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WELCOME

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

Summer is here and our University remains busy with a range of activities that are running across the campus. Among these is the Visiting Lecturers' Summer School run by our own Centre for Integration of Research in Teaching and Learning (CIRTL).

The summer gives us time to further engage in collaboration, conversations and in the development of pedagogies and research in our beautiful campus. It is great to see our outdoor space being used for teaching and learning at this time of year. Groups of students and faculty are actively engaging in discussion and reflections on the lawns and benches across the campus. Our outdoor spaces are such great classrooms.

At this time too we refresh and refurbish some of our teaching spaces and this summer we see a significant programme of works by Audio Visual Media Services (AVMS) and Buildings and Estates (B&E). Our Instructional Design team will run training sessions on technology enhanced learning in these refurbished teaching spaces.

We are busy preparing for the first Teaching and Learning Forum of European Universities Association (EUA) which takes place in Paris in September (<http://bit.ly/2pvENSM>). UCC is part of a team developing position papers for the EUA on research-based learning and research-enhanced curriculum.

The finishing touches are being made to the programme for the UNESCO Conference on Learning Cities which will take place in Cork this September. Over 600 delegates from over 100 countries will attend, and a number of delegations will visit our UCC campus.

Throughout the summer you will see further announcements about the UNESCO Conference, learning spaces, Continuing Professional Development and in Quercus as the next cohort of our talented students will arrive on campus.

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](https://twitter.com/johbees)

www.ucc.ie/teachlearn



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LEARNING CITIES

18-20 SEPTEMBER 2017 CORK CITY, IRELAND



GLOBAL GOALS, LOCAL ACTIONS: TOWARDS LIFELONG LEARNING FOR ALL IN 2030

CORK TO HOST UNESCO 3RD CONFERENCE ON LEARNING CITIES

Cork was chosen by UNESCO to be the host for its International Conference on Learning Cities in 2017. This will be the first time the Conference will be held in Europe. The theme of the conference is 'Global goals, local actions: Towards lifelong learning for all in 2030', and it is presented by UNESCO Institute of Lifelong Learning, supported by Cork City Council and Cork ETB with its Learning City Project partners, UCC and CIT.

The conference is a 3-day event from 18-20 September 2017, with Days 1 & 2 being spent entirely in the concert hall, City Hall. On Day 3, delegates will disperse across the city, via buses, to various locations, including UCC. Delegates will select at the registration phase their preferred site visit for Day 3.

"We need to place lifelong learning at the heart of all our work to build inclusive knowledge societies... This is the way to unlock the potential of every society. This is the way to bring sustainability to all development efforts. Cities have a unique role to play here."
Irina Bokova, Director-General for UNESCO

Cork has been at the forefront in implementing the ideals of a Learning City, first expressed in Beijing in 2013 at the 1st UNESCO Conference on Learning Cities. Cork's effective multi-sectoral approach to development is most prominently exemplified by its hugely successful annual Lifelong Learning Festival. The festival has even been an inspiration for other cities, within Ireland and abroad, as it encourages citizens to investigate, participate and celebrate learning. Cork's achievements were awarded at the 2nd International Conference on Learning Cities in 2015 in Mexico City when it received the UNESCO Learning City Award.

As the first European city to host this prestigious global conference, Cork will welcome over 600 participants from over 100 UNESCO member countries (including Ministers, mayors, representatives of national governments and cities and other key international decision-makers and influencers) to share knowledge and experiences in building inclusive and sustainable learning cities. The reputational benefits to Ireland of hosting the UNESCO conference will not only support efforts to recruit

international students, but can also help attract and retain the skilled workers needed to support continued economic growth.

The conference will provide a platform for cities to share knowledge, exchange ideas and compare strategies and approaches that can be used to further develop or initiate development of learning cities. Participants will discuss the development of learning cities in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly the local implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4, which aims to 'ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all'.

Through plenary sessions, thematic forums and the presentations of cities' best practices, participants will discuss:

- How lifelong learning supports the achievement of the SDGs at local levels;
- Promotion of integrated governance and multi-stakeholder partnerships for the cities' sustainable future;
- Successful ways of implementing and measuring the impact of local actions for sustainable development.

Registration for the conference is now open. UNESCO and the City of Cork warmly invite learning city practitioners, local and national representatives, experts in and newcomers to the field to register through the dedicated conference website at www.learningcities2017.org before 31 August 2017.



STUDENT TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR TEACHING STAFF

In 2016 the extensive installation of new systems in the teaching and learning spaces across UCC led to a requirement for enhanced technical support in teaching rooms as new improvements were rolled out.

In response to this, the OVPTL in conjunction with UCC's Audio Visual Media Services team established a network of Classroom Technology support personnel for the first two weeks of Term 1. Postgraduate students were trained up in the use of technology in classrooms across

the campus, kitted out in distinctive yellow t-shirts and deployed across Brookfield, the Kane building, the North Campus buildings and the ORB. They checked each classroom before the start of lectures and then were available for academic staff to call if immediate support was required. We are delighted to announce that the same supports will be in place on campus from September 11th to 22nd this year.

Watch out for the yellow shirts as the 2017/18 academic year gets underway!



STEAM-based Pedagogy in Theory and Practice: Collaboration, Presence, Play

(STEAM = Science Technology Engineering Arts Maths see <http://stemtosteam.org> for further information)

On 22nd June, three Faculty from across James Madison University in Virginia, Dr Zachary A. Dorsey, Theatre and Dance, Dr. Patrice Ludwig, Biology Department, Dr. Seán McCarthy, School of Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication led a three-hour workshop on STEAM principles, supported by OVPTL, and pedagogy as part of their week long residency at UCC. They were visiting Ireland on a research focused summer programme, called "From Water to STEAM", with a group of 14 undergraduate students from across a range of six different disciplines. Their workshop brought together participants from a range of colleges at UCC alongside arts practitioners and participants from outside the university (for example from primary and secondary schools) to discuss and develop their understanding of STEAM principles and STEAM education.



From left to right: Zachary A. Dorsey, Patrice Ludwig and Seán McCarthy

From an overview of their backgrounds and on-going development of STEAM based projects the JMU team facilitated the participants' exploration of methods and modes of engagement for a STEAM project along with discussion of some of the challenges that can arise. They modelled an approach developed from 'start-up' thinking and the use of the 'design sprint' methodology as a way to get teams from different backgrounds focused on coming together around a particular issue or problem. There were a number of 'break out' sessions where participants had a chance to think through their own approaches and ideas and to meet others interested in similar processes.

They also focused on how we can create effective and sustainable 'STEAMy' teaching and research networks where this workshop offered a first step in bringing people together across disciplines and backgrounds to find common interest and learn from each other's experiences. Currently, there is limited information on institutional infrastructure that can make STEAM education a sustainable proposition in higher education so a focus was also on how to identify infrastructural needs, supports and obstacles to working in transdisciplinary frameworks. The workshop offered models, methods and a lively collegial afternoon which gave food for thought for how we might begin to develop STEAMy spaces and projects at UCC and with our partners and communities locally and internationally.

SECOND LEARNING SPACE CONFERENCE FOR UCC STAFF

The OVPTL will be following up on 2016's very successful *Next Generation Learning Spaces* Conference with a second conference in October 10th 2017. This event will showcase examples of teaching and learning spaces within UCC that have been upgraded within the last year, as well as highlighting examples of best and innovative practice internationally. We are delighted to announce that Professor Stephen Heppell Professor of New Media Environments at the Centre for Excellence in Media Practice, Bournemouth University will be joining us this year to share his insights and experience in this area. More on Stephen's work can be found on <http://www.heppell.net>. Further details on this event will be available on our website <http://instructionaldesign.ucc.ie>



Wi-Fi IN TEACHING SPACES

Further to the article 'Upgrade of Teaching Space' featured in the Summer 2016 issue of OVPTL News, we are pleased to announce that IT Services has concluded the first phase of their strategic campus wide Wi-Fi upgrade that provides for consistent and reliable Wi-Fi services in all the Centrally Bookable Teaching Rooms at UCC. The upgrade, led by Mr Denis O'Sullivan and his Network Operations team and working very closely with colleagues from the Office of Buildings and Estates, saw significant investment in both additional and new

installations of Wi-Fi services to more than 100 teaching rooms across the campus. This is a phased project, with financial backing from the European Investment Bank. This dovetails with the Audio Visual and Media Services multiyear project that will see enhanced ICT services installed in all teaching spaces by 2019, providing an enhanced experience for students and teaching staff.

The next phase of the Wi-Fi plan will see the upgrade to teaching rooms that are



not centrally bookable. IT Services is currently identifying the room locations and will assess requirements and devise a plan and schedule for their upgrade.

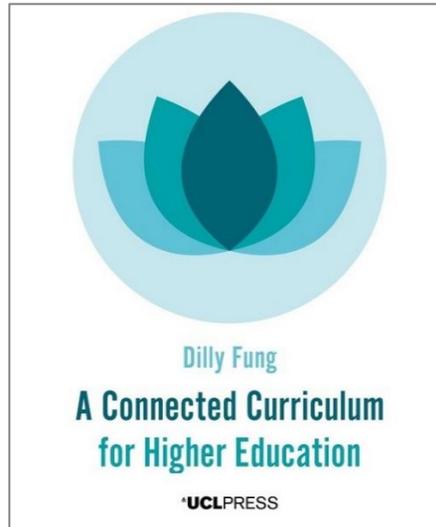
RESEARCH IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM

An international conference on embedding research in the undergraduate curriculum in higher education took place in London during June and attracted more than 300 international delegates. The conference was co-organised by University College London, the University of Adelaide and McMaster University, all of whom have significant expertise in growing curriculum-wide approaches to research-based education. UCC staff members presented on two different areas of work.

Dr Catherine O'Mahony, Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning, and Aonghus Sugrue, Systems Administration, presented on a curriculum analytics project at UCC which investigated evidence for research and inquiry in the undergraduate curriculum. This project provides a baseline for research-based education activities in UCC and the methodology shared in the paper was of particular interest to attendees, many of whom are grappling with the

same questions. Dr. O'Mahony coordinated a symposium during the conference which showcased three different Horizon 2020 projects that all share an interest in developing students' capacities to conduct research responsibly and to ensure that the outputs of research and innovation are responsive to societal needs. The

curriculum design tools and teaching activities shared during the symposium gave inspiring ideas on how to combine research-based education with the development of competences that support students to navigate the challenges of our time. This encourages students to work with the university's researchers to produce work that they can present to the public.



Comprising six dimensions of connectivity, The Connected Curriculum sets out a plan for a joined up approach to education with the engagement of students in authentic research and inquiry as its cornerstone. You can read more about this approach in the recently published (and free) e-book 'A Connected Curriculum for Higher Education'. In this book Dr. Fung opens windows onto new initiatives related to research-based education, internationalisation, the global classroom, interdisciplinarity and public engagement.

MAPPING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AT UCC

In 2014 the Higher Education Authority established a Working Group to examine the issue of student engagement in decision-making in higher education institutions in Ireland. This group recommended that each Irish HEI complete a co-led (staff and student) self-evaluation of their formal and informal engagement practices and opportunities at each level (School, College, University) within the institution. It further recommended that this self-evaluation exercise should then inform a co-authored student engagement policy. You can read the full report here: <http://bit.ly/2uAz5SQ>.

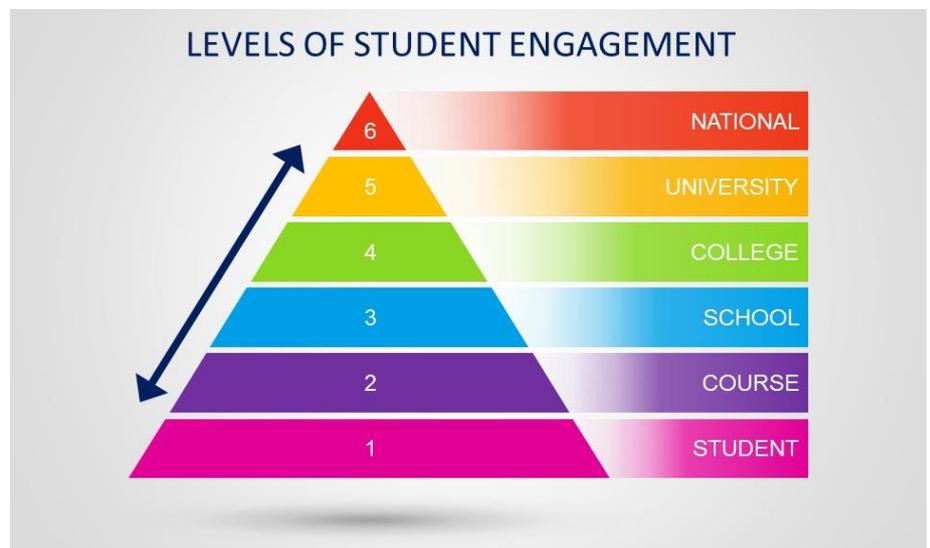
Body (GB), University Management, Academic Council, Academic Board, Staff-Student Committees) and Quality Assurance. As recommended by the Working Group, this review will map student engagement opportunities and activity at School, College, University, GB and national level. We will consider the policy context; governance; tools;

dissemination; and associated resources.

It will identify national/ international best practice and will develop a set of recommendations aimed at enhancing opportunities for student engagement at UCC. The outcomes of this project will inform the development of an institutional policy on student engagement.

At UCC we support our students to collaborate with us as full partners in every aspect of their education to improve our university and we offer a wide range of engagement activities for our students. However, there is no oversight of student engagement opportunities at university level.

A new project underway at the OVPTL will conduct a review of both formal and informal student engagement opportunities at UCC in the areas of Teaching & Learning, Governance and Management (Governing



Seven governance and management levels offering opportunities for student engagement in Higher Education (From the Working Group report)

REPORT NOW AVAILABLE: REVIEW OF STUDENT FEEDBACK AT UCC

By Dr. Laura Lee

At UCC the views of students are central to improving teaching, research and student services and to the quality review process. Student surveys are an important tool for students to provide feedback on university experiences, educational quality, institutional effectiveness and satisfaction. They are undertaken to investigate, report and respond to feedback and they play an important role in the involvement of students in university management and governance at UCC. Peer-to-peer surveys are also undertaken by students to inform their research. Student surveys at UCC include, but are not limited to:

- The Irish Survey of Student Engagement (annual);
- The UCC Student Experience Survey (bi-annual);
- The university-wide module survey (annual prior to 2016);
- Quality Review surveys (as required);
- Student services surveys to their users on an ad-hoc basis (as required);
- Peer-to-peer student research surveys (as required).

Amid concerns among students around failure to 'close the feedback loop' and over-surveying, and among staff around low response rates, the university-wide module survey was suspended in 2016 with a view to implementing an alternative model. Furthermore, the lack of coordination of student surveys at UCC has resulted in:

- Over-surveying of some student groups creating confusion and frustration;
- Survey fatigue causing students to become disengaged;
- Reduced survey response rates compromising data quality;
- Duplication of effort;
- Limited evidence of closing the loop;
- Concern over tools employed and ethics;
- Lack of oversight and of clarity around roles and responsibilities.

In light of these issues, a review of student surveying across UCC was undertaken, sponsored by the Office of the Vice-President for Teaching and Learning, the Quality Enhancement Unit, and the Student Experience Office.

The aim of the review project was to improve the coordination of student survey practices within the university. The review included: a mapping of existing student surveys at UCC; national and international benchmarking exercises; a review of relevant literature; and internal and external consultations.

**STUDENT
SURVEY.IE**
WE VALUE
YOUR VOICE

The report arising from this review 'Connecting, Listening, and Enhancing: Placing Student Perceptions of their Educational Experience at the Heart of Decision Making at UCC. Review of Student Surveys at UCC' is now available for download at <http://bit.ly/2u4sAFd>.

The report details the findings of the survey and makes a number of key recommendations aimed at addressing the current lack of a university strategy with respect to the management of student surveys at UCC. It recommends the development of a specific policy on student surveys and the creation of a Student Surveys Board to implement the policy.

UCC STUDENT SURVEY



VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAMME

In July the Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning (CIRTL) welcomed 31 visiting lecturers from universities in China and Latin America. Participants attended from the Guilin University of Technology, Anhui University of Finance and Economics, Inner Mongolia University of Nationalities, Colegio Montessori in Zaragoza, Spain, and the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru.

These scholars will engage in courses on English language development and on teaching and learning in higher education until 11th August as part of UCC's Summer School for Visiting Lecturers (www.ucc.ie/en/cirtl/vissch). Additionally, scholars from Guilin University of Technology in China will join us for a bespoke programme that blends English language development, with specific courses in Environmental science and PhD preparation training.



Visiting Scholars and OVPTL staff at the recent welcome reception.

QUERCUS TALENTED STUDENTS' PROGRAMME NEWS



www.ucc.ie/en/quercus

RAISING THE BAR

Amy O'Connor, Quercus Sports' Scholar, is one of the stars of the Camogie Association 2017 #RaiseTheBar campaign video. In the video, Amy, along with Liam Sheedy, Mags D'Arcy and Jacqui Hurley, rally the nation to come out and support the All Ireland Camogie Championship. Camogie will be in the hearts and minds of people across the country during the summer months, especially with the recent confirmation that all of the knockout matches will be broadcast live on RTÉ for the first time ever.

Amy was also recently awarded the Littlewoods Ireland 2017 *Style of Play Award*. The *Style of Play* competition ran throughout the Division One League campaign and was awarded to the player who achieved the most stylish moment during the game. The nine award winners were then featured on the Littlewoods Ireland social media channels and members of the public were asked to vote for their favourite *Style of Play* moment, with Amy coming out the winner.



Amy O'Connor (second from right) wins the Littlewoods Ireland 'Style of Play' Award 2017



NATIONAL LAW STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Clara Hurley, Quercus University Scholar and final year Law International student, has won the Irish Law Awards 'Law Student of the Year' category for 2017. These awards were presented at the sixth annual black tie gala AIB Private Banking Irish Law Awards at the Clayton Hotel in Dublin.

Clara was awarded the prize for both her academic legal achievements and other overall achievements. The event took place on Friday 12th of May in the Clayton Hotel in Dublin and was hosted by Miriam O'Callaghan. The Law Student of the Year prize was sponsored by Bloomsbury Professional, and Clara was presented with her award by Sandra Mulvey, General Manager of Bloomsbury Professional (Pictured left). Photo credit: Paul Sherwood

CORK WIN MUNSTER SENIOR HURLING FINAL

Congratulations to Shane Kingston, Quercus Sports' Scholar and first year Arts' Student on Cork's win over Clare in the recent Munster Senior Hurling Final.

Originally from Rochestown in Cork, Shane made his senior debut for the Cork hurling team during in 2016. Shane has been playing Hurling and Gaelic Football since the age of four and has been playing county level since the age of 13. To date he has won nine county medals with his club, Douglas GAA.

Shane joined UCC in 2016 as a Quercus Sports' Scholar and also currently plays with UCC Freshers.



JOANNE O'RIORDAN

Quercus Active Citizenship Scholar Joanne O'Riordan recently attended a dinner in Dublin Castle on the occasion of the visit of Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, to Ireland, at the invitation of Taoiseach Leo Varadkar.

Joanne has recently returned to Ireland having successfully completed a year abroad at York University studying criminology. She will return to UCC in September to commence the final year of her criminology degree. Joanne has been invited to speak at the upcoming UNESCO Global Network on Learning Cities Conference in September 2017 in Cork.



WASHINGTON/IRELAND PROGRAMME

Congratulations to Quercus University Scholar, Ellen Ní Fhlainn, final year Law and French, on being awarded one of the prestigious internships on the Washington Ireland Program (WIP) <https://wiprogram.org>. Established more than two decades ago this programme aims to inspire and develop promising leaders through personal development, policy debate and community services.

Ellen took up her internship in June in the Irish Embassy in Washington D.C. and is finding her summer in the US Capitol both exciting and rewarding. Ellen will start a masters in the College of Europe in Bruges in the Autumn. You can read Ellen's blog here <http://bit.ly/2uAz5SQ>.



Centre for
**Continuing Professional
Development**

During April the Centre for CPD was delighted to work with UCC's Office of the Vice-President for External Relations to host a lunchtime event for the American Chamber of Commerce in Ireland. The American Chamber invited more than 70 American Chamber companies to attend lunch at the Devere Hall, Áras na Mac Léinn, followed by a keynote speech, panel discussion and Questions & Answers session. The theme of the event was "*Cognitive Bias: What Were We Thinking*", with keynote speaker Prof. Barry O'Sullivan, Director of UCC's Insight Centre for Data Analytics in the Department of Computer Science, giving an address on *The Use of Artificial Intelligence to Remove Cognitive Bias*.



In August, we look forward to meeting Teachers and Professionals working with young people who will participate in a one-day workshop entitled '*Social Media and Children: Challenges for Professionals*'. This workshop will cover topics such as social media; cyber-bullying; legal aspects; and acceptable use and anti-bullying policies. This one-day event is open to the public and is aimed at social workers, psychologists, youth workers, club leaders, sports coaches or any other professionals working with children. This event is accredited by the Irish Association of Social Workers. The closing date for registration is 10th August 2017.

www.ucc.ie/en/cpd/options/appliedpsychology.

If your School, Department or Unit is running any CPD programme or workshop over the coming weeks or months, the Centre for CPD can now provide you with the support to develop, administer and certify your CPD. Check out our website www.ucc.ie/en/cpd for further information or email us at cpd@ucc.ie if you have an idea which is at any stage in the developmental process.

CONFERENCE UPDATES: FROM SLIGO TO SWEDEN

June was a busy month for OVPTL staff presenting at two conferences. Dr Briony Supple from the Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning (CIRTL) and Ms. Claire Fennell, Instructional Design team, attended The Irish Learning Technology Association (ILTA) conference in Sligo (<http://ilta.ie/>). The theme of the conference was 'Technology Enhanced Learning in the age of supercomplexity' which included a variety of presenters primarily from across Ireland and the UK.

Briony and Claire presented the results of a collaborative study focussed on staff learning patterns (as students) in UCC's online Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. Their work in this area will be built upon further in the coming months ahead of another presentation at the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning conference in Canada.

Dr. Marian McCarthy, CIRTL Director and Dr. Briony Supple, CIRTL Lecturer, also attended the European Society for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (EuroSoTL) conference in Lund, Sweden (<http://konferens.ht.lu.se/eurosoTL-2017>). The theme of the conference was 'transforming patterns through the scholarship of teaching and learning'. The conference was attended by over 200 delegates from both across Europe as well as the UK, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Asia.

Marian and Briony delivered two collaborative presentations which focussed on different aspects of the accredited online courses delivered by CIRTL. The first was entitled 'Reviewing reflective teaching portfolios about online learning: What are they telling us?', and the second 'It has been a real voyage of discovery': Staff as students in an online course – what have we learned?.



Dr Marian McCarthy sharing her experience with transformed patterns of learning and behaviour

Two graduates from the MA in Teaching and Learning at CIRTL also attended and delivered poster and oral presentations on their work. The conference provided a wonderful networking opportunity and exposure to many innovative forms of teaching practice including using Lego as a teaching and learning tool, students as co-creators and apps for fieldwork education.

ECONOMICS WINS GRADIRELAND AWARD 2017

The BA (Hons) Economics and UCC Careers Services recently won the Association of Higher Education Careers Services Awards for Excellence – Employability Award at the Gradireland Awards in Dublin. Mary McNulty, Aileen Waterman, Ella Kavanagh and CIRTL Fellow Daniel Blackshields from UCC scooped 'Gold' in the Association of Higher Education Careers Services (AHECS) Excellence – Employability Award.

They spearheaded the design and delivery of the Transition to Professional Life (TPL) modules as part of the Department of Economics' undergraduate economics programme. The modules are delivered as a unique three-way partnership between the Career Services, Department of Economics and eight large employers, forming a university-industry collaboration.



Jacqui Churcher

OVPTL WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBERS

The Office of the Vice-President for Teaching & Learning is delighted to welcome new staff members Ms. Jacqui Churcher and Dr. Laura Lee who recently joined the team. Jacqui has recently joined the Centre for CPD as a Senior Executive Assistant on secondment from the School of Medicine, while Caroline Collins is on maternity leave. Jacqui came to UCC from Dell Computers and has many years of experience in UCC including roles in both academic and central administrative functions.

Laura joins CIRTL as a Research Support Officer. She will support the numerous Erasmus+ projects that the Centre is partner on. She will also assist in the development of new grant applications and coordinate similar research initiatives within CIRTL. Laura is a UCC graduate, having recently completed her PhD by research in the School of Applied Psychology. Her PhD research examined the cognitive mechanisms of primary school children's literacy development, and evaluated interventions designed to support children experiencing reading difficulties.



Laura Lee