

Navigate stories

Welcome to the latest issue of our OVPTL newsletter

President's Awards For Excellence In Teaching

UNESCO International Conference on Learning Cities

Next Generation Learning Spaces Seminar

Introducing Quercus Talented Students' Programme New Brand Identity

All-Ireland Camogie Success for Quercus Scholars

Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning Summer School

Other news



Excellence in Teaching



Conference



Seminar



Quercus Programme



Quercus Scholars



CIRTL



## WELCOME



It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the first version of our e-newsletter, and the 10th issue of our Teaching and Learning newsletter. It is packed with celebrating achievements, local and global teaching and learning news, as well as looking to future possibilities.

I wish to extend our congratulations to all those in receipt of awards at the recent university staff awards ceremony, in particular those in receipt of Excellence in Teaching awards: Dr Malgorzata Krasnodebska-D'Aughton, Dr Tim O'Sullivan, Dr Jackelina Pando-Kelly and Dr Jillian Rogers.

We also recognise Dr Declan Kennedy who reached a major milestone with his learning outcomes book. This pioneering book was archived on UCC's institutional repository (CORA) in 2014 and has become the most downloaded publication of all.

UCC's leadership in global lifelong learning was celebrated at the UNECSO lifelong learning conference held in Cork in September. This was followed by our participation in the first ever European University Association Forum on Teaching and Learning in Paris. The delivery of the international programme for visiting lecturers continues at the Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning (CIRTL).

Looking to the future, a series of workshops including a next generation learning space seminar, performative spaces in language, literature and culture and the launch of our lunchtime seminar series which addresses key topics relating to the enhancement of teaching and learning are featured.

Finally, we launched a new brand identity for the Quercus Talented Students' Programme to mark its relationship with Ford and also recently released a video to globally promote the programme. To watch the video click

I hope the first semester is progressing well and we look forward to supporting teaching and learning during the year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John O'Halloran', written over a horizontal line.

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



**Pictured (l-r):** Professor John O'Halloran, Vice-President for Teaching & Learning; Dr Malgorzata Krasnodebska-D'Aughton, School of History; Dr Tim O'Sullivan, School of Pharmacy and School of Chemistry; Dr Jillian Rogers, School of Music & Theatre; Dr Jackelina Pando-Kelly, School of Medicine; Professor Patrick O'Shea, President of UCC; and Thomas Randles, Group Finance Director PFH Technology Group.

## PRESIDENT'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Congratulations to this year's winners of the President's Awards for Excellence in Teaching at UCC. Dr Malgorzata Krasnodebska-D'Aughton, School of History, Dr Tim O'Sullivan, School of Pharmacy and School of Chemistry, Dr Jackelina Pando-Kelly, School of Medicine, and Dr Jillian Rogers, School of Music & Theatre had their teaching excellence recognised by student and peer nominations.

Proudly sponsored by PFH Technology Group, a company with a long history of engagement with UCC, the awards were presented by Professor Patrick O'Shea, UCC President, at a ceremony in the Aula Maxima on the evening of Thursday October 6th.

These awards, launched by the OVPTL in April, recognise outstanding contributions to teaching excellence, by individuals or teams, that positively impact on student learning and enhance the quality of teaching at UCC.

UCC has been running awards schemes for teaching excellence since 2004, but this new scheme at OVPTL invited students to nominate their excellent teachers, and this was the first time that students were directly involved, as partners, in the process. For this year's awards, nominations were accepted from students, colleagues, alumni and also from individuals themselves. Following on from the success of this scheme, the direct involvement of students will be a feature of all Teaching Excellence Awards at UCC in the future.

# FIRST EUROPEAN LEARNING & TEACHING FORUM

## European Universities discuss Innovative Teaching and Research-based Learning in Higher Education



**Pictured above:** Catherine O'Mahony and John O'Halloran with members of the EUA peer group on research-teaching links at the inaugural EUA Learning and Teaching Forum.

Organised by the European University Association (EUA), the first European Forum on Learning and Teaching was held in Paris in September and attracted more than 280 participants from 34 countries. UCC was represented at this forum by Vice-President for Teaching & Learning, Professor John O'Halloran and Manager of the Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning, Dr Catherine O'Mahony. The event was the culmination of a year-long exchange of good practices between universities across Europe on organisational, educational and qualitative aspects of learning and teaching. A set of **10 European Principles** for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching in Higher Education were shared as a prompt to discussion and to ensure a shared view of Europe's education mission.

UCC was a member of the peer-group on the research-teaching links and hosted a workshop on "**curricular and strategic perspectives on research-based learning**". This workshop was one of three organised by the peer group which also examined how to ensure parity of esteem for research and teaching and student centred approaches to research-based learning.

The benefit of research-based learning was a common theme at the conference. Dr Dilly Fung from University College London outlined the ambitious "Connected Curriculum" approach at UCL which places learning through inquiry and research at its core. Sarah Lynch, Head of Sector Higher Education in Directorate-General Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, European Commission, highlighted imbalance in terms of funding to support Teaching and Learning initiatives and the need for enhanced pedagogical training projects and staff mobility.

An invitation to participate in the second round of thematic peer groups will be launched in autumn and the presentations from the EUA event can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/2h2feSH>

# UNESCO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LEARNING CITIES



International Conference on Learning Cities  
Cork - 2017

Joanne O’Riordan, Quercus Active Citizenship Scholar, was one of the keynote speakers at the third International Conference on Learning Cities, which was held in Cork in September.

Joanne spoke with eloquence and humour in front of 500 delegates from across the globe at the opening ceremony of the conference on Monday 18th of September in Cork City Hall.

On the third day of the conference, UCC hosted 43 delegates from 23 countries around the world for a day-long tour of the campus which included a choice of walking tours, exhibitions, music and opportunities to meet with those involved in lifelong learning.



# NEXT GENERATION LEARNING SPACES SEMINAR

Following on from the successful *Next Generation Learning Spaces* funding initiative to develop new learning spaces at UCC, a seminar on Next Generation Learning Spaces was hosted by OVPTL, in the Creative Zone of the Boole Library on the 11th of October.

Professor John O'Halloran, launched the event and spoke about UCC's recently upgraded teaching spaces and the initiatives underway to transform learning spaces across our campus and to understand what next generation learning environments at UCC might look like. Keynote guest speaker Professor Stephen Heppell, shared the latest innovative developments in the fields of learning, new media and technology. A professor at Bournemouth University and a pioneer in the future of learning, Stephen Heppell is an educator who specialises in the use of ICT in education. He provided the delegates with insights into the design of learning space derived from his more than three decades of research on using technology to transform education.

Further presentations from key staff in UCC showcased creative learning spaces across the University as well as pedagogical considerations about optimising the use of spaces.

The afternoon provided colleagues with an opportunity to exchange ideas and some useful insights into how a student's learning environment can be enhanced. OVPTL will be announcing a further funding call shortly, so watch this space!



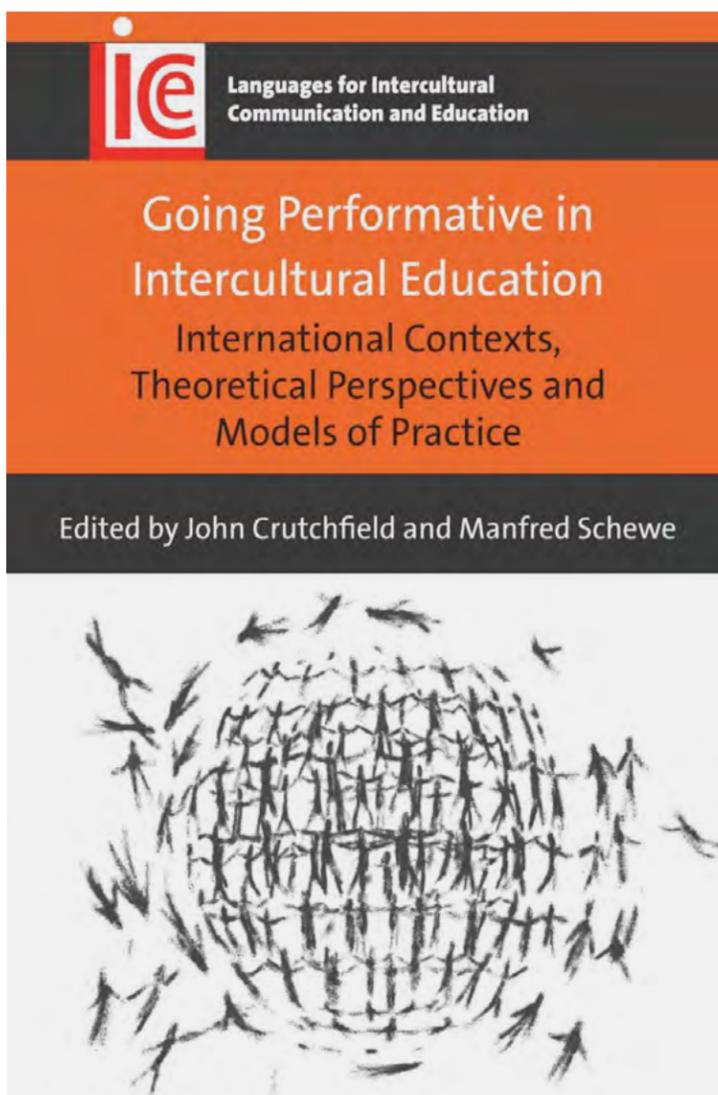
**Pictured (l-r):** Professor Stephen Heppell, keynote speaker; Mark Poland, Director of Buildings and Estates; and Tom O'Mara, Online Learning Project Manager.

To learn more about Professor Stephen Heppell's work, go to: [www.heppell.net](http://www.heppell.net)

For further information, go to: <http://bit.ly/2yD9JG7>



## PERFORMATIVE SPACES IN LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND CULTURE EDUCATION



A film documenting the SCENARIO FORUM Conference 2017 at University College Cork, Ireland has been launched. This conference focussed on the use of performative spaces in language, literature and culture education and explored how we can create performative spaces in education. The SCENARIO project (<http://scenario.ucc.ie>) is based in the Department of Drama and Theatre Studies and the Department of German at UCC.

This wonderful film will be of interest to all those with an interest in active learning methodologies, and can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/2kWjeds>

A new book, directly linked to this video, was published in August 2017. '*Going Performative in Intercultural Education*', edited by John Crutchfield (Freie Universität Berlin) and Manfred Schewe (Head of the Department of Drama and Theatre Studies at UCC, introduces scholars, language teachers, student teachers and drama practitioners to the concept of performative teaching and learning. It presents an impressive collection of theoretical and practical approaches by international scholars, practitioners, teacher trainers and artists, and explores how drama pedagogy can inform a new teaching and learning culture centred on performative experience.

Contributions to the SCENARIO Forum Conference, which has been nominated for an award by the Cork Convention Bureau, will be published in the first two issues of SCENARIO JOURNAL. Issue 1 has just been published at: <http://research.ucc.ie/scenario/2017/01>



## LEADING THE WAY IN TEACHING & LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

In 2005 University College Cork pioneered the introduction of Learning Outcomes in Higher Education. This initiative was championed by Professor Aine Hyland, then Vice-President for Teaching & Learning at UCC, Dr Norma Ryan then Director of Quality Promotion at UCC and Prof John O'Halloran, current VP for Teaching & Learning at UCC.

Leading this field internationally, Dr Declan Kennedy, Department of Education, published his book '*Writing and using learning outcomes: A practical guide*' in 2006. Learning outcomes were written for all programmes and fully aligned to the National Framework of Qualifications to ensure that the Irish Higher education system is Bologna compliant. This reflects the shift towards more student centred learning. Since its publication, this open access book has made a significant impact in its field and has become a go-to reference book for those involved in transforming higher education teaching.

This book was archived on UCC's institutional repository (CORA) in 2014 and has become the most downloaded publication of all time with over 14,500 downloads to date. It has also been translated into multiple languages including Arabic, Hungarian, Irish, Serbian and Spanish and has been disseminated to more than 60 countries around the world.



## INTRODUCING QUERCUS TALENTED STUDENTS' PROGRAMME NEW BRAND IDENTITY

We are proud to announce the launch of the new logo of the Quercus Talented Students' Programme to mark its relationship with Ford. A whole range of new marketing and advertising measures are in place to raise awareness of the Scholarships over the coming months. One of these initiatives is a large banner on the Grand Parade which was unveiled in early September in advance of the UNESCO International Conference on Learning Cities in Cork. A new promotional video was also launched on October 20th and can be viewed here: [www.ucc.ie/en/quercus/october/](http://www.ucc.ie/en/quercus/october/)

# NEW SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS



The new cohort of Quercus Scholars, selected through a competitive recruitment process, attended an induction day on Friday, September 8th in Distillery House.

**Pictured back row (l-r):**

1. Jack O'Sullivan, 2. Emily Duffy, 3. David O'Sullivan, 4. James Harte, 5. Robert O'Donovan, 6. Alana Daly Mulligan, 7. Rhianne Kelly, 8. Sumitha Pandiaraja, 9. Ben Kavanagh, 10. Paddy Cadell.

**Front row (l-r):** 11. Cian Bohane, 12. Maria Carey, 13. Nicole Delaney, 14. Brian Ó Beaglaoich, 15. Hannah Humphreys, 16. Hannah Looney, 17. Ciara Cullianane, 18. Eimear De Brun, 19. Ben Smith.

(Gary O'Donovan and Sophie Healy-Thow were not present on the day and Daisy Pemble is on a year studying abroad)

Further workshops on Nutrition for Training and Media Training have also been delivered to all Quercus Scholars.

# ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE SUCCESS FOR QUERCUS SCHOLARS

Two Quercus Sports' Scholars, Amy O'Connor and Hannah Looney, helped Cork to win the nail-biting final of the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship against Kilkenny in September.

Both scholars played great hurling on the day with Amy scoring 2 points in the opening minutes of the first half. Cork gained victory by a single sweet point and the final few minutes could not have been more tense. Well done to the entire team for holding their nerves while we were all losing ours!

The Sunday Game went on to name Amy as no.13 on the 2017 Camogie Team of the Year.

Amy, who also plays Senior Ladies soccer for UCC, studies Pharmacy and Hannah, who also plays ladies football for Cork, studies Process and Chemical Engineering.

Pictured top right, Amy O'Connor and right, Hannah Looney





Celebrating the achievements of participants in the Summer school programme.

## CIRTL SUMMER SCHOOL

The team at the Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning (CIRTL) were busy this summer coordinating the international programmes for visiting lecturers. The programme attracted 31 participants from China, South America and Europe. Institutions represented include 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. The participants engaged in courses on language development and on teaching and learning in higher education. Scholars from Guilin engaged in a bespoke programme that combined English language development with specific courses in Environmental Science and PhD preparation workshops.



## IGNITE YOUR TEACHING

The Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning has launched a lunchtime seminar series which addresses key topics relating to the enhancement of teaching and learning. Open to all staff, the topics include research ethics in teaching and learning, assessment as/of/by learning and the teacher as a reflective practitioner. Participants will also be invited to gain a certificate of participation through UCC's Centre for CPD, which reflects their commitment to professional development in Teaching and Learning. [www.ucc.ie/en/cirtl/staff/seminars/#d.en.110685](http://www.ucc.ie/en/cirtl/staff/seminars/#d.en.110685)

# LAUNCH OF CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

University College Cork will launch its inaugural Civic and Community Engagement plan on the 1st of December. The five-year plan sets out an ambitious goal to become more *Connected, Visible and Engaged with and for Community*. To reach this goal, the plan calls for new commitments in physical and organisational infrastructure, teaching and research. These commitments promise significant positive impact on UCC's academic, research and teaching environment, and crucially, its relationship with the community.



# ACCREDITED PROGRAMMES IN TEACHING AND LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION



Close to 150 Higher Education staff members have registered in CIRTl's programmes this year. The participants work in administrative, research and academic roles, both within UCC and externally. They represent a range of disciplinary areas, some at the beginning of their careers, while others have many years' experience under their belts. All participants share one interest: enhancing student learning by investigating their teaching.

This year sees some interesting additions to the online programmes with the interweaving of innovative Technology Enhanced Learning tools including Padlet, Twitter, and Pathbrite. While the tools are being used to foster collaboration within the course, they serve a dual purpose in ensuring course participants experience innovative learning approaches, as learners themselves, which can also be utilised in their own teaching contexts.



**Pictured at launch of Learning Over Time publication (l-r):** Carmel Halton, Nona Lyons, Catherine O'Mahony, and Bob Lyons.

## LAUNCH OF 'LEARNING OVER TIME' PUBLICATION

The publication '*Learning Over Time: How Professionals Learn, Know and Use Knowledge*' was launched on September 20th as part of the UNESCO International Conference on Learning Cities. Edited Dr Carmel Halton, UCC and Dr Nona Lyons it presents a set of case studies of learning in diverse disciplinary domains. <http://bit.ly/2xPLcOp>



## RESEARCH ETHICS IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

The ethical treatment of participants in a study is a key issue for any researcher. The particular ethical considerations unique to research in Teaching and Learning may be new to many wishing to conduct research in this area. A recent CIRTLL seminar on this topic, facilitated by Dr Laura Lee, CIRTLL, and Dr Mike Murphy, Chair of SREC, engaged participants with key ethical considerations when designing Teaching and Learning research, and outlined strategies for ethical practice. The slides and recording from the session are available to download from <http://bit.ly/2ywyrqH>. Additional resources and guidelines relating to research ethics in Teaching and Learning are in development and will be made available on the CIRTLL webpage.



## SOCIAL POLICY EDUCATION ENHANCING DIGITAL SKILLS DIGITAL DAY

In collaboration with the Instructional Design team, the School of Applied Social Studies, will host a half day event to provide social policy educators with an opportunity to explore the possibilities of digital teaching and learning methods for Social Policy education. The day will include a series of workshops and contributions from partner institutions. Participants will have the opportunity to explore a variety of different tools and approaches to using technology for the enhancement of teaching and learning. The day aims to showcase social policy educators' commitment to improving digital literacy and encourages the use of technology as a means of enhancing existing courses, facilitating access, and improving engagement by building confidence and sharing skills.

The event will take place in the **Creative Zone** of the **Boole Library** between **10.30am - 15.30pm**, on **November 28th**.

To register your interest, please contact: [rebecca.jeffers@ucc.ie](mailto:rebecca.jeffers@ucc.ie)



## TEL TASTERS 2017 TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED LEARNING: USING TECHNOLOGY IN YOUR TEACHING

Following the success of the 2016 TEL Taster week, the Instructional Design team held another successful TEL Taster Week in August 2017. We had over 70 people register for the event and it was great to see such interest. Like last year, the TEL Taster Week was made up of a series of workshops including both Byte-Size and TEL practical sessions, so as to highlight the theory of key pedagogical best practices while also giving practical guidance on how to apply the concepts.

## NEW SKILLS CENTRE FOR STUDENTS

The recently launched Skills Centre, located in Boole Library Q-1, provides a dedicated and active learning space that can cater to individual student needs. Students can avail of sessions which are designed to assist in areas of study skills and writing.

Our enthusiastic tutors are drawn from UCC's staff and postgraduate communities. They have undertaken the CPD certified *Foundation in Tutor Development* with Dr Marian McCarthy and Dr Brian Butler of CIRTL. Key to this training, were inputs from Ms Marian Browne, Student Counselling and Development and Disability Support Services. Our tutors embrace diversity, and provide an engaging and friendly service for the entire student body.

The Skills Centre recently held its launch event, *Speed Dating with Skills*. The evening provided a fun and interactive introduction to the different sessions on offer. Students (and staff!) were given the opportunity to go on fifteen-minute 'dates' with areas like note-taking and essay-writing. For an overview of the evening please visit <http://skillscentre.ucc.ie/speed-dating-skills/>

At the Skills Centre students can discuss their writing needs on a one-to-one basis with trained, capable tutors. The tutors aim to guide and collaborate with the students so that they may learn the skills and strategies required to successfully communicate their ideas. Tutors engage with students in active planning, drafting, and revision of their work. The tutor team have designed a range of excellent interactive, student-oriented sessions that are designed to inspire and motivate students to take responsibility for their learning and to encourage practice and experimentation. Details of all sessions are available on our website <http://skillscentre.ucc.ie>



**Above:** Professor John O'Halloran sits in on the How to Build an Argument session delivered by Alice Mulcahy, PhD Candidate and Skills Centre tutor.



**Above:** UCC President Patrick O'Shea with UCC Ambassadors Ciara Murphy and Haley Gaharan and Kathy Bradley, Skills Centre Coordinator.



**Pictured sitting:** Colm McEvoy, CEO Kerry ETB, President of UCC, Professor Patrick O’Shea. **Back:** Dr Séamus O’Tuama, Dr Niamh Connolly, Belinda Gascoigne, Professor John O’Halloran.

## UCC – KERRY PARTNERSHIP

UCC President, Professor Patrick O’Shea, accompanied by Professor John O’Halloran, Dr Séamus O’Tuama and Dr Niamh Connolly had a splendid two-day visit to Kerry on the 9th and 10th October. The visit began at Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne secondary school in Dingle, with which UCC has many links, evidenced by the many Quercus plaques on display with the most recent having been presented to Mark O’Connor, former pupil and Quercus Scholar at UCC.

The UCC team also visited the newly opened Dingle HUB, which provides state-of-the-art services for start-up companies to establish, expand and collaborate with other businesses, not just in Dingle but across Ireland and internationally. They also visited the County Council Chambers, the Institute of Technology, Tralee, Coláiste na Sceilge and the Skellig Centre for Research and Innovation (SkelligCRI) in Cahersiveen.

During the visit, representatives from the local community shared details of the various projects in the area together with some of the challenges in South West Kerry.

## STAFF IMPACT AWARD FOR CIRTL DIRECTOR

CIRTL Director Marian McCarthy received an Impact Award at the recent UCC Staff Recognition Awards ceremony. Marian is a co-founder of UCC’s Centre for Teaching and Learning (now called CIRTL), one of the earliest centres in Irish Higher Education dedicated to staff continuing professional development in teaching and learning. Now in 2017, 70% of UCC staff hold formal qualifications in teaching and learning in higher education. Such is the reputation of the accredited programmes that UCC has become the university of choice for Chinese universities to send their scholars to develop teaching and learning in the West. The impact has been to promote an international community engaged in the scholarship of Teaching and Learning, with UCC as a focus institution. We were delighted to see this recognition of Marian’s hard work and vast expertise.



Dr Marian McCarthy, Director of CIRTL