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## WELCOME

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

Two new staff members have been appointed to the Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning (CIRTL). Briony Supple and James Cronin will join the team in early 2016 and will support the delivery of Teaching & Learning courses and the scholarship of Teaching & Learning.

A new website to support teaching and learning with technology has been launched by the Instructional Design team at the OVPTL. This team supports the development of online and blended learning and the new website is one location for all queries and needs related to technology enhanced learning at UCC. This is a wonderful resource for those who use technology to enhance their teaching, and for those who would like to find out more about the possibilities in this area.

In December, the quality of teaching at UCC was recognized nationally when two staff members received National Teaching Expert Awards from the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education.

Our work on the quality of teaching and learning space at UCC has led to the launch of a working group on 'Teaching & Learning & Assessment Spaces at UCC'. Through this group we will target the delivery of high quality, modern, teaching and learning spaces.

I am delighted to share more information about all of our activities with you in this newsletter and to give you an insight into the great work being done by the team in the Office of the Vice-President for Teaching & Learning at UCC.

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

Find out more about us at  
[www.ucc.ie/teachlearn](http://www.ucc.ie/teachlearn)



Tower Flags (Photo: Patrick Cross)

The Office of the Vice-President for Teaching & Learning will host

## TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED LEARNING DAY

Monday February 22<sup>nd</sup>

as part of Digital Week in collaboration with CIT, ITT, ITC and WIT

This is an open event and all are welcome, so please come along if you are interested in using technology to enhance teaching. Further details will be provided via email.

This initiative is funded through the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching & Learning

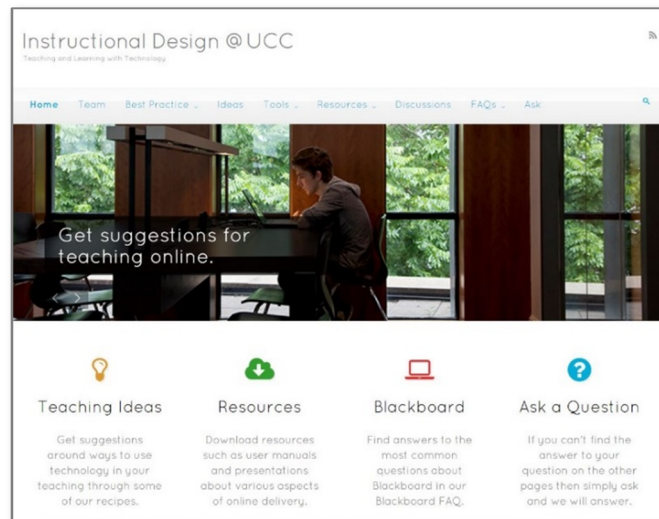
## NEW TEACHING TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT WEBSITE

In December, we launched a new Instructional Design web site which you will find at <http://instructionaldesign.ucc.ie>. This website provides a wealth of useful information about teaching technology and instructional design.

In addition to providing information about the support team at UCC, this website is a dynamic resource for staff interested in improving their use of technology in both online and face-to-face modules.

The website includes a number of FAQs, examples of best practice, and short tutorials written by Claire Fennell and other instructional designers and will be useful for anyone interested in developing online components to their learning.

We hope you find this new site useful and welcome any feedback that you might have to [tom.omara@ucc.ie](mailto:tom.omara@ucc.ie).



## CERTIFICATE IN AUTISM STUDIES ONLINE COURSE

UCC's popular autism course for parents, carers and professionals is now available online. The Certificate in Autism Studies was launched on January 25<sup>th</sup> and will be delivered wholly online by programme coordinator Kirsten Hurley and the staff of Adult Continuing Education Centre. Programme registrations are encouraging on foot of a very well received marketing campaign that began before Christmas (more on this below).

With this programme, the number of online students on programmes supported by the instructional designers in the Office of the Vice-President for Teaching & Learning

increases significant, and will continue to grow significantly over the coming year.



This course was shortlisted for an Aontas STAR Award, and is designed to introduce the learner to the different ways in which people on the autistic spectrum experience the world.

Students learn about the history of autism, the different strengths and challenges of autism, and how autism affects a person's mental health and their daily living. We examine the various supports and interventions that are available for people on the spectrum across their lifespan and explore the legislation and policies that govern best practice. Those who have successfully completed the Level 6 Certificate, can progress onto the Level 7 Diploma in Autism Studies.

For further information on this course please contact [Kirsten.hurley@ucc.ie](mailto:Kirsten.hurley@ucc.ie), or go to <http://www.ucc.ie/en/ace-daus/>

## DIGITAL MARKETING BOOSTS ONLINE COURSE REGISTRATIONS

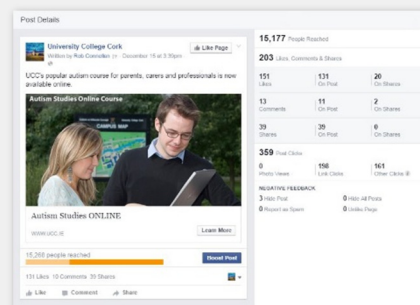
Digital Marketing is an area that the UCC Online team at the Office of the Vice-President for Teaching & Learning are keen to see exploited more fully. With this in mind, and following on from our pilot venture into this area during the summer of 2015, we have been working with the Office of Marketing and Communications to develop targeted online marketing campaigns to promote our online courses.

The new Certificate in Autism Studies

was the first UCC course to benefit directly from this approach, with social media and display advertising used to promote the course at the end of 2015. For the first time, we have been tracking impressions, click through rates and Google Analytics data for the course advertisements, and have been adjusting the campaign on a weekly basis as required.

This has led to significant interest in this new online course and a more focussed targeting of specific demographics. Over the coming months, we will develop

similar tailored campaigns for each of our online course offerings.



Social media advertisement used to promote the autism studies course online

## TRANSFORMATION THROUGH COLLABORATION NEW DIGITAL LITERACY PROJECT

In December 2015, the Office of the Vice-President for Teaching & Learning secured funding from the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning to lead a project entitled ‘Transformation Through Collaboration - Building Digital in HEIs’.

Awareness of the importance of digital literacy among staff is critical to the success of this project. We will identify academic staff in each Higher Education Institute and support them in the integration of technology into their teaching. These staff will become champions for the improvement of digital literacy skills within their academic discipline, their department and ultimately across the Southern Cluster of HEIs.

This project brings together expertise in Southern Cluster Higher Education Institutes (UCC, CIT, ITT, ITC and WIT) around the area of building digital literacy capacity among staff and more effective engagement with students through online tools.

This short project runs until the end of June 2016. The following Digital Champions have been selected in UCC:

- Dr. Helen Bradley – Geography
- Dr. Susan Crawford – Education
- Dr. Maud Cross – Zoology
- Dr. Finn O’Murchú – Education
- Dr. Catherine O’Reilly – German
- Dr. Tim O’Sullivan – Pharmacy

The project will showcase their journey of improving and applying their digital

literacy skills. A new website, digitalchampions.ie will be launched soon where the details of this project will be documented. Supports used in training of the champions will also be available online.

Each of the Champions will feature during 'Digital Week', a collaborative digital literacy and awareness event which will run from February 22nd to 26th. Keep an eye out for more information on this over the coming weeks.

The project will provide the foundation for a sustainable and collaborative approach within the Southern cluster to the ongoing development and enhancement of digital literacy in HEIs.

## NEW ONLINE PROGRAMMES TO LAUNCH IN SEPTEMBER 2016

UCC’s collaboration with Wiley continues with programmes going through approval and about to begin marketing. Content development has begun on one programme, with further development due to be kick-started over the coming weeks. Four programmes will go live in September 2016:

- Master of Public Health
- Masters in Occupational Health
- BSc in Nursing and Healthcare Quality Improvement
- Masters in Nursing and Healthcare Quality Improvement



## QUERCUS LECTURE SERIES 2016

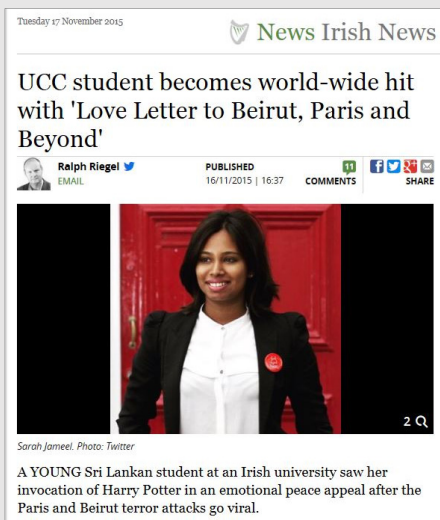
The annual Quercus Lecture Series got underway in January. The purpose of the lecture series is to highlight the latest UCC research across a range of disciplines to Quercus Scholars and to all UCC students and staff. Each week a guest speaker will deliver a one-hour lecture on a different area of research at UCC. These lectures take place on Monday evenings from 6pm to 7pm in G02, Kane Building, and a schedule is provided below. Lectures are recorded and are available at <http://www.ucc.ie/en/quercus/lectureseries> (where video files of last year’s series may also be found). These are open lectures and all are welcome to attend.

DATE	TITLE	SPEAKER
8 <sup>th</sup> January	<i>Science is NOT fun!</i>	Professor Colin Hill (APC/Microbiology)
18 <sup>th</sup> January	<i>Green Gas: a solution to waste treatment, a provider of renewable energy and a facilitator of intermittent renewable electricity</i>	Professor Jerry Murphy (ERI/Civil Engineering)
1 <sup>st</sup> February	<i>Integrating experience, education, and perception for effective risk communication: applying lessons learned from Cork’s flooding past towards the development of emergency management systems</i>	Dr Karen Neville & Dr Sheila O’Riordan (MIS/BIS)
8 <sup>th</sup> February	<i>Stressed Inside Out: Memories, Moods &amp; Maladies</i>	Professor John Cryan (APC/Anatomy & Neuroscience)
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	<i>Baby Brainwaves</i>	Professor Geraldine Boylan (Paediatrics & Child Health)
29 <sup>th</sup> February	<i>The Idea of a National Strategy for Higher Education</i>	Professor Steve Hedley (Law)
7 <sup>th</sup> March	TBC	Professor Alastair Christie (Applied Social Studies)
14 <sup>th</sup> March	<i>Accounting for educational success? Movements, MOOCs, Mentors</i>	Professor Kathy Hall (Education)

# QUERCUS TALENTED STUDENTS' PROGRAMME NEWS



[www.ucc.ie/en/quercus](http://www.ucc.ie/en/quercus)



Quercus Active Citizenship Scholar, Sarah Jameel, is a second year Dentistry student at UCC. Her commitment to community service and youth activism has won her the titles of Global Teen Leader by We Are Family Foundation, Global Changemaker of British Council, and TEDMED Front Line Scholar by TEDMED.

Sarah has been a speaker at numerous events including the Closing Plenary of the World Economic Forum, International Women’s Day Celebrations by the United Nations Office in Sri Lanka, Just Peace Summit in New York City, ‘We Are The World’ Conference in Montreal and the UN World Conference on Youth 2014 in Sri Lanka.

Her dream is to create reliable and affordable dental care to areas of conflict and regions of the world that need it the most through the formation of a Doctors Beyond Borders (MSF) for Dentists.

Following the terrorist attacks in Paris and Beirut in November, Sarah wrote this “Love letter” which was published online by the Huffington Post and the Irish Independent.

Joanne O’Riordan, UCC Quercus Active Citizenship Scholar and 2nd year criminology has been recognised for her contribution to people with disabilities at a ceremony in Japan. Joanne was crowned one of Junior Chamber International’s Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the World at the ceremony. She was honoured in the contribution to children, world peace and/or human rights category. Joanne was shortlisted for the award by public vote, receiving almost half of the 26,000 online votes for the award which honours individuals under the age of 40 who have contributed greatly to local and global communities. The ceremony was attended by over 600 people from around the world. Speaking at the ceremony, she said *“life is what you make of it. We all face obstacles in our lives, it’s only a matter of overcoming them. Each and every day I live by the motto of what I fail at today I will overcome and conquer tomorrow”*.

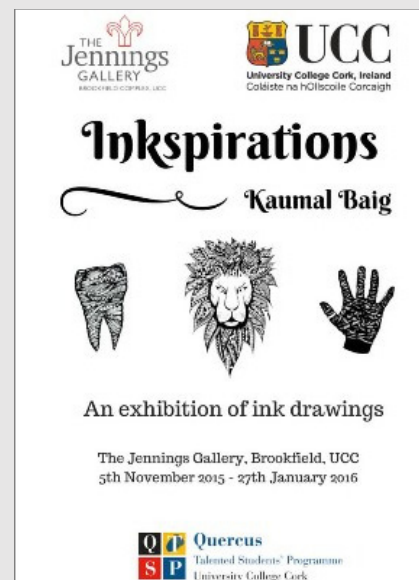


Quercus Active Citizenship Scholar, Joanne O’Riordan, being awarded Junior Chamber International’s Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the World



Quercus Creative and Performing Arts’ Scholar Kaumal Baig Mirza, a 4th year Dentistry student, held a solo exhibition at the Jennings Gallery, UCC in November. This exhibition entitled 'Inkspirations' was Kaumal’s first solo exhibition and opened at the Jennings gallery in UCC’s Brookfield Health Sciences Complex on November 5<sup>th</sup> 2015. It consisted of a body of 38 ink drawings created by Kaumal over a 2 two year period.

Kaumal is a self-taught artist from Cork City whose work includes ink and pen drawings, portraits and photography as well as tattoo design. You can see more of her wonderful art on her Facebook page [www.facebook.com/kaumalbaigart/](http://www.facebook.com/kaumalbaigart/).



## QUERCUS GALA DINNER 2015



Quercus Sports' Scholars and Senior All Ireland Medal winners, Shane O'Donnell (4th Genetics) and John Power (3rd Arts).



L-R Quercus Scholars Alan Hayes, Conor Arkins, Annie Bloch, Cian Gallagher, Kaumal Mirza, Rob Kerley, Aidan Marnane, Alex Whelan, Seafra Guilfoyle, Jennifer Chadwick, James McGlynn, Chris Mintern, Calvin O'Callaghan, Sarah Jameel, Sam Grace & William Ormond.



Quercus Innovation/Entrepreneurship scholars Jennifer Chadwick (1<sup>st</sup> Pharmacy) and Alex Whelan (1<sup>st</sup> Law/French).

UCC President Dr Michael Murphy and Vice-President for Teaching & Learning, Professor John O'Halloran, awarded Quercus Talented Students' Scholarships to 17 students on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 at the annual Quercus Talented Students' Gala dinner. "This is a very uplifting night. It allows us celebrate the extraordinary talent of our Quercus scholars along with their families, former schools and the ongoing Quercus Scholars whose achievements we celebrated last year" said Professor O'Halloran who is also Director of the Quercus Programme. "At UCC we believe in creating an environment where academic excellence can be combined with opportunities for personal development". Scholarships are awarded in five categories and can be worth up to €10,000 per year.



Quercus Creative & Performing Arts scholars Ben O'Callaghan, Annie Bloch and Conor Arkins (all 2<sup>nd</sup> Arts/Music).



Quercus scholars James McGlynn (3<sup>rd</sup> Music), Annie Bloch (2<sup>nd</sup> Arts/Music), Clare Keaveney Jimenez (2<sup>nd</sup> Medicine), Aina Hannisa (2<sup>nd</sup> Law International), Mairead Carey (UCC Music Graduate), Ben O'Callaghan (2<sup>nd</sup> Arts/Music) and Conor Arkins (2<sup>nd</sup> Arts/Music).



Dr. Ian Pickup, Quercus University Scholar Aidan Marnane (2<sup>nd</sup> Maths Science) and Professor John O'Halloran, Vice-President for Teaching & Learning.

## NATIONAL TEACHING EXPERTS AWARDS 2015

The prestigious national 'Teaching Experts' awards 2015 were celebrated in Dublin Castle on December 10th 2015. These awards recognise expert teachers who are models for excellence in teaching and whose knowledge about learning is strong and evidence-based.

The Learning Impact Award process supports a strong ongoing partnership between students and academic to help inform and shape our sectoral professional development strategies, frameworks, and learning cultures.

Sixteen winners were short-listed from a pool of nominations submitted from all 38 eligible Irish Higher Education Institutions. Two of the national 'Teaching Experts' are from UCC: Dr Ciara O'Toole and Dr Orla Murphy.



Dr. Ciara O'Toole receives her award from Professor Sarah Moore (UL), Chair of the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching & Learning

Dr Ciara O'Toole is a lecturer in Speech & Language Therapy in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences UCC. Her teaching and research interests are in the area of paediatric communication development and disorders. Dr Orla Murphy is a lecturer in Digital Arts & Humanities in the School of English. She

researches and teaches in the Digital Arts and Humanities Programme at UCC and in the national, inter-institutional DAH PhD programme in Ireland. She was named a Digital Champion in 2013 and chairs the E-Learning strategy subcommittee of UCC's Academic Council.



Dr. Orla Murphy receives her award from Professor Sarah Moore (UL), Chair of the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching & Learning

## ONLINE CERTIFICATE IN TEACHING & LEARNING



L-R: John O'Halloran, Brian Butler, Marian McCarthy, Eleanor O'Sullivan, Jacinta McKeown. Back row Catherine O'Mahony, Mary Clohessy, Ciaran Dawson, Daniel Blackshields. Photo by Tomas Tyner.

The popular *Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education* offered by UCC's Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning (CIRTLL) has become the first fully online professional development course for university staff in Ireland.

This course was launched online in September 2015 and is now available for staff of UCC and other third level institutions nationally and internationally. Further information can be found at <http://www.ucc.ie/en/ckb02/>. CIRTLL hosted networking event in the Aula Maxima on Thursday January 14<sup>th</sup> for the participants in the *Online Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*, who regularly collaborate online. On the night we also welcomed the visiting scholars from the Anhui University of Finance and Economics (AUFE) in China who are currently participating in the Programme for Visiting Scholars at CIRTLL and the language centre at UCC (<http://www.ucc.ie/en/teachlearn/cirtll/vislec/>). Guests were warmly welcomed by Professor John O'Halloran and were addressed by Marian McCarthy, Director of CIRTLL.

## APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE - LIBRARY AT MZUZU UNIVERSITY

UCC Partners with Mzuzu University (MZUNI) in Malawi in an initiative funded by the ESTHER Alliance. ESTHER partners work mostly in Africa and Asia to tackle priority issues for health and help achieve the Millennium Sustainable Development Goals. UCC works with MZUNI to develop its research, teaching & learning capacity.

Unfortunately, last month, Mzuzu University was dealt a devastating blow when its University Library of 45,000 books was burnt to the ground. For

MZUNI, the library is the lifeblood of the University and a key resource for its more than 4,000 students has this university does not have good access to technology or ICT resources. They are currently operating from a temporary library facility set up to allow students to continue their studies. In an effort to restore the Library, MZUNI's Vice-Chancellor, Dr Robert Ridley, has appealed to all of its partners, to assist in the reconstruction and restoration of the library. There are a number of ways in which those reading this may help:

- Funding raising through your School, Department, Clubs or Societies.
- Donating Textbooks
- Assistance in e-resources

If you can assist in any way with the restoration efforts, please get in touch with Professor Fr John Ryan at [jar@mzuzu.org](mailto:jar@mzuzu.org), or with Dr Rosarii Griffin [Rosarii.griffin@ucc.ie](mailto:Rosarii.griffin@ucc.ie). All efforts greatly appreciated.

<http://www.libfocus.com/2016/01/an-appeal-to-assist-african-university.html>

## LAUNCH OF NEW INITIATIVE: INTERNATIONAL TEACHING FELLOW AWARD

The OVPTL has launched a new initiative which offers UCC staff the opportunity to teach on international campuses. The *International Teaching Fellow Award* is open to all academic and research staff who have engaged in professional development activities relating to Teaching & Learning. Award holders will teach in the campus of one of our international partner Universities for a short period with all expenses being paid by the host university. In addition to gaining international teaching experience, the award holder will have the opportunity to develop research links and build international collaborations.

This initiative has grown out of UCC's Programme for Visiting Lecturers, a staff development programme focussed on enhancing teaching and learning and improving English language. To date 60 international colleagues have participated in this programme and the opportunity for a reciprocal exchange programme has arisen recently. While the partner universities are largely based in China, partnerships are currently under discussion with universities in other countries. Interested staff members will be invited to submit an application once the call for the International Teaching Fellow Award is launched. For further information please contact [catherine.omahony@ucc.ie](mailto:catherine.omahony@ucc.ie).

## SUCCESS FOR UCC STUDENTS IN THE 2015 UNDERGRADUATE AND NUI AWARDS

### UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Two recent UCC graduates are among the 25 Programme Winners of The Undergraduate Awards, meaning their work was among the best research produced at the undergraduate level on the island of Ireland last year. This year, the Undergraduate Awards received 5,117 submissions from undergraduates in 255 universities across 39 countries. Overall Winners are the top performers in each of the 25 categories. A further 19 UCC students were recognised as Highly Commended Entrants. Their work was identified as being in the top 10% of the best undergraduate research submitted in their respective categories both from Ireland and internationally.



Karen O'Neil and Cian O'Connor at the Undergraduate Awards ceremony

The winners from UCC were:

- Karen O'Neil, Programme Winner in the Earth & Environmental Sciences category;
- Cian O'Connor, Programme Winner in the Literature 1710 - Present category;
- Aidan Jervis, Highly Commended in the Earth & Environmental Sciences category;
- Alex Cooney, Highly Commended in the Economics category;
- Amber Walsh, Highly Commended in the History category;

- Morgan Conaty, Highly Commended in the Languages & Linguistics category;
- Tommie Grant, Highly Commended in the Law category;
- Lucy Jones, Highly Commended in the Law category;
- James Kneale, Highly Commended in the Law category;
- Eilís O'Keeffe, Highly Commended in the Law category;
- Lucy Jones, Highly Commended in the Law category;
- Gerard Shelly, Highly Commended in the Law category;
- John Elliott, Highly Commended in the Literature 1710-Present category;
- Danielle Bacalso, Highly Commended in the Nursing & Midwifery category;
- Rachel Walsh, Highly Commended in the Nursing & Midwifery category;
- Enda Kerin, Highly Commended in the Politics & Int'l Relations category;
- Eimer Cadogan, Highly Commended in the Psychology category;
- Tarin Biasci, Highly Commended in the Social Sciences category;
- Naomi Dowds, Highly Commended in the Social Sciences category;
- Thelma Kuria, Highly Commended in the Social Sciences category;
- Mary-Kate Portley, Highly Commended in the Social Sciences category.

Winners and other top performers from the 2015 programme, together with members of the UA Global Summit from around the world, were brought to Ireland to recognise their achievement and to encourage cross-discipline and cross-border collaboration.

"UCC had such large representation at the UA Global Summit" commented

Louise Hodgson, Executive Director of the Undergraduate Awards. *"Both Cian and Karen have done extraordinarily well to have been placed as the Programme Winners in their category, which places them as leaders in their research fields. UCC continues to uphold an excellent reputation in our awards programme"*.

### NUI AWARDS

The National University of Ireland held its annual awards ceremony at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham on 10th November to celebrate the academic achievements of its graduates and students. At the ceremony, the Chancellor of the University Dr Maurice Manning presented NUI awards valued at €850,000 to more than 120 successful scholars.

In 2015, again, UCC students performed remarkably well in the 2015 NUI awards. A full list of the award winners can be found at:

[http://www.nui.ie/news/2015/awards\\_2015\\_Winners\\_Listing.asp](http://www.nui.ie/news/2015/awards_2015_Winners_Listing.asp)



All of the winners from UCC with Professor Paul Gallagher, RCSI; Professor Jim Walsh, Maynooth University; Dr Michael Murphy, President of UCC; NUI Chancellor Dr Maurice Manning; Professor Bairbre Redmond, UCD; Dr Pat Morgan, NUI Galway; and NUI Registrar Dr Attracta Halpin

## ePORTFOLIOS

An electronic portfolio, or E-portfolio, is an electronic collection of evidence that shows your learning journey over time. E-portfolios can be used for a range of purposes including providing formative and summative assessment, fostering reflection, supporting personal and professional development. They also support student and staff transitions between institutions and employment. They differ from paper based version by allowing knowledge, skills and competencies to be demonstrated in a more interactive way.

Cognisant of the interest and expertise shared by UCC staff in the use of E-portfolios, the OVPTL hosted a workshop on January 22<sup>nd</sup> to highlight their use in a range of contexts. Participants identified a range of needs relating to E-portfolios and these were discussed along with the pedagogical and support considerations and potential technological solutions. The slides from this event are available to view at [www.ucc.ie/en/teachlearn/cirtl/resources](http://www.ucc.ie/en/teachlearn/cirtl/resources), and future steps such as related staff development sessions and previews of e-portfolio platforms are being considered currently. For further details on this initiative please contact [tom.omara@ucc.ie](mailto:tom.omara@ucc.ie).

## UCC AND THE UNITED NATIONS TEAM UP UNDER A NEW INITIATIVE



The United Nations Environment Programme Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS) Capacity Development Centre at UCC was officially launched on Friday January 22<sup>nd</sup>. This initiative sees UCC partner with the German Federal Institute for Hydrology as co-hosts of the new GEMS/Water Programme.

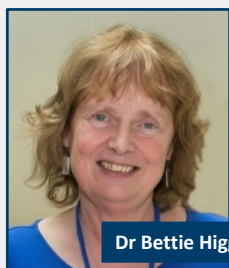
At the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), which took place in Nairobi, the UN Environment Assembly agreed unanimously that Ireland and Germany would jointly take responsibility for the United Nations Environment Programme's Global Environment Monitoring System for Water (GEMS/Water <http://www.unep.org/gemswater/>). Under this partnership agreement a new GEMS/Water Capacity Development Centre will be established at UCC to lead the capacity building activities and to coordinate Irish activities on this project.

Professor John O'Halloran, Vice-President for Teaching & Learning, is responsible for the management of this project, and Dr Debbie Chapman is the Centre Director. By mid-2016 the Centre will employ five core staff and a network of water experts from the Environmental Protection Agency, DCU, NUI Galway, Trinity College Dublin and Sligo IT.

A primary objective of GEMS/Water is to ensure compatibility and comparability of data for use in national, regional and global assessments. The functions of the Centre at UCC are to promote and support water quality monitoring and assessment on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme and in co-operation with UN Water and its thematic priority area of Water Quality. The Centre will develop teaching programmes and will coordinate the work of all Irish agencies participating in GEMS/Water capacity development activities.



L-R Professor John O'Halloran, Vice-President for Teaching & Learning, Dr Deborah Chapman, Director, UNEP GEMS/Water Capacity Development Centre, UCC; Dr Hartwig Kremer, UNEP; Cian O'Lionain, Principal Officer, Water Quality at Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government; Dr Michael Murphy, President, UCC.



Dr Bettie Higgs

We were sad to say goodbye in 2015 to friend and colleague, Bettie Higgs, who retired from UCC in September. Bettie was Co-Director of Ionad Bairre (now CIRTl) for many years and served as Interim Vice-President for Teaching & Learning in 2013 and 2014.

Bettie started work in UCC over 30 years ago as geology lecturer. She taught both daytime and night-time students (on the very popular evening Diploma in Geology programme). Having a lifelong interest in adult education Bettie has, over the years, taught modules to the Cork Prison population and has maintained a lifelong affiliation with the Cork Geological Association lay-organisation which Bettie co-founded and chaired for many years.

Latterly, Bettie became heavily involved in Teaching & Learning, particularly following a prestigious scholarship in 2005 at the US-based Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Bettie was awarded a President's Award for Teaching in 2002 and was again recognised with an Enhancing the Student Experience Award in 2012. Bettie was appointed Vice-President of the European region of the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSoTL) in 2015. She continues also in her role as the Irish Universities' Association's nominee to the board of the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning. We will all greatly miss Bettie's grace and good humour around the campus!