



In this issue

Byte sized TEL.....	2
Digital Champions.....	2
Sustainability Module	2
New Online Courses	3
Staff CPD	3
Programme for Visiting Lecturers ...	3
National Forum Funding.....	4
Community-Academic Research Links .	5
Quercus News	6
New Postgraduate Module.....	8
Teaching Hero Awards 2016.....	8

WELCOME

Welcome to OVPTL News, the quarterly newsletter of the Office of the Vice-President for Teaching & Learning. In this newsletter you will find the latest roundup of news, events and features from the OVPTL.

This Office is dedicated to bringing a coherent approach to improving teaching and learning at UCC, providing CPD for staff, celebrating our teachers, engaging with students, technology and internationalisation. Improving teaching quality requires a clear vision, explicit policies and resolute management.

These initiatives have been hugely successful and more than 70% of staff at UCC now have a teaching qualification. This has had a very positive impact on our staff through scholarship, engaging with colleagues and opportunities for reflection on teaching practice. This, in turn, positively impacts our students and our university community.

The Teaching & Learning Awards are currently under review and a call will be launched in the coming weeks for the 2015/16 awards. In parallel with this local awards scheme, the National Forum has launched the second National Teaching Hero campaign in

partnership with the USI. The call is now open for individual students to nominate their Teaching Hero.

We are currently establishing a Centre for CPD at UCC with the strategic aim of working with Schools and Units to support staff developing and promoting short courses that draw on their particular expertise. Recruitment is currently underway and more information will become available when the implementation plan is finalised.

As semester two concludes I extend my thanks to all my colleagues for the engagement during the last semester and I hope that you might be able to take some time to engage further with OVPTL in the coming months, either through attending seminars, workshops or online. We will be delighted to support you in any way we can. To our students, we wish you well and look forward to your continued engagement and hope that you have a great summer!

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

Find out more about us at
www.ucc.ie/teachlearn



EMBEDDING UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH IN THE CURRICULUM INVITATION

The provision of opportunities for students to engage in research and enquiry during their undergraduate studies is one of the key actions in UCC's Strategic Plan 2013-2017. As a first step, a pilot study was undertaken in four undergraduate programmes at UCC to identify existing approaches for embedding undergraduate research and suggest areas for future development. The pilot involved the use of a mapping tool identified key activities and supports for embedding undergraduate research. This mapping tool was based on international best practice in this area. The participants used the mapping tool to review their programmes, to identify ways to enhance their existing activities and to uncover any gaps in existing approaches. We are now extending this mapping exercise to additional programmes across UCC and interested staff are invited to contact catherine.omahony@ucc.ie for further information.

BYTE-SIZED TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED LEARNING

Building on the success of the Instructional Design website <http://instructionaldesign.ucc.ie>, the Team at OVPTL is running a series of Byte-Sized TEL sessions exploring different aspects of Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL). Taking place every two weeks, these sessions are open to all UCC staff and cover topics including assessment, collaboration, video, social media, ePortfolios, the transition to teaching online, and others as requested by UCC staff. These sessions open with a brief overview of the topic followed by an informal discussion amongst the participants. The April sessions covered assessment and included discussion of different assessment strategies in place at UCC, a short tutorial on Turnitin, and a presentation by Dr. Ann Kirby and Dr. Brian Turner (School of Economics) about their use of videos for student presentations. If you have suggestions about topics to cover in future sessions, or if you are interested in leading a session yourself, please get in touch with us at instructionaldesign@ucc.ie.



DIGITAL CHAMPIONS PROJECT UPDATE

There's something fishy going on with the UCC Digital Champions! Siblings Maud and Patrick Cross have been putting visualisers to the test. Visualisers allow teachers to project a digital image of any object onto a screen. A sharp quality video is required to explain the anatomy of a trout to students and Maud and Patrick managed to achieve exactly that. Maud used the advanced features of the visualiser to hone in on the internal organs of the trout. Patrick then edited this video to include audio, onscreen text and hotspots to enhance student learning. Maud hopes to use these videos for UCC lectures and as stand-alone presentations for students in partner institutions and for relevant professional training. There are few high definition videos of Rainbow Trout dissections available online, so this will prove an invaluable resource.



Maud and Patrick recording audio for the video

For more information, check out Maud's Digital Champion blog here: www.digitalchampions.ie/dr-maud-cross-2.

The UCC Digital Champions are supported by the *Transformation Through Collaboration* project (www.digitalchampions.ie) which is funded by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching & Learning (www.teachingandlearning.ie). This project also provides support for a range of other work including:

- Dr. Claire O'Reilly, Department of German - Video Blogging
- Dr. Finn O'Murchú, School of Education - Supporting Mentoring
- Dr. Tim O'Sullivan, School of Pharmacy – Storyline for assessment
- Dr. Susan Crawford, School of Education – App enhancement
- Dr. Helen Bradley, Department of Geography – GIS and assessment

TEL WEEK 2016

Twenty three institutions from Ireland's higher education sector entered into a range of highly collaborative regional partnerships to host more than 50 technology-enhanced learning (TEL) events during February and March 2016. The OLID Team at UCC led the Munster Cluster Higher Education Institutes' TEL week from 22nd – 16th February as part of the the *Transformation Through Collaboration* project. This partnership, led by UCC, also includes CIT, WIT, ITC and ITT.

During TEL week the project hosted an extensive programme of activities and presentations, at each of the partner organisations, which focussed on the challenges faced in higher education teaching in an increasingly digital world. These were supported by the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund 2015 (Building Digital Capacity) through the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE SUSTAINABILITY MODULE

The inaugural university-wide module on sustainability entitled '*Putting Sustainability in its place: put yourself in the picture*' concluded for 2015/16 on 12th April with a roundtable discussion. Eighty three staff and students from UCC, together with members of the public from Ireland and abroad, registered for the module. Sixteen lectures spanning the entire breadth of the complex topic of sustainability were delivered by UCC staff on campus. The online components of the module and use of lecture capture for the 16 sessions were facilitated by the Instructional Design Team at the Office of the VP for Teaching & Learning. Discussions are already underway as to how we can build on the suite of resources created this year for future iterations of this module. For more information please contact the module coordinator Dr. Ger Mullally g.mullally@ucc.ie.

NEW ONLINE COURSES AT UCC

The Postgraduate Certificate in Dairy Technology & Innovation was approved for blended delivery by the University Programme Approval Panels in April. The Instructional Design Team support the development of this course. Professor of Food Chemistry Paul McSweeney is the Programme Coordinator for this course which will be launched in September 2016. The programme will use a combination of video lectures, presentations, formative and summative assessments to make the most of the online learning experience. The programme will be formally launched on Monday May 9th.

Work continues on online programme development in collaboration with Wiley. Academic staff are liaising with their Instructional Design team to develop materials for deployment on the Engage (Moodle) platform in September 2016. The new microsite supporting marketing and recruitment of students, <http://onlinedegrees.ucc.ie>, is now live and there has been significant interest in the offerings. Work is also ongoing in the co-development of the necessary supporting administration systems. The four programmes that will go live in September 2016 are:

- Master of Public Health
- MSc Occupational Health
- BSc Nursing and Healthcare Quality Assurance
- MSc Nursing and Healthcare Quality Assurance

UCC LEADS THE WAY IN TEACHING AND LEARNING QUALIFICATIONS FOR STAFF

On-going innovation is crucial to ensure that the learning and teaching which takes place in Irish universities is high quality, up-to-date, relevant, and delivered to students in a variety of suitable ways. Under Irish legislation (Universities Act 1997), each university is responsible for the quality of its own teaching and learning and for putting in place appropriate processes to ensure this. OVPTL is continuously engaged in ensuring that teaching and learning at UCC are delivered to the highest possible quality. In March we were delighted to host a celebratory event at which staff from all four Colleges of UCC received parchments in recognition of their attainment of Postgraduate Certificates and Diplomas in Teaching & Learning in Higher Education.



Some of the recipients of the Certificate of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education



Some of the recipients of the Diploma of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

CPD for staff is provided through the Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning (CIRTL). To date, 426 UCC staff hold a Postgraduate Certificate in this field and 207 staff have been awarded a Diploma in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. By the end of this academic year, 70% of staff who teach at UCC will hold a qualification in teaching and learning, a figure that exceeds national targets and sets the benchmark for other universities across Ireland. This year's TLHE Certificate graduates are the last to participate in fully face-to-face delivery as this programme, which currently has 81 students registered, has moved online for the 2015/16 academic year. The accredited programmes are directed by Dr Marian McCarthy, Director of CIRTL, and supported by the CIRTL Fellows.

TEACHING EXCELLENCE PROJECT AT UCC

Teaching excellence is of primary importance for the learning environment in higher education. The Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning (CIRTL) is a partner in the Erasmus TEACHEX project which contributes to the continuous professional development of academic staff with partners in Germany, Scotland, England, Greece and Israel. This project contributes to the continuous professional development of academic staff by offering support structures to promote better teaching and therefore enhanced learning. The project team met at UCC in February for their first European workshop. The follow-up meeting, based on the models of teaching and learning explored at UCC, took place in Jerusalem in Bezalel College in April. Dr. Marian McCarthy, Director of CIRTL, is the Principal Investigator on the project at UCC, and was the European consultant present at this project event.



Members of the TEACHEX project in UCC for the most recent project workshop

CIRTL HOSTS FURTHER EDUCATION TEACHERS FROM DENMARK



During April CIRTL played host to three further education teachers for a week long professional development workshop on teaching and learning enhancement. This professional development programme, hosted by Dr Briony Supple (CIRTL) and James Cronin (CIRTL & ACE), communicated attitudes and approaches suitable to support student retention in further education. Teachers Ms. Kirsten Kamp Schmidt, Ms. Katrin Matzen and Ms. Trine Clemmensen Jensen (pictured left to right) are based at HF & VUC <http://www.vucfyn.dk> on Fyn in Denmark. Their visit coincided with the 13th Cork Lifelong Learning Festival which ran from April 11th to 17th April this year.

UCC (IRELAND) MZUNI (MALAWI) PARTNERSHIP

UCC is partnered with Mzuzu University, the second largest city in Malawi. This project is spearheaded by Dr Rosarii Griffin (OVPTL) whose expertise resides in the area of capacity building and the developing context.

In our last newsletter we appealed for assistance with the restoration efforts at MZUNI University who had lost their entire library to fire in December 2015. A call was sent out to all staff, students and the local community to contribute used academic or text books which are recent publications in good condition, and relevant to MZUNI's areas of study assisted by Kieran Hurley, Stephen Bean, Martin O'Connor, the PR Office, Anita Maguire and John Fitzgerald. Quercus Scholars Sarah Jameel and Alex Philbin (pictured right with Rosarii Griffin) also launched a social media campaign. The response to the call was enormous as people responded generously with donations of textbooks. UCC Operatives and UCC Library staff collected all of the books and delivered them to the central UCC collection point. In terms of fundraising, UCC's Strategic Research Fund agreed to contribute the remainder of the Malawi-related capacity building funds to support shipping of the books, and Surgeon Noonan society, which sends out junior doctors on internships to Malawi, also promised to donate part of their funding towards the restocking of MZUNI library in an effort to support the rebuild and restocking efforts of MZUNI.



The final collection was impressive, with more than 6,000 books being donated to restock the lost library at Mzuni University (Malawi).

NATIONAL FORUM NETWORK AND DISCIPLINE PROJECT FUNDING 2016

UCC has been awarded funding for two projects under the recent National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning's Network and Discipline Funding call.

Dr. Eileen Hogan and Prof. Cathal O'Connell from the School of Applied Social Studies, in partnership with UCC's Institute for the Social Sciences in the 21st Century and the National Campus Engage Network, were awarded funding to carry out a new project '*The Social Commons*'. The project's core idea is that project members, which include Social Policy lecturers from UCD, TCD, WIT, CIT, and ITT, will collaborate with community-based organisations and students in developing teaching, learning and assessment skills and resources. Using 'threshold concepts' as a pivot for establishing good practice in social research methods education, this staff development initiative is concerned with constructing various portals into student learning and with

providing space to consider the 'troublesome knowledge' that we, as teachers and researchers, community-based advocates and students, encounter in our thinking. A key outcome will be a social research methods education resource pack to support teaching, learning and assessment of learning in the discipline of Social Policy. The Social Commons Toolkit will be published as an open access digital resource.

Dr. Claire O'Reilly, Lecturer in German, in partnership with Dublin Institute of Technology, Dublin City University and Cork Institute of Technology, was awarded funding for 'Mapping Learning Milestones: During and After Study Abroad'. This project will contribute to a growing body of work on study abroad experiences, and will address significant gaps in research in terms of providing evidence specific to Higher Education in Ireland in both language and non-language learning fields. This project aims to develop a framework to enable

students measure and map their individual learning progression while abroad, as well as develop a more effective tool for demonstration of student learning (e.g. as graduates to prospective employers in terms of learning associated with the Year Abroad but not classified in ECTS outcomes). This is particularly important as underperformance during the year abroad (in terms of language outcomes, and in terms of critical reflection and intercultural knowledge) has been identified as a key problem associated with Year Abroad Schemes. This project invites students to become more active learners during their year abroad with suggestions for both structured and unstructured learning made available online.



UCC'S PROGRAMME FOR VISITING LECTURERS GROWS FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Following on from the success of its Winter School for Visiting Lecturers (pictured below at their parchment ceremony in April), CIRTL is running a four-week Summer School which will see 20 lecturers from our partner institutions in China attending UCC in July. The programme combines support for teaching and learning with English language development as well as offering participants the opportunity to enjoy UCC campus life and Irish culture.

In addition to the one month intense programme, CIRTL also runs semester long courses for visiting lecturers. The Centre recently celebrated the graduation of 18 staff from two Institutions in China, i.e. Anhui University of Finance and Economics (AUFE) and the Inner Mongolian University of Finance and Economics (IMUFE), from a 6-month staff development programme. The Programme for Visiting Lecturers is a joint initiative offered by the Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning (CIRTL) and UCC's Language Centre. For further details, please visit www.ucc.ie/en/teachlearn/cirtl/vislec.



MARIE CURIE SCHOLAR BEGINS 3 YEAR PROJECT ON UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING



Marie Curie scholar, James Northridge (pictured left with CIRTL Director Dr. Marian McCarthy), will join UCC for a three year project on Universal Design for Learning. James will spend two years on secondment to University of Massachusetts Medical School under the supervision of Prof Bill McIlvane. He will then return to UCC to finalise the project working jointly with the Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning and the RESPECT charity. The project is funded under the ASSISTD strand of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie programme. James will provide an overview of the project which is focused on the development of Apps for students with disabilities at a lunchtime seminar in UCC on Tuesday May 3rd. This session is open to all staff in UCC and please visit www.ucc.ie/teachlearn for further details.

COMMUNITY - ACADEMIC RESEARCH LINKS

CARL (Community - Academic Research Links) is a UCC research initiative which supports community engagement by linking students with local and national civil society organisations (CSOs). Since its inception in 2010, CARL has supported research projects across a range of disciplines, mainly in the social sciences, with 53 student projects completed to date in collaboration with 38 different CSOs. CARL projects have led to high impact research with findings included in a HEA report, used to leverage €30,000 in grant money for one of the CSOs.

One CARL research collaboration between a Master of Social Policy student and a group called 'Age: Wisdom and Hope' was completed in 2015 and has already generated a great response both in the community and in academia. You can access the report at http://www.ucc.ie/en/media/research/carl/2015_Esther_Ngambi.pdf.



Anna Kingston CARL, Esther Ngambi MSW and Pauline Glavin Age: Wisdom and Hope

Community engagement is becoming an increasingly important part of higher education and CARL is now expanding across the University, and has recently recruited two new part-time staff. Currently, CARL staff are working with students and staff from the School of Medicine and the School of Biological, Earth & Environmental Sciences (BEES) to encourage more research projects in these disciplines. If you, or your students, are interested in becoming involved with CARL please visit our website <http://carl.ucc.ie>.

We have a number projects available for the coming year suitable for both undergraduate and postgraduate students across a range of disciplines. Also, if you are involved in a non-profit community group you can encourage the group to submit research proposals that can be added to the list of available projects for students to choose from. For more information please contact CARL co-ordinators Anna Kingston a.kingston@ucc.ie, Courtney Collins 112223067@umail.ucc.ie or William O'Halloran wohalloran@gmail.com.



New recruits Will O'Halloran and Courtney Collins, CARL

QUERCUS TALENTED STUDENTS' PROGRAMME NEWS



www.ucc.ie/en/quercus



PROCLAMATION DAY AT UCC

Congratulations to Jennifer Chadwick, Quercus Innovation/Entrepreneurship Scholar, First Year Pharmacy, who read the 1916 Proclamation as part of Proclamation Day at UCC.

This event featured contributions from student musicians and the Quercus Talented Students' Programme. The Department of Education and Skills designated 'Proclamation Day' as a nationwide reading of the Proclamation by all educational institutions in Ireland.

The reading began at noon, with traditional music provided by the UCC Music Department from 11.45am. The Proclamation was read by Jennifer, who holds a Quercus Scholarship for Innovation /Entrepreneurship. Quercus Creative and Performing Arts Scholar, Conor Arkins, played Amhrán na bhFiann on the uilleann pipes to conclude the ceremony. This is one of many events organised by UCC to mark the centenary of the 1916 Rising.

ST.PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Quercus Active Citizenship Scholar, Joanne O'Riordan, Second Year Criminology, made history when she became the youngest person ever to act as Grand Marshall of the national St. Patrick's Day parade in Dublin.

Commenting at the time of the announcement, the UCC student said it is a "serious dream come true. I am extremely honoured and delighted to be this year's Grand



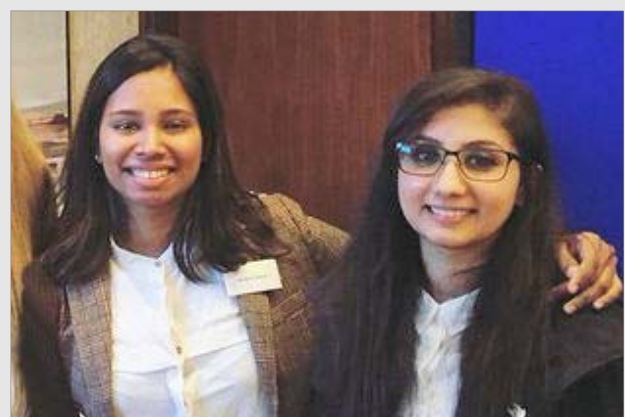
Joanne O'Riordan at the announcement of the parade

Marshall in the Dublin St Patrick's Day Festival."

CEO of the St Patrick's Festival Susan Kirby commented "Joanne and her outlook on life are an incredibly powerful story and an important message to share. Her achievements to date are an example of the ability of a strong will and she is a great ambassador for people young and old, of whatever ability to live life to the full."



Congratulations to Quercus Sports' Scholar, Jack Casey, Second Year Arts, on being crowned Irish Under 23 National indoor rowing Champion in Limerick on Saturday, January 23rd.



Congratulations to Quercus Active Citizenship Scholar, Sarah Jameel, Second Year Dentistry, and Creative & Performing Arts Scholar, Kaumal Baig, Fourth Year Dentistry, on winning best poster and best oral presentation, respectively, in the recent International Association of Dental Research Undergraduate Competition.



STUDENT ENTREPRENEUR MARIE MARTIN

Quercus Innovation & Entrepreneurship Scholar, Marie Martin, Second Year Commerce, recently won two major student awards for enterprise. Marie was named UCC Entrepreneur of the year and also won the National Student Entrepreneur Forum in Croke Park.

Marie won the awards for her business ‘Martin Safety Equipment’ which she set up in 2012 as an outcome of her transition year project at school. The business produces her own unique innovation called ‘Safe Scrub Sprayer’.

Pictured left is Eoin Costello presenting the award to Marie Martin.

LAUNCH OF CORK CARES

Quercus Scholars Jennifer Chadwick, Jacqui Walsh, Dave Calnan, Alex Whelan and Calvin O’Callaghan are part of the group (pictured right) who founded new business *Cork Cares* which was launched on March 22nd. Through their website www.corkcares.ie *Cork Cares* offers deals for local businesses in Cork, with a percentage of each sale going to one of six local Cork charities. When a deal is purchased from the website, the proceeds are split between *Cork Cares* (who take just enough to cover costs), the merchant and the charity. This business provides people with a way of giving to local charities while getting something in return and provides charities with an income source.



AMY O’CONNOR NAMED AS COLLEGES ALL STAR

Congratulations to Quercus Sports’ Scholar Amy O’Connor, Second Year Pharmacy, on her recent selection as a third level All Star. The award acknowledges outstanding individual performance by a player throughout the Colleges season and recognises skill, commitment, attitude, team work and work rate. To date Amy has won two senior All-Ireland camogie medals for Cork and has also represented her country in ladies soccer.

Pictured left is Amy O’Connor (centre front) with fellow Quercus Sports’ Scholars, (l-r) Conor Dorman, Clodagh Moloney, Jack Casey, Fionn Lyden and Ciara O’Connell

CINEMAGIC

Congratulations to Creative & Performing Arts’ Scholar, Third Year BMus, James McGlynn, on the recent UCC Orchestral Society’s CINEMAGIC concert, which took place in the *Aula Max* on Monday March 16th (pictured right and left). This event featured an eclectic array of music from cinema, as the UCC Orchestra performed a selection of cinematic themes including *Game of Thrones*, *The King’s Speech*, *The Lion King*, *The Hobbit* and *Up!*

The UCC Orchestra was founded in 2014 and owes much of its success to James’ commitment and drive, and makes a wonderful contribution to UCC life.



NEW POSTGRADUATE MODULE SUPPORTS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BY UCC STUDENTS

In 2016 UCC, as part of the Horizon 2020 EnRRICH research project, ran an interdisciplinary module for postgraduate students to support their engagement with civil society organisations (CSOs) for the purpose of collaborative research.

Community engagement is a key aspect of Higher Education activity, and has grown in salience following the 2011 Hunt report and the emphasis placed on it in the HEA compacts. UCC has shown leadership in community engagement through its support of CARL (www.ucc.ie/en/scishop) and through numerous other activities. The new 15 credit module on Community Based Participatory Research brought PhD students together with service users of the Westgate Foundation, a community housing facility in Ballincollig to establish topics of importance to the services users.

Westgate Foundation offers a range of services to older adults in County Cork. In addition to a theoretical overview of research methods and approaches to community based participatory research, the PhD students had a total of four visits

to the Westgate Foundation where ideas were developed. This culminated in the identification of four main research topics by the service users. These were subsequently submitted to CARL at UCC (Community Academic Research Links) for follow up. The development of this module helps to extend the work of CARL on community engagement while ensuring that future research is orientated to be more socially responsive.

The partnership provided a valuable opportunity for the community group to have their voice heard and for students

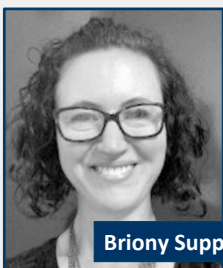
to experience live research projects stemming from the community. The feedback from students has been positive with students reporting that the module has encouraged them to view their research in a different light. The module has also raised the profile of CARL, specifically its critical role in strengthening the University's public engagement activities. The UCC EnRRICH project team are currently evaluating the module and assessing opportunities to run this module again in the future. Please address your queries to the UCC EnRRICH project coordinator, Ruth Hally at ruth.hally@ucc.ie.



Project participants pictured at the Westgate Foundation in Ballincollig

TEACHING HERO AWARDS 2016

The National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning has launched a call for the National Teaching Hero Awards 2016. This year they will work in partnership with the union of Students in Ireland and other student bodies to select the award winners. Individual students in each Higher Education Institute can each nominate their Teaching Hero through an online nomination form which can be found at www.teachingandlearning.ie/priority-themes/student-led-teaching-awards/teaching-hero-awards-2016. Based on the student nominations, local student working groups will identify up to two teaching heroes within their institution to receive a National Award. The identification process used in each institution will be implemented locally and led by the Students' Union but informed by the National guidelines produced by the National Forum in partnership with USI and other student representatives. The teaching hero award is unique to higher education in Ireland. This is a new way of ensuring that students have their voices heard by having the opportunity to identify their teaching heroes, and to thank and recognise those excellent teachers at a national level.



Briony Supple

CIRTL WELCOMES NEW STAFF

The Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning welcomes new staff members James Cronin and Dr. Briony Supple who joined the CIRTL team this semester. Briony joins CIRTL from the Federation University of Australia where she lectured in Learning and Teaching, and developed and delivered a Graduate Certificate in Education Tertiary Teaching. Briony will support UCC's accredited programmes for staff and particularly the transition to online learning. She will also review portfolio models for documenting Teaching and Learning.

James coordinates the Postgraduate modules in Teaching and Learning run through CIRTL as well as supporting the accredited programmes for staff and the programme for Visiting Lecturers. James joins CIRTL from UCC's School of History and also works in the Centre for Adult Continuing Education where he coordinates and teaches courses on visual and cultural history.



James Cronin