



In this issue

Next Generation Space	2
Flexible Learning Spaces	3
Byte-Sized TEL Sessions.....	3
Classroom technology support	3
Digital Badge Initiative	4
Reimagine Education Awards.....	4
President's Awards.....	5
Centre for CPD.....	5
Quercus News	6
UCC China partnership.....	7
Forum Insights	8
ISSoTL Conference.....	8
New SU Education Officer.....	8

WELCOME

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

I hope that you are all having a productive and enjoyable academic year so far. I want to thank every member of the UCC community for their efforts in making this an excellent university. Because of your commitment, UCC continues to be recognised as a world-class university, having become the first university to be named *Sunday Times University of the Year* for two consecutive years. According to the *Sunday Times*, UCC's success is underpinned by a student-centred approach which prioritises teaching excellence alongside world-class research.

In this issue of OVPTL News we feature the President's Awards for Excellence in Teaching, which celebrate high quality teaching across UCC. The UCC Staff Awards Ceremony 2016, on October 6th, included the presentation of awards for Excellence in Teaching to eight UCC staff. This was the first year that students were invited to nominate staff for these awards and we are delighted with this new development.

The OVPTL is making a difference. Every day, our staff dedicate themselves to

enhancing the teaching and learning experience at UCC. We have recently become the first university in Ireland to develop an online programme in teaching and learning for staff in higher education.

In September we launched a call for proposals for the development of innovative teaching and learning spaces at UCC. This aims to direct strategic investment in space and is open to all staff. If you are interested in becoming involved in this initiative please visit <http://instructionaldesign.ucc.ie/nextgen>

Looking ahead, UCC is preparing its new Strategic Plan. OVPTL will be hosting a consultation workshop for staff and students engaged with teaching and learning on 7th December. This event will take place in the Library Creative Zone and seeks to discuss, capture and set priorities for emerging strategies.

As always, if you have any Teaching & Learning related news or upcoming events please share them with us.

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

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



BVN Architecture's 'Learning Space of the Future' at Victoria University

Next Generation Learning Spaces Call

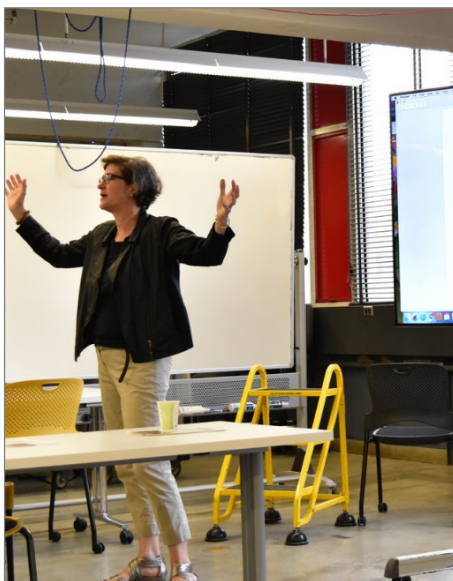
UCC has launched a funding call inviting staff to develop Next Generation Learning Spaces across the campus! If you want a technology enhanced, collaborative or active learning space in your building you are invited to apply for this funding. The deadline for applications is 30th November, 2016.

<http://instructionaldesign.ucc.ie/nextgen>

DEVELOPING 'NEXT GENERATION' LEARNING SPACES IN UCC

The Office of the Vice-President for Teaching & Learning is now calling for applications to develop Next Generation Learning Spaces at UCC. This funding can be used to develop new and innovative learning spaces across the university. Launched on October 5th at the *Next Generation Learning Spaces Workshop* with a number of excellent speakers presenting on learning spaces from a staff, student and design perspective. This workshop, which included practical demonstrations, and an open forum for the exchange of ideas on how to facilitate better learning through re-imagining teaching space design.

This funding call will give staff at UCC the opportunity to explore new approaches to teaching and learning in specially designed spaces. It reflects similar initiatives at other Universities such as the one in Harvard, where the Harvard Institute of Teaching and Learning (HILT) grants programme funds innovative and experimental teaching spaces such as SciBox. The SciBox at Harvard is a 2,500 square foot innovative, open space classroom modelled on a black-box theatre where everything on the room including tables, chairs and white boards are on wheels. This room reflects a departure from the traditional physics-lab curriculum, and is designed as a practical demonstration that it is permissible to experiment and to make mistakes and its layout encourages mobility and collaboration. It has fostered creative, active and applied learning for a number of different disciplines and is used for



The 'SciBox' at Harvard University, an innovative flexible classroom and physics lab modelled on a black-box theatre

lectures, workshops, as design studios and even for performances. With a flexible and innovative approach, teaching and learning space can foster excellent teaching and learning experiences for staff and students alike.

Applications are now welcome to develop formal teaching and learning spaces at UCC, but also informal spaces such as break-out areas, corridors and study rooms as well as outdoor learning spaces. One example of an excellent outdoor learning space on campus is the Geology and Geophysics Garden in the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences (BEES). The Garden, constructed in 2013, encapsulates a wide diversity of

Irish geology. It provides a learning facility that has been designed to be of relevance to geoscience undergraduate programmes in the School of BEES. The gardens are also a key resource for the School of BEES outreach activities especially during public open days.

Further information on this funding call is available on our website which you can find at <http://instructionaldesign.ucc.ie/nextgen>. Here you can download the call criteria and application form, and we have also put together a number of learning space resources and examples to illustrate what other higher ed. institutions are doing in this area. The deadline for applications is 30th November, 2016.



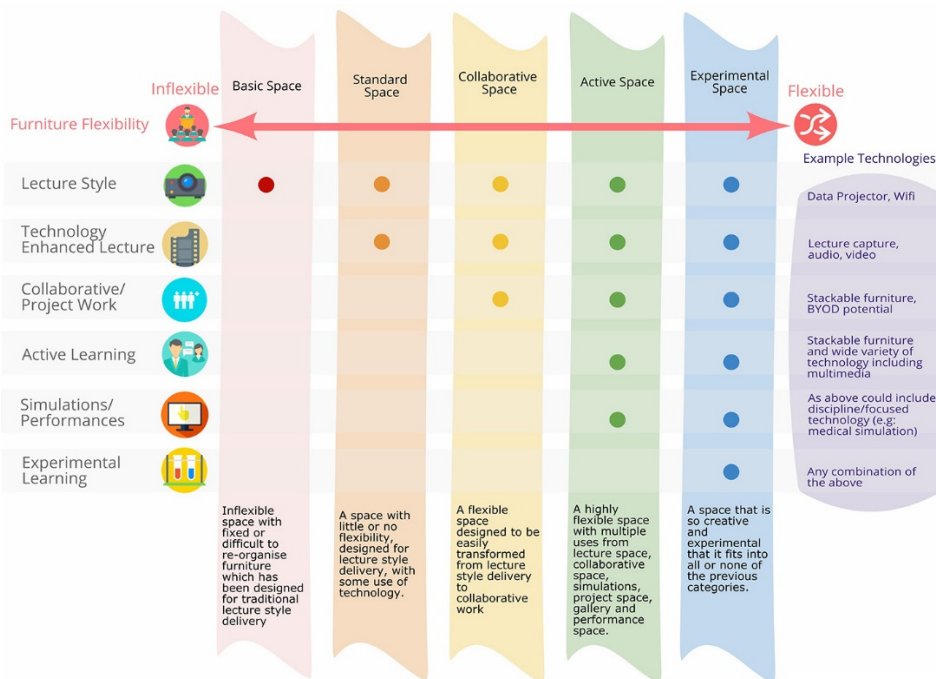
Geology and Geophysics Garden at UCC



Staff attending the launch of the Next Generation Learning Spaces call explore some of the educational technology on show.

DESIGN OF FLEXIBLE LEARNING SPACES

The design of future learning spaces at universities must facilitate the changing student expectations, evolving pedagogies and new technologies. In a modern university, learning takes place both in and out of the classroom, in formal and informal spaces, and student engagement is positively impacted by comfortable, flexible and appealing learning spaces that encourage interaction and are supported by technology. Traditional lecture halls, with immovable chairs facing the lectern represent a philosophy of passive learning. An active, collaborative teaching and learning philosophy is manifested in more flexible designs being developed in recent years. With a view to the development of teaching and learning space into the future learning spaces at UCC have been categorised by the Online Learning Instructional Design Team according to their flexibility as detailed below.

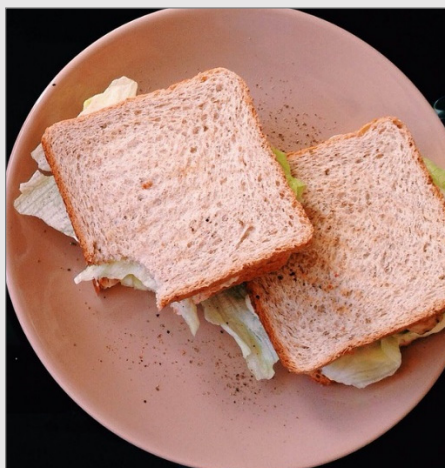


Continuum of learning spaces based on their flexibility (Claire Fennell, ID Team, UCC)

BYTE-SIZED TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED LEARNING SESSIONS ARE BACK

The Byte-sized TEL sessions, run by the Online Learning Instructional Design Team, have returned for the 2016/17 academic year. These sessions look at different aspects of Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) are open to all staff. The sessions take place approximately every two weeks during term time and the format is usually a 10 minute presentation on a particular topic followed by an open discussion and tea and coffee.

The first in this series, on the use of ePortfolios in Higher Education, took place on Thursday 13th October.



Stephanie Lawrence (School of Nursing & Midwifery) gave a demonstration of an online CPD module that incorporates an ePortfolio.

The second in the series was on Adobe Connect and took place on Oct 25th. In the session, Linda McGuire (School of Pharmacy) gave a presentation on her use of Adobe Connect, a web conferencing tool, which was followed by a collaborative session.

Details of upcoming sessions are available at <http://instructionaldesign.ucc.ie>

STUDENT TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR CLASSROOMS

Improvements to Audio Visual facilities across UCC were carried out during the summer of 2016 in the first phase of a project to upgrade centrally-bookable room teaching rooms. AV systems were introduced to 15 teaching rooms where previously there was none, and out-dated Audio Visual systems in a further 10 rooms were upgraded. All centrally-bookable rooms will be brought up to a minimum standard of data projection and Wi-Fi capacity by the end of 2018. Because of the extensive installation of new systems a need was identified for enhanced technical support in teaching rooms as these new improvements were rolled out.

For the first two weeks of the new term Student Technical Support was on hand across campus to assist teaching staff with AV-related issues in classrooms. Jointly coordinated between AV Media Services and OVPTL, seven students were on call across UCC and a dedicated phone line was set up to respond to staff queries quickly and effectively. This support addressed a key gap in the availability of suitable training identified by the survey of UCC staff on the use of technology in teaching which was undertaken by the OVPTL in 2014. We are now working with AVMS to continue this support for the first two weeks of term two in 2017.



THE DIGITAL BADGE INITIATIVE AT UCC

OVPTL is piloting the use of Open Digital Badges at UCC. These micro-credentials are portable, machine-readable indicators of accomplishment, skill, or expertise.

'Badges represent a different approach to credentials, one that places the focus on individual students and their learning accomplishments' EDUCAUSE.edu

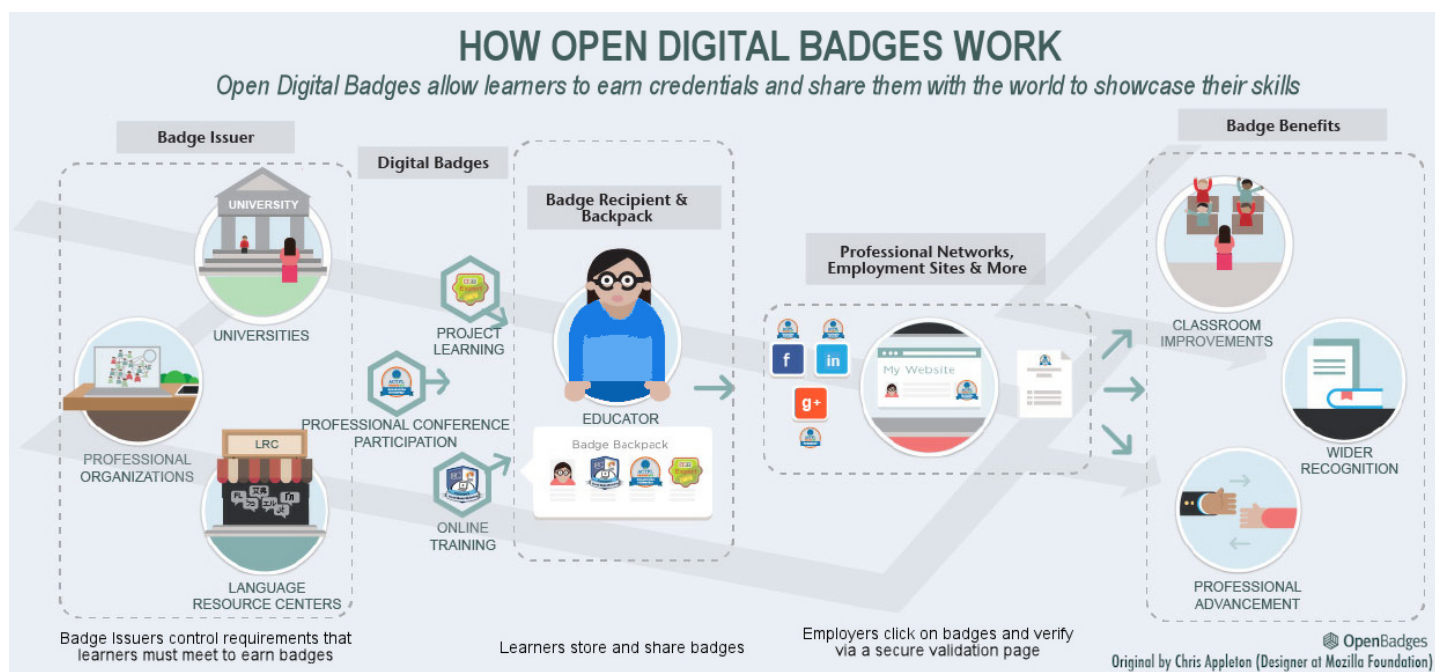
Digital Badges are icons or image files, while Open Digital Badges have value beyond the image as they include metadata about the learning credentials associated with the badge. Each badge is uniquely linked to data hosted on the *Open Badge Factory* platform, making them reliable, secure and verifiable.

Open Digital Badging makes it easy for anyone to issue, earn, and display badges across the web. Learners receive Digital Badges from the badge issuer, which they can then display on any online platform including LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and Email, in order to demonstrate their achievements and expertise.

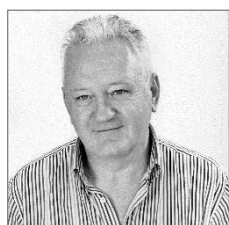
The use of these badges at UCC is being evaluated in various contexts to find ways that badges can be used to recognise knowledge, skills and achievements. Following the inaugural awarding of Digital Badges to the Digital Champions on the *Transformation through Collaboration* project, Digital Badges are now being deployed in a variety of ways.

TEL TASTERS

In August, the Instructional Design team hosted TEL Tasters, a training event for staff on using technology in teaching and learning. This included a series of workshops and presentations highlighting the theory of key pedagogical best practices and giving practical guidance on the application of these concepts. Each day covered a different theme including Blackboard, collaboration, video, and internet tools. Attendees were given the opportunity to earn digital badges if they chose to complete practical tasks where they applied the knowledge they have learned to a real teaching scenario. The TEL Tasters sessions were extremely popular with more 50 staff attending and 19 digital badges awarded.



REIMAGINE EDUCATION AWARDS 2016



Prof David Sheehan, up to recently Head of School of Biochemistry and Cell Biology at UCC, has been shortlisted for an award at the 2016 Reimagine Education Conference in Philadelphia.

His submission, "*CALE: Computer-Assisted Learning Exercise for teaching protein structure*", was entered in the category "Best Use of ICT Tools". It is based on a continuous assignment activity which forms part of his course on Advanced Protein Structure, and his submission featured student work by final year BSc Biochemistry and BSc Chemistry of Pharmaceutical Compounds students.

In CALE students combine public-domain resources to explore protein structure in three-dimensions. CALE is now in contention for a category award, a regional award, or, of course, the honour of being 2016's Overall Winner.

The **Wharton-QS Stars Reimagine Education Awards & Conference** is a global competition and conference which encourages educators everywhere to spot problems that prevent optimal learning and/or pedagogical outcomes, and find creative, innovative solutions to these problems. Prof Sheehan will present his project at the conference in Philadelphia in early December when the award decisions will be finalised and announced. This year a record number (more than 600) of submissions was received from universities throughout North America, Europe, Australasia and Asia.



PRESIDENT'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

This year's Awards Ceremony for the President's Awards for Excellence in Teaching took place in the Aula Maxima on October 6th. Now in its 14th year at UCC, this was the first year that nominations for these awards were invited from students and colleagues as well as from the teachers themselves. Eight members of staff received awards this year.

Dr. Brian Bird from the School of Medicine and also a Consultant Oncologist and the Bons Secours Hospital, received an individual award having been nominated by a student for his goal driven and inclusive teaching style. Also from the School of Medicine, Dr Patrick Henn, Dr Irina Korotchikova, Mr Simon Smith and Ms Sinead Riome were the recipients of a Team Award. This team developed opportunities for experiential learning using paediatric simulation based training in the undergraduate medical curriculum for final year students where exposure to emergency paediatrics has traditionally been limited. They incorporated assessment for learning as well as individual, confidential feedback to students. This is the first time that an advanced pedagogical approach has been used in undergraduate paediatric training in Ireland.

The third award was made to a team from Applied Social Studies (Dr Kenneth Burns and Dr Ruth Hally) and the Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning (Dr Catherine O'Mahony) for their work on UCC's first community-based participatory research module (PG6025). This module, which attracted students from a range of disciplines, drew on a decade



Prof John O'Halloran, Ms Sinead Riome, Dr Brian Brid, Dr Ruth Hally, Dr Irina Korotchikova, Dr Patrick Henn, Mr Simon Smith, Dr Kenneth Burns, Dr Catherine O'Mahony and Prof Anita Maguire at the UCC Awards Ceremony

of experience in Ireland and Europe, to create this unique interdisciplinary module. Responding to national higher education policy, EU research policy and UCC's strategic plan the module was created to develop and mentor new researchers attuned to, and educated in, engagement research practice and policy and responsible research and innovation. Staff and students subsequently collaborated on a research poster which won two first place prizes at the 7th Living Knowledge Conference 2016.

A CENTRE OF CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR UCC

As part of a commitment to life-long learning and professional development, establishment of the Centre for CPD is underway in the OVPTL. Launching in early 2017 the Centre will serve as the operational heart of UCC's focus on creating a thriving CPD provision service for the community and professionals. Research into the provision of professional development at UCC has been ongoing for a number of years, and will culminate with the formal launch of the Centre for CPD in early 2017.

CPD is the systematic maintenance, improvement and broadening of knowledge, skills and competencies, and the development of personal and professional qualities, necessary for the execution of professional duties throughout the practitioner's working life

The Centre for CPD will provide a number of services for the University, CPD Learners and CPD Developers. Academics looking to develop and deliver CPD activities based on their subject area (including trans-discipline and industry-collaborative CPD) will be provided with support in terms of documentation, a clear process, and administrative aids. Learners looking to UCC for their ongoing CPD needs will be presented with a consolidated portfolio of offerings across all of UCC's Colleges, and they will be able to apply and pay for CPD online. Through new processes and online systems, university management teams will not only be able to ensure the quality and consistency of CPD offered to learners, but will gain an oversight into the value (with respect to income generation and community enhancement) of CPD across the university.



The coming months will see the launch of a website and supporting IT system, face to face meetings with UCC staff, and review of potential opportunities for collaboration. If you have any questions or would like to contact the Centre to discuss any aspect of the CPD development/delivery process its or governance, you can email cpd@ucc.ie.

"The establishment of a Centre for CPD in UCC gives the university an unprecedented opportunity, not just in terms of coordinating a varied portfolio for professionals and businesses looking for CPD, but also to raise UCC's profile as a national international provider of CPD. We owe it to our graduates, alumni and staff to ensure that we can contribute to their continuing professional development in their chosen profession"

Katie Sandham, Manager of the Centre for CPD

QUERCUS TALENTED STUDENTS' PROGRAMME NEWS



www.ucc.ie/en/quercus

WELCOME

Now in its third year, the Quercus Programme welcomed the 21 new 2016/17 Scholars at an induction day on September 9th. These students will receive life coaching, accommodation, one-to-one sessions, bursaries, academic mentors, external mentors and a range of individual interventions as they strive to combine academic excellence their own personal development. Unfortunately this photo doesn't include Quercus Sports' Scholar, Ireland U'20's rugby player Paul Kiernan, who was recovering from minor surgery on the day.



Quercus scholars at the 2016/17 induction day

CIARA JUDGE ONE OF THE WORLD'S OUTSTANDING YOUNG PEOPLE

Quercus Innovation/Entrepreneurship Scholar Ciara Judge can now add Outstanding Young Person of the World award to her list of accolades which already includes Young Scientist winner, entrepreneur and TEDx Teen speaker, among others. Ciara's achievements are astounding and include her work creating Germinaid Innovations with Émer Hickey (also a Quercus Innovation/Entrepreneurship Scholar) back in 2015. UCC is very excited to have her here as a Genetics student and Quercus Scholar.



Outstanding Young Persons of the World celebrates young people who show extraordinary achievement and dedication to serving others. Honouring 10 people aged under 40, Ciara joins fellow Quercus Scholar Joanne O'Riordan on this role of honour.

Recognised by Time magazine and Huffington Post as among the top 25 most influential teens in the world, Judge, Hickey and Sophie Healy-Thow won the top BT Young Scientist Award in 2013, as well as an EU equivalent and the Google Science Fair in 2014.

The Junior Chamber Ireland (JCI) Ten

CONGRATULATIONS TOM DEVINE

Congratulations to Tom Devine, 4th Medicine, Quercus Sports' Scholar on winning an All-Ireland u21 medal with Waterford. Waterford produced a clinical display to end a 24-year wait for Bórd Gáis Energy All-Ireland Under-21 glory

and they finished against Galway's 0-14. Commiserations to Quercus Scholars Amy O'Connor, who plays for Cork, and John Power, who plays for Kilkenny, on their sides' recent losses in the Senior Camogie and Hurling finals.



MARK O'CONNOR

Former Kerry minor star and Quercus Sports' Scholar Mark O'Connor has confirmed his signing of a professional rookie contract with Australian Rules Football club the Geelong Cats, having had trials with five different clubs last month.



O'Connor was one of the star players in Kerry's 2014 and 2015 All-Ireland minor triumphs under manager Jack O'Connor, and was also a member of the Hogan Cup winning Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne from Dingle, but is now set to start his senior career in the AFL.

CONGRATULATIONS SHANE O'DONNELL

The Clare hurler who broke Cork hearts in the 2013 Senior All-Ireland Hurling final replay by scoring 3-3 in the opening 19 minutes has graduated from University College Cork. Shane O'Donnell, UCC Quercus Sports' Scholar, was conferred with a BSc in Genetics by (UCC) President, Dr. Michael Murphy.

"I have loved my 4 years studying Genetics here at UCC. The course was challenging but enjoyable. Genetics is fundamental to all areas of biological study, as genes carry the information which largely determines what we are and how we function in the environment" said Shane. *"In fact, I enjoyed my degree so much that I am starting a PhD here in UCC next month!"* added the Clare man.

O'Donnell, holder of 1 senior and 2 U21 All Ireland titles as well as being named man-of-the-match after his 2013 replay heroics, was awarded UCC's top sporting accolade in 2014, a Quercus Sports' Scholarship. "The scholarship recognises sporting excellence and Shane embodies



all that the Programme could wish for in a Quercus Scholar" said Prof. John O'Halloran, UCC Vice-President for Teaching and Learning and Director of the Quercus Programme. "At UCC we believe in creating an environment in which academic excellence can be combined

with students' opportunities for personal development, independent thinking and the nurturing of talent across many domains. Shane has excelled in so many ways. We are proud of him as he graduates and look forward to having him as a PhD student" added Prof. O'Halloran.

UCC ACADEMICS TO SHAPE FUTURE OF EDUCATION IN CHINA

University College Cork is poised for strong growth in Chinese student numbers as two of its leading academics this week shared their insights on becoming better university teachers in Beijing. Professor Áine Hyland and Dr Marian McCarthy showcased UCC's successful approach to teaching in a series of workshops at Beijing's Renmin University of China, one of the most prestigious in the country, to senior higher education figures from 30 universities across China.

Professor Hyland and Dr McCarthy, both internationally-renowned experts in teaching and learning, shared their expertise on developing China's educational policies and programmes for academic staff to become better university teachers. "The ultimate goal is to create a climate in China where all faculty will have an opportunity to get a qualification in teaching and learning in higher education" said Dr McCarthy. "In fact, acquiring qualifications in teaching and learning is likely to become mandatory."

UCC holds a unique place in Ireland's Higher Education sector with the greatest

number academic staff having a formal qualification in Teaching and Learning, coordinated through UCC's Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CIRTL). This figure far exceeds national targets and sets the benchmark for other universities across Ireland.

Professor John O'Halloran, Vice President for Teaching and Learning said "UCC is recognised globally for its expertise in teaching, not only in Ireland as recognised recently by the Sunday Times University of the Year 2017 award, but across the world, including China. Over the past two years, more than 100 Chinese faculty have travelled to UCC to take courses in Teaching, Learning and English as part of its Programme for Visiting Lecturers and this week's workshops are about further developing this relationship and collaboration." According to Professor O'Halloran, this initiative supports UCC's overall internationalisation mission and provides great opportunities for research and knowledge exchange. "Where faculty go, students usually follow. We hope that we will have further Chinese students visiting UCC as a result of this workshop."

During the workshop, faculty were shown how to make teaching and learning visible, to document and reflect on their work and to look for the evidence of student learning. This approach to Teaching and Learning is at the heart of activities at UCC, which prides itself on being a University that showcases research-based teaching. The workshop, the outcome of a longstanding relationship between UCC and China in relation to staff development in Teaching and Learning, is part a larger Chinese Education Expo event in Beijing, at which Ireland is a country of honour.



President Michael Murphy addressing the seminar at RENMIN University with Dr Christopher Brown, Director, International Office and Prof Tian Hongjie, Director at RENMIN's Centre for Teaching Development

DRIVERS OF TEACHING & LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Teaching, learning and assessment in higher education are central to student learning outcomes and are continually evolving in response to changing demands and challenges influenced by contextual shifts in the Higher Education environment. Many reports, policies and best practice documents are written about higher education at national, European and international levels. These provide useful context and data for the work of higher education staff, but are often lengthy and difficult to navigate and so not very accessible to busy university staff. The National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education compiles a monthly summary

of relevant reports for stakeholders and staff in the higher education sector in Ireland which can be accessed at <http://www.teachingandlearning.ie/forum-resources/forum-insights>.

National and International Policies

A recent issue of Forum Insights provides a summary of some of the key European documents which inform teaching and learning in the context of wider drivers and issues, where summaries of the most important reports can be accessed. You can find the Forum Insight on national and international teaching and learning policies at <http://www.teachingandlearning.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Forum-Insight-on-International-and-National-Policies.pdf>.

Assessment of, for and as Learning

Assessment of, for and as Learning is the National Forum's enhancement theme for 2016- 2018. The National Seminar Series 2015-2016 has already facilitated some initial conversations on this theme. An issue of Forum Insights summarises Assessment OF, Assessment FOR and Assessment AS Learning. It highlights some of the tensions that have to be accommodated and identifies a range of enablers that should drive this significant change. You can find the Forum Insight on assessment of, for and as learning at <http://www.teachingandlearning.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Insight-Assessment-OFFOR-and-AS-Learning.pdf>

CIRTL TEAM HIGHLIGHTING SoTL AT ISSoTL CONFERENCE

UCC's Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CIRTL) played its part at this year's International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSoTL) conference in Los Angeles. Dr Marian McCarthy and James Cronin discussed the gallery as an embodied learning space while Dr Briony Supple contributed to discussion of technology enhanced learning on the visiting scholars programme at Cork. James Cronin took an aspect of the visiting scholars programme in his discussion of SoTL in the translation of cultural values through the globalisation of higher education. Jacinta McKeon (School of Education and CIRTL) discussed evidence of

teacher identity formation within the graduate modules offered by CIRTL. Review the conversations at #issotl16.

This year's conference was hosted by Marymount University. The conference theme focused on telling the story of the scholarship of teaching and learning across university institutions and within disciplinary units as the stories we tell shape the realities we construct. This year themes included SoTL in China, identity politics on US campuses, and making disciplinary expertise explicit to students. It was an opportunity for delegates to engaged in SoTL as a community of practice that values inclusion.



Dr Michelle Eady, University of Wollongong and Jacinta McKeon UCC, working together during a plenary session at the recent ISSoTL 2016 Conference

Plans for next year's conference to be held in Calgary, Alberta, Canada are well underway. You can follow the conversation ISSoTL 2017 (@issotl17) on Twitter.



Ian Hutchinson

OVPTL WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS' UNION EDUCATION OFFICER

My name is Ian Hutchinson and I am the Education Officer on UCC Students' Union 2016/17. I'm 22 and from the Northside of Cork City. I'm a graduate of CACSSS having completed a BA in Economics and Politics and a HDip in History.

As Education Officer of the Students' Union I have four primary roles. The first of these is to give advice to students and refer students if necessary. If a student is having issues with their course, or academic issues more broadly, they can come to me and I will advise them or refer them to the most appropriate facility or office within the University.

The second is academic representation. I represent students' academic interests on a number of committees within the University such as Academic Council, Academic Board and the Academic Development and Standards Committee to name but a few. Thirdly I, along with the Council Chair and the College Reps on the Students Union, am responsible for the effective operation of our Class Rep system. Finally, on a National Level, I, along with the other officers in the Union and our counterparts in USI lobby and campaign on issues that which we have been mandated to act on by students in student referenda or by vote at Student Council. For example, UCC Students' Union participated in a Student Demonstration, orchestrated by the Union of Students in Ireland, in October 2016. This march was held in opposition to fees and loan schemes as per our mandate to campaign for free education.

