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WELCOME

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

The university is in a phase of strategic planning and we, at the OVPTL, are busy developing the next strategic plan for Teaching and Learning at UCC. This plan will set a general direction to build on the progress of recent years while providing a framework to ensure sustainability. If you would like to contribute to this process, please contact our office directly. The goals of teaching and learning over the next five years are to deliver a world-class, research-based teaching and learning experience for all; expand opportunities for lifelong and life-wide learning; and unlock the potential of technology to enhance teaching, enrich learning and engage learners.

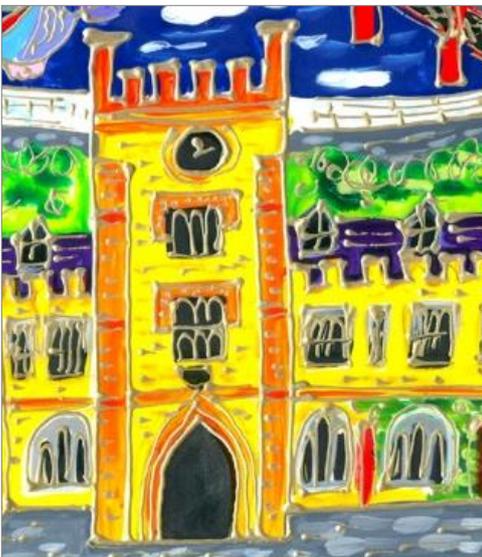
A range of initiatives have been underway recently on teaching space with a view to improving student engagement, learning and outcomes. You can read more about these exciting projects in this newsletter. These include

a new research programme on the relationship between students, learning and physical and virtual space to inform the transition to the new Student Hub. This is the first time at UCC that we have researched and evaluated our own learning space. This project builds on recent work to review our teaching spaces and ongoing work to refurbish existing teaching spaces and develop innovative spaces where teaching staff can explore and investigate their new teaching methods.

We are delighted to announce the establishment of the Ford Quercus 100 Years of Scholarship for Talented Students to commemorate the centenary of Ford in Ireland. Beginning in 2017, this programme will provide approximately 50 scholarships on the Quercus Talented Students' Programme over five years.

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

www.ucc.ie/teachlearn



PRESIDENT'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING NOMINATION DEADLINE

UCC Staff, students and alumni are invited to nominate their teachers for the 2016/17 President's Awards for Excellence in Teaching

These awards are sponsored by PFH Technology Group

Nominations must be received by Friday **26th May at 5pm**

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

Artwork by Irish artist Simone Walsh

FIRST GRADUATES OF THE ONLINE POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN T & L

Each year since 2004 staff who teach at UCC have taken accredited courses in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education provided by the Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning (CIRTL). President Prof Patrick O'Shea bestowed

on CIRTL the honour of officiating at the presentation of parchments in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education on the 10th February 2017 in a ceremony in the Aula Maxima at University College Cork. The parchment ceremony was the first

time within the constituency of the National University of Ireland that parchments were presented to staff who have taken a fully online Level 9 programme in Teaching and Learning. Since 2004, 506 staff who teach at UCC have successfully taken the Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education and a further 101 staff are taking the online programme during this academic year.



CIRTL staff and Fellows who support the accredited programmes joined by Vice President John O'Halloran and President Patrick O'Shea. L-R: John O'Halloran, James Cronin, Tracey Connolly, Briony Supple, Mary Clohessy, Eleanor O'Sullivan, Niall O'Leary, Patrick O'Shea, Tony Ryan, Brian Butler, Declan Kennedy, Marian McCarthy, Daniel Blackshields and Catherine O'Mahony

The success of the accredited courses at CIRTL reaffirms the commitment of UCC staff to professionalising their teaching, to enhancing the student learning experience, and to contributing to a vibrant scholarly community focussed on the integration of research, teaching and learning.

You can find out more about these courses at www.ucc.ie/en/cirtl.

NATIONAL SEMINAR SERIES: ENHANCING ASSESSMENT

Daniel Blackshields

On May 2nd UCC will host a half-day seminar as part of the National Forum Seminar Series. The seminar is entitled "To Let Learn: Enhancing Authentic Assessment for Student Learning Within the Disciplines through the Teaching for Understanding Framework", and participants will learn about the Teaching for Understanding Framework (TfU) and its use in enhancing student assessment for and as learning.

A series of case studies by contributors from the Colleges in UCC will be presented to illustrate the design and practice of the Teaching for Understanding Framework (TfU) as a pedagogical tool. These case studies and reflections will provide the backdrop for a dialogue with the contributors and the audience on designing authentic assessment performances through TfU to enhance teaching and learning in Higher Education.

Time: 2-5pm, May 2nd

Venue: Rm CPB LG51, Kavanagh Building

For further information, please visit:

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



SPRING CONFERRINGS – CIRTL MASTERS STUDENTS

Twelve UCC staff were presented with a Masters in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (MATLHE) at the Spring Conferring Ceremony on Wednesday, 22nd February. This brings to 76 the number of graduates of this Masters programme since its launch, most of whom are staff of UCC. This programme is one of three accredited courses delivered by OVPTL's Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CIRTL) developed to deliver teaching qualification programmes to greater numbers of UCC staff. Seventy percent of the teaching staff at UCC now hold a qualification in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, delivering on the third action of the 2013 – 2017 strategic plan. See www.ucc.ie/en/cirtl/ for details of the CIRTL team and staff professional development opportunities.



Recent graduates of the Masters in T&LHE

QUERCUS TALENTED STUDENTS' PROGRAMME NEWS



www.ucc.ie/en/quercus

FORD CENTENARY QUERCUS SCHOLARSHIPS

This year Cork celebrates the 100th anniversary of Ford in Ireland. One century on from the opening of the Henry Ford & Son Limited manufacturing plant on the Marina in Cork city, which brought considerable socio-economic benefits to the city and the surrounding areas, the company's links to Ireland remain strong.

As part of the centenary celebrations, Ford have announced a new five-year scholarship with UCC. At a ceremony in UCC on 21st April, William Clay Ford, Jr., Executive Chairman of Ford Motor Company and great-grandson of Henry Ford, announced Ford's support for UCC's Quercus Talented Students' Programme over the next five years beginning in the 2017-18 academic year. Established to commemorate the centenary of Ford in Ireland, the Ford Centenary Quercus Scholarship will run for five years, from the 2017-18 academic year until 2022.

UCC's Quercus Talented Students' Programme has been running since 2014, supporting and promoting excellence for prospective undergraduate students and students already registered in UCC. The new Ford Centenary Quercus Scholarship will target in particular students who show outstanding promise in the areas of Active Citizenship, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, seeking to nurture the talent of each student through support, challenge and mentoring.

Over the five-year scholarship period, the new Ford-sponsored programme will help approximately 50 talented students to realise their potential and to fully develop their talents through educational and practical support.

"With both deep personal and business connections to Ireland, I am delighted to celebrate not only 100 years of Ford in Ireland this week, but also to support the advancement of talented students at UCC with this new scholarship programme" said William Clay Ford, Jr. "While we have a lot to celebrate about our past, I'm especially excited that this scholarship provides the opportunity for us to support a new generation of innovators and leaders that can help shape the future for the next 100 years."

Professor John O'Halloran, Vice-President for Teaching & Learning and Director of the Quercus Talented Students' Programme said that *"The alignment of values of Ford and UCC is clear: entrepreneurship, innovation, sustainability and citizenship. We look forward to our Scholars engaging with Ford during these scholarships, and into the future."*

Following the announcement of the Ford Centenary Quercus Scholarship, William Clay Ford, Jr., was conferred with an honorary Doctorate of Economic Science from UCC and the National University of Ireland, at a ceremony in UCC's Council Room.

This is the latest chapter in the long-standing relationship between Henry Ford & Son Ltd. and UCC which itself stretches back to the early twentieth century. In 1927, UCC President Professor PJ Merriman arranged for the conferral of an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws on Henry Ford in order to "reflect the appreciation of the great advantage conferred on the City of Cork by Ford in locating his factory there". And through the decades, many graduates of the University have found employment with the company through graduate recruitment programmes which continue right up to today.



Ciara Judge, Quercus Innovation/Entrepreneurship Scholar, Ciarán McMahon, Managing Director and Chairman of Ford Ireland, Prof Patrick G O'Shea, President of UCC, William Clay Ford, Jr., Executive Chairman of Ford Motor Company, Prof John O'Halloran, Vice-President of UCC and Director of Quercus Talented Students' Programme and Sarah Jameel, Quercus Active Citizenship Scholar

NATIONAL LEARNING IMPACT AWARDS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

The national teaching awards system, co-ordinated by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, supports efforts to promote and learn from the best teachers in Higher Education institutions in Ireland. To this end the National Forum put in place a three phase learning impact award system.

The first phase, launched in 2014, were the student-led Teaching Hero awards. These were followed in 2015 by the second phase, academically-led, Teaching Expert awards. The third award type, the DELTA (Disciplinary Excellence in Learning, Teaching and Assessment) awards, were launched on March 21st 2017. These will recognise disciplines for their achievements, with particular focus on discipline-specific pedagogical contexts, requirements, challenges and innovations.

A key focus will be on enabling disciplines to ensure that teaching and learning enhancement can also be effectively linked to other core activities including research and scholarship, in ways that have clear benefits for learners.

All discipline groups who demonstrate specific achievements in teaching and learning enhancement and a clear commitment to future enhancement of teaching and learning are eligible to apply for the award. A discipline group can be a school, department or any established

group of teachers within a discipline recognised by their host institution. All submissions must centre on teaching and learning enhancement which focuses on improving teaching that has a positive impact on students' experience of learning. The application process is a two phase process. Expressions of Interest must be submitted to the National Forum by May 30th 2017. These will then be reviewed and applicants will be short listed to progress to develop a full application for a DELTA award by June 15th 2017.



NATIONAL FORUM

FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF TEACHING AND LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

HOW SAFE ARE YOU ONLINE?

The Central Statistics Office reports that approximately 82% of Irish people are regular internet users. Most phones bought in Ireland are smartphones that use the Internet all of the time, sometimes without you being aware of it.



Prof. John O'Halloran, Dr. Maureen Griffin, Ms Kate O'Brien and Tom O' Mara at the uOnline event at UCC

Consciously, most people choose to use the Internet for a variety of reasons. You may have bought something online, have a Facebook page, a Twitter account, an Instagram site, a blog, or you may have commented on something on a news website or forum. Your home address may be pinned on an online map. Companies you interact or work with often hold your details online, hopefully in a secure location, but not always. The Internet is a truly transformative technology – it makes the world smaller, gives us access to free information in a way previously unimaginable. While this connectivity is great, there is also a need to be aware of the potentially negative sides to the Internet.

As part of All Aboard 2017, a week of national events was held to build confidence in our digital skills for learning. The Instructional

Design team ran a free seminar 'uOnline' in Devere Hall on April 6th covering digital identity, reputation, privacy, security, behaviour and safety online as well as information on how to protect yourself online.



Transition Year students from the Cork region were in attendance along with staff and students from UCC and several local community organisations also participated. Guest speakers on the day included, Maeve Ahern O'Neill, founder of *The Branding of Me*; Dr Maureen Griffin, Forensic Psychologist and Director of MGMS Training Limited; Barry O'Sullivan, Head of Platform Delivery in IT Services UCC and member of the IT Services Management team; Luke Lyons, Leaving Cert student, Bruce College; Richard Barrett, co-founder of Pundit Arena; Kelly Doherty, Commercial & Communications Officer, UCC Student Union; and Linda Coughlan, Bank of Ireland.

For further information on the event, please visit:

<http://instructionaldesign.ucc.ie/uonline-seminar-april-6th/>



Transition Year students from around the Cork region gathered at UCC to learn about online safety

GLOBAL AWARDS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION INNOVATION

The Reimagine Education Awards are a year-long global competition designed to uncover transformative initiatives across the educational sector. They are organized by The Wharton School – SEI Center at the University of Philadelphia, and QS Quacquarelli Symonds, compiler of the QS World University Rankings. They reward the most innovative pedagogies that are aimed at enhancing the learning and employability outcomes of students.

This year there are 15 award categories including E-Learning, Hybrid Learning; Learning Assessment; Nurturing Employability; Best Educational App; Sustainability and ICT Tools for Teaching and Learning. In addition, there are also Regional Awards which will recognise the best entries from each of the regions: Africa; Asia; Europe; Latin America; Canada & USA and the Middle East. Finally, the Discipline Awards will recognise the

best entries in each of the following areas: Arts & Humanities; Engineering & IT; Life Sciences; Social Sciences and Natural Sciences. Applications may be submitted at no cost at www.reimagine-education.com, and the application deadline is **July 31st 2017**.

The winners will be announced at the Reimagine Education Conference in Philadelphia in December 2017, at a two-day event at The Wharton School where 500 delegates will network with leaders and senior figureheads of educational and technology companies and leading universities.

A total of 807 entries from 56 countries were received in 2016 and UCC's submission by Prof. Dave Sheehan was one of the 140 that were ultimately shortlisted for the category, disciplinary and regional awards.

SUBMIT YOUR PROJECT!
www.reimagine-education.com



The Office of the Vice-President for Teaching & Learning encourages staff and students to apply for awards that recognise their contribution.

Please contact Project Manager Sandra Irwin (s.irwin@ucc.ie) if you are interested in offering a nomination suggestion or applying for an award.

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION LEARNING & TEACHING FORUM

The European University Association launched a new [Learning & Teaching Forum](#) in December 2016 to establish a sustained approach for dialogue and cooperation among EUA members on Teaching and Learning. As part of this Forum four thematic peer groups working across Europe have been established to exchange good practices and identify core

principles for successful Teaching and Learning. In February, UCC was successful in its bid to become a member of one of four thematic peer groups. We now join Humboldt University of Berlin, Pierre-and-Marie-Curie University, University of Sheffield, Sapienza University of Rome, Silesian University of Technology, Pompeu

Fabra University and University of Borås in the thematic peer group on 'Building a link between research and teaching missions of the university'.

This new initiative provides a direct voice for institutions into discussions on key topics for European Higher Education. This is a wonderful opportunity for UCC to engage with our own students to shape the development of European policy while also embedding an international perspective in our activities. Each of the thematic peer groups will engage in face-to-face meetings to discuss and develop thinking around their respective themes. The first series of European Learning & Teaching Forum meetings took place during March and the consultations will culminate in the Inaugural European Learning and Teaching Forum Conference in Paris in September 2017.

For more visit: <http://bit.ly/2h2feSH>

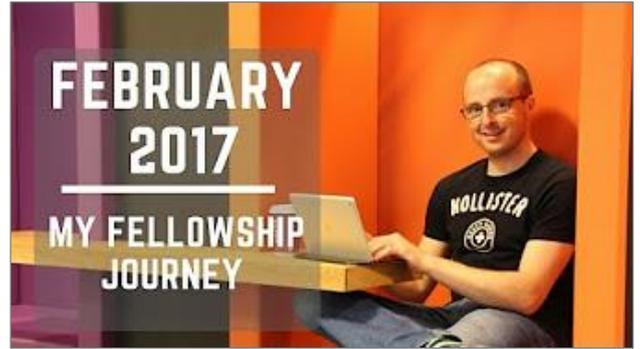


Four thematic peer groups working across Europe to exchange good practices and identify core principles for successful L&T



VIDEO BLOG OF AN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCHER ABROAD

Follow the progress of Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellow, James Northridge, on his video blog as he reflects on his experiences as a researcher in a new city and country, the challenges of being a researcher with dyslexia, and what he has learned from his investigations into the use of assistive technology for non-verbal students in a primary school setting. James will spend two years on secondment from UCC to the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Boston, in the USA where he will work under the supervision of Professor Bill McIlvane. James will then return to work at UCC with Dr Marian McCarthy, Director of the Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning. James' project will focus on the development of applications to support non-verbal students and is underpinned by the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). James' vlog of his experiences is available on his YouTube channel and can be viewed at: <http://bit.ly/2ozGMGL>.



STUDENT HUB RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Transforming learning experiences through evidence-based innovation in physical spaces

In December the OVPTL issued a call for participation in a new research programme at UCC aimed at investigating the transition to the new Student Hub building and its impact on student learning and the student experience.

The aim of this programme is to engage students and staff in learning space design to inform the implementation of new spaces in the Student Hub in order to optimise teaching, learning and the student experience.

Following the university-wide call for collaboration on this inter-disciplinary project a research team has now been convened and recruitment is underway for a PhD and Masters students who will be supported by this project. The Masters study will take place over the next academic year and will look at student attitudes and performance in creative learning spaces by examining how students currently interact with the campus and with the spaces currently at

their disposal across campus. The PhD study will examine the design, construction and occupancy by students and staff of the new Student Hub over the next four years.

PhD Opportunity: *Research into the design, construction and occupancy by students and staff of the new Student Hub at UCC*

Masters Opportunity: *Student Attitudes and performance in creative learning spaces: A quantitative review*

To apply please visit the project website

This initiative brings a research based approach to the design of space at UCC for the very first time. By gaining an understanding of how the built and virtual environments that we provide influence behaviour, learning and engagement we can position ourselves to transform the learning experiences of the next generation of students at UCC.

THE PROJECT

KEY FEATURES

- Support the transition to the Hub
- Contribute to the field of learning space research
- Build critical mass of researchers

THE AIM

Establish a multi-disciplinary research team, of students and staff, to inform the transition to the Hub

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Engage students and staff in learning space design for the Hub
- Inform the development of new spaces in the Student Hub
- Optimise the teaching, learning and the student experience

The Student Hub will open in 2018 and this research programme will underpin the implementation of the Hub as an innovative space where student learning and development are facilitated. If you are interested in finding out more, or in participating in this research programme, please visit our website at <http://bit.ly/2plGnVz>.



NEXT GENERATION LEARNING SPACES

The Steering Group for Teaching & Learning Space at UCC recommends that all teaching rooms in UCC should be improved to a minimum standard of technology as a priority and the necessary work is underway as a collaborative project between Buildings & Estates (B&E) and Audio Visual Media Services (AVMS). Furthermore, this group has identified the need for a small number of rooms that are fitted out to a very high specification in order to showcase the possibilities and opportunities for the use of innovative technologies and pedagogies to enhance the quality of teaching, and to provide the opportunity for UCC staff to employ innovative and experimental teaching methods. To this end the OVPTL coordinated a call for proposals for the development of Next Generation Learning Spaces at UCC in October 2016.

The aim of this project is to develop a small number of innovative experimental teaching spaces across the campus with a view to improving student engagement and outcomes through innovative environments and pedagogies

The selection process has now been completed and we are delighted to announce that the following innovative projects will be developed over the coming months:

- An active learning space in the O'Rahilly Building (ORB)
- A multi-functional learning area in the Dental Hospital
- A one-touch video recording and audio studio in the Boole Library
- A multi-sensory space in the School of Education
- A technology enhanced learning space in William Thompson House
- Flexible furniture and mobile technology in the Assistive Technology Lab
- Installation of acoustic pods in Boole Library communal study spaces
- Collaborative learning space in the O'Rahilly Building (ORB)
- An Halla in UCC's Gaeltacht Campus in Co. Kerry

Buildings & Estates and AVMS are now working with applicants to implement the successful projects.



MAPPING LANGUAGE ASSESSMENTS TO THE COMMON EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK OF REFERENCE FOR LANGUAGES: EXPERIENCES FROM UNILANG CERTIFICATION SCHEME IN THE UK

Emma Riordan & Sylvie Campion

On March 24th 2017, UCC's School for Languages Literatures and Cultures hosted a National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education funded event as part of the 2016/17 National Seminar Series.

The speaker was Dr John Morley, Chair of the Association of University Language Centres in the UK and Ireland, and Head of the Institution Wide Language Programme at the University of Manchester. The focus of the seminar was to introduce third level foreign language practitioners in Ireland to a foreign language assessment and standardisation scheme, UniLang, which was implemented in the UK in 2015/16.

The UK's UniLang scheme is an extension on the existing inter-institutional

External Examiner quality assurance mechanism, specifically targeting the examination of foreign language skills on the basis of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). External Examiners who are accredited by the UniLang scheme are experts in the CEFR and so can confirm the level of language competence achieved by students. The advantage of such a scheme is that students of any language programme at the university, be it a degree level qualification or a five credit optional module, can receive a certification of the level of language proficiency they have achieved which is recognised by employers and educational institutions in Europe and beyond. The UniLang scheme maintains a database of certificates issued and is responsible for the appointment of suitably qualified external examiners.

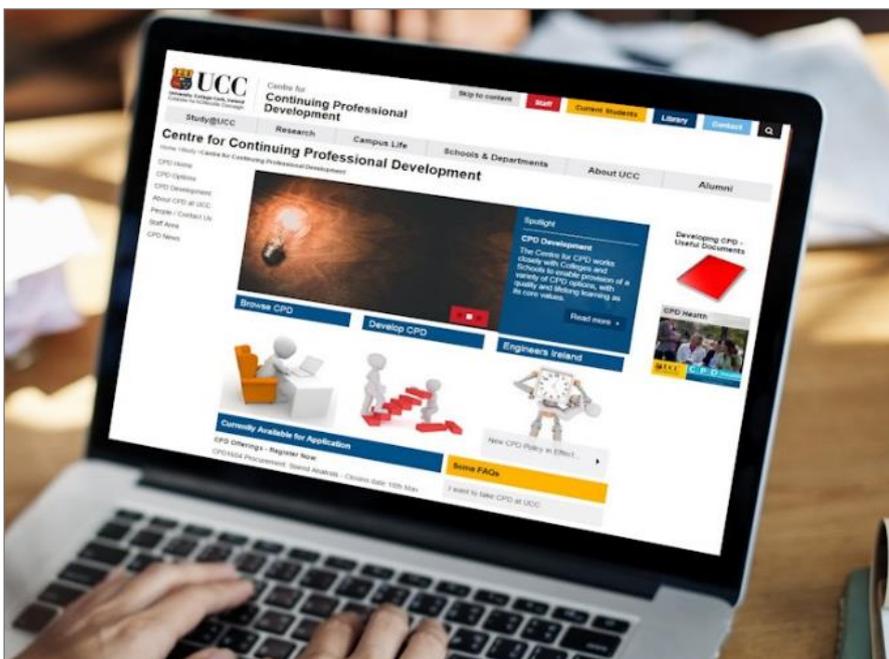
This event was attended by third level language department staff from nine different HEIs, and by many colleagues from within UCC. The discussion raised relevant and stimulating questions regarding the practice of language assessment and accreditation at third level in Ireland. It also provided a rare opportunity for language teachers from many different institutions and languages to come together and discuss common concerns around foreign language teaching and learning.



THE CENTRE FOR CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

The months since the OVPTL winter newsletter have been busy ones for the Centre for CPD! Caroline Collins joined the Centre in February, and we were relocated to a temporary home on Q+1 in the Boole Library. The Centre for CPD would like to extend a huge thank you to Colette McKenna and Ann Byrne (Library) for facilitating the move, and to Tom O'Mara and the Instructional Design team (OVPTL) for providing space for us in the interim.

March saw the launch of the CPD website (www.cpd.ucc.ie). The website provides a single portal to all CPD offerings at UCC and acts as a shop window to the market. Online registration and payment will be available here to improve the accessibility and convenience for customers. Keep an eye on this space over the coming months for new CPD activities that are being provided by UCC and be sure to share the site with professionals who may be on the lookout for CPD.



NEW TEAM MEMBERS



Moya Revins

The OVPTL was delighted to welcome two new staff members Moya Revins and Caroline Collins in February 2017. Moya began working as a Senior Executive Assistant with the Instructional Design Team located in the Boole Library where she will provide administrative support for a range of projects in the areas of Technology Enhanced Learning and Online Learning. Moya joined the OVPTL from the School of Medicine where she previously worked as an administrator. Moya is a UCC graduate and brings a wealth of experience to this role, having previously worked as a Marketing Executive Assistant for an engineering consultancy firm and as an arts administrator for both profit and non-profit organisations in Ireland and Australia. Immediately prior to joining UCC, Moya worked on the customisation of programmes to suit employees' learning and development needs for Gas Networks Ireland.

Caroline Collins joins the OVPTL as a Senior Executive Assistant for the Centre for Continuing Professional Development. She graduated with a BA in History and Sociology from University College Cork and joins us from the College of Medicine & Health where she previously worked with the Graduate School and the Jennings Gallery. Caroline is an experienced administrator and will coordinate and manage the administrative processes of the Centre from course application through to record keeping while also providing the necessary administrative framework to support the growth of the Centre.



Caroline Collins