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We would really like to know what you think of *Trinity Today 2020*. When you have finished reading this edition, we kindly ask you to complete our online feedback form on the last page. All those who participate in this short survey will be entered into a competition and the Trinity Gift Shop has provided some stunning prizes this year. Many thanks.

Welcome



Dear alumni & friends,

The first digital edition of *Trinity Today* is a milestone. With 131,000 alumni in over 148 countries, we felt it necessary to move beyond postal delivery and, as many of you will have found in your own lives, COVID-19 has accelerated online engagement and learning. We hope that our new format will be just as enjoyable and informative - and even more user-friendly - than the previous one.

Wherever you're living, you will undoubtedly have been affected by the pandemic this year. In this issue, we investigate COVID-19's widespread impact - on the economy, on higher education, on climate change and on the arts - and we hear directly from alumni about their own experiences.

If one theme has emerged over the last few months, it has been the importance of universities in times of challenge. Trinity has a particular legitimacy in this moment to share our research expertise and to show leadership. As he looks forward to the year ahead, the Provost outlines the ways in which the *Inspiring Generations* projects will benefit society and bring people together.

The necessity to apply imagination and show resilience in the face of this exceptional crisis is a theme that arose

again in Professor John Parnell's article on the new trees planted in Library Square to replace the much-missed Oregon Maples. As John explains, the Chinese ginkgo was selected for its beautiful shape, its hardiness, its long lifespan and its slow growth.

The two saplings we've planted will see many generations of students come and go before they reach full maturity. We hope they will become a fond feature of college. They will see unimaginable changes in their centuries-long lives but will remain rooted at the heart of a campus lastingly dedicated to seeding knowledge and sowing for the future.

A big thanks to all who helped with the production of this year's *Trinity Today*. We couldn't have done it without you.

Best wishes

Jennifer Taaffe
Director of Alumni & Supporter Relations
Trinity Development & Alumni

Change, Growth & Inspiration

The Provost looks forward to the year ahead



Entering into the last year of my provostship feels quite surreal. Provost of Trinity is a ten-year term, and previously I was Vice-Provost for three years so I can hardly recall a time when I wasn't doing some kind of leadership role in Trinity, but – as I keep saying to students – change is a good thing and I'm looking forward to testing myself in new areas.

That's for this time next year. For now, my focus remains firmly on Trinity and on achieving the ambitious and realistic goals we've set ourselves, so that my final year keeps up the momentum leading into the next provostship. There's always a huge amount involved in creating change in Trinity, but with the pandemic and social distancing continuing to impact on education and research, we are facing into an academic year unlike any we can remember.

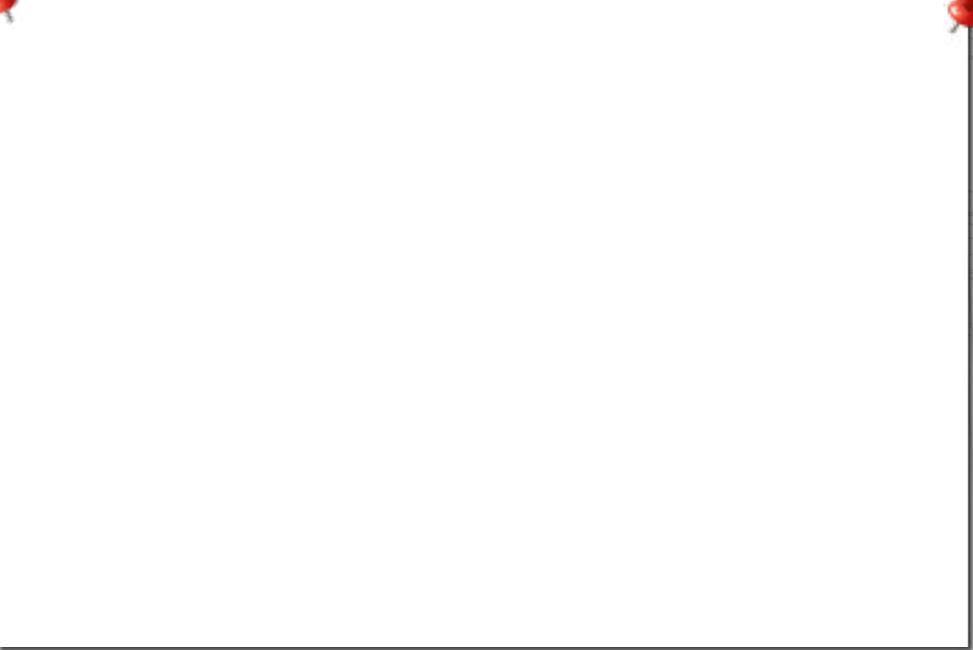
In a crisis, you seize opportunities for change, but you also double down on values and reaffirm true purpose and mission. Let me share with you some of our plans for this academic year.

Two important residential building projects are central to my final year as Provost. A new square on the site between the Printing House and Pearse Street – we will call it Printing House Square – will be completed

in the spring. Designed by McCullough Mulvin Architects, it will provide 250 student rooms, a new College Health Centre, and much needed new sports facilities. This piece of ground hasn't

previously been incorporated into the college – its deployment now is a reaffirmation of our belief in a living campus. Meanwhile, we're also determined to halt the slow decline in the Rubrics, the oldest building in the college, so it's getting a complete renovation, returning the generously proportioned and well-appointed rooms to much-needed staff accommodation, with student rooms on the top floor. Visiting professors will be accommodated here, and in the refurbished Chief Steward's House, off Front Square. Financing is in place and planning submission to Dublin City Council (DCC) will be completed in August.

In a city of high rents like Dublin, student accommodation is always a priority and particularly so in the current situation. This academic year, exceptionally, we'll be providing rooms to first year students, particularly international students, because they will need somewhere to self-isolate as soon as they arrive.



This coming year will also see progress on three *Inspiring Generations* priority projects:

Planning permission for the Old Library Redevelopment was submitted to DCC in July. A truly awesome architectural proposal that has solved all the problems of modernisation, while preserving the unique beauty of the Long Room and facilitating the return of scholars to the colonnades, it will gladden every Trinity heart! With visitor numbers down due to the pandemic, the coming years present the ideal opportunity to get on with this project. Our fundraising and related financing plans are well advanced.

The plan for the Trinity St James's Cancer Institute was approved by the Boards of the both the college and the hospital in July. The only cancer institute in Ireland which, as of 2019, has been recognised by the Organisation of European Cancer Institutes, this will be a gamechanger for cancer care and research.

Finally, the site for the Martin Naughton E3 Learning Foundry is already under preparation at the Eastern side of the college, with site clearance works completed. This is now fully financed, with €25million from the Naughton Family, €15million from government, significant donations from Beate Schuler, Paul Johnson and Eric Kinsella, and remaining funds from an EIB loan. It will enable

40% more students to study engineering, computer science and natural sciences, with a curriculum oriented around solving challenges through technology development in multi-disciplinary teams.

Though I won't be Provost when it opens, I will feel very proud. As an engineer myself, E3 – Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies – is a project I've been particularly delighted to progress. I think that we can all do so much better at working with nature to provide solutions to global challenges, and I'm proud that Trinity will be in the forefront of offering a new kind of education. Together with the E3 Research Institute, the lynchpin of our new campus in Grand Canal Dock - Trinity will be positioned as a global leader in finding balanced solutions for a better world.

With Printing House Square, the Martin Naughton E3 Learning Foundry, a new Law School and major renovations to the Rubrics and the Old Library all happening in the next few years, Trinity is going to look different (and beyond College Green, the new campus at Grand Canal Dock is a hugely exciting prospect – so close indeed that it may be seen as an extension of the current campus). It's all tremendously motivating for me and for all of us who work in shaping Trinity's future.

Continue reading Provost's plans for the year ahead

Campus News

News, views and updates from a year on campus. For more information on these stories, log onto www.tcd.ie/news_events



Trinity rises seven places to joint-101st in QS World University Rankings

Trinity has risen seven places to joint-101st and remains Ireland's leading institution in the QS World University Rankings 2021.



Trinity and AIB join forces in the battle against COVID-19

In April 2020, Trinity and AIB established a research hub, located in the Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute, to accelerate the college's immunology project tackling the COVID-19 pandemic, caused by SARS-coronavirus-2.



Trinity is 14th in Times Higher Education global impact rankings

Trinity has been named 14th best university in the world in terms of delivery of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. This was the result of the 2020 University Impact Rankings from the Times Higher Education (THE).



Public vote to turn Front Gate lawns into a wildflower meadow

More than 13,000 members of the public voted in an online poll to turn Front Gate lawns into a wildflower meadow to support biodiversity.



Trinity Strategic Plan 2020-2025

The five-year plan, entitled Community and Connection, will shape the future of the university to benefit Irish society and the wider world. The plan's vision is of Trinity nurturing a globally connected community of learning, research, and scholarship, and inspiring generations to meet the challenges of the future.



Sixteen sports represented across Trinity's 2019/20 Sports Scholars

Student athletes from a wide variety of sports, including rugby, basketball, GAA and cricket are featured in this year's programme.



First CHARM-EU Knowledge Creating Team session kicks off

Over 170 academics and researchers from CHARM-EU's five partner universities took part in the pilot European university's first induction session for potential staff in June 2020.



Artwork depicting chaos of Brexit

To mark UK's departure from the European Union on January 31, artwork by the artist Rita Duffy, The Raft Project 2019, was displayed on the side of the Trinity Long Room Hub building.



Book of Kells Creative Competition winners

Winners of all ages were announced at the annual awards ceremony.



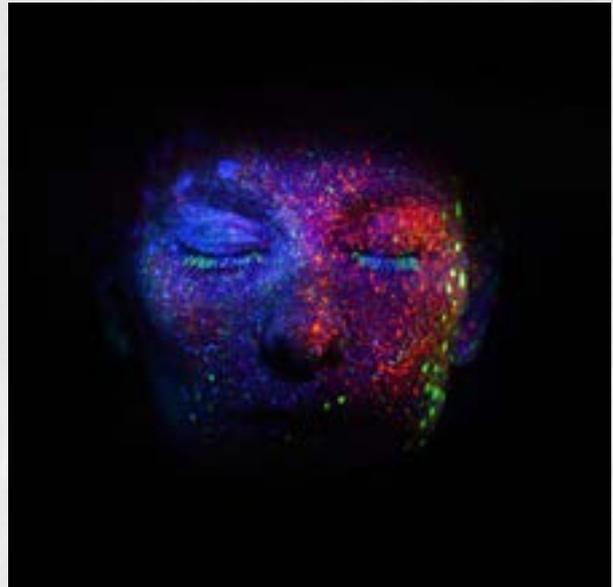
The Poetics of Print: The Private Press Tradition and Irish Poetry

School of English researcher Dr Conor Linnie, working with Professor Eve Patten, Director of the Trinity Long Room Hub, and the staff of Trinity College Library Manuscript and Archives, curated a digital exhibition on twentieth-century small presses and Irish poetry, with some wonderful illustrations selected from collections in the Oscar Wilde Centre and Trinity Library manuscripts and archives.



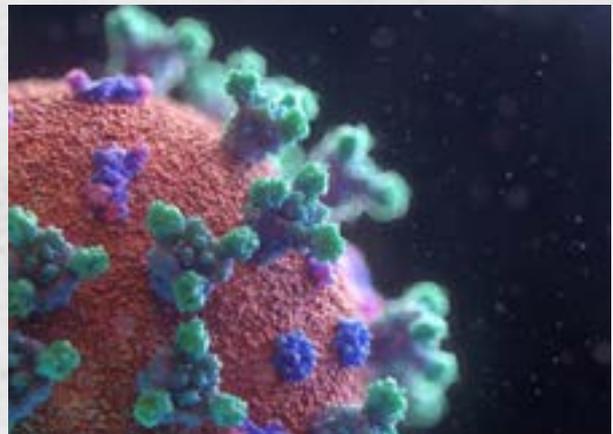
Catching the worm: William C. Campbell in conversation with Luke O'Neill

Nobel Prize-winner and Trinity alumnus, Professor William C. Campbell, launched his memoir *Catching the Worm* in conversation with Trinity's Professor Luke O'Neill and journalist Claire O'Connell.



Where technology meets the human being: Trinity launches Human+

Human+ is a new five-year international fellowship which places the human at the centre of technology innovation to serve the long-term and collective needs of society.



Six Trinity research projects to wage war on COVID-19

Six Trinity researchers secured state funding for vital research into COVID-19 and the implications of the disease on the health and well-being of our nation and on our health service and public health decisions.



Science Gallery International welcomes Emory University

Atlanta-based Emory University, one of the world's leading research universities, has become the latest member of Science Gallery International's network locations.



Brain health research is leaving the lab and coming to your smartphone

The COVID-19 pandemic has made many aspects of face-to-face research impossible, pushing scientists to explore remote ways of continuing their research and collecting data.



Trinity team to help image uncharted polar regions of the Sun

Astrophysicists from Trinity are among an international group contributing to a new mission that will provide the first images of the uncharted polar regions of the Sun.



Rapid COVID-19 response support for industry

AMBER, the SFI Research Centre for Advanced Materials and BioEngineering Research at Trinity, is offering a free consultancy service to aid companies or medical institutions with material science-based challenges related to COVID-19.

Master & Apprentice

Minister Paschal Donohoe speaks to his former economics lecturer, Professor John O'Hagan, about his personal and political journey.

Paschal Donohoe took the Economy of Ireland course I taught when he was a student of economics and politics at Trinity, not many years ago. It is quite extraordinary then to witness this former student now as manager of the finances of that very same economy and, from July 13 as President of the Eurogroup of Finance Ministers, having a central role in shaping not only Irish but eurozone policy over the coming years.



to pull the door and the door was very, very heavy. It didn't open. I remember thinking to myself, is this a sign that somebody as young as me and from my background shouldn't be going in there. I rapidly decided that it wasn't, and I gave the door another pull. And of course, it opened, and I walked in. I learned when I went into the Gallery that day, not to mention the four years I had afterwards, that the hallmark of

Paschal launched the thirteenth edition of the *Economy of Ireland* book, which I co-edited, in 2017 in the Salon of the Provost's House, and did so with such warmth for and appreciation of his time in college. At that event he talked about the background to his arrival at Trinity, born in Phibsborough and living there today. He also talked about how he entered the university on a scholarship, for which he will always be grateful.

The story of his first experience at Trinity he recounted again in my interview with him for this article.



The first time I was ever on campus I went into the Douglas Hyde Gallery. I can remember so vividly walking up, and to go into the Gallery I put my hand on the door and tried

Trinity is, yes, great learning, yes, an extraordinary campus, but the other deep hallmark is a commitment to making this learning available for all. For all its students and for all who wished to become students there.



Paschal of course availed fully of the extracurricular activities that Trinity offered, the following perhaps capturing also his will to 'succeed': 'I remember my Dad getting up at 5:30am one morning, taking me in for Freshers' Week so I could get the

stand for Young Fine Gael set up in a prime location in Front Square'.

Young Fine Gael did become part of his life at Trinity, but so too did the Philosophical Society (the 'Phil'). He not only took part in debates there but was Secretary of the Society in his Senior Freshman year, a commitment which extended into the summer break of that year.



I spent a great summer up in the top room of the Phil in the GMB with two other officers trying to organise the Session for the following year. This basically involved spending our evenings sitting over a rather dilapidated computer, trying to make the printer work and writing letters to esteemed people. I look back now on those years with such deep fondness.

In his Sophister years he concentrated more on his studies and emerged with a First-Class Honours degree. Something he learned early on is that a university degree is not about absorbing a stock of knowledge, but about the ability to use this knowledge to make, develop and articulate an argument. Anyone who listens to him at meetings or on radio/TV, knows only too well how he has honed his skills in this regard to perfection. Not least his political adversaries!

Why did he choose to study economics and politics at Trinity, I asked? In response he expressed a view which I very much share.



It was about where politics and economics meet that always interested me the most, even in school. Economics deals with things that are by their very nature intangible and it doesn't add value pretending that it's physics or that it's like a natural science. It's not. It's a social science, and it's at its greatest when its proponents recognise and acknowledge this.

One issue which fascinated him during his studies at Trinity was the ‘wonder’ of the so-called ‘Tragedy of the Commons’. It provides an overwhelming case in certain circumstances for collective action and collective decision-making, as opposed to the self-destruction that the pursuit of individual self-interest can generate. A good example of this today is the overfishing of the commonly owned seas and oceans.

It also relates very much to nations, not least regarding the pressing issue of climate change. But, also to monetary policy he strongly argues: ‘It applies to each country’s role, as individual nation states, within a common currency. The euro has been at its very best when it has embedded a degree of co-operation into it that allows member states to achieve more than they ever could, acting on their own.’

After college, he entered Procter & Gamble, on their fast-track graduate training programme (after two summers as an Intern) and spent ten years working with them. This contributed to a very different aspect of his wider education.



I literally spent the first year of my career driving around Birmingham and East London in a Vauxhall Cavalier with a boot full of Pampers, Sunny Delight and Head & Shoulders trying to sell truckloads of them to Cash and Carry outlets, and very successful business people.

Continue reading...

John O’Hagan is a Professor of Economics at Trinity since 2005. He was editor/co-editor of thirteen editions of the *Economy of Ireland* book series.



Chancellor Mary McAleese **Clothed with Strength and Robes**



Former President of Ireland and current Chancellor of the University of Dublin, Mary McAleese, MA (jo)(1985), LL.D (hc)(2000), tells Bridget Hourican about her formative years in Belfast, her social activism, her faith, and a connection to Trinity that has abided through the years.

Trinity's new Chancellor, Mary McAleese, officiated at her first Commencements in the Public Theatre in December 2019. Within months, she was self-isolating, like so much of the world, at home on her farm in north Roscommon, and that's where she officiated at the summer Commencements, which she was relieved to get through without mishap.

"We don't have broadband in north Roscommon," she explains, "so we're a bit at the mercy of the Gods."

It's one of the defining images of the COVID-19 lockdown: Trinity's new Chancellor, in the iconic black and gold robes of the office, officiating from her living room in Roscommon to graduands all over the world, tuning in from their living rooms - and hoping that the connection will hold.

It's fair to say that these weren't the first months of the chancellorship that Mary McAleese was expecting. But after a life and career that has included being machine-gunned out of the Ardoyne, hosting the Queen's visit to Ireland and confronting the Catholic Church over its teachings on women and homosexuality, she is unfazed by pandemic restrictions.

She is also absolutely delighted to be back in Trinity, which holds a pivotal place in her life. At the age of 24, recently graduated from Queen's Belfast, she was

“The name of Trinity has taken people all over the world into the strangest and most wonderful of lives. What a great gift.”

appointed Reid Professor of Criminal Law, Criminology and Penology in Trinity, succeeding Mary Robinson. It was her

first academic appointment, the launching pad for a remarkable career, and Trinity and Dublin were the refuge she needed from Belfast at that period.

“Trinity was a balm, an oasis, an extraordinary affirming environment, although I did find living in Dublin quite surreal. The normality of it seemed extravagant in comparison to the wasteful mess that was then the north of Ireland.”

The eldest of a large working-class Catholic family, she was brought up in largely Protestant areas in Ardoyne, north Belfast – “we had phenomenal neighbours and we also had neighbours who put up red, white and blue bunting across our house”. Part of the first generation in Northern Ireland to get free third level education, she entered Queen’s to study law just as the civil rights movement was taking off, but by the time she graduated in 1973 “paramilitarism and sectarianism had driven a wedge between people”.

The son of Ardoyne neighbours got involved in loyalist paramilitarism and was jailed for five murders; another neighbour – “whose brother was at school with mine” – emptied a machine gun into their front window. Fortunately, the whole family was at mass, but this was the cue to leave Ardoyne. Her parents moved to Rostrevor, a small village in Co Down and she moved to Trinity.

Those years were formative. “You have to decide from first principles where you stand: do you jump into the sectarian bunker and pull a lid down behind you, or

do you resist the gravitational pull of identity politics and religion which for centuries has been dragging decent

people back into sectarian politics?” For herself and her husband, Martin, also from Belfast, whom she met when she was 17, “we knew that once you reached for bomb and bullet, all you got were unhealable raw wounds. Our mutual great hero was Daniel O’Connell.”

Trinity in the mid-70s was active on social issues like gay rights and women’s rights “that hadn’t yet arrived in Northern Ireland”. The same commitment to ‘first principles’ which drove her non-sectarianism helped to drive her social radicalism. One of the first friends she made on campus was David Norris and she became a founding member of the Campaign for Homosexual Law Reform.

“I think I can say with confidence that I’m the first person to have mentioned gay marriage on RTÉ radio and that was way back in the ‘70s. It didn’t cause outrage; I think people just thought ‘God love her’. I knew it would take time to get there. As an avid reader of history, I’ve always had at the back of my mind that the things you want to happen and think are right, you may not live to see, but that doesn’t absolve you from responsibility to set in train the processes that will lead there.”

Continue reading...

Commencement Ceremony 2020

Bridget Hourican is a journalist, historian and writer.



Extraordinary People

Normal People is steeped in Trinity, not simply because it was a prominent filming location, but also because the writer, director, producers and nine of the cast, including lead actor Paul Mescal, are all alumni. Bridget Hourican investigates how Trinity acts a catalyst for such artistic collaboration.

When *Normal People* was published in 2018, everyone in Element Pictures read it and loved it. “It was the episodic nature of the story, the fact that it’s so character-driven and takes place over four years,” explains Element co-founder, Ed Guiney - in a conversation with Lenny Abrahamson and David McWilliams on the recent college webinar series, *Inspiring Ideas@Trinity* - “we just felt it would make amazing TV.”

So, however, did the rest of the world. “There was huge interest, including from all the powerful new players in the US, who are deep-pocketed,” says Guiney. “It was enormously competitive to get the rights. The BBC did an incredible thing – based on Lenny’s interest, they said that they would greenlight the series; we could tell Sally the show was guaranteed to get made.”

“Not to have to go through treatment or scripts was amazing” says Abrahamson, “it meant there was none of that drag on your energy, just forward momentum.” The BBC gave Element a free hand.





©EP NORMAL PEOPLE LIMITED MMXX

“They were agnostic as to how we made it,” says Guiney.

“The only direction they gave was to make the whole thing in one go. We thought of twelve half-hour episodes because it’s a very character-based story and in half an hour, you can keep focus on character; any longer, you start needing plot twists.”

The rest, as they say, is history. “Within a few days of dropping it to the BBC, we were getting incredible feedback,” says Abrahamson, “it was almost overwhelming.” Then COVID-19 hit and by the time the series came out in late April, the world was in lockdown and glued to their screens. Streamed by BBC, RTÉ and Hulu in the USA and sold to over 20 broadcasters worldwide, *Normal People* has been viewed by millions to near universal critical acclaim – CNN termed it ‘irresistible in abnormal times’.

Abrahamson talks about “the great advantage of working with people you know, who you have history with - that made the experience very collegiate and positive”. Collegiate seems the operative word here – Trinity provided more than setting and location; the writer, director, producers and nine of the cast were all graduates. And ‘having history together’ exactly describes the core relationship between Abrahamson and Guiney, which goes back to their ‘80s undergraduate years, and earlier.

They first met in their teens – attending different schools, they would meet at parties and talk film. At college – where Guiney was studying ESS and Abrahamson Theoretical Physics - they set up a

filmmaking society, Trinity Video Company (TV Co). Abrahamson credits Guiney with

the drive – “I’m a great person to ponder and not do anything, and Ed is a great person to do.” They made documentaries – about the Trinity Ball and another about Abrahamson’s grandfather, Mendel Walzman, a kosher butcher on Clanbrassil Street.

Their first fiction short was *3 Joes* (1991), starring Trinity alumnus Dominic West which picked up awards at festivals. Abrahamson recalls that this was funded “by money that was given to Trinity as the location fee for *Educating Rita* - the interest of which went into a fund for students to make films”.

Abrahamson then left for California to do a PhD in philosophy at Stanford and Guiney stayed in Dublin. Thanks to the re-establishment of the Irish Film Board by then minister Michael D. Higgins in 1993, it was, he says, finally possible to get funding to make films in Ireland. He began producing well-regarded low-budget films, including Paddy Breathnach’s *Ailsa* (1993) and Gerard Stembridge’s *Guiltrip* (1995). When Abrahamson returned from California, having given up academia, the pair reconnected and Element Pictures, which Guiney co-founded with fellow Trinity graduate Andrew Lowe, produced Abrahamson’s first feature, *Adam & Paul* (2004).

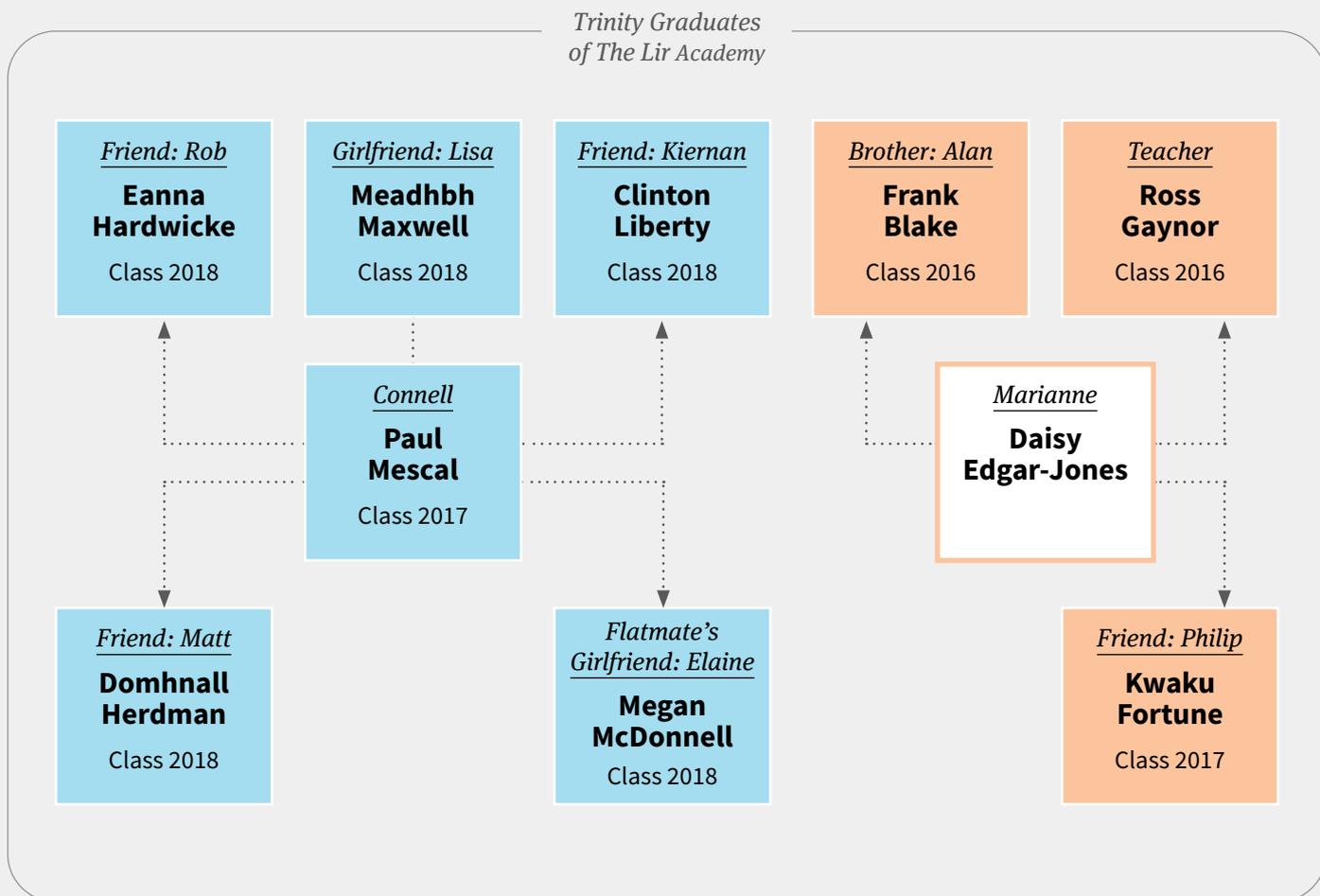
It was the relaunch of a beautiful relationship: they have since collaborated on *Garage* (2007), *What Richard Did* (2012), *Frank* (2014), *Room* (2016), *The Little Stranger* (2018) and now of course *Normal People*. The claim that they have revolutionised the

Irish film industry is no exaggeration. In the webinar, David McWilliams puts his finger on what sets their achievement apart: “When we were all students together and Lenny and Ed were setting up Film Soc, we couldn’t have begun to believe that they would be Oscar-nominated, BAFTA-winning, and that they would do all this from Ireland.”

But Abrahamson has a major caveat: “Yes, it can all be done here as an Irish production, entirely creatively and technically delivered here, and yes, you can have a global hit, but when you can’t fund it here, you don’t get the full benefit”. This points to the inconvenient truth that *Normal People*, created and produced by Irish talent, was BBC funded.

COVID-19 has been particularly “catastrophic” for the arts in Ireland, says Abrahamson, because “historic underfunding has led to this underlying condition which makes the arts unable to withstand crisis.” The solution, he thinks, is “not to return to the just-about-okay situation that we’ve come from” but “to ask government to look sensibly at the kind of investment you could make and what might come from that.” Guiney agrees: “The arts are Ireland’s natural resource.”

Getting proper funding for the arts during a pandemic recession is a big ask – but if anyone can do it, it’s this pair who, in McWilliams’ words, “made the extraordinary journey from the Ramp to *Normal People*”.



Lir People

When *Normal People* aired in April – on RTÉ, BBC and Hulu in the USA – the Trinity campus was in lockdown. For Dubliners and for thousands of Trinity

graduates round the world, the closest they could get to the university was watching Marianne, Connell and their friends and frenemies suffer and rhapsody through undergraduate angst and joys.

Normal People is steeped in Trinity: the writer, director and producers (Sally Rooney, Lenny Abrahamson, Ed Guiney, Andrew Lowe) are all graduates, as is one of the main actors Paul Mescal, who plays Connell. Less well known is that, remarkably, a full nine of the cast are graduates of the Lir National Academy of Dramatic Art at Trinity. They all graduated within three years of each other (Classes of 2016, 2017, 2018) - which makes them a group of friends, playing friends.

Five of Connell's friends in the series are played by Lir graduates, including his schoolfriend Rob who tragically commits suicide, played by Éanna Hardwicke - in real life one of Mescal's closest college buddies, which gives an almost meta flavour to the scenes where they're having pints together.

Marianne's teacher, college friend and her brother, Alan, are all also Lir graduates. The familiarity and ease that comes from acting with friends who trained on the same course is surely a factor in the much-noted naturalism of the series. Frank Blake, who plays Alan, refers to this collegiality as having a shared 'shorthand'.



For Ross Gaynor, who plays Marianne's teacher in episode 4, it's the 'specificity' that explains the series' global success. Rooney's novel is highly specific to place and social class, and the series replicates this

carefully, keeping, for instance, elements that might be unfamiliar to international audiences like the Sligo accents and GAA. The actors' shared training in The Lir Academy and experience as Trinity undergraduates – their 'shorthand' together - adds subtly to this specificity and the series' sense of being grounded in a particular time and place.

Trinity Players

Trinity's deep engagement with, and contribution to, arts and drama goes right back to the 17th century and the glittering *Restoration* comedies of graduates William Congreve and George Farquhar. Over the next centuries, Trinity educated some of the world's greatest dramatists - Oliver Goldsmith, Oscar Wilde, J.M. Synge, Samuel Beckett – and from the 1960s, it began producing theatre/ film directors and actors, thanks largely to Players and Film Soc, where luminaries like Michael Bogdanov, Michael Colgan, Lynne Parker, Selina Cartmell, Gavin Kostick, Lenny Abrahamson, Susan Fitzgerald and Pauline McLynn honed their craft.

Continue reading...

Bridget Hourican is a freelance journalist, historian and writer.





Gravitation towards Academia

Renowned Canadian Astronaut, Chris Hadfield and his daughter Dr Kristin Hadfield met Sarah Burns ahead of Kristin's move to the Trinity Centre for Global Health.

When Dr Kristin Hadfield returns to Trinity this autumn, she knows what to expect. When Kristin decided to study for her PhD in psychology at Trinity in 2009, part of her reasoning was a mistaken belief that Ireland had a “warm climate”. “It doesn't have snow but it's definitely not warm,” she jokes, speaking ahead of her move back to Dublin. Kristin spent much of her childhood between Texas, Maryland and California.

Kristin is the daughter of astronaut Chris Hadfield, and Houston, Texas, is of course home to NASA. Chris's career took his family all over the world, but Kristin did her undergrad in Canada. She started out learning biology and calculus but when she started “reading psychology textbooks like they were novels” she soon switched to a psychology major. She is taking up a professorship in Trinity's School of Psychology and the Trinity Centre for Global Health. Kristin specialises in child and adolescent psychology. She is particularly interested in resilience and wellbeing of children faced with adverse or challenging situations.

Whatever about the weather in Dublin, she knew Trinity was the right move over ten years ago after linking up with her supervisor, Dr Elizabeth Nixon from the School of Psychology. “When she discussed her research and I was saying what I wanted to do, we realised there was a real synchronicity there and that it would be a great fit,” she says.

Kristin completed her PhD at Trinity in 2015 and subsequently worked in Chicago and Canada and most recently at the Queen Mary University of London, lecturing in Positive Psychology. She says she is “very much looking forward” to coming back to Ireland with her husband, who she met while studying in Trinity. “It’s a great university and it’s a really lovely city to live in.”

Chris, the first Canadian to walk in space, is also keen for his daughter to return to Ireland. “London’s great, nice, but I’m really pleased that Kristin is coming back to Trinity for selfish reasons because we love the city and the country,” he says. Chris explains how Kristin was on a trajectory towards world-class universities and says that “Trinity is one of the best.”

Chris on the other hand knew he wanted to be an astronaut from a very young age. At age seven he went to see the movie *2001: A Space Odyssey*, and around that time the Space Race was beginning. In the July that Chris turned 10, the seminal event of the Apollo 11 moon landing took place and the first astronauts walked on the moon. “So, I deliberately started trying to turn myself into an astronaut when I was 10 years old, and amazingly enough, Canada started an astronaut programme and I became an engineer, a fighter pilot and then a test pilot.”

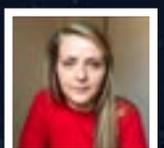
During his 21 years as an astronaut, Chris completed three space missions and served as commander of the International Space Station. He came to prominence in Ireland in 2013 when he tweeted a picture of Dublin from the International Space Station, with the words “Tá Éire fíorálainn! Land of green hills and dark beer. With capital Dublin glowing in the Irish night.”

“While I was in orbit during my third space flight, I took pictures of the whole world,” Chris recalls. “When you cross the Atlantic, there’s a quiet time. Our orbit is tipped from the equator, so the world turns underneath you, but we cut north and south all the time. You cross the equator sort of diagonally and your first sight of Europe is often Ireland. I found it quite beautiful because the climate, which keeps Kristin warm but not too warm, makes things green so it actually is a visible emerald isle from space. So, I took a lot of pictures of Ireland on the clear days, I got pictures of Dublin and Belfast.

When I started posting those it caused quite a warm reaction from right across the country. That was really delightful, and it still continues today. As a result millions of people follow me on social media and a lot of them are Irish.”

Continue reading...

Sarah Burns BA (2014) is a reporter for The Irish Times.



Exciting Times for Naoise Dolan

By Dr Kevin Power

The characteristically honest and witty Naoise Dolan, who has won acclaim for her debut novel, shares how her epigrammatic style and interest in performance writing was inspired by fellow Trinity graduate, Oscar Wilde.

“Promoting a debut can be pretty full-on,” says Naoise Dolan, of publishing her acclaimed and bestselling first novel, *Exciting Times*, in the middle of a global pandemic. “I miss my friends but I’d miss them anyway because I was never going to have much free time around publication.”

Naoise and I are speaking over email, not just because of lockdown restrictions but because this is her preferred way of engaging with interviewers. She was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, “provisionally in my teens, formally as an adult,” and has spoken eloquently about the challenges she has faced coping with social situations. It’s wonderful to have the opportunity to tell her how much I enjoyed *Exciting Times*: the first-person story of Ava, a Trinity graduate who spends a year teaching English in Hong Kong, and who learns to navigate the fraught waters of love, sexuality, politics and selfhood.

Dolan graduated with her BA in 2016; she is, as of this writing, 27. Her subject matter – contemporary sexual politics as negotiated by a young, educated Irish woman – has led inescapably to comparisons with Sally Rooney. But the waspish, epigrammatic prose of *Exciting Times* is distinctively Dolan’s own.



The novel is full of superbly witty sentences. Embarking on an affair with the expat banker Julian, Ava writes: “Julian had gone to Eton and was an only child. These were the two least surprising facts anyone had ever told me about themselves.” Later, they attend a performance of a Chekhov play: “a tangle of Olgas and Mashas and catalysed interpersonal tension.” The epigrammatic style, Dolan acknowledges, is always a performance. And Dolan’s interest in performance derives in part from her love for the works of her fellow Trinity graduate, Oscar Wilde.

“Ava’s quite naive,” Dolan says, “but she dresses it up in performative cynicism, and I think a lot of the devices and masks she uses to that end are pretty Wildean. I don’t think she has a clear idea of who she really is, so there’s kind of a sense that any way she acts will be a performance.”

Exciting Times is deeply interested in questions of class. In interviews and on social media, Dolan has been a vocal advocate for marginalised groups. She speaks about coming out during her third year at Trinity: “It wasn’t difficult accepting it internally. I think it was a lot harder coming to terms with the fact that it was something people would treat me differently on the basis of.” Dolan then “spent the rest of my college years getting used to having everyone know I’m queer.” She was aided in this by Trinity Q Soc, the oldest LGBTQ+ society in Ireland. Does Dolan think that fiction has a duty to speak about political issues?

“I don’t think literature has any particular social duty. There are just things that make books better or worse. For instance, when male authors write one-dimensional female characters, I don’t regard that as a moral failing; I think they’ve just lost an opportunity to make their novel more enjoyable. Similarly, novels that don’t consider class are looking past a potential source of tension and character development.”

It was at Trinity that Dolan first considered writing fiction. “I quite enjoyed my time at Trinity,” she says. “But I didn’t write very much there; in final year I took a short creative writing module with Deirdre Madden, who’s fantastic, but I had no particular writing aspirations and really just did it on a whim.”

Exciting Times took shape during Dolan’s own TEFL year in Hong Kong and was revised as she studied for an MA in Victorian Literature at Oxford. She writes to please herself, first of all. “If I tried to write for someone whose tastes were very different to mine, I just wouldn’t do a good job of it.” Her own taste obviously leans towards the witty and the polished. “I do think jokes increase readability in general, so if you want to do other things then readers will stick with you through the more arduous terrain.”

Most remarkably of all, she has already completed another novel, and is at work on a third. “I have a draft of the second one written but I’m not sure if I want to edit and publish it, so I’m working on a third one now that might end up published as the second.” With two more books potentially on the way, for Dolan’s readers, these are exciting times indeed.

Dr Kevin Power is a novelist and critic who teaches on the MPhil in Creative Writing; his new novel, White City, will be published by Scribner in 2021.





Trinity Alumni Bookclub

Join *Inspiring Reads*, Trinity College's new alumni book club - an online community where you can connect with other alumni to read and discuss books on a range of topics. There is no cost to participate – simply pick up a copy of the book to enjoy!

Our first book is *Exciting Times* by Naoise Dolan, (featured on page 22 & 23) so sign up and join in this great opportunity to discuss a range of *Inspiring Reads* with fellow readers & alumni.

For more information, visit
www.tcd.ie/alumni/news-events/book-club/

#InspiringGenerations



Jennifer O'Meara considers changes to the film world as a result of the pandemic, including the impact of our increased dependence on screen technologies on both cinemas and actors.

COVID-19 has had a huge effect on the arts, including film. Months of social isolation have reinforced the importance of all kinds of culture to our lives, as people seek solace or distraction in watching, reading and listening to the arts. But the pandemic has threatened the workings of the related industries. Film sets were forced to close overnight. Major festivals like Cannes had to be cancelled, or to quickly rework their operations so that certain screenings and events could take place online. As cinemas closed, distributors postponed theatrical release dates indefinitely. In some cases, decisions were made to release films as video-on-demand. Indeed, major streaming services like Netflix and Amazon Prime are one of the few players in the film world to benefit from these sudden shifts: more and more people were willing to pay for their content.

This consolidation of power for streaming services has exacerbated fears for many working in the industry. With cinemas already competing against streaming platforms for audiences, pessimistic commentators see COVID-19 as the final nail in the coffin. Of particular note is the news that the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences has updated their criteria so films which do not receive a theatrical release are still eligible for Oscars. Until now, the strategy for prestigious films like *Roma* (2018), distributed globally by Netflix, was for them to also have a limited theatrical release. This allowed them to be eligible for awards. So although the Academy stressed that the change in criteria was an emergency measure, it's possible that – once introduced – such measures will be normalised.

While the prospect of major releases bypassing cinemas altogether is a concern, in other respects the pandemic has highlighted the value of cinema as a collective social experience. Research into film audiences has shown how, decades later, people are much more likely to remember the social details of cinema-going (such as who they were with) than the specifics of the films themselves. It is thus little wonder that cinephiles are counting down the days to the reopening of theatres, or that drive-in cinemas around the world have experienced a minor resurgence during the COVID-19 period.

For actors, the return to on-set shooting cannot come quickly enough. Already a precarious occupation, actors may also be concerned by the increased reliance on digital screen technologies. In May, the US talent agency CAA signed “Miquela,” an entirely computer-generated performer who had amassed a huge social media following. Miquela is just the latest development in virtual actors, with Motion Capture and “deepfake” technologies increasingly threatening to replace human performers with their post-human doubles.

More optimistically, socially distanced work has continued for those who contribute to other stages of the filmmaking process, including project development, screenwriting and the important post-production work of video and sound editors. In these ways, the pandemic reminds us of the diverse network of workers and institutions involved in the film industry, all of which come together in the service of the eventual audience.

Jennifer recently published an article in the Irish Times entitled 'Life through a Screen Cinematic Space & Social Distancing'.



Jennifer O'Meara is Assistant Professor in Film Studies in the School of Creative Arts, where her research focuses on digital theories of screen media.

New Arrivals to Library Square

There was collective mourning among alumni far and wide when Trinity unexpectedly bid farewell to the iconic 19th century Oregon Maple trees in 2018. John Parnell, Professor of Systematic Botany, shares how the chosen replacement trees were so carefully selected to complement the landscape and architecture of Library Square.

Alumni will be aware the Oregon Maples that have dominated Library Square for decades died a couple of years ago. Their death led to my receiving the largest volume of emails ever on a single topic indicating how important these trees were to many people's experience of Trinity. So, choosing a replacement was always going to be a challenge.

Given their importance the Provost convened and chaired a committee to consider their replacement. The committee comprised a wide spectrum of people including botanists, horticulturalists and an architectural historian and we took advice from a landscape consultant. Together we considered all of the suggestions received for the Square's future. These varied from planting a woodland to no replanting at



all. As trees provide a huge variety of ecosystem services including masking noise, reducing air pollution, increasing people's quality of life and simply looking good, the committee focused on replanting and with a species that best met five criteria.

Firstly, the chosen species had to fit into the landscape of the college and could not take away from the fine architecture of the Square. Secondly, the species had to be likely to do well over a potential life-span of hundreds of years, given climate change predictions for a warmer climate with different rainfall patterns. Thirdly, the species had to be one around which a number of academic disciplines could build a strong story. Fourthly, it had to be robust, as college is a very challenging environment in which many species of tree do not survive or prosper. Finally, we wanted to enlarge and increase the biodiversity of the campus, especially for pollinators.

After consideration of a large number of species the committee eventually unanimously opted for Ginkgo biloba (Maidenhair tree), a species native to China



which met all of our criteria. *G. biloba* is, in China, sometimes called 'silver apricot' which aptly describes the fruit, which has a distinctive odour and is used in Chinese, Japanese and Korean cuisine. The species is very resilient, being resistant to disease, to air pollution and to fire; amazingly, individuals growing within 1,500m of the hypocentre of the atomic bomb blast in Hiroshima survived. It has a fossil record dating back at least 200 million years, with individuals that can live for about 1,000 years, is of medicinal use, has symbolic meaning for a number of faiths, has exceptional autumn colour, is biologically unique, is an excellent example of conservation being effected through cultivation and is highly attractive to pollinating insects. Unusually, trees are either male or female and after very careful consideration we have decided to plant one of each sex in Library Square.

Estates and Facilities staff sourced elegant specimens of Ginkgo about 7-8m tall. These were planted on 11 February 2020 and are doing well. Ginkgo are relatively slow growing, eventually usually reaching a height of 20–35 m (66–115 ft) but are never bulky and as they are deciduous the architecture of the Square will be visible for a considerable portion of the year. A generous donor has made a gift to Trinity to support the costs for benches to be placed around them, thereby making the area more accessible, but not detracting from its ambiance.

I have documented this process in detail so that future generations know what happened and when. Why? Well, when I started to investigate the history of our Oregon Maples I discovered that we had no record of either the date of planting or who planted them.

Continue reading about our new arrivals

John Parnell is Professor of Systematic Botany and Senior Dean at Trinity.



Contemporary Craft by Trinity Alumni

Trinity Today caught up with some of Trinity's homegrown designers to find out more about their work and the inspiration behind it.

Trinity Brand Retail work with a group of talented alumni on unique collaborations which marry traditional craftsmanship with contemporary design. The Trinity 1592 Collection features an exquisite range of giftware, jewellery and accessories that perfectly capture the rich history and magic of Trinity. From exclusive items crafted in Ireland using Connemara marble to handsomely personalised leather goods, each keepsake embodies the indelible mark Trinity leaves on students and visitors alike.

"It's a pleasure to work with all our creators and their talented teams who, through their curiosity and commitment to bespoke design, have reflected beautifully the iconic treasures of Trinity. We look forward to developing the collections even further and recognise the vital role this craftsmanship plays in supporting Trinity's academic mission of teaching and research."

Deirdre McNulty of Trinity Brand Retail



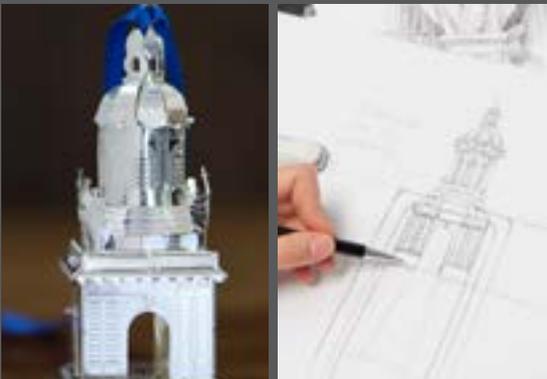
Ketzal

Ketzal was founded by Trinity alumna Audrey Brennan in 2017. The company takes its name from the resplendent quetzal, a bird with colourful plumage known for its loyalty as a devoted father to its young.



Caulfield Country Boards

Caulfield Country Boards is a family business operated today by Trinity alumni Pearse and Louise Caulfield. Originally established in 1978 as a hardwood joinery by their father John Caulfield, the company now produces wooden crafts from its workshop in Kells, Co. Meath.



Newbridge Silverware

An Irish brand synonymous with elegant home and giftware products, Newbridge Silverware led by Trinity alumni CEO William Doyle and his son Conor, offer a delightful twist on some of the university's impressive landmarks for their range.

These are just some members of the talented alumni community that Trinity collaborates with and whose affinity with the university continues to endure long beyond graduation. More details of the collections can be found instore and online at www.gifts.tcd.ie. Alumni can enjoy a 10% discount off all full priced gift items using the promotional code TALumni.

Reset, Restructure and Repair

COVID-19 and the environment

Pollution and emissions are down yet food poverty and deforestation have risen. Professor Anna Davies presents a clear picture of the impact of COVID-19 on the environment and warns how a rebound in commerce could quickly squander any gains if governments fail to push ahead with decisive change.

In early 2020, as country after country sought to contain the novel coronavirus - COVID-19 - by issuing stay-at-home notices and community lockdowns, incredible images of nature reclaiming human spaces began to emerge from pumas in Santiago to street battles between monkey troops in Thailand. Some of these images reflected conflict within existing urban wildlife communities as their main source of food, the off-cuts of human consumption, dried up under COVID-19. A few, such as the now infamous image of dolphins in Venice, turned out to be fake, but many were extremely effective in showing the extent to which non-human nature would roam if we stayed at home. Could this moment of crisis be the stimulus needed to turn the corner in climate action and create a safe and sustainable planet for all?

COVID-19 and environmental impacts

Hundreds of thousands of people have died, many more have been ill, with the long term health impacts of COVID-19 still unfolding. Even for the millions not yet exposed to the virus, lifestyles changed beyond all recognition during the first quarter of 2020. However, the despairing optimists amongst us could not ignore the fact that globally we were entering a period of unplanned experimentation in radically transformed patterns of production and consumption. The impacts of industries, businesses and transport networks shutting up shop temporarily soon became visible. Carbon emissions dropped internationally, with China seeing them fall by a quarter at the start of 2020 as the use of coal declined across many industries. Urban areas have seen the benefits of this most starkly, with New York experiencing pollution levels less than half of those before the containment responses to COVID-19 came into force. Meanwhile, in May the Ministry of Ecology and Environment in China reported an 11% increase in the number of days which had 'good quality air' compared to the same time last year

across hundreds of its cities. Elsewhere, satellite images have been used to illustrate the drop in other pollutants, such as nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), which have been identified across northern Italy, Spain and the UK.

The problem for environmentalists, who have been calling for a radical recalibration of the global economy for decades, is that the response to the immediate and existential threat of COVID-19 brought with it significant job losses, decimating many businesses and leaving millions facing poverty and food insecurity. It is safe to say that no one would have wanted emissions to be lowered this way. This is not the kind of planned or just transition towards decarbonisation and sustainability many have been calling for. Indeed, COVID-19 has tended to reinforce inequalities pervasive globally. As Bono and others have noted, we might be in the same COVID-19 storm, but we are in different boats. Now is the time to ensure the global build back addresses inequalities and does not reinforce them.

Doing things differently

The global pausing under COVID-19 has allowed people to experience different ways of living and moving. Many found their carbon footprint plummeting as international commitments were cancelled, postponed or transferred online. Transport makes up nearly a quarter of global carbon emissions. Even those sceptical of the virtues of online meetings have been surprised by the level of attendance and engagement that these tools made possible during unprecedented times. Whether these benefits will be remembered when transport networks resume remains to be seen. There are no guarantees. We have experienced drops in emissions and pollution before, most recently during the global recession following the financial crash of 2008 and 2009, which were reversed within two years to the extent that they reached an all-time high in 2010.

Continue reading...

*Anna Davies is
Professor and Chair of Geography,
Environment and Society at Trinity*



Five climate change actions following

COVID-19

1

2

3

4

5

Entrepreneurs on the rise in 2020

Tangent Trinity's Ideas Workspace

Tangent, Trinity's Ideas Workspace, creates an ecosystem for innovation and agility to flourish. Trinity Today meets some of the talented entrepreneurs emerging from Tangent.

Trinity is the No1 university in Europe for producing student entrepreneurs for five successive years according to research compiled by private equity company PitchBook. Graduates from Trinity founded more venture-backed companies than graduates from any other European university over the last 13 years. During this time period Trinity produced 251 entrepreneurs and formed 228 venture-backed companies. Building on this success, in 2019 the university established Tangent, Trinity's Ideas Workspace, housed in a world-class facility, co-located with the new Trinity Business School.

For many of today's global challenges, universities play a pivotal role in finding solutions. Tangent bridges the gap between the university and the wider start-up ecosystem by collaborating with companies large and small who each play active roles in nurturing student entrepreneurs and start-ups with big dreams. "Tangent is Ireland's new home for innovators and entrepreneurs. We aim to inspire generations to explore new ideas, embrace

a changing future, and pioneer disruptive thinking" says Ken Finnegan, Director of Tangent.

Tangent responded promptly to the challenges imposed by COVID-19 by moving all programmes online and by seeking new ways to meaningfully engage with audiences, and so, *Tangent TV* was born. *Tangent TV* creates informative, valuable and quickly digestible content for the benefit of its community. Over the past three months, there have been interviews with authors, global innovators, Trinity students and thought leaders.

Trinity's award-winning educational and training programmes such as Blackstone LaunchPad powered by Techstars, which provides students with entrepreneurial support, and Ireland's first and most successful student start-up accelerator programme, LaunchBox, both form part what is now Tangent.

Over the past seven years, LaunchBox has been a key enabler of entrepreneurship at Trinity. The programme provides funding, mentorship, access to alumni and investor networks, coupled with the ideal collaborative environment to launch a new venture. Since beginning in 2013, over 80 student start-ups have emerged from LaunchBox, creating 130 jobs, and raising over €9.2million in investments.

Meet some of the 2020 LaunchBox Team



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Book of Kells

The Murray & Carol Grigor Treasury, safeguarding the Book of Kells, is now open to visitors. As alumni, you are entitled to **two free tickets** to the Book of Kells and Old Library. Tickets must be booked in advance by emailing bofkells@tcd.ie.

Show your support at tcd.ie/campaign
[#InspiringGenerations](https://twitter.com/InspiringGenerations)



Inspiring Generations

The Campaign for Trinity College Dublin

Conserving the Old Library for future generations



Trinity College Dublin is embarking on an historic endeavour to redevelop the Old Library and to preserve its magnificent collections which have served our scholars since the 18th century, in order to safeguard it for all generations to come. Trinity's Librarian and College Archivist, Helen Shenton gives us an insight into this important project.

“I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library”

These are the words of writer, Jorge Luis Borges, inscribed on one of the walls of the newly refurbished Treasury for the Book of Kells which opened for the first time since lockdown earlier this month. The precious ninth century manuscript, one of Ireland's greatest cultural treasures, will be showcased in all its magnificence in a specially designed case ensuring

optimum conservation and environmental conditions in the new Treasury of the Old Library. It was made possible through a gift from donors, Carol and Murray Grigor, and funding from Fáilte Ireland.

It is the first phase of a critically important redevelopment plan for the 18th century building that will safeguard it for generations to come.

The Old Library is one of the great libraries of the world. Renowned for the Book of Kells and the magnificent Long Room, it combines heritage and scholarship in its unique dual role as a world-class academic library and a national cultural institution. Its precious collections that span millennia have been in the care of the Library for over 400 years.

Continue reading...

Helen Shenton, Librarian & College Archivist, Trinity College Dublin.



Have your say on Trinity's governance



What is happening?

Work is currently underway to ensure that Trinity's internal governance structures continue to enable us to flourish as a globally significant academic and research institution in an increasingly complex environment.

The work is being taken forward by a special Working Group, established by Trinity's Board, which is chaired by former Secretary General to the Government and Trinity alumnus, Dermot McCarthy BA, MLITT (1977). Fergal Naughton, CEO of Glen Dimplex and Chair of the Provost's Council BAI (1998) is also participating in the Group, whose membership is as follows:

BOARD MEMBERS

Provost, Registrar, Professor Deirdre Ahern,
Professor Robbie Gilligan, Dr Claire Laudet

TWO STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

President of the Students Union,
President of the Graduate Students Union

CHAIR OF THE FELLOWS

Professor Cliona O' Farrelly

TWO EXTERNAL MEMBERS

Mr Dermot McCarthy (Chair),
Mr Fergal Naughton, CEO of Glen Dimplex

Why?

The review was prompted by the outcome of a self-evaluation exercise, undertaken in 2018 by the Trinity Board, which identified a number of challenges and areas for improvement.

It is also informed by a recognition of the need to ensure that Trinity's governance should enhance the university's capacity to deliver on our strategy and ambition and support effective accountability to our diverse stakeholders, including to the government.

The work of the group is timely as it coincides with the development by the government of proposed new legislation on the governance of the higher education sector.

What are the key issues?

The key areas being considered by the Working Group include the size and composition of the Board, the skills and competencies required to foster effectiveness and efficiency in decision making, the way in which the Board conducts its work and the strategic and operational balance of the items on its agenda. The Working Group is also reviewing the current combination of the role of the Chair and the Provost, how Board Committees support the Board's work and the balance and effectiveness of Board communication.

In reflecting on these issues, the Working Group's discussions are taking into account the complex realities of the external environment in which all world-leading universities must operate effectively in order to succeed. These include compliance and regulatory obligations, access to competitive research funding, innovation in academic provision, global strategic partnerships and maintaining financial resilience, a challenge now amplified by the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

You can read the 'Consultation Paper' by the Board Review Working Group here

Continue to find out how you can help and to share your thoughts

'A Grey Area'

by Maurice Scully



Photography - James Keating

Maurice Scully BA, MSc (1976), one of the most significant Irish poets of his generation, tells Dr Philip Coleman how Trinity influenced his early development as a poet.

Selected to Aosdána in 2009, Maurice Scully was awarded the Macaulay Fellowship and Arts Council Bursaries in Literature in 1986 and 1988 along with the Katherine and Patrick Kavanagh Fellowship in 2004. *Things That Happen*, a long work to be published in its entirety by Shearsman Books in 2020, has been described by Eric Falci (UC Berkeley) as 'the most ambitious and important long poem in modern Irish literature'.

*This year you will publish *Things That Happen*, which brings together a number of books published over the last few decades. How would you describe *Things That Happen* for readers who may be discovering your work for the first time?*

Things That Happen is an 8-book project written over a 25-year period, 1981 – 2006. If a reader has never read any of my work before, my advice would be – just dive in. And don't bring baggage. *Things That Happen* foregrounds the simple things: watching, listening, noting, with a mind alert, the reader invited to be a participant, not a spectator, in the elastic medium of language.

How important do you think being in Trinity was to your early development as a poet?

Trinity was stimulating and very different from what I'd known up to that point (I'd come from Irish language speaking schools). Editing *Icarus* and contributing regularly to student magazines, negotiating with and learning from printers in the pre-computer age to produce *Icarus* and the Publications Committee to produce other items along the way were all good hands-on practical experiences for a young inexperienced poet-to-be.

Why did you select 'A Grey Area' for this feature and what characteristics of your work do you think it displays?

It's short and from a book I'm working on right now. The first stanza plays with a motif in a book I wrote in the 1980s, the second touches on a book I read in the 1970s at Trinity. It's an older poet's poem I suppose, looking back, but looking back to generate poetry not nostalgia, which is a characteristic stance for me.

'A Grey Area'

And you can watch Maurice recite his poem...



Dr Philip Coleman is an Associate Professor in the School of English at Trinity.

Volunteering

How you can help...

With COVID-19 social distancing restrictions in place since March, we have been creating new, innovative and safe volunteer opportunities for our alumni. Depending on your areas of interest, available time, location and the type of volunteering you care most about, we can recommend a volunteer opportunity that is right for you.

There is so much to gain by becoming a volunteer at Trinity: it's an opportunity to become part of a community of like-minded individuals; develop your networking and leadership skills; and support individuals who could benefit from hearing about your time at Trinity and your professional experience. Also, studies have shown that strong social connections lead to happier, healthier and longer lives, so consider your volunteering as a step towards a healthier and happier you.

We have organised the volunteer opportunities by time commitment required over the course of an academic year. This is so that you can understand exactly what you would be signing up for and can make an informed decision that suits you. The volunteer descriptions also include whether the roles are online, in-person and apply to alumni based internationally.

We are so grateful to every single one of our volunteers. Your dedication is a huge part of what makes Trinity such a unique and prestigious institution. Every single volunteer improves the quality of the community and the Trinity experience. We are confident that you will find a volunteer activity that appeals to you and whether it is your first year volunteering with us or your fiftieth, we would love to see you get involved!

How to get in touch...

Volunteering

Submit a Testimonial

Become a mentor or online ambassador

Learn more about our chapters & affinity groups

If over the course of the academic year you have...

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Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

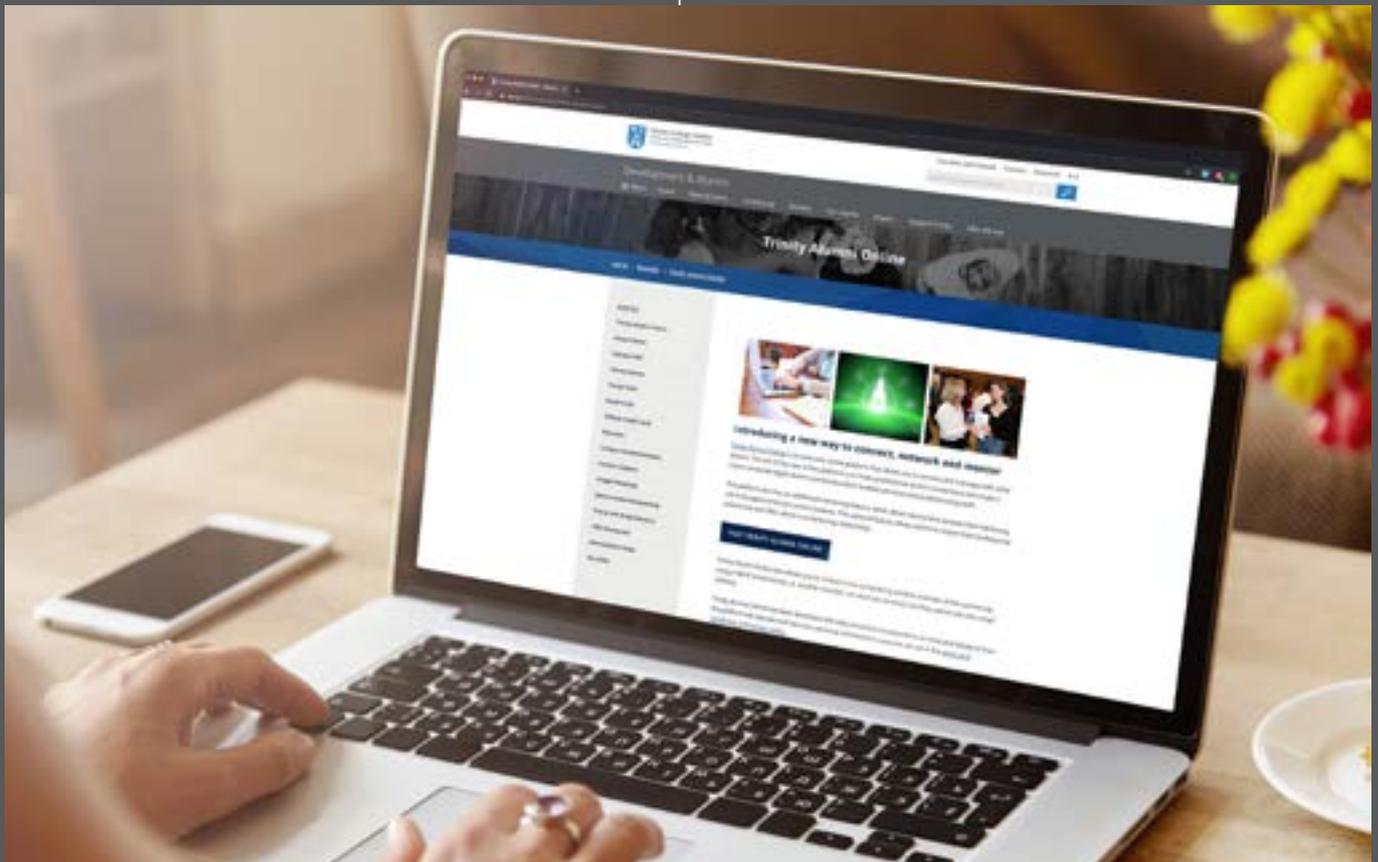
Trinity Alumni Online

Sign up to Trinity Alumni Online and join thousands of alumni and students around the world who are networking and connecting. Mentor students, become an ambassador for the college or simply reach out to other alumni in your field.

Become an Online Mentor 0 Become an Alumni Ambassador 0 Network with Trinity Alumni

Sign up today at www.trinity.aluminate.net

#InspiringGenerations



Inspiring Generations

The Campaign for Trinity College Dublin

Trinity Alumni Chapters

Chapters organise activities and social events on behalf of alumni within their region. They also provide a channel of communication between their members and the university, keeping you up-to-date with Trinity news. Chapter events range from casual get-togethers and black-tie dinners, to cultural excursions and networking lectures by visiting academics. For graduates new to a region, joining a chapter is a great way to network locally while maintaining the link with your alma mater. Our chapters always welcome new members. 2020 saw chapters adapting digitally with numerous online gatherings taking place keeping our communities alive throughout the year.

Paul Browne, Professor of Haematology and Director of TSJCI, in conversation with Paul Mulholland describes his ambition for Trinity St James's Cancer Institute.

The development of the designated cancer centre model in Ireland has been key in improving outcomes for patients with cancer, according to the National Cancer Strategy 2017-2026. A total of eight such specialist centres were formed and developed to centralise cancer care under the previous strategy. However, the new strategy noted the importance of evolving this model. It made the case for the establishment of at least one 'comprehensive' cancer centre in line with international best practice to more fully integrate high quality cancer care with research and education. While acknowledging the importance of the existing eight centres, the document outlined how these often comprise a range of services, which have a wider scope than cancer alone, and are located in different parts of a hospital.

"They are not comprehensive cancer centres when compared to some of the most advanced centres in countries such as the USA and Canada," according to the strategy.

In answer to this need, Trinity St James's Cancer Institute (TSJCI) was developed. TSJCI is a national initiative led by Ireland's leading university, Trinity College Dublin, and Ireland's

largest public cancer hospital, St James's Hospital, to transform cancer care in Ireland by combining world-class science with excellent patient care to pioneer new ways to prevent, detect and treat cancer. The first of its kind in Ireland, the ambition of the Institute is to develop a new standard of cancer care with national services in genomics and immunology, to become a leading international institution for translational cancer research, and through its structure and national and international collaborative network, to represent a standard bearer for Ireland internationally.

TSJCI is the only cancer institute in the country with Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI) accreditation. The purpose of the accreditation programme is to benchmark cancer institutes against international standards. The Trinity St James's Cancer Institute has received OECI accreditation as a cancer institute, with the aim being to achieve accreditation as a comprehensive centre in the near future.

Professor Paul Browne, Director of TSJCI, and Consultant Haematologist in St James's Hospital hails

the OECl accreditation, which was formally confirmed in September 2019, as a significant achievement and one that the Institute plans to build upon. “It was a key milestone in the development of the Institute,” he says.

New Standards of Care

TSJCI sets a new level for cancer care nationally, integrating medicine and science in cancer prevention, treatment and survivorship. St James’s Hospital has been scaling up for the new Cancer Institute with the recruitment of key new clinical academic and research appointments. Professor Browne says TSJCI is committed to developing core posts of outstanding calibre, and crucially, providing dedicated time for cancer research and development in addition to clinical work. Two recent appointments include international experts Professor Maeve Lowery, Consultant Medical Oncologist, and Dr Karen Cadoo, Gynaecologic Oncologist.

“The model of 50% research and 50% clinical work is the first of its kind in Ireland and we anticipate improved cure rates and outcomes for cancer patients.”

Access to New Treatments

A key priority of TSJCI is to increase access to cancer clinical trials to provide patients with the fastest

access to the newest treatments. Professor Browne says a distinguishing feature of comprehensive cancer centres in comparison to existing national Irish centres is their emphasis on clinical trials. “In a comprehensive cancer centre every patient who attends the centre at least has a consideration or an offer for potentially a new treatment or a clinical trial,” says Browne.

In Ireland, only 1.5% to 2% of eligible cancer patients go on clinical trials. The aim of TSJCI is to increase this to 10%.

State-Of-The-Art Centre

A central component of TSJCI’s plans is the construction of a dedicated facility on the St James’s Hospital campus. A strategic document on the development of such a facility has been completed and engagement with Government is imminent. Professor Browne says that TSJCI will be an innovative national research and educational centre of excellence, supported by philanthropic gifts and Exchequer funding. Philanthropy has a key role in supporting TSJCI and Trinity’s experience in fundraising is crucial in this regard.

Continue reading...

Paul Mulholland BA (2001) is a medical editor and journalist.



Sustainability @ Trinity

by Professor Paula Murphy

Trinity ranked 14th best university globally in the Times Higher Education Impact rankings for delivery of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDGs) in 2020, rising from 28th in the previous, inaugural year of the rankings category. This phenomenal achievement is thanks to the work of many colleagues, researchers and students who contribute so impactfully across many of the goals. This article outlines what Trinity is doing to improve its practices while it continues to develop new ideas, inspire and empower action toward a more sustainable world.

There is a long history of environmental awareness and sustainability action in Trinity. In 1993 the late Professor Simon Perry set up the Recycling Committee, forerunner of the Green Campus Committee, where many alumni over the years have contributing their energy and ideas. Through the work of the Green Campus Committee, Trinity was the first university in a European capital city to achieve green flag status in 2013. In 2019, green flag status was renewed for a third consecutive three-year period. Former and current students have been a driving force for change, from the divestment from fossil fuels completed in 2016 to a 2018 petition which led to a plan for reducing disposable plastics.

The university's previous Strategic Plan (2014-2019)

brought focus to an institutional approach; a timely move considering the global climate crisis. Important actions since 2016 have propelled us forward and integrated sustainability efforts across campus. The Provost established the Provost's Advisory Committee on Sustainability and Low Carbon Living, co-chaired by the Provost and Registrar, with student and staff representation. Overlapping membership with the Green Campus Committee provides integration and a joined-up approach.

As Registrar and Sustainability Champion for the university during this time (2016-2020) I am particularly proud of the work achieved on sustainability; the establishment of the Provost's Advisory Committee as well as the setting of and reporting on sustainability targets in the annual report to Board are key elements of the strategy. The Provost's Advisory Committee has provided a means of co-ordinating and further enabling the enormous work of so many students and staff across campus. Some gains and improvements are easier to make than others and continued effort is necessary, requiring input from all areas of college, but I am inspired and heartened by the level of commitment and positivity shown by so many, and the willingness to work together for this common goal.

Each year, a sustainability report is prepared through the Provost's Advisory Committee which sets targets and objectives in nine key areas:

Click on the icons to read more information

Energy and climate

Sustainable transport

Green procurement

Waste and recycling

Resource use and food

Education and research

Water and wastewater

Trees and biodiversity

Communications & student involvement

Some Recent Advances in Sustainability at Trinity



Paula Murphy, Professor in the School of Natural Sciences, served as Registrar from 2016-2020 during which time she was Sustainability Champion for the university.



Inspiring New Generations

The New Generations programme aims to bring the best talent to Trinity from Ireland and the world and underpins all the flagship projects of Inspiring Generations. Through New Generations we seek to fund new professorships and tenure-track academic posts across the university, and to create more pathways to support talented students from all backgrounds to study here. New Generations is providing a range of graduate scholarships across all disciplines and it is helping Trinity Access to transform the Irish education system by giving every student the opportunity to reach their full potential.



Student Hardship Fund

Senior Tutor Aidan Seery



Doctoral Student

Support Fund



Trinity Access

Making New Pathways



5E3 Innovation in Product Development

Professor Kevin Kelly



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

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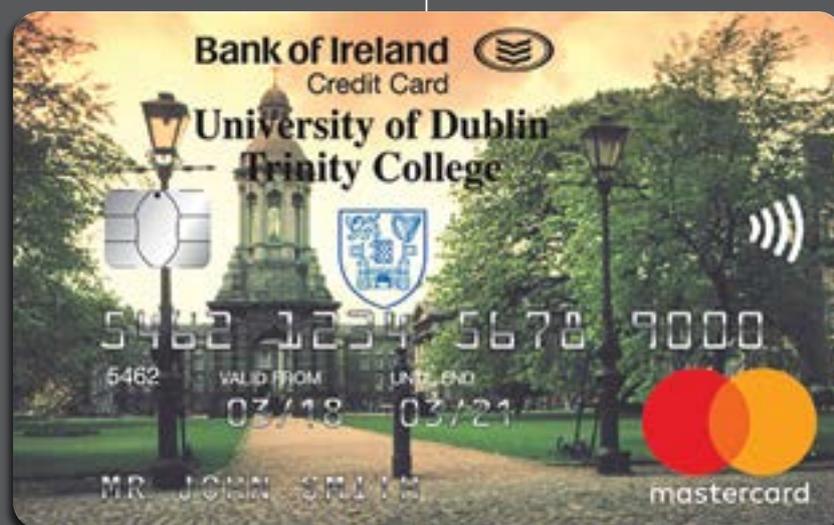
The Bank of Ireland Affinity Credit Card, designed for Trinity alumni, staff and students, offers some unique benefits to both you and the college.

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Show your support at tcd.ie/campaign
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Inspiring Generations

The Campaign for Trinity College Dublin

Dochtúirí agus Tréimhse na Réabhlóide, 1913-23



Pléadh ról na ndochtúirí agus na n-altraí i réabhlóide na tíre ag an gcomhdháil is déanaí de chuid Acadamh na Lianna.

Bhí cruinniú den scoth arís ag Acadamh na Lianna sa Choláiste, ar an 7 Nollaig 2019. Tharla sé i Léachtlan Swift, ‘Hibernian Patriot’ na Drapier’s Letters iomráiteacha. Chualamar faoi ‘Hibernian Patriots’ eile, ón tréimhse 1913-23, idir dochtúirí agus altraí. Réachtálfar cuid a dó amach anseo.

Tosaíodh le gearrchuntas ón scríbhneoir seo agus ainmneacha de bhreis agus 150 dochtúir agus ábhair leighis aige a ghlac páirt dhíreach, seachas dochtúirí a thug cabhair ach nárbh baill d’aon eagrais iad. Ní nach ionadh, ceapadh mar oifigigh leighis do chathláin iad go minic, ach ceannfoirt agus trodaithe ba ea iad freisin. Bhíodar páirteach fiú in armálacha a thabhairt isteach agus a scaipeadh; bhí mórpháirt ag an lia Sir Thomas Myles – iarchéimí Choláiste na Tríonóide – san eachtra i gCill Chomhghaill (Lúnasa 1914).

Ag deireadh na bliana cinniúnaí 1918, toghadh cúigear dochtúirí chun na chéad Dála, ach theip ar

bheirt eile – Sinn Féinigh ar fad. Toghadh dochtúir eile san olltoghchán céanna, Sir Robert Henry Woods, Aontachtaí Neamhspleách, i dtoghcheantar Ollscoil Átha Cliath (comharba Edward Carson, ach ní ba liobrálaí). Iarchéimithe an Choláiste iad Woods agus a protégé Oliver St. John Gogarty; rinne Gogarty a sciar féin sa tréimhse, fiú ag cuidiú le príosúnaigh éalú as Muinseo.

Ansin thug Phil Ní Shéaghdha, Ard-Rúnaí Chumann Altraí agus Ban Cabhrach na hÉireann, caint spreagúil ar stair an Chumainn, agus an céad sroichte acu. Thagair sí freisin d’altraí a ‘bhí amuigh’ i 1916, ar nós Linda Kearns, agus Elizabeth Farrell, an t-idirghabhálaí idir an Piarsach agus an Ginearál Lowe.

Lean ort ag léamh

*Dr Colm Ó Sé, MB (1991),
Cleachtas an Chladaigh, Ionad
Cúram Príomhúil agus
Meabhairshláinte Bhaile Formaid-
Bhaile Phámar, Baile Átha Cliath.*



Trinity Sport Club

Highlights

2019 - 2020

Despite trainings being cut short and competitions cancelled there has been no shortage of standout sporting moments throughout the 2019-2020 season for Trinity's sport clubs. Here's a look back at some of the highlights to be proud of. Well done to all involved, and looking forward to an even more successful 2020-2021 season.





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Remembering Trinity

Legacy gifts have supported Trinity through the centuries.
Please consider leaving a gift in your will to help Trinity inspire
many future generations of students, educators and researchers.

For more information visit
tcd.ie/campaign/leave-a-legacy

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Inspiring Generations

The Campaign for Trinity College Dublin

James Lindsay-Fynn Olympic Legacy

James Lindsay-Fynn has made a far-sighted act of generosity at the age of 44 by pledging a legacy to Trinity that will benefit the university in years to come.

Since the granting of Trinity's Charter over 400 years ago, legacies have played a pivotal role in the college's evolution. Each legator has a unique and personal motivation for remembering Trinity in their will and for James Lindsay-Fynn it is his connection to Trinity's Boat Club. James came to Trinity in 1994 and took up the blade for Dublin University Boat Club (DUBC). He worked his way up to the senior VIII in his first year when they won the Intermediate Championship of Ireland before moving to the international stage in a coxless pair with Mark Pollock in 1997.

James says he pledged a legacy to Trinity because he and DUBC "directly benefited from the generosity of alumni." James hopes his legacy will maintain Trinity's high-performance sporting platform, allowing current and future talent to flourish. He says that his "Trinity and Boat Club experience would have been far less

fulfilling if others had not given back to the university, both in terms of their time and financially." A key milestone during his Trinity rowing days was, "winning the Senior VIII's event at the Trinity Regatta and beating the incumbent Irish champions for the first time. It was a pivotal moment for a young college crew to beat a far more experienced crew of Irish international oarsmen."

As Captain, James had great ambitions for the Boat Club and understood the importance of fundraising early on in his career. He wrote in the 'Captain's Report' in *DUBC News* in 1998: "If DUBC is to maintain the success achieved so far but is also to further this, it is essential that we adopt the systems of those clubs that have continued to beat us in Henley finals. I see this as a three-tier move: first to attract talented oarsmen to the club, secondly to have a permanent semi-professional coaching system and thirdly to finance this in the form of sponsorship." He believes that "great institutions have always stayed ahead of the pack because of the additional support they have received from their alumni."

Continue reading...

Trinity Long Room Hub

Welcomes New Director

Professor Eve Patten, incoming Director of the Trinity Long Room Hub, talks to Sara Keating about her plans for the Research Institute



Over the last 10 years, the Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute has become a central part of academic life in Trinity and the wider city. Under the recent directorship of Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, who leaves the centre this year after five memorable years, the institute has advanced its global reach, bringing international attention to exciting interdisciplinary projects and fostering cross-continental collaborations with universities in South Africa, North America and

across Central and Eastern Europe. This June, for example, it launched an exemplary research fellowship, Human+, which foregrounds human-centred approaches to technology innovation and connects computer science with arts and humanities researchers and enterprise.

As the Long Room Hub faces into its second decade, Professor Eve Patten of the School of English takes over from Ohlmeyer. Patten takes on her new role in uncertain times, when academic and intellectual life

has been transformed radically by the ongoing crisis of COVID-19. As Patten explains, “Like other academies, the Long Room Hub had to shift its operations online very quickly.” The institute moved planned events online and scheduled new ones that would respond to immediate contemporary concerns. They streamed a series of discussions based on the theme of ‘Rethinking Democracy in an Age of Pandemic’, in partnership with the Heyman Center for the Humanities at Columbia University. “We also set up a *COVID-19 Crisis blog* that looked at the pandemic from all aspects of life: education, the environment, the justice system,” Patten says. Recent entries to the ongoing series include articles on religion and public health, the language of the pandemic, even Joyce and social distancing. The blogs serve as an archive of academic engagement at this troubling time and also provides a record of lockdown experiences from across the Trinity community during an unprecedented episode in the university’s history. As Patten puts it, “We are living through history. As well as analysing it as it unfolds, we can be involved in recording it.”

Patten describes how the new virtual imperative of life during COVID-19 has also had a positive impact on the way in which the Long Room Hub’s future is taking shape. “One of the ironies of moving from being rooted in a physical building to operating online,” she says, “is that it has increased participation enormously. We have been able to bring in a vast community of friends and colleagues from across the globe, in different times-zones. We have been able to extend the reach of what we do.”

“We are keen to play a leading role in animating intellectual questions for a wider audience outside the university and to responding to the public’s interests and needs.”

Embracing a community outside of Trinity’s city centre campus is key to the Long Room Hub’s agenda, particularly in “an intellectual climate where we have moved far away from the idea of a university as an ivory tower. A great deal of what we do at the institute

is embedded in a commitment to the public humanities. We are keen to play a leading role in animating intellectual questions for a wider audience outside the university and to responding to the public’s interests and needs.” Patten cites a number of public humanities ventures from the successful ‘Behind the Headlines’ series to a recent

collaboration between researchers at the Hub and the community radio station Near FM, which broadcast a six-part series of lectures called ‘Women’s Stories’, co-produced by Trinity researchers. In another recent event, the 2019 Annual Humanities Horizons Lecture, the Hub hosted Professor Anthea Butler from the University of Pennsylvania, who illustrated the connections between white-nationalist ideologies and social media algorithms in a powerful assessment of the politics of online culture. “This sharing of intellectual ideas in an accessible and democratic way,” Patten says, “helps explain the world as it is to us now.”

From a global perspective, meanwhile, relationships beyond Trinity’s core community are crucial from the point of view of research-exchange, and this has political as well as intellectual connotations, as Patten elaborates.

[Click here to read the rest of the article](#)

Sara Keating is a cultural journalist with The Irish Times and the Business Post. She graduated from the School of English in 2001; Eve Patten supervised her undergraduate thesis in 2001. She was awarded a PhD from the Samuel Beckett School of Drama in 2006.



Inspiring Generations

Events Timeline

Whilst the events calendar in 2020 changed dramatically, we managed to host some wonderful occasions and celebrate some great milestones throughout the year.

We have put together some photo galleries that we hope you enjoy...

**McCANN
FITZGERALD
BENEFACTOR'S
EVENT**

**ROONEY
PRIZE**

**COMPUTER
SCIENCE
50th
ANNIVERSARY**

**ALUMNI
WEEKEND**

**TRINITY
ACCESS
EVENT**

**GRATTAN
LECTURE
WASHINGTON**

**MENTORING
EVENTS**

**DORIAN
GREY**

**NORMAL
PEOPLE
INTERVIEW**

**TBA DINNER
IN CAMERA**

**WEBINAR
SERIES**

**KINSELLA
SCHOLARS**

**TBA
MASTERCLASS:
ROCK YOUR
LINKEDIN
PROFILE**

**CHRISTMAS
EVENTS**

**FORESIGHT
BUSINESS
BREAKFAST**

Inspiring Generations

The Campaign for Trinity College Dublin

Inspiring Sounds Concert

On August 21, Trinity Development & Alumni hosted *Inspiring Sounds*: a Summer Concert for Trinity alumni and friends. It was an evening full of fun and entertainment with graduates from around the world joining us on the TCD Alumni YouTube channel. Why not click on the links below to find out a little more about each performer, and then join us once again on YouTube...

Rachel Croash

Soprano - accompanied by



Aoife O'Sullivan

Répétiteur



Trinitones A Cappella Group



Five to Two Jazz



Le Chéile Alumni Traditional Irish group



Just in case you missed our special *Inspiring Sounds* concert, we have a recording here for all *Trinity Today* readers



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Inspiring Ideas @ Trinity

Trinity Development & Alumni hosts a fortnightly *Inspiring Ideas @ Trinity* webinar series with leading domestic and international experts, who discuss the latest developments in science, technology, business, art, medicine, mental well-being and a wide range of other topics. *Inspiring Ideas @ Trinity* is for all alumni, as well as friends, staff and students of Trinity College.

For more details on our next webinar, and to catch up on some previous topics visit www.tcd.ie/alumni/news-events/webinars

#InspiringGenerations



Inspiring Generations

The Campaign for Trinity College Dublin

Tech2Students



Tech2Students was born from a need created by the COVID-19 crisis and the rapid move by schools from face-to-face to online teaching. Bridget Hourican explores how Trinity Access opened the doors to virtual classrooms for disadvantaged and vulnerable students.

On March 12, schools closed and teaching across Ireland moved online. For some schools, the transition was smooth; for others it was unworkable. “Very quickly into our first week, using Google classroom, we found that students weren’t logging on,” says Michelle O’Kelly, principal of Mercy Inchicore, “as we rang each home, the reason became clear: our students’ homes do not have laptops, WiFi or space to study.”

Mercy Inchicore is a DEIS school [Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools] and closely linked to the Trinity Access Programme. The ‘digital divide’ is how Michelle O’Kelly describes the technology gulf between those who can access online learning and those who can’t, and she and other DEIS principals brought it up urgently with Trinity Access.

“We knew anecdotally that there was a digital divide in Ireland but there’s no real data on this - it was lockdown that laid it bare,” says Natalie Cullen, coordinator of communications and development in Trinity Access. “In some of the schools who contacted us, maybe a few pupils lacked laptops; in other schools, it was almost all the pupils.”

To address the issue, Trinity Access teamed up with Camara Education Ireland, an NGO with a mission to use technology to improve education in low-income communities. Together they launched the Tech2Students campaign in April with an appeal to homes and businesses to donate spare laptops for Leaving Certificate students, considered the top priority.

ESB came on board as a partner, with a donation of €100,000 and the offer of volunteers to pick up and drop off the donated laptops. Once collected, laptops were wiped down – physically and virtually – by Camara and Trinity volunteers, and restored to their factory settings.

Continue reading...

Class Diaries

*Alumni across the globe share their experiences
of an historic year.*

2010 - 2020



**Paddy Ryder &
Rob Muldowney**
BA (2020)



Peter Frankman
MPhil (2020)



**Ruth Ennis, Grace Kelley,
Amy O'Sullivan**
MPhil (2019)



Graham Reynolds
BAI (2011)



Robert Molloy
BA (2015)

2000 - 2010



Lisa McNamee
BA (2009)



Derek Byrne
MSc (2008)



Laura Bambrick
BA (2004)

1990s



Conor Hoey
BA (1992)



Sean Ruane
BA (1990)

1980s



John Bryson
BA (1985)

1970s



Ingrid Nachstern
BA (1976)



Brian Caul
PhD (1984)



Frances Heales
(née McCaughan)
MBA (1974)

1960s



Andrew Furlong
BA (1969)



Tim Willcocks
BAI (1965)



Ian Glass
BAI (1961)

1950s



David Yeo
MB, MA (1956)



Kay Flanagan
(née Williams)
MA (1955)

One-on-One with Harry Moseley

Trinity Today meets Harry Moseley, BAI (1977), CIO of Zoom

Describe how your world has changed in the last couple months?

In December 2019 we hosted 10 million daily participants and grew to 200 million daily participants in March and then 300 million+ daily participants in April. Our annualised meeting minutes grew from 100 billion in January 2020 to over two trillion annualised meeting minutes based on April 2020's run rate.

When a company goes through that much growth in such a short period of time everything changes. Most companies would like to have that sort of growth over a couple of years, we did it in 12 weeks! And so, several things at Zoom changed as we, like thousands of other organisations and companies around the world began working from home.

In addition to the above, we also saw many use cases from a variety of organisations as we were now hosting not just global enterprise, but a myriad of government organisations, educational institutions, telehealth, and consumer use cases too.

What was the biggest challenge in facilitating such exponential growth?

Predominantly two topics...**capacity** and **people**.

Capacity: We have 17 data centres globally and whilst we always maintained capacity to handle surges in resources, we were clearly not expecting the growth cited above. So, the question is how did



we manage that? The answer is because of three efforts: 1) we had previously planned upgrades to our data centres and we were able to accelerate these upgrades and expand them thanks to the help of great partners; 2) we leveraged AWS & Oracle clouds and so we were able to put some of our free workloads there ensuring we had the capacity in our data centres for our paying clients; and 3) our technology architecture is designed such that

if we run out of capacity in one data centre we can leverage resources from another data centre in the same geographical area, e.g., New York can leverage our Denver or Santa Clara data centres and vice versa.

People: We have an amazing set of people at Zoom who are committed to the company and even more committed to our clients and so long hours and weekends were spent working on supporting the growth. In addition, we were able to bring onboard new professionals and temporary resources where needed to help our clients. We were also able to retrain and adjust the scope of some of our people to help support the additional use cases, like from on-site events to virtual events support. Zoom has facilitated family and friends gatherings when we all had to be 'together, apart'. Zoom has brought learning to students when classrooms moved online.

Continue reading ...

Download your Trinity Background!

Simply click on the link and save to your Zoom account as one of your chosen backgrounds - Aoife tells us how...



Trinity TODAY

We hope that you enjoyed reading *Trinity Today*.

We welcome your feedback and kindly ask that you take a few moments to tell us what you think by answering some short questions **here**.

All those who provide their valued opinion will be entered into a competition for a range of prizes that includes lunch for two at The 1592 restaurant, an annual membership to Trinity Sport Centre, The Dublin Art Book and some stunning items from the Trinity Gift shop.

If you have enjoyed reading this online edition of *Trinity Today*, and are not a graduate of Trinity College but would like to keep in touch, you can register to receive our monthly newsletters and updates – simply fill in your details **here**.

Thank you.

