seven essential values of Creativity, Responsiveness, Transparency, Scholarship, Freedom of Expression, Integrity, Equality, Diversity and Respect.

The second exciting new initiative is a new research fund to support small teaching and learning projects across all disciplines in the university. The Teaching and Learning Research and Enhancement Fund offers financial support to teaching staff who wish to explore innovative pedagogies or technologies to enhance student learning where funds are not available locally for these activities.

As part of our ongoing work on innovative learning spaces, we recently unveiled a new self-service library studio where staff or students can avail of a one touch automated system to record video presentations directly to USB keys. As I leave this Office I look forward to the continued developments in this area by all of the team members.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'John O'Halloran'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written above a horizontal line.

Professor John O'Halloran  
Vice-President for Teaching & Learning

# LAUNCH OF DIGITAL BADGES INITIATIVE AT UCC



Over the past year, through the Office of Vice President for Teaching and Learning, UCC has been engaged locally, regionally and nationally in designing, developing and delivering innovative digital badge pilot projects. These pilots have demonstrated the opportunity and operational feasibility of Digital Badges. With several existing digital badges in operation and a number pending development, this highlights the demand for digital badges within the University.

The delivery of digital badges directly addresses the university's strategic goal of 'Delivering research inspired teaching and learning with a world class student experience'. Micro-credentials, or digital badges, are being offered in most of the world's top ranked universities as students increasingly seek recognition for non-accredited extra-curricular contributions made during their studies. The badges refer directly to the university's seven essential values of Creativity, Responsiveness, Transparency, Scholarship, Freedom of Expression, Integrity, Equality, Diversity and Respect. These badges can be issued to UCC staff and students.

The high-level strategic approach is to create the right conditions and an enabling environment that can realise the long-term opportunity

for digital badges within the University. The Digital Badge Sub Committee (DBSC) will be responsible to the Academic Development and Standards Committee (ADSC) for the oversight, development and implementation of policies and procedures related to the issuing of digital badges by UCC as well as the assurance of quality, standards and compliance with relevant data protection legislation working to best practice in Information Management (IM) and Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL).

To launch the initiative, the Office of the Vice President for Teaching and Learning held an event in the Creative Zone of the Boole Library on January 19th. Professor John O'Halloran, opened proceedings. Other speakers on the day included, Professor Paul McSweeney - Chair of the DBSC, Tom O' Mara - Online Project Manager, Peter Finnegan - Director of the Blackstone LaunchPad, Mary McNulty - Deputy Head of Careers Services and Student Union Welfare Officer, Kelly Coyle.

Further information on how to apply for a badge, can be found at: [www.ucc.ie/en/teachlearn/projects/digitalbadges](http://www.ucc.ie/en/teachlearn/projects/digitalbadges)



## NEW TEACHING AND LEARNING RESEARCH AND ENHANCEMENT FUND

The Office of the Vice-President for Teaching & Learning is delighted to announce the launch of the new *Teaching & Learning Research and Enhancement Fund* at UCC. This initiative aims to encourage and support transformational change in learning and teaching at UCC by supporting staff to develop their teaching and support of learning in innovative ways.

This fund will provide financial support for small projects (up to €2,000) at UCC on teaching and learning that develop innovative teaching practices or undertake pedagogical research. This funding is intended to support either small one-off projects or seed funding to support larger projects to seek external funding. In designing meaningful learning for your students you may wish to explore a new pedagogy, implement an innovative practice, use a new technology or find new ways to engage your students and this fund aims to support this development.

The deadline for applications is 5pm on Monday 9th April 2018. For further information please visit:

**[www.ucc.ie/en/teachlearn/projects/tlrefund](http://www.ucc.ie/en/teachlearn/projects/tlrefund)**

# CONGRATULATIONS TO GRADUATING TEACHING AND LEARNING STUDENTS

This year saw a total of 121 Higher Education staff successfully complete the Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning and the Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching and Learning. The graduates enjoyed a celebratory ceremony on January 17th at which President Patrick O'Shea honoured their commitment to professional development by presenting them with their parchments.

Registration for the 2018/2019 programmes will open in Spring 2018 and full details of the programme are available at [www.ucc.ie/en/ckb02](http://www.ucc.ie/en/ckb02)



**Pictured above:** Graduates of the Certificate in Teaching & Learning in Higher Education, 2018



**Pictured above:** Graduates of the Diploma in Teaching & Learning in Higher Education, 2018

**Pictured right:**  
Professor John O'Halloran, Emer de Brun, Quercus University Scholar and Dr Jennifer Murphy.

**Pictured below:**  
Quercus Scholars 2017/18.



## QUERCUS TALENTED STUDENTS' PROGRAMME 2017/18

On November 23rd UCC Vice President for Teaching and Learning, Professor John O'Halloran presented Quercus Talented Students' Scholarships to 20 students in the Aula Max. A special guest of honour on the evening was Mr Ciarán McMahon, Chairman and Managing Director Henry Ford & Son Ltd.

*"The Quercus Talented Students' Gala dinner is a very uplifting night. It allows us celebrate the extraordinary talent of our Quercus scholars along with their families, former schools and the ongoing Quercus Scholars whose achievements we celebrated last year"* said Professor O'Halloran, who is also Director of UCC's Quercus Talented Students' Programme.

*"In University College Cork we believe in creating an environment in which academic excellence can be combined with opportunities for personal development. We are committed to the intellectual growth, social formation and welfare of our students and recognise the strength that is derived from student diversity. Excellence underpins everything we do at UCC, and we recognise outstanding students when they join, as well as those who develop their talents while studying here."*

Quercus Talented Student Scholarships, now kindly sponsored by Ford, are awarded in five categories (academic, sport, innovation/entrepreneurship, active citizenship and creative and performing arts) and can be worth up to €10,000 per year.



## THE IRISH SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (ISSE) OPENS NEXT WEEK

This national survey of students was introduced in 2013 to improve feedback from students on the student experience in higher education institutions across Ireland and is now undertaken annually during the second semester. The survey asks students about their experiences of higher education and is designed to inform developments within institutions while also providing a national set of data - "National Survey, Local Impact"

The Irish Survey of Student Engagement is a priority for UCC and is a powerful tool for capturing the student voice and a vital component of our process to improve teaching and learning.

The survey for taught students (first year and final year undergraduate, and taught postgraduate) opens 26th February to 18th March 2018 and the new, separate, ISSE for Postgraduate Research Students will open during the same dates. The survey is issued to students via email to their UCC Umail account and it's also available at <http://studentsurvey.ie>



Site visit to student Hub: teaching and learning research

## TEACHING AND LEARNING LENS ON THE STUDENT HUB

As part of the **Student Hub Research Programme** PhD student Catherine Molloy and Research Masters student Kelley Hammeran, together with two students of the Masters in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education at CIRTLL, Katie Power from Law and Kieran Hurley from the UCC Radio, station are exploring the relationship between teaching, learning and teaching spaces within the context of the new student Hub.

Catherine, Kelley, Kieran, Katie and a number of other students and staff from across UCC took part in a site visit to the student Hub in December. The tour included a viewing of both inside and outside the building, with another visit planned in around 6 months' time.



## NEW LIBRARY STUDIO OPENS

On Wednesday 22nd November 2017, Professor John O'Halloran, VP for Teaching and Learning and Colette McKenna, Director of Library Services opened the new Self-Service Library Studio. Located in the basement of the Boole Library, the studio provides video and audio recording facilities and is available to both staff and students. It is a One Touch automated system which allows you to record video presentations onto USB keys. The facility is available to book through the **Boole Library** website.

For further information on how to use the studio, please go to: <http://instructionaldesign.ucc.ie/library-studio/>

To provide feedback on the service, you can do so via this short survey: <https://goo.gl/PRdL1B>

## SPEEDS - DIGITAL DAY WORKSHOP



In collaboration with the Instructional Design team, the School of Applied Social Studies hosted an event on November 28th to provide social policy educators with an opportunity to explore the possibilities of digital teaching and learning methods for Social Policy education. The day included a series of workshops and contributions from partner institutions.

Participants had the opportunity to explore a variety of different tools and approaches to using technology for the enhancement of teaching and learning. The day showcased social policy educators' commitment to improving digital literacy and encouraging the use of technology as a means of enhancing existing courses, facilitating access, and improving engagement by building confidence and sharing skills. The Digital Day was very informative and gave indication that there is a variety of digital skillsets available in social policy academic units nation-wide.

In the coming months, the SPEEDS project will pilot a training needs survey to assess the digital competencies of social policy educators. This survey will allow the SPEEDS team to provide dedicated and personalised training programmes for social policy educators, who wish to improve their digital skills.



Opening ceremony for Winter School for Visiting Lecturers

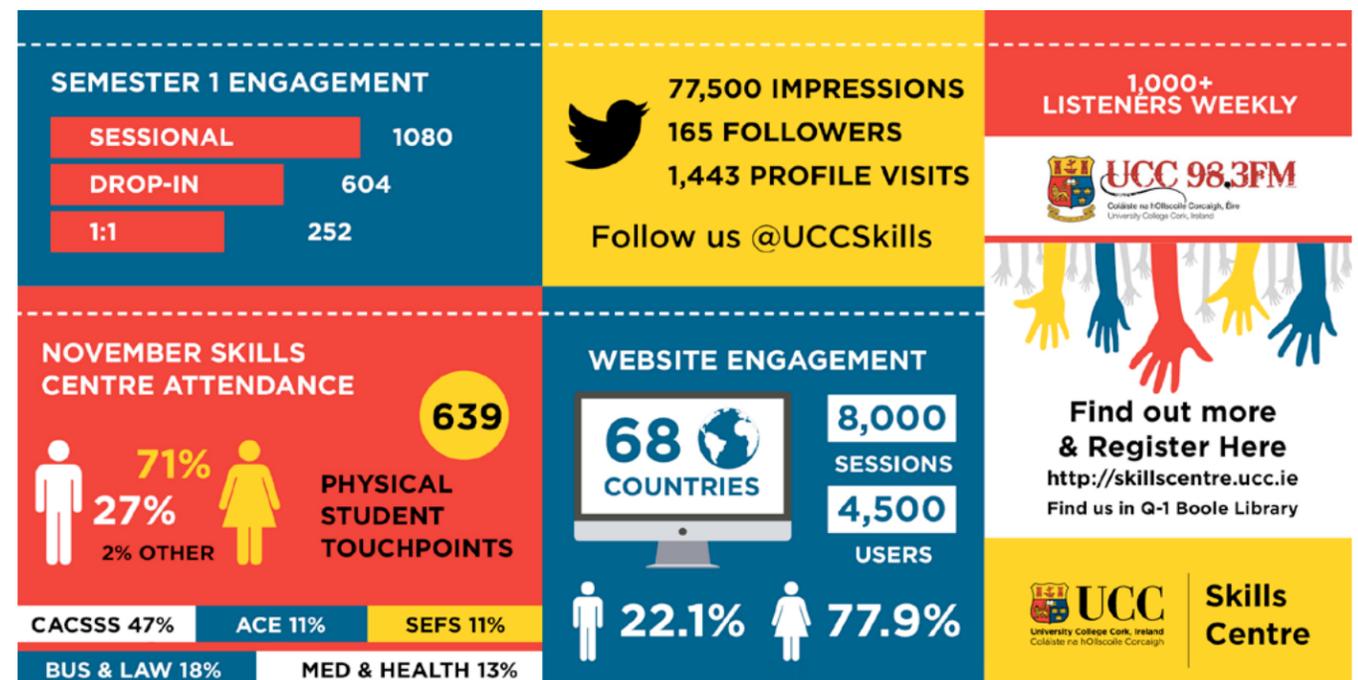
## WELCOME TO OUR COLLEAGUES FROM ANHUI UNIVERSITY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

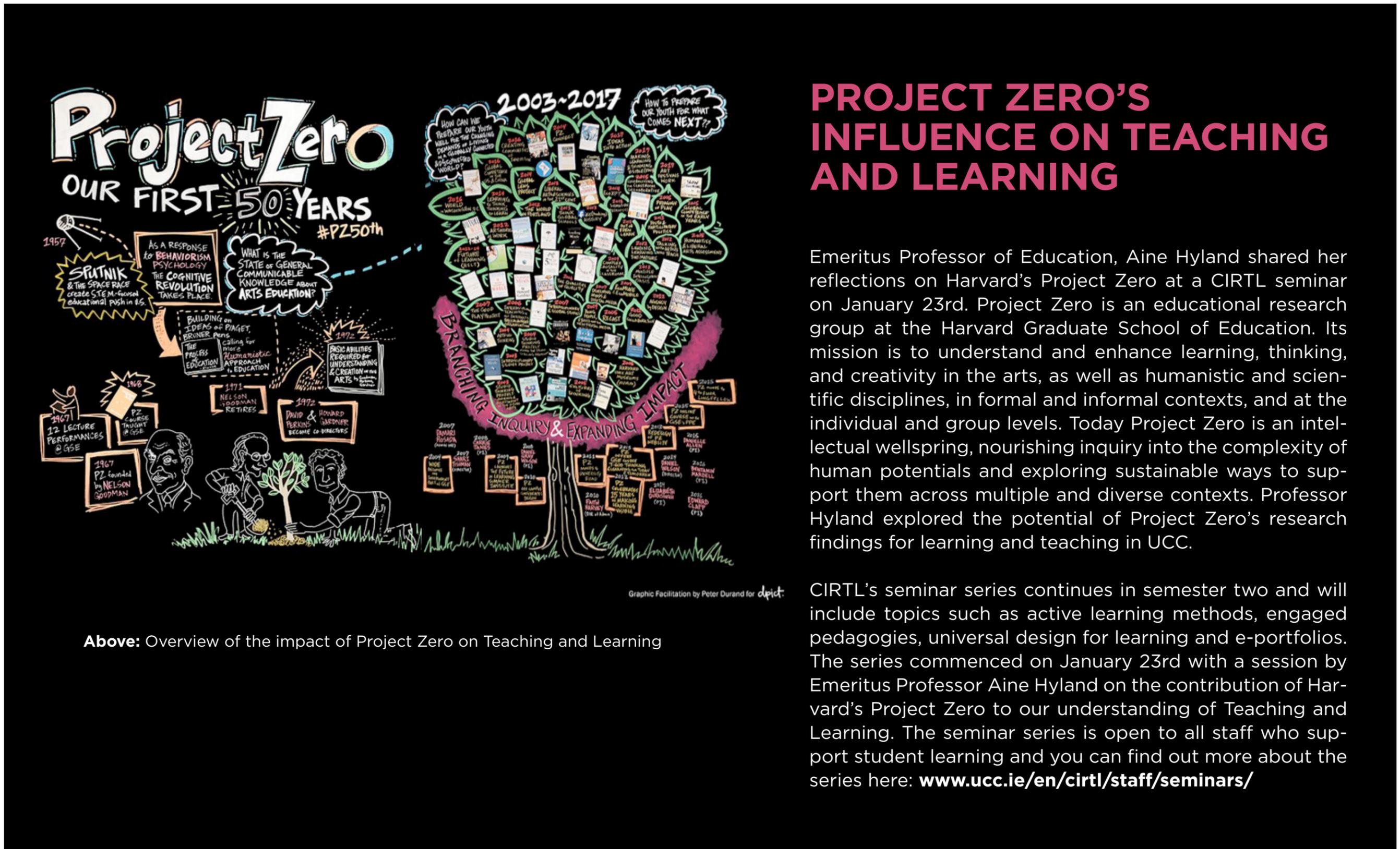
CIRTL welcomes 10 scholars from Anhui University of Finance and Economics to its Winter school which runs from Jan 15th to Feb 9th. AUFE staff have participated in this programme each year since first coming to Cork in 2014, which highlights the strength of the relationship between AUFE and UCC and their commitment to professional development. UCC partners with 11 different Chinese institutions in its international programme for Visiting lectures as well as engaging with higher education staff from across Europe, North America, South America, Africa and Asia. More than 180 international faculty have participated to date in this joint programme with UCC's Language Centre.

## SKILLS CENTRE OPEN FOR ITS SECOND SEMESTER

The UCC Skills Centre (<http://skillscentre.ucc.ie/>) helps our students transition to third level education, master critical thinking, academic writing and presentation skills. The sessions are available, at no cost, to all students and provide lecturers and tutors with an opportunity to point their students to an area where they can, at their own pace, develop additional skills.

Since its launch at the beginning of this academic year, we have seen huge positive engagement amongst our student population and hope that these numbers will continue to grow.





Graphic Facilitation by Peter Durand for depict.

Above: Overview of the impact of Project Zero on Teaching and Learning

## PROJECT ZERO'S INFLUENCE ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

Emeritus Professor of Education, Aine Hyland shared her reflections on Harvard's Project Zero at a CIRTL seminar on January 23rd. Project Zero is an educational research group at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Its mission is to understand and enhance learning, thinking, and creativity in the arts, as well as humanistic and scientific disciplines, in formal and informal contexts, and at the individual and group levels. Today Project Zero is an intellectual wellspring, nourishing inquiry into the complexity of human potentials and exploring sustainable ways to support them across multiple and diverse contexts. Professor Hyland explored the potential of Project Zero's research findings for learning and teaching in UCC.

CIRTL's seminar series continues in semester two and will include topics such as active learning methods, engaged pedagogies, universal design for learning and e-portfolios. The series commenced on January 23rd with a session by Emeritus Professor Aine Hyland on the contribution of Harvard's Project Zero to our understanding of Teaching and Learning. The seminar series is open to all staff who support student learning and you can find out more about the series here: [www.ucc.ie/en/cirtl/staff/seminars/](http://www.ucc.ie/en/cirtl/staff/seminars/)

## CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Centre for CPD at UCC has a broad range of CPD activities starting in the New Year covering disciplines across the four Colleges. CPD Activities from the Schools of Geology, Medicine, Nursing, Law, Business and Applied Social Studies are all available and many more programmes are in development.

The Centre for CPD, in association with Velopi, is now offering Project Management Professional Exam Preparation which runs over four days and offers students the latest training on the new PMBOK 6th edition.

[www.ucc.ie/en/cpd/options/business/cpd1605/](http://www.ucc.ie/en/cpd/options/business/cpd1605/)



The Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology have launched a 10 week CPD programme for Healthcare Professionals – An Introduction to Clinical Pastoral Education for Healthcare Professionals. This offers Healthcare Professionals the opportunity to earn 30 CPD points on an accredited course. [www.ucc.ie/en/cpd/options/medhealth/cpd1621/](http://www.ucc.ie/en/cpd/options/medhealth/cpd1621/)

This year, we are delighted to welcome Dr Maureen Griffin back to UCC to deliver Social Media CPD for those who work with children. Last year, these workshops were delivered to teachers and other professionals, and dates for April and May are due to be announced. Keep an eye on the Applied Psychology CPD page for updates:

[www.ucc.ie/en/cpd/options/appliedpsychology/](http://www.ucc.ie/en/cpd/options/appliedpsychology/)

The Glucksman Gallery are running a Masterclass workshop for Art Teachers on 24th February which will be available as CPD. In this masterclass, teachers will investigate ways to engage their students in artistic processes that creatively explore global and local societal challenges such as homelessness and discrimination. Further information can be found here:

<http://bit.ly/2mecq8M>

Following on from the success of last year's American Chamber of Commerce Lunch Event, we are delighted to announce that the American Chamber will once again hold a similar event at UCC. The topic will be revealed in the next few weeks and will provide an engaging follow on from last year's theme, centred around Artificial Intelligence. Further information can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2rtAo5F>

CCPD had a stand at the HR Orientation Café which was held on November 23rd. New staff showed a keen interest in opportunities in CPD available in UCC.

We have been putting our Digital Marketing training to the test and have launched our new Facebook page which has steadily been gaining support and increasing brand awareness. We now have over 250 likes! Check it out and join our CPD community [www.facebook.com/UCCCPD/](http://www.facebook.com/UCCCPD/)

## MASTERS IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR BUSINESS PERFORMANCE (ISBP) HONOURER FOR SIXTH YEAR IN A ROW



**Pictured above:** Dr Audrey Grace and Dr Karen Neville – Winners of Postgrad Course of the Year for 6th year in a row.

The MSc Information Systems for Business Performance (ISBP) at Cork University Business School (CUBS) was recently named Postgraduate Course of the Year – IT at the gradireland Higher Education Awards and Symposium 2018 which was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dublin in November 2017.

This course took the prize for the sixth consecutive year at the awards, which celebrate excellence in postgraduate course provision and collaboration between industry and academia.

The programme teaches students how to leverage IS/IT and applied research techniques, in order to add significant value to any business, while remaining sensitive to the perspectives of all stakeholders involved. Dedicated course directors and staff, both academic and administrative, are committed to the welfare and education of the students; while industry and academic mentoring ensures the integration of theory and practice, thus allowing close interaction between students and world-class experts across a variety of organisations, including Ernst & Young, Dell/EMC, PepsiCo, PWC, VMWare, FAC, HSE, Wisetek, Nuix and BOI.

Commenting on their selection, the judges explained: “this course was strong across all categories and effortlessly combines the right mix of business and Information Technology that prepares students for the transition into industry.”

Bill Emerson, who joined as Co-Director of the MSc ISBP (2017/2018) added that “the ISBP Masters helps leverage our students’ existing capabilities and provides them with a set of 21st Century skills to compete in a modern job market.”

According to Course Directors, Dr Karen Neville and Dr Audrey Grace, “the success of the course is due to our exceptional graduates and their reputation as IS professionals and experts in industry.”



## SIOBHÁN LUCEY AWARDED SENIOR FELLOWSHIP OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACADEMY

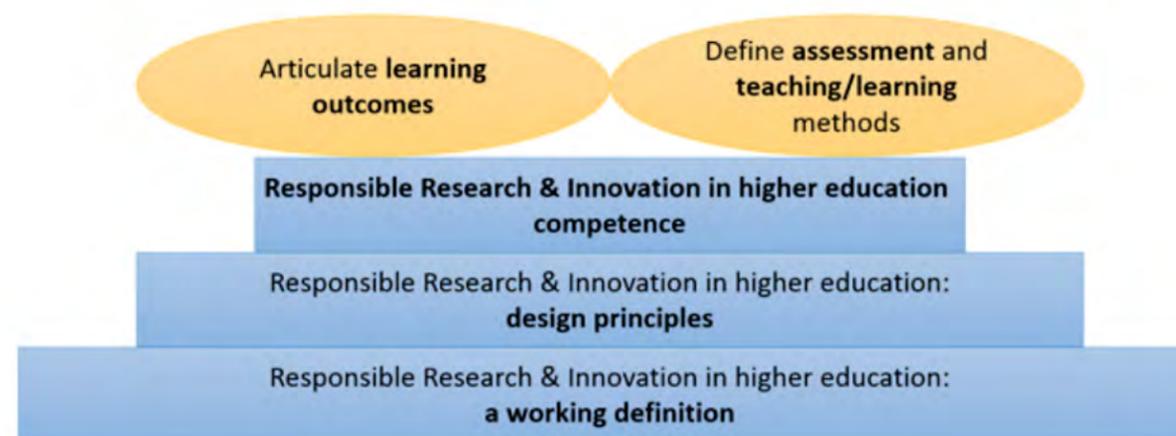


We are pleased to congratulate Dr Siobhán Lucey, SFHEA, of Cork University Business School who has recently been awarded Senior Fellowship of the UK Higher Education Authority. The award of the UK HEA Senior Fellowship is based on peer recognition of professional practice and is awarded to professionals who demonstrate a sustained record of effectiveness in relation to higher education teaching and learning. This globally recognised award reflects Siobhán’s work to date undertaken in both Irish and UK universities and demonstrates her commitment to teaching, learning and the student experience.

A recent paper on a curriculum design tool to embed responsible research in Higher Education, co-authored by CIRTl staff, has received considerable international attention. The paper “(Re-)designing higher education curricula in times of systemic dysfunction: a responsible research and innovation perspective” has been downloaded more than 1300 times since being published in November 2017 and is in the top 5% of all research outputs tracked by Altmetric. The open access paper can be downloaded from <http://rdcu.be/EKVU>

The EnRRICH project ([www.enrrich.eu](http://www.enrrich.eu)), which was the spark for this paper, culminated in a workshop for policymakers at the European Parliament on January 24th. Participants engaged in discussions arising from the policy brief (<http://bit.ly/2A0IXWO>) on the implications of the project for EU Higher Education and Research policies.

## INTERNATIONAL INTEREST IN CURRICULAR TOOL TO EMBED RESEARCH IN THE CURRICULUM



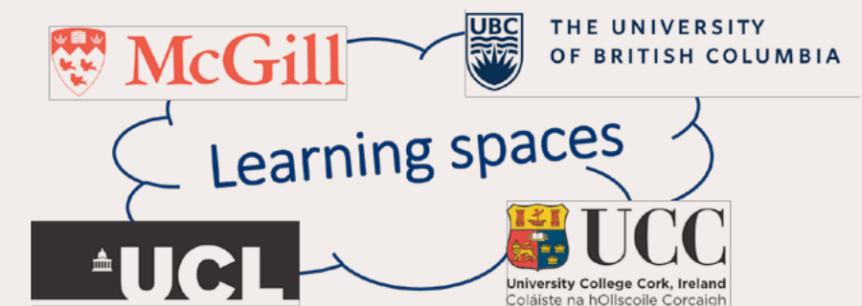
EnRRICH tool: embedding responsible research and innovation in Higher Education curricula



**Pictured above:** Members of the TAP consortium at kickstart meeting in Bratislava.

## BUILDING CAPACITY TO TRANSFORM ASSESSMENT IN FIRST YEAR

Members of the Erasmus+ “*Transforming Assessment Practices in Large Enrolment First Year Education*” (TAP) project will visit UCC from 12th-15th March. The consortium is composed of staff from 10 institutions/national bodies across Palestine, Spain, Slovakia, and Greece. TAP aims to improve assessment practices in foundational first year education using technology options. The March meeting will see CIRTl project partners conducting capacity building workshops on assessment practices with the consortium members.



## NATIONAL MOBILITY GRANT TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL PROJECT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING SPACES

Led by Research Support Officer, Dr Laura Lee, CIRTl was successful in an application to the Government of Ireland Mobility programme. The team was awarded €8,640 to travel to three different institutions in Canada and the UK to support work on the development of an international language of teaching and learning spaces to enhance student learning.



## KICKSTART OF INTERNATIONAL PROJECT ON ASSESSMENT TOOLS

CIRTL will host the ASSET kick-start meeting from February 20th-23rd 2018. The ASSET project aims to develop and pilot innovative assessment tools and methods adapted to specific learning environments, and to improve the effectiveness of teaching and learning within Israeli and Georgian Higher Education systems. The project brings together partners from six countries including Israel, Georgia, Germany, Austria, and Estonia.



**Pictured left:** Briony Supple, Marian McCarthy and Claire Fennell presenting at ISSOTL conference.

## SCHOLARSHIP OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Dr Marian McCarthy and Marie Curie scholar, James Northridge, presented a paper on “Universal Design for Learning (UDL) to Enhance the Learning Journey for a Fellow with Dyslexia” at the 3rd CAST conference in Boston in August of 2017. James will travel to Cork in the Spring of 2018 to complete the final year of his Marie Curie Fellowship.

CIRTL staff presented three papers at the recent conference by the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Calgary. The first was a joint paper by Dr Briony Supple and Dr Marian McCarthy, CIRTL, and Claire Fennell, Instructional Design, on the coordination of online programmes for staff in Teaching and learning. An additional paper by Dr Briony Supple argued persuasively for the use of Padlet, a free web-based platform, to make student learning visible. The final paper reflected on a year-long inter-institutional collaboration through a Small Significant Online Network Group which sought to extend peer-learning beyond the end of a conference.



## CIRTL INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS

**Pictured left:** Members of UCC Beijing office with Catherine O'Mahony, Marian McCarthy (CIRTL) and Ambassador Eoin O'Leary.

Staff from the Centre of the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning (CIRTL) travelled to China in November 2017 to run a series of teaching and learning workshops in partner institutions and to host a Sino-Irish Teacher Development Forum at the Irish Embassy in Beijing. The purpose of the forum was to connect with alumni from UCC's international programme for visiting lecturers, and to engage in a critical discussion on teacher development. Dr Marian McCarthy

and Dr Catherine O'Mahony were also invited to give a talk at an International Conference on the One Belt, One Road economic and cultural initiative in Beijing. Dr Marian McCarthy gave a plenary talk on *"One belt, one road: cultural implications for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education"* while Dr O'Mahony gave a presentation on *"Engaging with communities through Higher Education"*.

## PROFESSOR JOHN O'HALLORAN

Colleagues in the Office of the Vice-President for Teaching and Learning wish to congratulate Professor John O'Halloran, who was recently appointed Deputy President and Registrar at UCC and will take up this post on 1st February.

During his time as Vice-President for Teaching & Learning, John has been a champion for teaching and learning and has broadened our opportunities nationally and internationally, and has led a large number of projects and initiatives that bring teaching and learning to the fore. He has also been a digital champion, leading a range of initiatives around technology enhanced learning and online learning. He has opened the eyes of those in our university and beyond to new ways of thinking about learning spaces and their role in modern learning in third level. The emphasis that John places on the student as the focus of our work has been a key feature of all of his endeavours.

He has given us a vision of the possible and has provided new pathways for high quality teaching and learning to thrive at UCC. Whether we look to the green agenda, to creating new learning spaces, or to new initiatives in Europe (for example his leadership in the European University Association) or international projects with China and South America, John has been there at the centre of all of this as a guiding and inspirational leader.

We wish you well in your new role as Deputy President and Registrar and look forward to working with you in this capacity in the future.

