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WELCOME

Welcome to OVPTL News, the quarterly newsletter of the Office of the Vice-President for Teaching & Learning.

The focus of this edition is on supporting excellence and innovation in teaching. With the changing landscape for graduates, increasing competitiveness and globalisation, and advancements in technology, universities must deliver learning experiences that meet the new expectations of learners. Here at UCC we aim to ensure that all students receive an excellent learning experience and we are working hard to build a culture where great teachers enjoy professional recognition and are given opportunities for career progression.

The call for nominations for the *President’s Awards for Excellence in Teaching* is now open. This scheme promotes high quality teaching and supports the dissemination of excellent teaching practice. It recognises staff who are committed to inspiring students, and who use innovative pedagogies and technologies to enhance the learning experience. We have all been inspired by a teacher. Would you like to nominate that lecturer or teacher for an award? We hope so.

Beyond UCC, the international *Reimagine Education Awards* call for

applications is also open. Now in its third year, this global competition aims to identify the most innovative pedagogies to enhance learning of higher education students and their employability. If you would like to apply for an international education award we can support you.

The National Forum has launched funding calls for projects and for the national seminar series. The OVPTL will co-ordinate UCC’s response. We have been very successful in securing funding for projects at UCC to date and we are pleased to help in any way we can. The focus this year is on staff continued professional development. UCC is proud to have the highest number of staff with teaching and learning qualifications in higher education, and there are opportunities to further develop our programmes and to engage in collaborations with other Irish HEIs.

We will be running a range of staff support and development opportunities in digital learning during the summer. We hope you get a chance to explore some of these and I hope that you get a chance to research, rest and refresh!

Professor John O’Halloran
Vice-President for Teaching & Learning
@johbees

www.ucc.ie/teachlearn



**PRESIDENT’S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
NOMINATION DEADLINE**

Staff and students at UCC are reminded that the deadline for nominations for the 2015/16 President’s Awards for Excellence in Teaching is looming.

Nominations must be received by Friday **5th August at 5pm**.

We want to see a wide range of staff recognized for their achievements during the recent academic year. Further information at www.ucc.ie/teachlearn/staffawards.

THE NEW STUDENT HUB

Works got underway in June 2016 on the new Student Hub building at UCC which will provide the most innovative, technology-rich space to date at UCC. The Student Hub, a partnership between staff and students, will transform the historic Windle Building into a buzzing hub for student-orientated activities and services. It is expected to open in 2018 and will accommodate four major aspects of the student experience including Student Development & Employability, Student Administrative and Support Services, Teaching & Learning Experience and Student Activities.

Following consultation with a large number of students, staff and stakeholders across the university, the Teaching & Learning zone in the student hub will provide innovative state-of-the-art teaching spaces right in the heart of the UCC campus. It will create a new opportunity for students to engage in active and collaborative learning in a technology enriched environment, with a strong emphasis on learning in both formal and informal, communal spaces. There will be a number of creative, flexible spaces allowing for group work across disciplines. For staff too there will be opportunities to experiment with non-traditional pedagogies, to exploit new technologies and to try new approaches to teaching. This will present exciting new opportunities for the direction of Teaching & Learning at UCC. A new website, providing detailed plans and up to date information on the building project is now live at www.studenthub.ucc.ie.



CELEBRATING DIGITAL CHAMPIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

By Tara Duggan

Forty five Digital Champions from the Southern Cluster Higher Education Institute partners (UCC, CIT, WIT, ITC and ITT) were recognised on Digital Champions day at UCC on June 7th as part of the *Transformation Through Collaboration* Digital Literacy Project funded by the National Forum. The Digital Champions presented their projects and explained how this has impacted on their teaching, student learning and student engagement. From apps, to robotics and through to zoology, we had a fantastic variety of presentations by our champions on the day. To view these presentations and for further information

Please visit the project website at www.digitalchampions.ie.

Video was a constant theme running through the UCC projects, from instructional videos for biology students, using video as part of online GIS courses and filming pieces to incorporate into mobile apps, there were a variety of examples on the use of video, as well as other TEL tools.

We were delighted to have Cambridge Professor John Naughton as our Guest Speaker. John had some excellent insights into the use of technology in a modern society. John studied Electronic

Engineering at UCC and he describes himself as a 'Techno-utopian' turned 'Recovering-utopian'. He encouraged people to change the way we talk and think about Information Technology (IT), to stop being intimidated by it and to recognise that there is no one size fits all when it comes to people and IT.



Digital Champions from the Southern Cluster Higher Education Institutes 2016

On the day John O'Halloran and John Naughton presented each Champion with a 'Digital Champion' Digital Badge. These badges recognise the hard work completed by our champions over the last few months. These digital badges are a great accompaniment to the project as they are designed to be used and shared online on a variety of social media and ePortfolio platforms. For more information on the badge, please visit <https://openbadgepassport.com/app/badge/info/15508>

CIRTL WELCOMES ACADEMICS AND PHD STUDENTS TO SUMMER SCHOOL

By Briony Supple

Staff from the Centre for the Integration of Research Teaching & Learning (CIRTL) were delighted to welcome a group of academics and PhD students from China and Spain this week for the start of a month-long summer programme.

A total contingent of 26, these staff and students represent three different institutions in China: Beijing Information Science and Technology University (BISTU), Anhui University of Finance and Economics (AUFE), Guilin University of Technology; and two Spanish institutions: Colegio Montessori and ESIC Business School.

The summer school programme has been developed under the leadership of the CIRTL Director, Dr Marian McCarthy, and is being co-delivered by Dr McCarthy in collaboration with Mr James Cronin, and Dr Briony Supple, both lecturers in Learning and Teaching Enhancement with CIRTL.

The focus of the three sessions per week is around an introduction to the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL), with specific foci on Teaching Places, Learning Spaces, Multiple Intelligence theories both in western and Chinese contexts and authentic assessment methods. Attendees are working to produce a collaborative online artefact representing their engagement in the UCC Summer School

programme through the use of an online platform called *Padlet*.

In addition to their three sessions per week with CIRTL staff, attendees are also undertaking English Language classes at the UCC Language Centre, attending various social activities and participating in cultural tours such as the Cobh Titanic experience and Blarney Castle.



CIRTL Summer School Class of 2016

NATIONAL FORUM FUNDING FOR DIGITAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning has launched a call for proposals under its 'Driving Enhancement through Capacity Building in Irish Higher Education' Fund. A number of successful projects to advance the use of technology for teaching at UCC have been funded by the National Forum in the first two phases (<http://www.ucc.ie/en/teachlearn/projects>).

This call focusses on collaboration for national impact, enabling capacity building at local level and supports the continued professional development of higher education staff. The call is issued in relation to three proposal types:

- A. Creation and provision of professional development opportunities for middle/senior managers across collaborating institutions that align with the newly developed [Professional Development Framework](#). These must be collaborative proposals with a minimum of 3 partners and have a maximum budget of €150,000.
- B. Development and implementation of an integrated approach to meet the specific professional development needs of all staff within an academic unit. Proposals can be collaborative or single institution and have a maximum budget of €150,000.
- C. Alignment and enhancement of existing accredited teaching and learning programmes to the national professional development framework. Proposals can be collaborative or made by a single institution and have a maximum budget of €75,000.

This fund will also provide funding for a national project on digital literacy, skills and confidence among students.

An information webinar for this call will be hosted by the National Forum on 8th September 2016. Further information on this call and on the webinar can be found at www.teachingandlearning.ie/digital-enhancement-funding

Please note that individual HEIs are limited in the number of proposals that they may submit under this call and therefore the Office of the Vice-President for Teaching and Learning will coordinate submissions from UCC. The OVPTL is seeking Expressions of Interest from interested UCC staff before 5pm on 30th September 2016. Please contact vp-teachingandlearning@ucc.ie for further information.

The call for applications for this year's National Seminar Series (2016/2017) is also now open. This year, the seminar series will focus on the National Forum's current enhancement theme *Assessment of, for and as learning and will encourage a debate on the challenges, tensions, balances in these purposes of assessment*. Further information on the seminar series can be found at <http://www.teachingandlearning.ie/national-seminar-series-2016-2017/>.



AUDIO VISUAL UPGRADE OF CENTRALLY-BOOKABLE TEACHING ROOMS

Audio Visual Media Services (AVMS) and IT Services, in close partnership with Buildings and Estates, are undertaking a project to upgrade many of the centrally-bookable teaching rooms right across the UCC campus over the next three years. This upgrade of teaching and learning space will include new technologies, improved Wi-Fi and better connectivity to provide a better user experience for students and teaching staff.

The layout of a typical small teaching layout with the new standard AV is shown below. This new standard room layout will be demonstrated in the Library Creative Zone in October so why not pop along to one of our sessions and we can show staff how to use the technology in these rooms?

The Audio Visual standard design developed for these rooms will be deployed to all centrally-bookable teaching rooms over the next 3 years. This new minimum Audio Visual standard for teaching rooms will include these technologies:

- AV controls at teaching desk
- Touch screen monitors and collaboration systems
- HDMI connections for mobile devices
- Wi-Fi for mobile devices
- Cameras for lecture capture, Skype etc.,
- Document cameras where possible
- Lamp free laser data projectors with HD capability

Work has recently commenced on this project, the first phase of which will see Audio Visual systems introduced to 15

rooms which previously had none, and out-dated Audio Visual systems in a further 10 rooms upgraded by September 2016. Training material will be made available online to support all new features and an onsite training session can be conducted on request.

AUDIO VISUAL SYSTEMS INTRODUCED TO

- ORB G.30, G.39, G.40, G.42S, 1.37
- BHSC 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 264
- SAF 01, G02
- Distillery House G01, G02

AUDIO VISUAL SYSTEMS UPGRADED IN

- ORB G.41, 1.44, 1.45, 2.01, 2.44, 3.26
- AL G19
- BHSC G04, G05, G06

In addition to these upgrade works AVMS will conduct routine maintenance this summer and, where a need is identified, additional rooms will receive new equipment, including new data projectors in Boole 3 and Boole 4. The Wi-Fi service is being upgraded in all teaching spaces across the campus and this work will initially target the Library, the Kane building and all the rooms in the table above. The presenter PCs in 50 of the centrally-bookable rooms will be upgraded during the summer, with all remaining rooms being upgraded during the summer of 2017.

If you have any queries about this project, please contact avms@ucc.ie.



TECHNOLOGY SUPPORTED APPROACHES TO PROVIDING FEEDBACK ON STUDENT ACADEMIC WRITING

Dr Rosarii Griffin (OVPTL), was delighted to receive National Forum Funding to support a seminar by Professor Chris Anson of North Carolina State University, USA. The Seminar entitled: *'Technology Supported Approaches to Providing Feedback on Student Academic Writing'* was hosted by the Boole Library Staff in its fabulous Creative Zone. The seminar was well attended, attracting UCC academics from all disciplines. As it was a national seminar, academics also travelled from other Higher Education Institutions to attend this event. During the session, Prof Anson was assisted by Dr Alison Farrell of

NUI Maynooth, who performed a demonstration of selected software which can enhance student feedback. The seminar was interesting, interactive and informative, and was well received by all who attended. Dr Rosarii Griffin would like to thank the National Forum for its funding, as well as Drs Alison Farrell (NUIM) and Ide O'Sullivan (UL) for their input. A special thanks must go to Prof Chris Anson for his excellent seminar. On this bi-centenary year of George Boole, it was fitting that Chris was presented with a copy of the George Boole book, and a book on Boole's Family was presented to Chris's wife Gean who

accompanied him to Cork. Overall, the feedback from the seminar was extremely positive and UCC hopes to host similar National Forum supported seminars in the future.



SCHOLARSHIP OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Dr Marian McCarthy, Director of the Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning at UCC was invited to give the opening keynote address to the annual



Augmented Reality as an Innovative Pedagogy

Teacher Education Conference in Beit Berl College, in Israel on June 26th. There she shared experience on *What can we learn from investigating our own teaching? The case for 'sitting beside' (assidere) the students and investigating learning.* During her visit Dr McCarthy also participated in the panel discussion on *Integrating Research, Teaching & Learning in Higher Education* and visited several exhibitions at the College, including one on *Augmented Reality as an Innovative Pedagogy.*

Dr McCarthy also gave a collaborative presentation at the Universal Design for

Learning: License to Learn: A European Perspective on UDL in Ghent, Belgium on June 28th, on the topic of *Balancing Teaching, Learning and Assessment - UDL from an academic perspective.*



Balancing Teaching, Learning and Assessment

CAPACITY BUILDING COLLABORATIVE PROJECT BETWEEN UCC AND MZUNI, MALAWI

Dr Rosarii Griffin (OVPTL) and Dr Patricia Leahy-Warren (School of Nursing and Midwifery) will be visiting Mzuzu University in Malawi at the end of August 2016. This visit is supported by ESTHER Funding to support a Capacity Building Collaborative Project between UCC and MZUNI, Malawi, University Staff. This visit is aimed at progressing a capacity building initiative between UCC and MZUNI.

This trip will entail collaborations vis-à-vis curriculum design, pedagogy (teaching and learning) and staff research capacity building. The focus of this trip will be in the Health Sciences area. This visit by UCC staff will also coincide with the arrival of the UCC

donation of 6,000 to 8,000 books so generously donated by the UCC Community (academics, students and UCC administration and friends alike).



Rosarii and Patricia will examine the new temporary library facility set up by MZUNI following the decimation of their own university library by a fire in

December 2015, with the loss of over 45,000 books. The response by UCC in giving assistance to MZUNI library was tremendous, and included contributions by the University Strategic Fund, which funded the transport of the books, and SURGEON NOONAN, which also made a significant contribution. When in Mzuzu University, Rosarii and Patricia will also be greatly honoured to attend the ordination to the role of Bishop of Mzuzu by Prof. Fr. John Ryan (Professor of Maths at Mzuzu University and UCC Alumnus). Fr John Ryan is a former student of Professors Des MacHale and Pat Fitzpatrick respectively. Hence, this visit will be busy but hopefully, fruitful one. A follow up report will feature in the next edition of OVPTL News.

GLOBAL AWARDS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION INNOVATION

The call for submissions for the **Wharton-QS Stars Awards 2016 – Reimagine Education** global awards for innovative higher education pedagogies is now open. This competition seeks to identify innovative pedagogies that will enhance learning and improve the employability of higher education students around the world.

This is a valuable complement to the global university rankings and all higher education institutions are eligible to enter. Awards are made in a range of categories including E-Learning, Hybrid Learning, Teaching Delivery, Learning Assessment, Digital Content, ICT Support & Services and Sustainability. Regional and discipline specific awards are also made. Submissions must provide details of a pedagogical experiment that has demonstrable results, and an analysis of how the project could be developed and scaled out to other institutions. Entries will be assessed by an independent panel of judges, and the winning examples of teaching innovation will be showcased at a two-day conference in Philadelphia on 5-6 December 2016 and the overall winner will receive a US\$50,000 cash prize

Further information can be found at www.reimagine-education.com. **Application Deadline: 15th September 2016.**

Delft University of Technology won the Regional Award for Europe in 2015 with their MOOC on 'Data Analysis: Take it to the Max (!)'. The University of Limerick were third in the same category with their project *Using Collaborative Forecasting to Promote Engagement, Discipline Knowledge and Information Literacy*. The Discipline Award for Natural Sciences was won by the University of Manchester for a project on *Using Bespoke Virtual Laboratory Experiments to Transform University Online Science Teaching*. More information on these projects can be found at <http://application.reimagine-education.com/the-winners/2015>.



QUERCUS TALENTED STUDENTS' PROGRAMME NEWS

www.ucc.ie/en/quercus



QUERCUS SPORTS' SCHOLARS EXCEL

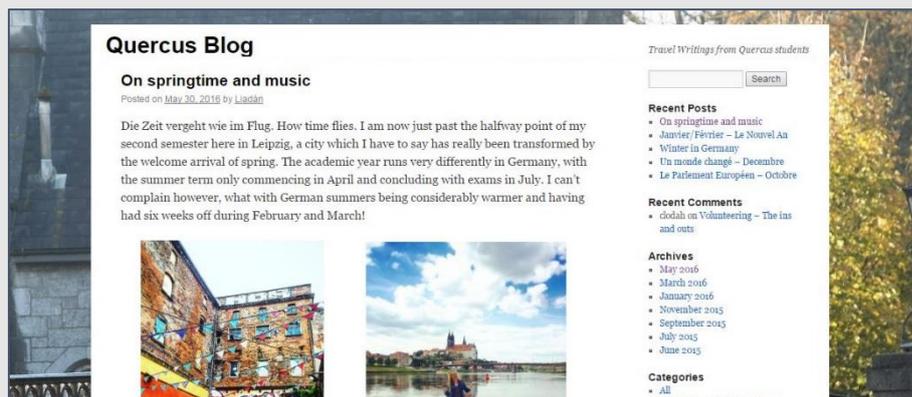


Congratulations to Jack Casey (left), who has been selected for the U23 Rowing World Championships. The event will take place from August 21st to 28th in Rotterdam. Congratulations also to Chris Mintern (right), final year Maths Science student, who was named Standard Distance National Champion in June on winning the Hell of the West Triathlon. The famously tough race was the second in this year's Super Series and doubled as the 2016 National Championships. Competitors battled a wild sea on the 1,500m swim, faced in to stiff winds along the West Clare coast on the 44km bike route and finally tackled a hilly and exposed 10km run along the cliffs to the south of Kilkee.



QUERCUS STUDENT BLOG

Over the past year a number of Quercus Scholars have been blogging from their travels and studies overseas. From Shanghai to Strasbourg they have written of their experiences as both students and volunteers along with some beautiful images. To read about volunteering in Cambodia, teaching English in Spain, interning in the European Parliament and much more please visit <http://quercusblog.ucc.ie>.



TEACHING EXCELLENCE RESEARCH PROJECT

Dr Marian McCarthy and Mr James Cronin from the Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning at UCC were invited to the University of Groningen in the Netherlands to deliver a workshop on *Active Learning through Art*. This event was part of the Erasmus+ *Teaching Excellence in Israel* (TeachEx) programme meeting which took place at the University of Groningen, May 23-25, the primary focus of which was on E Learning Approaches.

This Erasmus+ project was conceived to support the continuous professional development of academic staff by offering support structures in the form of Centres for Teaching Excellence, to improve teaching and therefore enhance learning.

This project brings together SoTL (Scholarship of Teaching and Learning) researchers from Israel, Ireland, United Kingdom, Poland, and the Netherlands.

As Principal Investigator of the TeachEx teaching and learning research project at UCC, Dr Marian McCarthy also participated in the conference meeting on Internationalisation which took place at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, founded in 1364, from 4 to 6 July 2016.

There she also contributed to the development of two TeachEx projects over the three day meeting: *Active Learning in Studio Based Learning* and *Diversity in the Curriculum*.



TEACHING AND LEARNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

UCC's Sustainability Strategy was released in June (www.ucc.ie/en/greencampus). UCC strives to consider the environment in all of its activities and is Ireland's leading green university, having been ranked 4th in the GreenMetric rankings of world universities in 2015. This new strategy articulates UCC's commitment to lead the drive towards sustainability in Higher Education Institutes.

Education for Sustainable Development allows every student at UCC to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to improve the quality of life now without damaging the planet for the future. Teaching & Learning is one of the key areas for the implementation of UCC's

sustainability strategy which expresses a clear commitment to address teaching as a focus for action on sustainability by fostering a culture of sustainable citizenship within the university community through formal and informal teaching and learning activities; and facilitating the development of future leaders in sustainability through our teaching and learning activities.

Research has shown that positive changes in students' sustainable behaviour are associated with the incorporation of environmental literacy and sustainability into teaching and learning practices. The Office of

Vice-President for Teaching & Learning is committed to integrating sustainable principles into education and to ensuring that all UCC students have the opportunity to access Education for Sustainable Development during their studies, either through the formal courses that they undertake or through extra-curricular activities in a manner reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of environmental study.

A University wide module on sustainability '*Putting education for sustainability in its place: put yourself in the picture*' was launched at UCC in January 2016 having been developed through partnership and collaboration across 15 individual disciplines, the Green Forum and the Green Campus committee. It is provided free of charge and is open to all students and staff and external parties. The development of this module was led by Dr Ger Mullally and was enthusiastically supported by the UCC community which was indicative of the individual interest of staff and also a commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration above and beyond disciplinary orientations and contractual obligations. Delivery of the module was by means of an integrated, participatory learning model, supported by online resources and peer-to-peer engagement. The pilot run of this module in 2016 was highly successful, and the course will be revised in collaboration with the participants and will be run again in January 2017.



James Upton, outgoing Deputy President of the Student Union and co-chair of Green Campus last year; Prof John O'Halloran, Vice-President for Teaching & Learning; Dr Michael Murphy, President UCC; Dr Alice D'Arcy, UCC Green Campus; Mr Michael-John O'Mahony, An Taisce; Mr Mark Poland, Director of Buildings & Estates UCC at the launch of UCC's Sustainability Strategy.

UNEP GEMS/WATER CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

By Aoife Nagle

The UNEP GEMS/Water Capacity Development Centre at UCC was founded in 2015 to provide global capacity development in water quality monitoring and assessment. The importance of quality freshwater for health and development is highlighted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Centre is working on a programme of activities to support this agenda.

A programme of online courses and traditional workshops is planned for the duration of project supported by the

Office of the Vice President for Teaching and Learning. Currently a pilot training course, aimed at providing support for the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator '*Percentage of bodies of water with good ambient water quality*', is in the final stages of development. This course was introduced to visitors to the GEMS/Water booth at UNEA 2 in Nairobi in order to obtain comments and feedback for further development and improvement. It will be used again to gather feedback at Africa Water Week in Tanzania in July and provided in a variety of delivery formats for further testing at a GEMS/Water Scoping Workshop in Nairobi in November.

As a result of the perceived need in many countries for information on how to generate the indicator for this Sustainable Development Goal. This course will be freely available online by the autumn of 2016, with access from the GEMS/Water CDC web site www.ucc.ie/en/gemscdc, as well as other UNEP and UN Water web sites. Experience gained in developing this course will be combined with feedback to proceed with the first of a series of online modules. The first course for online delivery will cover the topic of Quality Assurance for Water Quality Monitoring.

ADULT CONTINUING EDUCATION

This year the Centre for Adult Continuing Education at UCC celebrates its 70th year. Dr Griffin Murray represented ACE at the 48th EUCEN Conference held in Dublin in June 2016, where he presented this poster on adult education in 1916. The theme of this international conference was 'Crossing borders through lifelong learning: enhancing quality and equity in higher education'.

ADULT EDUCATION IN 1916:

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK AND THE IRISH LABOUR MOVEMENT



'ECONOMIC CONFERENCES' AT UCC

In 1916, a radical new initiative was undertaken in University College Cork that was to pave the way for the opening up of third-level education to the working class in Munster. The early decades of the 20th century in Ireland were not only revolutionary in political terms, but also socially and educationally (Ferriter 2004). This initiative consisted of a series of weekly public lectures and discussions, or 'Economic Conferences', which were organised for the working class of Cork city. Academics, clergy and trade unionists all presented papers and contributed to the discussions that followed.

The ten conferences that took place, cut short by the Easter Rising, were organised by Alfred O'Rahilly and Professor Timothy Smiddy, two men who went on to play significant roles in the fledgling Free State. O'Rahilly, who later served as president of UCC, was a prime mover in the development of Adult Education in Ireland (Murphy 1995, 198, 255). The topical and controversial subjects covered by the conferences included some of the most serious issues of the time:

1. 'The Importance of Economic and Social Studies for the Working Classes' – Prof Timothy Smiddy, UCC (25 Jan)
2. 'The Facts of Poverty in Cork' – Rev A.M. MacSweeney (1 Feb)
3. Discussion of Rev MacSweeney's paper (8 Feb)
4. 'Poor Law and Destitution' – Rev P.J. Cahalane (15 Feb)
5. 'Do Strikes Pay?' - Prof Timothy Smiddy, UCC (22 Feb)
6. Discussion of Prof Smiddy's paper (29 Feb)
7. 'The Medieval Guilds' - Mr Rohan, UCC (7 March)
8. 'Economics of Co-operation' - Mr Robert Fleming, Belfast (14 March)
9. 'A Minimum Wage' – Prof Timothy Smiddy, UCC (21 March)
10. 'The National Insurance Act' – Mr J.J. Doherty & Alderman Jeremiah Kelleher, Cork Trades Council (28 March)

A paper on 'Socialism' by Smiddy and O'Rahilly planned for May did not materialise.



Aula Maxima, UCC, where the weekly 'Economic Conferences' were held from January to March 1916. This was the first time that the working class specifically were invited to attend lectures at the university, with audiences of up to 250 attending (Gaughan 1986, 94).

'The primary aim [of the Conferences] was to discover or create a demand for higher education among the workers of Cork, and to promote fellowship and knowledge among all who were interested in social welfare and progress. The ulterior aim of the Conferences was to prove the desirability of organising (1) a regular series of University Extension Lectures (2) a special course of instruction at the University for social and charitable workers, and (3) a regular system of University Tutorial Classes for workmen. It rested with the citizens of Cork to prove their practical interest in these educational and civic ideals.' (Workers' Republic 11 March 1916, 7).

LEGACY OF THE CONFERENCES

The 'Economic Conferences' were the blueprint for the development of Adult Education at UCC over the next 30 years. Alfred O'Rahilly played a pivotal role in forging a strong partnership between UCC and the growing Irish labour movement within the context of the Catholic social teaching which he so fervently espoused. While it was intended to publish all of the papers under the 'University and Labour Series' title, only Rev A.M. MacSweeney's lecture on poverty in Cork, which was based on his MA thesis, was published (MacSweeney 1916). A guide to books for social students and workers by O'Rahilly (1916) was also published, as was Rev W. Paschal Larkin's (1917) *Marxian Socialism*.

The following year, in 1917, UCC engaged in another boundary crossing partnership with the trade union movement that saw the development of a three-year long tutorial course in economics for workers under the auspices of the Workers' Educational Association (WEA). This followed similar recent partnerships in England between the WEA and universities like Oxford (Kelly 1970, 251; Goldman 1995, 109). With some interruptions, this unique partnership between UCC and the Irish trade union movement continued, eventually culminating in the establishment of the *Diploma in Social and Economic Science* for trade unionists in 1946. This course was made available across Munster, which led to other diploma programmes being developed in *Social and Rural Science* for farmers, *Social and Home Science* for women, as well as a *Diploma in Social Studies* (Gaughan 1986, 100; Ó Murchú 1989).



As the oldest Adult Education unit in the Irish university system, Adult Continuing Education (ACE) at UCC celebrates its 70th anniversary in 2016. The origins of Adult Education in UCC stretch back much further, with the first extension courses being offered in 1911. However, it was with the arrival of Alfred O'Rahilly to UCC that Adult Education flourished at the university.

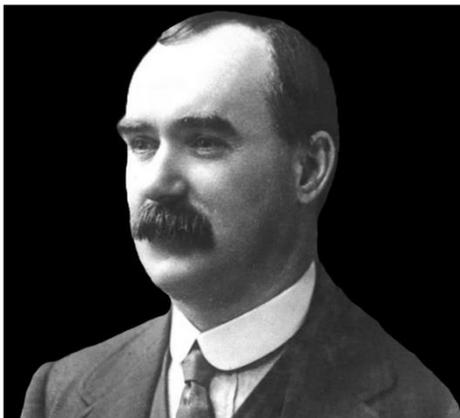


'WHERE FINBARR TAUGHT – ALL MUNSTER CAN LEARN'

The radical nature of the 'Economic Conferences' is reflected by the fact that they received extensive coverage and enthusiastic support from James Connolly's socialist newspaper, *The Workers' Republic*. Connolly encouraged all workers in Cork to attend the conferences and boldly, paraphrasing the college motto, stated that it could now be said 'where Finbarr taught – all Munster can learn'. In a letter to Connolly, the editor, Alfred O'Rahilly and Timothy Smiddy showed their appreciation:

'We appeal to the workers of Cork for a continuance and an increase of their support and co-operation. They have a unique chance of showing their effective desire for higher education and fuller fellowship. The approval of our efforts by the Workers' Republic is, we trust, an omen of success.'

Letter to the Editor [James Connolly] from T. Smiddy & Alfred O'Rahilly, *Workers' Republic* 15 April 1916, 3.

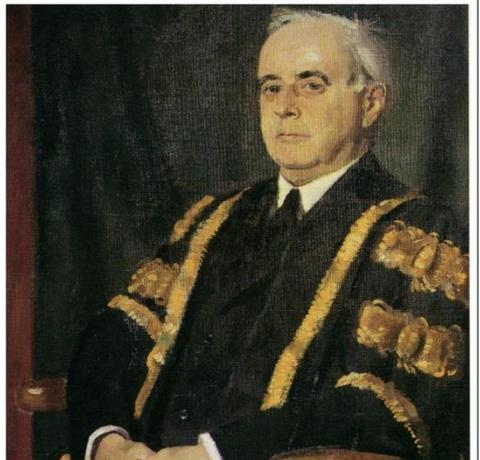


James Connolly, as editor of the socialist newspaper *The Workers' Republic*, was an enthusiastic supporter of the 'Economic Conferences' held at UCC. He admonished the organisers at one point for not furnishing his newspaper with details of one of the lectures, which he noted were supplied to the 'local Capitalist press'. Connolly was to fight alongside Alfred O'Rahilly's first cousin, The O'Rahilly, in the Easter Rising. Both were to die as a result.

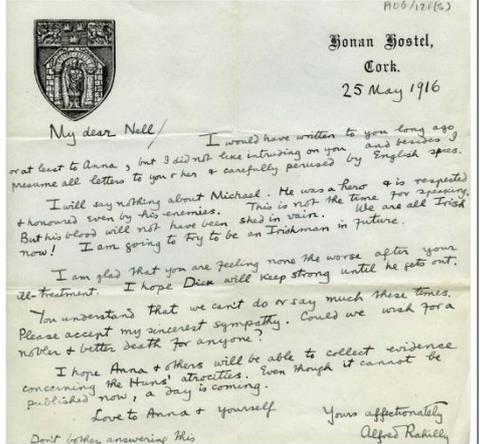
ALFRED O'RAHILLY (1884-1969)

One of the most significant figures in Ireland in the first half of the 20th century, O'Rahilly was born in Listowel, Co. Kerry. Having been educated in UCD, he was first appointed assistant lecturer in Mathematics and Mathematical Physics at UCC in 1914, becoming Professor in 1917, University Registrar in 1920, and eventually President (1943-54). His first cousin, The O'Rahilly, one of the leaders of the 1916 Rising, was killed in action during Easter Week. Alfred joined Sinn Féin in 1916, was imprisoned during the War of Independence, and went on to play an important role in the foundation of the Irish Free State.

Noted for his strongly held Catholic views, O'Rahilly was ordained a priest following his wife's death. A prolific scholar, polymath, and controversialist, his UCC initiatives included improvements in the library of which he was the effective director, the institution of student health and restaurant services, and the acquisition of the extensive former County Gaol site. Other innovations included the foundation of the Department of Electrical Engineering, and of Cork University Press. A pioneer of Adult Education in Ireland, he established the first dedicated unit for Adult Education in an Irish university at UCC in 1946.



Pioneer of Adult Education in Ireland: Alfred O'Rahilly, president of UCC (1943-54)



'His blood will not have been shed in vain. We are all Irish now! I am going to try to be an Irishman in future.' Letter from Alfred O'Rahilly to Nell on the death of (Michael) The O'Rahilly during the 1916 Rising (UCD Archives)

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