Record

of the

Main Speeches

given by the

Provost of Trinity College Dublin,
Dr Patrick J Prendergast

in the

Academic Year 2018 – 2019
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Launch of Trinity’s Living Research Excellence Strategy and Charter 06 June 2019

Address at the Annual Reception for College Tutors 06 June 2019

New York City Launch of the “Inspiring Generations” Campaign 12 June 2019

Alan and Kyle Dargan Benefactors through the Centuries 17 June 2019

Address at the Alumni Mentorship Stewardship Event 18 June 2019

Address at the opening of ‘Cultural Interventions’, the annual meeting of the Consortium of Humanities Centres and Institutes (CHCI) 20 June 2019

San Francisco Launch of “Inspiring Generations” Campaign 26 June 2019

Launch of Science Gallery PERFECTION Exhibition 20 June 2019

Address at the End-of-term Reception for Chris Morash as Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer 21 June 2019

Address to Al Maktoum Foundation Scholars 01 July 2019

“Embedding Student Entrepreneurship in the University”. Address to the students at Al Akhawayn University, Morocco 04 July 2019

“Embedding innovation and entrepreneurship in the University”. Address at Mohammed V University, Rabat, Morocco 05 July 2019

Provost Professional Staff Awards 15 July 2019

Innovating the Future of Healthcare in Ireland and the UK 17 July 2019

St James’s Campus Launch of Trinity’s Living Research Excellence Strategy and Charter 19 July 2019

Dar es Salam University Address: “Embedding Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the University” 22 July 2019

University of Nairobi Address: “Embedding Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the” 23 July 2019
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Good morning,

And welcome everybody to Trinity College Dublin for the 28th International FPL Conference. This conference comes to Trinity for the first time, and to the island of Ireland for the second time, having been in Queen’s University Belfast in 2001.

It’s an honour for any university to host FPL, the largest conference covering the rapidly-growing area of field-programmable logic and reconfigurable computers. I am particularly pleased to welcome you all here today because

- I’m an engineer myself – though my area is bioengineering rather than electronics – and because
- the School of Engineering is one of the university’s largest and most significant Schools, founded 177 years ago and at the forefront today of engineering education and research.

You will be hearing from one of our professors of computer science, Linda Doyle, as a keynote speaker tomorrow, speaking on communications tech; she is also the Trinity’s Vice-President and Dean of Research.

Let me give you a brief snapshot of Trinity in terms of our mission in research, education and innovation.

Trinity is a member of LERU, the League of European Research Universities, and we are known for the quality and impact of our research. We have been awarded 35 European Research Council PI grants since 2007, the inception of the programme, worth nearly €64 million in funding. Trinity is 28th in Europe out of over 900 higher education institutions in terms of numbers of ERC awards secured during Horizon 2020 and we are 33rd out of 1,500 Higher Education Institutions in terms of value of all H2020 grants secured.

In the domain of Physical Sciences and Engineering, we have won 63% of all ERC awards nationally, in the School of Engineering.
Our success in research goes hand-in-hand with success in industry engagement. We work closely with State agencies such as Science Foundation Ireland, the Industrial Development Authority and Enterprise Ireland in helping industry invest, locate, grow and succeed in Ireland. We have reached over 800 collaborations with industry over the past decade, including with key innovation business leaders such as Huawei, Becton Dickinson, AbbVie and Nokia Bell Labs.

An example, relevant to this conference, of our multi-faceted engagement with industry is our relationship with Intel, which goes back many years now. Intel is a partner in all four national centres which are run from Trinity:

- the AMBER centre for advanced materials and bioengineering,
- the ADAPT centre for digital content technology,
- the CONNECT centre for future networks and communications, and
- the Learnovate Centre in digital learning and EdTech research.

Intel has funded studentships, sponsored activities in Science Gallery, acted on advisory boards, mentored our students, and partnered with us in creating the Intel Trinity Employability Awards, aimed at helping students build skills and knowledge to make them ready for the workplace. This conference will be hearing from Patrick Dorsey, the senior director for planning and strategy at Intel Corporation, as a keynote speaker on Wednesday.

Intel’s engagement with students showcases our highly cohesive approach to education, research and innovation in Trinity. For the past three years running, Trinity has been ranked Europe’s number one university for educating entrepreneurs, according to evaluation by research firm, Pitchbook.

And we recently secured investment for an ambitious new approach to STEM education and research. Our new Engineering, Environment and Enabling Technologies institute, which we’re calling E3, will be built in two stages over the next few years.

In the first stage, the E3 Learning Foundry will be transformative in terms of content – with more focus on the challenges of sustaining the earth’s resources – and in terms of methods and teaching techniques.

With E3, students will develop transversal skills through working on multidisciplinary projects in collaborative student-managed
learning spaces. Students of engineering, natural sciences and computer science will learn from each other to develop innovative solutions towards, for instance, climate change, renewable energy, personalised data, water, connectivity and sustainable manufacturing.

I believe that what we achieve with E3 will be relevant to the electronics sector - and its potential to address environmental challenges.

* * *

We welcome FPL2018 to Dublin because the electronics sector is such an important one in Ireland’s economy. The sector grew by 20 percent in 2016, and accounted for more than 10 percent of industrial production. The Irish Government announced a 40 million euro investment from Xilinx in November 2017. Xilinx is currently the largest worldwide designer of FPGA\(^*\) components, and their European HQ is in Dublin. The new wave of hardware devices that accelerate deep learning algorithms was invented by Michaela Blott and her AI Team in Xilinx European HQ, here in Dublin. We are delighted to have Michaela as one of the three technical chairs of this conference.

And we are also delighted to welcome Brendan Farley, vice-president of engineering at Xilinx, as a keynote speaker later today - Brendan is a Trinity graduate in electronic engineering; we are particularly happy to welcome him back on campus.

Ireland now boasts two hardware centres in the area of Deep Learning: Xilinx and Intel, which acquired Movidius and Alterra in 2016. And Microsemi, with 4% of the FPGA worldwide market share, is also based in Ireland, while Qualcomm, one of the world’s largest manufacturers of smartphone processors, which use FPGAs to simulate their final chip designs, have a large workforce in Cork.

So there is a significant amount of reconfigurable hardware activity in Ireland, which is great for Trinity and our Electronics and Computer Engineering staff and students. Indeed the activity is such that recruitment into the sector is now a challenge.

The explosion in the demand for reconfigurable hardware has been fuelled by the rapid growth in the communications and entertainment industries, and because FPGAs are now used in everything. The multiplicity of applications is very well showcased in

\* Field-programmable gate array
As well as the keynotes already mentioned, we look forward to

- Vivienne Sze from MIT talking about energy-efficiency edge computing,
- Dan Wertheimer from SETI and Berkeley talking about computational aspects of the search for extra-terrestrial life; and
- Marilyn Wolf from Georgia Tech, on IoT systems caring analytics for long-term care of people with special needs.

There are many people to thank for enabling FPL2018 in Trinity:
- Prof Peter Cheung of Imperial College, and Patrick Lysaght, Chair of the steering committee, for encouraging Trinity to host FPL2018;
- Anil Kokaram and Michael Manzke, the general co-chairs, for hosting FPL2018 at Trinity;
- Miriam Leeser [Northeastern University], Michaela Blott [Xilinx] and Suhaib Fahmy [Warwick] for acting as the Technical Programme Committee and assisting in almost all aspects of local organisation;
- our institutional sponsors - Science Foundation Ireland and the Irish Tourist Board; and
- our industrial sponsors – Xilinx, Micron, Deephi and others - who made this event possible, especially in helping to keep PhD student costs low;

There is a feeling that with AI and machine learning we are crossing frontiers of knowledge. This conference, established in 1990, serves as both a stimulator for the industry and a repository. Through the programmes and minutes of previous FPL conferences, we track the evolution and development of the industry. It is astonishing to be contributing to such a nascent field. Anyone involved can judge themselves hugely fortunate to be deploying their talents where there is such potential.

I wish you all a wonderful few days here in Dublin and Trinity. I hope you will get a chance to explore the campus and the city despite the full schedule, and that there will be many memorable moments, both inside the lecture theatres and outside.

Thank you very much.

*   *   *

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Thank you, Neville*, and good afternoon everyone,

And welcome to Trinity College – or welcome back for those who were undergraduates here.

You are now counted among Trinity’s 4,500 postgraduates, just under a third of the total student body, and you are indispensable to the great research capability of this university. I’m delighted to have this opportunity of speaking to you all, and I look forward to meeting you many more times, over the course of your time here.

For those new to Trinity, let me introduce myself. I’m Patrick Prendergast, and I was elected by the staff and student representatives in 2011 as the 44th Provost. I’m a former Trinity postgraduate student in the School of Engineering, a former Professor of Bioengineering, and a former Dean of Graduate Studies. Between 2004 and 2007, I held the position Professor Neville Cox holds today, with responsibility for supporting postgraduate students in their research and integration into university life. My experience both as a student and college officer ensures that I have a good idea of the opportunities and challenges facing you.

* * *

Let me say how delighted we are that you have chosen Trinity for further study. Because of your academic achievements, you will have had the choice of many universities.

It’s a privilege for us to be nurturing your talent, and when you submit your dissertations or graduate thesis, it will be a privilege to count your learning in the body of our research.

These are privileges we don’t take for granted. We want you to get the most out of being here. So I’d like to take this opportunity to tell you a bit about Trinity and how I think you can make the most of your time with us.

* * *

* Professor Neville Cox, Dean of Graduate Studies
This university, of which you are a decisive part, is now entering its 427th year since its foundation in 1592. We have a cohesive mission in education and research. We pledge:

- to give our students a distinctive education and transformative experience;
- to undertake research at the frontiers of disciplines, making a catalysing impact on innovation; and
- to fearlessly engage in actions that advance the cause of a pluralistic, just, and sustainable society.

You will find these three missions in our current Strategic Plan, which is strongly cohesive and defines our goals and actions across all our commitments – including in interdisciplinarity, global relations, access and inclusion, creative arts, online education, and innovation and entrepreneurship.

I won’t go into detail on these commitments; you will get a sense of them through the Orientation Week. I congratulate the Dean of Students, the Dean of Graduate Studies and all involved in organising the Orientation Week. I thank particularly the volunteers.

Trinity is Ireland’s highest-ranked university and it’s one of Europe’s principal research universities. We are a member of LERU, the League of European Research Universities, which includes the universities of Oxford, Copenhagen, Utrecht, Zurich, and Paris-Sud among its members.

We are globally recognised for research of impact, ranked first in Ireland and 33rd out of 1,500 higher education institutions globally, in terms of securing funding through the major EU Research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020. To date, we have been awarded 35 European Research Council PI grants, worth €64 million in funding. Nationally, Trinity has 16 percent of academic faculty but has won 49% of ERC grants in Ireland since 2014.

Our research is multidisciplinary. Trinity has 24 Schools across the three faculties, and I think 59 departments within the Schools, and a further 50 or so research centres as well as ten research institutes and inter-institutional research groupings across the university. That is a lot of research!

I think it’s helpful to familiarise yourselves with the research being carried out across the university, even outside your area. You never know what will be pertinent to your own research and it’s good to stay abreast of developments in other fields.
Trinity research is organised into 19 interdisciplinary ‘research themes’ – including, as examples, ‘ageing’, ‘cancer’, ‘creative arts practice’, ‘digital humanities’ and ‘nanoscience’.

If you want to get a handle on the range of research in the university, a good place to start is a quick perusal of the research themes. These are on the college website*.

Another useful publication is the Provost’s Annual Review which every year spotlights 12 research projects, as well as looking at the college’s achievements in areas like global relations, the Student experience, alumni engagement and innovation. This is the Provost’s Review for the academic year 2016/17†. The next review 2017 to ’18 will be out shortly.

Another area in which Trinity stands out globally is in innovation and entrepreneurship. For the past three years, we’ve been rated the number one university in Europe for educating entrepreneurs, according to evaluation by research firm, PitchBook.

We recognise the responsibility that comes with our leading position: responsibility to educate talent, incubate research, and produce products and services that drive growth and discovery in Ireland, Europe, and the world.

It goes without saying that you, our postgraduates, are an indispensable part of our mission and intrinsic to the university’s reputation in research and innovation. We have a responsibility towards you – to give you the opportunity to develop your skills and talents. And, of course, you have a responsibility towards yourselves, and towards those who have helped you get to this position where opportunities are open to you.

So, how we can we help you to best fulfil your great potential?

* * *

Regardless of what field your specialization is in, there are, I think, two main challenges which all postgraduates face:
- firstly, we all ask ourselves the question: do I have the focus required to do advanced study without the typical undergraduate structure of tutorials, course work, lectures, and exams?

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* [www.tcd.ie/research/themes/](http://www.tcd.ie/research/themes/)
† Provost’s Annual Review, see [www.tara.tcd.ie/handle/2262/82059](http://www.tara.tcd.ie/handle/2262/82059)
And secondly, we’re all concerned about how to build a career, to develop the skills for employability.

On the first question, I can only say that embarking on long immersion in a specialist area of study isn’t easy. Particularly not in the beginning. You have two main support tools: your academic supervisor and your fellow postgrads. Share your experiences and your concerns. Consult often with your mentor. It may be that, as you explore, you will re-think the terms of your research. That happens a lot. The area of focus at the beginning may give way to new avenues of investigation as you delve deeper into the subject – “follow the truth – wherever it may lead” – as it says in the College statutes.

The research life can get lonely, so connect with other postgrads. They will have similar concerns to your own. They are like work colleagues. Be generous yourself about sharing knowledge and tips.

On the subject of your Dissertation, you will eventually know more than anyone else in the world, whether you be a Master’s or a Doctoral candidate. Indeed, in the end, you will know more than the professor mentoring you. If you persist, there will come a moment, I promise, when you will own your research; when everything falls into place; when all the separate pieces of research and experimentation you’ve done suddenly slot into each other and make a wonderful pattern.

That’s a great moment, which you will have richly deserved, because doing research at this level isn’t easy.

On the second challenge, building your career – well, as postgrads, you’re at a stage when more is expected of you, and not just in terms of research. Increasingly you will have the opportunity to start taking on responsibilities within your departments and within the university. These may be teaching responsibilities, or helping to organise conferences and events, or looking after visiting professors and speakers, or contributing to commercialisation and innovation projects.

Postgraduates are vital members of the Trinity community – of this collegial group of scholars, students and professional staff working to the same values and in a common mission. You bring dynamism, fresh ideas, energy, and support to the community. You give tutorials. Often you are the mainstay of our conferences and events. And as your research progresses, you deliver brilliant papers, which inspire undergraduates.
The benefit to the university is clear: Trinity’s multidisciplinary excellence depends on the quality and commitment of its postgraduates. We recognise this and we know the relationship is mutually beneficial: we do all we can to support you in acquiring skills and building your careers.

If you go on to become academics, you will not just be engaged on research, you will be teaching, publishing, administrating, organising events and conferences, leading teams, collaborating, fundraising, innovating, commercialising, and launching spin-out companies. Academia is a multi-faceted career, and now more so than ever.

And if you choose not to go down the academic path, you will, in any case, need these skills in your other chosen careers.

The reason why employers like to hire postgraduates is not only for your intellect and mental discipline but for the portfolio of skills that comes with immersion in a university.

So use this time well. Seize every opportunity to get involved in academic and departmental life, as well as in student and extra-curricular activities. Be proactive. Learning new skills is essential; taking on responsibilities and building relationships and trust is even more important.

Look to build relationships across the university. In Trinity, we encourage researchers to collaborate. No matter what your area of study, there will be someone in another discipline who can enhance it. Explore all opportunities. Don’t remain isolated in your department. Talk to everyone, attend lectures on subjects you know little about, open yourself out to different influences.

And look beyond the university: build links with other institutions and in other countries. Trinity is a globally connected university with links around the world. Make the most of these to build international contacts. The Trinity Trust Postgraduate Travel Grants are available for you to attend conferences or carry out research abroad – do benefit from them.

Similarly with industry: Trinity collaborates with multinationals and smaller companies on a huge range of projects. You have the chance to get involved, either directly through your research, or through the Innovation Academy, which Trinity runs jointly with UCD and Queen’s Belfast.
The Academy educates postgrads to develop opportunities for innovation arising from their research. It’s interdisciplinary and it provides a range of modules, including creative thinking, protecting your idea, and planning and financing your venture. It invites you to work in groups to solve real-world problems identified by industry and partner organisations.

Much research – whether arts, humanities, science, or health sciences – can be commercialised, and this is something you will start thinking about. Not immediately of course - but once you understand the unique contribution your research is making, you may well start thinking about how to best introduce it to the world – as a product or a tool, or a service or a performance.

If you use your time wisely over the next few years, you will be in an enviable position: you will be experts in your particular field with strong mental discipline; you will have developed your people and communication skills and your organisational ability; and you will have entrepreneurial experience, and an enviable network of contacts in industry and in academia. In short, you should be able to choose what you want to do, how you want to do it, and who you want to do it with.

We want the very best for you. Success for us means helping you realise your great potential. So please avail of all the supports and structures in place for you. That includes getting in contact with me, or with the Dean of Graduate Studies, as the needs arises. You are members of the Trinity community. That’s a lifelong membership. We are all connected, and I believe we all have the same goals: achievement and gain for the university; achievement and gain for each individual member of the community.

Thank you, and the very best of luck with the great adventure you’ve embarked on.
Provost speaking in the Tercentenary Hall of TBSI, with Professor Neville Cox, Dean of Graduate Studies (seated)
Good afternoon,

And welcome everyone. This is the fourth LaunchBox Demo Day, and it’s the sixth year of LaunchBox, our remarkable student accelerator programme, which is the embodiment of Trinity’s dedication to innovation and entrepreneurship.

LaunchBox empowers Trinity students to forge their own entrepreneurship path both during and after College. Thanks to programmes like LaunchBox, and the support of partners like Bank of Ireland, Trinity has been named Europe’s leading university when it comes to producing entrepreneurs.

We have received that accolade for three years running, from private equity and venture capital-focused research firm, PitchBook, based on the number of undergraduate alumni who go on to create companies that secure first-round venture capital funding.

We’re hugely proud of our college initiatives in innovation and entrepreneurship, both for the opportunities they provide for staff and students, and the discoveries they bring to the world.

Within a year of LaunchBox being rolled out in 2013, it was assessed by the international University Business Incubator Index as a ‘Top Challenger’ and placed just outside the world’s ‘Top 25’, from 800 student incubators assessed.

In its first four years, LaunchBox supported 38 student companies which went on to raise a total of €3.7 million in venture capital. These companies included, most famously, FoodCloud, which was written up in Time magazine and has impacted the food waste policy of Tesco.

Of last year’s cohort:
- The winner, Equine MediRecords went on to win the “Number One Draft Pick Startup Competition” at the One Zero Conference (which is the largest sport technology conference in Europe) and was overall winner of Best Startup at the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association Expo this year.
And 

Ticketchain, which develops mobile-first ticketing software, has been revamped as Evopass and, in March, was chosen as one of ten new digital initiatives to receive funding from start-up incubator NDRC.

Founders from previous years’ LaunchBox companies have been involved this year, sharing their experiences in entrepreneurship. I thank Iseult Ward and Eric Risser from LaunchBox 2013; Sean Judge from LaunchBox 2014; and Pierce Dargan and Jack McGuire from last year for dedicating their time freely to this year’s competitors, providing important inspiration. Pierce Dargan who is CEO of Equine Medirecords is also acting as a judge.

This year over 50 start-ups vied for a place on the programme. The process is highly competitive - just 10 start-ups are through to this stage to present before the judging panel.

This year’s is one of the most diverse cohorts of start-ups in LaunchBox’s history, as you will see shortly when they begin their pitches. The teams represent a mix of disciplines and a mix between hardware, software, and physical products. Also a mix of age groups with some masters students and some teams only going into their second Fresh year.

LaunchBox is very much an accelerator for a technological age. At the same time, physical products remain important – perhaps paradoxically, they have an enhanced distinction in a virtual world – and I’m glad that every year they are also reflected in the pitches.

Many people and groups have helped to make LaunchBox the success that it is.

I’d like to thank in particular:

- The overall sponsors of the programme, the Bank of Ireland;
- The Trinity Angels, who initiated the whole thing five years ago and continue to act as mentors;
- The judging panel – that’s David Tighe, Fionnuala Healy, Diarmuid O’Brien, Alison Crawford, Siofra Flood, and Pierce Dargan; and
- Alison Treacy, the LaunchBox programme manager.

And this year, LaunchBox became a part of Tangent, Trinity’s new Ideas Workspace. We’re very excited about the potential of Tangent. I thank the whole Tangent team for their part in LaunchBox 2018.

And now, I won’t keep you any longer from what we’re waiting for. Thank you all for your attention, and let’s hear the pitches for 2018!
Provost at the speaking at the LaunchBox Demo day in the Quek Theatre of TBSI
Good afternoon and welcome – welcome to you here in this room and also in the Samuel Beckett watching by videolink.

It’s a pleasure for me to get this opportunity to speak to you now, at the start of your college career.

I remember very well my own first week at Trinity, so I’ve a fair idea how you’re feeling – a combination of nerves and excitement, enthusiasm and just a bit of trepidation.

I guess it’s because Trinity is such a remarkable, challenging place that we feel this trepidation: we want to live up to it. I do as Provost, and you do as our newest students.

I came here as an undergraduate in 1983 to study engineering. I remember my parents driving me up from Wexford to Dublin for Fresher’s week, and how proud they were for me.

And I’ll never forget how I felt when I first walked through Front Arch into the wide expanse of Front Square – that sense of history all around me and the overall dynamism and energy of the place.

I’ve never lost my initial sense of excitement about Trinity. That’s why I did my Ph.D. here, and later returned as a lecturer. And it’s why I felt so honoured to have been elected seven years ago by the staff and the students to lead this university as Provost until 2021. I want all of you to have as good an experience as undergraduates as I had. I hope that, like most of our graduates, you’ll develop a lifelong attachment to the college. I’ve been thinking about what I can tell you that will help maximise your student experience.

I’m speaking as a former Trinity student, as a lecturer who spent many years teaching undergraduates, and as the head of this university, who wants you to realise your potential - for your own sake. And for Trinity’s sake.

There are lots of things that make Trinity a special place to study and work: the beautiful campus, the location; the lectures and tutorials; the clubs and societies; the research and scholarship; the plays and concerts and exhibitions and public debates held here.
And, of course, what really makes Trinity special is the quality of the students. You are what make this a great university. It’s in your interest, and the university’s, that you make the most of your experience here.

You will all have worked hard to win your places here. You deserve this opportunity. Only a proportion of the population ever gets to third level. You’re in a privileged position, and this means that much is expected of you.

This is a life-changing opportunity. Don’t take it for granted – don’t waste it.

I know that College can be overwhelming, especially in the beginning. But it doesn’t have to be. The more you familiarise yourself with how we do things, and the more you avail of our resources, the more rewarding you will find this experience.

* * * The Trinity Experience – 1. Education * * *

You have come through very tough exams to be here today. Congratulations on doing so well! You’re now entering a new, exciting phase of your education, where the emphasis is on cultivating independent thought. It’s no longer about what you can remember, but what you can discover for yourself. It’s not about regurgitating what lecturers say, it’s about your own interpretation.

The College’s statutes say we “will seek to develop the search for truth … … relying not on the imposition of authority or acceptance of received knowledge but rather on the exercise of the critical faculties of the human mind”.

The curriculum is devised to make you think, so as long as you attend lectures and seminars, use the library, complete essays and coursework, speak up in seminars to defend your views – as long as you’re doing all this, you’ll automatically get in the habit of discovery.

We are currently in the middle of an ambitious, university-wide initiative to renew the undergraduate curriculum. The Trinity Education Project – as we’re calling it – is about ensuring that we’re preparing you appropriately for global changes in the workplace and in society, including more flexible job practices and the growth of the digital workplace.

Some of the changes we’re making include:
- More diverse styles of assessment – moving away from exams to other means of appraisal, such as peer-to-peer assessment;
- More team and group work;
- continued emphasis on co-curricular learning through participation in clubs and societies; and
- more opportunity for students to take modules outside their core discipline – the “Trinity Electives” mean that science students can now take modules in arts and humanities, and vice versa.

These changes are our way of ensuring that we are preparing you properly for a world that is ever more global, entrepreneurial, and technological, and more flexible in terms of jobs and career-building.

The old model of a job for life has gone – it’s likely that many of you will develop a number of different careers, and in different cities and countries. It’s our responsibility to prepare you for this as well as we can.

This preparation isn’t about teaching you the latest technology – although of course it’s important to stay on top. But more important than content and information is developing the right mind-set.

The Trinity Education Project is about encouraging you to develop a mind-set premised on four attributes:
  - To think independently
  - To communicate effectively
  - To grow continuously
  - To act responsibly

If you leave college having developed an independence of mind; able to express yourselves clearly and vividly – in writing, speech and online; and if you are capable of adapting to change and imbued with a love of learning; and if you understand your responsibilities to your fellow human beings and to the natural world, and are ready to take up leadership roles – then you will have the right mind-set for a successful career. And just as important, you will be ready for active and responsible citizenship working towards the creation and maintenance of a pluralistic, just, and sustainable society.

This is what we seek for you; this is what our education is aimed to deliver.
We will deliver this through the curriculum and through extra-curricular activities - through the Library and Lab, and through clubs and societies and volunteering.

Let me tell you a bit about what I mean by this.

* * * Research * * *

Trinity is now in its fifth century of intellectual endeavour, and our research record is stronger than it has ever been. Frequently our research makes headlines so you may have heard about some of the things we’re doing.

For instance, if you were following the news the last few weeks, you may have read about Trinity bioengineers’ pioneering project to develop 3D-printed biological implants to treat people affected by degenerative diseases such as osteoarthritis*. Or you might have read about the Trinity spin-out, DataChemist, which uses AI to transform big, messy data sets into valuable intelligence†. Or you may have heard about the landmark Cambridge History of Ireland, published earlier this year in 4 volumes, covering 15 centuries. The initiative started in the Trinity Long Room Hub and Trinity historians contributed majorly as editors and writers.

Our professors act as advisors to government and policy-makers and they collaborate with industry and establish start-up companies, also called spin-outs, to commercialise their research. A fifth of all spin-out companies in Ireland stem from Trinity.

This is relevant to you, because research, and commercialising research, isn’t just something your professors do. In your final years as undergraduates, you will be engaged on original research, using primary sources. You will be discovering and analysing something no-one else has ever looked into. The discovery may be small, but it will be the result of your unique research, whether in the lab, in archives, or through field work.

The division between you and your professors will dissolve - you will be scholars together, engaged on a common enterprise of learning.

Let me give you a great example of how students and staff have worked together to make impact.


In spring this year, Trinity joined the International Sustainable Campus Network, which is a global forum to support leading universities and corporate campuses in the exchange of ideas and best practices for achieving sustainable campus operations in, for instance, recycling, pollination, energy efficiency, water efficiency, and clean energy.

To join the International Sustainable Campus Network, a university has to demonstrate that it is committed to sustainability. Trinity was able to do this because, since the college’s first recycling initiatives 25 years ago, staff and students have worked together to implement best environmental practice on campus.

Among our stand-out initiatives are:

- Ending investments in fossil fuels;

- The Campus Pollinator Plan, put in place last year, which involves reducing mowing on grassy areas, planting pollinators, and welcoming honeybee hives and solitary bee hotels to campus; and

- the vote this year, by students, to eliminate single-use plastic on campus. Because of this decision, we are getting rid of disposable plastic straws, cups, cutlery, bags and bottles on campus.

And we are presenting as a gift to all first-year students a reusable water bottle. You can refill this water bottle from fountains which we’re upgrading on campus. So, this will save you money, as well as protecting the environment.

These are small steps, of course, when one looks at the huge part that human activity plays in climate change and environmental degradation, but I am a great believer in small steps. To quote Edmund Burke, the great political thinker and Trinity graduate whose statue stands at Front Arch and who gives his name to this lecture theatre: “Nobody ever made a greater mistake who did nothing because they could only do a little.”

In truth, as individuals, we can only ever do a little. But when we join forces then the little done be each individual, eventually amasses to collective change.

In Trinity we are emerging as leaders, nationally and internationally, in promoting sustainable campuses. Student activism has aligned with staff research. We understand the steps
that need to be taken and we are implementing initiatives. I hope you will enjoy being part of this.

* * * Innovation & Entrepreneurship * * *

Sustainability is all about innovation – it’s about finding new, exciting and less environmentally destructive ways to do things. As Trinity students, you are central to the search for innovative solutions.

In the past five years, there has been huge emphasis put on developing student innovation and entrepreneurship skills. Our student accelerator programmes, Blackstone Launchpad and LaunchBox are designed to help you incubate and market your ideas and to apply your knowledge in practical ways that improve people’s lives.

These accelerator programmes are hugely successful, so much so that for the past three years, Trinity has emerged as the number 1 university in Europe for educating entrepreneurs, according to private equity and venture capital-focused research firm, PitchBook.

Many of the student startups, incubated under LaunchBox, are social enterprises with sustainable development goals. For instance, the start-ups that received funding last year include a venture, ‘Greener Globe’ that produces an LED-timed shower-head which is designed to save consumers water and money; and another initiative ‘Sea Shore Veg’ which is about harvesting seaweed to make natural products.

These are ways in which undergraduates demonstrate both their entrepreneurship and their commitment to sustainability.

The Trinity Experience – 2. Extracurricular

Currently, students work on founding companies and developing apps during extracurricular time. In the future, thanks to the Trinity Education Project, you might be able to count a new piece of technology as your original research project – or indeed a performance or a film.

We understand that the world is changing and that a written dissertation isn’t the only way to present your original work - although good written skills remain essential.

Increasingly, we are blurring the distinction and hierarchy between curricular and extra-curricular. We regard both as central to the Trinity Education.
Surveys have shown that employers of our graduates’ value:
- critical and independent thinking;
- excellent communication skills;
- and students who have developed a capacity for responsibility and initiative through extra-curricular activities.

‘Extracurricular activities’ means things like:
- getting involved in clubs and societies;
- writing for college journals;
- volunteering and fund-raising for charity;
- debating;
- organising events;
- designing new technologies;
- starting your own business.

And ‘Extracurricular’ means engaging with each other. This is a cosmopolitan campus, with students from every county in Ireland and from countries across the world. Such diversity is enriching. Try to meet as many different people as possible.

In your later undergraduate years, take the opportunity to study abroad if you can. The Trinity education is global and involves engaging with people, research and ideas from round the world.

There’s probably no other time in your life when you’ll be surrounded by so many talented, dynamic people who have the time, energy and vision to explore opportunities. Do plunge into college life.

As students you have all kinds or requirements. But there are people to help you make the most of college life. Some of them are here today:

- Dr Kevin O’Kelly is Dean of Students. His job is to develop and coordinate policies to promote the student experience beyond the classroom. We’ve just heard from him – do heed his advice to get involved in as much extracurricular activity as possible.

- Dr Aidan Seery is the Senior Tutor and he oversees the tutorial service which offers student support in all aspects of college life, including accommodation, welfare, health and disability services.
• Breda Walls is the Director of Student Services which manages the provision of a wide range of student supports.

**The Trinity Community**

You are now a member of the Trinity community. It’s a community of 17,000 undergraduates and postgraduates, some 3000 staff, and 110,000 past students, or alumni, living in 130 countries worldwide.

Membership of the Trinity community is lifelong. This is how we feel about our alumni, and we hope it’s how you will feel about the university after you graduate. What has made Trinity great over more than four centuries is the people that have studied and worked here, and the radical, creative ways in which they have contributed to world thought.

We take huge pride in the achievements of our graduates, from our earliest graduates like Swift, Wolfe Tone and the mathematician William Rowan Hamilton, through to our more recent graduates, like Mary Robinson our Chancellor, Leo Varadkar, the youngest Taoiseach this country has ever had, and Sally Rooney, whose second novel is on the Man Booker longlist and she is still only 27.

Many of our alumni feel such a lifelong connection to Trinity that they seek to support its continuing greatness. If you go to the Dining Hall, you will see a frieze in the grand entrance – this is the ‘Benefactors Roll’, which commemorates the Trinity’s benefactors who have supported the College since its foundation in 1592.

I hope that you too will feel a continuous connection with this university, and that Trinity will be, for you, a source of strength as you forge your careers in the outside world.

With your intelligence, drive and ability, you have the opportunity to make your mark on the world in wonderful and unexpected ways. That opportunity begins in Trinity. My promise is that we will do everything in our power to help you fulfil your potential.

If I had just one piece of advice to impart for this stage of your lives it would be to keep your horizons open. Now is not a time to close down or narrow your options.

Use the precious few College years to develop and expand who you are. Inevitably, like everyone, you will face challenges in your life. The aim is not to avoid challenges – only through challenges can we grow – the aim is to meet challenges with resilience, and to learn from them.
Your time in Trinity will transform how you view the world, and how you view yourselves.

I wish you four life-transforming College years. I look forward to keeping in touch with you throughout your time here – and in the years ahead.

Thank you.  

* * *

Provost (speaking) with (L to R) Dr Kevin O’Kelly, Dean of Students; Ms Breda Walls, Director of Student Services; and Dr Aidan Seery, Senior Tutor
Good morning,

It’s a pleasure to welcome you to Trinity at this, the start of your induction week.

I look forward to meeting you all personally, and to engaging with you over the coming months and years. There are 29 of you here today, hailing from many disciplines, and at different stages in your careers. What you have in common is that this is your first introduction to Trinity – at least as staff members.

Today is the start of a three-day induction programme, which has been carefully devised for you. I hope it answers any questions you might have and provides a good introduction to college life and the way you can get things done here.

This morning is a chance for me to meet you. And in our time together I’d like to give you a brief overview of Trinity, our strategic goals, and how we achieve success in academic leadership. The university you have joined is founded on a cohesive mission as laid out in our strategic plan. I can bring it up at www.tcd.ie/strategy:

**Mission**

We provide a liberal environment where independence of thought is highly valued and where all are encouraged to achieve their full potential. We will:

A. Encompass an ever more diverse student community, providing a distinctive education based on academic excellence and a transformative student experience.

B. Undertake research at the frontiers of disciplines, spurring on the development of new interdisciplinary fields and making a catalysing impact on local innovation and on addressing global challenges.

C. Fearlessly engage in actions that advance the cause of a pluralistic, just, and sustainable society.
You should all have been given a copy of the Strategic Plan.

The Plan is strongly cohesive: from each mission flow three goals, and from each goal flow four actions. The 36 actions cross all our commitments – including in interdisciplinarity, global relations, access and inclusion, creative arts, online education, sustainability, and innovation and entrepreneurship.

The Plan represents a very comprehensive vision for the university, and it sets targets and parameters. With a year of the Plan to run, we are meeting, and indeed exceeding, most of our targets.

We will shortly, in the Board, be getting down to work on developing the next Strategic Plan, which will run 2019-2024. We will be consulting widely with staff, and students, on what new areas should be prioritized. I hope you will get involved in this consultative process, which is your chance to help influence the future direction of the University.

I note that your schedule for this induction week includes sessions on global relations, research and innovation, media and social media, equality and diversity, and more. I congratulate and thank the Learning and Development team in HR for putting together a great programme, and of course I thank all staff who will be delivering the talks over the week - I think there are 26 in all. I know you will enjoy meeting such a cross-section of our academic and professional staff.

The different sessions will give an idea of the college’s range of commitments. These commitments are about delivering the best possible university for our staff and students - and for Dublin and Ireland, this region that we serve.

Trinity is Ireland’s leading university and it’s one of Europe’s principal research universities; last year we became the 23rd member of the exclusive League of European Research Universities, or LERU.

Trinity was invited to join LERU because of our exceptional record in research. To take the example of Europe’s largest and most prestigious awarding body, the European Research Council:

Trinity has won half of all Irish ERC grants since the inception of the programme – even though we only have 16% of academic faculty nationally. And Trinity is 28th out of 900 higher education institutions in Europe in terms of numbers of ERC grants secured. That’s a remarkable figure - particularly because we are nowhere near the 28th best-funded institution among the 900!
The reason why Trinity performs so well in ERC and other grants is because of the quality of our faculty, our researchers, and our support staff. When it comes to number of ERC grants won per academic staff, Trinity is fourth in Europe – just behind Cambridge, Oxford and Imperial College London.

A word on investment and funding:

All round the world, not just in Ireland, state funding to universities is falling. In Europe, we’re moving from the 20th century system of very high state support for universities to one based on non-exchequer, private funding. This is even happening in countries like Sweden with strong traditions of state support.

Regardless of whether we academics welcome this or not, it’s happening. It’s the new reality that countries and universities have to confront.

In Ireland there is consensus – but as yet, there is no action - that something needs to be done to get funding for higher education on a sustainable level. In Trinity, we are continuously putting pressure on government to find a solution that works, whether it’s an increased state grant, raising student fees, a larger contribution from industry and employers, or a combination of all three.

But, at the same time, we are not sitting around waiting for government to solve this. We can’t afford to let standards slide while the issue is debated politically. Instead, we are actively developing new revenue streams through, for instance, licensing and spin-outs, international student fees, commercial revenue activities, philanthropy and alumni-giving.

Sixty percent of our revenue now comes from non-State sources. And in a few months, for the first time in the College’s 425-year history, we are launching a comprehensive fundraising campaign to garner support for our capital programme, and endowed posts and scholarships. Overall, the Campaign is about triggering investment in people and infrastructure.

At the heart of the Philanthropic Campaign is our confidence that people will support Trinity because our staff and students make a remarkable contribution across many fronts: they lead international research teams and direct institutes, they pioneer new educational methods, launch spin-out companies, advise policy-makers, and manage global relations. They are entrepreneurs, managers and leaders as well as thinkers and teachers.
This is the university you have chosen to join. We’re delighted and honoured that you are joining our team. It’s wonderful for the university to be benefitting from your expertise and commitment. You will contribute hugely to growing our research and refreshing our educational approach.

Trinity Education Project

Trinity Graduate Attributes

To Act Responsibly

A Trinity Graduate
- Acts on the basis of knowledge and understanding
- Is self-motivated and able to take responsibility
- Knows how to deal with ambiguity
- Is an effective participant in teams
- Has a global perspective
- Is ethically aware

To Think Independently

A Trinity Graduate
- Has a deep knowledge of an academic discipline
- Can do independent research
- Thinks creatively
- Thinks critically
- Appreciates knowledge beyond their chosen field
- Analyses and synthesises evidence

To Develop Continuously

A Trinity Graduate
- Has a passion to continue learning
- Builds and maintains career readiness
- Commits to personal development through reflection
- Has the confidence to take measured risks
- Is capable of adapting to change

To Communicate Effectively

A Trinity Graduate
- Can present work through all media
- Is expert in the communication tools of a discipline
- Connects with people
- Listens, persuades and collaborates
- Has digital skills
- Has language skills

* * *

We want you to get the most out of your time here. There is no better work to be doing than involved in education of the upcoming generations. This is a challenging but also a hugely exciting time to be in academia. The changes in higher education in the past two decades are revolutionary in terms of

- technological advances impacting both research and teaching,
- extending educational opportunities as broadly as possible in society,
- forging international collaborations, and
- applying and commercialising research,

We are in the midst of re-making and re-thinking the way that universities are funded and organised, the way that we teach and research. Together we have to decide what’s best for the university and how best to achieve it. Some of the way is clearly signposted.

* [https://www.tcd.ie/TEP/graduateattributes.php](https://www.tcd.ie/TEP/graduateattributes.php)
Other paths will emerge as we surmount challenges and discover opportunities.

I thank you again for strengthening our community here. I wish you the very best and I look forward to meeting you all personally and hearing about your research.

Thank you.

*   *   *

Provost in Regent House with Antoinette Quinn (Director of HR, leftmost) and new staff in September 2018
Good morning, and welcome everyone, and thank you for making the effort to be here.

We’re entering a most important year for the Provost’s Council. In a few months’ time we will launch the first comprehensive philanthropic campaign in Trinity’s history.

We’re confident that this Campaign will be a success because we’re asking support for a university that has achieved much in recent years. We believe that alumni and friends will respond to our call to continue Trinity on its path of excellence for future generations.

Let me kick off by highlighting some of the achievements for the past year.

** * Research * **

Let’s start with research and scholarship, the bedrock of what we do. Last year Trinity won €100.6 million euro in research funding. Four years ago, that figure was €74 million.

In less than five years we have increased our research revenue by one third, and it was already by far the highest of any Irish university.
How did we do this? We did it by having truly exceptional staff.

We can track the strength of our staff through European Research Council grants.

The European Research Council, or ERC, promotes research based solely on ‘scientific excellence’.

This slide demonstrates Trinity’s success nationally. As you see, Trinity has won half of all Irish ERC grants – even though we’ve only 16% of Ireland’s academic faculty.

UCD has double our academic staff – but they have won less than 20% of ERC grants, nationally.

In fact, Trinity staff compete with the very best of Europe. This slide shows our success with ERC grants relative to other LERU members.

LERU, the League of European Research Universities, has just 23 members so we’re talking the best universities in Europe.

Trinity is placed 14th of 23 in terms of winning ERC grants, which is good, but when it comes to ERC grants per academic staff, we are fourth – just behind Cambridge, Oxford and Imperial.

When I look at this table, I feel immensely proud. And I think, just how well our staff could perform if Trinity had resources like other European universities!

* * *
Research and education are symbiotic – in Trinity, at least – so exceptional staff translates into exceptional students and graduates.

We have just heard that for the fourth year running, Trinity has been ranked Europe’s number one university for educating entrepreneurs, according to evaluation by research firm, Pitchbook, based on the number of companies founded by graduates. The first time I got this news, back in 2015, I thought maybe there had been a mistake. It seemed astonishing that we outranked all other European universities. Now I have to say, I’m getting blasé about it.

And, of course, entrepreneurship is just one evaluation of excellence. Our graduates’ success is so huge, across so many fields, that I can’t possibly mention everything – and I don’t need to. I know how frequently you come across amazing graduates in your different spheres.

My point is that Trinity people – our staff, students and alumni – achieve remarkably. Time and again they prove themselves truly worthy of your support.

All our initiatives in college – including the philanthropic campaign – are aimed at creating and nurturing the conditions that produce excellence.

* * *
I want to turn now to this question of creating the right conditions to nurture talent.

Let me share with you briefly the key capital development projects on-going in Trinity, at different stages of development.

In just six months’ time, in March, we will celebrate the opening of the new Trinity Business School in a state-of-the-art building that will also house Tangent – Trinity’s Ideas Workspace – and a 600-seat auditorium.

We could not have done it without Provost’s Council members, that is the simple truth. We look forward to announcing the Trinity Business School’s patrons when it opens in March. Let me take the opportunity to thank Kyle and Alan Dargan for their exceptional support.

We received €20 million in philanthropy for the new school. This enabled us to leverage investment from the state, and to raise loans for the further €60 million required. Without philanthropy, the project could not have got off the ground.

This is our model for the Campaign.

We do not expect our projects to rely solely on philanthropy. Donors do not, and should not, give money to replace exchequer money. They donate as part of a bigger investment plan. And it’s not just about the money – philanthropy is an important statement of confidence from high-achieving individuals.

This was borne out this year when we made the formal announcement, in May, of our plan to build E3, our Institute for Engineering, Environment, and Emerging Technologies, which will bring together engineers, natural scientists and computer scientists to address major challenges facing our planet.

Like the Trinity Business School, E3 is a model of how philanthropy can work. It was made possible thanks to the remarkable donation of €25 million from the Naughton family. This allowed us to get immediate government funding of a further €15 million. We also received significant philanthropic support from Beate Schuler, Mike Peirce, and Paul and Theresa Johnston.

E3 will be developed in two stages. In the first stage, the E3 Learning Foundry will be built here on campus. In the second stage, the E3 Research Institute will be developed as the lynchpin of a new Trinity Technology and Enterprise Campus, as part of the Grand Canal Innovation District.
You may have seen press coverage, in July of this year, of our plans for the creation of this innovation district. It was announced by the Taoiseach because this is a major national project, led by Trinity, partnering with government and other Dublin universities. Our aim is that the Grand Canal Innovation District will be as transformative for Ireland in technology and innovation, as the IFSC was for financial services.

These three projects – the Business School, E3 and the new Trinity campus at the Grand Canal Innovation District – are flagship initiatives truly transformative for education and research.

The final capital development project I’d like to mention is less headline-grabbing but it too is essential for providing space for talented people to grow.

We’re calling the new development ‘Printing House Square’. It will have place for 300 student rooms, a new Student Health Centre, and sports facilities.

This will be the first new square built in college since Botany Bay.

*** Investing in talent: global partnerships ***

These new buildings are the concrete signs of the university’s growth. We are also of course implementing so many different initiatives and programmes across research, education and innovation – not least a radical renewal of the undergraduate curriculum.

One area that we’re developing strongly, and that goes across the university, is global relations. We seek to facilitate research collaborations and educational exchanges with peer universities round the world and to create a truly cosmopolitan campus here in Dublin.

We believe that, despite some worrying developments towards nationalism and isolationism, the 21st century should, and will, continue on the path of ever greater international connectivity. A few universities globally – and Trinity will be one – will play a key role in strengthening this path.

We’ve partnerships in for example with Ho Chi Minh in Viet Nam and Thapar University in Patiala, and we should be planning for ever more expansion.
This year has proved a landmark year for our global relations strategy, with the launch of a pioneering agreement with Columbia University in New York to partner on a Dual BA Programme in the arts and humanities.

This partnership is unique in that students will graduate from both universities with two degrees over four years.

Why did Columbia - ranked 14th in the world – want to partner with us? It comes back to our exceptional staff and students, in particular our strength in arts and humanities.

This extends right back to Swift, Burke and Goldsmith and it is constantly renewed and reinvigorated. Just to take recent months:
- one of our graduates, Mark O’Connell, has won the 2018 Wellcome Prize, which is for literary works that illuminate health and medicine;
- and another graduate, Sally Rooney, is longlisted for the Man Booker prize for fiction, and she’s only 27.

In Trinity we are custodians and creators of a living tradition in arts and humanities, and we will never lose sight of that.

** * * * Conserving the Trinity tradition: the Library * * * **

This brings me to one of the Philanthropic Campaign’s flagship initiatives, the Library.

Our Librarian, Helen Shenton, will be talking to you about this later. But as I’m mentioning Trinity’s living tradition in arts and humanities, I must just emphasize the Library’s absolute centrality to this.

We’ve the only copies in the world of certain early, medieval and renaissance manuscripts, including of course the UNESCO heritage treasure, the Book of Kells.

It’s impossible to imagine Trinity without these treasures. And we are acutely conscious of our duty of care – to Ireland, to world heritage, to future generations. These manuscripts are unique. Should they be lost, something of the world’s greatness is lost. The terrible news just three days ago of the Brazil National Museum can only sharpen our sense of this.

And this dual ambition is also evident in the last of the philanthropic campaign’s key projects which I’d like to mention: the Trinity St James Cancer Institute.
This will be Ireland’s first comprehensive cancer care centre – and it’s a really vital need. Ireland and Greece are the only two countries in the EU that do not have national cancer centres.

Of course we don’t want to create just any centre. This is our opportunity to create a cancer centre of the excellence and impact of Sloan-Kettering in New York or the Princess Margaret in Toronto and to deliver world-class care to cancer patients here in Ireland.

Most importantly, it’s also our opportunity to contribute to the global search for cancer cures and improvements in treatment.

It’s not easy to make an impact globally in cancer research because this is a field of such high interest and investment, particularly in the US. But in Trinity I think we can, genuinely, make a global contribution because of our leadership in immuno-oncology. We are ranked in the top 1% of immunology research globally, and through the Trinity St James Cancer Institute, we can translate this into patient care in a potentially transformative way.

It can happen if – as with the Trinity Business School and as with E3 – we secure sufficient philanthropy to leverage state support and loans.

* * * Conclusion * * *

It’s in the nature of universities that what we do today flourishes and extends – not only into the next generation but, on in to many generations, and into a future far beyond us.

We were reminded of this, this week, when Trinity and Dublin welcomed seven Nobel Prize winners to the major conference, ‘Schrodinger at 75’.

This was an anniversary celebration of three lectures that Erwin Schrödinger gave in Trinity in 1943. Entitled ‘What is life?’ the lectures synthesized biology, physics and chemistry and were a harbinger of the DNA revolution.

One of the discoverers of the DNA double helix, James Watson, was in Dublin this week to pay tribute. He joined an amazing mix of speakers from all over the world and all different disciplines, including philosophy, physics, biology, neuroscience, computer science, immunology and genetics all asking that same question posed by Schrödinger – ‘What is life?’
Seventy-five years ago in Trinity, Schrödinger lit a spark. This week we are still tending that flame because great ideas never end. They change and grow and transmute and get handed on. To quote Brendan Kennelly, the Poet Laureate, so to speak, of Trinity:

Something that will not acknowledge conclusion
Insists that we forever begin.

With the Philanthropic Campaign, we are asking our community to light a spark for future generations. To be part of something that will never acknowledge conclusion.

Thank you.

* * *

(Front row, L to R) Pradeep Kar, Gillian Quinn, Emma Goltz, Provost Patrick Prendergast, Sheelagh O’Neill, Beate Schuler, Mary McCarron (Dean of Health Sciences), Fiona Thomas

(Second row, L to R) Richie Boucher, Yvonne Le Bas, Paul Drechsler, Martin Frank, Fergal Naughton, Michael Gill (Head of School of Medicine)

(Third row, L to R) Conor Killeen, Shane Naughton, John Daly, John Macken, Colm Duggan, Terry Gallagher
(Fourth Row, L to R) Anke Heydenreich, William Sargent, Paul Johnston, Terry Neill, Sean Melly, Stuart Coulson, Alan Dargan, Patrick O'Sullivan

(Back rows, L to R) Stanley Quek, John Hegarty, David Went, Dermot Smurfit, Brian Caulfield, Declan Sheehan, David McConnell, Mike Pierce, Stephen Vernon, Leo Crawford, Jay Krehbiel
Remarks at the British-Irish Association meeting

Pembroke College, Oxford, England

Thank you for inviting me to be part of this panel on Collaboration after Brexit. I’m delighted to be here.

I was asked specifically to speak about ‘the role of universities in shaping the mental map of young people’, and I will finish on that, but first a few facts:

Brexit is already affecting Trinity in tangible ways:

• This year saw a significant drop in student numbers from Northern Ireland and the UK. There was a 20% decline in applications from Northern Ireland - down from 958 to 763 - and an 11% fall-off in figures for Britain, from 624 to 552. We regret this, particularly the fall off from Northern Ireland, because Trinity is university with a very long tradition of educating students from Northern Ireland. Because applications had fallen off in the 1980s and 1990s, we have put in a great deal of work over the past five years to attract more students from Northern Ireland, including adjusting A-Level results for entry and using student ‘ambassadors’ to promote Trinity in secondary schools in Northern Ireland. The numbers had been growing over the last few years and we believe the fall off this year is Brexit-related.

• And we are seeing an increase in EU undergraduate applications. I don’t have the exact figures for Trinity but the increase across Ireland is 22%. We believe this is due to Ireland’s increased relative attractiveness of among English-speaking universities

• It would seem therefore based on student mobility data at least, Brexit is already ‘in the minds of young people’.

• We are also seeing an increase in applications from UK academics interested in moving to Trinity, including a number who already had chairs in UK universities moving to chairs in Trinity. I strongly suspect this is Brexit-related based on conversations with them. But of course it is all anecdotal at this early stage.

Trinity hopes to see UK universities remain in European research.
• The UK is Trinity’s biggest research collaboration area. We have multiple collaborations on-going with UK universities which we would like to protect and grow. Some 75% of research consortia Trinity is involved with have UK partners and, if they are to fall out of European research programmes then these consortia would have to reassemble in some way, presenting both a challenge and an opportunity.

• However the most important point is that the UK universities are the best in Europe. For Horizon Europe to be competitive, it’s important that UK universities continue to participate. There are 900 collaborative links between Irish and UK researchers under Horizon 2020.

• Trinity is interested in cross-border and bilateral arrangements to protect undergraduate study, student exchanges and research collaborations. However, research collaborations are currently facilitated within a pan-European framework rather than a bilateral one, we do not think bilateral arrangements can provide all the answers.

• If UK is in Horizon Europe, as we hope it will, there are critical questions e.g. will they be able to participate in the design of the programme. It’s all very well to be able to access the money, but the design of the programmes upstream of that – the topics the programmes will address and the nature of the review and evaluation process – is also a factor. How could it be to our advantage if some of the best scientific minds in Europe were not involved?

I think that, perhaps, Brexit is already affecting European research. The European Commission recently announced its desire to create a European Universities Networks and EU universities have responded by starting to put together networks. In Trinity we’ve identified five other universities for our network, and we’ve been approached by other universities looking to add us to their network. As far as I’ve experienced no UK university has been included in these. I wonder if some EU universities are already planning for a future networks without the UK?

Collaborative or Isolated Higher Education systems? Trinity is looking at a future of developing joint degree programmes, articulation programmes and dual degree programmes – joint campuses even – with our EU partners, as we have already done with partners in the US and Asia. Obviously we would like similar collaborations with UK universities. A sealed off/isolated higher education system benefits no-one.
‘The role of universities in shaping the mental map of young people’. I said I would come back to this and will finish on it. Yes, universities play a huge role, and in particular universities – like Oxford or Trinity or Ulster – that occupy a leading role in their regions have to face up to their responsibilities. Who and how we educate determines what type of person enters leadership positions in politics, business, innovation, diplomacy, academia, civil society and the rest. It could hardly be more important. It’s not so much about the academics or the Presidents of universities – more important is how the graduates of universities think and act, and what responsibilities they feel to wider society.

I believe in universities pinning their colours to the mast: What are our values? How do we implement our values? How do we implement them in the curriculum and, perhaps more importantly, through the extra-curricular activities students engage in. And also through access & participation, global relations, alumni engagement and all the other activities of universities – what values do those activities promote in society?

In Trinity we are undertaking a renewal of the undergraduate curriculum centred around identifying the core graduate attributes we want to instil. It is here that the ‘mental map of the future’ of young people are shaped, and we wish to have them feel a sense of responsibility to society, their city and region, a sense of shared European values, and ultimately to follow in the footsteps of the great European humanist Erasmus in saying “I long to be a citizen of the world”. Students should be our partners in this endeavour. That should be our post-Brexit future.

I look forward to our panel discussion.

Thank you.
Provost with the Musician Philip King. A selfie taken at lunchtime.
Good afternoon,

Thank you for inviting me here today. It’s a great pleasure to be in Midleton, my first time here, and it’s a particular pleasure to visit on this wonderful occasion of the opening of the Trevor West Sports Hall.

I believe that while there may be a few lecture halls or debating theatres named for Trinity graduates in other Irish schools, this is the first sports hall to achieve this honour. It is wonderfully fitting. Your new sports hall links this school and this part of Cork to Trinity College and to Dublin. The link is provided by a Midleton past student who was also a Trinity graduate, a professor and a senator, and a unique person.

I don’t use the word ‘unique’ lightly. As pupils in Midleton College, you will I’m sure have heard plenty about Trevor West. Let me take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about the Trevor West we knew in Trinity.

What was remarkable about Trevor is how many people’s lives he touched in Trinity. It’s not just that he devoted his career to the college – he was a student there, and then a lecturer and professor. He was the Junior Dean and he was a Trinity senator, which means he was elected by graduates to sit in the Oireachtas. He studied and worked in College for fifty years – from the 1950s to the 2000s. That’s quite something.

But others have also had long Trinity careers without making the impact that Trevor did. What made him remarkable was his breadth of interests and warmth of personality. He was instrumental in academia, sport, politics, and student life.

I have a warm recall of Trevor myself. When I was in my third year in Trinity, a Junior Sophister Engineer, he taught us Pure Mathematics. I remember him filling the blackboard with very long equations, Besel functions and the like... and scaring the hell out of us.
That was in the mid-1980s and he already had an international reputation as a mathematician which both impressed and intimidated – he even gave his name to an equation, the elegantly named ‘West Decomposition’. In 2006, forty years after Trevor first described that equation, it was the subject of a peer-reviewed paper by two Chinese mathematicians.

As if that wasn’t enough, Trevor published a book the year he was teaching us maths – it was an historical biography of the politician and agriculturalist, Horace Plunkett. Believe me, it is not usual for mathematicians to write historical biographies! Trevor was what we call “a Renaissance man”, which means he had broad intellectual strengths, and read widely.

He was a natural politician and diplomat - he knew how to get things done without setting people’s backs up. He used these skills in the College where he served on the Board and was extremely valued by Provost Mitchell. And he used these skills outside campus. He served as Mary Robinson’s election agent when she ran, successfully for the Seanad in 1969 – she recalls his ‘business-like’ and ‘methodical’ energy. A few years later he ran for the Seanad himself, and as a senator for 13 years through the 1970s and early 1980s, he put significant effort into building good relations with Northern Unionists at a critical period; this was most important for cross-border relations.

Of course, one cannot mention Trevor without mentioning sport – even if we weren’t here to open a sports hall in his name! As a Trinity student he was an outstanding player on the first-eleven cricket team and he also played rugby and soccer. His interest in sport was life-long and he was as instrumental as anyone in safeguarding Trinity’s great sporting traditions.

He wrote a history of sport in Trinity called The Bold Collegians and he served as treasurer, then chairman, to the Dublin University Central Athletics Committee, which is the college’s governing body for sports clubs. In this capacity he achieved a huge amount. Just to mention three of his principle achievements:

- he fought for the planning and funding of the Sports Hall, which is a showcase building;

- he kick-started the Pavilion Bar, for which generations of students enjoying cold beers, watching cricket or rugby, must thank him; and

- he prevented building on the pitches in College Park. I don’t know if such a terrible thing would ever have
come to pass. I like to think others would have moved to stop it. But Trevor took the initiative and led the campaign to save College Park with characteristic energy and brio. Part of his legacy is that no-one now will ever suggest building on the pitches. They are preserved for eternity.

All of these interests and responsibilities – in maths, history, politics, sport, student life – meant that for decades he was among the best-known people around campus. Everybody knew him and he had such a warm and engaging personality that everyone wanted to be around him.

I know how much he gave to Trinity. To my amazement, I now learn how much he also gave to Cork and Midleton, and to the Church of Ireland. How did he have time? For most people, just one of the roles he took on himself would be enough.

Happily, his light was not hidden under a bushel. Throughout his life, Trevor was hugely appreciated by colleagues, students, friends, family, and associates, in Cork, Dublin and in Cambridge where he did his PhD. This means that while we miss him, there are no regrets. This man of huge potential and myriad talents, achieved his potential and nurtured his talents, and continued to grow and develop through his life and career.

In life he was rewarded by high office and the devotion of those who knew him. And within just a few years of his death, a sports scholarship was named for him in Trinity, as was the Irish Universities Cricket men’s intervarsity cup. His portrait hangs in the sports boardroom in Trinity where I’m told by the current head of sport in Trinity, Michelle Tanner that:

“it’s a constant reminder to all, of the one the best advocates for sport the University has seen. We like to think that he still looking after us!”

And now we open this Sports Hall in Midleton College. All these are tangible commemorations. Generations of students in Midleton and Trinity will know the name and achievements of Trevor West.

As I said at the beginning, this Sports Hall represents for me the on-going link between Trinity and Midleton College. Trevor always gave huge support to Midleton College students coming to Trinity and took great pride in their achievements.
In Trinity we are very attached to our college traditions and no-one was more attached to them than Trevor. He was proud of the tradition of Midleton College sending students to Trinity and we are also proud and protective of this link.

In the last chapter of his wonderful book on sport in Trinity, Trevor wrote shrewdly that (I quote)

“for most students and graduates the concept of a university is an amorphous one. Their loyalty develops rather to a club, or a society, to an eccentric professor, or to a coterie of friends.”

He might have been thinking of himself – he was club, society, professor and friend rolled into one! Through his way of being he inspired loyalty to Midleton and to Trinity. I know how happy he would be that his name and memory now inspire this link between his school and university.

Thank you.

* * *

(L to R) Dr Paul Colton, Bishop of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross; Mr & Mrs John West, Mrs Maura Lee West, Provost, Principal and School leadership.
Good afternoon,

Thank you for this opportunity to talk about Trinity’s capital development initiatives and our vision for Dublin.

When I say ‘vision for Dublin’, that is not simply me being grandiose. As you know Trinity College Dublin is a city-centre campus, and has been for the last 427 years since it was founded in 1592.

In fact, it’s most accurate to talk about the city growing up around Trinity because if you look at early maps, when Trinity was founded in 1592 on the site of an old priory, it was outside the main city walls – in fact the official name of the university is The College of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity near Dublin. Here it is on this map, right at the edge – the centre of the city then was Wood Quay.

As the city developed over the next few hundred years, Trinity began to take centre-stage, I think not by accident. It made sense for businesses and government to locate themselves near the university which was a showcase of architectural design, a centre of research.
and education and also, continuously since 1614, has elected members to parliament.

And today Trinity is expanding outwards from our core campus.

We have buildings and developments on Nassau Street, D'Olier Street, Foster's Place, Fenian Street, Westland Row, Custom House Quay, and all the way up Pearse Street to Grand Canal Dock. This map shows some our growth in the city centre, and outside the city centre we have Trinity medical centres in Tallaght and St James hospitals.

So when we talk about our vision for developing Trinity it is, de facto, a vision for Dublin.

This carries a responsibility, which we're very aware of:
  - There is an aesthetic responsibility – we need our city centre to be a beautiful place to live in and visit;
  - there is a conservation responsibility – Trinity owns a number of Georgian houses in the area, as well of course as our historic buildings on campus;
  - There’s social responsibility: we share the city centre with long-established local communities and businesses and it’s essential that they are happy with our plans;
  - And of course there’s the responsibility, which all capital developments now share, to be green, sustainable, and
energy-efficient. In Trinity we’re very aware of this responsibility because we do research into sustainability, and it’s intrinsic to our college mission that we implement our research findings, and also our students are particularly active in matters relating to sustainability.

These responsibilities co-exist with the prerogative to create buildings and spaces that enable us to educate, research, and innovate. The demands on universities only ever seem to expand. We are always in need of new space.

When we talk about our development plans and our vision for the university and for Dublin, we have to balance these needs and responsibilities, while finding resources against a background of falling state investment in higher education.

In Trinity we seem to be good at this because the past twenty years have been years of physical expansion that have included many greatly admired buildings like the Trinity Long Room Hub, the Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute and the Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation, which recently opened in a renovated Georgian house on Fenian Street.

* * *

With all this in mind, I’d like now to look at some of our capital development initiatives, those near completion and in the pipeline.

In just six months’ time, in March, we will celebrate the opening of the new Trinity Business School on Pearse Street, that will also
house Tangent – Trinity’s Ideas Workspace – and a 600-seat auditorium and a 200-seat café.

This will be the most exciting new Trinity building since the TBSI in 2011. It is going to raise the profile and opportunities of our Business School and it’s going to continue the transformation of that length of Pearse Street, already revamped thanks to Science Gallery and the Naughton Institute.

Here is what it will look like from Pearse Street:

And the next slide’s the view from the rugby pitch.

When it opens in March, the Business School will have taken just over five years to complete, from conception to launch. We’re happy with that timeframe and in the course of planning and building, we’ve developed ‘best practice’ which we’ll be using on current and future projects.

First, we started our consultation with the local community early. From the very start of the project, we invited representatives to meetings to discuss their priorities and red lines. I should stress that this relationship is not just project-based; it’s on-going. It’s not about us getting buy-in for our plans and then disappearing. Trinity gets involved in, and supports, local initiatives, and our staff and students are involved in various volunteering and community projects.
Second, we were clear from the outset that the Business School would need to be enabled by philanthropy. We started planning for the Business School in 2013 when, you’ll recall, Ireland was not yet out of recession. We knew we had to rely on alumni and friends to realise our ambition.

We were fortunate: they answered our call. We received €20 million in philanthropy for the Business School. This enabled us to leverage investment from the state and to raise loans for the further €60 million required.

This is now the model for our major capital development projects. We don’t expect our projects to rely solely on philanthropy. Donors do not, and should not, give money to replace exchequer money. They donate as part of a bigger investment plan.

In May this year we made the formal announcement of our plan to build E3, our institute for Engineering, Environment, and Emerging Technologies. This will be one of the first institutes, internationally, to integrate engineering, technology and the natural sciences, at scale, to address major challenges facing our planet including climate change, renewable energy, personalised data and sustainable manufacturing.

It will expand student numbers by 1,800 in the STEM disciplines. And it will harness new methods of learning and research at the
frontiers of disciplines to educate new kinds of engineers and scientists.

Like the Trinity Business School, E3 was made possible by philanthropy. A remarkable donation of €25 million from the Naughton family allowed us to get immediate government funding of a further €15 million.

E3 will be developed in two stages. In the first place, the E3 Learning Foundry will be built on campus as a showcase of new learning methods. It won’t have lecture theatres, but it will have collaborative student-managed learning spaces.

The E3 Learning Foundry will go up at the east end of the campus, replacing buildings that are past their sell-by date, so to speak. When it comes to our historic campus, new buildings have to replace old ones: there can be no question of encroaching on the remaining green spaces. Here is a slide showing the buildings that will be replaced.

Biochemistry Building and PC Huts, which will be demolished to make way for the E3 Learning Foundry

We hope to complete the E3 Learning Foundry within five years. The E3 Research Institute will then be developed as the lynchpin of a new Trinity Technology and Enterprise Campus, as part of a national project: the Grand Canal Innovation District.

You may have seen press coverage of our plans for the creation of this innovation district, in July of this year, when it was announced by the Taoiseach. Trinity is the leader in this project, partnering with government and other Dublin universities. Our vision for the
district draws on world-leading innovation districts in Boston and Amsterdam.

Innovation districts work by bringing together a critical mass of talent, finance, innovation and enterprise. Typically, they are located in a concentrated urban environment, close to a high-ranking university, and provide the proximity, density and scale of activities that are essential for international competitiveness. They are integrated in the local community, providing new employment and education opportunities, and are connected to local and cultural communities.

Grand Canal Dock is the natural home for an innovation district in Dublin because this is where multinationals, tech companies and start-ups are already located and of course it’s ten-minute walk from the existing Trinity campus. This slide shows the proximities that will enable the Innovation District.

This project has the potential to be as transformative for Ireland in technology and innovation, as the IFSC was for financial services. It constitutes Trinity's most transformative vision for Dublin since the foundation and development of our original campus in the 16th and 17th centuries.

* * *

The Grand Canal Innovation District is a stand-out vision. It’s important to think big and ambitious. Equally, however, it’s important to pay attention to detail and to constantly focus on improvements that have to be made, large and small.
It’s great we’re planning for the TTEC campus. But we also need to continue making our principle campus work as well for us as efficiently as possible. This means: renovating historic buildings, replacing buildings that no longer serve a purpose, and ensuring that we’re making good use of the spaces we have.

In terms of renovation, we are currently looking into ways to upgrade and renovate the oldest building on college, the Rubrics.

I’m sure you all recognise the Rubrics. It’s the oldest building on campus, one of the oldest in Dublin, built in 1700. As you can imagine, renovation will have to be very sensitive.

Here is an impression of how it might look

In terms of replacement, we recently demolished a building on Pearse Street, called Oisin House – which was rented out to government for years – and in its place we’re developing student residents.
We’re calling the new development ‘Printing House Square’. It will have place for 300 student rooms, a new Student Health Centre, and sports facilities. This will be the first new square built in college since Botany Bay.

And in terms of making better use of the spaces we have, this is the focus of the College’s new Estates Strategy, just agreed at Board.

It’s the nature of universities that we all tend to under-use our spaces and facilities. This has to do with the multitude of activities that go on in universities and the separation of disciplines into self-contained schools and departments.

Globally, the universities that manage their spaces most efficiently still only manage to use 50 percent of their space. Here is a slide showing the situation in UK universities — as you see Edinburgh does best;

Cambridge only manages to use 11 percent of its teaching spaces! The average is around 28%. In Trinity I’m afraid we are closer to Cambridge usage than Edinburgh’s.

So our priority is to manage our spaces better. The new Estates and Management Strategy is aimed at increasing efficiencies. This is a technology issue – we need a central linked-in system which tracks all the information college-wide on available spaces and on activities, class sizes and the rest.

But it’s also a communication issue – making staff and students aware of the alternate spaces available, getting them to think about matching space to activity and class-size, getting buy-in for increased efficiencies.
This ties into sustainability. The core of sustainability is about using resources as efficiently as possible – whether that be food, water, energy, or physical space. Leaving rooms or labs under-used is as negligent as wasting heat and light.

In February Trinity became the first university in Ireland to join the International Sustainable Campus Network, the ISCN. The 80+ members of the ISCN represent top-tier universities from over 30 countries around the world. It’s a global forum to support leading colleges, universities, and corporate campuses in the exchange of information, ideas, and best practices for achieving sustainable campus operations and integrating sustainability in research, teaching, innovation and outreach.

Trinity was able to join the ISCN because our third annual Sustainability Report in 2017 could point to significant gains made in recent years in sustainability goals, including a decrease in paper use by 50 percent since 2011, a reduction in water consumption of 41% since 2010 and a 26 percent improvement on energy efficiency since 2008.

This slide depicts the three principles of ISCN. As you see, sustainable buildings are a top principle. All our new builds will of course be energy-efficient. It’s more difficult to achieve sustainability with our historic buildings, but we are looking at ways to make improvements.

Principle 2 includes more efficient use of our existing spaces – the theme of our Estates and Management Strategy.

Principle 3 is where great ambition lies. Can we put our research at the service of our sustainability goals? And Principle 3 also emphasizes sustainability as an integrated activity across the whole college community.

This is very much the case in Trinity. Many of our most ground-breaking sustainability initiatives are student-led, including the divestment from fossil fuels campaign and the recent decision to
end single-use plastic on campus. This decision will impact the physical appearance of the campus – we are will be putting in place more water fountains for people to refill their reusable water bottles from.

A sustainable campus is something staff and students are working towards together.

This community model, so to speak, is what works on campus and will work for our second campus. By working with partners who share the city centre with us, we can achieve a remarkable vision for Trinity and Dublin.

Thank you
Good morning,

Thank you for inviting me. Thanks and congratulations to IBEC hosting this vital event. And, of course, to Professor Karen Maex for her presentation, explaining how universities can be positioned for successful innovation.

We all feel urgency around this question of Irish innovation. Let me talk about where we, in Trinity, see the most urgency.

It’s not just a question of getting more investment into the system, although obviously that’s crucial and Trinity supports increasing investment in R&D from 1.4 percent to 2.5 percent of GNP.

But increasing investment will not in itself be enough. What’s important is what we do with the investment and how we balance fundamental research with industry-driven research. This is the only way to future-proof Ireland’s innovation system.

Currently in Ireland we’re funding projects with high TRL* levels. There is not sufficient money going into low TRL from the Irish state.

This is very bad news for Irish universities and for Irish innovation.

High TRL is important of course. Research needs to be taken to the market. But this is hardly a neglected area: industry does high TRL as a matter of course.

Low TRL fundamental research, on the other hand, can only really be done by universities. Fundamental research requires labs and libraries, intense curiosity sustained by researchers working on one

* Technology Readiness Level (0 = most basic and 9 = most industrial)
topic over many years; it requires critical thinking, creativity, and the stimulation of inspiring colleagues embarked on a similar voyage of discovery.

Fundamental research is how universities – and countries - build their reputation. For example, in its early days, SFI funded a lot of fundamental research and it was through this that academic stars like Luke O’Neill and Johnny Coleman in Trinity were able to make the scientific breakthroughs that led to their successful tech transfer. It’s similar in other universities.

That’s the direction it should go in – from fundamental to applied. This is a well-recognised phenomenon. Economists like Mariana Mazzucato and Ha-Joon Chang have demonstrated beyond any doubt that the stand-out innovations of the past three decades – including GPS, touch-screen and search algorithms – all originated from public funding of fundamental research.

Entrepreneurs like Steve Jobs, Larry Page and Sergey Brin subsequently harnessed these discoveries into products and services, but it started with fundamental research.

The truth is that if universities don’t do this kind of research, they will become less and less relevant for industry – we will become less relevant both in terms of our I.P. and in terms of the talent we educate.

Whatever about its short-term prerogatives, ultimately industry is well aware that creativity and discovery only enter the system through fundamental research.

And it’s through fundamental curiosity-driven research that you train and attract talent. Gifted, adventurous people are attracted to discovery and they seek the training that comes with fundamental research.

The inconvenient truth is that Ireland is allowing fundamental research to go out of our system and this means that we are opting out of world science.

We have the talent to compete globally in fundamental research. Look at how strongly Trinity performs with European Research Council grants. And the Irish Research Council – the IRC – also funds fundamental research across diverse fields. But we need the national funder for science to send out the message that we are serious about fundamental scientific research.
As most of you know, in July, Trinity, in partnership with government and Dublin’s other universities, launched the plan for the creation of an innovation district, centred on a new Trinity campus at Grand Canal Quay.

Successful Innovation Districts work by bringing together a critical mass of talent, finance, innovation and enterprise. And what Innovation Districts all have in common is a world-class university at the heart. What the university brings to the mix is, above all, fundamental research.
The Grand Canal Innovation District is not going to work if Trinity and the other Dublin universities do not have the capacity to do fundamental research. Without fundamental research the innovation system will wither and die.

Let me end by quoting Nobel Prize winner, Jim Heath, named one of the world’s top seven innovators by *Forbes* magazine. I recall when he came to Ireland a few years ago – he was on the board of CRANN. He had a very clear message for this country: “Do the science that supports the economy but also the science that is able to surprise.”

Thank you.

*   *   *
Provost Patrick Prendergast (Right) with Prof Karen Maex, Rector of the University of Amsterdam, who was keynote speaker at the symposium.
Your Excellency, Colleagues, Distinguished Guests,

On behalf of the university, welcome, everyone, to the Paccar Theatre in the Science Gallery for this important conference.

Trinity is delighted to be collaborating with the Czech embassy in Ireland for this event. We enjoy many collaborations with embassies across the university, but today’s summit is, I think, one of our largest and most ambitious. That reflects the issues at stake here – the importance of water and energy – as well as our confidence in the potential for partnership between Irish and Czech companies and researchers.

Let me say a word now about innovation because that is very much the theme of this conference, and of course it’s the mission of the university: research-driven innovation is what we do.

Last year Trinity won €100.6 million euro in research funding – which was significantly more than any other Irish university, and puts us in the top league of European universities.

We are good at translating our research into innovative products and services. A fifth of all Irish spin-out companies come from Trinity and our researchers interact with over 400 industry partners annually, ranging from multinationals to indigenous start-ups.

To put it in figures: the past four years have seen 17 spinout campus companies, 112 licence agreements, 91 patents, 286 Invention disclosures, and over 450 collaborative agreements with industry.

Our success with innovation is very much the result of proactive initiatives to enable knowledge transfer and encourage an entrepreneurial mindset in staff and students.

Our position is that everything starts with fundamental research – that’s how you make ground-breaking discoveries. Partnership with industry enables commercialisation and tech transfer. And educating in innovation and entrepreneurship gets students
thinking, from their earliest college years, about how to turn their ideas and discoveries into something concrete.

* * *Interdisciplinary Research Strengths, E3* * *

Trinity is a multidisciplinary university and that’s intrinsic to how we innovate. Within the university, we have certain core strengths.

Our Engineering School was founded in 1842, making it one of the oldest in the world. Today the strength of the Engineering School lies also in its connections to other disciplines. Many of our interdisciplinary centres and institutes have an engineering focus – including our centres for bioengineering, creative technologies, nanoscience and telecommunications.

Natural Sciences is also a particular strength of the university, showcased in our Centres for Biodiversity and for Smart and Sustainable Cities.

This year the potential for interdisciplinary research took a quantum leap in Trinity when we made the formal announcement, in May, of our plan to build E3, our institute for Engineering, Environment, and Emerging Technologies, which will bring together engineers, natural scientists and computer scientists to address major challenges facing our planet, including climate change, renewable energy, water, personalised data and sustainable manufacturing.

E3 was made possible thanks to the remarkable donation of €25 million from the Naughton family. Martin Naughton, the founder of Glen Dimplex, is himself an engineer, and he saw immediately the importance and potential of E3 – not just for Ireland, but globally.

E3 will be developed in two stages. In the first place, the E3 Learning Foundry will be built on campus over the next few years. The E3 Research Institute will then be developed as the lynchpin of a new Trinity Technology and Enterprise Campus, as part of a national project: the Grand Canal Innovation District, which was announced in July. This will be developed up not far from here on Grand Canal Quay.

E3 has obvious relevance for this summit. With today’s event we want to put focus on finding solutions for the engineering and environment sector, specifically water and waste water management. We want to enable researchers to gain industrial insights and to facilitate partnerships between Irish and Czech companies in this sphere.
I congratulate and thank the organisers of today’s summit. From the Czech Embassy:
- His Excellency, Petr Kynstetr, and Eoin Brennan from the Trade Development Executive, and from Trinity:
- Dr Chris Keely and Dr Juan Valverde.

On the specific challenges facing Ireland and our water infrastructure and wastewater management, I won’t go into detail because Gerry Galvin who is the CTO of Irish Water is speaking later this morning and he will give a much better overview than I can. I will just note that the issue is urgent.

The European Commission has confirmed that it plans to take Ireland to the European Court of Justice for its failure to adequately manage its urban waste water. Ireland will have to improve rapidly and we should take the opportunity to implement the latest in technologies and engineering design. The whole system needs an overhaul. It would be a mistake not to do something large for which future generations will thank us.

In Trinity we want to be part of finding solutions to this national challenge. And we also think globally. Water and energy supply and management is one of the largest challenges facing the planet. One could become despondent at the scale of the challenge. The proof against despondency is research.

We are living in a period of environmental challenge, bordering on disaster, of that there is no doubt. But we are also living a period of unprecedented technological breakthrough. The goal must be to harness and grow our knowledge in the search for balanced solutions for a better world. E3 is part of this.

Academics, researchers and entrepreneurs all alike in relishing challenge. In the teeth of urgency, they become focussed. I have faith in the academic and business communities that they will see opportunity in this challenge. I am glad that Trinity will help provide the framework for academic-industry collaboration.

Solutions to global issues require international partnerships so I welcome, of course, Czech-Irish collaborations in this sphere.

As an encouraging sign for future fruitful partnerships, I note that Trinity’s Zoology Museum has at least fifteen specimen from the great Czech naturalist, Václav Frič. These were probably acquired in the mid-19th century. They include some stunning Bohemia crystal reproductions of jelly fish from the Blaschka glassworks. It seems
particularly apposite that one of the college’s principle connections to the Czech Republic should be in the field of natural science.

I will just conclude now by emphasising the point I made yesterday at a roundtable discussion, organised by IBEC, on the future of Ireland’s innovation system.

What I said yesterday, I repeat today: if we want ground-breaking innovation, we must invest in fundamental research, also called basic or frontier research.

If universities don’t do fundamental research, we will become less and less relevant for industry – both in terms of our I.P. and in terms of the talent we educate.

When it comes to solving environmental challenges, this couldn’t be more important. We need to re-think our whole approach to the environment and that means investing in researchers to make radical breakthroughs. It is not a question of either/or applied or fundamental research. Both are necessary and funding bodies must focus on both.

Thank you.

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(L to R) Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Ireland. H.E. Petr Kynštetr (Centre), and the Provost Patrick Prendergast (Right)
25 September 2018

Rooney Prize for Irish Literature 2018

Provost’s House, Trinity College

Good evening,

And welcome, everyone, to the Provost’s House in Trinity College Dublin for this great annual event: the awarding of the Rooney Prize to a new emerging Irish literary talent.

This year – like most years – has been a good year for Irish literature. An Irish author, Mike McCormack, won the IMPAC, the world’s most lucrative literary award – he is also, as it happens a former Rooney Prize winner. And three Irish writers were long-listed for the Booker Prize; one of them made the shortlist, and one of the ones who didn’t, Sally Rooney, was the bookie’s favourite, based on sales and reviews.

And another Irish author, Mark O’Connell – also, like Sally Rooney, a Trinity graduate - won this year’s Wellcome Prize, which is for literary works that illuminate health and medicine.

So Irish authors are featuring strongly on international awards and in international sales. This is, as I say, nothing unusual. The rude health of Irish literature is a constant source of national pride. It gives a sense of achievement and confidence to the whole country, including to those of us not directly engaged in literature.

Speaking for myself I know the pleasure that writers like Joyce and Michael Hartnett have given me. And I know the bond created when you meet people abroad and they talk enthusiastically of Emma Donoghue or Edna O’Brien or Seamus Heaney or Colm Toibin.

If Ireland has made a strong global impact for such a small and underpopulated country, then this is greatly – perhaps principally - due to our writers. Dublin was the fourth city to be made a UNESCO city of literature and it’s not hard to see why.

Irish writers keep the flame of the tradition alive in this country and they ignite the flame around the world, inspiring other writers and readers of very different background. Because of this, Ireland is a literary and imagined place, as well as a physical and geographical one. Without our writers, we could not I think understand
ourselves, nor could we inspire others with a sense of ourselves. Without our writers, this is not Ireland.

All of which is by way of saying that whether you prefer to speak in terms of a national industry or a cultural necessity, it’s essential to safeguard and strengthen Irish literature. And this is what – for 42 years and counting – the Rooney Prize has done.

The Prize was established in 1976 by Daniel Milton Rooney, former chairman of the Pittsburgh Steelers, US Ambassador to Ireland, and co-founder of the Ireland Funds – a remarkable owner-manager of a legendary American Football team, a philanthropist and benefactor of the arts, and a true friend to this country.

The Prize is exceptional among literary awards for its longevity – the same Prize with the same name and the same benefaction for over four decades – and for its ability to spot talent: Neil Jordan, Frank McGuinness, Anne Enright, Colum McCann, Claire Keegan, Nick Laird, Kevin Barry, Mike McCormack, Colin Barrett and Sara Baume are just some of the past winners.

It’s a question I ask every year whether the Prize creates such winners or the wealth of talent in Ireland enables such a talent-spotting Prize? I guess it’s a bit of both. When you have ability in a particular area, it makes sense to build on it – to incentivise, reward, and create a stir. This is something Dan Rooney understood in sport, and in the arts.

The Rooney Prize is indelibly associated with its founders and we’re so delighted that, following the sad death of Dan Rooney in April of last year, his nephew, Peter Rooney, has now taken over as benefactor of the Prize.

Peter is a Dublin resident and he frequently accompanied Dan and Patricia to this annual prize-giving, so he is already a friend to the College and to the Prize. We are delighted to welcome him and his husband, John Curran, here tonight. We thank them, on behalf of the arts in this country, for their generous support and their enthusiastic commitment.

* * *

For over a decade now, the Prize has been administered by the Oscar Wilde Centre for Irish Writing, of the School of English, here in Trinity. It’s a tremendous honour for the university to manage and administer this prestigious prize.
A prize is only as good as its judges. The Oscar Wilde Centre takes particular care in choosing the judging committee, drawing from within the School of English and outside the university. The chair of the Rooney Prize Committee is Jonathan Williams, who is a literary agent and editor. He is joined by:

- Eiléan Ni Chuilleanáin, poet, critic and Fellow Emeritus of Trinity College;
- Éilís Dhuibhne, novelist, dramatist and lecturer in creative writing in UCD;
- Carlo Gébler, novelist and playwright;
- Riana O’Dwyer, senior lecturer in English at NUI Galway; and
- Rosie Lavan, assistant professor of Irish Writing in our School of English and Literary Arts Officer.

On behalf of the university, and indeed of literature lovers everywhere, I thank the Committee for the work they have put into this Prize. The Oscar Wilde Centre and Trinity’s School of English include among its staff and graduates significant names in literature. In this year’s QS rankings, the School was ranked 28th in the world – that’s up four places from previous years. We are very proud of our School of English and its role in releasing the creative potential of future writers and supporting the practice of literature in Ireland and the world.

Earlier this year we formally opened the new Trinity Centre for Literature and Cultural Translation in a beautiful renovated Georgian house at 36 Fenian Street. The Centre greatly strengthens Trinity’s commitment to, and our investment in, literature. It is part of our drive to help create and support a flourishing literary ecosystem which we see as essential for Dublin and Ireland.

‘A flourishing literary ecosystem’ means supporting independent publishing presses and literary journals; establishing excellent creative writing courses; enabling translation; providing writers’ bursaries and retreats - and founding literary prizes that become markers of talent.

We thank Peter Rooney for putting confidence in the Oscar Wilde Centre to manage this truly extraordinary Prize.
And now I’d like to invite committee member Rosie Lavin to announce the winner of the 2018 Rooney Prize for Literature in this, the forty-second year of the Prize.

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(L to R) Provost Patrick Prendergast, Caitriona Lally (winner of the Rooney Prize), & Dr Peter Rooney
27 September 2018

Launch of Tangent Programme of Events

Regent House, Trinity College

Good evening,

And welcome everyone to the Regent House. Today we launch Tangent’s programme of events for this academic year. Tangent, Trinity’s Ideas Workspace, is an exciting new initiative for the college, supported by the Bank of Ireland, that will provide:

- cutting-edge innovation and entrepreneurship education;
- start-up company acceleration programmes;
- innovation and entrepreneurship community events; and
- supports for fledgling to mature entrepreneurs all across Ireland and beyond.

Tangent brings together all Trinity’s existing programmes and initiatives including LaunchBox, Blackstone LaunchPad, the EIT Knowledge Innovation Communities, the Innovation Academy, and the Women who Wow mentorship programme, and it initiates new ventures such as Trinity Pioneers.

Diarmuid, speaking after me, will tell you more about Tangent and the calendar of events for this academic year. I’d like to say a few words about innovation and entrepreneurship across the university.

I think for most of you, I don’t need to elaborate on Trinity’s success in innovation and entrepreneurship. You know that we generate a fifth of all Irish spin-out companies and that we are first in Europe for educating entrepreneurs.

To put it in figures:

- our graduates have generated 180 companies over the past ten years, raising $2,166 million dollars; and
- Trinity campus companies have created €1.3Bn in exports, raised €600M in venture funding, and enabled 3,500 jobs over the past two decades.

This success didn’t just happen. It’s the result of having put in place proactive and visionary initiatives to release the entrepreneurial potential of staff and students, facilitate tech transfer. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved in this.
There are too many to name individually – going back to the days of the Technology Transfer Office, through LaunchBox, up to Tangent and our long partnership with Bank of Ireland, so many brilliant people from within and outside the university have created the right environment for campus innovation and entrepreneurship.

* * *

Our success with innovation and entrepreneurship is of course inextricable from our success in research.

Last year Trinity won €100.6 million euro in research funding. Four years ago, that figure was €74 million – and even then it was by far the highest of any Irish university.

In terms of winning ERC grants per academic staff, Trinity is fourth among LERU members – just behind Cambridge, Oxford and Imperial College London.

This bedrock of success in research comes out of, and feeds back into, exceptional education, and it inspires exceptional innovation.

As I wrote in an Op Ed which appeared in the Irish Times three days ago, it’s vital that we create a balanced research environment that includes fundamental and applied research. It’s up to universities to do the fundamental research that leads to ground-breaking discoveries; this is part of our relevance to industry. In Trinity we seek to do the research that is good for the economy and the research that surprises, discoveries that amaze and inspire us, that’s what universities are about.

It’s their awareness of being part of a great enterprise of discovery that inspires our undergraduates to incubate and act on their ideas. If our graduates are the most entrepreneurial in Europe, it’s because they are coming out of culture where discovery counts, where research and ideas have proven impact.

There is a long tradition of this. In previous generations we didn’t talk about innovation, and of course the opportunities to commercialise research, which we have now, didn’t exist.

But I was thinking recently about Mary Robinson’s and David Norris’s extraordinary activism in the 1970s for women, gay and minority rights. That was what we might now call social entrepreneurship. Mary, David and their fellow activists are, I think, the forbearers of the student social enterprises that we are so proud of: FoodCloud, Fumi, Greener Globe, and Change Directions to name just a few incubated through LaunchBox.
We are proud of the college’s tradition of research, scholarship and activism that is the bedrock of innovation. And we are proud and excited that through Tangent we will be able to scale up all our activities.

Tangent will be co-located with the new Trinity Business School which will open next year on Pearse Street. The new space is being specifically designed to foster creativity, with flexible workspaces and event space enabling co-working. Tangent will provide an interface between Trinity and the bustling innovation ecosystem on our doorstep, with a view to establishing Ireland as a thriving and mature start-up ecosystem. I hope to see you all at the official opening next May.

Thank you.

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(L to R) Provost Patrick Prendergast, Lizzy Hayashida (Change Donations), Tommy Torrades (Sea Punk), Dr Diarmuid O’Brien (Chief Innovation and Enterprise Officer)
Minister*, Naughton family, Naughton Scholars, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good afternoon,

And welcome to the Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute for this great occasion: the presentation of awards to the Naughton scholars 2018.

Today we recognise the ambition and talent of students in science, technology, engineering and maths – the STEM subjects. We celebrate the increased focus, across the country, on these disciplines, which are so important to innovation and to creating a thriving Irish economy. And we celebrate the Naughton family’s great contribution to education and research, and to making a difference to the lives of individuals, and to make a difference to growth and competitiveness in our country.

The award of a Naughton Scholarship is a great achievement for student personally; it’s also a great achievement for their parents and schools who have nurtured such ability. And it’s great for the whole country to be incubating such talent.

In just a few years these students will be in a position to contribute to society through research, employment.

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The Naughton scholarships were established over a decade ago and they continue to serve the purpose for which they were devised. From the start, they were a creative solution to a dual challenge.

In the first place, there’s the challenge of insufficient numbers of applicants coming forward to study or work in the STEM subjects.

This was an issue in 2008. It’s still an issue in 2018 because Ireland now has a strong and growing innovation ecosystem, with a good mix of multinationals and indigenous start-ups. But for this to

* Minister Richard Bruton, Minister for Education and Skills
really take off, we need an increase in STEM graduates who can seize and create opportunities.

The second challenge that these Scholarships address is the cost of studying at third level. In 2008 when the Naughton scholarships were founded, costs were high. Today they are higher still. Housing costs are a particular issue.

The solution the Naughton family came up for these dual challenges was to provide scholarships for exceptional students to study science, engineering, mathematics or computer science at the Irish third-level institution of their choice.

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The Naughton scholarships are a community initiative in the best sense—they affect not only the lives of individual students but all those who helped them achieve their success: parents and guardians, teachers, schools, neighbourhoods, regions.

The Naughton Foundation presents the students’ schools with a prize of €1,000 towards the school’s science facilities. More than 160 schools have benefited from this to date, with some schools being awarded more than once.

And I understand that this year sees the Naughton Foundation invest further in STEM classes for Primary Schools, with an initiative called ‘Science in a Box’.

This support for schools shows the depth and reach of the programme, and how securely it is now embedded in communities around the country.

* * *

The whole Naughton family is involved in the scholarship programme. We are delighted to see them here today. That this is a family initiative gives special heart and value to these scholarships.

Speaking of the Naughtons’ support for STEM education and research in Ireland, I must just mention their remarkable support for a ground-breaking initiative here in Trinity which we announced this year.

The Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies E3 Institute, will bring together engineers, natural scientists and computer scientists to address major challenges facing our planet.
including climate change, renewable energy, personalised data and sustainable manufacturing.

E3 has been made possible thanks to the remarkable donation of €25 million from the Naughton family, together with €15 million from the state.

E3 will be a game changer in terms of how we educate and research in STEM disciplines. It will be developed in two stages. In the first place, the E3 Learning Foundry will be built on campus, creating 1,800 new places for students in the STEM disciplines with a new approach to STEM education – which will be transformative in terms of content, with more focus on the challenges of sustaining the earth’s resources, and in terms of methods and teaching techniques.

With E3, students will develop transversal skills through working on multidisciplinary projects in collaborative, student-managed, learning spaces.

E3 will be transformative for Dublin and Ireland, helping to make this country a leader in innovation, particularly around the sustainability challenges which are so vital for the wellbeing of the planet.

I hope that Naughton students who are now entering their undergraduate years will, in time, engage with E3, perhaps as PhD or post-docs.

E3, like the scholarships, is an exemplar of the Naughton family’s commitment to Ireland, to making this country a hub of innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship.

Ireland needs ambitious people who are prepared to push themselves and go the extra mile. Ambitious people need to be incentivised and given opportunities. This is what the scholarships do, and what E3 will do.

I congratulate our new 2018 Naughton scholars. You have been singled out to receive these scholarships as reward for your excellence and ambition. You are now getting the best possible start to university life. You will of course have a dream for your career and your life. Having been given such a start, it’s now your responsibility to hold on to that dream and pursue it tenaciously.

We will help you all we can.
In your turn, during what I hope will be long and successful careers, I can wish you nothing better than that you, like the Naughtons, will help others.

Thank you.

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Provo's 4th Week Reception for leaders of Trinity Clubs & Societies

Foyer of the Provost's House, Trinity College

Good afternoon, and welcome everybody,

And thank you for coming here today and giving me the opportunity to meet you, the captains, presidents and chairs of Trinity's 170 clubs and societies. I'm delighted to be meeting you now, at the beginning of your tenures.

You will, I hope, enjoy a really productive year leading your club or society. If there's anything the college can do to help or facilitate, then please do let us know. The Dean of Students, Professor Kevin O'Kelly and the Head of Sport and Recreation, Michelle Tanner, both here now, are always ready to help with any concerns or queries.

It's important for me, as Provost, to meet you all. Trinity is a community of staff, students and alumni; and the education we offer encompasses teaching, research, and co-curricular activities.

I prefer to talk about 'co-curricular' rather than 'extra-curricular’ because it gets across that student activities outside the lecture-room, the laboratory, and the library, are intrinsic to the Trinity Education.

You will, I hope, have heard quite a bit about the Trinity Education, and the Trinity Education Project, over the past year or so because the college is currently in the middle of the very significant renewal of our undergraduate education.

The Trinity Education Project is about giving students the best preparation possible for successful 21st century lives and careers. Globally, we are in a period of transformational change and today's students will likely go on to have a number of careers, travel and live in different cities and countries, whilst constantly updating their skills to keep on top of rapid patterns of change in technology and in work practices.

And with the rise, globally, of political upheaval, social inequality and environmental problems, our graduates will also need to think
about what responsible citizenship entails and how they can contribute to the creation of sustainable and equitable societies.

With the Trinity Education Project, we started by identifying what attributes graduates will need to be successful and useful in a changing world. We focused on attributes rather than skills because skills are specific to the discipline studied and as educators, we want to imbue our students not just with the skills to get a first job, but with the right mindset for career and life success.

The Trinity Graduate Attributes which we agreed on are:

- to think independently;
- to communicate effectively,
- to develop continuously and
- to act responsibly.

Clubs and societies and all co-curricular activities, are absolutely central to developing the graduate attributes and, therefore, to preparing students for flexible, adaptive, responsible 21st century lives and careers.

I don’t think I need to spell out the ways in which participation in clubs and societies contribute towards thinking independently, communicating effectively, developing continuously and acting responsibly. It will be very clear to you what you gain from your clubs and societies – things like social skills, health and fitness, event management, volunteering, public speaking, fundraising, entrepreneurship, leadership and everything else that makes life at once more enjoyable and more navigable.

This is why employers always specify that they’re looking to hire people who have developed a capacity for responsibility and initiative through participation in clubs and societies.

Without clubs and societies we would be unable to deliver the Trinity Education nor to embed the graduate attributes. So this is my opportunity to thank you all for enabling the clubs and societies. They could not happen without DUCAC and CSC and without you, the captains, presidents and chairs. Because of your initiative and enthusiasm, thousands of students benefit and develop skills and attributes which are indispensable to happiness and success.

The centrality of clubs and societies to the Trinity Education is evident on arrival to university, when Front Square is alive with colour and activity for Freshers’ Week, and it’s evident long after
you graduate. When you look back on your university days, I know that what will loom large is the co-curricular.

For me, my student days mean the Karate Club as much as the labs and lectures – there is plenty of opportunity to be excellent at both curricular and co-curricular activities.

Many alumni remain connected with the College via the clubs and societies that they joined as students. You may have benefitted yourselves from alumni help with event organisation and mentoring. That’s a wonderful thing. The college regards its relationship with graduates as lifelong and we recognise that this relationship is sustained very frequently through clubs and societies. This year I went to Henley and joined graduates form the 1960s onwards for the boat races.

Every year, Trinity clubs and societies do us proud. For instance, this past academic year:

a. the Association Football men’s team won the freshers’ competition, the Harding Cup, for the first time in over 20 years;

b. Trinity VDP or Vincent de Paul had a stand-out year developing links with Friends of the Elderly, establishing a Teen Club for young children and a second branch of Trinity Club for adults with intellectual disabilities; reflecting this, the VDP president won the Legacy Award at this year’s Dean’s roll of Honour

c. DULBC, the ladies boat club Senior 8 team won at both Colours and the Trinity Regatta, while

d. DUBC, the men’s boat club Senior 8, has been on a winning streak this season, with victories at Erne, Colours, Neptune, Commercial, University Championships and Trinity Regatta.

e. The Meditation society took home the “Most improved” award in 2018, a reflection of its growing membership and its creative scheduling of events such as outdoor meditation session;

f. Women’s Volleyball earned promotion to the premier national league, while our fresher hurlers won both the league and the championship for the second year in a row;

g. The Hist had a wide range of speakers ranging from US civil rights activist Rev. Al Sharpton to author Jung Chang, and it’s now preparing for its 250th anniversary in 2020.
This is just a sample of outstanding achievement by Trinity clubs and societies this year; I’m sorry I don’t have time to mention more. We are delighted when clubs and societies are recognised for achievement and, of course, competitiveness is always a great spur; equally we know that it is in the day-to-day events and bonding that our clubs and societies really show their worth.

Clubs and societies are a cornerstone of what we are about as a university. It is your talent, energy, and ingenuity which keeps these clubs and societies so dynamic and popular.

To run a successful club or society requires drive, imagination, energy, enthusiasm, and sheer hard work. Leadership is always challenging, no matter the scale of the organisation. As leaders you have to listen to the needs of individuals and do what’s best for them, but always keeping in mind what’s best for the organisation as a whole.

You have to grow membership, which means marketing and promotion; you have to liaise with alumni and fundraise; you have to motivate and encourage active participation against the competing aims of people’s studies and social lives; you have to think up initiatives that are new and compelling; you have to place people in positions that will unleash their potential. It’s a challenging role, but of course, when it all goes right, a deeply rewarding one.

By stepping up, by putting yourselves forward as captains and presidents, you are showing character and initiative. You are laying the groundwork for successful lives and careers. And you are already ‘giving something back’ to your fellow students.

I thank you and I congratulate you. With this important experience of leadership already to your credit, I hope and believe that in college, and afterwards, you will demonstrate, in everything you do, the Trinity attributes: thinking independently, communicating effectively, developing continuously, and acting responsibly.

Thank you.

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The Provost and the Dean of Students (Dr Kevin O’Kelly) with leaders of student clubs and societies

The reception ongoing in the ground floor (the Saloon was undergoing redecoration in Michaelmas Term 2018)
Speech at the reception for new Trinity MRIAs

Saloon, Provost’s House, Trinity College

Good evening everyone,

And welcome to the Provost’s House.

On 25th May this year, twenty-eight new members were admitted to the Royal Irish Academy, including four Trinity professors:

• Alan Kramer,
• Graeme Watson,
• Padraig Carmody, and
• Balz Kamber.

This year is the 233rd anniversary of the Royal Irish Academy — Ireland’s leading body of experts in the sciences and humanities. Since the foundation of the Academy in 1785, membership of the RIA has been highest academic honour in Ireland. The right to place ‘MRIA’ after your name is not given out lightly. Membership is by election only and the process is rigorous and peer-reviewed. Only those involved in internationally recognised excellence are accorded this honour.

Members assist the Academy in its work by serving on its various committees and working groups, by representing the Academy nationally and internationally, and by giving of their expertise to help promote awareness of how the sciences and the humanities enrich our lives and benefit society.

The Academy has just 591 members, of whom 87 are honorary or overseas members.

These honorary members include the Nobel laureate, Professor William C Campbell, and the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Louise Richardson, both Trinity graduates. And this year another Trinity graduate was elected an honorary member, Eavan Boland. She is one of Ireland’s most remarkable and best-known poets, and is also a renowned critic. She is currently a professor at Stanford University. We are sorry she could not join us this evening. We are extremely proud of her achievements.

We are delighted to welcome the President of the RIA here this evening, Peter Kennedy is professor of Microelectronic Engineering
in UCD, and was elected President of the RIA last year. Thank you for being here to share with us in honouring the new Trinity MRIAs.

Alan, Graeme, Pádraig and Balz join many other Trinity MRIAs here with us here this evening. A university in Ireland may be measured by the number of its MRIAs, and Trinity is proud to have so many. May I mention in particular Anna Davies, Professor of Geography, Environment and Society who was made MRIA last year, and whom I would also like to recognise in this evening’s event since we did not hold a reception for her last year.

Membership of the Academy is not an end-of-career honorific. Neither is it an encouragement for brilliant promise. It’s awarded to people who have already proven themselves and achieved renown, but are expected to go on and achieve more. Members of the RIA do not rest on their laurels, as can be seen from a glance round the room this evening. Our newest Academy Members are in the great tradition:

Alan Kramer is Professor of European History. He conducts research on the First World War and the cultural history of violence. He is currently working on an international project on ‘fascist warfare’ and a monograph on the global history of concentration camps. He is a recipient of the internationally prestigious Fraenkel Prize in Contemporary History and a fellow – and research prize-winner — of the Humboldt Foundation.

Graeme Watson is Professor of Theoretical Chemistry. A member of CRANN, the Trinity College Dublin-based Institute for Materials Science, he develops and applies computational models to material science problems, including energy generation and storage (such as photovoltaics and fuel cells) and environmental catalysis.

Pádraig Carmody is Professor in Geography and Head of Geography. He has published extensively on African development and has received, or been the lead on, successful grants from various agencies, such as the MacArthur Foundation. He is former editor-in-chief of Geoforum and received the 2018 Kwadwo Konadu-Agyemang Distinguished Scholar Award in African Geography, Africa Specialty Group, from the Association of American Geographers.

Balz Kamber is Professor of Geology & Mineralogy. His research interests range from reconstruction of the geology of the very early Earth to present-day geological processes; from fundamental questions to applied problems of societal relevance; and from the development of new and enhanced analytical methods to modelling. Unfortunately Professor Kamber could not join us this evening.
Anna Davies is Professor of Geography, Environment & Society. Her research examines socio-political and spatial aspects of environmental policy making, including focus on issues related to environmental governance. She is on the steering committee for the Trinity Centre for Future Cities and advises the Irish Government as a member of the National Climate Change Council and the Citizen’s Assembly on Climate Change.

* * *

These new members of the Academy have achieved exceptionally in research and education. Their success is of course individual to each of them but it’s also something that enhances the university as a whole and that we all take pride in. Our new MRIAs hail from four departments, three schools and two faculties; they well demonstrate the strength of Trinity’s multidisciplinarity.

The RIA is an exceptional national academy which combines vital research projects with empowering public engagement. It’s difficult, for instance, to conceive of the current Decade of Commemorations without the RIA’s schedule of high-profile events – this included the publication of Tomás Irish’s book on Trinity in War and Revolution.

To be a member of the RIA is to embody the dual tradition of scholarship and public engagement. In Trinity we recognise the importance of participating in and contributing to the work of the Academy and to raising of the profile of research and scholarship in the country.

Our new MRIAs join a community of exceptional scholars in Ireland and overseas. Their research, scholarship and advocacy enhances this community, to the benefit of all. May I ask you to join me in congratulating them and wishing them well for the future.

Thank you.

* * *
Dr Padraig Carmody, Prof Anna Davies, Pro M.P. Kennedy (President, Royal Irish Academy), Prof Graeme Watson, Provost Patrick Prendergast, and Prof Alan Kramer
Good evening, and welcome,

We have arrived again at this important time, early in the new academic year, when we welcome in our new Fellows to the Trinity community.

Traditionally the names of the new Fellows are read out from the steps of the Public Theatre, on Trinity Monday. Then, at this dinner we welcome each new Fellow by name, position, and research specialisation. This is our opportunity to welcome the new Fellows collectively and to get a sense of the distinction each one brings to the College.

As you know, Trinity was founded as a corporation consisting of the Provost, Fellows and Scholars. The singular dignity of Fellowship is as old as the College itself.

Fellows are elected by other Fellows on the basis of scholarly work of international standing, and once elected, they have a central role in the governance of the College. To our Fellows falls the great task of moulding the College’s distinctive traditions in each new generation.

The first three Fellows elected in 1592 were theologians. Over the following centuries, the number and diversity of Fellows increased - as scholarship in Trinity became ever more rich, varied, versatile, and international. From the small, distinctive 17th century college of Irish and British male theologians, Trinity is now a large, global, multidisciplinary university.

Tonight we recognise fourteen new Fellows, and two new Professorial Fellows. That’s high number of new Fellows, four more than last year and it’s a measure of the exceptionally high level of research and scholarship being done here in Trinity.

Yesterday we paid tribute to the four new Trinity MRIAs elected this year to the Royal Irish Academy, again a high number. And at my address to the Provost’s Council in August, I drew attention to Trinity’s remarkable research success.
Last year Trinity won €100.6 million euro in research funding. Four years ago, that figure was €74 million.

In less than five years we have increased our research revenue by one third, and it was already by far the highest of any Irish university.

Trinity has won half of all Irish European Research Council grants – even though we only have 16% of Ireland’s academic faculty. And when it comes to ERC grants per academic staff, Trinity is fourth among LERU members – just behind Cambridge, Oxford and Imperial.

I mention the ERC as an example, because these grants have been measured across Europe. I know there are many more funding bodies and many other indicators of research success, such as publication impact, at which Trinity staff also excel.

Our research success demonstrates the exceptional strength of our Fellowship, particularly since this success comes against the background of an under-resourced Irish higher education system. I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all Fellows and staff for their tremendous contribution to global scholarship and education and for enhancing the reputation of this university.

Tonight we also welcome two new honorary fellows.

Professor Brian Lawlor is Connolly Norman Professor of Old Age Psychiatry here in Trinity and the Director of the Memory Clinic at St. James’s Hospital, Dublin, the co-Director of the Global Brain Health Institute and Chair of the Understand Together National Dementia Awareness Campaign. He is an expert on dementia matters and has published widely in the area of brain health. He is global to Trinity’s remarkable global standing in ageing research. Ladies and Gentlemen, Brian Lawlor

Dr Michael Longley is a graduate of this college in Classics. He has published eleven collections of poetry including Gorse Fires which won the Whitbread Poetry Award; The Weather in Japan, which won both the Hawthornden Prize and the T. S. Eliot Prize, and The Stairwell which won the Griffin International Prize. He has also won the Queen’s Gold Medal for Poetry, the Wilfred Owen Award and, last year, the PEN Pinter Prize. He was appointed a CBE in 2010, and from 2007 to 2010 he was Ireland Professor of Poetry, which meant that he spent a term back in his alma mater. Ladies and Gentlemen, Michael Longley.
It’s now my honour to welcome to the Trinity Community, each new Fellow, by name, position, and research specialisation.

Rhodri Cusack is the Thomas Mitchell Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience. He uses neuroimaging in infants to study how the mind develops and to provide tools for earlier diagnosis in the neonatal intensive care unit. A graduate of Pembroke College, Cambridge and the University of Birmingham, his research has been funded by the IRC, MRC, Wellcome Trust, BBSRC, EPSRC, CIHR, and NSERC, and he recently received the prestigious ERC Advanced Grant. Ladies and Gentlemen, Brian Lawlor.

Aljosa Smolic is the SFI Research Professor of Creative Technologies at Trinity College Dublin. In his time as Senior Research Scientist with Disney Research Zurich, he led over 50 R&D projects in the area of visual computing which resulted in numerous publications, patents, and technology transfers to a range of Disney business units. His research group at Trinity, V-SENSE, combines computer vision, computer graphics and media technology to extend the dimensions of visual sensation, with specific focus on immersive technologies such as AR, VR, free viewpoint video, 360/omni-directional video, and light-fields.

Giuliana Adamo is an Assistant Professor in Italian. Giuliana is a graduate of the universities of Pavia and Reading, her humanities research is historical and philological with a strong comparative and interdisciplinary outlook. She has published on Vittore Bocchetta, Umberto Eco and Luigi Meneghello, among other subjects and is co-author of L’ultimo dono di Quetzacoatl, Viaggio intorno al cacao e divagazioni (2001) which was awarded the prestigious Angelini Literary Prize in 2002. She is also the author of children’s tales.

Ruth Barton is Associate Professor in Film Studies and Drama. A graduate of Trinity and UCD, she has previously worked in advertising, public relations and film exhibition. She is the author of a number of publications on Irish cinema including Irish National Cinema in 2004 and Acting Irish in Hollywood in 2006. She has written critical biographies of the Hollywood star, Hedy Lamarr and the Irish silent era director, Rex Ingram, and is a regular contributor to RTÉ’s arts programme, Arena.

Adrian Bracken is an Associate Professor in the School of Genetics and Microbiology. His research – which is funded by SFI, the Worldwide Cancer Research Fund and the Health Research Board - focuses on the field of epigenetics and its relevance to stem cells and cancer. His lab regularly publishes in Nature and Cell. He has translated his lab’s basic research findings, including developing a
new diagnostic tool called OncoMasTR, designed to aid oncologists determine the best treatment options for breast cancer patients.

Ruth Britto is Associate Professor in Theoretical Physics. A graduate of MIT and Harvard, she is best known for her work on scattering amplitudes, which describe the production and decay of elementary particles. She made seminal contributions in recursive constructions, which bypass traditional Feynman diagrams to yield surprisingly elegant formulas efficiently. She is currently probing deep mathematical structure in these functions, with the aims of developing powerful computational algorithms for high-energy collisions and revealing hidden principles of quantum field theory.

Matthew Campbell is assistant professor in Genetics and leads the Neurovascular Genetics Research group. He has published extensively on the use of novel technologies to enhance drug delivery to the brain. His research focuses on understanding the molecular pathology of diseases such as age-related macular degeneration, Alzheimer’s, Schizophrenia and chronic traumatic encephalopathy. He is recipient of the President of Ireland Young Researcher Award and the Genentech/ARVO fellowship, and is co-founder of two companies, established to commercialize research outputs from his group.

Norah Campbell is Assistant Professor in the Trinity Business School. Her research is on extreme risk, including nano-bio-info-cogno markets and climate change. Her most recent projects are on the ontology of climate change and public understanding of nanotechnology. As a marketing expert, she educates and advises on the ways in which contemporary marketing multiplies desire, stimulates invidious social comparison and manipulates vulnerability. She works with others in the field to propose alternative pleasures, pursuits and principles to market-based logics.

Eleanor Denny is Associate Professor of Economics and Director of Trinity Research in Social Science (TRiSS). Her research in energy and behavioural economics has a strong policy component and she has published for, and contributed to, the International Energy Agency and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. She is the lead academic for the Irish Research Council NEEPD project and coordinator of the Horizon 2020 project, CONSEED, and she sits on the advisory boards of ESRI and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland.

David Finlay is Ussher Assistant Professor in Immunometabolism in the School of Biochemistry and Immunology and the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. His research team are
revealing novel strategies to modulate immune cell function through targeting cellular metabolism, while exploring new therapeutic opportunities. A graduate of Trinity and the University of Dundee, he is the recipient of awards including an SFI Career Development Award and, last year, an ERC Consolidator Award.

Sarah McCormack is an Associate Professor in Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering. Her research is on Sustainable Energy with a focus on Solar Energy and Energy Storage for application in the built environment. The author of over a hundred papers, she has led national and EU projects as well as COST Action. A graduate of Ulster University, she has recently been awarded a prestigious ERC Starter Grant for her project PEDAL – investigating plasmonic enhancement for luminescent devices for solar application in buildings.

Tristan McLoughlin is Associate Professor in the School of Mathematics. His research is in the areas of Quantum Field Theory, Quantum Gravity and String Theory, with a focus on using mathematical models to understand the underlying structure of theories describing elementary particles and their interactions. A graduate of Trinity and the California Institute of Technology, he has been funded by the German Science Foundation and the IRC and is currently principal investigator of an SFI award aimed at developing theoretical methods for studying strongly coupled systems.

Marco Ruffini is assistant professor in computer science and an SFI principal investigator. In the CONNECT centre for future networks and communication, he leads the Optical Network Architectures laboratory. His main research area is 5G optical networks: he works on the convergence of fixed-mobile and access-metro networks and the virtualisation of next generation networks. A graduate of Polytechnic University of Marche (Università Politecnica delle Marche) in Italy and Trinity, he has worked as a research scientist for Philips R&D and has authored over 100 publications and over 10 patents.

Desmond Ryan is an Associate Professor in Law, where he is the Convenor of the Private Law Research Group. A graduate of Trinity, Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto; Balliol College, Oxford, and the Honourable Society of the King’s Inns, his principal areas of research are Employment Law and Tort Law and he has published widely in leading international peer-reviewed journals. He is the Convenor for Ireland of the Society of Legal Scholars.
David Shepherd is Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and the director of the Trinity Centre for Biblical Studies, which he helped to establish in 2016. His research ranges widely in biblical studies and includes work on the Hebrew Bible in its literary and theological context, its ancient versions and in the arts. He co-adapted Bertolt Brecht’s The David Fragments for the stage in 2017, showing in Dublin and London. He is Secretary of the Society for Old Testament Studies (UK and Ireland), and co-editor of the Journal for the Study of the Old Testament.

Benjamin Wold is Assistant Professor in the discipline of ancient Judaism and Christianity, and has published widely on the Dead Sea Scrolls, exploring their significance for the study of multiple religious traditions in the Ancient Near East. His research has focused on the reconstruction and translation of second century BCE scrolls composed in Hebrew. A graduate of the American Institute in Jerusalem and of Durham University, he has received research awards from the Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

I congratulate all our new Fellows. Each of you has achieved so much – both here in Trinity, and elsewhere. We are very proud that you have chosen to enhance this university through your research and teaching and we look forward to the continuance and deepening of our relationship with you.

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List of Fellows L-R: Dr Matthew Campbell, Dr David Finlay, Dr Desmond Ryan, Dr Eleanor Denny, Dr Tristan McLaughlin, Dr Sarah McCormack, Dr Marco Ruffin, Dr Ruth Barton, Provost Patrick Prendergast, Dr Giulina Adamo, Dr David Shepherd, Dr Ruth Britto, Dr Benjamin Wold, Dr Norah Campbell, Dr Rhodri Cusack, Dr Adrian Bracken, Dr Brian Lawlor
Good morning,

Thanks for the opportunity to be part of this important discussion.

I would like to start by considering what role universities play in creating the society that we live in. This is similar to the question set by the conference organisers: how can science best contribute to informed political decision-making?

An obvious answer is that universities provide the research that politicians act on. For instance, climate change scientists provide the data and models that give politicians the impetus and justification for new policies.

It’s a crucial role – obviously. But even more important is the chief role of universities is the education of future generations of decision-makers – and not just politicians – maybe they’re not even the most important – but teachers, lawyers, judges, social workers, journalists, engineers – everyone, in short, who contributes to shaping society.

Policies are created in response to people, and universities educate many of the influential people.

For a university to hold itself apart from the politics and society of its region, is, I believe, irresponsible and evasive.

Universities educate young people at a time when they’re particularly open to learning and to experience. How can universities provide an experience that’s both helpful:

- to the student as an individual, and
- to society as a whole?

In my university, Trinity College Dublin, we have identified four graduate attributes that we believe our students will need to be successful, and useful, in a society that’s increasingly global and technological and that has particular challenges around sustainability, migration and inequality.
The four Trinity Graduate Attributes which our university community agreed on are:

- to think independently;
- to communicate effectively,
- to develop continuously and,
- to act responsibly.

We are imbuing these attributes in all students, in all disciplines, by way of the academic curriculum and co-curricular activities of student societies, student volunteering, and student entrepreneurship. We want the whole of a student’s experience to encourage him or her towards thinking independently, communicating effectively, developing continuously, and acting responsibly.

Can this be done? Is it possible to shape a student’s sense of responsibility so that you influence future decision-making that impacts on society? It may sound ambitious but it’s important for universities to set their stalls out - to say ‘this is what we stand for’; it’s important that we step up and accept accountability, not only for our graduates’ achievements, but for the kind of society that they create.

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Now I’d like to turn to the interface between science and politics in a specific area: how do we design curricula and research programmes for engineers and scientists in the context of a resource-constrained planet? How can universities contribute to the political imperative for countries to meet sustainability goals?

This is something we’ve given a lot of thought to in Trinity. I’m an engineer myself and the University has long-established, excellent schools of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and growing strengths in interdisciplinarity.

The Engineering, Environment and Enabling Technologies Institute, which we’re calling E3, will be one of the first institutes internationally to integrate engineering, technology and the natural sciences, at scale, to address challenges of a livable planet.

Students of engineering, natural sciences and computer science will develop transversal skills through working on multidisciplinary projects in collaborative student-managed learning spaces. They will learn from each other to develop innovative solutions towards, for instance, climate change, renewable energy, personalised data, water, connectivity and sustainable manufacturing.
In the second stage, the E3 Research Institute will be the centrepiece of a new Innovation District in Dublin. Six interdisciplinary focus areas are defined:

- Cities
- Data
- Environment
- Production.
- Resources
- Well-being

E3 has received substantial investment from philanthropy and from the government. It will be decisive in helping Ireland to meet its sustainability goals. It is being designed to go beyond mission-oriented research and to enable supra-governmental innovation strategies. I think I am now out of time, but I can discuss this more in the panel debate.

Let me end by saying that E3 is our model and template of how universities and science can best contribute to informed political decision-making. As both a research institute and a learning foundry, it meets the dual need:

- to provide fundamental research that can be translated into innovation; and
- to educate the future generation of leaders to be responsible, ethical, creative and innovative.

Thank you

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Forum Panel Discussion Questions

Q.1: ‘Is mission-oriented research funding the best mode to deal with grand challenges?’

I’m proud to say that five years ago, when we were putting together the Strategic Plan (2014-2019), we included in this, the need for what we called ‘a Global Research Question’ which we identified as ‘one of the great questions facing the future of humankind’ such as climate change, energy provision, migration, inequality. And we emphasized that, a Global Research Question cannot be addressed by one institution alone, and we would need to establish ‘a global network of universities, research institutes and NGOs’.
The intention with the Global Research Question is to go beyond ‘mission-oriented research’. It acknowledges, as does this question, that the traditional way of doing research – where funding goes to the PI – isn’t necessarily the best for confronting the grand challenges that threaten humankind and the planet.

Funding bodies should adopt a new approach and universities should contribute by creating interdisciplinary teams and institutes that can apply for funding. E3 will be set up in this way.

I note also that the European commission is taking a different approach to funding around sustainable development goals. These are now more challenge-oriented – for instance ‘get poverty below a certain level’ is a grand challenge, rather than a specific mission.

Q.2: Do national governments need to synchronize their innovation strategies internationally?

This is related to the previous question insofar as research and innovation that addresses the grand challenges needs to be international.

It’s not easy to achieve because naturally countries are competitive around innovation. Where you can get results is by working through existing supra-national organisations like the EU. And in fact the EU has already set up a body to enable pan-European innovation: the EIT, or European Institute of Innovation and Technology enhances Europe’s ability to innovate by strengthening synergies between the business community, higher education and research – called “the Knowledge Triangle”.

The European Parliament – which is elected by European citizens – decides what areas the EIT should focus on. The current areas of focus are: climate, digital, raw materials, energy, food and health. In all these areas the EIT is generating spin-outs and small company creation across Europe.

The EIT is a relatively new organisation, just a decade old. It has required significant funding to date, but it is getting good results and is, I think, a game-changer for innovation in Europe.

Q.3: How do we advocate the role of science to the public?

Traditionally universities do this through public lectures and interviews and by cultivating good relations with the media and having scientists serve on policy boards.
In Trinity we do all these things, but we have also pioneered a way of advocating science in a truly exciting and fresh way and to the very young. The earlier you can get children excited about science, the better.

Science Gallery is a Trinity initiative which we established a decade ago. It’s where science and art collide – we ‘exhibit’ science shows around as if they were art installations. Typically science gallery shows are around themes – like, for instance, Seeing or Trauma or Illusion or the current exhibition, Intimacy. The exhibitions are curated by academics, artists, designers and researchers.

Science Gallery has had 3 million visitors since it opened its doors and because it’s visual and tangible and fun, it’s particularly popular with school children.

We have now established a Global Science Gallery Network. We are opening science gallery in other cities globally. Science Gallery London has just opened in King’s College London. Next we will be opening science galleries in Melbourne, Venice and Bengaluru.

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Provost Patrick Prendergast speaking to the Forum
Good evening,

Thank you, your Excellency, for those kind words and for welcoming us all here in the Embassy. What a wonderful place to meet with Trinity alumni and friends!

I was last in Tokyo in 2016 and I’m simply delighted to be back and to have this opportunity to meet with Trinity graduates and friends. It’s important to me, wherever I am in the world, to connect with Trinity alumni. We have over 115,000 alumni living in 150 countries – and, in an ideal world, I would meet with each and every one of them!

It’s great to get a sense of Trinity in Japan. Here tonight are graduates from the 1980s, my era, all the way up to 2016, and hailing from all disciplines. We have undergraduates who are on exchanges in Japanese universities as well. Thank you all for coming along and I look forward to talking with you individually.

I thank the Embassy most warmly for hosting and helping organize this event. I thank particularly his Excellency, Paul Kavanagh, and the deputy head of mission, Jonathan Patchell. Also our graduate Aisling Braiden who works in the Embassy – great to see you here. And Enterprise Ireland have been exceptionally valuable and constructive – thank you, Pat O’Riordain for your help in this and previous missions all around Asia.

Trinity has research links with leading universities in Japan, including with the Universities of Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka and Keio, among others. Since my visit in 2016 we have pursued the development of educational links, and we are currently in the final stages of developing a new student exchange programme with Waseda University, which will open up more avenues for Irish students to enjoy an international experience in Japan and to welcome Japanese students to Dublin. Representatives of Waseda here this evening, and Kieo University, and yesterday we met the leadership of Kyoto University.

We also enjoy growing connections with industry in Japan, including ongoing research with Fujifilm. Mazda have just visited...
our campus, looking to find out more about our Materials research, and Honda is visiting in two weeks’ time to connect with our researchers in Digital Content and in Aging. That’s ahead of two further Japanese delegations, comprising of specialist researchers in telecoms, intelligent content, analytics, materials and medtech, who will visit before the end of the year. CONNECT – the national centre for telecoms and the internet of things, based in Trinity - is currently in discussions with Softbank.

Industry and research links are multiplying all the time – so much so that it’s hard to keep track of them – and we want to continue building on them, and to scale up collaborations with Japan. As a highly ranked university doing ground-breaking research in diverse fields and as a driver of growth in Ireland, Trinity is always seeking global connectivity. We are particularly delighted to partner with Japan which is a model of industry/academic collaboration in so many areas.

In our time together this evening, I’d like to fill you in briefly on how Trinity is doing, I know that you have a strong interest in Trinity’s future, and as Provost, I feel responsibility towards alumni, to ensure that the university, which means so much to all of us, continues on its path of excellence.

I don’t have time to go into all our initiatives – we’d be here all night! I’ll focus on recent developments.

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For me, a few achievements really stand out this year. In May, we made the formal announcement of our plans to build a new Engineering, Environment and Enabling Technologies Institute, which we’re calling E3. We’ve already raised over 40 million euro needed, thanks to state support and philanthropy, including the largest single philanthropic gift from any Irish family in the history of the Irish state – 25 million euro from the Naughton family. We acknowledge the presence her this evening of the CEO of Glen Dimplex Japan, Mr Seiji Kasama.

E3 will be a game-changer. It will educate engineers and scientists at scale to address the challenges of a liveable planet. It will be transformative both in terms of content - with more focus on the challenges of sustaining the earth’s resources – and in terms of methods and teaching techniques.

Students of engineering, natural sciences and computer science will learn from each other to develop innovative solutions towards, for
instance, climate change, renewable energy, personalised data, water, connectivity and sustainable manufacturing.

E3 will be developed in two stages – first the E3 Learning Foundry to educate more students in the STEM disciplines, and then the E3 Research Institute which will be the centrepiece of a new campus at Grand Canal Dock.

We have ambitious plans for this new campus. In July, the Taoiseach Leo Varadkar launched a far-reaching plan for the creation of the Grand Canal Innovation District in Dublin – we have the Manifesto here. This will be based on successful Innovation Districts in Boston and Amsterdam and will be truly transformative for the city, the country and the Dublin universities involved.

The Innovation District will enable Dublin to scale up interactions between the research community and industry, including with industry in Japan.

The Innovation District will be developed over the next few years. Ahead of that, next March will see the opening of the new Trinity Business School. The finishing stages are currently being put on this state-of-the-art building beside Science Gallery on Pearse Street and the new School will open its doors with a significantly expanded curriculum and world-class research in the fields of international business, finance, management and entrepreneurship. The site will also house Tangent – Trinity’s Ideas Workspace - and incorporate a 600-seat auditorium.

Trinity graduates are already the most entrepreneurial in Europe. This year, for the fourth year running, Trinity was ranked Europe’s number one university for educating entrepreneurs, according to evaluation by research firm, Pitchbook, based on the number of companies founded by graduates.

The new Trinity Business School and the Innovation District will enable staff, students and graduates to become not only European leaders but world leaders in innovation and entrepreneurship.

When we speak about innovation and entrepreneurship, we don’t just mean in science and technology. It goes across all the disciplines we teach. In spring this year we opened the Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation, in a particularly beautiful renovated Georgian building beside the College. The Centre greatly strengthens Trinity’s commitment to, and our investment in, literature. It is part of our drive to help support a
flourishing literary ecosystem which we see as essential for Dublin and Ireland.

The Centre builds on Trinity’s remarkable global ranking in literature and in modern languages. It coordinates literary translation and cultural interpretation across the 17 languages taught in Trinity, including, of course, Japanese.

The Centre benefits from a translator-in-residence who changes annually. This year’s translator-in-residence is the writer, translator and academic, Mikami Hiroko, from Waseda University here in Japan. I’m delighted that she could join us this evening, ahead of taking up his residence in Dublin. Her presence in Dublin this academic year will significantly promote cultural and linguistic links between Ireland and Japan. The Centre holds many public events, as well as running the Masters in Literary Translation, so, not only Trinity, but all of Dublin will benefit from Professor Mikami’s presence.

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E3, the Innovation District, the Business School and the Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation are key instances of the ambition which Trinity brings to its mission in education and research.

I think we can all be proud of the way the college has raised its ambition. I’m certainly proud of how Trinity has performed over the past difficult decade of austerity and downturn. Despite funding issues - not yet resolved – the University has marked up significant successes.

I’m proud to lead a university which punches so far above its weight. On comparatively restricted funding and staffing, we compete with the world’s best.

This is thanks to the creativity, talent and commitment of so many people across the university. And it’s thanks to the strength of our wider community – to you, our alumni.

You give financial support. Many of you help with mentoring students and graduates; you attend college activities and take a keen interest in college developments. Last year several thousand alumni supported Trinity financially with donations as well as volunteering.

We’re most grateful. Quite simply, the university could not develop in the way it has without your support.
As a sign of our appreciation, last year we opened an Alumni Room in East Chapel, just off Front Square. This was enabled by generous philanthropic support and it’s for your use for you to relax in when you visit campus or hold meetings in, so do please avail of it. It is a particularly comfortable and beautiful room.

We want to provide as many opportunities as possible for alumni to maintain contact with Trinity and with each other. Events like tonight are one way we do this, and we’ve recently launched two new online initiatives: Trinity Alumni Online and Trinity Talks. Trinity Talks is a curated selection of these talk given by distinguished visitors to the college, and it’s now available online and can be accessed anywhere in the world.

Please do continue to keep in contact online and in person. Drop in whenever you’re in the city centre, use the Alumni Room, come to events.

As we approach the 2020s, we have so many exciting initiatives and plans in place. With your help, we look forward to continuing with the great education, research and innovation that has such impact in Dublin, Ireland and the world.

Thank you.

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Ambassador Paul Kavanagh & Provost Patrick Prendergast in the residence of the Irish Ambassador to Japan
Good morning,

May I start by thanking SFI for hosting this event, and thanking all of you for being here. It’s hard to give up a whole day in term time but I’m delighted to see so many colleagues here this morning. Naturally the SFI strategy has a huge impact on what we do in Trinity, so it’s really valuable for our academics to get this opportunity to have input into the next SFI strategy.

The fact that SFI is doing this consultation across all higher education institutes in Ireland is welcome. It’s essential that all of us in the sector come together with government and industry to agree a third level system that works for students, staff and the whole country.

Yesterday’s budget saw some extra funding to higher education but the IUA has been adamant that this ‘only allows the system to tread water’ and that ‘the small allocation of extra funds will be mopped up by increasing student numbers’.

Jim Miley, the Director-General of the IUA, had some fairly sharp words yesterday. He called it “a patent nonsense for the Minister to continue to talk about having the ‘best education system in Europe by 2026’ while presiding over a funding regime that only provides a fraction of the funding per student that Germany, Norway, the Netherlands and other best countries in Europe do.”

While welcoming the Human Capital Fund, the IUA terms this budget “a missed opportunity to act on the recommendations of the Cassells Report for meaningful funding reform.”

That’s all I want to say about the budget. I’ve spent enough time in the past railing against falling state contribution. My views are well-known. But since this is budget week and since we’re here to strategize on a national research strategy, it’s worth re-iterating that I think Ireland’s future depends on being a world-ranking knowledge economy, and yes, we could have the ‘best education and research system in Europe by 2026’ and to achieve this will mean taking radical budgetary decisions, which, I’m afraid, is not what we’re seeing this week.
In terms of the SFI specifically, the strategy that has been in place this past decade was born out of an era of austerity in Ireland. Thankfully the country has now returned to economic growth. There is an opportunity now to do something new and forge a path for the next decade. Again, let me say, how important it is for Trinity to be part of the consultation process. Trinity is the top research organisation on the country, in terms of both volume of research and quality of research.

My own opinions on how to best fund research are well known, particularly through my recent op ed in the Irish Times. Underpinning everything for us in Trinity is a drive for excellence in research. For us, the message is very much about the need to make sure that individual researchers engaged in fundamental research can continue to be supported in their own country, by their own national funder, and supported over all stages of their careers. Funding the individual researcher in fundamental research provides a pipeline back to the SFI research centres.

We do not see any conflict between this and, for example, the needs of industry – on the contrary, fundamental research allows us to remain relevant to industry in a world that is constantly changing and in which the future is hard to predict.

I’m aware that not all higher education institutions in Ireland will put as much emphasis on fundamental PI-driven research and I’m a strong supporter of the varied and diverse higher education system which we have in this country. I don’t think one size fits all; I think we need to accommodate the different needs and requirements of a diverse economy.

However, I would say this: when it comes to research, Trinity is by far the most successful university in Ireland, and we keep improving. Last year Trinity won €100.6 million euro in research funding. Four years ago, that figure was €74 million. In less than five years we increased our research revenue by one third.

In H2020, recent figures show Trinity’s revenue is €85m. The next best in Ireland is €56m, UCD, and they are double our size in terms of faculty numbers. These differences are substantial, and it’s driven by the research culture of Trinity, and the quality of our academic and professional staff.

In terms of European Research Council grants, Trinity has won half of all Irish ERC grants. Trinity staff compete with the very best of Europe here. Out of the 23 members of LERU, the League of European Research Universities, Trinity is placed 14th in terms of winning ERC grants, which is good, but when it comes to ERC
grants per academic staff, we are fourth – just behind Cambridge, Oxford and Imperial.

I emphasize this just to say that when it comes to the aspiration voiced by the Minister ‘to have the best education system in Europe by 2026’, well Trinity’s research success is obviously absolutely central to achieving that aspiration. Without Trinity’s research success, I’m afraid the Irish third level system is simply not at the races. For this reason, I believe that Trinity has earned the right to be heard on the vital issue of how to best fund research.

As I say, excellence cannot be compromised and let’s not redefine what excellence means with some local Irish definition, let’s be part of the global scientific community where excellence means funding individuals to do fundamental scientific research that leads to discoveries that are celebrated by scientists worldwide. Let’s have the ambition to play a global game in science.

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That said, I mentioned just now the need for government to take ‘radical decisions’ for funding higher education in Ireland. Well, we can all benefit from radicalism and when it comes to funding research, we should be open to different and innovative ways of doing things.

I’ve just come from Japan and in Kyoto I took part in an international forum on policy-making and the role of universities in creating the societies we live in. One of the crucial questions my panel was asked to debate was: ‘Is mission-oriented research funding the best mode to deal with grand challenges?’

By grand challenges, they meant issues like climate change, energy provision, migration, and inequality, which affect all humankind and know no borders. Such grand challenges are proximate to the ‘global research question’ which we define in the current Strategic Plan.

The urgency of such ‘grand challenges’ was brought home this week in the wake of the IPCC’s devastating warnings on climate change.

In Japan, the opinion of most participants on the Forum, and my opinion personally, was that it may be time to start looking beyond the traditional funding paths.

I noted that the European commission is taking a different approach to funding around sustainable development goals. These
are now more challenge-oriented – for instance ‘get poverty below a certain level’ is a grand challenge, rather than a specific mission.

Universities can contribute by creating interdisciplinary teams and institutes that can apply for funding.

I think there is now such urgency around ‘grand challenges’ that national funding bodies, like SFI, could also respond radically and creatively. As we know, Ireland is behind in its commitment to lower carbon levels and other sustainability issues. If the best way to deal with climate change may be through challenge-oriented research with teams of PIs acting together.

This is my view. It may not be shared by all and of course I encourage everyone here to give their own personal opinions and freely offer ideas and comments in this important consultation.

There are many permutations to funding research – including, for instance, getting buy-in from the public on the spending of public money, and identifying priority areas, and linking up with global partners, and assigning value at each stage of the research process. SFI has looked at these factors and permutations and has laid out the different themes – 22 of them - in a guiding document which should stimulate much rich discussion.

I know that the very significant creative talents of all the people in this room will be put to good use today and I look forward to hearing what emerges.

* * *

SFI has been a great Irish success story. As we know the establishment of SFI in 2000, launched with an initial fund of €646 million euro, was a game changer in terms of Irish research. Irish universities have benefitted immeasurably and there is, I think, great pride around the country in the discoveries and breakthroughs of Irish researchers. These make headlines frequently and I believe that everybody gets that this is a good thing for the country. SFI, universities, industry and individual researchers have done an excellent job of keeping up excitement around research and demonstrating its benefits.

SFI has worked well because it has served the interests of universities, researchers, industry and the country. It will continue to do this and I hope that emerging from today, we create research pathways that are pragmatic and ambitious and further Ireland’s reputation as a place to do ground-breaking research that excites and challenges us all.
I wish everyone a great day.

Thank you

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Provost Patrick Prendergast (speaking) with many Trinity academics ahead of the workshop.
15 October 2018

Reception for winners of the Provost’s PhD Project Awards 2018

Saloon, Provost’s House, Trinity College

Good evening,

And welcome, all, to the Saloon in the Provost’s House for this celebration of the first year of the Provost’s PhD Project Awards.

This time last year nearly 200 applications from Assistant and Associate Professors, across the university, were received for forty awards. The applications were of exceptionally high quality and I know, from the selection committee that it was no easy task to decide amongst them. The 40 projects, finally chosen, were from PIs from all three faculties and many different Schools. They showcase the range, depth and quality of research in Trinity.

The successful PIs have now found outstanding PhD students to work with them on these projects. So today we celebrate:
- the creation of these Awards, and the generosity of the alumni who are funding them;
- the selection panel of senior academics;
- the successful PIs, and of course,
- our new PhDs whose energy, brilliance and creativity will be such a boost to the whole Trinity community.

I’m delighted to have this opportunity of meeting the new PhDs and I look forward to talking to each of you individually and hearing about your research.

I hope it will be a source of strength and inspiration to you that you are coming to work with professors on projects which have been very carefully selected in a very competitive process. Your research topic has been identified as particularly cutting-edge and interesting, dealing with issues that are important globally and link to the university’s research themes.

I hope that you will avail of all opportunities to make connections across the university and to build your careers.

The creation of these Awards is one of the ways in which Trinity conveys pride and investment in our postgrads and their research.
Research is the core of what we do. Last year Trinity won €100.6 million euro in research funding. Four years ago, that figure was €74 million. In less than five years we increased our research revenue by one third – and it was already by far the highest in Ireland.

To take the example of one important funding body - European Research Council grants - Trinity has won half of all Irish ERC grants, even though we only have 16 percent of Ireland's academic faculty.

Trinity staff compete with the very best of Europe. Out of the 23 members of LERU, the League of European Research Universities, Trinity is placed 14th in terms of winning ERC grants, which is good, but when it comes to ERC grants per academic staff, we are fourth – just behind Cambridge, Oxford and Imperial.

Our staff perform exceptionally and are particularly deserving of support.

However, finding resources can be a challenge. There are multiple funding demands on the university. Yesterday, for instance, we got the welcome news of a €100 million euro loan from the EIB. This money is already allocated. It will go to:

- funding the new Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technology Institute, E3;
- New student accommodation;
- Expansion of the School of Law; and
- Refurbishing the Arts Block.

These four vital initiatives were selected amongst many. In Ireland funding to third-level remains constrained. There are always more initiatives than funds.

But research must be prioritised, and new postgrads must be enabled against a backdrop of rising rental costs in Dublin. So the decision was taken last year to offer 40 funded projects to Principal Investigators across all faculties,

Funding for these Awards have come from two sources:
- Unrestricted alumni donations, and
- Profits derived from the Commercial Revenue Unit, the CRU.

I would like to thank both Trinity Development and Alumni and the CRU for sourcing the funds to make these research project awards possible.
Alumni are, of course, indispensable members of the Trinity community. The university could not develop in the way it does without alumni support, and we are most heartened and grateful for their support for these vital research projects.

I would also like to thank the selection panel of senior academics who reviewed the applications this year and last: Professors Paul O’Grady, John Saeed, Linda Doyle, Johnny Coleman, Catherine Comiskey and Aideen Long; and the chair of the panel, the Dean of Graduate Studies, Professor Neville Cox. And to Catherine Allen and Helen Thornbury in the Dean’s office who dealt with the considerable administration. Thank you all for your expertise and commitment.

I understand that there has been a large number of high-quality applications for the next round of projects. The final decision will be taken at the end of November. I really look forward to seeing what projects will be supported.

Our hope is that this scheme can not only continue to run for future years but can be expanded. It is a pity to have to turn down outstanding projects for want of funds. Quality is in abundance; the University hopes to support more exceptional PIs and bring more talented postgrads to campus.

In conclusion, congratulations to our PIs and our new PhDs. I wish you all the very best of luck. And I speak for the whole Trinity community when I say that we await with anticipation and excitement the findings of your research.

Thank you.

* * *
Provost Patrick Prendergast speaking to students in the Saloon, with a pensive Dean of Graduate Studies (Prof Neville Cox) left
Good afternoon,

You are all very welcome. This has been a great three days for Trinity Research: on Monday we got the very welcome news of a €100 million euro loan from the European Investment Bank. This enables investment in E3, the Law School, the Arts Block and student residences.

Yesterday we welcomed forty new PhDs, recruited following the PhD Project Awards granted to PIs across the three faculties. These awards were funded by alumni and by profits derived from the Commercial Revenue Unit. The projects were carefully selected in a very competitive process. The selected projects were identified as particularly cutting-edge, dealing with issues important to Ireland and the world and linking to the university’s research themes.

And now, today, we celebrate our great success with Irish Research Council Laureate awards. Trinity has performed outstandingly in these awards, taking well over a third - 13 of the 36 national awards. I think that 11 of our new IRC Laureates are here this afternoon.

Also here is Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, Chair of the Irish Research Council and also Dr Raasay Jones from the IRC – you are both very welcome.

Many congratulations to you all and thank you so much for coming along today. I very much look forward to the presentations of your projects. May I also take this opportunity to thank the support staff who assisted with your applications. As ever, their work has been tremendous. When we speak with pride of Trinity’s really remarkable research record, then tribute must be paid to the RPOs and other support staff without whose invaluable help we would not be able to make so many successful applications.

Yesterday, in this very room, at the event celebrating the new PhD projects, I highlighted how much research funding Trinity won last year. Some of you were there then – and indeed it’s not the first time I’ve mentioned this extraordinary figure – but it bears repeating: €100.6 million euro. Four years ago, that figure was €74 million, so
in less than five years we've increased our research revenue by one third – and it was already by far the highest in Ireland.

Our research success is what places Trinity so far ahead of other Irish universities and on a par with Europe’s best. Another figure which I like to repeat is that Trinity has won half of all Irish ERC grants, with only 16 percent of Ireland’s academic faculty.

And now today, I have a new statistic to bandy: we've won over a third of all IRC laureate grants, with, again, just 16 percent of Ireland’s academic faculty.

The credit for this goes, in part, to the structures the college has put in place to enable research collaborations and applications – the Research Office and RPOs whom I’ve just mentioned. But the primary credits goes, of course, to our researchers - to all of you, who bring your discipline and brilliance to the highly competitive process of putting together proposals and applying for grants.

Without you, Trinity – and Dublin and Ireland – would not be in the position of being able to compete with the best in the world. We would be unable to back up ambition with results. On behalf of the whole Trinity community – staff, students, alumni and friends - I thank you.
I know, of course, that, as scholars, being funded to do what you love is its own success.

The IRC Laureates are seen as preparation for ERC applications. Evidently the IRC gets its selection processes right because, as I’ve mentioned, Trinity also does exceptionally well with ERC grants.

We are extremely fortunate in this country and on this continent to have supra-national organisations and programmes like the ERC, the EIT and Horizon 2020 to enable genuinely competitive global research. The UK – which has the best universities in Europe – is central to the European research space, and we must hope and do all without our power, to maintain collaborations.

All 13 of you have been set on a strong path for ERC success. Again, we are fortunate in this country to be part of a framework which enables the continual growth, progression and expansion of research.

I know from my own experience what a great feeling it is, when you’re embarked on a research project, to know that you can explore it to the full potential, and will then have the opportunity to scale it up, and to make an impact in your research community worldwide.
I wish you all much success with your brilliant projects. Trinity and Ireland are fortunate to have you. I hope, and trust, that your success will be a spur to increased investment in higher education and research in Ireland.

It’s now my pleasure to hand over to our Dean of Research, Professor Linda Doyle, whose idea it was to have these presentations and the celebratory reception.

Thank you.

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(L to R) Sarah Doyle, Immo Warntjes, Linda Doyle (Dean of Research), Matthew Campbell, Yvonne Buckley, Jeremy Piggot, Provost Patrick Prendergast, Andrew Jackson, Jane Ohlmeyer (Chair of the Irish Research Council), Paul Dockree, Stephen Power, Francis Ludlow
Good morning,

Thank you all for coming along. This morning we want to present to you the latest developments around E3, which is one of the most exciting initiatives in Trinity’s history and one which particularly affects all of you as staff of the Faculty of Engineering, Maths and Science.

Four years ago E3 was mentioned in the Strategic Plan. It was referred to by its original title, the Engineering, Energy and Environment Institute, and the ambition was stated (I quote)

“to design and build a landmark new structure to house engineering and the natural sciences and advance research that addresses Ireland’s economic priorities, contributing to growth, competitiveness and job creation.”

We have a long way since then, and I’m delighted that since then we have managed to hugely advance this project in terms of concept, design and funding.

We are now at the stage of setting dates and targets for E3. Over the past four years we have scaled up our ambition hugely – the E3 Research Institute will now be the lynchpin of a new campus on Grand Canal Dock – and we have firmed up and made concrete our plans around building and funding.

E3 is our landmark, flagship project for the opening decades of the 21st century. With E3 we aim to do three things simultaneously:
- to create new curricula in engineering, computer science and natural sciences;
- to enable new research around areas of global challenge; and
- to build new infrastructure to make it all possible.

These aims are, of course, symbiotic: new ways of researching require new curricula and methods of teaching, and new buildings designed for that purpose. This is particularly the case when you’re talking about areas of global challenge and about educating in greater numbers.
By global challenge, we mean questions facing the future of the planet and humankind which cannot be addressed by one discipline, or one institution, or even one country, alone. In terms of E3, global challenges relate to areas like climate change, renewable energy, personalised data, water provision, connectivity and sustainable manufacturing.

Global challenges are gaining traction in the research community. I recently attended a “Science, Technology, and Society” forum on this in Japan. I’m proud that Trinity was ahead of the game in identifying the need to orientate academic capabilities towards addressing such challenges.

And when we talk about educating in greater numbers, that’s recognition that Ireland’s population is rising - over the next decade, the Irish student population is set to grow by a massive 25 percent, bucking the European trend. And even without that rise, there is an imperative to educate more students in the STEM disciplines – there is student demand for it and we repeatedly hear from employers and government.

These aims – confronting global challenges, educating more students, and designing new purpose-built buildings – are ambitious. To make our ambition achievable, we have divided E3 into two phases:

- in the first phase, we are building the E3 Learning Foundry on the main campus, on the site of the old biochemistry building and Roberts lab.

With the E3 Learning Foundry and the associated refurbishments on the main campus, we will educate 1,800 more students of engineering, natural sciences and computer science, bringing the total to 4,800 students.

The Learning Foundry will take a new approach to pedagogy. Students will develop transversal skills through working on multidisciplinary projects in collaborative student-managed learning spaces. The E3 Education group, a sub-group of E3 Steering, has developed an E3 learning philosophy and is currently considering undergraduate and postgraduate courses in the E3 family.

- In the second phase, we will build the E3 Research Institute at our new Technology and Enterprise campus on Grand Canal Dock where it will be the lynchpin of Dublin’s new Innovation District, enabling more and better link-ups between industry and research.
The Innovation District, which we announced in July as a partnership with government and other Dublin universities, is potentially transformative for the city. The E3 Research Institute is essential for delivering on the District’s potential because it will bring capabilities for technology research into the heart of the Innovation District.

Vinny, the three Heads of School (Henry, Carol, and Patrick), Veronica, Diarmuid and the Design Team, speaking after me, will cover these issues - pedagogy, research, design and the Innovation District - in more depth, and there will be time for questions afterwards.

Let me conclude with a brief word on funding.

E3 is an expensive, ambitious project. As you are no doubt aware, E3 has been catalysed by a remarkable gift of €25 million euro from the Naughton family, the biggest philanthropic donation by an Irish family in our country’s history. The Naughtons’ gift is exceptional and I also acknowledge other generous philanthropic support for E3 from other donors including Beate Schuler, Mike Peirce, and Paul and Theresa Johnston.

Philanthropy has been boosted by an investment of €15 million from the state.

And this week is a good week to be holding this Town Hall, because we’ve heard that Trinity is getting a €100 million euro loan from the European Investment Bank. We will use the funds for student residences, refurbishment of the Arts Block, expanding the Law School, and E3.

E3 is also one of the flagship projects of the Philanthropic Campaign which we are launching this year, the most ambitious campaign ever to be undertaken on the island of Ireland.

The Campaign has been carefully thought out and planned and is supported by the Provost’s Council, the college’s advisory group of distinguished alumni and friends who are helping us with identifying networks of support.

I am confident that E3 will resonate with donors. It has done already, at concept stage, and as the initiative gets underway, there is every reason to believe that others will wish to give support.

The reason why we were able to interest philanthropists like the Naughtons and Beate Schuler, and government and supra-
governmental bodies, is because we were able to point to our remarkable track record in education, research and innovation in science, engineering and computer science.

As you know, Trinity performs exceptionally in the ERC, SFI, Horizon 2020, the Wellcome Trust and other national and international funding bodies. And Trinity academics have a fine track record with Invention Disclosures, spin-outs and industry collaborations generally. And our graduates are much sought after – within companies and of course as entrepreneurs. We have the most entrepreneurial graduates in Europe and we are leaders in research and commercialisation of research.

Without this track record, we probably wouldn’t have had the confidence to plan for an initiative as ambitious as E3. And we certainly wouldn’t have been able to attract the interest and support that we have.

It is therefore right to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your exceptional strengths in research, education and innovation. It is you who have enabled E3.

I hope that now as E3 takes shape and becomes tangible that you continue to be excited about it, and that you will contribute to making it an extraordinary national, European and global success.

Please do let us know your thoughts, ideas, reservations, suggestions. It goes without saying that this is a collaborative college initiative, particularly collaborative across the faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, and its success will depend on all of us coming together to make it happen.

Thank you.
Provost Patrick Prendergast (speaking) in the Regent House
25 October 2018

Reception for Trinity Alumni & Friends in Sydney

Old Restaurant, The Old Rum Store, Kensington St, Chippendale,
Sydney

Thank you, Eithne, for those kind words, and Stanley thank you so much for hosting and welcoming us here, tonight.

And to all of you, many thanks for coming here this evening. A special welcome to High Excellency Breandán Ó Caollai, Ambassador of Ireland to Australia, and to Patrick O’Donovan, T.D., Minister of State at the Departments of Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform, who is representing the Government of Ireland at the International Commemoration of the Great Irish Famine.

It’s wonderful to be back in Sydney. I was last here four years ago, in 2014, when I also had the pleasure of meeting alumni and friends. Perhaps some of you were there on that occasion; I look forward to renewing our acquaintance.

Sydney is a very special place for me and for Trinity. This city has one of the most vibrant of all our alumni communities, and that’s really reflected by our numbers here tonight. What a great gathering!

The numbers are reflective of Trinity’s long and historic relationship with Sydney, which began 230 years ago when the first recorded Trinity graduate docked in Botany Bay.

And the numbers are reflective of the strength of the local branch here. I want to thank Eithne, and Dylan Carroll, Hannah Fraser, Herbert Down and Andrea Farrell for the energy and dynamism which you bring to running this branch. The annual gala dinner, I know, is a particular feature. Trinity gains so much from having such committed alumni.

Our host tonight, Stanley Quek, is a particularly committed alumnus. A graduate of our medical school, he is a property developer and philanthropist - his most iconic project is probably the development of the Central Park area here in Sydney. He is a wonderful supporter of our college initiatives; and his generosity in hosting this reception here in his own restaurant is typical. Thank you, Stanley.
I am here this time in Australia for a nice, long trip – 2 weeks and I’ll be visiting the major cities, re-connecting with Australian universities and with industry. Tomorrow myself or members of my team will be visiting the Universities of Sydney and UNSW to discuss opportunities for further student exchanges and research collaborations. Later in the trip, we are signing a new exchange agreement with Monash University and renewing our formal agreements with the University of Melbourne and preparing for the opening of Science Gallery Melbourne in 2020. This will be second of our global Science Galleries to open – Science Gallery at King’s College London opened just a month ago, and planning is well advanced for Bangalore, Venice, Detroit, and, most recently, Rotterdam.

Our links with Australia are ever increasing. We are delighted to be working in partnership with the Ireland Funds Australia on several projects including Scholarships for MBA students, and recently, on the 25th of September, a dinner to discuss the Cancer Institute was held.

In our time together this evening, I’d like to fill you in briefly on how Trinity is doing – what we have achieved and what we look forward to achieving. And I’d like to say a few words about the Philanthropic Campaign which we’ll be launching shortly.

For me, a few achievements really stand out this year. In May, we made our formal announcement of our plan to build a new Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies Institute, which we’re calling E3.

E3 will be a game-changer. It will educate students of engineering, natural sciences and computer science to address the challenges of a liveable planet. It will be transformative both in terms of content - with more focus on sustainability – and in terms of methods and teaching techniques.

Students will learn from each other to develop innovative solutions towards, for instance, climate change, renewable energy, personalised data, water, connectivity and sustainable manufacturing.
E3 is a truly ambitious initiative but we’ve already raised over 40 million of the 60 million euro needed, thanks to state support and philanthropy, including the largest single philanthropic gift in the history of the Irish state – €25 million euro from the Naughton family.

E3 will be developed in two stages – first the E3 Learning Foundry to educate more students in the STEM disciplines, and then the E3 Research Institute which will be the centrepiece of a new campus at Grand Canal Dock. We have ambitious plans for this new campus. In July, the Taoiseach Leo Varadkar launched a far-reaching plan for the creation of the Grand Canal Innovation District in Dublin.

Ahead of that, next March will see the opening of the new Trinity Business School. The finishing stages are currently being put on this state-of-the-art building beside Science Gallery on Pearse Street. The new School will open its doors in March 2019.

Underpinning E3, the Business School, the Innovation District and all our ambitious initiatives is Trinity's remarkable achievement in research.

Last year Trinity won €100.6 million euro in research funding. Four years ago, that figure was €74 million. In less than five years we have increased our research revenue by one third.

Looking at our success in winning awards from major funding bodies such as the European Commission’s Horizon 2020, the European Research Council and the Irish Research Council – Trinity consistently outperforms other Irish universities by a considerable distance, and not only Irish universities.

In terms of European Research Council grants won per academic staff, Trinity comes in just behind Cambridge, Oxford and Imperial College London.

Trinity has nowhere near the funding of those three universities. For our staff to be so competitive in the winning of grants shows how truly exceptional is the research being carried out in Trinity.

Confirmation that our research is world-class gives us the confidence to plan major initiatives for the university. And it gives us confidence to ask friends and alumni for support for those initiatives.

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In six months’ time we will be launching the first comprehensive Philanthropic Campaign in Trinity’s history. The Campaign will go across the university focusing on people and projects.

This Campaign has been a long time in the planning. I’ve been helped with it by the Provost’s Council, which is an advisory group of influential global alumni and friends, established four years ago. Two Provost Council members are here today: Stanley Quek and Yvonne Le Bas. The Provost’s Council is small - having two members based in Australia shows this region’s importance to the college.

Together with the Provost’s Council, the Trinity Board has agreed on the approach of the Philanthropic Campaign. In addition to capital projects, we want the Campaign to invest in people and in our access programme. Trinity is emerging as a world leader in creating pathways for students from disadvantaged and non-traditional backgrounds to proceed to third-level education. The Trinity Access Programme, also called ‘TAP’, is central to our mission in education and research is our belief that all students of aptitude and ability should have the opportunity to proceed to third-level no matter what their background or circumstances are.

In addition to E3, which I’ve already mentioned, let me say a brief word about two other flagship initiatives: the Library and the Trinity St James Cancer Institute.

Trinity’s Library, is of course, unique. We have the only copies in the world of certain early, medieval and renaissance manuscripts, including the UNESCO heritage treasure, the Book of Kells.

It’s impossible to imagine Trinity without these treasures. And we are acutely conscious of our duty of care – to Ireland, to world heritage, to future generations. These manuscripts are unique. Should they be lost, something of the world’s greatness is lost.

We have a double duty – to conserve and to share our unique holdings. And when we talk about ‘sharing’ that means physically and digitally. Scholars must be able to view our priceless manuscripts online, and to consult them on campus in person.

The Philanthropic Campaign will focus on:
- conserving the Old Library Building, the Long Room and its holdings;
- fully digitising our online collections; and
- creating a Manuscripts Study Centre.
I want this study centre to go into the ground floor of the Old Library. The thousands of visitors who queue to see the Book of Kells weekly should file past a beautiful room, with scholars from around the world bent over priceless manuscripts.

The Trinity St James Cancer Institute links the university with the hospital. It is Ireland’s first comprehensive cancer care centre and brings together medics, oncology researchers and PIs like nurses, dieticians and physiotherapists working in patient-centred research and care. The institute already exists virtually insofar as these practitioners and researchers are already working across Trinity and St James. The goal is to establish the essential pathways and linkages to facilitate discovery and speed up the transition of treatments to patients.

Of course, we don’t want to create just any centre. This is our opportunity to create a cancer centre of the excellence.

It’s also our opportunity to contribute to the global search for cancer cures and improvements in treatment.

It’s not easy to make an impact globally in cancer research because this is an area of high global interest and investment. But in Trinity I think we can genuinely make a global contribution because of our leadership in immuno-oncology. We are ranked in the top 1% of immunology research globally, and through the Trinity St James Cancer Institute, we can translate this into patient care in a potentially transformative way.

To be able to say in five, ten, fifteen years that in Trinity we pioneered immune-oncology, developing individualised and customised patient-centred cancer care with fewer side-effects than traditional treatments – that is going to be an amazing moment for all of us.

It can happen if – as with the Trinity Business School and as with E3 – we secure sufficient philanthropy to leverage state support and loans.

Philanthropy and state investment are mutually enforcing. With the Philanthropic Campaign, we do not expect our projects to rely solely on philanthropy. Donors do not, and should not, give money to replace exchequer money. They donate as part of a bigger investment plan.

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With the Philanthropic Campaign, we are inviting alumni and friends to be part of something vital for the university and for Dublin, Ireland and global research.

We launch this campaign because we are confident, as I've said, in Trinity’s research and education success. We ask support for a university that has proved itself time again.

And we are confident in launching this campaign because we know we can count on such exceptional graduates.

Trinity could not have developed in the way it has without the support of our alumni.

Graduates like yourselves have remained so engaged with the college, joining alumni branches, attending events like these, returning to campus on visits, and staying connected through the alumni office.

Many of you give financial support through the University of Dublin Fund, and through funding scholarships and access programmes. You help with mentoring students and graduates and take a keen interest in college developments.

We are hugely grateful. As a sign of our appreciation, last year we opened an Alumni Room in Front Square. This was enabled by generous philanthropic support and it’s for your use for you to relax in or hold meetings in, so do please avail of it whenever you’re in Dublin. It’s a particularly comfortable and beautiful room.

And last year, to commemorate the college’s 425th anniversary, we brought out this book of photos taken by students, staff and alumni, with an introductory essay by myself, in which I walk around campus.

I’ve brought along a quite a few copies of the book, which I’d be delighted to sign. The photos – all taken in the 425th year just gone by – will I hope bring back great memories.

I thank you all for your commitment to Trinity, for coming here tonight and giving me the chance to meet you. Please do continue to stay in touch – online and in person whenever you’re in Dublin.

Trinity has so many exciting initiatives and plans for the future. With your help, we look forward to continuing with the great education, research and innovation that has such impact in Dublin, Ireland and the world.
Thank you.

* * *

Provost Patrick Prendergast (speaking) with alumni in Sydney, Australia
30 October 2018

Reception for Trinity Alumni & Friends in Melbourne

QT Hotel, 133 Russell Street, Melbourne, Australia

Thank you, Ciaran, for those kind words, and thank you, all of you for coming along this evening.

It’s wonderful to be back in Melbourne. I was last here four years ago, in 2014, when I also had the pleasure of meeting alumni and friends. Perhaps some of you were there on that occasion; I look forward to renewing our acquaintance this evening.

Melbourne is a special place for me and for Trinity. This city has such a vibrant alumni community – a quarter of all our alumni in Australia live here. I thank Ciaran for the energy and dynamism he brings to the alumni branch.

I’m here this time in Australia for a nice, long trip of 2 weeks, giving myself time to visit the major cities and re-connect with Australian universities and with industry. I arrived last week to Sydney where myself and my team visited the Universities of Sydney and UNSW. This morning, Trinity’s Vice-President of Global Relations, Professor Juliette Hussey, signed a new student exchange agreement with Monash University and tomorrow morning I’ll be visiting the University of Melbourne where we will sign an MOU and student exchange agreements, celebrating ten years of collaboration.

Australia remains one of the most popular destinations for our students going on exchange. In fact, we have 23 students who will be studying either for a semester or full year in Australia this academic year and this is something we are very keen to grow.

Of particular excitement tomorrow at the University of Melbourne, we will be visiting the site of the new innovation precinct which is being developed on the corner of Grattan Street and Swanson Street. In this precinct is where Science Gallery Melbourne will open in 2020.

This will be second of our global Science Galleries to launch – Science Gallery at King’s College London opened just a month ago, and planning is well advanced for Bangalore, Venice, Detroit, and, most recently, Rotterdam.
In the lead up to Science Gallery Melbourne opening in 2020, pop-up exhibitions have been happening on and off campus. The current exhibition, “Perfection”, is housed in the award-winning Melbourne School of Design, or MSD. You may know this building - it holds a 6 star Green Star Design rating from the Green Building Council of Australia.

If you get the opportunity, I do urge you to visit the exhibition in MSD - it will give a great feel for the kinds of exhibitions shortly to be hosted in Science Gallery Melbourne. The original Science Gallery, in Trinity, is such a great addition to Dublin; I’m sure Science Gallery Melbourne will be the same.

Our links with Australia are ever increasing. We are delighted to be working in partnership with the Ireland Funds Australia on several projects including Scholarships for MBA students, and recently as September last there was a dinner to discuss the Trinity St James’s Cancer Institute.

* * *

In our time together this evening, I’d like to fill you in briefly on how Trinity is doing – what we have achieved and what we look forward to achieving. And I’d like to say a few words about the Philanthropic Campaign which we’ll be launching shortly.

* * *

For me, a few achievements really stand out this year. In May, we made our formal announcement of our plan to build a new Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies Institute, which we’re calling E3.

E3 will be a game-changer. It will educate students of engineering, natural sciences and computer science to address the challenges of a liveable planet. It will be transformative both in terms of content - with more focus on sustainability – and in terms of methods and teaching techniques.

Students will learn from each other to develop innovative solutions towards, for instance, climate change, renewable energy, personalised data, water, connectivity and sustainable manufacturing.

E3 is a truly ambitious initiative and we’ve already raised over 40 million of the 60 million euro needed, thanks to state support and philanthropy, including the largest single philanthropic gift in the
history of the Irish state – €25 million euro from the Naughton family.

E3 will be developed in two stages – first the E3 Learning Foundry to educate more students in the STEM disciplines, and then the E3 Research Institute which will be the centrepiece of a new campus at Grand Canal Dock. We have ambitious plans for this new campus. In July, the Taoiseach Leo Varadkar launched a far-reaching plan for the creation of the Grand Canal Innovation District in Dublin.

Ahead of that, next March will see the opening of the new Trinity Business School. The finishing stages are currently being put on this state-of-the-art building beside Science Gallery on Pearse Street. The new School will open its doors in March 2019.

Underpinning E3, the Trinity Business School, the Innovation District and all our ambitious initiatives is Trinity’s remarkable achievements in research.

Last year Trinity won €100.6 million euro in research funding. Four years ago, that figure was €74 million. In less than five years we have increased our research revenue by one third.

Looking at our success in winning awards from major funding bodies such as the European Commission’s Horizon 2020, the European Research Council and the Irish Research Council – Trinity consistently outperforms other Irish universities by a considerable distance, and not only Irish universities.

In terms of European Research Council grants won per academic staff, Trinity comes in just behind Cambridge, Oxford and Imperial College London.

And Trinity has nowhere near the public funding of those three universities. For our staff to be so competitive in the winning of grants shows how truly exceptional is the research being carried out in Trinity.

Confirmation that our research is world-class gives us the confidence to plan major initiatives for the university. And it gives us confidence to ask friends and alumni for support for those initiatives.

* * *
In six months’ time we will be launching the first comprehensive Philanthropic Campaign in Trinity’s history. The Campaign will go across the university.

In addition to capital projects, we want the Campaign to invest in people and in our access programme. Trinity is emerging as a world leader in creating pathways for students from disadvantaged and non-traditional backgrounds to proceed to third-level education. The Trinity Access Programme, also called ‘TAP’, is central to our mission in education and research. We believe that all students of aptitude and ability should have the opportunity to proceed to third-level no matter what their background or circumstances are.

In addition to E3, which I've already mentioned, let me say a brief word about two other flagship initiatives of the Campaign: the Library and the Trinity St James Cancer Institute.

Trinity’s Library, is of course, unique. We have the only copies in the world of certain early, medieval and renaissance manuscripts, including the UNESCO heritage treasure, the Book of Kells.

It’s impossible to imagine Trinity without these treasures. And we are acutely conscious of our duty of care – to Ireland, to world heritage, to future generations. These manuscripts are unique. Should they be lost, something of the world’s greatness is lost.

We have a double duty – to conserve and to share our unique holdings. And when we talk about ‘sharing’ that means physically and digitally. Scholars must be able to view our priceless manuscripts online, and to consult them on campus in person.

The Philanthropic Campaign will focus on:
- conserving the Old Library Building, the Long Room and its holdings;
- fully digitising our online collections; and
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I want this study centre to go into the ground floor of the Old Library. The thousands of visitors who queue to see the Book of Kells weekly should file past a beautiful room, with scholars from around the world bent over priceless manuscripts.

The Trinity St James Cancer Institute links the university with the hospital. It brings together medics, oncology researchers and PIs like nurses, dieticians and physiotherapists working in patient-centred research and care. The institute already exists virtually insofar as these practitioners and researchers are already working across Trinity and St James. The goal is to establish the essential
pathways and linkages to facilitate discovery, and speed up the transition of treatments to patients.

Of course, we don’t want to create just any centre. This is our opportunity to create a comprehensive cancer centre of recognised global excellence. And it’s also our opportunity to contribute to the global search for cancer cures and improvements in treatment.

Tomorrow we will visit the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre here in Melbourne to see such a comprehensive cancer care centre working at first hand.

It’s not easy to make an impact globally in cancer research because this is an area of high global interest and investment. But in Trinity I think we can genuinely make a global contribution because of our leadership in immuno-oncology. We are ranked in the top 1% of immunology research globally, and through the Trinity St James Cancer Institute, we can translate this into patient care in a potentially transformative way.

To be able to say in five, ten, fifteen years that in Trinity we pioneered immuno-oncology, developing individualised and customised patient-centred cancer care with fewer side-effects than traditional treatments – that is going to be an amazing moment for all of us.

It can happen if – as with the Trinity Business School and as with E3 – we secure sufficient philanthropy to leverage state support and loans.

Philanthropy and state investment are mutually enforcing. With the Philanthropic Campaign, we do not expect our projects to rely solely on philanthropy. Donors do not, and should not, give money to replace exchequer money. They donate as part of a bigger investment plan.

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We launch this campaign because we are confident, as I’ve said, in Trinity’s research and education success. We ask support for a university that has proved itself time again.
And we are confident in launching this campaign because we know we can count on such exceptional graduates.

Trinity could not have developed in the way it has without the support of our alumni.

Graduates like yourselves have remained so engaged with the college, joining alumni branches, attending events like these, returning to campus on visits, and staying connected through the alumni office.

Many of you give financial support through the University of Dublin Fund, and through funding scholarships and access programmes. You help with mentoring students and graduates when they come abroad.

The benefits of studying abroad for students are immense. While many students want these opportunities, many cannot afford to avail of them. We want to make sure that the opportunity to study abroad, particularly in Australia, is a real possibility for all Trinity students. To this end, Trinity has launched a new initiative, “Trinity International Study Bursaries”. These bursaries will offer financial support for Trinity undergrad students to go abroad to study.

We very much hope that many of you will want to support this new initiative. There is some further information available at the event tonight, or please do speak with one of our delegation. We’d be delighted to provide more information.

We are hugely grateful for all alumni support. As a sign of our appreciation, last year we opened an Alumni Room in Front Square. This was enabled by generous philanthropic support and it’s for your use for you to relax in or hold meetings in, so do please avail of it whenever you’re in Dublin. It’s a particularly comfortable and beautiful room.

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Trinity has so many exciting initiatives and plans for the future. With your help, we look forward to continuing with the great education, research and innovation that has such impact in Dublin, Ireland and the world.

Now, before we get back to the talking, let’s take a photo of the whole group.

Thank you.
01 November 2018

Reception for Trinity Alumni & Friends in Singapore

Residence of the Ambassador of Ireland to Singapore, Singapore

Thank you, Ambassador*, for those kind words, and thank you so much for hosting us here, tonight.

It’s wonderful to be back in Singapore, and to be in the Irish Embassy is particularly special. I thank all the staff here in the Embassy, particularly Elizabeth McEneaney and Sarah-Jane Bennett, for their help in organising this evening.

And I thank all of you, for taking the time to be here tonight. I’m delighted at this opportunity to meet you. Wherever I am in the world, I like to connect with graduates and friends, and Singapore is such a special place for Trinity. We’ve particularly important collaborations with universities here and the city has a wonderful, vibrant alumni community – indeed, the numbers this evening speak for themselves. What a great turn out!

I understand that Bill McCormack has recently volunteered to take over as Branch contact for Singapore. We are delighted and welcome him warmly and thank him for taking on this role. Bill has said that he is looking forward to supporting Dr Stanley Quek’s work in strengthening the alumni community in Singapore.

Dr Stanley Quek – or just Stanley, since it has been my pleasure to know him for many years now – has indeed been a truly remarkable alumnus for Trinity. A graduate of our medical school, he is a property developer and philanthropist, and well known to many of you. It would take a full speech to detail all that Stanley has done for Trinity, both on campus and here in Asia.

On campus, we have a lecture theatre called “The Stanley Quek” and I am pleased now, this evening here in Singapore, to make a particularly important announcement which you here in Singapore are hearing before anyone else: Dr Stanley Quek has been elected by the University Senate as the next Pro-Chancellor of the University of Dublin, Trinity College.

* Ambassador Pat Bourne
Pro-Chancellors are ex officio members of the Senate of the University, and they hold office in their own right. They deputise for the Chancellor in accordance with the Statutes. Trinity has just six Pro-Chancellors, very eminent men and women. We're honoured that Stanley will now be among them.

Stanley was born here in Singapore, educated in the UK, and is an MB graduate of Trinity College Dublin, 1972. Following graduation the young Dr Quek returned to play his part in the new Republic of Singapore, as a medical practitioner, as a property designer and developer, diplomat, philanthropist, and champion of the creative arts – he is a nurturer of deep educational bonds between Ireland and Singapore. I hope all of you are as happy as I am that we will have a Pro-Chancellor of the distinction of Dr Stanley Quek. And the first ever from Asia reflecting the global reach of our university. The new Pro-Chancellor has agreed to address you later!

On this trip to Singapore I'll be meeting with our long-term partner, the Singapore Institute of Technology, SIT. Trinity’s relationship with SIT goes back many years now. Since 2011 our two institutes have delivered a Joint degree in Physiotherapy and one year programmes in Occupational Therapy, Diagnostic Radiography, and Radiation Therapy. This is one of the most far-reaching educational programmes that Trinity has with any university in the world - it is not just a student exchange but a joint degree. There are currently 155 students in Trinity programmes at SIT and 84 students from Singapore on campus at Trinity, of which 9 are postgraduate students.

Trinity also has student exchange agreements with Singapore Management University (SMU) and the National University of Singapore (NUS). This morning we had a great meeting with the President of SMU and tomorrow we meet with the new President of NTU to discuss student exchange and research collaboration.

We really value our partnerships with Singapore universities – Singapore students, who come to campus, are excellent and our students enjoy a very valuable experience here.

* * *

In our time together this evening, I’d like to fill you in briefly on how Trinity is doing – what we have achieved and what we look forward to achieving. And I’d like to say a few words about the Philanthropic Campaign which we’ll be launching next year.

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For me, a few achievements really stand out this year. In May, we made our formal announcement of our plan to build a new Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies Institute, which we're calling E3.

E3 will be a game-changer. It will educate students of engineering, natural sciences and computer science to address the challenges of a liveable planet. It will be transformative both in terms of content - with more focus on sustainability – and in terms of methods and teaching techniques.

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The Trinity St James Cancer Institute links the university with the hospital. It brings together medics, oncology researchers and PIs like nurses, dieticians and physiotherapists working in patient-centred research and care. The institute already exists virtually insofar as these practitioners and researchers are already working across Trinity and St James. The goal is to establish the essential pathways and linkages to facilitate discovery, and speed up the transition of treatments to patients.

Of course, we don’t want to create just any centre. This is our opportunity to create a comprehensive cancer centre of recognised global excellence. And it’s also our opportunity to contribute to the global search for cancer cures and improvements in treatment.

Yesterday in Melbourne we had an inspirational visit to the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre which crystalized for what we are trying to achieve in Trinity for Ireland.

It’s not easy to make an impact globally in cancer research because this is an area of high global interest and investment. But in Trinity I think we can genuinely make a global contribution because of our leadership in immuno-oncology. We’re ranked in the top 1% of immunology research globally, and through the Trinity St James Cancer Institute, we can translate this into patient care in a potentially transformative way.

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Trinity has so many exciting initiatives and plans for the future. With your help, we look forward to continuing with the great education, research and innovation that has such impact in Dublin, Ireland and the world.

Now Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my pleasure to invite Pro-Chancellor Stanley Quek to address you!

Thank you.
(Front Row, L to R) Professor Juliette Hussey, Vice-President for Global Relations; Ambassador Pat Bourne and Mrs Bourne; Pro-Chancellor Stanley Quek
Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you for coming along.

This is the last time I’ll be making a formal ‘State-of-the-College’ address as Provost. In just two and a half years, my term will be completed. As I head into the home straight, so to speak, and as we start planning for the next Strategic Plan - which we’ll be launching next year – I think it’s useful to take a look at

- where we’ve come from,
- what we’ve achieved, and
- our aspirations for the future.

Let’s look at our achievements and aspirations from the perspective of the college community, and from the perspective of our place in Irish society and in the global academic world.

* * *

First and most importantly, this is my opportunity to say thank you for the incredible work that so many have put in to deliver goals and exceed expectations.

* * *

While preparing for this talk, I read over my inaugural and mid-term addresses, to remember where we were, and what’s changed. Reading back, I’d say that the prevailing tone of my inaugural address was one of crisis and urgency. Boiled down to its essence, that speech said: ‘things are in a bad way; Trinity is standing firm by its mission and values, but our education and research are threatened by lack of funding and too much control and regulation’. That speech was delivered in September 2011 – not a comfortable time to remember!

The tone of the mid-term address, five years later, was somewhat more optimistic. Here’s what I said: ‘state funding is still a problem but we’ve been able to generate significant alternate sources of revenue, and we’re implementing exciting initiatives like the Business School and the Trinity Education Project.’
That was 2016 – and I think the note of cautious optimism was the right one. Today there is a sense of having come through a difficult period. The mood on campus is more confident.

That’s not to say there still aren’t clouds. The over-arching problem of inadequate investment in third level remains; that nettle has not been grasped, nationally. Political expediency has prevailed. However, in Trinity we’ve successfully completed several initiatives, and many more are in train. And we’re in a better position to plan for the future than we were seven years ago.

I’m fortunate that my provostship has gone in the direction it has – I say ‘fortunate’ because, of course, I’m not claiming all the credit for this.

I hope my leadership has helped, but much has to do with the national situation, the improvement in Ireland’s economy generally; and so much has to do with all of you, with the truly remarkable achievements of Trinity staff and students.

I was asked recently what it was like leading a university, and a specific metaphor was employed – I was asked if Trinity ran ‘like a well-oiled machine?’ Well, I thought about that and, as a mechanical engineer I do like well-oiled machines, but Trinity is not like a well-oiled machine. A machine has a single engine, one motive-force. A university is more like a series of machines – perhaps you might say it’s a flotilla.

Trinity has its departments, schools and faculties; it has the Library, the administrative divisions, support services, the Students’ Union, DUCAC, the CSC… I could go on. The College Board keeps a handle on the whole, but we’re dependent on each part of the College being motivated to achieve our common mission – on the flotilla moving in unison.

That’s why great thanks are in order. If our situation is improving, it’s because everyone took up the challenge. I believe the importance of our work - educating the next generation and delivering research that improves our way of being in the world – is a strong motivating factor for us all.

Trinity is the sum of its parts. Let’s take a moment to look at what’s been achieved in the last few years. I’m not going to give a roll-call of all the projects done, processing and pending. But as we plan for the future, it’s a good idea to take stock.

* * * Successful Initiatives * * *

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We’ve enjoyed significant success with capital development projects, with education and research initiatives, and with transforming the campus with the work of, for instance, Global Relations and the commercial revenue unit, the CRU.

Since 2011 we’ve seen a growth of €15 million euro from international fees, and the same amount from commercial activities – and in both cases, this is annual recurrent revenue. That’s a signal achievement, bringing essential funds to the university. But we don’t measure success in terms of revenue alone.

I’m recently back from a two-week tour of Australia, Singapore and Malaysia and before that I was in Japan. Everywhere I went I saw evidence of Trinity’s increasing engagement – student exchanges, research collaborations and joint degree programmes, where ten years ago, we had no such partnerships at all.

In Singapore I took the opportunity to announce Stanley Quek as a new Pro-Chancellor of the university. Sheila Greene and Sean Barrett were also elected Pro-Chancellors at the same time.

Some of you know Stanley. He’s a graduate of our medical school, a Provost Council member, and one of Trinity’s most dedicated supporters. This is the first time in our history that Trinity will have a Pro-Chancellor from outside these islands, so it’s a seminal moment and it’s symbolic of the increased global connectivity of our university.

Trinity enjoys increasing brand recognition round the world, and our numbers of global student exchanges, research collaborations and industry partnerships are growing all the time, while our bonds with our global alumni are strengthening. For this we must pay tribute to the truly exceptional work done by Jane Ohlmeyer and Juliette Hussey and their teams in global relations, and to Kate Bond and her team in Trinity Development and Alumni.

The success of the Commercial Revenue Unit has also raised Trinity’s profile. Ten days ago, Cassie Clemans from the state of Oregon became the millionth visitor to the Book of Kells in 2018. She arrived with her husband, Andy, to celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary. The Irish Independent picked up on this because it was such a nice Dublin story. I think it’s great that Trinity is part of the ‘Dublin story’. With the improvements planned for the Old Library through the Philanthropic Campaign, visitor numbers will only grow and people will enjoy an even better experience.
Another initiative being successfully implemented is the Trinity Education Project - or TEP. It’s the most ambitious renewal of the undergraduate curriculum in a century, and it’s essential to prepare Trinity for far-reaching patterns of change in education and the workplace. In the last two and a half years, we’ve delivered on many aspects of TEP, including the new academic year structure, and we’re on track to see it fully launched in September 2020. This builds on digital projects; Genesis, FIS and transformation of administration under START & 21st Century Administration).

The Trinity Business School will open in six months’ time and will be co-located with Tangent, Trinity’s Ideas Workspace. And planning permission for the demolition works to begin E3 Learning Foundry has just been granted - it’s due for completion in 2022.

Both the Trinity Business School and the E3 Learning Foundry followed the same funding model: strong philanthropic benefaction allowing us to leverage state investment and raise loans. In the case of E3, this included the €25 million donation from the Naughton family, the largest single donation in the history of the state, and we thank them for their ...

Here is a timeline laying out what I’ve talked about so far.

After the E3 Learning Foundry, we will build the E3 Research Institute as the centrepiece of our new campus at the Grand Canal Innovation District or GCID as we’re calling it. As you know, Trinity, DCU and UCD signed a memorandum of understanding at a public launch in July, agreeing to work together with government and key state agencies on developing a common innovation vision for Dublin and on the creation of GCID.

And not forgetting the student residences as part of the new Printing House Square. In its own way this is as essential as E3 or Trinity Business School. We have a long tradition of student residence in College – it’s part of what makes college years so memorable.

These capital developments will enable many more students to be educated, and they allow us to continue providing a transformative student experience.
There are of course other successful recent capital development projects that I could point to – such as the Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation at 36 Fenian Street – as well as many more initiatives across the university – like the PhD Project Awards, which have seen us bring 40 new funded PhD students to the university to work on vital fields of research. But as I’ve said, I don’t intend this speech as a roll-call of successes. We don’t have time and it’s not necessary, I think, to get across the substantive point, which is that we’ve delivered significantly on projects of serious ambition, leaving us in a strong position to plan for the future.

* * *The Rankings* * *

Before we turn to consider our future – and specifically the two major initiatives upcoming in my provostship, the Philanthropic Campaign and the new Strategic Plan – I’d like to address a paradox.

The paradox is that, after all I’ve said, Trinity has been falling, rather than rising, in the global rankings.

If things have really been progressing that well, shouldn’t we have seen a related rise in the rankings? Some years we go up, but mostly we go down.

There are a few possible reasons for this. Maybe, despite Trinity doing well; globally, other universities are doing even better?

There could be something in this – huge injections of state funding are making a big difference to universities in Asia, and private funding has transformed higher education in the USA and the UK - neither of these are seen much in Ireland.

But I don’t really think that other universities round the world are achieving so much as to over-shadow our achievements. Rather, I believe we are under-ranked – it’s taking time for the Rankings to catch up with all we’ve done.

This may sound like wishful thinking – maybe it is, only time will tell. But here’s the evidence: most notable to me is that last year, 2017, Trinity won €100.6 million in research funding. In 2013 that figure was €74 million so we’ve increased our research funding by a third, in under five years. That seems to me exceptional, and I don’t believe it’s been reflected in the rankings.

Our research success isn’t just exceptional compared to other Irish universities. Among LERU members – which is to say among the
elite universities in Europe - we are placed 14th for winning European Research Council grants. Again, this has yet to be reflected in the rankings.

We’ve received many other benchmarks of success. For instance, our position as Europe’s best university for educating entrepreneurs seems unassailable – we’ve come out on top for five years and counting in Pitchbook’s evaluation.

The willingness of a top-ranked university like Columbia University in New York to enter into a dual BA programme with us speaks for itself, as does the eagerness of Oxford University to learn from us how to do Access Programmes.

And of course, there are all the distinctive honours to individuals. There are too many to name but, for instance, John Boland has just won SFI Researcher of the Year, with Tomás Ryan and Jane Farrar also being named among the eight winners nationally. And a fortnight ago Christine Casey, Professor in Architectural History, won the top British prize in her field, the Alice Davis Hitchcock Medallion for ‘outstanding contribution’.

And here:

This is, I promise! - A genuine photo of my bedtime reading: books by staff on history, literature, science and neuroscience; prizewinning novels and nonfiction by graduates; an essay by the Chancellor, and a memoir by one of our Senators. All published in the past few months! It’s not easy keeping on top of what Trinity people are doing!

So, yes, I do think we’re undervalued in the Rankings and I’m confident that the Business School, E3, GCID and other stand-out initiatives are going to help to reverse the decline.
And I’d also say this: I’m not someone who goes around disparaging the importance of the rankings. The rankings are here to stay; they’re looked at closely by potential staff and students around the world; and they do provide a measurable benchmark.

However, they don’t measure, nor claim to measure, how a given university is delivering on its strategy. Trinity has a threefold mission, as detailed in the current Strategic Plan. Our three priorities are, I quote:

- First, education and ‘a transformative student experience’;
- Second, ‘research at the frontiers of disciplines which makes a catalysing impact on innovation and addresses global challenges’; and
- Third, ‘advancing the cause of a pluralistic, just and sustainable society’

Now the rankings are well set up to measure research; they do that through opinion surveys and citations in journals. They’re less good at measuring education, but they’re getting better.

However, on the third part of our mission, ‘a pluralistic, just and sustainable society’, that is simply not measured by the rankings, which means that our vital initiatives in this sphere, including:
- the Trinity Access Programme;
- membership of the International Sustainable Campus Network;
- the Dean’s Roll of Honour for Student Volunteering;
- Community Liaison, and
- all our public engagement and outreach projects including lectures, exhibitions, Science Gallery’s programmes with primary and secondary schools;
- not to mention, the activism of our students...

All this, which takes considerable time, and is the true marker of a distinctive university, goes unnoticed in the Rankings.

By not even attempting to measure pluralism, sustainability, and active citizenship, the Rankings are sending out a message about what they believe the role of a university is. And frankly, I think their view of a university’s role is reductive and doesn’t allow for the transformative power which a great university can have on its region, and on its graduates.

On my trips abroad, I’ve seen, first hand, what can happen when a university focuses too relentlessly on the rankings – and to be honest, it isn’t something I’d like us to emulate here. Yes, such universities can deliver very many publications and can train students in subjects that the political system deems important. But so much that we consider central to the mission of a university in
society is lost. As a result, their campuses often lack the societal engagement, the critical questing creativity that we take for granted.

I don’t say I loved the student protests last year - I certainly didn’t love some of the tweets! But who could complain about students claiming Trinity as their own? Because it is. I don’t want to lead a university which doesn’t involve students in the way it’s run. Student protest is how the younger generation speaks to those in power. I don’t want to lead a university that encourages conformity.

There’s a cost involved in a university narrowing its mission to measurable outcomes – a cost to the region, to the intellectual and social formation of graduates, and ultimately, to the university itself.

It’s important to make this argument because of what’s been happening politically in the world, over the past few years.

Let me say a bit more about this.

* * *Social Responsibility/Active Citizenship* * *

In Europe, and globally, we’re seeing a retreat from the post-war consensus around free trade, human rights, universal values and international institutions, and a move towards protectionism and illiberalism – and this is happening at a time of looming environmental threat when we really need to come together as a global community to agree ways to save the planet.

Does this have anything to do with universities? I think it does and I’m not the only one.

[Two months ago I was invited to a British-Irish Association meeting ... ... ... ad lib on this].

Universities play a huge role in shaping the ‘mental map’ of graduates. Who and how we educate determines what type of person enters leadership positions in politics, business, innovation, diplomacy, academia, and civil society. And, of course, who and how we educate ultimately determines what research we do. It could hardly be more important.

We have to contribute to shaping societies that promote openness, inclusivity, equality and the pursuit of knowledge. If we don’t, we will find that our activities contribute to society closing in on itself and failing to expand knowledge for the benefit if all.
In Trinity, social responsibility and active citizenship are intrinsic to our mission. It could hardly be otherwise. This is the university of Edmund Burke, Henry Grattan, Wolfe Tone, Robert Emmet, Thomas Davis, Oscar Wilde, Douglas Hyde, Edward Carson, John Redmond, Mary Robinson, David Norris, Mary McAleese... I could go on. In Ireland and beyond, the political and social narrative has been greatly shaped by Trinity people.

We’re proud of this tradition; we seek actively to strengthen it. As an example, immediately after this talk, I’ll be going along to the Dining Hall to meet this year’s Entrance Exhibitioners and their parents and teachers. It’s an annual event, but this year is the start of something different because we’ve changed the criteria: previously students with the highest CAO points in the country became Entrance Exhibitioners. But now we’re awarding each student who gets top points in his or her school - provided they have gained 500 points or more.

This is a real shift of emphasis to promote inclusivity. Under the previous system, a small number of schools were predominant. This year there are 379 Schools represented from all 32 counties. I’m already hearing, informally, that this is a big deal for the individual schools. [Ad lib]

Tweaking the criteria for entrance exhibitioners is a small change that will have a big social impact. I am proud that Trinity is leading on this, as we have led on Access, outreach and public engagement, both in Ireland and globally.

* * *Upcoming initiatives: Philanthropic Campaign & Strategic Plan* * *

Now I’d like to talk a bit about two major initiatives we’re working on this academic year: the Philanthropic Campaign and the new Strategic Plan.
In Trinity we’ve achieved significantly in research, education and social responsibility, as I’ve described here.

Keeping these successes in mind, let’s turn to the new Strategic Plan and the Philanthropic Campaign, which we’ll be launching next year. Both are far-reaching and will run well into the next provostship. Ideally, each will reinforce the other.
With both, we’re asking the essential questions:

- What is Trinity for?
- Why is it unique?
- And why is it worth supporting?

That’s support in the broadest sense:

- Why is Trinity worth studying in, if you’re a student?
- And why is it worth teaching and researching in, if you’re an academic?
- Or working in, if you’re professional staff?
- Or staying connected to, if you’re an alumnus?
- Or donating to, if you’re a benefactor?

If, as a community, we can agree these questions with one voice, then we will run a very successful Philanthropic Campaign and we will articulate a transformational Strategic Plan.

I hope, in what I’ve been saying today, that I’ve got across why Trinity is worth supporting: it’s because we are able to demonstrate success in so many different spheres.

The Philanthropic Campaign reflects the multifaceted approach of the university – shown here in green. It’s focussing on key capital development projects across the three faculties - including E3, the Library, the Trinity St James’ Cancer Institute; the Law School; let’s add these to the slide - In addition the philanthropic campaign will focus on people, on TAP and on talent acquisition through scholarships.

With the Philanthropic Campaign, we’re asking support for a university that, over the past few years, has taken control of its destiny and proved itself.

This confidence in the university and its achievement will also be manifest in our new Strategic Plan.

I’m proud of the current Plan – of its logic and coherency, its ambitious yet realistic targets. All the same, the next Strategic Plan will probably be quite different, and that’s how it should be – five years is time enough to progress. With the next Plan, we can be even stronger, bolder, more vivid and inspiring.
The current Strategic Plan is very focused on numbers and financial targets – it had to be; it was devised during a crisis. We needed to focus on revenue. Thanks to that focus – in particular to the huge growth in revenue from CRU, global relations and, shortly, from philanthropy – we’re in a position, with this Strategic Plan, to think more strategically about how to build capacity in terms of people and space.

The Vice-Provost/CAO will lead on this, and one of the things I’ve learnt from Chris is the importance of narrative. The Strategic Plan is a narrative, a narrative addressed to a wide audience, and it paints a picture of what we want the next five years to look like.

A university is about people and, ultimately, about relationships. For this Strategic Plan, I’d like us to think in terms of stories, themes, connections. I’d like the Plan to get across the excitement and dynamism of a great university, and the transformative effect such a university has on all those who pass through it, and on its region, and on the world-wide network of research and scholarship that we are part of.

Rather than just giving the Plan years and dates, I’d like a title for this Plan. I want to name it with proper nouns, with a title that conveys our thematic priorities. We’re still in discussion around a title, but the working title is ‘Community and Connection’.

Let me explain the thinking behind this:

‘Community’ is hardly a new word on campus – we use it a lot, and I hope by ‘community’ we all mean the same thing – Trinity students, staff and alumni.

Over the past years, we’ve put strong emphasis on our global community – to great effect. We’ve placed alumni at the heart of the global relations strategy. On each of my trips abroad, I meet with alumni groups – this past year alone I’ve been in 15 cities – all of them have alumni branches! Juliette, and other college officers have had similar meetings, and the Schools and Departments are in touch with their own graduates.

The Trinity Global Graduate Forum of 2013, and now the Provost’s Council and other advisory Boards, are the direct results of this engagement with alumni. Ours is a mutually enforcing relationship. I know how willing graduates are to be called upon, and I thank them for their great contribution – it’s making a serious difference.

So, when we talk about a globally connected Trinity community, we can stand over that claim. It means something. It exists.
Community is global, yes, but it’s also distinct, specific, and local. The internal Trinity community, or the ‘campus community’, is the community of students, and academic and professional staff, on campus in the here and now.

This has, traditionally, been a very strong and connected community, thanks to our collegiate traditions, such as Fellowship, the Senior Common Room, the residential College & Trinity Hall, and a democratic tradition of elections for all manner of positions, including the Provost and Board.

Elections help to coalesce community and to encourage a sense of ownership and buy-in. I believe that Trinity’s collegiate, democratic culture has been a source of strength through the ages. It’s part of what we are. Of course, it entails responsibility, and I think we all have a responsibility - Fellows, staff and students - to step up, show leadership and act in the best interests of the college community.

This is particularly important in a changing era. Today, staff and student numbers are larger than ever before, with competition for students becoming a global activity; the staff population, both academic and professional, is more mobile, with more people tending to move around with their careers.

None of these changes are bad in themselves, but collectively they could serve to loosen the bonds of community.

The challenge for us is to maintain and strengthen what is essential in our traditions, what works for us, whilst remaining flexible and adaptive to the changes that are happening.

In this Strategic Plan we want to be proactive and creative. We want people to draw strength from community, to build confidence to do great research by seeing it go on around them. There are a few ways to do this:

- The Estates Strategy, which the Bursar Veronica Campbell has delivered and will launch shortly, is about making better use of space. Space is essential to community, as any architect will tell you, and indeed in Trinity our sense of community comes so much from sharing this beautiful campus. Better management of space will improve connectivity across the university. And the building of new transformative spaces, like the E3 Learning Foundry, will enable new approaches in teaching.

- The Estates Strategy is being complemented by an ambitious Digital Transformation – this is about making sure we’re
using new technology developments to personalise and enhance the Trinity experience. Just as we seek to make optimal use of our physical infrastructure, it follows that we need to link up and coordinate our digital infrastructure for admin, finance, HR, and the rest.

The Dean of Research Linda Doyle is currently finalizing the Research Excellence Strategy. The strategy is based on a set of values - values such as respecting diversity of research, nurturing a supportive research environment, using our collective expertise for the greater good and standing up for research. The research excellence strategy will ensure we use the resources we have to maximize our research potential.

- And philanthropy is being embedded in the college. The Campaign is being launched 4th April 2019. This is not a one-off initiative. We're transmitting philanthropy to our DNA - connecting alumni and friends to Trinity’s story, inspiring them through the entirety of our mission in education, research and public engagement.

Through these and other initiatives, the new Strategic Plan will put emphasis on community and connection. It will build capacity where it’s needed and create relationships across faculties and disciplines. A strengthened internal community will connect to a more engaged global community.

* * *Conclusion* * *

Now, coming back to these books on my bedside table.

I have to admit that I haven’t read all of them. In fairness, there are a lot of them, and I don’t claim to be a speed reader. I’ve been
dipping in and out. What I find striking, so far, are the thematic resemblances between them.

These books are on very different subjects: on climate change, transhumanism, Michael Collins, neuroscience, popular science, growing up in Dublin. Very different subjects. What joins them is, I think, a sense of optimism.

In no case, is it a facile sense of optimism. All these books touch on difficult issues – Luke O’Neill writes about the immune system ‘going rogue’ and causing Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s; Lynne Ruane writes about dropping out of school and teenage pregnancy; Kevin Mitchell looks at neural disorders like schizophrenia and epilepsy; Caitriona Lally explores mental illness and marginalisation; Mary Robinson looks at what we’ve done to the planet. Hardly cheerful subjects!

And yet, to read these books is to feel optimistic – about scholarship and research which seeks and finds solutions, and about those two words which I see as central to our next Strategic Plan: Community and Connection.

If these books share a message, it’s that the worse thing we can do as individuals, universities, regions and countries is to isolate ourselves. In these books, the moment of grace and salvation comes through people making connections - whether that’s connection through a research team, or through an adult education programme, or through governments agreeing climate accords, or through interpersonal relations, love and friendship. In these books, people save people, and outward-looking, inclusive, connected institutions and programmes save people.

All these books are wonderfully written – no way will our new Strategic Plan be so readable, unfortunately! But I hope it will share with these books their sense of hard-won optimism, of surmounting challenges through focus on what’s important.

It’s been great working with you on our journey thus far. I look forward to us launching a great Philanthropic Campaign and Strategic Plan to bring Trinity to its next phase of scholarship, research, education and active citizenship.

Thank you.

* * *
Provost delivering the address in the Edmund Burke Theatre
27 November 2018

Speech after a tour of Provost’s House for Trinity Alumni

Provost’s House, Trinity College

Good evening and welcome,

And I hope you’ve all enjoyed the tour of what is without doubt one of Ireland’s architectural jewels and one of the few buildings left in Dublin which is still being used for its original purpose: to house the Provost and his or her family. It’s been an honour to call this house my home for the past seven years.

I know you’ve been in particularly good hands for this tour. Professor Christine Casey was probably too modest to mention it, but just last month she was awarded the top UK prize in her field: the Alice Davis Hitchcock Medallion for ‘outstanding contribution to architectural history’. We are extremely proud of her here – we were proud of her anyway, but we’re delighted to see her remarkable research receiving such international recognition.

Christine doesn’t give many tours of the Provost’s House – so we’re particularly grateful that she has shared her expertise with us tonight. It’s just one of our ways here in Trinity of saying thank you and expressing our gratitude to each of you for ongoing support and commitment to this great University.

Each of you are donors and volunteers of the College and you have supported a broad range of projects from engineering, to languages, to business, to medicine, and student societies and access programmes, to name a few. Every donation made goes on to have a direct and lasting impact on a Trinity student or on research and scholarship.

* * *

Trinity has been the beneficiary of philanthropy since 1592, when the University was established by charter of Queen Elizabeth the First and granted lands here on this site which was then outside the city walls. Over the centuries that followed, Trinity was able to grow and thrive thanks to the generosity of leading citizens from Ireland and abroad. Their gifts, bequests, trust funds and endowments enabled this University to shine as a beacon of Irish excellence in
scholarship and education. Each of you present this evening – the donors of today – continue in this noble tradition.

The new Trinity Business School that we look forward to opening in March 2019 is one manifestation of this support: it has been part-funded by almost €20m in philanthropic donations from individuals, foundations and corporate donors.

This year we celebrated a significant milestone: the Naughton family made the single largest private philanthropic donation in the history of the state to the new E3 Institute for Engineering, Environment, and Emerging Technologies by donating €25 million. E3 will enable collaboration between engineers, natural scientists and computer scientists to address some of the biggest global challenges facing the planet, including renewable energy and water supply.

As with the Trinity Business School, strong philanthropic benefaction to E3 allowed us to leverage state investment and raise loans. The Naughtons’ transformative gift is being combined with €15 million in Government funding from the Department of Education and Skills.

When we leverage state investment and raise loans, it’s not only the financial support of our donors that we point to – it’s also your support and belief in what we’re doing – in our mission and vision and particular projects. And the faith and belief of people who have achieved signally in their own lives and careers counts for a great deal.

In spring 2019 Trinity will embark on a major new Philanthropic Campaign with ambitious financial targets. This is the first comprehensive college-wide campaign in the history of the University. Of course, there have been other campaigns for one-off projects – I think for instance of the campaign to build the Berkeley Library fifty years ago, which inspired a wonderful response. Most movingly perhaps, our graduate Samuel Beckett donated the profits from the New York run of his play, ‘Krapp’s Last Trap’.

That’s a wonderful story about creative giving. I hope this philanthropic Campaign inspires similar stories. The Berkeley campaign gave Beckett the opportunity to contribute to his alma mater and to safeguard what he believed in – literature and learning. With this campaign we offer graduates and friends the opportunity to contribute to the projects that resonate most with them.

The Campaign is focussing on key capital development projects across our three faculties – including E3, the Library, the Trinity St James’ Cancer Institute, and the Law School – and it’s investing in
people, in the Trinity Access Programme and on talent acquisition through scholarships.

These are multifaceted projects which will have an impact on Ireland and the world for generations to come. I look forward to sharing more details with each of you over the coming months.

With the Philanthropic Campaign, we’re asking support for a university that has proved itself, time again.

I won’t go into all our achievements – many of them are known to you. Let me just say that our achievements go across our three faculties and across our mission in research, education and public engagement; and also let me say that we are not lacking in ambition! We want to find cures for cancer, to help solve global warming, to educate dynamic, entrepreneurial, creative graduates and to give every student in Ireland with an aptitude for our education the chance to come here, regardless of background.

Your support and generosity are important to us. Quite simply, Trinity would not be what it is without the support of alumni and friends. We feel confident in launching this Campaign because we know we have wonderful friends and supporters to draw on, and because we are able to point to measurable achievements.

By supporting Trinity you’re helping us deliver for education, research, innovation, public engagement, pluralism and active citizenship. We are looking forward to moving, with you, to the next phase of this great university.

Thank you all for being here this evening. Thank you for your wonderful support, and since Advent is upon us: Seasons’ Greetings.

* * *
Professor Christine Casey (speaking) and guests

Provost Patrick Prendergast speaking
Thank you to the College community – staff, students and alumni - for coming together this evening for our annual switching on of the Trinity Christmas Tree lights to kick of the festive season here in Trinity.

We are delighted to welcome again members from the Trinity Club (Francis Mulligan and Jude Dennis), a club run by the Trinity Society of Saint Vincent de Paul who will be turning on the lights this evening. The Trinity Clubs run activities for adults with intellectual disabilities and the elderly and these take place in and around college as well as off-campus and are a tremendously valuable and rewarding aspect of the VDP.

Before we do the countdown, I’d also like to thank

- Our suppliers who generously donated mince pies and mulled wine for staff and students.
- Also College catering staff for working so hard this evening to ensure everyone can have refreshments this evening. (Don’t forget to use the recycling bins provided, to dispose of cups, etc., afterwards.)
- Security staff for looking after the crowd here this evening
- Estates and Facilities for organising this splendid Christmas tree for our Front Square
- AVCOM for providing our sound and lighting this evening
- The College singers for leading us in the Christmas carols

Countdown 5 – 4 – 3 – 2 – 1

Cheer!

Now our singers will continue with a selection of well-known Christmas favourites. I hope you all enjoy the rest of the evening.

* * *
Provost Patrick Prendergast with the carol singers on the steps of the 1937 Reading Room at the lighting of the Christmas Tree in Front Square, 2018
Launch of Coastwatch Autumn Survey Results

Museum Building, Trinity College

Colleagues, Distinguished Guests,

It’s my pleasure to open the Maritime Spatial Workshop and indeed to welcome you to Trinity College Dublin – though of course many of you have been here since this morning, celebrating the launch of the Autumn Survey results.

This is an important workshop on an important day: we’re at a historic moment when Ireland will have a Marine Spatial Plan within a year. This is happening at a time when cross-border planning is made potentially particularly challenging by Brexit, and when I say ‘cross-border’ that includes of course the border loughs – Lough Foyle and Carlingford. At the moment it must be said that Brexit is rather less easy to predict than the Irish weather …… Nevertheless, it’s safe to say that the Marine Spatial Plan or MSP represents both great opportunity and potential challenge.

Gathered here this afternoon are key individuals who are driving, or will have important input to, the Marine Spatial Plan. We’re delighted that Minister Damien English who is spearheading MSP, is here and will give the keynote address.

Karin Dubsky – who is known to all of you, I’m sure – will speak briefly, after me, about the aims of this particularly vital and substantive workshop.

In Trinity we’re very proud of Karin. She is, of course, a co-founder of Coastwatch and in 1993 she instigated the first attempt to produce a Coastal Zone Management policy by convening a six-month think-tank entitled ‘the CZM group’. This led to Ireland’s first Coastal Zone Management conference in Dublin Castle, which was addressed by Mary Robinson. Dr Robinson has since gone on to found the Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice; her address to CZM was an early indicator of her commitment.

It’s now three decades since Coastwatch was founded and, if it’s difficult to be happy about our coastal environment in Ireland or globally, then we can say that, without Coastwatch, things would be worse.
Coastwatch has made a great difference, most famously of course with the data that indicated marine litter was causing sea turtle death. This contributed to the plastic bag tax, which is perhaps Ireland’s greatest global contribution to ecological preservation and sustainability.

And last year Coastwatchers located extra streams which weren’t on the official catchments radar, while this year has seen the discovery and verification of seagrass Zostera beds by surveyors, including a super bed in Kilmore, in my own country of Wexford. Such data is, of course, extremely valuable.

This year has also seen an increase in surveyors and in the area covered, with around 1,500 volunteers surveying shorelines. Ireland has over 7000 km of shoreline – volunteer help in surveyance is essential. This is what makes Coastwatch among the most effective voluntary organisations in Ireland and Europe. And it’s what makes Coastwatch such a showcase for Citizen Science.

Citizen Science is a growing discipline, which empowers citizens to participate in planning and decision-making, and aids monitoring and enforcement.

I think we can all agree that the way to halt and reverse climate change and species extinction is through universal citizen action. There is nothing more important than activating and empowering people to work collectively for the good of the planet. In this sense, Coastwatch is a model for all environmental organisations – it proves that people will willingly give of their free time in this great cause.

* * *

In Trinity we have a threefold mission in education, research and public engagement. We are committed, I quote, to ‘advancing the cause of a pluralistic, just and sustainable society’.

We fulfil this part of our mission in many ways – through:

- encouraging student and staff volunteering,
- hosting public lectures, exhibitions and seminars on issues of vital interest,
- through community liaison, and
- membership of the International Sustainable Campus Network,
- through the Trinity Access Programme;

and through many more programmes and initiatives.
Let me just take the opportunity to thank you all for coming. In particular thanks to the regional coordinators, to the Department of Housing, Community and Water Services, and all our speakers. Peter Vissak deserves a particular mention since he has travelled from Estonia.

Thank you. And please welcome Karin Dubsky to talk about the workshop aims in the context of the Coastwatch results.

* * *

Provost Patrick Prendergast with the delegates on the Museum Building staircase and Karen Dubsky (leftmost)
Chancellor, Pro-Chancellors, Visitor, Public Orator, Distinguished Guests, Honorary Graduates,

Welcome to one of the highlights of the year: the Winter Commencements dinner. Today we have paid tribute to three exceptional individuals by bestowing on them our highest honours.

It’s among the privileges of universities that we have this formal, traditional, and recognised means of acknowledging excellence. Since the Middle Ages, universities have granted degrees ‘honoris causa’ on individuals anywhere in the world who are judged of merit. Only a few exceptional individuals are ever honoured annually.

This privilege reminds us that a university’s primary purpose is to enhance the public good by educating the thinkers, doers, artists, and reformers that society needs, as well as yielding the research which improves our way of being in the world.

This year, 2018, is the College’s 426th anniversary since our founding in 1592. It’s been a good year for the college – there’s been a great deal of achievement and ambition. The highlights, for me, include:

- The official announcement of our plan to build E3, the Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies Institute, following significant philanthropic and state support;
- The launch of our plan, in partnership with government and other Dublin universities, to create the Grand Canal Innovation District;
- The launch of the dual BA programme with Columbia University in New York which will enable students to graduate with degrees from both universities;
- Becoming the first university in Ireland to join the International Sustainable Campus Network, ISCN;
- The opening of the Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation in Fenian Street;
- The opening of Science Gallery London in King’s College London, the first in our global network of Science Galleries;
And as we head into 2019, we have more hugely exciting initiatives to look forward to, including the opening of the Trinity Business School, the launch of our third Global Relations Strategy – GRS3 as we call it, and the launch of the first Philanthropic Campaign in the college’s history set for April 4th.

Of course, we will also have challenges – some foreseen, others unexpected. We can best meet challenges by working together as a community.

The Trinity community now includes the three individuals whom we honour today. Between them, our three honoraries have illuminated the fields of local and social history, poetry and silicon photonics. Each has been an educator and disseminator in the truest sense and has worked to make the world a better place.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it's my pleasure now to say a few words you to Trinity's three new honorary graduates.

* * *

**Catherine Corless** is a local historian, whose research on the Bon Secours Mother and Baby Home in Tuam County Galway has shed light on that particular institution, and on societal and institutional behaviour in 20th century Ireland. Her untiring and meticulous cross-referencing of records of births, deaths and burials at the Tuam Home led to the uncovering of a mass grave and a particularly shameful moment in Irish history. Her research is all the more remarkable for being pursued without the support and infrastructure of an academic institution. It is widely recognised as being of special national and social importance. She received the Bar of Ireland Human Rights award in 2017 and her research is frequently referenced by the current Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Katherine Zappone. The awarding of an Honorary Doctorate in Laws by the University acknowledges the academic rigour and social significance of Catherine Corless’ work.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Catherine Corless.

* * *

**Thomas Kinsella**’s work has been described in The Cambridge History of Irish Literature as, I quote,

“the most challenging, most achieved, and therefore most rewarding body of poetry... over the past half-century”.

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He is included in all of the major anthologies and critical surveys of Irish poetry in English, and he has made an exceptional contribution to our understanding of the Irish-language tradition, from his engagements with early Irish in The Táin through to the translations gathered in An Duanaire and in the New Oxford Book of Irish Verse, which includes Ireland’s poetry in both languages – what he called our “dual tradition surviving the extinction of a language”. His own poems are celebrated and loved for their profound personal candour and sensitivity, as well as for their searing political and public critical insight.

I want to read for you another great poet’s poem dedicated to Thomas Kinsella.

The Poet as Mastercraftsman

for Thomas Kinsella

Eras do not end when great poets die,
for poetry is not whole, it is where man
chose mountains to conform, to carve his own
face among the Gothic richness and the sky,
and the gargoyles, and the lesser tradesmen.
Praise from the apprentice is always shown
in miniatures of a similar stone.
I saw the master in his human guise
open doors to let me in, and rhythm out.
He smiled and entertained into the night.
I was aware of work undone. His eyes,
like owls’, warned images from the room.
Under the stairs the muse was crying; shields
clashed in the kitchen and the war drum’s boom,
men in celtic war dress entered from the right.
I left, my conversation put to rout.

To poets peace poetry never yields.

As readers of poetry everywhere celebrate his ninetieth birthday this year, it’s fitting and timely that Trinity recognises this great Dubliner’s achievement with an honorary Doctorate in Letters.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Thomas Kinsella

* * *

Michal Lipson is an American physicist known for her pioneering work in silicon photonics. She is currently the Eugene Higgins Professor of Electrical Engineering and Professor of Applied Physics
at Columbia University and was formerly the Given Foundation Professor of Engineering at Cornell University, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. She works at the interface between physics and electrical engineering and is renowned for enabling optics on a chip for processing and transmitting information with high capacity. She has authored over 200 technical papers and over 25 patents on novel micron-size photonic structures for light manipulation - since 2014, she has been named by Thomson Reuters as one of the top 1% most cited physicists globally. Professor Lipson’s honours and awards include the MacArthur Fellow, 2019 IEEE Photonics Award, OSA R. W. Wood Prize, Blavatnik Award, OSA Fellow, IEEE Fellow, IBM Faculty Award, and NSF Early Career Award. As a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the CRANN Nanoscience Research Institute, she is a supporter of the research we do in Trinity and Ireland. It’s an honour to recognise her with a honorary doctorate in Science.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Michal Lipson.

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These three women and men are true role models of what can be achieved – in terms of their specific fields, and of serving the greater good. We have been celebrating them all week in Trinity:

- This morning, the Trinity Long Room Hub hosted ‘an in conversation’ with Catherine Corless – she was interviewed by Professor in Genetics, Aoife MacLysaght;
- On Tuesday the School of English and the Department of Irish and Celtic Studies jointly hosted a ‘Thomas Kinsella Celebratory Readings’; and
- Yesterday Professor Lipson delivered a lecture hosted by AMBER on the ‘The History and State of Optics on a Chip’.

I congratulate each of our distinguished and distinctive new honorary doctors. We are privileged to have you join the roll of graduates of the University of Dublin.

Before I call on Professor Lipson to respond, I would like you all to rise for the first toast of the evening.
Ladies and Gentlemen, “Ireland”

* * *

Professor Lipson............

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(Front Row, L to R) Thomas Kinsella, Catherine Corless, Michel Lipson
(Back row, L to R) Provost Patrick Prendergast, Chancellor Mary Robinson
Chancellor, Pro-Chancellors, distinguished guests and colleagues,

It's my great pleasure to welcome you this evening to the installation of Professor Sean Barrett as a Pro-Chancellor of the University of Dublin.

Pro-Chancellors are ex officio members of the Senate of the University, and Pro-Chancellors hold office in their own right. They deputise for the Chancellor in accordance with the Statutes.

For the Chancellor and Pro-Chancellors, the conferring of degrees at commencements is the primary commitment. The Chancellor is also one of the two Visitors to the College; this entails hearing cases from staff and students on all sorts of issues. Pro-Chancellors are called on to deputise in these matters for the Chancellor, as needed.

The University of Dublin is fortunate to have in these offices very eminent individuals; our Chancellor, Dr Mary Robinson, and our Pro-Chancellors: The Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Deeny, Professor Jane Grimson and Professor David McConnell. This evening is about adding a new name to this distinguished list.

*    *    *

Professor Sean Barrett needs no introduction. A Fellow Emeritus of the college, a member of the Department of Economics since 1977, a senator for the University of Dublin from 2011 to 2016, a former Junior Dean and Registrar of Chambers from 1986 to 2000, a Vice-President of the Hist, a Vice-President of the Choral Society, and President of DUBES† – it was a profile of him in the University Times, I believe, that said that he had 'Trinity running through his veins'†. That profile also remade him as a Trinity graduate – understandably – but in fact we cannot claim to have given Sean his BA and doctorate – that distinction belongs to UCD.

But he has made his career in, and representing, Trinity for the past forty years and we could hardly hope for a Pro-Chancellor more

† Dublin University Business and Economics Society
† http://www.universitytimes.ie/2016/09/sean-barrett/
experienced in the university’s ways, nor one more strongly devoted to its progression and advancement.

As most of you are aware, in Trinity, we recently agreed the four graduate attributes which we would like to underpin the Trinity education. We want our graduates: to think independently, to develop continuously, to communicate effectively and to act responsibly.

Sean embodies these attributes. It has always come naturally to him to move effortlessly between the Academy and the Public Square, to apply his research to real-life situations, to use his knowledge and experience to progress the ways things are run in the university and the country.

His record as a Senator is remarkable – it’s no surprise that as an economist, he was involved in furthering legislation on fiscal responsibility; and that he tabled legislation with regard to housing to ensure fair access to homeownership and address the accommodation shortage.

He also tabled the Copyright and Related Rights Bill 2015 and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his work in the Seanad on various Higher Education and University bills. It was vital have someone of his experience and articulacy speaking up for the importance of academic independence during the difficult years of the recession.

As an economist, Professor Barrett’s main area of expertise is transport economics, particularly the civil aviation sector, including scholarship concerning Ryanair, Aer Lingus and the economics of airports, as well as the effects of regulation and deregulation. He was able to draw on all of this during his time on the Joint Oireachtas Committees of Inquiry into the Banking Crisis, on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and on Transport and Communications.

Himself a wonderful lecturer, he has always spoken up for the importance of teaching and education at third level. He puts students at the core of the university and has raised concern over what he sees as excessive emphasis on chasing high rankings.

In Trinity it is important to us that our Pro-Chancellors are professionally eminent and serve as role models to the whole Trinity community and to society. Sean is recognised nationally for his commitment to his discipline, to public service, and to research and education.
It’s with the greatest pleasure that I welcome someone with such an impeccable record of scholarship and public service to the Pro-Chancellorship of the University of Dublin.

Professor Barrett is the 59th Pro-Chancellor to be appointed to this role since the foundation of the College in 1592.

* * * FORMALITIES * * *

Provost
In accordance with the 2010 Consolidated Statutes of Trinity College Dublin and of the University of Dublin, Professor Sean Barrett, having been nominated in accordance with Section 6(3)(b) of the Chapter on the Chancellor, was declared elected a Pro-Chancellor of the University of Dublin. In accordance with Section 2(2)(4) of the said Chapter, I now invite Professor Barrett to make his statutory declaration:

Sean Barrett
I, Sean Barrett solemnly declare that I shall faithfully discharge the duties prescribed for the Pro-Chancellor by the Statutes, and that I shall, so far as in me lies, promote and defend the welfare and interests of the University

Provost robes Dr Barrett

Provost
Professor Barrett is now admitted to the Office of Pro-Chancellor of the University of Dublin. I invite him to address you.

* * *
Provost Patrick Prendergast & Dr Sean Barrett, Pro-Chancellor
Good evening,

Welcome to the Long Room in Trinity College Dublin Library, and to the launch of a book dealing with what is certainly one of the most important topics facing the world at the current time. This is an innovative, interdisciplinary work of particular prescience and foresight, which is set to become the essential guidebook for those working in social computing, in human rights law, and in emergency and disaster response and management.

The attendees here this evening – all of you – bespeak the importance of this book. It’s my pleasure to welcome representatives from:
- the UN Human Rights Centre, in Padova, Italy;
- An Garda Síochána, International Liaison Office;
- The Defence Forces;
- The High Court;
- Dublin City Council;
- The Attorney General’s Office;
- The Irish Naval Service;
- Legal practitioners; and
- European universities, including of course Trinity College staff.

All mentioned either participated in the creation of this book, or have a deep professional interest in its contents – that alone indicates the breadth, range and relevance of the book’s themes and issues.

I don’t need to make the case for the importance of social computing and the law. It is perhaps the story of the past few years and it is on-going. Across the media, you will find constant news relating to GDPR, data protection, data privacy, the misuse of user data, and much more.

This is a vast area and its permutations are endless. Social computing is what we call a disruptive technology – it progresses at a rate difficult for society to keep up with, and it has multiple applications, affecting all aspects of our lives, which means that any
scholarly exploration of its implications must involve multiple disciplines.

This book focuses on a key application of social computing and the law: emergency management. It takes, as its starting point, the need to balance, on the one hand, the importance of deploying biological and biometric data in crisis situations in order to find, rescue and rehabilitate people and manage scarce resources; and on the other hand, the importance of protecting people’s privacy and human rights and guarding against wholesale surveillance.

The book arose from the research project Slándáil, coordinated by Trinity’s School of Computer Science and Statistics, and financed by the EU’s Seventh Framework Programme, FP7.

Slándáil, which ran 2014 to 2017, looked at the use of social media in emergencies and it delivered methods for analysing data from social media for emergency response.

Under the coordination of Professor Khurshid Ahmad of the School of Computer Science and Statistics, Slándáil brought together legal experts, universities, technology companies, ethicists and emergency management teams, including:
- The Irish School of Ecumenics, here in Trinity
- The law firm, Arthur Cox
- The University of Padua
- The University of Leipzig, and
- Ulster University

The results of their research and collaboration are published in this book which provides clear insights into how data can be legally and ethically harvested, aggregated and presented during times of emergency. In the final chapter it provides a unique licence agreement and ethical checklist that helps guide any user on how to use social media data without infringing human rights or existing computer laws.

The European Commission has flagged Project Slándáil as a success story. Testing and evaluation with emergency management teams for working software systems is ongoing with partners in Italy, Ireland and the USA, and partnership has been agreed with ILEAnet, an EU network of law enforcement. The book has been recommended to all research projects funded under the security strand of EU funding.

That is an excellent outcome for the project as we head, now, into the next EU framework programme, Horizon Europe. The EU is, of course, the most important funding body on the continent. Irish
universities – and Trinity in particular – have proved their strengths in securing funding in the highly competitive process.

In the current EU funding round, Horizon 2020, which is just ending, Trinity participated in 172 projects, winning €90 million in funding. That means that Trinity participated in a fifth of all Horizon2020 projects funded in Ireland and won just over a quarter of all the funding allocated here*. These figures are, I think, particularly impressive when you consider that Trinity has only 16 percent of Ireland’s academic faculty.

In terms of European Research Council grants, which award basic or fundamental research, we do even better. Trinity has won half of all Irish ERC grants.

Research and scholarship is the foundation of our reputation as a university. Excellence in research enables world-class education, innovation, industry link-ups and public engagement.

The government has iterated its ambition for Ireland to “have the best education system in Europe in 2026”. That’s an ambition we should all strive towards. Continued and greater success in attracting research funding is central to that ambition, as, of course, is putting in place a cohesive system for the funding of universities in Ireland – something we are still waiting for.

Research funding must focus on the full life-cycle of research – from fundamental discovery to application and commercialisation. Slándáil is a particularly strong example of applied research. In tandem with its conclusion, Professor Ahmad won two pre-commercialisation grants to take technologies forward, funded by Enterprise Ireland, the European Regional Development Fund and Atlantic Bridge. These grants are concluding in 2019 and investment is currently being sought for a university spin-off company to commercialise the expertise and technologies arising from Slándáil.

In Trinity we are naturally proud of the success of Slándáil and the achievement of this book. Many were involved. May I take this opportunity to thank:

* Doris Alexander, Updated Horizon2020 stats, 22 Oct 2018
- Professor Khurshid Ahmad, editor of this book and co-ordinator of *Slándáil*, and the other contributors to this book and the project;

- Professor Carol O’Sullivan, Head of the School of Computer Science and Statistics;

- Shane Finan, project manager for *Slándáil* and for the FIOSIN project which is leading the commercialisation of *Slándáil* output;

- Michael Murphy and the Security team at Enterprise Ireland for continued support since 2012;

- The European Union 7th Framework Programme, Enterprise Ireland and Atlantic Bridge for funding research and commercial development;

- An Garda Síochána International Liaison Office and Press Office, represented here today by Superintendent John Ferris and Inspector Eamon O'Loughlin; and other emergency management partners, the PSNI, Bundeskommando Leipzig and Civil Protection Veneto Region;

- The United Nations Human Rights Centre, Padova, Italy; and

- Arthur Cox LLC, instrumental partners in *Slándáil*, and sponsors for this evening.

On behalf of the whole university, my thanks to you all. This has been an exemplary project. We look forward to the spin-off and to Trinity continuing to contribute to the debate on data protection and security, central to our times.

Next year, as many of you are aware, we are starting on building the first phase of our Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies Institute, E3.

The **E3 Learning Foundry** will be built on the main campus, replacing existing buildings at the East End.

With the E3 Learning Foundry, we will educate 1800 more students of engineering, natural sciences and computer science, and we will educate in a new way. Students will develop transversal skills through working on multidisciplinary projects in collaborative student-managed learning spaces.
In the second phase, we will build the E3 Research Institute at our new Technology and Enterprise campus on Grand Canal Dock where it will be the lynchpin of Dublin’s new Innovation District, enabling more and better link-ups between industry and research.

E3 is Trinity’s contribution to addressing global challenges relating to areas like climate change, renewable energy, personalised data, water, connectivity and sustainable manufacturing.

Slándáil and this book prove Trinity’s leading expertise around personalised data. We look forward to bringing this to yet another level with E3.

Thank you.

* * *

Provost Patrick Prendergast & Professor Kurshid Ahmed (Professor of Computer Science and the author)
Inauguration of Sheila Greene as Pro-Chancellor

Saloon, Provost’s House, Trinity College

Pro-Chancellors’, distinguished guests and colleagues,

It’s my great pleasure to welcome you this evening to the installation of Professor Sheila Greene as a Pro-Chancellor of the University of Dublin.

Pro-Chancellors are *ex officio* members of the University Senate. And the Pro-Chancellors hold office in their own right. They deputise for the Chancellor in accordance with the Statutes.

For the Chancellor and Pro-Chancellors, the conferring of degrees at commencements is the primary commitment. The Chancellor is also one of the two Visitors to the College; this entails hearing cases from staff and students on all sorts of issues. Pro-Chancellors are called on to deputise in these matters for the Chancellor, as needed.

The University of Dublin is fortunate to have in these offices very eminent individuals; our Chancellor, Dr Mary Robinson, and our Pro-Chancellors: Sir Donnell Deeny, Professors Jane Grimson, David McConnell, and Sean Barrett. This evening is about adding a new name to this distinguished list.

Professor Sheila Greene needs no introduction. On the occasion of her retirement from teaching in 2011, the *Irish Times* wrote, I quote “The fact that we have a bigger picture of the lives of children in Ireland today is thanks in no small part to Professor Greene and the research she has led and inspired over the past two decades.”† This was a reference to Sheila co-founding the Children’s Research Centre with Professor Robbie Gilligan in 1995, being appointed to the inaugural AIB Professor of Childhood Research in 2005, and serving as co-director of the national longitudinal study *Growing up in Ireland*, for which she also wrote the design brief, ahead of its launch in 2006.

*Growing up in Ireland* is one of the most significant on-going research studies being carried out in Ireland, and one with

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* Sir Donnell Deeny, Professor David McConnell, Dr Sean Barrett
particularly high public recognition and interest. Every time the study publishes its findings there is wide press coverage.

If people now have great understanding of the importance of childhood as a research area, and strong awareness that many public policy areas – from education to employment to social welfare to housing – influence childhood then that owes much to Sheila and her pioneering work.

A graduate of this college, she completed her training as a clinical psychologist in London University and then spent four years as Head Psychologist on the Maternal and Infant Health Study attached to the Boston Children’s Hospital and Harvard University in Massachusetts. There she worked on a children’s longitudinal study, similar to the one she would help establish here in 2006.

Returning to Trinity in 1973, she joined the Department of Psychology. Together with Maureen Gaffney, who was working for the Eastern Health Board at the time, she went on to set up the first clinical training programme for psychology students and to play a central role in the growth of the department, establishing and running postgraduate courses and supervising thirty doctoral theses.

Besides childhood, her research interests are primarily in developmental psychology and the psychology of women. In 1988 she co-founded what was then the Centre for Women’s Studies, one of the first such centres in Ireland. To reflect the increasing diversity of its interests this centre became the Centre for Gender and Women’s Studies in 1999. Since its inception it has undertaken three inter-related activities: teaching, research and community/extramural activities, and like the Centre for Childhood Research, it is strongly interdisciplinary and collaborative. Sheila has been one of the foremost promoters and initiators of interdisciplinary research in the college.

Sheila was elected to fellowship in 1993 and has undertaken important leadership positions in the college. She was elected as Dean of Arts (Humanities) in 1992 and 1995, and in 2001 she was asked by the incoming Provost, John Hegarty, to serve as The Senior Lecturer (at that time, the Senior lecturer was effectively the chief academic officer) and was the first woman to occupy that post.

After her retirement from teaching in 2011, she continued as a member of IRCHSS and in 2012 became a member of the Board of the new Irish Research Council. She has also served on the committees of a wide number of national bodies including
NORFACE, Barnardos, the National College of Ireland and the Adoption Authority of Ireland.

It must be said that while we’re proud and happy in Trinity to see Sheila lend her expertise and authority to such national bodies, we have missed her playing an official role in the college. So we’re delighted to welcome her back as the 60th Pro-Chancellor to be appointed to this role since the foundation of the College in 1592.

Trinity Pro-Chancellors serve as role models to the whole Trinity community and to society.

It’s with the greatest pleasure that I welcome someone with such an impeccable record of pioneering scholarship and public service to the Pro-Chancellorship of the University of Dublin.

* * * FORMALITIES * * *

Provost

In accordance with the 2010 Consolidated Statutes of Trinity College Dublin and of the University of Dublin, Professor Sheila Greene, having been nominated in accordance with Section 6(3)(b) of the Chapter on the Chancellor, was declared elected a Pro-Chancellor of the University of Dublin. In accordance with Section 2(2)(4) of the said Chapter, I now invite Professor Greene to make her statutory declaration:

Sheila Greene

I, Sheila Mary Greene solemnly declare that I shall faithfully discharge the duties prescribed for the Pro-Chancellor by the Statutes, and that I shall, so far as in me lies, promote and defend the welfare and interests of the University

Provost robes Professor Greene

Provost

Professor Greene is now admitted to the Office of Pro-Chancellor of the University of Dublin, and I invite her to address you.

* * *
Professor Sheila Greene & Provost Patrick Prendergast, with Professor Greene’s children
Good morning,

Vice-Chancellor of Birmingham University Sir David Eastwood, Ambassador Barnett, colleagues, it’s my pleasure to formally welcome you on this key occasion of the launch of the strategic partnership between the University of Birmingham and Trinity College Dublin. It was great to meet everyone properly at dinner yesterday evening. This morning began with a Brexit roundtable, and with a visit to our university of Margrethe Vestager, EU Competition Commissioner who received the Gold Medal of the College debating society – The Hist.

We look forward to hearing shortly from academic leads from both universities about the exciting potential for collaborations. I thank everyone who has worked to bring this about on both sides. Speaking for Trinity, I can say that we feel at once excitement and familiarity about this alliance – excitement because this is a new partnership with a most distinguished peer university, and familiarity because I believe our two universities are cut from similar cloth, if you like. We are both large, multidisciplinary, founded by royal charter, highly ranked, and play an important role in our cities and regions. We understand each other; we share goals and aims, and this must favour a strong partnership of mutual benefit.

Over the past decade Trinity has hugely strengthened its global partnerships; this is one of the achievements of which we can be most proud. The vice-president of Global Relations, Professor Juliette Hussey, is here today. She has been instrumental to this achievement; next month we are launching the third iteration of our Global Relations Strategy.

In the first two stages of this Strategy we focussed very much on North America and Asia. These are regions where we felt we needed to have a much stronger footprint, to establish links with peer universities and put in place student exchanges and research collaborations. Our success has, frankly, exceeded all expectations. As a result in the new Strategy, launching next month, we’ll be
putting more focus on relations with neighbouring and European universities.

Of course, our existing collaborations across Europe are already significant. Trinity is a member of LERU, the League of European Research Universities, which plays an important lobbying role. But what has proved particularly instructive about our recent global relations strategy is that we’ve put in place meaningful collaborations in Asia and the US - including articulation programmes, joint degree and dual degree programmes - which go beyond any programme we have yet with European universities.

We are currently working on developing our network for the European Universities Network, which is a new EU scheme of ground-breaking potential with the University of Barcelona, the University of Utrecht, the University of Montpellier, and Eotvos Loránd University in Budapest.

At a meeting with the European Commission to discuss the vision and concept of this Network last summer I said that I felt that

“we are only at the cusp of leveraging the vast potential of the research, education and innovation opportunities within Europe.”

And I continued by emphasizing that

“because of proximity, shared history and culture, the opportunity for deeper partnerships in Europe is enormous.”

If this is true for Europe, it’s particularly true for Ireland and the UK. Irish and UK researchers currently enjoy almost a thousand collaborations under the EU’s Horizon2020 programme, far more than Ireland has with any other country. It would be surprising if this were not the case, given common language, history, culture and that the UK has the best universities in Europe.

In Trinity we are fully committed to maintaining and strengthening links with UK universities. This is very important for us. With the Thapar University in India, with Singapore Institute of Technology, and with Columbia University in New York, we have proved that it’s possible to build deep collaborations across the world. These are our models for what can be achieved, and it is of course eminently possible even after Brexit. While Brexit is not something we here wishes for, we have to be prepared for the new environment it brings.

This MOU represents a wonderful opportunity for students and staff, particularly of course in the agreed areas of collaboration –
medicine, bioengineering and digital editing and engagement. And I note also the potential for innovation exchanges between TCD’s new TTEC campus and UoB’s Life Science Park development.

The launch of a strategic partnership between universities is always important. Brexit gives this strategic partnership an additional importance. It’s certainly time now I think to be talking about ambition, opportunity, collaboration, common ground, and enabling new advances in research and education through partnership.

Let me end with a quote from the great Northern Irish poet, Louis MacNeice, who in the 1930s lectured in Classics in the University of Birmingham, and he must have maintained close relations there because E.R. Dodds, the professor of Greek was his literary executor. Trinity’s connection with MacNeice is through our graduates Michael Longley and Derek Mahon who cite him as an inspiration and influence; indeed Mahon has written a long elegy to him.

The lines from MacNeice I’d like to end on are from his poem, ‘Snow’:

World is suddener than we fancy it.
World is crazier and more of it than we think,
Incorrigibly plural.

Suddener and crazier – certainly these last few years – but what, finally, could be more optimistic or more apt a motto for academic collaboration than: “incorrigibly plural”?

Thank you.

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(Front row, seated L to R) Chris Morash, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer; Provost Patrick Prendergast; Vice-Chancellor, University of Birmingham Professor Sir David Eastwood; Provost & Vice-Principal Professor Tim Jones.

(Back row, standing) Academics of Trinity College and University of Birmingham with H.E. the British Ambassador Robin Barnett (centre)
Good evening,

And welcome, all, to the Provost’s House. Thank you for coming to celebrate with us the inauguration of our newest College portrait. This is also an occasion to recall Professor Shane Allwright’s wonderful contribution and commitment to the college as Professor in Epidemiology, Head of Department and of course, Registrar.

Shane served five years as Registrar, a longer term-of-office than is usual. This was the first five years of my Provostship and I was, and am, indebted to Shane for the leadership, calmness, clarity and for the commitment she brought to the role.

As I said on the occasion of Shane’s retirement in June 2016,

“the Registrar’s is an adaptable portfolio, shaped in part by the incumbent; and Shane expanded that role and filled it”.

As well as custodianship of the statutes and taking responsibility for all graduation ceremonies, Shane, as Registrar, took on many other leadership roles including:

- chairing the Academic Appeals Committee and the Student Disciplinary Committee;

- overseeing the College’s inter-institutional relationships within Ireland;

- Helping develop the Strategic Plan, particularly with regard to a sustainable campus and the university of the 3rd Age;

- And furthering civic engagement in the College.

* * *

I was reminded of Shane’s role and commitment just before Christmas when I attended the inaugural concert for the restored organ in the Public Theatre. This was a really great occasion – the
17th century organ was in need of extensive repairs for a very long time. It was Shane, together with Professor David Grayson and Dr Andrew Johnson, who drove the project. Thanks to their commitment, and to the generosity of donors and the expertise of Goetze and Gwynn, the restorers, the Organ sounds better than I’ve ever heard it, and the restorers told me probably better than it has for 180 years!

And I’ll be thinking of Shane in a month’s time when, on 6th March, Trinity becomes a smoking-free campus. She took a leading role nationally in providing the science that enabled the introduction of the workplace ban on smoking. Building on this, she then sought to extend the Ban across the campus, and I’m delighted that we have been able to achieve this. A tobacco-free Trinity is part of Shane’s contribution to the College.

It is a measure of Shane’s proactivity that a full two and a half years after her retirement, key initiatives that she put in place are reaching fruition; and it’s a measure of the diversity of her interests that these initiatives should span arts & culture and health. The only way to preserve our beautiful campus is to make continuous improvements. Shane’s foresight and proactivity are exemplary.

And this evening we are here to mark another improvement to the campus – the addition of a new portrait to our collection.

That this portrait is of a woman is, of course, welcome because there is a deficit of female portraits since women didn’t enter the college, as staff or students, until the 20th century, which means that men had a three-centuries of a head-start, so to speak. But it wasn’t Shane’s gender that occasioned this portrait – it was recognition, rather, of the great role she has played in shaping the 21st century college.

It’s one of those continual improvements, of which I speak, we’re now more instinctively democratic than the pre-20th century college, and that it comes naturally to us to celebrate the contribution of college officers. In previous centuries, college portraits tended to be of the Provosts and Chancellors. That’s fine. We do contribute, of course! But it’s absolutely right that we recognise that Trinity is the creation of many people, in many different roles and positions. This portrait preserves for posterity the role and contribution of Professor Allwright.

*   *   *

James Hanley probably needs no introduction. He is one of Ireland’s leading artists, a member of the Royal Hibernian Academy and of
Aosdána. His work is in significant public, corporate and private collections in Ireland and abroad and he has painted many official and state portraits including of Bertie Ahern as Taoiseach; Ronnie Delaney, the Olympic Gold medallist; Maureen Potter, the actress; John Murray as chief justice; and the inauguration of President Mary McAleese.

His work is in the National Gallery, IMMA, the OPW, the British Museum, the Chester Beatty, and the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

I am thrilled to be adding his wonderful Portrait of Shane Allwright to the collection. It will hang in the Provost’s House beside portraits of former Vice-Provosts David Spearman and Linda Hogan. It will give pleasure over the centuries as a particularly fine example of 21st century portraiture and a celebration of a woman who, during her time here, helped transform the college.

It’s now my pleasure to invite Professor Allwright to say a few words.

[Shane Allwright speaks]

Ladies and Gentlemen, I’d like to invite you all to join me in raising a glass to Shane Allwright and to James Hanley.
(L to R) Professor Shane Allwright, James Hanley (artist) & Provost Patrick Prendergast
07 February 2019

Visit to Innovation Districts London

Here East, London

Good morning,

Thank you all for being here today. I’m delighted that so many people instrumental to this great initiative have travelled over. I’m sure that, like me, you’re excited about this opportunity of visiting three different innovation districts, here in London, and learning best practice for the Grand Canal Innovation District that we will establish in Dublin.

It’s only a year since many of us were in Kendall Square in Massachusetts looking at Boston’s famous innovation district. Previous to that we visited over a dozen cities around the world – including Philadelphia, Miami, St Louis, Rotterdam, Paris and indeed London - to observe first-hand how they had established innovation districts. And we met with leaders of the world’s best universities to understand better their role in enabling innovation, enterprise and cultural transformation in their regions.

In the last twelve months we’ve made really significant progress in delivering on our ambition for a new tech campus and a globally competitive innovation district for Ireland.

Trinity has signed an MOU and is working in partnership with UCD, DCU and the new Technological University Dublin. It’s important that this campus and district is founded on partnership and I’m delighted that our partner universities are here with us on this trip.

The vision and ambition for the Grand Canal Innovation District was launched by An Taoiseach in July in the Lir Theatre.

Trinity will develop a campus that will help position Ireland as a research and innovation leader. Importantly, the campus will be designed with open walls, providing shared public spaces, cultural amenities, cafes and shops. This will be a development for the whole community, not only businesses and academics.

Over the last few months, we’ve been working on a Masterplan which we aim to open for public consultation this summer. Trinity has also determined its cornerstone activity for the site – the E3
Research Institute. In the last year we received the largest single donation from an Irish philanthropist – Martin Naughton – of €25 million euro to support the development of the E3 Foundry on our main campus and the E3 Research Institute at our proposed Grand Canal campus.

Since the launch in July, the Taoiseach has established an Advisory Council chaired by Martin Fraser, Secretary General. Members of this Council include senior representatives from industry and government as well as the university presidents. This group has already met three times and we will have two further meetings this quarter and will then issue a report providing insights and recommendations.

I want to thank the Department of an Taoiseach for their leadership in establishing this committee and their support.

Thanks also to funding received through Enterprise Ireland’s Regional Enterprise Development fund and the Department of Housing’s Urban Regeneration and Development Fund. This funding will support early activation on the site, creating a new innovation hub and providing space usable by all – start-ups, multinationals, local communities and our partner higher education institutions. This space will act as an early catalyst for the innovation district.

We want the local community to be involved from the outset and to provide input into how to use this space – I’m delighted that Elaine, Emma and Amanda could join us for these two days.

We are entering into a busy period for this project and I urge you to remain supportive of the vision that could be transformative, not just for Dublin, but for Ireland. I hope that over the two days, you will witness how shared ownership of such a project, involving community, universities and industry, can bring social and economic benefits to a district.

The economic cost benefit analysis commissioned by Trinity has shown that the proposed development can make a significant positive economic contribution to the Irish economy. What is critical for our future success is that we work together to achieve something that everybody will want to be part of.

I hope you find the next two days beneficial and enjoyable and I look forward to our continuing partnership.

Thank you
(L to R) Julia Carmichael (Trinity’s Chief Risk Officer), Peter Reynolds (Trinity’s Chief Financial Officer), Provost Patrick Prendergast, Geraldine Ruane (Trinity’s Chief Operating Officer)
11 February 2019

Launch of Gwynn Family Papers ‘A Splendid Tradition’

The Long Room, Old Library, Trinity College

Thank you, Helen, and good evening, everyone.

A special welcome to all the members of the Gwynn family who are here this evening and whose generosity has enabled this extraordinary exhibition.

Like many people in Ireland, and certainly in Trinity, I had some sense of the achievement and contribution of the Gwynn family to Ireland and to scholarship. I was aware of my predecessor as Provost, Edward John Gwynn, whose portrait hangs in the College Boardroom, an outstanding scholar in Celtic Studies and the first Provost to be appointed after Irish independence. I knew he was just one among numerous members of his family to adorn the faculty of Trinity. Indeed, of Provost Gwynn’s siblings, his brother Robert was professor of Hebrew here and Senior Dean; his brothers Lucius and Arthur played cricket and rugby for Trinity and for Ireland, and his sister, Lucy was the first lady Registrar of Trinity – she was appointed in 1905, just a year after women were admitted to study.

This dedication to scholarship has continued up to the present day. Here this evening is Dr Daniel Kelly, Fellow Emeritus of Trinity College Botany Department, and another member of the family is Professor Fergus Kelly from the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies.

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The activities and events around the ongoing Decade of Commemorations, has also brought to my attention the remarkable career of the politician and writer Stephen Gwynn, yet another brother of Provost Gwynn. Stephen Gwynn was a Redmonite MP for Galway City, a member of the Irish Convention, and author of some sixty books, including biographies of at least four Trinity graduates - Swift, Grattan, Moore and Emmet.

When you’ve spent as long in Trinity as I have then you can’t but be appreciative of the Gwynns. However, this exhibition is still a revelation to me, as I’m sure, to many. I confess I wasn’t aware of the extent and depth of the Gwynn contribution to Irish history. In
this exhibition is an 1850 letter from the Young Irelander William Smith O’Brien, from exile in Van Diemen’s Land, to his daughter, Lucy who married John Gwynn, Regius Professor of Divinity in Trinity; she was the mother of the future Provost. This letter directly connects the Gwynns to the Young Ireland Rebellion, led by Smith O’Brien. That is truly remarkable.

From 1848 to independence and beyond, the Gwynns were intimately involved with every major development in Irish history including the Parnellite movement, Horace Plunkett’s Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, the Gaelic League, the First World War, 1916, and the Irish Convention. And indeed their influence went beyond Ireland – yet another of the Provost’s brothers was a major in the British army with significant postings in West Africa and he wrote a book, *Imperial Policing*, now regarded as a classic in the field of low intensity conflict.

The Gwynns’ deep contribution to Irish history justifies this exhibition. But I would venture that even if members of the family had not been so involved with matters of national importance, this exhibition would still be important because it documents over 200 years of a family. Few families have documents and sources going back so far. That the Gwynns preserved so much is a measure of their prominence and also a measure of their scholarship.

Scholars and researchers don’t have to be told about the importance of original documents; they have an inbuilt sense of their historical significance. For many families, when they move house or move abroad, they whittle down their papers and possessions. They throw out correspondences, diaries, photos, drawings, press cuttings and legal documents for reasons of space. It’s true that over generations these things can accumulate. We can’t really blame our ancestors that they didn’t have space, nor see reason, to store them.

But when you get a family like the Gwynns who understood the immense social and historical importance of such documentation, who took the trouble to preserve and pass them down from generation to generation – well that family has earned our interest, regardless even of their political or academic prominence.

Our excitement about the current exhibition comes from a sense of touching on great events like the 1848 rebellion, but it also comes from viewing this continuous record of normal domestic life going right back to the 19th century.

For us, entering the second decade of the 21st century, we view this collection with particular poignancy because we’re aware that our
own recent lives haven’t been preserved in this way. Our past is online and virtual – emails, social media posts, digital images. That’s the way it is – there is probably no going back. But when we look at an exhibition like this, we know that emails can’t compete with visceral handwriting on a page.

On behalf of Trinity, I would like to thank the Gwynn family for this really wonderful donation. I would like to thank them and their predecessors for their prescience and diligence in preserving these records. I would like to thank them for their trust in presenting these to Trinity. We look forward to honouring that trust – after this exhibition, we will begin the task of cataloguing and cross-referencing the collection and making it available for general consultation.

It’s my honour to declare this exhibition open and I hope that as many people as possible in Trinity and Ireland, and visitors, get a chance to see it.

Thank you.

It’s now my pleasure to invite the curator of the exhibition, Ellen O’Flaherty, Assistant Librarian, to address you.

Ellen.

* * *

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Attended at the launch examining the display in the cases.
Dr Daniel Kelly (Botany) who is of the Gwynn family, is at the end
Reception of Residents

Dining Hall, Trinity College

Thank you, Philip

And good afternoon, everyone, and greetings, indeed, to my fellow Trinity residents.

It has been my great good fortune to have been a resident of this College as a senior sophister I had rooms in House 20 Botany Bay, when I returned to Ireland as a member of staff I had rooms in House 33 New Square for a year, and, as Provost I have lived on campus for the past seven years – and that has been not the least privilege of this job. I hope you would all agree that there is something very special about living in this beautiful city-centre campus.

As residents, we’re a microcosm of the larger Trinity community. We are students, staff, visiting lecturers and college officers who enjoy a particularly intimate sense of the campus. As residents, we embody a tradition going back to the foundation of the college, 428 years ago.

Originally, all Fellows lived in rooms. That changed over the course of the centuries; today more students than staff live on campus. As in the past, rooms didn’t cater much for families. But when Lynne Ruane, who is now a Trinity senator, was President of the Students Union, she lived in college with her two daughters. That caught the attention of RTE when they were making a four-part series on Trinity. The idea of a school child having the freedom of the campus is compelling.

Over the years, amenities have been added to the campus which help improve life for residents. The Sports Hall, for instance, is wonderful and residents are able to avail of its facilities at off-peak times when it’s less crowded. Science Gallery has a very impressive café. And when it comes to entering and exiting the campus, there is considerably more freedom than previously. Up until, I think, the 1960s there were draconian rules about women not being on campus after dark.
In many ways, therefore, residential life on campus has got better. We are committed to continuing improvement, and sustainability is very important in this regard since it notably improves quality of life for those who live here.

I know that Michele Hallahan will be speaking shortly about sustainable initiatives on campus. I’d just like to mention two initiatives which I – as a resident - particularly appreciate. The first is the Campus Pollinator Plan which has seen us reduce the frequency of mowing, plant wildflowers and pollinator-friendly bulbs and place honeybee hives and bee hotels on campus. We’re beginning to see the effects of this and we’re hopeful that effects will multiply in the coming years with many more bees and flowers.

And the second thing I’m looking forward to is a tobacco-free campus, which will be inaugurated in just a month. This will improve the quality of air, reduce litter from cigarette butts and help people to cut down on smoking.

Such improvements spell progress.

At the same time, we’re aware that proportionately far fewer students can live in College than previously. This is because of the growth in student numbers, which is only set to continue. While we won’t be able to return to the situation of old, we are doing what we can to ensure that as many students as possible enjoy the benefit of living on campus. We are currently in the middle of the construction of Printing House Square, and we’re soon to complete the conversion of 183-188 Pearse Street into student accommodation. Both projects will bring many more students to live in College.

As I’ve mentioned, I was first a resident here just over thirty years ago. But this is the first time there has been a reception for Residents. I congratulate the Registrar of Chambers, Dr Philip Coleman, Hazel Kinmonth from the Accommodation Office, and their teams for this initiative. It’s a wonderful idea and I hope it becomes an annual event. It is, I guess, the campus version of what they call in the US, a block party. Let’s take this time together this evening to get to know each other.

Thank you

* * *
Provost Patrick Prendergast (speaking), and also on the dias (L to R) Michele Hallahan (Sustainability Officer), Sophie Donnelly (Secretary to the Scholars), Dr Philip Coleman (Registrar of Chambers). Notice that the portrait of Henry Flood still hangs over the fireplace and that the up-lights on the paintings are there (removed later in 2019)
Thank you, Juliette,

And thank you for organising this event. It’s particularly important to mark the launch of Trinity’s third Global Relations Strategy – GRS3 – and to take this opportunity to evaluate where we’re at, how far we’ve come, and where we want to get to. I’m delighted to see so many people here – that’s a measure of the importance of Global Relations to the whole college community and it’s recognition of all that Professor Juliette Hussey and her team have achieved, and Professor Jane Ohlmeyer and the Global Relations team before that.

Global Relations, in all its facets, is an initiative that took off during the years of austerity and has now become fully embedded in Trinity’s DNA. It’s a cross-cutting activity, which goes across the university’s activities in education, research, industry engagement, access, and development.

Now – as we launch GRS3 and approach the tenth anniversary of the Trinity’s seminal engagement with Singapore - it is, I think, a good moment to take stock of our achievements. On each seat, you should find a booklet ‘Trinity Growing Globally’ which captures the strategies, initiatives and excitement of recent years.
The booklet includes narratives, visuals, images, and first-person accounts from students who have benefitted from the Global Relations Strategy. There are a number of graphs, and let me just share one slide with you now because it really captures the progress I’m talking about.
Here we see, on the left, the growth in number of students from outside the EU since 2011. And on the right is the growth of non-EU research collaborations. The graphs show that, in seven years, we have more than doubled the number of non-EU students in the College and have almost doubled the number of research collaborations.

In the first Global Relations strategies our focus was outside of Europe. That’s because, thanks to the Erasmus and the EU Framework programmes, collaborations within the EU had developed strongly in the 1990s and 2000s – but we had a lot of catching up to do outside the EU.

This booklet [brandish] tells the story of how we set about achieving this. We start with the Singapore game-changer and with the establishment of the Global Relations Office.

The story since 2011 very much belongs to the inaugural Vice President of Global Relations, Jane Ohlmeyer, and the current VPGR Juliette Hussey, and the Global Relations team since 2011. In this booklet we hear, in their own words, about the milestone achievements along the way.

What stands out for me and what I think is captured particularly well here, is:

First, the proactivity, the sheer graft involved. We had to get out there, establish offices in key cities globally; recruit; set up a Global Room here on campus, and of course travel, make connections, meet people. In the early days it was about making Trinity known in places like China, Brazil, and Vietnam where we had no history of engagement. Just looking at the Timeline here in the booklet – it’s by no means exhaustive, but it documents close to seventy partnerships and initiatives since 2011; this gets across the scale.

Second, our achievement was greatest when we worked together with a community spirit, involving the three faculties and Trinity Development & Alumni, or TDA as we call it. The Global Relations Office understood early on that our 115,000 graduates across 150 countries were a unique asset. Together with TDA, the Global Relations Office involved graduates in helping to promote Trinity abroad and spread the message of our great education and research. The benefit has been double: our graduates have been instrumental in strengthening our global relations strategy, and in turn, they have been made to feel more central to the college community. This year, as we launch the Philanthropic Campaign, we all feel the benefit of that.
And thirdly, this booklet [brandish] gets across the human stories. Behind every number on these graphs is a person – a person, with a life-story:

- a Trinity student who went abroad and had transformative year;
- a student from another country who came here and followed their dreams;
- a member of staff who established a collaborative research programme;
- an alumnus who donated to further a key initiative.

Such stories are captured here, in word and image.

As I mentioned in my address to the College last November, the working title for our new Strategic Plan is ‘Community and Connection’. This could also stand as a description of the achievement of the Global Relations Office.

Thanks to Global Relations, Trinity’s community is at once wider and closer than it was a decade ago, larger and more connected. That’s a signal achievement, greatly deserving of celebration.

When we created the Global Relations office, it was to integrate all elements of global relations into a mutually supportive and cohesive activity. By 2011 it was evident that, in international terms, things were going well beyond stand-alone student recruitment and research collaboration activities - universities were getting into a whole new world of dual degree programmes, global academic networks, even campuses abroad. I knew – we all knew – the crucial importance of Trinity being part of that.

Juliette’s and Jane’s stand-out achievements include the extension of the programmes with Singapore, the articulation programme with Thapar University in India and the Dual Degree Programme signed with Columbia last year. I’m particularly pleased that the Dean of Academic Affairs in Columbia University, Professor Victoria Rosner, is here with us today as our guest speaker.

Global Relations, of course, goes beyond academic programmes. One of Trinity’s most successful initiatives in the sphere is Science Gallery International. Five months ago, Science Gallery London opened at King’s College London, and five other Science Galleries – in Rotterdam, Venice, Bengaluru, Detroit and Melbourne - will be opening on four continents over the next few years – as can be seen here.
As we launch GRS3, we take stock of where we’re at, but not with any sense of finality or completion because change is on-going and it’s rapid.

In the sphere of Trinity’s Global Relations, anything is possible.

This is an important point. We’ve achieved so much over the past decade that there’s a danger of us resting on our laurels and simply continuing with the tried and tested. That won’t work for Global Relations, which is, by its nature, dynamic, changeable and multifaceted.

Even five years ago, a dual degree with a university on another continent wasn’t a runner. Now it’s an actuality. Similarly, we can expect other initiatives – initiatives that are now at concept stage – to become concrete realities in the near future. So, it’s essential to keep embracing change, to continue the search for new opportunities, to remain open to every new possibility.

This message is particularly important in the face of the challenges that humanity faces. Today’s most pressing challenges are global ones that know no borders – like climate change, migration, data security, conflict, energy provision. It goes without saying that you cannot meet global challenges with merely national or regional solutions. These challenges cannot be overcome at a city, national, or even continental level. They require a global response.

If the 21st century is to be a success, it must be a century of partnership, of connection, of deep and meaningful relationships between people, between institutions, and between countries. Great universities will be central to this. In Trinity, our Global Relations
pledge is that we will be at the forefront of building partnerships and connections.

* * *

And now Juliette will tell us some of the ways in which Trinity is going to make good this pledge. She will take us through the highlights and priorities of GRS3 and talk about the global initiatives that will be implemented over the next three years.

GRS3, like the previous two global relations strategies, is exemplary in its ambition and detail, its goals and targets. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the whole college, to thank Juliette and her team for their signal achievements. Juliette is in her fifth year as Vice-President of Global Relations; she continues to be outstanding; we are fortunate to have a person of her capabilities to guide through this essential strategy for the university.

Thank you.

* * *

Provost Patrick Prendergast speaking at the launch of GRS3 in the basement of the Academy Building opposite the Science Gallery on Pearse Street (hired for the day).
Inauguration of Stanley Swee Han Quek as Pro-Chancellor

Saloon, Provost’s House, Trinity College

Chancellor, Pro-Chancellors, Visitor, Honorary Consul-General of Singapore in Ireland*, distinguished guests and colleagues,

It’s my great pleasure to welcome you this evening to the installation of Dr Stanley Quek as a Pro-Chancellor of the University of Dublin. Pro-Chancellors are *ex officio* members of the University Senate, and Pro-Chancellors hold office in their own right. They deputise for the Chancellor in accordance with the Statutes.

For the Chancellor and Pro-Chancellors, the conferring of degrees at commencements is the primary commitment. The Chancellor is also one of the two Visitors to the College; this entails hearing cases from staff and students on all sorts of issues. Pro-Chancellors are called on to deputise in these matters for the Chancellor, as needed.

The University of Dublin is fortunate to have in these offices very eminent individuals; our Chancellor, Dr Mary Robinson, and our Pro-Chancellors: Sir Donnell Deeny and Professors Jane Grimson, David McConnell, Sean Barrett and Sheila Greene. This evening is about adding a new name to this distinguished list.

Dr Stanley Quek is well known to all of us in Trinity. A doctor and a property developer of significant achievement, he is an alumnus whose commitment to the university is remarkable, in terms of philanthropy and of active engagement on a wide number of fronts.

Dr Quek graduated in 1972 from Trinity medical school. He returned to Singapore, where he was born, and practiced as a doctor until 1997, while establishing his immensely successful property development company, Region Development Pte Ltd, in 1987. Throughout he remained deeply connected to Trinity and to Ireland.

He served as Honorary Consul of Ireland in Singapore from 1994 to May 2000 and he assisted the Irish Universities and Medical Schools Consortium in selecting and interviewing students from

* Ron Bolger
Singapore for medical studies in Trinity, UCD, NUI Galway and UCC.

From 2008 to 2015 he was a board member of Trinity Foundation; he is now a member of the Provost’s Council, and of our campaign cabinet. His great commitment made him a most deserving recipient of the inaugural Trinity Alumni Award in 2007. Any of us who have been on college business in Singapore over the years, or indeed in Sydney or Malaysia, where Stanley has many business interests, can testify to how much help he gives. In November last, on a tour of the region, meeting alumni and university leaders and presidents, I was absolutely indebted to Stanley for all he did to make the visit a success.

In 2010 Trinity was one of a number of universities shortlisted by the Singapore Ministry of Education to tender for the delivery of one-year programmes to diploma graduates in Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Diagnostic Radiography and Radiation Therapy. Dr Quek gave considerable and decisive support to Trinity’s application and we won the tender. It would be hard to over-state the importance of this – both the current and the previous Vice-President of Global Relations agree that Singapore was a major breakthrough which has helped determine the college’s successful global relations strategy to date.

Not only Trinity, but other Irish universities have recognised Stanley’s great contribution. In March 2013 was awarded a Degree of Doctor of Medicine (honoris causa) by the National University of Ireland, in June 2015 with an honorary Doctor in Laws from this, his own University. In June 2018 he was made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. He is presently Chairman of The Ireland Funds Singapore, which has raised more than 5 million Singapore dollars since 2009 to support projects involving children with special needs and Eldercare.

In his property development projects, which are now global – in London and Dublin as well as in Singapore, Sydney and Penang - Dr Quek is committed to creating beautifully designed, sustainable and liveable communities. If you’ve been in Sydney and seen his iconic Central Park area, you will know what I mean.

In Trinity we’ve honoured Stanley with his name on the Benefactors Wall in the Dining Hall; and there’s a lecture theatre named after him in the Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute. We are delighted now to inaugurate him as Pro-Chancellor.

His appointment is particularly significant because it’s the first time in our 427-year history that Trinity will have a Pro-Chancellor from
outside Ireland and Britain. It’s a truly notable moment in the history of this College, when we launched a fortnight the third iteration of our global relations strategy – it is, I think, greatly symbolic of Trinity’s increased global connectivity.

Trinity Pro-Chancellors serve as role models to the whole Trinity community and to society. It’s with the greatest pleasure that I welcome Dr Quek to the Pro-Chancellorship of the University of Dublin.

* * * FORMALITIES * * *

_Provost_  
In accordance with the 2010 Consolidated Statutes of Trinity College Dublin and of the University of Dublin, Stanley Quek, having been nominated in accordance with Section 6(3)(b) of the Chapter on the Chancellor, was declared elected a Pro-Chancellor of the University of Dublin. In accordance with Section 2(2)(4) of the said Chapter, I now invite Stanley Quek to make her statutory declaration:

_Stanley Quek_  
I, Stanley Swee Han Quek, solemnly declare that I shall faithfully discharge the duties prescribed for the Pro-Chancellor by the Statutes, and that I shall, so far as in me lies, promote and defend the welfare and interests of the University

_Provost robes Stanley Quek_

_Provost_  
Stanley Quek is now admitted to the Office of Pro-Chancellor of the University of Dublin, and I invite him to address you.

* * *
Provost Patrick Prendergast & Pro-Chancellor Stanley Quek
28 February 2019

Address to Northern Ireland Alumni

The Inn of Court, Royal Courts of Justice, Belfast

Thank you, Donnell*, for that kind introduction.

It’s wonderful to be here and see so many of you present. I was last in Northern Ireland to meet alumni at the annual dinner, just under two years ago, and I’ve met many of you in the meantime of course in events in the College. It’s great to be here in Belfast. As we’ve just heard from Mark†, this is one of the most active of our alumni associations – I congratulate and thank him and Cecil Bates and Eithne Ryan for their great work.

Many thanks also to Pro-Chancellor Lord Justice Deeny for his help in organising this evening’s event – in particular we have him to thank for this wonderful venue.

* * *

As ever, there have been many significant developments in Trinity since I last addressed you, which I look forward to telling you about.

We also find ourselves in a developing situation over Brexit. For those of us who want to avoid a hard Brexit, the past few days have looked a bit more positive. But it remains an on-going situation. Uncertainty is not helpful.

I want to say something about Brexit because it impacts Trinity and, in particular, it impacts our historic commitment to being a university for the whole island of Ireland, with a history of educating students from Northern Ireland.

One of the things I’m proud of in my Provostship is that we’ve spearheaded a major re-engagement with Northern Ireland - with the aim of returning admissions to Trinity to their former level. As you’re all aware, Northern Ireland’s long tradition of sending students to Trinity was impaired for a number of reasons - chiefly

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* Sir Donnell Deeny, Pro-Chancellor of the University of Dublin & member of the Court of Appeal of Northern Ireland
† Mark Conlon
the introduction of two separate admissions systems – the CAO and UCAS – in the 1970s.

Our college initiatives to redress falling admissions have included adjusting A-Level requirements and sending out student ambassadors to schools in Northern Ireland.

Earlier this week, Trinity had a strong presence at the annual UCAS education fair. Our staff were on hand to speak to potential students and their families and to highlight the benefits of a Trinity education.

Our team includes a dedicated Northern Ireland Engagement Programme Coordinator, Deirbhle O’Reilly. The team attends numerous education fairs in Northern Ireland each year, and visits schools to speak to students, teachers and career guidance counsellors.

Our initiatives have had effect: there has been a year-on-year increase of almost 20 percent in applications to Trinity from Northern Ireland for the last few years.

However, this academic year saw a 20 percent drop in applications. There are a few reasons for this: Deirbhle O’Reilly - our Northern Ireland Engagement Programme coordinator – reports from her interactions with more than forty Northern Irish schools this year that the rental situation and cost of living in Dublin is a factor, but not a decisive one - the cities of Bath, Bristol and London, for instance, are all as expensive to live in as Dublin and have much higher tuition fees, but remain popular destinations with Northern Irish students.

Deirbhle reports that uncertainty around Brexit has had a major impact on applications.

We are doing what we can to improve the rental situation. We are currently building 250 new rooms on the main campus – Printing House Square is being developed to high spec and will house a Health Centre, squash courts and a rifle range.

I note also that in the current budget, the Government is addressing the housing crisis - this will have effect in a couple of years.

The responsibility for Brexit lies with the UK government, of course, but we have to engage also, and come up with solutions to the downsides as they affect us – we cannot, and should not, ignore this aspect just because the impetus behind Brexit does not rest with us.
A few months ago, in November, Trinity had the opportunity to publish an open letter on Brexit in the Financial Times.* We had two salient points to make: first, a hard Brexit threatens the remarkable achievement of the European Research area, and the more than one thousand collaborations which Irish universities enjoy with UK universities. We in Trinity value our EU and UK collaborations. We don’t want to be pushed into choosing one over the other. That’s not in anyone’s interest. UK universities are in agreement on this.

Second, a hard Brexit threatens cross-border higher education. Education and culture are perhaps the most important of all ‘goods and services’ that a frictionless border enables.

To put it bluntly: a hard Brexit threatens all the hard work we’ve put into improving admissions from Northern Ireland to Trinity. I don’t expect this to be a concern in Westminster but if Brexit results in even less educational and cultural movement, north and south, then that is something that should concern us, and concern us deeply.

We ended the Open Letter to the Financial Times by quoting Edmund Burke, whose statue you have all passed countless times at Front Gate “Rage and frenzy”, wrote Burke, “will pull down more in half an hour than prudence, deliberation, and foresight can build up in a hundred years.”

We continue to plead for prudence, deliberation and foresight.

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Now, let me give you a brief overview of what’s been going on in your university. I’m delighted to say that we’re enjoying a great period of growth. Many of the initiatives which I’ve been discussing with you in my visits here are now nearing completion and other initiatives are getting off the ground.

Among these, let me mention the Trinity Business School, which will be officially opened on 23rd May. The Business School has been greatly enabled by alumni generosity. Already, just the fact of our building it has brought our MBA programme into the top 50 of such programmes world-wide. It’s truly game-changer.

I’m also delighted to report here, in the Inn of Court, that the Business Plan for the new Trinity Law School is going through College structures and should be signed-off in two months. Positive

* https://twitter.com/TLRHub/status/1057935955070541826
conversations are on-going with the legal community in Dublin, and with our Law School alumni around the world. We’ve recently established a new Professorship of Constitutional Governance, and Professor Aileen Kavanagh, currently in Oxford University, will join us in the chair in September.

The new Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies Institute, E3, which I’ve mentioned previously, is now well underway thanks to the transformative donation of €25 million euro from the Naughton family, bolstered by a further €15 million from the state. We will begin to demolish the old biochemistry building in July in preparation for building the E3 Learning Foundry. In parallel, we’re preparing our application for planning permission for the E3 Research Institute, which will be the centrepiece of the Trinity Campus at Grand Canal Dock.

This new Trinity Campus will be the nucleus of the globally competitive Grand Canal Innovation District which Trinity is planning together with government, the other Dublin universities and stakeholders from the business community. The District will play a role for all Ireland, creating a centre for innovation, connected to global networks, and promoting all types of innovation, including in the creative arts.

Many of our initiatives – also including the Library, the Trinity Access Programme and the Trinity St James Cancer Institute – are being highlighted as particularly important in the Philanthropic Campaign, which will be launching in Dublin on 2nd May, ahead of launches in London, Paris, New York, San Francisco, Sydney, Hong Kong and Singapore. This is a truly global campaign, reflecting our global alumni.

It’s the first comprehensive college-wide campaign in the history of the university. There have been other campaigns for one-off projects – for instance the campaign to build the Berkeley Library fifty years ago, which inspired a wonderful response. Most movingly, Samuel Beckett donated the profits from the New York run of his play, ‘Krapp’s Last Tape’.

That’s a wonderful story. I hope this Philanthropic Campaign inspires similar stories.

The campaign for the Berkeley Library gave Beckett the opportunity to contribute to his alma mater and safeguard what he believed in – literature and learning. With this wide-ranging Campaign we offer graduates and friends the opportunity to drive Trinity forward in its aspects that resonate most with them.
We’re hopeful and confident that the Campaign will be a huge success because we know we can count on the support of our worldwide network of graduates. Trinity has over 115,000 graduates across 150 countries – many of them are, like you, active graduates, committed to the university.

In the past decade, we’ve greatly strengthened our connections with our global alumni. This has been achieved as part of our global relations strategy, which has seen us significantly increase our research and education collaborations around the world.

Just a fortnight ago we launched the third iteration of our Global Relations Strategy. As part of the launch, we prepared this booklet, ‘Trinity Growing Globally’, which captures the initiatives and excitement of recent years. It’s hot off the press and I’ve brought some copies for you to take away, if you want to read the latest about what we’re up to.

It includes narratives, visuals, images, and first-person accounts from students who have benefitted. I think it really captures the exciting global achievements of these years. For example, this academic year, the first cohort of students on the Trinity-Columbia Dual BA programme, started in Trinity. They will spend two years with us before transferring to Columbia University in New York, eventually graduating with degrees from both universities. This goes well beyond traditional student exchange programmes and is a game-changer in international education.

Trinity’s programmes globally are now significantly deeper than any programme we have with a European university. However, the EU is a strong priority area in our just launched Global Relations Strategy 3 – or GRS 3 as we call it. This includes, of course deepening our relations with UK universities.

Trinity could not function in the way it does, nor enjoy the global reputation that it does, without the remarkable support of our alumni. My main priority here this evening is to fill you in on our activities – and to thank you most warmly for your support.

We’re immensely grateful for your willingness to give of your time, expertise, and financial assistance in support of our different college activities. I know that you do this from warm memories of your student days, and from pride in belonging to a university which has
made a profound impact on the world, which goes from strength to strength.

As a sign of our appreciation, we recently opened an Alumni Room in East Chapel. This was enabled by generous philanthropic support and it's for your use to relax, or hold meetings in, so do please avail of it whenever you’re in Dublin. It’s a particularly comfortable and beautiful room.

Now is an exciting time for us. I encourage you all to stay in touch and get involved and be part of the next phase.

Many thanks.

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Provost Patrick Prendergast with one of the alumni, Stephanie Whiston, at the Royal Inns of Court, Belfast
Mr President, Rotarians, guests, good afternoon,

It’s a pleasure to be here and many thanks for inviting me to speak.

A university’s activities are so many and varied - there is so much I’d like to share with you. But I’m mindful that this should be a short speech. So with respect to your interests, and to this locale where we’re meeting, I’d like to talk about a particularly exciting initiative which Trinity is now getting off the ground: the Grand Canal Innovation District.

You may have heard something about this because the plan to build this District - just down the road at Grand Canal Basin - was formally launched last July by the Taoiseach. Trinity is the leader in this initiative, in which we’re partnering with government and other Dublin universities – UCD, DCU and TUDublin.

The Grand Canal Innovation District, or GCID, as we’re calling it, will be Ireland’s first such District, drawing on the experience of world-leading innovation districts in Boston, Toronto and London. Like these, GCID will bring together a critical mass of research-oriented institutions, high growth companies, and tech and creative start-ups in an amenity-rich environment, deeply connected to local and cultural communities.

Before I get into describing how we envisage this district working, let me just digress briefly to explain why we’re so committed to this initiative in Trinity and how it fits into our broader plans.

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As you’re no doubt aware, state investment in higher education was cut drastically in the years of austerity and it has not returned to previous levels. This phenomenon, of retreat from public investment in higher education, isn’t just happening in Ireland; it’s a global thing.

Where does that leave universities? Reducing our ambition isn’t an option - that would be to let down our students and the country. We have to find alternate sources of revenue. Fees are part of a solution
and I’m an advocate of students contributing to their education, but burdening our students with high fees, as in the US or UK, has societal consequences.

When I became Provost eight years ago, I identified, with the College Board, four things we needed to do to build up non-exchequer revenue:

- Number one, transform our global network and our intake of international students;
- Two: grow commercial revenue, including from innovation;
- Three: raise research income; and
- Four: embed a culture of philanthropy in the college community.

We’ve had significant success with these. To give a few figures around research:

Trinity researchers, who represent only 16 percent of academic staff in Ireland win over 30 percent of annual national funding for research, over 25 percent of Horizon 2020 funding coming into Ireland, and a whopping 50 percent of European Research Council grants. And a fifth of all Irish spin-out companies come from Trinity.

And just this month, we’ve launched the first comprehensive philanthropic campaign in the history of the university. Our target is to raise €400 million. The message will go out to the 150 countries where our alumni are living and the funds raised will support ambition in a number of priority initiatives, including four key capital development projects:

- The new Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies Institute, or E3;
- The Law School;
- The Trinity St James Cancer Institute; and
- The Library, including conservation of the building, books and documents and the creation of a new Manuscripts Room in the Old Library.

In addition to these capital developments, we’re prioritising investment in people:

- Endowments to support more academic posts; and
- Scholarships through the Access programme.

These essential projects will continue Trinity on its path of excellence. They are all investments in existing strengths. Let me say a word about the Trinity Access Programme, or TAP, because I know that many members of this Club have been generous supporters and I’m delighted to have this opportunity to thank you.
Trinity was the first university in Ireland to set up an access programme to bring more socio-economically disadvantaged groups to college. Today, ten percent of Trinity Freshers enter through our access programmes. That’s a figure well ahead of other high-ranking universities globally. Three years ago, we were invited to pilot TAP in an Oxford University college, Lady Margaret Hall. That proved so successful that the programme is now being rolled out across other Oxford Colleges.

We’re particularly proud of our success with Access. It gives opportunities to talented students who might otherwise fall through the system, and it puts focus globally on a vital issue: the responsibility of universities to make a difference to their regions and countries by widening opportunity.

The truth is that many high-ranking universities – including Ivy League and Russell Group universities – are not very good at this. If Trinity has emerged as a global leader, it’s thanks to support from people like yourselves – Rotary Dublin’s four scholarships support a young adult and a mature student from the foundation year right through their degrees. As Cliona Hannon, the head of the Trinity Access Programme, says:

“Each student who progresses through to graduation changes their own story, changes the University’s story, and changes the stories told within their own communities.”

In making Access a priority in the Philanthropic Campaign we’re sending out a key message about the role and responsibility of universities.

* * *

Now let me return to the Grand Canal Innovation District. It’s very much part of the overall strategy that I’ve been outlining for you. An Innovation District will be a phenomenal driver for research and spin-outs, for industry partnerships and graduate entrepreneurship.

Innovation districts work by bringing together a critical mass of talent, finance, innovation and enterprise. Typically, they are located close to a research university in a concentrated urban environment that provides the proximity, density and scale of activities that are essential for international competitiveness. They are integrated in the local community, providing new employment and education opportunities, and are connected to cultural communities.
Grand Canal Dock is the natural home for an innovation district in Dublin because it’s where multinationals, tech companies and start-ups are already located, as well as many cultural activities – and it’s just ten-minute walk from the existing Trinity campus. Our advisors around the world are extremely excited about the potential of this area.

Trinity already has a Technology and Enterprise Centre at Grand Canal Dock where the Lir, the National Academy of Dramatic Arts, is located, as well as incubation space for companies. We are now developing this into a tech campus, the catalyst at the heart of the innovation District, with the E3 Research Institute at its centre.

The Innovation District will play a role for all Ireland, creating a nationally connected centre, promoting all types of innovation, including in the creative arts.

Today’s great technology challenges – like privacy, big data, ethics and climate - are also social challenges. So when it comes to innovation, it’s critical that we think in terms of the social sciences, law and the humanities. Trinity has the multidisciplinary strengths to address these challenges.

At a time when the availability of talent and innovation drives business investment and growth globally, we must, as a country, establish the infrastructure necessary to compete globally.

Following last July’s launch, an Innovation District Advisory Group, or IDAG, appointed by the Taoiseach, is now developing a roadmap for the Grand Canal Innovation District.

This was the structure used to enable the creation of the IFSC in the 1980s, and it should enable the rapid evolution of our vision for a globally competitive innovation district for Ireland. This has the potential to be as transformative for Ireland in technology and innovation, as the IFSC was for financial services.

A new innovation district, with a new university campus at its heart, is a vital step in enabling Dublin to be ranked as a top 20 global city for innovation. With this District, Trinity will deliver for our students, staff and graduates and for Dublin and Ireland. I look forward to telling you more about this as it develops.

Thank you.
Provost was presented with this book at the end of the lunch
Good evening, everyone,

And welcome to the PACCAR Theatre for the Trinity Employability Awards, the Professional Services Pathway.

This is an exciting moment for us – for students and staff in Trinity and for our corporate partners. It’s the third year of the Trinity Employability Awards, and the first year of the Professional Services Pathway and our four new partners: Deloitte, EY, KPMG, and PwC.

The Trinity Employability Award was established in 2016 to give students learning experiences to enhance career knowledge and readiness. The Award is aimed at helping participating students become more aware of how employable they are, and better at articulating their personal attributes to employers, together with building up skills and knowledge to prepare for the workplace after graduation.

The first Trinity Employability Awards, in partnership with Intel, involved the STEM disciplines only. It was always our intention to open the Awards across the college, and we are absolutely delighted to do this now with the establishment of the Professional Services Pathway and the involvement of our four new partners.

It’s inspiring for the College to be partnering with these four. Deloitte, EY, KPMG and PwC are among the most significant international employers of our graduates; they are constantly ranked among the best companies to work for globally; they offer dynamic career paths to a wide range of graduates, coming from diverse disciplines. Having these four participate in the career development of our students, from senior fresh years upwards, is truly a game-changer.

* * *

Let me say something about the importance of the Employability Awards and why we think they’re essential for the 21st century.
We are now close to completing the Trinity Education Project, our college-wide initiative to renew the undergraduate curriculum so as to reflect and anticipate the transformational changes that are happening globally, not only in higher education, but in society in general.

The starting point of the Trinity Education Project was to identify the Trinity graduate attributes. These are the attributes that our graduates will need in order to be successful in the 21st century world. I hope that all our students can now name the four Graduate Attributes:

- to think independently;
- to communicate effectively;
- to develop continuously; and
- to act responsibly.

We believe all graduates will need these four attributes if they are to make their way in a world

- where they will likely change jobs, cities and countries frequently;
- where they will need to constantly update skills to keep on top of changes in technology and work practices;
- where they will have to be self-starting and remain open to learning new things throughout their careers, and
- where they will have to take responsibility for global challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, and inequality.

Having agreed the attributes, our goal was to make sure that they underpin the education of every Trinity undergraduate. This has meant taking a new and different approach to how we educate.

We are currently in the 4th and final phase of the Trinity Education Project. One of the tasks in this phase is to implement seven features which will make the Trinity Education truly distinctive. These seven features are:

- Co-curriculum reflection
- Partnership in Learning
- Trinity Electives
- Trinity Open Modules
- A Capstone project for every student
- Global Mobility – with the aim that 1 in every 2 students does a global exchange; and
- Trinity Employability and Leadership Awards.

We’re educating in Employability in a variety of ways. Last year, for instance, we became one of just eleven universities worldwide to be invited to join the prestigious Laidlaw Undergraduate Research and
Leadership Programme. Established by Lord Laidlaw of Rothiemay, this programme is designed to give students valuable skills in research, communication and leadership and to improve their employability by participating in workshops designed to develop self-awareness, initiative, motivation and creativity.

Like the Laidlaw Scholarships, the Trinity Employability Awards – they are about preparing students for transformative careers in a transforming world.

The Trinity Employability Awards enable students to deepen their engagement with the curriculum by encouraging them to use their skills in real-world situations, and they put focus on personal development beyond the academic. Employability Awards prepare students to thrive in the world of work. As we know, such thriving involves both academic skills and social, interpersonal, communication and leadership skills.

The Professional Services Pathway is a multi-level Trinity Employability Award open to students across all disciplines. It gives students the opportunity to participate in skills workshops, apply their learning to work-based situations, and reflect on and articulate how their participation in the Award has contributed to their personal and professional development.

Eighty-one students across the three faculties participated in and completed the Professional Services Pathway. Their feedback has been very positive. Students praised the workshops, the group discussions, the interviews and the tools and declared the experience has made them feel more career-ready.

* * *

I well remember what it’s like to be an undergraduate and to harbour concerns around building a future career, finding a job that is interesting and challenging, applying skills and flourishing in a team environment.

Every undergraduate, even the most confident, has these concerns. The Trinity Employability Awards do much to address them. It takes the fear and mystique out of the workplace; it shows students what’s involved and how they can apply their learning. It gives them confidence that they are employable and at the same time spurs them on to acquire skills that they now realise are important.

* https://laidlawscholars.com/universities
I know it’s a cliché to say that it’s not about winning, it’s about participating. But in this case – my sincere congratulations to the winners who have achieved considerably, but I’m sure they’d also agree that the great gain comes from getting involved, stepping up to the mark, opening yourself out to learning from this programme.

I would like to thank most warmly and on behalf of the whole university, those in Trinity who have worked so hard to make the Employability Awards such a success - Orla Bannon, Fiona Hayes, Marielle Kelly and Joel McKeever. And I thank here today

- from Deloitte, David Conway and the team;
- from EY, Dermot Daly and the team;
- from KPMG, Ciara Wrafter and the team; and
- from PwC, Brian Leonard and the team.

I’m delighted that so many of you are here with us this afternoon. This says a lot about the importance of the Trinity Employability Awards, not only to our students and university, but to your companies.

We’re delighted that these Awards are now in our third year, that they have expanded greatly in terms of disciplines involved and corporate partners. The Employability Award is now part of the college calendar. We look forward to generations of students benefitting from it.

Thank you.
Provost Patrick Prendergast & Professor Andrew Burke (centre),
with representatives of EY, Deloitte, PwC and KPMG
26 March 2019

40th Annual Crampton Awards

Dining Hall, Trinity College

Good evening,

You’re all very welcome to the Dining Hall for this exceptional event: the 40th anniversary of the annual Crampton Awards for students in civil and structural engineering in the Dublin region – that’s students from Trinity, UCD and TU Dublin.

As an engineering graduate, I well remember the Crampton Awards. When I was an undergraduate in the mid-1980s, the Award was relatively new, having been founded in 1979. Today it is distinctive for its longevity: this Award has been running for forty years consecutively, sponsored by the same firm, G&T Crampton, one of the longest-established leading building firms in Ireland.

The only parallel I can think of is the Rooney Prize for Literature, run by the Oscar Wilde Centre here in Trinity, which celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2016 and has also been sponsored by the same family for its entire history.

Such commitment is unusual. Consistency and longevity lends a particular character, identity and recognition-factor to an award. For four decades G&T Crampton have been encouraging civil and structural engineering students by rewarding excellence.

The award was founded in 1979, on the occasion of the centenary of the firm. In this, G&T Crampton were pioneers of the current environment of industry-university partnerships, which has seen many multinationals and local companies get involved in universities, not only as research but as education partners.

As it happens, I’m just now coming from the Trinity Employability Award, in its third year, which is about giving students learning experiences that enhance their career knowledge and career readiness. We have a number of corporate partners in this.

The idea behind the Trinity Employability Award and other such initiatives is that we realise how essential it is for students to start thinking in terms of real-life challenges and applying skills learnt in the classroom to actual work situations. Globally, it has been comprehensively demonstrated that students benefit from contact
with firms and employers at an early stage of their college careers, whether through internships or awards.

As I say, G&T Crampton, have been pioneers of this approach. For forty years they have encouraged students of civil and structural engineering through these awards, helping them to relate their studies to future careers.

The firm has shown its commitment to the whole Dublin region by including the three Dublin universities - Trinity, UCD and TU Dublin - where civil engineering can be studied. In this it recalls other awards, such as the Naughton Scholarships and the Ireland Professor of Poetry, which also involve different Irish universities. Such inclusivity is important for connecting and linking, for reminding us of our shared mission to educate the next generation entering the workforce, and to contribute to growth in Ireland through research and innovation.

The prestige of this award among students is of course enhanced by the reputation of G&T Crampton, which for 140 years has been a leading Irish construction firm, responsible for many landmark buildings, including the iconic US embassy in Ballsbridge, the Bank of Ireland in O'Connell Street and the Georges Quay Plaza.

In Trinity we have a special relationship with the firm because they built one of our best-loved buildings, the Berkeley Library, to the design of Paul Koralek.

There is an article on the Trinity website called ‘Holding Back the Waves’ by Greg Sheaf, which goes into detail, unusual for a generalist article, on what was involved in the construction of the Berkeley. Civil engineers will be interested to hear how G&T Crampton “approached the problem of keeping water out of the below-ground areas”. Apparently, “they used 400mm-thick waterproof concrete and grouting, rather than a membrane which would be impossible to get to without huge effort if something went wrong.” This has been “successful in tackling the area’s high water table.”

Great buildings are achieved through the symbiosis of architects, builders and civil and structural engineers. Whatever your field of study as a student, it’s essential to feel inspired in your choice. Inspiration comes from the achievements of others. I hope that our deserving Trinity recipients of the G&T Crampton Award feel a sense of connection every time they pass the Berkeley Library. And that all our civil engineering students feel inspired.

* [https://www.tcd.ie/library/berkeley/42-holding-back-the-waves/](https://www.tcd.ie/library/berkeley/42-holding-back-the-waves/)
After forty years of these Awards there is a constellation of G&T Crampton winners around Ireland and the world, many of them very high-achieving. They are exemplary of the reach and success of this award. I hope that in the spirit of the founders of the Awards, that they are professionally supportive of each other and of Irish engineering graduates generally.

On this the 140th anniversary year of G&T Crampton and the 40th year of the Crampton Awards, I’m sure that you will all join me in wishing the firm a very happy birthday, and on behalf of our universities and indeed of the Dublin region, many thanks for your support of our students and graduates and of the profession of civil and structural engineering.

Thank you.

* * *

-Provost Patrick Prendergast (speaking) with behind him (L to R) Prof Brian Broderick and Prof Roger West (Civil Engineering) and the Crampton Brothers. The audience are past recipients and parents of current recipients of the Crampton Awards. Afterwards the Cramptons hosted a dinner on One Pico, 5/6 Molesworth Place, Dublin 2-
27 March 2019

Launch of the Trinity Electives

Saloon, Provost’s House, Trinity College

Good afternoon, everyone,

Welcome to the Saloon for the launch of the Trinity Electives. This is an exciting moment for us, the culmination of many years’ work.

In the current Strategic Plan, launched 2014, we prioritised as Goal 3, ‘Renew the Trinity Education’. The Trinity Education Project, or TEP, has been the means by which we have achieved this, and the Trinity Electives are central to TEP.

Trinity Electives have an impact right across the college. They deeply affect all staff and students – that’s evident from the range of people here today: Heads of School, Faculty Deans, Online and Digital Services staff, SU officers, and module coordinators as well of course as the TEP subgroup, steering committee and project team. You are all most welcome. Today is about introducing the Electives to the whole college community, and thanking all who have made them possible.

* * *

As you know, the Trinity Education Project grew out of the need to reflect and anticipate the transformational changes that are happening globally, in higher education and society generally. These include:

- The changing jobs market and work environment – in particular the growth of the digital workplace and the need for entrepreneurial skill sets;
- the technology revolution;
- the development of new disciplines, and interdisciplinarity;
- increased staff and student mobility across institutions and countries;
- the development of global academic networks and partnerships, and
- the increased centrality of universities to the economic and social development of their regions.

Cumulatively these transformations fundamentally alter graduate career trajectories. Today’s graduates will likely change jobs, cities
and countries frequently; they will need to constantly update skills
to keep on top of changes in technology and work practices. They
will have to be self-starting and remain open to learning new things
throughout their careers. And they will have to take responsibility
for tackling global challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss,
and inequality.

With all this in mind, the starting point of TEP was to identify the
graduate attributes needed for career and life success and then to
embed the attributes through the seven features of a Trinity
education which includes:

- Co-curriculum reflection,
- Global mobility,
- the Capstone project and
- Employability and Leadership programmes.

Just yesterday we celebrated the Employability Award in the
Professional Services Pathway.

The Trinity Electives are one of these seven key initiatives. The
development of the Electives has been driven by Áine Kelly, chair of
the Trinity Electives Subgroup, and Declan O’Sullivan, the Trinity
Electives ‘champion’ – with the support of the Subgroup.

Let’s take a look now at this video in which Áine and Declan present
the Trinity Electives.

[Play first video ‘Trinity Electives – Broadening your Education]

As Áine and Declan make clear here, the Trinity Electives are
cohesive with the university’s research themes and are designed to
help undergraduates gain the Trinity graduate attributes.

I understand that 27 Trinity Electives will be on offer by September.
Already 19 of these Electives have prepared short exploratory
videos.

I’ve had a look at quite a number of these and I’m hugely impressed
– at the breadth of choice on offer and at the creativity and
enthusiasm of the module coordinators.

Let’s take a look at a few of these videos so you get an idea of what
I’m talking about.

[Play videos: EthicsLab, Smart & Sustainable, and Cancer]

I think I speak for many of us when I say ‘I wish these Electives had
been around in my undergraduate years’. As an engineering
student, deeply immersed in maths and mechanics, I would have been thrilled to have the opportunity to explore 'Travel Memoirs and Memorabilia', using the extraordinary manuscripts in Trinity's Library; or to engage with Science Gallery through the Idea Translation Lab.

Breadth of knowledge and flexibility of thinking are so important. They always have been but in the 21st century they are ever more so. It’s vital that we deliver for our students. It hasn’t been an easy task. I know what’s involved in designing courses and curricula. It’s challenging and time-consuming – the Electives are particularly challenging because they must be accessible to students for whom the area is not a core discipline, and at the same time they must be deep enough to engage junior sophisters.

I think all involved have done a phenomenal job. I congratulate and thank to moderators of each Trinity Elective, most of whom are here this evening – take a bow!

Also Áine, Declan, the Subgroup, and the project team. The numbers of people involved in making the Electives happen show just what a broad and challenging task this was.

Generations of students and graduates will now benefit from your work – as will the societies whom they will serve.

And now I’d like to invite the Student Union Education Officer, Aimee Connolly, to talk about the importance of the Electives from a student standpoint.

[Aimee speaks, 5 minutes]

Thank you so much Aimee – and indeed I hope you speak for all students! Such enthusiasm is inspirational and reminds us of the importance of renewing the undergraduate curriculum.

Let me conclude by wishing each Elective every success. My thanks to all.

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Provost Patrick Prendergast, Prof Áine Kelly (Chair of the Trinity Education Project [TEP] Electives sub-group), Aimee Connolly (SU Education Officer), and Prof Declan O’Sullivan (Champion of Trinity Electives)
01 April 2019

Library Dinner London hosted by Fred and Emma Goltz

The Portland Restaurant, 113 Great Portland Street, London

Suggested points for welcome by the Provost:

Welcome and introductions.

Thanks to Emma and Fred Goltz for hosting the dinner.

Mentions and thanks them for their generous support for our excellent access programmes.

Highlights / developments in College and Campaign, e.g.

- Trinity Business School: official opening May 23rd
- E3: We will begin to demolish the Biochemistry building in July to make way for the E3 Learning Foundry. In parallel, we are preparing our application for planning permission
- New campus at Grand Canal Dock – GCID - : Business plan being finalised. Meetings underway with key stakeholders, including government officials and senior university representatives
- Cancer: OECI visit on April 1-2 focusing. The goal is for Trinity St James Cancer Institute to be approved as a Clinical Cancer Centre
- Law School: Business Plan is going through College structures and should be signed-off at the end of April. Very positive conversations ongoing with the legal community.
- Campaign for Trinity: Major launch is planned for 2nd May in Dublin and 9th May in London. This will be followed closely by launches across the world.

However, tonight we are here to talk about our plans for the Old Library of Trinity, one of Ireland’s greatest national assets, and to hear your thoughts and ideas on building an international community in support of our ambitions.
Before I hand over to Veronica* and Helen† to give you more background, I would like to invite Emma Goltz, who suggested we have this gathering, to say a few words.

Provost invites Emma to speak.
Thanks Emma, then invites Veronica Campbell to speak.
Then invites Helen Shenton to speak.
Then invites discussion and feedback.

* * *

Suggested points for closing remarks by the Provost:

- This year is critical as we actively build the local and international audience for engagement in great Trinity stories and the ambition of the campaign.
- The Library is a pivotal project for Trinity and Ireland, and we need your advice, support and help in connecting us with wider networks.
- Thank you for all you are doing already. I am extremely grateful for your commitment and most encouraged by your interest and engagement tonight.
- We look forward to being in touch over coming weeks and months and to engaging further with you as we roll out our ambitious plans.

* * *

* Professor Veronica Campbell, Bursar and Chair of the Old Library Renovation Project
† Helen Shenton, Librarian and College Archivist, and Project Sponsor of the Old Library renovation project
Good evening,

It’s wonderful to be back in this historic chamber for this highlight of the Trinity year.

I thank the Bank of Ireland for their generosity in making this chamber available, and for their support and sponsorship of the Award.

This year is particularly special because we’re celebrating the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Award.

A quarter of a century is a long time for any Award to be running, particularly when, as in this case, it’s with the same organisers and the same sponsors - the Trinity Business Alumni and the Bank of Ireland.

This is one of the most sustained and successful of all student awards in Ireland. We are very proud of it and, speaking personally, attending the ceremony, in this wonderful setting, and presenting the Gold Medal to the winner is always one of the highlights of my year.

By a happy coincidence, this year, as we celebrate the Award’s quarter-century, we also celebrate the completion of the new Trinity Business School - the state-of-the-art €80 million euro building which is opening next month.

I say ‘coincidence’ but that’s not quite right – both the longevity of this Award and the opening of the new School come from the same drive; both are testimony to the initiative and achievement of Trinity Business staff, students and alumni. Both speak eloquently to the ambition of the School.

This is a School that goes from strength to strength and is among the most impactful in the university. Trinity has a substantial and growing reputation, globally, for educating in entrepreneurship and innovation. This is evidenced by our ranking, for the fourth year running, as the number 1 university in Europe for educating
entrepreneurs – according to evaluation by private equity and venture capital-focused research firm, PitchBook.

And it’s confirmed by the on-going success of our student accelerator, LaunchBox, which has been rated among the world’s best and which some of today’s finalists have participated in.

I’d like to pay tribute to the part that the Business Student of the Year Award has played in creating the successful Business School and the culture of entrepreneurship which we enjoy on campus today. Two and a half decades ago - before anyone was speaking of innovation ecosystems or spin-outs, or indeed LaunchBox or PitchBook - Trinity alumni came together with academic staff and corporate sponsors to find a way to incentivise students to develop their skills and broaden their scope. The aim was simple: to help foster the new generation of entrepreneurs, innovators and business leaders.

There was an understanding that students benefit from mentors outside the college. I thank the Bank, and alumni past and present, for all you have done for our students. I know it’s also of benefit for you to have this connection with the next generation.

* * *

Today we are honouring six undergraduates whose range of activity is remarkable. Between them they have, variously,

- Represented Trinity, nationally and internationally, at case competitions;
- Acted as student mentors;
- Written for college journals and other journals;
- Led student societies and the Student Managed Fund;
- Founded start-ups and participated in Accelerator Programmes;
- Learnt languages and gone on EU and non-EU exchanges;
- Held positions in venture capital funds;
- Founded business groups and organised conferences;
- Interned with global corporations, hedge-funds and tech platforms; and
- Volunteered and fund-raised.

And all this on top of demanding academic work. And we know that these six students have been short-listed from a much larger pool, whose talent is such that it has been difficult to select.

I thank the Bank of Ireland, the Trinity Business Alumni Association and the Careers Office for conducting the interviews and selecting the candidates. From the Trinity Business School, I
thank Kristian Myrseth and his Faculty who were involved the
difficult task of shortlisting the candidates. With special thanks to
Emma Mooney from the Business School and Sophie O’Halloran
and her team from the Bank of Ireland for organising today’s great
event here in this great chamber.

Reading the CVs of the six short-listed students, I’ve been struck by
the range and diversity of the activities they are involved in. These
are students who have hit the ground running, who are constantly
seeking to do more, be more, and learn more. Whether it’s studying
in Montreal or Singapore; or interning in London, New York or
Berlin; or overcoming disability; or reaching out to help other
students; or finding innovative ways to fundraise for charity; or
founding successful start-ups; or pushing for more equality for
under-represented groups – these students are inspirational.

The Dean of Trinity Business School, Professor Andrew Burke, has
spoken of the School taking a deep and responsible view of the term
‘business performance’ - for them, this term extends beyond
creating profit to include the impact of business on the wider
economy and society. If these students’ outlook and performance
are representative of their peers, then Professor Burke and the
Trinity Business School are to be congratulated for embedding their
values so well.

I’m struck by how many of the students this year benefitted from,
and are now themselves involved in, student 2 student mentoring.
These students have written eloquently of the difference that
mentoring made to them and how they are now seeking to give
back, by mentoring in their turn.

And mentoring speaks to the wider values of the university. A
university is about people and, ultimately, about relationships.
Universities like Trinity have a transformative effect on all those
who pass through, and on their regions, as on the world-wide
network of research and scholarship. The provisional title of
Trinity’s next Strategic Plan, which we’ll be launching this autumn,
is ‘Community and Connection’.

We’re drawn to this title because it gets across the sense of our
global community of students, staff, alumni, industry and civic
partners, and friends; and the sense of making connections in
education, research, innovation, entrepreneurship and public
engagement.

We want our students to feel part of a community which nourishes
them; we want them to be open to building connections; and we
want them to be part of a cycle of giving, and of creating opportunity. So it’s inspiring to see that these students have positioned themselves within the wider community and are, already as undergraduates, seeking to make a difference in the broad, societal sense imparted to them by the Trinity Business School.

On this, the 25th anniversary of these Awards, these finalists join previous finalists whose career achievements are testimony to the success of the Award in realising its aims – people like:

- Dylan Collins, serial entrepreneur and founder of SuperAwesome, a platform that makes the internet safer for children;
- Alan Foy, CEO of Blueface;
- Iseult Ward, Founder of FoodCloud; and
- Oisin Hanrahan – Founder of Handy Technologies, the on-demand ‘gig’ marketplace for the hiring of professionals for household tasks.

And many others who serve as role models, just as these six finalists will serve, in their turn. I congratulate all finalists, past and present. And I congratulate and thank Trinity Alumni, the Trinity Business School, and the Bank of Ireland for 25 years of a wonderful award, outstandingly successful in its aims and reach.

Thank you.

*     *     *

Provost Patrick Prendergast; Louise O’Callaghan, winner of the Bank of Ireland Business Student of the Year Award; and Lucy Hederman, President of Trinity Business Alumni (TBA)
It has been my pleasure and privilege as Provost over the past eight years to attend the Business Student of the Year Award, every year – I missed, I think, just one year.

And now, with this Anniversary Dinner, we celebrate 25 years of the Award.

In Trinity, we have multiple student and staff awards celebrating different aspects of education, research and innovation. All awards are valuable – because it’s important to recognise exceptional achievement, particularly for people just starting out and making their way in the world.

But the Business Student of the Year is special. What makes it special is quality, consistency, connection.

This Award is particularly good at spotting potential. The achievements of past finalists speak for themselves. Students compete strongly to be short-listed because they know it will make a difference to their careers. Thanks to the discernment of the selective committee and the success of previous winners and finalists, this Award is now a benchmark of quality.

And this Award, as I said earlier today, speaks to the sense of community in, and beyond, the campus. It speaks to the lifelong connection of alumni with their alma mater and to the college’s decades-long partnership with the Bank of Ireland.

The Bank is central to the success of the Award. Thanks to the Bank’s generosity each year, we get to hold the ceremony in one of the most impressive and historic chambers in Ireland. And the Bank’s continued sponsorship provides vital consistency, integrity, and brand recognition.

Awards that keeping changing sponsors don’t have the same weight and impact. They are ephemeral. 25 years, a quarter of a century, speaks to the commitment and investment that the Bank of Ireland has made to our business students.
In this year, when we open our new Trinity Business School, which is going to be a game changer for business education in Ireland – it’s a privilege for us in Trinity to celebrate our long partnership with the Bank of Ireland.

Earlier today it was a pleasure to award Marie-Louise O’Callaghan with a gold medal. It’s now a pleasure, on behalf of the university, to present this Gold Medal to the Bank of Ireland in great thanks and recognition for their wonderful support over a quarter of a century.

* * *

Joann Hosey (Provincial Director of Bank of Ireland) receiving a recognition plaque for 50th anniversary of Bank of Ireland sponsorship of the BSOY award from Provost Patrick Prendergast
Good morning, and welcome to the CONNECT Centre Site Review.

On behalf of Trinity, it's my pleasure to welcome here the CONNECT team members and staff from SFI. And in particular, to welcome the independent, international expert review panel of eight reviewers who have flown in from the US, Canada, Germany and the UK. We thank you for the time and expertise you are giving this important Site Review.

CONNECT - the SFI Research Centre for Future Networks and Communications - is Ireland’s most distributed research centre. It is spread across ten higher education institutions in Ireland to create a one-stop-shop for telecommunications research, development and innovation. We’re proud to host CONNECT in Trinity, and we’re proud that the Centre draws on the best talent from across Ireland’s higher education sector to create a critical mass of excellence which helps make the ICT industry in Ireland ‘sticky’ and which is capable of attracting industry partnership at a significant scale.

CONNECT was launched just four years ago. In that time the Centre’s industry engagement, its success in attracting European funding, and its high number of postgraduates has been exceptional. Let’s quickly go through some of the achievements of CONNECT over the past four years:

1) CONNECT attracts top talent from all over the world, and the people it trains stay in Ireland: about two thirds of researchers moved here from abroad and 70 percent of CONNECT’s PhD graduates and postdocs who join industry do so in Ireland.

2) CONNECT’s team of investigators include 6 IEEE Fellows, 3 members of the Royal Irish Academy, 7 Trinity Fellows, 3 IEEE Distinguished Lecturers, and 1 Oscar award winner.

3) CONNECT influences public policy, including authoring a study that was very influential in setting the European Commission’s 5G programme (the study was mentioned by Jean-Claude Juncker). Prof Linda
Doyle chairs OFCOM’s spectrum advisory board, contributing to spectrum policy in the UK.

4) Over 30 industry partners, ranging from SMEs to multinationals, are engaged in collaborative projects with CONNECT researchers. CONNECT has to date brought almost 5 million euro in cash contributions from industry.

5) CONNECT has brought to Ireland 17 million euro in Horizon 2020 funding, including the largest European project (and I mean largest in terms of funding) that Trinity College has ever had - the EDGE project, a Marie Curie programme for attracting and training postdocs.

All of this in just four years. CONNECT is central to the higher education and research landscape in Ireland and Europe. I congratulate and thank SFI for their vision in establishing this Centre. And I congratulate the former and current directors of CONNECT: Linda Doyle and Luiz DaSilva. Their leadership has been exceptional and CONNECT’s success is also testimony to the commitment, talent and enthusiasm of its PIs, postgrads and postdocs.

Nine months ago, in July last, the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, formally launched the plan for the creation of a globally competitive innovation district for Ireland, centred on a new Trinity tech campus to be developed at Grand Canal Dock.

To this end, Trinity is working in partnership with government and key state agencies, together with other Dublin universities: UCD, DCU and TU Dublin.

Trinity will develop a tech campus that will help position Ireland as a research and innovation leader.

CONNECT is key to this initiative. In its first phase, CONNECT has proved that universities and higher education institutions in Ireland collaborate excellently with each other, and with industry, to attract strong funding, deliver key research outcomes, and provide training to postgrads in a tech area vital to the economy. The success of the Grand Canal Innovation District will rely on just such collaboration and expertise, on an even wider scale.

The CONNECT Phase 2 proposal for 2021 to 2026 – which will be looked at during this review – is ambitious and exciting, and it will
be further supported by our plans for the Grand Canal Innovation District.

The Taoiseach has stated his ambition for Ireland to be a tech capital for Europe. Realising this ambition is about drawing from, and building on, the success of initiatives like CONNECT.

In Trinity we want to continue working with our partners to be at the forefront of creating a transformative future for Ireland and Europe. I wish everyone a useful and impactful few days in this key site review.

Thank you

* * *
Good evening,

And welcome everybody to the inaugural of the John Pollard Foundation Poetry Prize.

This is a milestone event not only in Ireland but internationally – a significant new Poetry Prize, which is as generously endowed as the renowned Forward Prize – and I’m sure will soon be as well known.

As a poetry fan myself, I’m delighted that this Prize has come into being, and that it encourages poets at the start of their careers. And I’m proud and honoured that the Trinity Oscar Wilde Centre has been trusted with the administration of such an important Prize.

The Prize is truly international in that it is open to all debut poetry collections in English, no matter where they’re published. As a result, of course, competition has been very high. I understand that over forty volumes of poetry were submitted by publishers in Canada, Ireland, the UK and the US. From this, eight books were shortlisted.

As is the nature of literary prizes, to get on the shortlist is a measure of quality. I hope all eight authors receive great recognition – and boost in sales.

*    *    *

The great value of any Prize is that it brings attention to the field that it rewards. It incentivises the competitors, and it creates a stir in the wider world. This is always important and it’s particularly so for an uncommercial field like poetry, which does not command the readership or media attention of novels or drama.

That said, we are currently enjoying a growth period for poetry. Statistics from UK book sales monitor Nielsen – who also cover
Ireland - show that sales of poetry books grew by over 12 percent last year, for the second year in a row.†

Poetry sales hit an all-time high of £12.3 million sterling in 2018 – nearly double what they were in 2012.‡

This growth is being driven by younger readers - two-thirds of buyers of poetry books in 2018 were younger than 34, and 41 percent were aged 13 to 22.

Commentators have advanced a few reasons for this growth, including that in times of political upheaval and uncertainty, people turn to poetry to make sense of the world.

Another possible reason is that the form’s brevity means that it can be easily consumed on phones and shared on social media.

Whatever the reasons, this growth is hugely exciting for those of us who love poetry. I like to quote Patrick Kavanagh: ‘The standing army of Irish poets never falls below 10,000’. It’s good to think that more than fifty years after Kavanagh’s death, this claim might still stand, and that poetry is regenerative and remains essential to understanding the human condition.

By establishing this award in honour of his grandfather, Stephen Vernon contributes hugely to the international poetry renaissance. The prize-winning poet receives generous assistance at a crucial stage of their career, and just as importantly, recognition. The short-listed poets also benefit from recognition. This prize is big news - it will, I trust, be reported on in all the countries where publishers submitted books.

Stephen Vernon is renowned for his philanthropy, which has included generous donations to the National Maternity Hospital.‡ With this Prize he makes a truly transformative impact on poetry.

We’re all delighted that this International Prize is being run from Ireland, which speaks, of course, to this country’s remarkable poetic tradition. And as I’ve said, it’s a huge honour for the Trinity Oscar Wilde Centre to be entrusted to administer the prize.

* www.theguardian.com/books/2019/jan/21/poetry-sales-soar-as-political-millennials-search-for-clarity
† www.theguardian.com/books/2019/feb/16/rise-new-poets
‡ www.thetimes.co.uk/article/tycoon-stephen-vernons-mri-scanner-at-nmh-to-avert-terminations-for-fatal-foetal-abnormality-nt85vfqh2
Trinity’s School of English is ranked 28th in the world in the current QS Rankings. This reflects the quality of the teaching and research, and the achievements of graduates, who include novelists Anne Enright, Sebastian Barry, Sally Rooney, and Claire Kilroy; poets Derek Mahon, Eavan Boland, Brendan Kennelly and Paula Meehan; and I guess in this week that sees the airing of the last ever season of Game of Thrones, it’s worth noting that the creators and scriptwriters of that show, David Benioff and D.B. Weiss, first met in Trinity on the masters programme in English literature.

Staff in the School of English and in the Oscar Wilde Centre include renowned authors – Deirdre Madden, Carlo Gebler, Harry Clifton, Kevin Power and Mary O’Malley.

This time last year we officially opened the new Trinity Centre for Literature and Cultural Translation, the first centre of its kind in Ireland, which runs the Masters in Literary Translation and greatly strengthens this university’s commitment to helping to create and support a flourishing literary ecosystem which we see as essential for Dublin, Ireland and the world.

‘A flourishing literary ecosystem’ means
- establishing excellent creative writing courses;
- enabling translation;
- supporting independent publishing presses and literary journals;
- providing writers’ bursaries and retreats, and
- supporting literary prizes that are markers of talent.

Since 2006 the Trinity Oscar Wilde Centre has administered the Rooney Prize for emerging Irish literary talent, one of the longest-established of any literary prize anywhere – and one that has proved particularly good at spotting emerging talent.

The International John Pollard Foundation Poetry Prize, complements the Rooney Prize, and brings to the Oscar Wilde Centre a new global audience of publishers and poets writing in the English language.

A prize is only as good as its judges. The Selection Committee for this has been carefully chosen. The chairperson is Professor Aileen Douglas, Head of the School of English. She is joined by:

- Tim Dooley, tutor for The Poetry School, visiting lecturer at the University of Westminster, and an arts mentor for the Koestler Trust;
• Harry Clifton, former Ireland Professor of Poetry and visiting research fellow in English here in Trinity; and
• Tom Walker, Ussher Assistant Professor of Irish Writing at Trinity

On behalf of the university, and indeed of poetry lovers everywhere, I thank the Committee for the work they’ve put into this Prize. There is a great deal involved in reading forty books of poetry and I’m sure the quality was high and short-listing a difficult call. I thank the Committee, and of course Stephen Vernon, for drawing our attention to outstanding international poets. I look forward to getting an opportunity to read their work.

And now I know how impatient you all must be to find out who is the winner of the John Pollard International Poetry Prize. May I invite Professor Aileen Douglas, chairperson of the selection committee, to announce the 2019 inaugural winner.

[Prof Douglas announces winner, gives citation; Stephen Vernon gives cheque to winner, Hannah Sullivan; Hannah speaks and gives short reading; Provost closes proceedings:]

Thank you, Hannah for that wonderful reading. As the inaugural winner, you bring great distinction to this Award. And now, my thanks to all for being here this evening and I invite you all to enjoy the reception.

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Stephen Vernon (sponsor of the prize and member of the Provost’s Council; Tim Dooley; Prof Aileen Douglas (Head of the School of English and chair of the award committee); Hannah Sullivan (winner); Harry Clifton (poet); Provost Patrick Prendergast.

Afterwards the School of English hosted a dinner in Dunne & Crescenzi, 16 South Frederick Street, Dublin 2
18 April 2019

Address at the Spring Commencements Dinner

Dining Hall, Trinity College

Chancellor, Pro-Chancellors, Visitor, Distinguished Guests, Honorary Graduates,

Welcome to the Spring Honorary Commencements dinner. Today we’ve paid tribute to six exceptional individuals by bestowing on them our highest honours.

Since the Middle Ages, universities have granted degrees ‘honoris causa’ on individuals anywhere in the world who are judged of merit. Only a few exceptional individuals are ever honoured annually.

* * *

This year is a very special honorary commencements dinner. For 21 years this dinner has been presided over by Mary Robinson in her role as Chancellor. This year she is stepping down from this role; this is her last honorary commencements dinner as Chancellor. I would like, therefore, to take this opportunity, on behalf of all of us present here this evening and of the whole Trinity community to thank her and acknowledge all she has done this university.

Mary Robinson is a graduate, a former professor in the School of Law, a senator for the university seat, and Chancellor. She has brought great distinction to each of these roles.

As a student in the late 1960s, she led the drive to re-think Irish society. As auditor of the Law Society, she stood up in front of a packed Exam Hall, just across the way, and argued for the removal of the bans on contraception and divorce, and the decriminalisation of homosexuality and suicide*.

As Reid Professor of Law, and Senator for Trinity in the 1970s and ‘80s, she came to national prominence for her courage in taking on then controversial campaigns for women’s rights and other liberal issues. She was notably successful in many of her campaigns and it’s a measure of how far she brought the country with her, that she

* [https://www.tcd.ie/alumni/assets/pdf/trinity-today/mary-robinson.pdf](https://www.tcd.ie/alumni/assets/pdf/trinity-today/mary-robinson.pdf)
was elected the first female president of Ireland in 1990. Her
distinction in that role, and in her subsequent one of UN High
Commissioner for Human Rights, needs no elaboration.

For 21 years Trinity has been fortunate indeed in its Chancellor.
Her international renown confers distinction on the university.
Through her tireless advocacy for the causes she believes in, she
has been an inspiration to generations of students, staff and
alumni.

Her most prominent cause over the past decade or so has been, of
course, Climate Justice. Her leadership here has directly inspired
our students with their prominent campaigns of divestment in fossil
fuels and a plastic-free campus.

Just a fortnight ago, we received the wonderful news that Trinity
has been ranked 10th in the world for Climate Action, by the Times
Higher Education rankings. The table measures universities for the
quality of their climate change research, their energy usage, and
how prepared they are for the consequences of climate change. I
think I can say without equivocation that we would not have
achieved this remarkable ranking without the example and
leadership of our Chancellor.

I like to think of Mary’s causes as being distinctively Trinity causes
– pluralism, human rights, higher education, justice,
environmentalism, cultural diversity. I like to think that this
university helped create her commitment and passion; there can be
no doubt that she helped create the university as it is today. It
would be hard to overstate her importance in inspiring generations.

And this evening I am pleased to announce that a portrait has been
commissioned of Chancellor Robinson to hang here over the
fireplace in the Dining Hall. The portrait will be unveiled here on the
28th of May.

I am particularly glad to announce this here today as Mary
Robinson’s contributions like those of our honorary doctors,
reminds us that a university’s primary purpose is to enhance the
public good by educating the thinkers, doers, artists, and reformers
that society needs, as well as yielding the research which improves
our way of being in the world. Like Mary Robinson, the six
individuals whom we honour today have served the public good in
their different spheres. Between them, our six honourees have
illuminated the fields of environmentalism and natural history,
architecture, visual arts, economics, law and diplomacy.
Ladies and Gentlemen, it's my pleasure now to introduce you to Trinity's six new honorary graduates.

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**David Cabot** is a naturalist, ecologist and ornithologist who has devoted his life to the study of this island's flora and fauna. His latest work, *The Burren*, was published just last year. He is a Trinity graduate and a distinguished film-maker as well as writer; he founded *Wild Goose Films* in 1988, and has produced renowned documentaries for RTÉ and the BBC. He has served as special advisor at the Department of the Taoiseach, and as Head of Conservation at what is now the Environmental Protection Agency. He has also served as President of the European Committee for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. At a time when the world is too slowly waking up to the importance of biodiversity and the threat of species distinction, his work is of the greatest international importance.

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**The Grafton Architects: Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara**

Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara co-founded Grafton Architects in 1978. They have received many accolades for their pioneering work, including appointment as the sole curators of last year’s Architectural Biennale in Venice. Their university commissions are particularly celebrated including work at the Luigi Bocconi University in Milan, voted ‘World Building of the Year’ by the World Architecture Festival in 2008 and at Universidad de Ingeniería y Tecnología in Lima, Peru, awarded the inaugural Royal Institute of British Architects International Prize in 2016. As it happens, their first university building was at Trinity (the Parsons Building) which they have described as an important turning point in their career.

Both Farrell and McNamara have taught in numerous European and American Schools of Architecture, including jointly holding the Kenzo Tange Chair at Harvard. They are both elected members of Aosdána.

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**Carmel Naughton** is a pre-eminent advocate of the visual arts in Ireland. After being appointed to the Board of the National Gallery of Ireland in 1991, she was elected Chair in 1996 and served till 2002, overseeing the fundraising, construction, and opening of the new millennium wing.
Between 2007 and its publication in 2014, she was the driving force behind the first ever comprehensive reference text on Irish art and architecture, coordinated by the Royal Irish Academy.

A Trinity graduate, who worked for many years as a primary school teacher, her commitment to education saw her establish, together with her husband Martin, the Naughton Foundation, which supports worthwhile causes in the arts and education, including the Naughton scholarships to promote the study of science, engineering and technology at third level in Ireland. Together with Martin she was named Philanthropist of the Year by the Community Foundation for Ireland in 2016. Her contribution to the visual arts has been recognised by numerous organisations, including the Royal Irish Academy, who elected her a member in 2006; the Royal Hibernian Academy who awarded her their gold medal in 2015 and elected her an honorary member in 2016; and the Prince Charles Medal for services to the Arts in Northern Ireland.

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Cormac Ó Gráda, Emeritus Professor of Economics in University College Dublin, is the preeminent Irish economic historian of the last three decades. His research interests range from eighteenth-century France to nineteenth-century Manhattan, to Mao’s Great Leap Forward. As a demographer his profound insights into the Irish Famine have broadened to a reinterpretation of famine in global history and a rethinking of the impact of bubonic plague. Of his many publications, Black ‘47 and Beyond and Famine: A short history have received significant international notice. His award-winning Jewish Ireland in the Age of Joyce (2006) marked a new departure and displayed his remarkable disciplinary breadth. He was recently elected president of the Economic History Association for 2017-18, the first time an Irish-based historian has been so honoured.

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Patricia O’Brien served as Under Secretary General and Legal Counsel to the United Nations from 2008 to 2013 – this is one of the highest posts in the UN and it’s regarded as the most important position held by a lawyer in any international organisation. Appointed to this role by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, she advised on all legal issues faced by the Secretary General, the UN Secretariat and the other principal organs of the United Nations, including the upholding and strengthening of the rule of law, the pursuit of justice and the ending of impunity for war crimes, genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. In 2013 she returned to Irish Public Service and
was appointed Permanent Representative and Ambassador of Ireland to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva. She is a Trinity graduate and is currently Ireland’s Ambassador to France and Monaco.

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These six women and men are true role models of what can be achieved – in terms of their specific fields, and of serving the greater good. I congratulate each and every one of our distinguished and distinctive new honorary graduates. We are privileged to have you join the family of the University of Dublin.

Before I call on Patricia O’Brien to respond, I would ask you all to rise for the first toast of the evening.

Ladies and Gentlemen, To Ireland.

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(Back Row, L to R) David Cabot, Provost Patrick Prendergast, Shelly McNamara & Yvonne Farrell (Grafton Architects), Cormac O’Grada (Front row, L to R) Patricia O’Brien, Chancellor Mary Robinson, Carmel Naughton
The Full Hot Press Interview with Trinity Provost Patrick Prendergast

As one of their youngest ever provosts, Patrick Prendergast has been a progressive force at Trinity College which, he reveals, is looking to scrap fees for students in direct provision and forge closer ties with the Muslim world. Campus protests, consent classes, drugs, Trump, Michelle Obama, Meghan Markle and Johnny Marr also feature as Stuart Clark gives the AC/DC fan the third degree.

Rock ‘n’ roll isn’t the first thing you associate with Trinity College, but back in the ‘70s, future Hot Press writer Bill Graham was responsible for introducing fellow Trinity alumnus Paul McGuinness to a bunch of young fellas called The U2. Future Dave Fanning producer, Ian Wilson, was President of the Students Union and The
Clash provided a short-sharp lesson in punk when they gigged in the Exam Hall.
As a nod to this historic moment, a Clash tribute act will be first on this weekend, when The Coronas, Bugzy Malone, Mabel, Mall Grab, Kojaque and Nina Nesbitt do their respective things at the Trinity Ball. While you need to be either a student or a significant other/mate of theirs to grab one of the gold-dust TB tickets, all are welcome for the MCD-promoted Summer Series of gigs, which find Vampire Weekend, Foals, Janelle Monáe, Paul Weller, Stereophonics and New Order playing outdoor headliners at the college in July.

For good measure, Pete Doherty, Johnny Marr, The Cranberries, Jack White and Island Records founder Chris Blackwell have all passed through the famous front doors of the college to collect Honorary Patronages from its Phil Soc.

Trinity is also the place where Andrew Hozier-Byrne, Wyvern Lingo and Saint Sister studied before bagging their respective record deals. It’s appropriate, then, that TCD’s 41st Provost, Dr. Patrick Prendergast, is a rock ‘n’ roller himself. Sitting down in his private rooms for a chat, the first thing we clock is a dog-eared copy of Bob Dylan’s Blood On The Tracks lying on top of a vintage radiogram. The full rack of vinyl next to it includes Leonard Cohen’s Ten New Songs, the recent Christy Moore On The Road live album, and a signed copy of Declan O’Rourke’s Chronicles Of The Great Irish Famine.

“I went out and bought them specially when I heard Hot Press was coming,” laughs the amiable Oulart, Co. Wexford native who attended Trinity as an undergraduate in 1983; was appointed to the engineering faculty in 1995; and got the top job in 2011. He was aged just 44 at the time, which makes him Trinity’s youngest provost since 1758.

**Stuart Clark: When did you first seriously get into music?**
Patrick Prendergast: I was a boarder at St. Peter’s College, the all-boys school in Wexford Town. We went home once a month. The rest of the time we were in our dormitories playing music. These were the days of AC/DC and Meat Loaf. The cool guys – of whom I definitely wasn’t one – had ghetto blasters and would blare them out along with The Doors and The Cure. I was quite studious and doing well in Maths and English, but loved my music because it was one of the few escapes we had from academia.

**Your Dad ran a haulage firm. It must have been successful for him to send you to St. Peter’s and then on to Trinity.**
In the 1970s, he was one of the first in Wexford to buy these new-fangled ‘juggernauts’. He ended up with four or five lorries, mainly
working for local farmers drawing – that was the word for haulage at the time – milk to creameries and beet to the processing factory. Although my father had little formal education, he was very outward-looking and taught himself Esperanto, which was the attempt at creating a universal language. It was rare that he left Wexford yet alone went abroad, but he also learned French and felt strangely connected to Europe. We’d have been considered fairly well off in our parish. Being the eldest I was expected to take over the family business, but when I started doing well at school my parents realised I was smart enough to go to university. None of my mother or father’s family had even done the Leaving Cert, so it was kind of unchartered territory.

**St. Peter’s made headlines for all the wrong reasons in 2005 when the Ferns Report found that a teacher, Fr. Donal Collins, had serially abused boys there between 1962 and 1991.**

I was reasonably happy in boarding school, and some of my brothers went after me and were happy as well. But there were very many pupils that weren’t happy and who were subjected to appalling abuse. Young boys like me, who thankfully escaped the worst of it, would’ve had a kind of radar for that, I suppose. It’s well documented that there were many problems in St. Peter’s back in the ‘80s. Many of these have been high profile cases that have gone through the courts. It’s all been dealt with now from a legal perspective and hopefully washed out of the system. There may still be a religious ethos but, in the main, priests don’t run these schools any more. The lay leadership is much more open to what young people need than the priests who taught me were.

**It must have been a relief to leave St. Peter’s for Trinity.**

Yes, ‘relief’ is definitely the right word. I arrived at Trinity in 1983, which was just ten years after the Irish Catholic hierarchy had lifted its ban on Catholics attending the college, which up till then had been regarded as a place where only Protestants studied. There was a great demand in Irish society for university education, and Trinity responded accordingly. There were still vestiges of its past, but Trinity felt a very secular place – especially when compared to St. Peter’s and the teachers in their priestly garb.

**While you immediately said “yes” to talking to Hot Press, it’s taken us three months to nail down this slot because you’ve been travelling so much. How did you get on in the Lebanon?**

We have a potential collaboration with one of the best universities in the Middle East, the American University of Beirut, which has flourished now that there’s relative peace in the region. Students from all around the Middle East come and study there. I would very much like to have a collaboration of some kind – in engineering or
in Islamic Studies. I went out there with some of our engineers and Linda Hogan, who is our Professor of Ecumenics. We had a very interesting discussion with religious leaders in southern Lebanon about how religion and politics interplay and how the ultimate copper-fastening and success of a peace process involves interfaith dialogue. Clearly, the Irish school of ecumenism has, for many years, played this role in Northern Ireland. Now it’s playing that role in other parts of the world, like the Lebanon where dialogue between Sunni and Shia clerics and Christian leaders is really helping to move things forward.

**Trinity opening an Islamic Studies Centre would be the perfect riposte to Ireland’s anti-Muslim brigade who’ve clearly been emboldened by the rhetoric spouted by the likes of Donald Trump, Marine Le Pen and Tommy Robinson.**

This fear people have of Islam is completely ridiculous. I’m not particularly religious, so didn’t realise that there’s a chapter in the Quran given over to the Virgin Mary. This was news to me! We should all know that the Virgin Mary plays a role in Islam.

**You were also in Tel Aviv recently.**

Yes, I’ve been to most universities in Israel – Tel Aviv, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Technion and the Weizmann Institute, one of the world’s leading centres for Life Science research with which we have an excellent annual student exchange programme.

**How integrated is the Israeli university system?**

I’d say there’s good integration. There are many Arab students in Tel Aviv University, for instance, who would be Israeli citizens. What you don’t have in any great numbers in Israel are Palestinian students. There are universities in Palestine, very good ones, which Trinity has collaborations with as well.

**A student referendum asking, “Should TCDSU accept a long term policy on Palestine and in support of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS)” resulted in a 64.5% ‘Yes’ vote. Has that impacted on your thinking at all?**

The student voice is important, and represented on all of the committees. On perhaps the most important one, students have taken over the part of the table that used to be occupied by the deans. They’ll make their point, as they did with the BDS. We also have two good newspapers here, The University Times and the Trinity News, who are always on my case and that’s fine. Personally, I would have liked to have seen a wider debate and discussion before the referendum was held.
In February 2017, forty members of the Students For Justice In Palestine group prevented the Israeli Ambassador, Zeev Boker, from speaking at Trinity. Were they right to do so?

I thought it was particularly unfortunate that the Israeli Ambassador was blocked in that way. A university is a place for discussion and debate. If you disagree with the Israeli Ambassador’s position then say so – but let him speak. He was willing to have a dialogue and discussion afterwards. That would have been an important exchange of ideas.

What’s your definition of anti-Semitism?

I find it hard to know what a good definition is because the whole thing is thrown around so much. But I suppose anti-Semitism is some sort of racism against Jews in a way that disadvantages or disrespects them. There are many who think Trinity should do less with Israeli universities and some that think we should do more. We’ve many Israeli alumni and, as provost of this university, I’ve made an undertaking to meet alumni around the world wherever they live. I should not be saying, “I’m never going to talk to you or visit your country.”

Do you believe in the concept of university safe spaces?

I suppose my thoughts are that a university is not necessarily a safe space. It should be safe physically, of course, for students but it is a place for debate and discussion, a place where you’re going to be challenged by your lecturers and other students. And where you, in turn, have a duty to challenge them. That dialogue is the root to understanding. So I am very cautious about the concept of safe spaces as it’s emerged. It doesn’t rest easy with the environment needed for a good university education in particular.

Have you ever used your power of veto, as provost, to bar people that have been invited to Trinity by students or faculty?

We didn’t let Nick Griffin, the former leader of the British National Party, give a speech. The main reason being that the Irish politician who the students had lined up to debate him – I forget the name – baulked at the last minute. I wasn’t happy for him to talk unopposed. Recently we had Nigel Farage, which was fine because he was challenged on his views. As long as they’re similarly able to be challenged, I’d be okay with an American right-wing politician coming in. It’s only in very extreme circumstances that we would limit debate and discussion. In the case of Zeev Boker, this man is an accredited ambassador to Ireland and should have been allowed to make a case, which students could either have agreed or disagreed with.
Given all the #MeToo controversy, should there be mandatory consent classes for students?
I’m not, generally speaking, in favour of mandatory anything. Our students’ union was, three or four years ago, the first in Ireland to have consent classes. Not mandatory: come to them if you want. And this was a very good thing. The whole business of consent is worthy of more discussion among students.

Dating, compared to when we were clumsily kissing people as kids, has become incredibly complicated.
I have two teenage daughters myself and hear their conversations over breakfast and dinner and, yeah, it’s a minefield. But it’s a minefield that we all have to learn to negotiate. We’re much more aware now than we were, in our day, of the variety of sexualities, and the students here are very good at championing such things as LGBTQ rights.

With David Norris and Ivana Bacik both former students, Trinity has helped foster the two referenda ‘Yes’ votes. Are you proud of that?
Yes, I’m unequivocally and resolutely proud of Trinity College’s role in societal change in Ireland. It goes back to Mary Robinson’s day. She’s our current chancellor and was one of the very first to take a strong position on human rights issues relating to contraception and abortion and so on. She did it when she was a young lecturer and a professor here. I see this as a really crucial thing, and I’m proud that in the Marriage Equality referendum, Trinity students played an outsized role and, in so far as I can, I support them. It would have been wrong for us to have taken a corporate position and said at board level, “Vote this way.” There’s a diversity of opinion at Trinity that has to be respected, but we did encourage students to get out and express their views, and to realise that they can change this country for the better.

Personally, were you a “Yes” voter in both referenda?
Yes, I was in favour of marriage equality and the woman’s right to choose, absolutely.

Student registration for the next Seanad election has just ended. A lot of people – myself included – feel that it’s an inherently elitist way of selecting a second chamber.
I believe it’s good to have an upper house, which isn’t just another forum for electing national politicians. When the referendum to abolish the Seanad was called in 2013, we agitated strongly for a debate around this whole issue. I look at the great senators we’ve had – Mary Robinson, David Norris, Ivana Bacik, Sean Barrett, Shane Ross and Lynn Ruane among them – and think, “If it works, it works.”
Lynn Ruane has been a breath of fresh air in the Seanad. She’s more than a breath of fresh air; Lynn Ruane represents a changing dynamic in Irish society. She’s able to articulate sophisticated ideas – like taking a more rehabilitative approach within the justice system to drug addiction issues – very well. She’s turning the wheels of change.

Lynn’s argument is that drug addiction should be treated as a health rather than a criminal issue. The recently retired Assistant Garda Commissioner, Jack Nolan, has said that the current Misuse of Drugs Act is failing young people who are getting criminal records for possessing often tiny amounts of illicit substances. Would you like to see that change?

I don’t know enough about drug policy to be pontificating about it but, yes, we should be looking at young people getting criminal records, which make it harder for them to establish themselves in jobs and a career. Not only with regards to drugs, but petty theft and other things as well. They’re getting criminal records before they know their own minds – often there’ll be outside influences – and are able to establish themselves independently. We need to work out a system in Ireland that doesn’t put people on a fatal path to a lack of success in their lives.

What happens if a Trinity student is caught with, say, a couple of Ecstasy pills that are clearly for personal use?
We have an internal process carried out by a person called the Junior Dean. If the laws of the land have been broken in any way, we’re obliged to tell the Gardaí. I shouldn’t give any other impression than that. But we do recognise that people make mistakes and can genuinely learn from them.

So, they won’t automatically be thrown out of college if cautioned or prosecuted?
We tend to be understanding of context. We’re kind of in loco parentis here. We’ve got 17,000 relatively young people, a thousand of whom are living on campus and another thousand who are in our Dartry residence. Many of the first-year students come from outside Dublin or from abroad. Students have a personal tutor whose job it is to help them with life choices as well as academic matters. That’s a very important part of what we do.

Lynn Ruane is a shining example of the Trinity Access Programme helping people from communities where the third-level progression rate is low to get on to courses.
I had a very depressing conversation about two years ago with a New York philanthropist who more or less said: “Those kids that have come from families where drugs may have been an issue; they
might be very intelligent, but you’re wasting your money and resources because they won’t pass the courses. You’ll feel good about it, but it’s pointless.” I was able to tell him, “Well, you’re 100% wrong.” Students might not have their Leaving Cert, but do our foundation year and fare just as well as those who’ve come to Trinity with 500-plus points. It’s been borne out by statisticians that you don’t have to do really well in the Leaving Cert to benefit from a Trinity education. We want to broaden this access and create as many different kinds of routes as possible.

**Does this include engaging with young people living under direct provision?**

The President of the Students’ Union here, a man called Shane De Rís, is on the warpath about direct provision and rightly so – it’s a terrible thing. I’d like to be a citizen of a country where all the young people living in it have access to higher education. The young people in direct provision are classified as non-EU students, which means under state regulations that they’re obliged to pay the non-EU fee, which is upwards of €20,000. They can’t afford the EU fee of €3,000, let alone the higher amount. We’re setting up a special task force in the college, which will look at ways of getting these students from direct provision who do well in their Leaving Cert, and have the necessary points for a course, to Trinity. We want them here. They would add to our diversity and bring brains, intelligence, commitment and motivation to the university. We’re planning to find a way to admit students in direct provision free of fees.

**What’s the government saying about it to you?**

Well, the government’s saying, “You have to charge them €20,000, the non-EU fee.” I haven’t talked to them about it, but I suppose they’re worried that we might become known as a country that you come to as an asylum-seeking student and then get a free education. But would that be a bad thing?

**How well do you get on with the relatively new Minister for Education and Skills, Joe McHugh?**

I haven’t met Mr. McHugh yet. I look forward to meeting him.

**He’s six months in the job, and hasn’t found the time yet to talk to the provost of Ireland’s top-ranked university? That’s extraordinary.**

I’m just going to look at the floor...

**I’m genuinely shocked.**

I did write to him and I know his diary... he’s a busy man.

**Isn’t it unfortunate that one of Trinity’s food franchises, Westland Eats, is run by Aramark, the American conglomerate,**
which has also been contracted to run three direct provision centres in counties Clare, Cork and Meath? The students who protested outside Westland Eats with “Direct Provision = Prison” and “Aramark profits from human suffering” banners think it is.

(Sighs) Yeah, yeah, I think it is. I’ve asked the director of our commercial activities to look into this. Clearly, Aramark, like in direct provision, are providing what they’re asked to provide. So, I don’t know if we should paint all their activities with the same brush. I can’t, on the one hand, say I want a university where students have their own opinions and think independently, and on the other go, “I don’t want this protesting against Aramark.” I have to let it happen.

Two incidents – an erroneous student newspaper report that Trinity had bought you a €1.95 million penthouse and the social media smearing of a student who was falsely accused of sexual harassment – prompted you to speak out about the dangers of ‘Fake News’.

(Pauses) We had a student movement in Trinity last year. The dining hall was occupied and buildings were shut down. I didn’t think it needed to come to that, but it’s their campus, it’s their university as much as it is mine.

Does Trinity have a social media bullying policy?
As far as I know, we don’t. We have an anti-bullying policy, but what they call ‘Fake News’ is a matter of public discourse now. I didn’t have a penthouse apartment. It’s not fake news; it’s just wrong news. What we find with the student protests is that Trinity College’s social media engagements improve tremendously when we’re in competition with our own students ‘cause they’re better at it than we are. After these skirmishes, I always say to our public affairs and communications head, “Tom, why did the students beat us again?” and he’ll say, “We must get better.” And we get better. And then it’s almost like an arms race with both sides looking to up their game.

A recent OECD study found that 6% of Irish graduates are functionally illiterate – a marked increase on the previous figure. Does that shock you?
Am I surprised it’s quite low?

I thought it was quite high!
What does ‘functionally illiterate’ mean? I’m confident that our young people are coming out of Trinity as smart as they ever were, and more interested in things like climate change and migration and social justice than my own generation from the 1980s were.
Should somebody who comes out of Trinity be fully ready for the job market?
The most important thing is that they should be ready and motivated to learn. Let’s say they graduate as an engineer. After four years in Trinity, they’re going to be able to do some things in the firm, but they won’t be able to do the full gamut. Nor, I think, should the employers expect them to. Don’t get me wrong: employability is important and students should come out with the skills to be useful in the workplace, but employers should have an understanding too that they’re getting an educated person who, if they don’t know how to use a particular package or a particular diary management system, will soon pick it up with instruction.

In relation to the Trinity School of Medicine, there’s been a lot of debate about doctors being trained at Irish taxpayers’ expense and then going off to work tax-free abroad. Should there be a set period that they’re obliged to stay here for?
It’s very difficult to constrain people’s mobility. But in the case of a medical doctor, it’s interesting. When I was an undergraduate, you paid a higher fee to go to medical school than you did to do engineering. You probably paid least to do an arts degree. Now everybody pays the same amount – €3,000 – yet doctors come out with something that gives them very high earning power. If you’re in the United States, for example, you usually have a lot of loans to pay for your medical degree. In Ireland, you have no such loans. There’s a case for student doctors and dentists and so on to pay a higher fee for their very expensive education, obviously taking into account those that can’t afford to pay or may need loans or grants or whatever. But I’d be slow to bring in what you’re suggesting, which is a constraint on people moving around.

Is there any scenario in which you can see university fees being scrapped?
I suppose it could happen if there was a change of government, but who’s going to pay for it? It ends up being the taxpayer, and I think there’s a rationale for those that benefit from the education contributing to it. That’s reasonable given the earnings of people who have university degrees.

Talking to Hot Press at the start of the current academic year, USI President Síona Cahill cited cases of students having to sofa surf and sleeping in their cars because they can’t afford exorbitant rents.
I wasn’t aware of students sleeping in cars, which is obviously horrendous, but I do know of them commuting up from places like Wexford because they can’t afford accommodation in Dublin. I’m appalled by how much some landlords are asking. How can students do a degree at the same time as having a two-hour
commute every day? It’s one of the biggest challenges not just for universities, but for society in general.

**There’s a salesman’s aspect to your job: you have to go out and convince companies that their research money is better spent with Trinity than other third-level institutions. How important is that?**

Our turnover last year was €375 million. €100.6m of that was from research, so it’s very important. We have to compete annually for these grants from Science Foundation Ireland, the European Commission and from industry. Trinity is Ireland’s premier centre for research and scholarship. In terms of money, we do more research than any other university here. Reputation comes from doing brilliant research and making great discoveries.

**By the time people read this Theresa May could have told Michel Barnier and Guy Verhofstadt, “Sorry, it’s all been a terrible mistake, we’re staying.” What would a no-deal Brexit mean for Trinity?**

It would be very bad for Trinity, and for all Irish third-level institutions because student mobility will change. Trinity sees itself as a university for the whole island of Ireland. We’ve made a big effort to have more students from Northern Ireland come south. The number had been increasing by about 20% every year, but in 2018 it dropped 20% because of the uncertainty. A student from, say, Derry is going to be a non-EU student and therefore have to pay five times as much in fees.

**A week rarely passes without a high-profile politician, actor, writer or musician paying Trinity a visit. What have been your personal standouts?**

Michelle Obama visited a couple of years ago. We had her in the Old Library while her husband, who was President at the time, was at a G-7 Summit meeting up in Northern Ireland. I was like, “Oh my God, here I am with Michelle Obama, she’s giving me a hug; we’re having a chat.” She’s an all-round very impressive person. Meghan Markle was another one. I don’t know much about the British royal family, but I found her quite interesting. Again, we brought her and Harry to the Old Library and showed them all the beautiful books. She looked at the busts of past provosts and said, “Twenty men on this side, twenty men on that side – no women. What’s going on?” Which was a good point.

**Would you welcome Donald Trump with as much gusto as Michelle Obama?**

(Pause) Em, well, it’s hard to beat Michelle. Er, it’d be great if Melania came.
And left her husband at home?
Well, if he wants to come and see a lovely university in Europe, Donald Trump is the President of the United States and we respect that.

A bit of a bizarre one to end on: when he came over in 2007 to receive his Honorary Patronage from the Phil Soc, Johnny Marr nearly bailed on the ceremony because he’d heard that Trinity still swears allegiance to the Queen. Is that true?
Er, no. We recognise that the initial charter was signed by Queen Elizabeth I: it’s just a historical fact. The charter to found the university came from the British monarchy, but we’re a happy institution, fully integrated with what’s going on in the country. (Laughs) The lecturers and professors doff their caps to me, but to nobody else.

* * *
29 April 2019

Address at the Scholars’ Dinner

Dining Hall, Trinity College

Pro-Chancellors, Fellows, Scholars of the Decades and New Scholars, Distinguished Guests,

Welcome to the Scholars’ Dinner. Today began with a meeting of the Board and the subsequent announcement of the new Fellows and Scholars from the steps of the Public Theatre.

This evening we formally welcome the new scholars, all 58 of you. You join our distinguished community of scholars and past scholars, some of whom, I’m delighted to say, are here tonight, including ten who became scholars in 1959, and four who became scholars in 1949, seventy years ago.

There are 109 scholars of the decades here tonight – the largest response we have ever had from returning scholars! And two scholars from 2009 were married on Saturday in Trinity chapel - Christoph Walsh and Roisin Donnelly.

Tonight, we also recognise fifteen new Fellows and five new professorial Fellows. Fellowship is a singular distinction that can only be achieved for serious scholarly research of international standing.

I’d like to extend a particular welcome to our guests from our sister Colleges. From St John’s College, Cambridge, we welcome Dr Graham Lads and Dr Orietta Da Roid.

From Oriel College, Oxford we welcome Wilf Stevenson, the Treasurer, and Sean Power, the Development Director.

* * *

Today we also award Honorary Fellowship to Mrs Justice Susan Denham and Peter Fox.

Susan Denham is a ground-breaker – in 1992 she was the first woman ever appointed to the Supreme Court and in 2011 the first Trinity graduate to be appointed chief justice of Ireland. She served as Pro-Chancellor here from 1995 to 2010. She was involved in the
establishment of the European Network of the Councils for the Judiciary, serving on its board.

It’s appropriate that as we celebrate Justice Denham’s achievements, the Trinity Discourse today was on Thekla Beere, a graduate who became the first woman secretary of an Irish government department in 1959. In her retirement, Thekla Beere chaired the Commission on the Status of Women, producing the landmark Beere report in 1972.

Peter Fox served as Trinity’s Librarian and College Archivist for a decade from 1984 and in this role oversaw the building of the Hamilton Library and the remodelling of the Old Library. In 1994 he moved to Cambridge as University Librarian and Fellow of Selwyn College. He is the author of *Trinity College Library Dublin: a history*, published 2014.

We are delighted to recognise the achievements of Mrs Justice Denham and Peter Fox and to welcome them here tonight.

* * *

In Trinity Week we celebrate academic achievement, and this dinner is my chance to tell you about the opportunities we face as a university and the impact we’re making.

This evening I’d like to talk about Trinity’s relationship with the United Kingdom. At the Trinity Monday Dinner in 2017, which took place nine months after the vote to leave the European Union, I said that “None of us knows what the end picture will look like” and I quoted Robert Frost to offer the hope that “the countless silken ties of love and thought” which bind the universities on these islands may long continue.”

Two years on, and unfortunately it’s probably still true to say that ‘none of us knows what the end picture will look like’. Lack of clarity has brought frustration to many, and it has embittered political discourse. The backstop has emerged as a contentious issue.

Interviewed in *The Irish Times* on Saturday last, the Labour peer, Lord David Puttnam, who is a great friend of Trinity’s and a benefactor of our Access Programmes, gave his opinion that “the rebuilding of trust between the UK and Ireland will take at least a decade”.

This is obviously a highly regrettable situation. I’m sure we all join in wishing politicians and civic leaders well in finding a way through. I don’t seek to comment on the political situation. But I
think it’s right to take this time to reflect on Trinity’s relationship to the United Kingdom.

* * *

Trinity was founded by royal charter of Elizabeth the First, on lands granted by Dublin Corporation in 1592. Behind me here is a portrait of Adam Loftus returning, charter in hand.

From the start, the college had a dual purpose – Elizabeth wanted to further the Protestant reformation in Ireland; Dublin Corporation and merchants were conscious of the economic, social, and cultural advantages conferred by having a university in the capital city.

Given such origins, it’s not surprising that over the next three centuries, Trinity operated as a kind of hybrid - I think that’s the best way of describing it. It was an institution of the British Empire, but at the same time it educated many who criticized imperialism and fought for catholic rights and independence – people like Jonathan Swift, Henry Grattan, Henry Flood, Wolfe Tone, Thomas Addis Emmet, Robert Emmet, and Thomas Davis.

The gamut of opinion on campus ran from conservatism to nationalism, exemplified by the fact that the two leaders of unionism and home rule in the early 20th century, Edward Carson and John Redmond, were both educated in Trinity (though Redmond didn’t graduate).

These hybrid allegiances, together with a certain college pragmatism, proved crucial after Ireland gained independence in 1921. Probably the majority of staff would have preferred to remain within the United Kingdom, but they got on with the hand they were dealt. For their part, the new Irish government was also pragmatic, recognising the importance of continuity. In this transitional period, Trinity’s hybrid nature was important; it gave reassurance to many and the college proved useful as an all-Ireland body, arguably the most successful such educational body on the island because Northern Irish students continued to attend in large numbers.

Naturally, over the course of the 20th century, Trinity became more and more confident of its place in the new state. When I entered here in 1983, coming from rural County Wexford, I was conscious of coming to a completely Irish university, but with important global and European connections, and valuable British traditions, which created a cosmopolitanism that was not in evidence - at least not to me - anywhere else in Ireland.
In the course of my time here - short by the standards of some present! - I’ve seen the relationship with the UK evolve into something remarkable. We are now benefitting from a wonderful new dimension: research collaborations, enabled by European Union programmes, and bodies such as the Wellcome Trust.

We’re currently in a Golden Age for academic research collaborations. Irish and UK researchers enjoy almost a thousand collaborations under the EU’s Horizon 2020 programme, far more than Ireland has with any other country in the EU.

And a really great achievement of the last two decades or so, has been the full ‘ownership’ by the college community of the totality of our legacy.

For much of its history, Trinity’s hybrid heritage could present difficulties. At different times, the college authorities have played down one, or other, of these traditions. In the early 19th century, Trinity distanced itself from the republicanism of Tone and Emmet; in the mid-20th century it was the unionism of Carson and the loyalty to empire of past staff and students that seemed problematic.

We’re now comfortable owning all the traditions that have flourished here. This has been a result of initiatives on campus and in wider society – including Mary Robinson becoming the first Irish President to attend the Remembrance Day service in St Patrick’s Cathedral. The current Decade of Commemorations has also played an important role.

The 21st century strength of Anglo-Irish relations is a great achievement, given the history between our two countries. I’m proud of the part that Trinity played. I don’t over-emphasize our part but I do acknowledge it. It’s something the whole college community can be proud of.

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But the situation today, almost three years after the vote to leave, gives rise to some concern.

There are specific concerns around education and research connections. As we wrote in our Open Letter published in the Financial Times last November, Trinity saw a 20 percent decline in applications from Northern Ireland in 2018, compared to the previous year, a worrying Brexit effect. Since then we’ve seen a further 20% decline.
Beyond specific concerns, is the more nebulous but pervasive concern of what any souring of relations might entail.

Universities don’t operate in isolation, and they never did, despite the old moniker of ‘ivory tower’. Politics has always affected academia.

Which is to say, that any souring of relations between the UK and Ireland - whether through a hard Brexit or through the perception that Ireland is somehow responsible for thwarting Brexit – cannot but affect Trinity.

Outside of Ireland, Trinity’s largest alumni community is in the UK. The majority of our research collaborations are with the UK. Of our students going on to do postgraduate degrees, the UK is their main destination. Of our graduates looking to build their careers about, the UK is their number one destination.

I have no doubt that of the 109 Scholars of the Decade here this evening, a large number of you will have spent time working in the UK and may have made your lives there, including Professor Roy Foster, who will shortly give the toast on behalf of the scholars of the decades. Professor Foster’s career and publications exemplify the communality of the Irish-British heritage, of which I’ve been speaking, as does that of our new honorary Fellow, Peter Fox.

My first duty as Provost is to ensure that future students continue to have the opportunity to benefit from the UK connection which has proved so inspirational.

In the Irish Times, Lord Puttnam gave his opinion that “trust between the UK and Ireland can’t be rebuilt by commerce alone”. I’d agree and I’d add that I don’t believe it can be rebuilt by politics alone, either. At times like this, a total civic response is required; everyone has a part to play.

What role can universities play? What part can Trinity play?

Trinity has a specific role, which I’ve outlined. Within this campus, we have managed to reconcile and celebrate our different traditions. We have a memorial to the dead of World War One and we’ve translated the 1916 Proclamation into the 17 languages taught at Trinity.

And beyond our specific history and heritage, Trinity can play the role that all universities on this island play: we can educate our
students to be open-minded, tolerant, receptive to different cultures and ideas, global in outlook.

Universities have responsibilities. Who and how we educate determines what type of person enters leadership positions in society. It could hardly be more important.

When I first took office as Provost in 2011, I quoted Erasmus in my inaugural speech: *Ego mundi civis esse cupio, communis omnium.* "I long to be a citizen of the world, a fellow-citizen to all people."

This is in direct opposition to Theresa May’s ‘If you believe you’re a citizen of the world, you’re a citizen of nowhere’.

It’s Erasmus I want to channel for our students – education should lead out towards a sense of ‘fellow-citizenship with all people’. It is through education that we build our common humanity.

Tonight, as we celebrate our new scholars, we celebrate the brilliance and discipline that enabled them achieve this singular distinction, and we hope that they will use their gifts to inspire generations, to further our common humanity, and to maintain and strengthen warm neighbourly relations with our sister island.

* * *

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now ask you all to rise for the first toast of the evening.
“To Ireland”.

* * *

I now call on Professor Foster, scholar of 1969, to reply on behalf of the scholars.

*Professor Foster Speaks, and raises the Toast to the College*

* * *

Ladies and Gentlemen, the final toast will be to the new Fellows and new Scholars should remain seated. Everyone else please rise.

“To the New Fellows and Scholars”

* * *
Provost Patrick Prendergast in the Saloon on the day after the Scholars’ Dinner where the new scholars make their declaration on ‘Trinity Tuesday’ 2019
Your Excellencies,

Colleagues, Students, Ladies and Gentlemen,

You’re all very welcome to this great event. It’s an honour to welcome a thinker of the distinction of Bernard-Henri Lévy to Trinity ... ... ... and I know that everyone here is congratulating themselves on having got a ticket.

And I’m delighted to welcome the ambassadors of France, the Netherlands and Israel. Their presence signifies the importance of this event. Mr Lévy is bringing his one-man play, ‘Looking for Europe’ to 20 cities in advance of the European elections on 24th May. This is his one Dublin date. He’s adapting each performance to the particular city and country. His is an exceptional response to our extraordinary times. We applaud his engagement.

*    *    *

In Trinity we’re proud to be a university that has inspired generations of thinkers, and doers. Our links to Europe are deep, and there are too many to be enumerated – from creating chairs in French and German in 1776, to launching our European Studies degree more than 25 years ago, to becoming a member of the League of European Research Universities in 2017.

Our links with Europe long precede, of course, Ireland’s membership of the European Union. It goes back to all our graduates, through history, who have engaged with the idea of Europe.

From the passionate - if very different - responses to the French Revolution of Edmund Burke and Wolfe Tone, through to Samuel Beckett, who lived in Paris and wrote in French and English.

In ‘Waiting for Godot’, there’s a line I think worth repeating now:
“At this place, at this moment of time, all mankind is us, whether we like it or not. Let us make the most of it, before it is too late!”

Thank you, and now it’s my pleasure to hand back to Jane* to introduce our speaker.

* * *

Bernard-Henri Lévy in action in his one man play. Billed as lasting one hour it lasted two and a quarter hours. Afterwards some called it a tour-de-force and some called it an appalling exercise in self-regard and vanity.

* Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, Director of the Trinity Long Room Hub
Colleagues and Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome, all.

After years of planning and preparation, we’re now launching the first comprehensive philanthropic campaign in Trinity’s history, and the largest such campaign ever held on the island of Ireland, a campaign we’re calling ‘Inspiring Generations’.

This campaign builds on the magnificent run of recent achievements for Trinity - from acceptance into the elite League of European Research Universities, to the launch of plans for E3 and the imminent completion of the Trinity Business School, which opens in exactly three weeks’ time.

These achievements show what Trinity can achieve when the whole community pulls together. This Philanthropic Campaign, unique in its scale and reach, has benefitted from the tremendous involvement of so many people – staff and students, alumni and friends.

Our goals with this campaign are ambitious but achievable: we’ve set out to raise 400 million euro to support our mission in education and research, and we want to inspire 150 thousand hours of volunteering from the Trinity community around the world.

The naming of this campaign - ‘Inspiring Generations’ – reaches back to our great past, and looks forward to a remarkable future.

Trinity owes its very start to the grant of lands from Dublin Corporation in 1592 – the very ground we’re standing on here today. This initiated a cycle of giving - of bequests, grants of land, trust funds and endowments – which got our university up and running. This ‘giving’ ranges from the Erasmus Smith trust that established chairs in Hebrew, history and physics in the 18th century; to the campaign to build the Berkeley Library in the 20th century, to the bequest from Atlantic Philanthropies to establish the Global Brain Health Institute in the 21st century.
In 2013 we created the ‘Benefactors’ Roll of Honour’ to acknowledge how much Trinity’s greatness has depended on donations through the ages.

This ‘giving’ extends beyond the financial – it also involves giving time and expertise. Across the centuries, graduates and friends have remained involved with the life of the college and students. They’ve inspired generations through mentoring, coaching, fundraising, serving on committees of clubs and societies, and establishing alumni associations in cities and regions around the world. That’s why we’ve set the target of 150 thousand hours of volunteering – we want to build on the extraordinary enthusiasm that people feel in being part of the great story of Trinity College Dublin.

And, of course, when we talk about inspiration, we’re talking about the achievements of staff and graduates.

Just outside this building, beside the Campanile, is an art installation by Joe Caslin. We’ll be showing a video about it shortly. It tells, very movingly, the story of how Nobel Prize winner, Samuel Beckett, inspired a current Trinity student, Leah Kenny.

Or take another Nobel Prize winner, Bill Campbell. As a Trinity undergraduate in the 1950s, he was inspired by his lecturer, Desmond Smyth, to start research into parasitic worms. Two decades later, this interest led to the discovery of a cure for river blindness – every year, 25 million people are treated with the drug he invented and that he was instrumental in persuading Merck to distribute free of charge. We’ve now established a William C. Campbell Lectureship in Parasite Biology – so that more students can be inspired.

Or think of former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson. What an inspirational role model she has been - as Trinity student, professor, senator and Chancellor. To each of these roles, she’s brought her passion for justice and social reform. There’s a clear connection between her early student advocacy of human rights in the 1960s, and her current advocacy of climate justice, which has helped inspire our students in their campaigns to divest from fossil fuels and end single-use plastics on campus.

We’re building this Campaign on the remarkable legacy of graduates like Samuel Beckett, Bill Campbell, and Mary Robinson. We want future generations to be inspired, as they were.
In Trinity we pride ourselves on offering opportunity to talent. This is a place where people of extraordinary ability can maximise their potential and make extraordinary contributions to the world.

Last year we secured 100 Euro million in research funding. To put it in context: we have 16 percent of the academic staff in Ireland but, since 2014, we've won a third of all national funding grants, and half of all European Research Council grants coming to Ireland. The figures speak for themselves. This is why we're a great research university.

And this current academic year, we've been named the 10th best university in the world for Climate Action and the best university in Europe for educating entrepreneurs.

Our campus is a place of excellence and achievement, discovery and creativity. With this Campaign, we're inviting graduates and friends to be part of our story and to support this university of proven success.

The flagship projects of the Campaign have been carefully chosen where Trinity can create excellence and impact. These transformational projects, all led by people in this room, include:

- One, Developing Ireland’s first comprehensive cancer care centre, the Trinity St James’ Cancer Institute;
- Two, Putting Ireland at the forefront of research and technological innovation for generations to come with our new E3 Institute, and with the creation of Dublin’s Grand Canal Innovation District;
- Three, Ensuring that the Old Library and its extraordinary collections continue to exist for future generations;
- Four, Building a Law School to rival the best in the world.

These initiatives will be underpinned by a ‘New Generations’ programme to bring the best talent to Trinity from Ireland and the world. Academic faculty and researchers are the lifeblood of the University and a fundamental aim of ‘Inspiring Generations’ is to fund new Professorships and tenure-track academic posts across the University.

Simultaneously we'll create more pathways to bring talented students to college, from backgrounds not traditionally represented at third-level. The success of the Trinity Access Programme over 26 years has changed the lives of thousands of students and has made us a recognised world leader in educational access.
An investment in Trinity is an investment in Ireland’s future, in our young people, and in global research.

Over the next few weeks and months we’ll be bringing the message of ‘Inspiring Generations’ around the world, with launches in London, Paris, New York, San Francisco, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Sydney.

The generosity of alumni and friends inspires us time and again.

We know that people want to help for many different reasons, whether from:
- deep attachment to their alma mater;
- Or wanting to support Ireland’s economic, social and cultural growth;
- Or belief in the importance of higher education in promoting humanistic and progressive values;
- Or from commitment to finding solutions to global challenges and scaling up interdisciplinary research;
- Or, very likely, a combination of all these reasons.

*   *   *

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you, here in this room, who are already supporters of Trinity, some of you for many years, and some students and graduates who have only recently become volunteers and ambassadors for Trinity. Your support has encouraged us to launch Inspiring Generations, and to do so publicly here today with a campaign that matches the scale of Trinity’s ambitions for the future.

With this Campaign, we invite a community of supporters to join us in making this ambitious vision a reality, so that Trinity can inspire many future generations to make a positive impact on the world.

Trinity succeeds because it has always reached out – it reaches out across the island of Ireland, and to the outside world; it reaches out to the frontiers of research in arts, humanities, science and health sciences; it reaches out to expand educational access and extend public engagement; it reaches back to a great past in order to build a great future.

With this Campaign we’re reaching out to all those around the world who want to make a difference, and who have confidence in Trinity’s power to make that difference.

*   *   *
There’s more than one way to inspire generations, and I hope the diversity of the campaign reflects this. When many people act together, inspired by similar aims, great things can happen. I believe that we should all seek to make a difference, while we still can. Samuel Beckett said this most movingly, particularly since he wasn’t a man for facile optimism. He said:

“Let us do something, while we have the chance! It is not every day that we are needed.”

Thank you.

* * *

Provost Patrick Prendergast, Senator Lynn Ruane, Fergal Naughton (Chair of the Provost’s Council), and student Leah Kenny. In the background is the mural of Samuel Beckett and Leah Kenny – Leah worked on Beckett papers for her final year dissertation in the School of English
Provost Patrick Prendergast launching the philanthropic campaign “Inspiring Generations” in the Public Theatre
Address at a reception for “Invasion 1169: 850th Anniversary of Anglo-Norman Invasion of Ireland”

Saloon, Provost’s House, Trinity College

Lord Mayor*, Archbishop†, Your Excellency‡,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening. You’re all very welcome to the Saloon in the Provost’s House.

As we heard this afternoon, today is 850 years, to the very day, that the first Anglo-Norman adventurers landed in Bannow Bay, in my home county of Wexford, in the service of Diarmuid Mac Murchada, King of Leinster - precipitating what we call the 1169 Invasion. Within two years, Henry II would become the first English monarch to set foot on Irish soil and formally bring the island under the lordship of the English crown, a constitutional relationship that endures to the present day, in the case of Northern Ireland.

Because of this constitutional relationship, Trinity was founded in 1592 by royal charter from Elizabeth the First, whose portrait hangs behind me here as I speak. Dublin Corporation gave lands, and, by rather remarkable coincidence, these were the grounds of the former Augustine Priory of All Hallows which had been founded by Diarmuid Mac Murchada, just a few years before his fateful enlisting of the Anglo-Norman invaders.

All of which makes Trinity the perfect venue for this conference. It’s taking place over three days, with 22 speakers coming from the UK and the US, as well, of course, as Ireland, north and south. It’s open to the public – and interest is very high - and the journal History Ireland is publishing a special issue and is holding a ‘hedge school’ here in Trinity tomorrow evening.

The Department of Culture has generously funded the conference, together with the British Embassy, Fáilte Ireland, Dublin City Council and Wexford County Council. The number and the importance of the sponsors speaks to the significance of this event.

* Niall Ring, Lord Mayor of Dublin
† Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin and Glendalough
‡ Robin Barnett, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Ireland
The organisers, Sean Duffy and Peter Crooks from our Department of History, make a very strong case for 1169 as the formative event of Irish history. That’s for historians to decide, but there is no doubt that 850 years ago in Ireland, everything ‘changed utterly’ as W.B Yeats wrote, about another formative date.

In the mid-19th century, Daniel O’Connell was recalling the Invasion when he spoke of ‘700 years of oppression’ and this remained the prevailing narrative until recently - just fifty years ago, in 1969, on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of the Invasion, a memorial tablet erected on the site of the original landing in Wexford was vandalized within weeks, and never replaced, such was the strength of local animosity.

Growing up in Wexford, we were very conscious of our history. I remember, in our National School, the Headmaster putting the Normans on one side of the room – the Normans being the Prendergasts (there were quite a few of us, and we weren’t related), the Rossiters, the Sinnotts and the Roches - and on the other side, the Gaels - the O’Briens, the Kellys, the Murphys ... ...

I can imagine the arguments of those who vandalised the memorial tablet, though I wouldn’t support them. It’s because history matters that it can be contentious, and that people like to foreground certain narratives and downplay others.

Commemoration isn’t celebration – something we’re very aware of during this Decade of Commemorations when we’re confronting painful memories of the War of Independence and the Civil War. Commemoration seeks to establish as accurately as possible what happened, and to understand the repercussions and ramifications. Commemoration remains objective and dispassionate.

In the case of 1169, I think it’s true to say that despite the rallying cry of ‘700 years of oppression’, there isn’t the same bitterness around the Anglo-Norman invasion, as, for instance, the Ulster Plantation and the Cromwellian land settlements. My Wexford compatriots took a hard line in 1969, but for many in Ireland, the Anglo-Normans or the ‘Old English’ as they came to be called, have long been remembered with affection; the great Norman cathedrals and castles are well-loved and looked upon as indigenous architecture, as indeed they are; and the benefits to Ireland of English Common Law and the Magna Carta are well understood and appreciated.

As a Wexford man – a Wexford Norman, apparently - who is also Provost of a university with a charter granted by an English monarch, I believe that today, in 2019, we’re ready to commemorate...
the invasion. I’m delighted that Wexford county council is a co-sponsor of the conference and that on Sunday, the speakers and other guests will travel to my home county to see some of the historic sites and attend a final session of the conference in Monksgrange — the house of Trinity alumnus, Goddard Henry Orpen, author of the history Ireland under the Normans, published 1911 to 1920.

Possibly a new memorial tablet can be erected in Bannow Bay. But in any case, the proceedings of this conference, when published, will constitute a significant memorial. An academic conference is, by its nature commemorative, and I have no doubt that the papers and findings of the next few days will ‘trickle down’ to inform the general public and indeed the school syllabus, giving us all a deeper understanding of our history.

1169 is also, of course, a seminal date in English and British history. When Henry II died in 1189, his obituarists lauded him for succeeding where the Romans had failed — for conquering Ireland. So, it’s appropriate that many of our speakers are coming from British universities, and that the British Embassy in Ireland is a co-sponsor of this event.

At this crucial moment in relations between our two countries, Trinity’s School of Histories and Humanities looks forward to partnering with British universities and with the British Embassy and the British Council to facilitate a debate on the multi-layered interconnectedness of Irish-British historical relations. This is, of course, a debate of great richness, and it’s a story that started 850 years ago today.

His Excellency Robin Barnett, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Ireland, is no doubt known to many of you here. He and the Embassy are friends and supporters of conferences and events here in Trinity. It’s always a pleasure to welcome him and members of his staff, and we’re delighted that he has come this evening to share with us a British perspective on the great events of 1169.

May I now invite the ambassador to say a few words.

* * *
Dr Peter Crooks, Lord Mayor of Dublin Niall Ring, Ambassador Robin Barnett & Provost Patrick Prendergast
Good afternoon and welcome, all, to the London launch of ‘Inspiring Generations’

This is the first comprehensive philanthropic campaign in Trinity's history and it’s the largest such campaign ever on the island of Ireland.

It’s been years in the planning and preparation, and we're delighted that you're here with us this afternoon for the first launch outside Dublin.

Over the next few weeks and months we’ll be bringing the message of ‘Inspiring Generations’ all around the world, with more launches in Paris, New York, San Francisco, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Sydney.

This campaign builds on the magnificent run of recent achievements for Trinity - from acceptance into the elite League of European Research Universities, to the launch of plans for E3 and the imminent completion of the Trinity Business School, which opens in exactly a fortnight’s time.

These achievements show what Trinity can achieve when the whole community pulls together. This Philanthropic Campaign, unique in its scale and reach, has benefitted from the tremendous involvement of so many people – staff and students, alumni and friends.

Our goals with this campaign are ambitious but achievable: we've set out to raise 400 million euro to support our mission in education and research, and we want to inspire 150 thousand hours of volunteering from the Trinity community around the world.

The naming of this campaign - ‘Inspiring Generations’ – reaches back to our great past, and looks forward to a remarkable future.

Trinity owes its very start to the grant of lands from Dublin Corporation in 1592. This initiated a cycle of giving - of bequests, grants of land, trust funds and endowments – which got our
university up and running. This ‘giving’ ranges from the Erasmus Smith trust that established chairs in Hebrew, history and physics in the 18th century; to the campaign to build the Berkeley Library in the 20th century, to the bequest from Atlantic Philanthropies to establish the Global Brain Health Institute in the 21st century.

In 2013 we created the ‘Benefactors’ Roll of Honour’ to acknowledge how much Trinity’s greatness has depended on donations through the ages.

This ‘giving’ extends beyond the financial – it also involves giving time and expertise. Across the centuries, graduates and friends have remained involved with the life of the college and students. They’ve inspired generations through mentoring, coaching, fund-raising, serving on committees of clubs and societies, and establishing alumni associations in cities and regions around the world. That’s why we’ve set the target of 150 thousand hours of volunteering – we want to build on the extraordinary enthusiasm that people feel in being part of the great story of Trinity College Dublin.

And, of course, when we talk about inspiration, we’re talking about the achievements of staff and graduates.

Take Edmund Burke who, as a Trinity student in the 1740s set up a debating society which developed into The Hist, the oldest student debating society in the world. On graduation, Burke moved to London, wrote books that made him very famous, entered parliament as MP for Buckinghamshire, became a leading figure within the Whig party, and was so inspirational that today he’s claimed by both liberals and conservatives, and in the US as well as the UK. You may recognise one of his remarks on the duty of an MP because it’s been used a lot during the Brexit debate –

‘Your representative owes you, not his industry only, but his judgment; and he betrays, instead of serving you, if he sacrifices [his judgement] to your opinion.’

Or take Nobel Prizewinner, Bill Campbell. As a Trinity undergraduate in the 1950s, he was inspired by his lecturer, Desmond Smyth, to start research into parasitic worms. Two decades later, this interest led to the discovery of a cure for river blindness – every year, 25 million people are treated with the drug he invented and that he was instrumental in persuading Merck to distribute free of charge. We’ve now established a William C. Campbell Lectureship in Parasite Biology – so that more students can be inspired.
Or think of former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson. What an inspirational role model she has been - as Trinity student, professor, senator and Chancellor. To each of these roles, she’s brought her passion for justice and social reform. There’s a clear connection between her early student advocacy of human rights in the 1960s, and her current advocacy of climate justice, which has helped inspire our students in their campaigns to divest from fossil fuels and end single-use plastics in the college.

We’re building this Campaign on the remarkable legacy of graduates like Edmund Burke, Bill Campbell, and Mary Robinson. We want future generations to be inspired, as they were.

In Trinity we pride ourselves on offering opportunity to talent. Trinity is a place where people of ability can maximise their potential and make extraordinary contributions to the world.

Last year we secured 100 Euro million in research funding. To put it in context: we have 16 percent of the academic staff in Ireland but, since 2014, we’ve won a third of all national funding grants, and half of all European Research Council grants coming to Ireland. The figures speak for themselves. This is why we’re a great research university.

And this current academic year, we’ve been named the 10th best university in the world for Climate Action and the best university in Europe for educating entrepreneurs.

Our campus is a place of excellence and achievement, discovery and creativity. With this Campaign, we’re inviting graduates and friends to be part of our story and to support this university of proven success.

The flagship projects of the Campaign have been carefully chosen where Trinity can create excellence and impact. These transformational projects, led by people in this room, include:
- One, Developing Ireland’s first comprehensive cancer care centre, the Trinity St James’ Cancer Institute;
- Two, Putting Ireland at the forefront of research and technological innovation for generations to come with our new E3 Institute, and with the creation of Dublin’s Grand Canal Innovation District;
- Three, Ensuring that the Old Library and its extraordinary collections continue to exist for future generations;
- Four, Building a Law School to rival the best in the world.
These initiatives will be underpinned by a ‘New Generations’ programme to bring the best talent to Trinity from Ireland and the world. Academic faculty and researchers are the lifeblood of the University and a fundamental aim of ‘Inspiring Generations’ is to fund new Professorships and tenure-track academic posts across the University.

Simultaneously we’ll create more pathways to bring talented students to college, from backgrounds not traditionally represented at third-level. The success of the Trinity Access Programme over 26 years has changed the lives of thousands of students and has made us a recognised world leader in educational access.

An investment in Trinity is an investment in Ireland’s future, in our young people, and in global research.

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- deep attachment to their alma mater;
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- or belief in the importance of higher education in promoting humanistic and progressive values;
- or from commitment to finding solutions to global challenges and scaling up interdisciplinary research;
- or, very likely, a combination of all these reasons.

* * *

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you, here in this room, who are already supporters of Trinity, some of you for many years. The strength and enthusiasm of your support over many years has encouraged us to launch Inspiring Generations, and to do so publicly with campaigns around the world.

Trinity graduates have been coming to London since the start of the 17th century. It’s not surprising that the community of Trinity alumni and friends in London is so important in our global network.

And of course, Trinity enjoys key relationships with London research and cultural institutions: I know that many of you came to the opening of an international exhibition at the British Museum last autumn, to which we were delighted to lend one of Trinity Library’s most precious medieval manuscripts, The Book of Durrow.

It goes without saying that Ireland enjoys a closer relationship with the UK than with any other country, and Trinity enjoys more
collaborations with UK universities than any others. Under the EU’s Horizon 2020 programme, Irish and UK researchers are working together on almost a thousand collaborations. Whatever happens with Brexit, it’s absolutely essential that we continue to safeguard relations between our two countries and between our universities. You, Trinity graduates and friends in London, embody the unbreakable ties between our university, and this city and country. I know we will all do what we can to maintain those ties.

* * *

With *Inspiring Generations* we’re inviting a community of supporters to join us in investing in excellence, so that Trinity can continue to inspire many future generations to make a positive impact on the world.

Trinity succeeds because it has always reached out – it reaches out across the island of Ireland, and to the outside world; it reaches out to the frontiers of research in arts, humanities, science and health sciences; it reaches out to expand educational access and extend public engagement; it reaches back to a great past in order to build a great future.

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* * *

There’s more than one way to inspire generations, and I hope the diversity of the campaign reflects this. When many people act together, inspired by similar aims, great things can happen. I believe that we should all seek to make a difference, while we still can. Samuel Beckett said this most movingly, particularly since he wasn’t a man for facile optimism. He said:

“Let us do something, while we have the chance! It is not every day that we are needed.”

Thank you.

* * *
Provost Patrick Prendergast speaking at the London launch of *Inspiring Generations*. Afterwards the provost met with Paddy McKillen at his hotel The Connaught with Kate Bond, where we had a bottle of Margeaux and saw several of his Louise Bourgeois artworks.
Thank you, Orla*, and good afternoon, everyone

Welcome Laidlaw Scholars, your academic supervisors and guests.

This is the second year of Trinity’s participation in the Laidlaw Undergraduate Research and Leadership programme, which was established in 2014, thanks to Lord Laidlaw of Rothiemay’s commitment to the development of young people. The scholarship is designed to assist undergraduates become leaders in academia and other sectors; it supports self-motivated and ambitious students to gain the knowledge and skills to become future leaders.

The scholarship comprises a research project, carried out across two consecutive summers, and a leadership development programme, taking place throughout the year.

The leadership programme supports the scholars’ personal development, with modules on leadership styles, group dynamics and communication skills. Scholars improve their employability by participating in workshops designed to develop self-awareness, initiative, motivation and creativity.

Trinity is honoured to be one of just twelve universities worldwide included in this far-reaching programme. Other participants include Columbia University in New York, the University of Toronto, Tufts University in Boston and Hong Kong University, as well as the leading UK universities.

The long-term vision for the Laidlaw scholarship programme is to create a wide-reaching and diverse network of scholars who will reinvest their knowledge, skills and experiences amongst their peers, colleagues and communities.

Last year, eighteen Trinity students became Laidlaw scholars; they will complete the programme this October. The feedback we’re

* Orla Bannon, Director of the Careers Advisory Service
getting from our 2018 scholars is extremely positive. One student reports (I quote)

“From this unique experience I’ve acquired a holistic set of transferable skills which enable me to develop my own research and leadership visions”

And another says that (quote)

“[Laidlaw] equips me with the skills needed to get the most from my academic research, and the business acumen necessary to strategically pursue my goals”.

We’re delighted that students are so alive to the benefits of this programme; and the word must have spread because this year has seen a large increase in applications, and an increase in students selected for the programme.

Compared to the first year of the programme in 2018, we’ve seen:

- a 36% increase in applications
- a 31% increase in female students awarded the scholarship
- and increased engagement from the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

This year, 68 applications were received from across all disciplines. The Review Panel shortlisted half of these applicants – 34 - for interview, from which the final 22 Scholars were selected. Competition was high - all applicants are to be congratulated for the efforts they made with their application submissions. I’m very impressed with the scope and ambition of the selected research projects. Looking at the focus and precision of the project titles, I have to remind myself that these are undergraduates. I congratulate all of you, as well as your academic supervisors. These projects represent significant original research – they will certainly stand to you, whatever careers you choose to pursue.

I’d like to thank the Review panel for their time and commitment:
- the chair, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Kevin Mitchell;
- the members of the panel: Linda Doyle, Gerard McHugh, Orla Bannon, Andrew Bowie, Jane Ohlmeyer, and Rose Anne Kenny.

I thank also Patricia Callaghan, the Academic Secretary; Joel McKeever, the student employability officer. And, of course, Irvine Laidlaw himself and the Laidlaw Foundation.
Globally, we're in a period of significant transformational change for society, the workplace and higher education. The traditional model of a job for life is evolving into something more flexible and variable, which, in turn, is greatly impacting on employer needs and student expectations. New and emerging disciplines, together with the tech and communications changes, are enabling research collaborations and student exchange programmes on a truly global scale, as well as e-learning, online education, and continuous professional development.

In response to such transformational change, higher education institutions must anticipate by focussing learning opportunities to better prepare young people to achieve their potential and make a contribution to the changing world.

The Trinity Education Project, underpinned by the Graduate Attributes, is our college-wide initiative to renew the undergraduate curriculum. The Laidlaw Programme complements and reinforces the Trinity Education Project.

It’s through initiatives such as these that we seek to embed valuable skills in research, communication and leadership, and to improve students’ employability through developing self-awareness, initiative, motivation and creativity.

I congratulate our new Laidlaw Scholars. I wish you all the best with the journey you're embarking on, with your research project and your leadership programme.

In November, the annual Laidlaw meeting is taking place here in Trinity. We look forward to welcoming all our Laidlaw international partners to campus.

There is great strength in being part of an international programme, involving universities from three continents. I hope our scholars, their academic supervisors, the Review panel and all involved, benefit from contact with Laidlaw participants from round the world.

My thanks and congratulations to all.

* * *
Provost Patrick Prendergast (Back Row, centre) with the 2019 Laidlaw Scholars
Opening of the AGA (Analysis, Geometry, Algebra) Conference

Maxwell Theatre, Hamilton Mathematics Institute, Trinity College

Good morning,

And welcome everybody to the Hamilton Institute in Trinity College Dublin for the AGA conference.

I’m delighted to welcome so many of you, and coming from so far afield – from the United States, Japan, Brazil, Mexico, and from all over Ireland, UK and Europe. This is a truly international conference. That so many distinguished speakers have taken the time to be in Dublin this week is a tribute to the scale and organisation of this conference, and a tribute also to the late Professor Richard Timoney, in whose honour this conference is held.

As most of you know, this event was intended to mark the retirement of Professor Timoney, after almost forty years’ service to Trinity. He began here as a lecturer in Mathematics in 1980; by 2018 when he was approaching retirement, he was associate professor; he had served as head of the Department of Mathematics, and he was a Senior fellow, a member of the college board, and PI on two Science Foundation Ireland grants. He brought his energy and commitment to all of these roles. Not everyone gets a conference in their honour on retirement, but he earned it and was held in high esteem.

Sadly, Richard, having fought bravely against cancer, died on the 1st January this year. So this conference, planned to mark his retirement, now takes place as a memorial celebration of his lifetime achievement.

Many of you, I think, knew Richard and collaborated and worked with him professionally over the past decades. I know how delighted he would have been that you have come to join with us in celebrating his achievement.

For those among you who knew Richard less well, and perhaps not at all, let me say a few words about him. I knew him first when I was an engineering student and he was a young lecturer teaching
us maths, and I knew him subsequently when he served on the college board, which he did right up until the end of last year.

Richard was a graduate of UCD of which he was proud, so it’s appropriate that this conference has been co-organised by Trinity’s and UCD’s School of Mathematics, together with the Irish Mathematical Society, of which Richard was a member. Vladimir Dotsenko and Donal O’Donovan are the organisers from Trinity, and from UCD, Chris Boyd, Sean Dineen, Michael Mackey and Pauline Mellon. My thanks and congratulations to all for putting this substantive conference together.

Richard did his PhD in the University of Illinois and he worked as a research assistant there and in the University of Indiana before coming to Trinity in 1980. Here he built his career. He was author of over forty peer-reviewed publications and he was associate and subject editor on three prestigious journals.

His main research interest was in complex analysis, mainly in several complex variables, but also in functional analysis, including operator algebras, operator spaces and Jordan triples. His recent Science Foundation Ireland grants were in these fields.

He was elected to fellowship in 1989 and subsequently, because of the length of his service, he became Senior Fellow, not a position held by many, and he was elected by the Fellows onto the College Board, which is a measure of the regard he was held in.

The College Board discusses, and passes motions on, everything to do with the running of the university. It sits frequently, so I would meet Richard often. When I was a student, I had found him cogent and conscientious as a lecturer, and this continued to be my sense of him as a Board member. His was a traditional voice among the Fellows. He was attached to the collegiality and traditions of the university. I wouldn’t say that he welcomed all innovations, but he was certainly open to listening to argument, if you made your case well and clearly. There was never any doubt that he had Trinity’s best interests at heart. I believe I speak for all on the board when I say that he will be sorely missed, as of course by his colleagues in the School of Mathematics and his former students.

This conference is a tribute to him, which he would greatly appreciate. Mathematics is one of Trinity’s oldest schools and research areas, going right back to the foundations of the college in 1592. And this building, the Hamilton Mathematics Institute, was founded in 2005 to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of William Rowan Hamilton, Ireland’s greatest mathematician, a professor of this university, and the discoverer of quaternions. If
anyone gets the chance, they can walk up to Broome Bridge on the Royal Canal, where Hamilton scratched the equation for quaternions on 16th October 1843. His original marking has not survived, sadly, but there is a plaque.

The Hamilton Institute’s mission is (I quote) “to create an environment in which researchers can meet, collaborate, discuss and explain the frontiers of fundamental mathematics and related disciplines to each other; to facilitate interaction between leading researchers and talented young people; to organise public lectures to communicate the challenge and excitement of fundamental research, and to engage in dialogue with other disciplines and with society at large.”

This international conference on Analysis, Geometry and Algebra, with thirty papers from speakers from all over the world, well fulfils the mission of the institute.

I wish you all a most productive three days and an enjoyable time in Dublin. It’s now my pleasure to hand over to the first chairperson of the conference, Richard M. Aron, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at Kent State University in Ohio.

Thank you

* * *

Provost Patrick Prendergast opening the conference in the Constantia Maxwell Theatre
Taoiseach, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome, everyone, to the new Trinity Business School.

This is a great day. Six years ago, at the Trinity Global Graduate Forum, we formally announced Trinity’s determination to create a Business School to rival the best in the world.

We were clear about the reasons why we needed to do this:
- As a rule, the world’s top universities have leading business schools – MIT has Sloan, Oxford has Saïd, Harvard has the HBS, and Cambridge has Judge. A highly-ranked Business School can raise the performance of the whole university.

- This is particularly true for Trinity because we’ve significant strengths in interdisciplinary research, and we’ve developed innovation and entrepreneurship as an activity that goes across the university, engaging all staff and students. Putting a flagship Business School at the heart of the campus is about inspiring future generations of business leaders and entrepreneurs - in all disciplines.

- This will be transformational not just for Trinity, but for Dublin and Ireland. Dublin is European headquarters for many software and tech companies, lots of them located 10 minutes’ walk from here at Grand Canal Dock. Just like Ireland has succeeded globally in Foreign Direct Investment, we can succeed at the highest levels of innovation with a world-class Business School located in the centre of an innovation district.

* * *

The project has been brought in, on budget, and on time, and the result is outstanding, as we witness today.

The Scott Tallon Walker design puts Trinity Business School in the great tradition of our campus buildings – an iconic, contemporary
Irish design. The builders, JJ Rhatigan & Company have done a superb job, under managing director, Padraic Rhatigan.

The School is co-located with Tangent, Trinity’s Ideas Workspace, which is supported by the Bank of Ireland, and provides an interface between the university and the vibrant innovation ecosystem on our doorstep.

It’s a flagship building in terms of sustainability. It’s near zero-energy, with solar panels, green walls, recycled water and fresh air flow – even the cleaning system is chemical-free.

And Trinity Business School, with its entrance onto Pearse Street, further delivers on our mission to open out the College to the city and our neighbouring communities.

This is a building to inspire. I envisage it taking its place among the great business schools of the world.

* * *

Just under a year ago, the Taoiseach launched our plans for the Grand Canal Innovation District. Centred around a new Trinity tech campus at Grand Canal Dock, the District will play a role for all Ireland, creating a centre for innovation that’s connected globally, and connected to all parts of the country, and promoting all types of innovation. Trinity Business School is one of the enablers of this vision.

* * *

The Trinity Business School shows just how much can be achieved when the whole community works together. There are so many people to be thanked.

The former Provost, John Hegarty, promoted the initiative strongly, as did the Advisory Board chaired by Sean Melly.

The project was managed and kept on budget by the Project Steering Committee, chaired first by Paul Dreschler and then by Mervyn Greene, with Professor Gerry Lacey as Project Sponsor from the start. Greg Power, Edwina Hegarty and Tom Armstrong were crucial members of the team. All deserve huge thanks, as does Trinity’s Bursar, Professor Veronica Campbell whose leadership was crucial.
The two former heads of School – Gerard McHugh and Jim Quinn – were central to pushing the project forward and the current Dean, Andrew Burke, has been tireless since he took up his role in 2015.

What has made the Trinity Business School truly ground-breaking is the extent of donor support. €20 million euro was raised towards the building - a hugely generous sum, which is the cornerstone, making it all possible – including the later EIB loan.

The Business School couldn’t have happened without this financial support and without our donors’ faith and confidence in Trinity College. In 2012 when we began planning for the School, the country was still in recession. It was a scary environment for ambition. To have high-achieving graduates and global business leaders support us, and encourage us to think big, was inspirational.

* * *

The Trinity Business School is transformative. It’s transformative in terms of rebooting business education and research, and unleashing Dublin’s potential to be a global innovation city. And it’s transformative as a template for how to fund strategic growth in this university.

Over the next few years, Trinity will be building:
- E3, the Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies Institute,
- a new Law School,
- the Trinity-St James’ Cancer Institute,
- the Trinity Tech Campus at Grand Canal Dock, and
- And we will be securing the Old Library and its holdings and creating a new Research Study Centre there.

Like the Business School, these are essential initiatives for Trinity and for Ireland. Like the Business School, we cannot stint on ambition - if these are worth doing, they’re worth doing well.

To help us realise these initiatives, we launched, a fortnight ago the first comprehensive philanthropic campaign in the history of the university, and the largest such campaign ever to be launched on the island of Ireland. We are calling this campaign ‘Inspiring Generations’.

We have faith in our graduates and friends across the world. They kept faith with us during the darkest days of the recession. With their help, and with government support, we will continue to
preserve and expand, safeguard and strengthen Trinity’s greatness for generations to come.

Trinity Business School is, in the first place, for educating students and giving them a transformative experience. So it’s my pleasure now to invite Marie-Louise O’Callaghan to share her experiences of being a Trinity business student.

Marie-Louise is the 2019 Trinity Business Student of the Year. She represents all we hope for our students. Please welcome her.

*   *   *

It’s now my pleasure to welcome, to address you, An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, T.D. We thank the Taoiseach for honouring this occasion.

Before he takes the podium, might we invite the Taoiseach to mark this historic day by unveiling this plaque, which we will be mounting on the wall of the Trinity Business School for perpetuity.

[Taoiseach unveils plaque]

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Provost Patrick Prendergast addressing the opening
Provost Patrick Prendergast & Taoiseach Leo Varadkar unveiling the plaque to mark the opening of the Trinity Business School
Thank you, Darryl*

And good afternoon, everyone.

I’m delighted to be here, helping to launch the new Joint Honours programme, and getting the opportunity to meet with all of you who have been driving this initiative.

I’ve been away recently, doing the London and Paris launches for our ‘Inspiring Generations’ Philanthropic Campaign. And last week was taken up with the opening of the new Trinity Business School and thanking our donors for their contribution. This is all crucial college business, of course. But what we’re launching here today is ‘the’ essential of what we do: the delivery of first-class education to our students.

I’m delighted that we are launching our new joint honours programme. It gives me an opportunity to use a quote I like very much: ‘The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance’. It’s frequently used about democracy, and of course we aim here to be a kind of democracy in Trinity. We must be eternally vigilant when it comes to education. If you continue to educate in the same way, without being vigilant about new realities, then your education system will suffer.

In Trinity we’re aware of this, and five years ago, in our Strategic Plan, we committed to renewing our undergraduate curriculum to take into account the many changes that are taking place in the way our students learn, and in what they need to know to have successful careers and fulfilled lives in the 21st century.

• Through the Trinity Education Project, we’re bringing on board new ways of assessment and introducing new ways of teaching and learning. All Trinity students will now be able to take electives to broaden their learning beyond their core disciple;

* Professor Darryl Jones, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
they will be able to shape their education through more flexible programme structures,
and a capstone project for everyone will be feature of a Trinity education.

The initiative that we launch today is complementary to the Trinity Education Project.

For many years, our Two Subject Moderatorship, or TSM, brought students into the university to take a degree that focused on two different subjects: English and History, say, or Economics and Mathematics. However, the reasons why some combinations were offered, and others were not, had become more a matter of legacy, of accumulated practice over the years, rather than focusing on the combinations that today’s students actually want, and that make the best pedagogical sense, and prepare graduates for future social and economic opportunities.

This thinking motivated our decision to move from the old TSM, to a new way of admitting students into two-discipline programmes, what we’re now calling “Trinity Joint Honours”. Others here today – the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, the new Director of Joint Honours, Stephen Matterson, and Beatrice Dooley, who is President of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors – will say more about this new offering.

For my part, I’d just like to conclude by thanking all of you who have been involved in this important re-thinking and restructuring of the moderatorship. I welcome Joint Honours as part of Trinity’s ongoing process of renewing and reinvigorating the curriculum. It is through meticulous attention to detail, and vigilance in keeping ahead of changing ways of learning and working and teaching that we will continue to inspire generations of students.

Thank you.

* * *
(L to R) Professor Darryl Jones, Dean of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; Professor Chris Morash, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer; Professor Stephen Matterson, Director, TSM; Provost Patrick Prendergast; Beatrice Dooley, President of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors. Photo taken on the top floor of the Arts Block.
Chancellor, Pro-Chancellors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to this very special event.

As most in Trinity know, the Dining Hall and the Exam Hall are home to the largest portraits in College – and the only full-length ones.

Framed, the Dining Hall portraits are just over 3 metres by 2 metres, very much larger than life.

The last time a portrait was added to the walls of this Dining Hall was 1868. For over 160 years, therefore, the same faces have gazed down on us. By now, of course, I’m very familiar with them. And, at events in this room, I like to point out who’s who – I’ve a particular fondness for Henry Flood and Henry Grattan because of their gifts of oratory, and because their work to secure the independence of the 18th century Irish parliament.

Trinity, which is very good at preserving its traditions, is also very good at changing them, as the situation requires. Progressing and evolving, in a cohesive and considered way, is Trinity’s strength. For some time now it has seemed to me and the members of the Board of the College that the Dining Hall was ripe for this spirit of progress and evolution. This room is a monument to the achievement of 18th century Trinity graduates. It seems to us right, at this juncture of the college’s history, to reflect also the achievement of our more recent graduates.

We are, of course, spoiled for choice, there being so much achievement. But because the majority of the portraits in this room, including all the best-known ones – Flood, Grattan, Yelverton, Kilwarden – are of politicians who were involved in advancing civic justice, we felt it right to continue in that tradition. At which point, of course, one name leapt out.

We wanted to do something significant to mark the chancellorship of Mary Robinson. She sat as a Senator for the University of Dublin constituency for twenty years from 1969 to 1989 and was Reid...
Professor of Criminal Law. With her husband, Nick Robinson, she established the Irish Centre For European Law here in Trinity in 1988. She has been an exceptional Chancellor of the University of Dublin, serving for 21 years, during which time she has been an international figure, known and celebrated around the world for her work on human rights and, more recently, on climate justice. She is also, of course, the first female chancellor. Her service to this university has been transformative. We felt this should be acknowledged and celebrated within the perpetual fabric of the college.

We should note also that, since 1760 – that is for the past 260 years - there have been only male portraits in this room. Women were admitted as students to Trinity in 1904 and today over half our student body, and over half our staff are women. It’s about time this reality began to be reflected in the Dining Hall!

In short, as soon as the idea for a new portrait of the Chancellor was mooted, it inspired us as absolutely the right to hang it here, in the Dining Hall.

We were conscious however that it presented a challenge. There wasn’t an issue around moving one of the portraits to ‘make way’ for the Chancellor because on these walls was a portrait of George III, who, unlike everyone else in this room, had no official connection to Trinity. He will be re-displayed elsewhere on campus.

Regarding the challenge of finding an artist I recall talking to Catherine Giltrap, Curator of the College art collections, who told me just what kind of master skills and technique were involved in creating a full-length portrait. But we were fortunate - Mark Shields is a member of the Royal Ulster Academy and his work is represented in the National Gallery of Ireland and the Ulster Museum. We’ll be hearing from Mark shortly and he might tell us something about how he rose to the challenge.

The portrait is wonderful. We’re thrilled to have a 21st century portrait to add to our walls. The portrait could not have happened without the support of our alumni and friends. They understood immediately the importance of celebrating Mary Robinson’s Chancellorship, and how transformative a portrait of her would be for the Dining Hall. They responded with wonderful generosity to our appeal. Many of our donors who contributed to this portrait are here this evening. On behalf of the whole Trinity community, my great thanks to you all. This project is a particularly special one because it is community-enabled. The portrait is a tribute to the Chancellor from the graduates.
There is just one other full-length portrait of a woman in college. It’s in the Exam Hall and it’s of the founder of the university, Elizabeth the First.

Elizabeth is obviously some act to follow.

Mary Robinson, like Elizabeth the First, needs no introduction. Students and guests to the college will point to this as the portrait of the first woman President of Ireland and the first Irish UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well, of course, as the first woman chancellor of the University.

There is no shortage of stories of her distinction in all these roles. At every stage of her career, she has stood up for pluralism, human rights, tolerance and justice.

She changed Irish society, she changed Trinity and she is helping to change the world. As we inaugurate her portrait here today, many around Ireland and Europe are celebrating the ‘Green Wave’ – the remarkable success of the Green Party in the local and European elections.

This success is indicative of the increasing concern that people feel about environmental issues. Through her Climate-Justice Foundation, Mary has kept such concern to the forefront.

From my own point of view, may I just say what a great pleasure it has been for me, as Provost, to work with the Chancellor. I well recall the day in April 2011 when I was driving home, kids in the back, after having been elected Provost and my mobile rang and I pulled up and had to ask the kids to be quiet - Mary Robinson was on the line. That name did manage to awe them into silence. She was calling to congratulate me on my election to the provostship.

That warmth and support has continued throughout my tenure. She has been a wise and steadying counsel at the head of the University. It has been wonderful every Commencements Day to see her in the magnificent gold and black gown - commemorated here in this portrait - bringing her warmth and congratulations to the newly-invested graduates.

It has been unforgettable to see her, at the Honorary Degrees ceremonies, with our new honorands – in 2000, Nelson Mandela, in 2008 John Hume, in 2017 Hilary Rodham Clinton. There are few people in the world who could greet any of these as an equal – but
she can. I know that the whole Trinity community felt immense pride in our Chancellor on these occasions.

Before she became Chancellor, she was herself conferred with an honorary degree here in 1992. The Public Orator then greeted her with the words of Euripides: ‘Honour has returned to the race of women’.

Between 1971 and 1997, the University conferred honorary degrees on thirty-two women. As Chancellor, Mary Robinson has almost trebled that number: eighty-one women have been awarded honorary doctorates during her 21-year tenure. That’s part of her legacy as Chancellor, but it’s also, of course, her legacy as student, professor, senator, and President. If we’re getting better, in this country and university, at recognising the achievements of women, that’s thanks to the activism and the achievement of Mary Robinson, in all her roles.

On behalf of the whole Trinity community, I thank you for all you have done for this university, in all your myriad capacities. We will miss you very much as Chancellor, but we are grateful for your more than two decades of service. We wish you the very best with all your future initiatives. And we’re absolutely delighted that you are now here in our Dining Hall, presiding over all these admirable men. Collectively these portraits tell the story of Trinity graduates’ social activism and civic justice, their contribution to the improvement of Irish society, through the ages.

Before I invite our Chancellor to speak, it’s my pleasure now - not to unveil the Portrait – in truth there is no veil large enough! – but to illuminate it:

Ladies and Gentlemen, thanks to the generosity of our alumni and supporters I give you our Chancellor, Mary Robinson, by Mark Shields.

//Turn on light//

* * *

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(L to R) Paula Murphy (Registrar), Provost Patrick Prendergast, Chancellor Mary Robinson, Mark Shields (artist). Afterwards all were invited to dinner in the Provost’s House and Mary Robinson was presented with “Honoris Causa” – a book of all the Orations for honorary degrees given in her time as Chancellor.
Good afternoon,

And welcome, everyone, to Trinity’s first ever Research Excellence Strategy and Research Charter.

Research and scholarship is at the heart of all we do in Trinity College. Our ground-breaking contributions to knowledge goes around the world, whether in the form of books, or inventions, or medical breakthroughs, or new ideas or products.

Trinity research has changed the way that people think and act. It has inspired generations of staff and students to achieve and excel.

We are vigilant about giving scholars across all the disciplines of this multi-disciplinary university the time and support they need for discovery. We are adamant about having a focus on both fundamental and applied research, and we prioritise the resourcing of research. In the most recent year for which we have figures, the academic year 2016/2017, Trinity raised just over €100 million euro in research funding.

This is by far the highest amount of any Irish university and it’s also exceptional at a European level. Trinity is 28th out of 900 higher education institutions in Europe in terms of European Research Council grants secured. Among LERU members – which is to say among the elite universities in Europe – we’re placed 14th for winning ERC grants.

In the Research Excellence Strategy, which we’re launching today, we include a table breaking down the sources of research funding over the five years from 2011 to 2017. It’s very interesting to study. What it shows is that Irish State support to our research remained fairly steady over the five years – it took a dive in 2013/14, but otherwise, we received the same amount in state research funding, €66 million, in 2017 as we did in 2011.

* A Living Research Excellence Strategy, page 22
Where we've made really significant gains is in EC funding, industry funding and what we call 'other', which includes philanthropy and commercial activities. It’s our success with all these that has allowed us to pull ahead.

*    *    *

Research excellence drives our mission in education, innovation and public engagement. When Trinity makes headlines with a new spin-out – as we did this week with the sustainable X-ray marker, Combimark* – or when our students win awards, or our academics engage with public policy and social issues in conferences or the media – all this comes out of our foundation of research excellence.

By creating the *first ever* formal Research Strategy and Charter in the history of the university, we are reaffirming that research and scholarship are at the heart of everything we do. Just like the heart pumps blood around the body and to all the major organs, we are explicitly linking research to the key priority areas for the university, including:

- Education
- Recruiting and fostering talent
- Collaborations with industry and peer institutions
- Public engagement and communication.

I’m impressed at the coherence and link-up across the Research Excellence Strategy and Charter. Everything is contextualised within the wider Irish and global landscape. Mission is clearly linked to goals and actions. Any reader of this Strategy and Charter can see at a glance where our priorities lie, and how our research strategy links to, for instance, staff recruitment or Trinity's digital strategy.

*    *    *

I congratulate Linda Doyle and her team, and all involved in putting together this Strategy and Charter – very many people, I know, were part of the year-long and comprehensive consultation across the college.

The Strategy and Charter represent a really formidable achievement – they position research, set ambitious targets and clarify thinking. We are currently putting together our next Strategic Plan, which will

run 2019 to 2024. Both the Research Strategy and Charter will be invaluable in bringing direction, coherence and link-up to the Strategic Plan.

I thank all of you for the work you’ve put in. By progressing Trinity on its journey as a great global research university, you are helping to inspire generations to come.

Thank you.
Good afternoon,

Welcome to the Tutors’ Reception in the Saloon of the Provost’s House. We had hoped to be in the garden but the clap of thunder at four o’clock put paid to that!

The tutor’s reception is always an event I look forward to: it heralds for me the end of the academic year and it’s a chance to thank all who make Tutorship possible – one of Trinity’s oldest and most valued traditions.

In all the college’s activities and endeavours, I’m constantly reminded of how central tutorship is to our mission. The past few years, for instance, have seen us put focus on renewing the undergraduate curriculum through the Trinity Education Project. Tutorship is one of the key supports that maintains a distinctive undergraduate education.

And this year we’ve recently launched in three cities, with more to follow, the first comprehensive philanthropic campaign in the history of the university. We’re calling this campaign “Inspiring Generations” because we want to capture the way that Trinity’s great research and education inspires each new generation.

Tutorship is central to our inspirational education. We are the only university in Ireland and one of a very few in Europe to have such a system. As you know it hasn’t been easy to maintain in the face of cutbacks, and without your extraordinary commitment, it couldn’t continue.

And what makes your commitment all the more extraordinary, is that Tutorship has probably become ever more demanding over the years.

This is a time of great opportunity for students. Students today have chances to travel and build global networks, to develop skills in innovation and entrepreneurship, to do global internships, to use social media to build platforms, to be flexible and experiential in their learning and assessments. I’m often astonished, at the myriad
of opportunities compared to when I was an undergraduate in the 1980s.

But it also seems like students have more challenges. We hear every day about studies showing rising levels of anxiety and depression in young people. Some of this is certainly down to greater awareness and openness - to that extent, increased reporting is a good thing. But students today do face fundamental challenges in terms of housing and living costs. They are growing up in a rapidly changing and competitive world where jobs and technologies keep evolving - for some this is exciting, for others it’s stressful. And what might once have been termed ‘existential’ challenges - like climate change, biodiversity loss, migration, over-population – are becoming urgent. The prognosis can verge on the apocalyptic.

All of this is having an effect on our students’ mental health and their capacity to make the most of these precious college years. Tutors are at the frontline. For some students, you’re the first port of call.

Nearly 4,000 student cases were processed in the last year through tutors. Many of these cases involved the difficult aspects of a student’s life: financial problems, family difficulties and breakdown, health issues, especially increased mental health difficulties and homelessness.

Tutors this year have visited hospitals; they’ve helped students gain employment. Sadly, they have even attended funerals.

I’m so grateful for our students that they have you. But I don’t underestimate the toll of pastoral care. Being a good tutor means forming connections with students. As academics, you are already fulfilling multiple roles in education and research. I know, from being a tutor myself, that tutorship is deeply rewarding but it’s also demanding.

The College acknowledges the considerable time and effort you put in. We thank you. Sometimes you make the difference between a student staying in college and completing their course, or leaving with a degree. Tutorship plays an important part in Trinity’s excellent progression and retention rates.

This year we have 268 tutors – the highest number we have ever had. This is a tremendous endorsement both of the strength of the system and of the quality and commitment of our staff – of all of you.
On behalf of the Board and the whole community, I thank you all. Tutorship is a shared activity across all Faculties. It is enabled by a dedicated team.

I thank the Senior Tutor, Dr Aidan Seery who has agreed to take on his role for a further term and is doing an outstanding job.

I thank also Helen Richardson for her work supporting students financially, and assistance with accommodation. She is the cornerstone of the Senior Tutor Office team and has served 18 years in the office.

Also Martin McAndrew for single-handedly managing all Postgraduate Advice cases and for organising the very successful conference ‘Postgrad Lives’ in May to mark the 10th anniversary of the Postgraduate Advisory Service.

And Caroline Campbell as first point of contact for students and tutors for the expert and sensitive way in which she deals with even the most difficult cases.

It is, of course, essential that Tutorship works as well and smoothly as possible. As with all activities, we need to be vigilant and ensure that we are putting in place the right processes. Chamber sizes, once very large, have been reduced to an average of 44 this year.

In the coming academic year, there will be a new dedicated ‘Tutor Week’ as part of Fresher induction to highlight the Tutor System for new entrants and to encourage them to meet their Tutors. I remember well meeting my own Tutor in September 1983. Dr Tom Glynn had an office in the basement of the Museum Building, and it was full of smoke as I recall when I went to visit him! He was a kindly man and we had a brief chat and I knew he would be there for me if I needed him.

Next year there will be T-shirts and badges to identify Tutors. I’m afraid this will lead to more work for tutors – the emphasis will be on students getting in touch with you! But since we’re very proud of tutorship, of course we want to make the system widely known.

I hope those of you who will continue as Tutors next year are ready for the T-shirts and badges! To all of you, my heartfelt thanks for taking on this vital role, without which the unique education we offer would not be possible.

Thank you.  
*   *   *
Martin McAndrew (Postgraduate Student Support Officer), Provost Patrick Prendergast, Dr Aidan Seery (Senior Tutor)
12 June 2019

New York City Launch of Campaign ‘Inspiring Generations’

The Morgan Library, New York City, USA

Good afternoon and welcome, all, to the New York launch of ‘Inspiring Generations’

This is the first comprehensive philanthropic campaign in Trinity's history; it's the largest such campaign ever held on the island of Ireland; it has been years in the planning – we're very excited about it and delighted that you're here with us this afternoon.

This is our third launch outside Dublin, following London and Paris. Over the next few months, we’ll also be bringing the message to San Francisco, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Sydney.

This campaign builds on the magnificent run of recent achievements for Trinity:
- from acceptance into the elite League of European Research Universities,
- to the launch of plans for our landmark Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies Institute, E3
- and the opening just last month of the inspiring new building for the Trinity Business School which will further our reputation as a leading global destination for business education and research.

These achievements show what Trinity can achieve when the whole community – staff, students, and alumni - work together. This Philanthropic Campaign, unique in its scale and reach, has benefitted from the tremendous involvement of so many people.

Our goals with this campaign are ambitious but achievable: we’ve set out to raise 400 million euro to support our mission in education and research, and we want to inspire 150 thousand hours of volunteering from the Trinity community around the world.

The naming of this campaign - ‘Inspiring Generations’ – reaches back to our great past, and looks forward to a remarkable future.

Trinity owes its very start to the grant of lands from Dublin Corporation in 1592. This donation initiated a cycle of giving - of bequests, grants of land, trust funds and endowments – which got
our university up and running. This ‘giving’ ranges from the Erasmus Smith Trust that established chairs in Hebrew, history and physics in the 18th century; to the campaign to build the Berkeley Library in the 20th century, to the bequest from Atlantic Philanthropies to establish the Global Brain Health Institute in the 21st century.

In 2013 we created the ‘Benefactors’ Roll of Honour’ to acknowledge how much Trinity’s greatness has depended on donations through the ages.

This ‘giving’ extends beyond the financial – it also involves giving time and expertise. Across the centuries, graduates and friends have remained involved with the life of the college and its students. They’ve inspired generations through mentoring, coaching, fundraising, serving on committees of clubs and societies, and establishing alumni associations in cities and regions around the world. That’s why we’ve set the target of 150 thousand hours of volunteering – we want to build on the extraordinary enthusiasm that people feel in being part of the great story of Trinity College Dublin.

And, of course, when we talk about inspiration, we’re talking about the achievements of staff and graduates.

Take Samuel Beckett, who graduated from Trinity in 1927 and was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1969. Beckett made his home in France, where he was honoured by the French Republic for his part in the Résistance to the Nazi occupation during World War Two.

But he maintained a lifelong relationship with Trinity. In the 1960s he donated proceeds from the performance of his play ‘Krapp’s Last Tape’ here in New York City, to the fund that built the Berkeley Library. And in 1969, he donated important documents to the college, thus ensuring that Trinity Library is today a global centre for Beckett scholarship.

We chose Beckett and a young present-day student, who has written her dissertation on his work, to encapsulate the theme of ‘Inspiring Generations’ in a specially-commissioned artwork that you’ll see more of in a moment.

Or take another Nobel Prize winner, Bill Campbell. As a Trinity undergraduate in the 1950s, he was inspired by his lecturer, Desmond Smyth, to start research into parasitic worms. Two decades later, this interest led to the discovery of a cure for river blindness – every year, 25 million people are treated with the drug
he invented and that he was instrumental in persuading Merck to distribute free of charge. We’ve now established a William C. Campbell Lectureship in Parasite Biology – so that more students can be inspired.

Or think of former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson. What an inspirational role model she has been - as Trinity student, professor, senator and Chancellor. To each of these roles, she’s brought her passion for justice and social reform. There’s a clear connection between her early student advocacy of human rights in the 1960s, and her current advocacy of climate justice, which has helped inspire our students in their campaigns to divest from fossil fuels and end single-use plastics on campus.

We’re building this Campaign on the remarkable legacy of graduates like Samuel Beckett, Bill Campbell, and Mary Robinson. We want future generations to be inspired, as they were.

* * *

In Trinity we pride ourselves on offering opportunity to talent. This is a place where people of extraordinary ability can maximise their potential and make extraordinary contributions to the world.

Last year we secured over 100 Euro million in research funding. We’re among the most successful universities in Europe in terms of winning competitive research grants. Our staff perform exceptionally.

And this current academic year, we’ve been named the 10th best university in the world for Climate Action and the best university in Europe for educating entrepreneurs.

Our campus is a place of excellence and achievement, discovery and creativity. With this Campaign, we’re inviting graduates and friends to be part of our story and to support this university of proven success.

The flagship projects of the Campaign have been carefully chosen where Trinity can create excellence and impact. These transformational projects, two of which you’ll hear more about in a moment, include:

- One, Putting Ireland at the forefront of research and technological innovation for generations to come with our new E3 Institute, and with the creation of Dublin’s Grand Canal Innovation District;
- Two, Ensuring that the Old Library and its extraordinary collections continue to exist for future generations;
- Three, Developing Ireland’s first comprehensive cancer care centre, the Trinity St James’ Cancer Institute;
- Four, Building a Law School to rival the best in the world.

These initiatives will be underpinned by a ‘New Generations’ programme to bring the best talent to Trinity from Ireland and the world. Academic faculty and researchers are the lifeblood of the University and a fundamental aim of ‘Inspiring Generations’ is to fund new Professorships and tenure-track academic posts across the University.

Simultaneously we’ll create more pathways to bring talented students to college, from backgrounds not traditionally represented at third-level. The success of the Trinity Access Programme over 26 years has changed the lives of thousands of students and has made us a recognised world leader in educational access.

An investment in Trinity is an investment in Ireland’s future, in our young people, and in global research.

The generosity of alumni and friends inspires us time and again. We know that people want to help for many different reasons, whether from:
- deep attachment to their alma mater;
- Or wanting to support Ireland’s economic, social and cultural growth;
- Or belief in the importance of higher education in promoting humanistic and progressive values;
- Or from commitment to finding solutions to global challenges and scaling up interdisciplinary research;
- Or, very likely, a combination of all these reasons.

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I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you, here in this room, who are already supporters of Trinity, some of you for many years.

The strength and enthusiasm of Trinity alumni and supporters has encouraged us to publicly launch Inspired Generations with campaigns around the world.

Trinity students and graduates have been coming to the United States for many years – some for hardworking, enjoyable summers on the famous J1 visa, and some to make their lives here after graduation. It’s not surprising that the community of Trinity alumni
and friends in New York is so important in our global network.

I was delighted last year to strengthen Trinity’s formal relationship with New York City and the United States through the launch of our strategic partnership with Columbia University. This offers students a wonderful opportunity to take a four-year Dual BA in the Arts and Humanities, where they spend two years consecutively in Trinity and Columbia and graduate with a degree from both universities. We’re close to agreeing a joint programme also several other subjects.

Last September, we welcomed the first group of students to Trinity. There were over 150 applicants for 39 places and we’re already planning with Columbia to expand the range of courses on offer in the programme.

* * *

With *Inspiring Generations* we’re inviting our community of alumni and supporters to join us in making our ambitious vision a reality, so that Trinity can inspire future generations to make a positive impact on the world.

Trinity succeeds because it has always reached out – it reaches out across the island of Ireland, and to the outside world; it reaches out to the frontiers of research in arts, humanities, science and health sciences; it reaches out to expand educational access and extend public engagement; it reaches back to a great past in order to build a great future.

With this Campaign we’re reaching out to all those around the world who want to make a difference, and who have confidence in Trinity’s power to make that difference.

When many people act together, inspired by similar aims, great things can happen. I believe that we should all seek to make a difference, while we still can. Samuel Beckett said this most movingly, particularly since he wasn’t a man for facile optimism. He said:

“Let us do something, while we have the chance! It is not every day that we are needed.”

Thank you.

* * *
John Daly, Provost Patrick Prendergast, Patrick Treanor at the New York launch of Inspiring Generations in the Morgan Library
Good afternoon, everyone

It’s now six years, almost to the day, since I unveiled the Benefactors Frieze, here in the Dining Hall – the college’s permanent and public testament to the generosity of individuals, groups, and corporations through the ages. This frieze is our tribute to those who have helped make Trinity great, since the foundation of the college in 1592.

It begins with Queen Elizabeth the First and with Dublin Corporation, and continues on through a cycle of giving – of bequests, grants of land, trusts and endowments – up to the present day.

It’s rare that we add new names to the Frieze. Indeed, today is only the second time of doing so, since the Frieze was created. In the past six years, we’ve benefitted significantly from the generosity of alumni and friends. Many people have given invaluable support and all are deserving of thanks and praise. But to crowd the Benefactors Frieze would be to diminish it. So the names on this Frieze are of those who have given truly exceptional support.

By adding Alan and Kyle Dargan’s names to this frieze, we commemorate their exceptional support to Trinity College Dublin.

Alan Dargan is a Trinity graduate, BBS 1974, who made the most of his undergraduate years – both the curricular and extracurricular. He played rugby and formed lasting friendships, and when he graduated and went on to a truly remarkable career in business, he remained deeply connected to the college.

He has served as president of Trinity Rugby, and as Chairman of the Advisory Board of Student Managed Fund. His wife, Kyle, also a true friend of the college. Not the least manifestation of the Dargans’ commitment to Trinity is the fact that their four sons, all here today, are Trinity graduates, with the youngest an undergraduate still.
Speaking personally, let me say that Alan has been among the key graduates who have really helped and made a difference in progressing initiatives during my provostship. He is someone who has been a continuous presence during my provostship.

I’m proud that the past six or seven years have been characterised by the college’s greatly increased involvement with our alumni. The Provost’s Council, which started life as the Trinity Global Graduate Forum in 2013, has been central to this. It’s a unique forum of high-achieving Trinity graduates across all spheres, which meets annually to brainstorm on the college’s current plans and future direction.

Alan has been a key member of the Provost’s Council from the start. His enthusiasm has been transformative. When we first convened in 2013, the country was still in recession and the university was under-funded. We believed we could turn things around. The support of remarkable alumni strengthened our belief at this crucial time.

Alan brought all his positivism and acumen to the challenge. He thought big and he brought others with him.

Two initiatives in particular we will forever associate with Alan and Kyle:

- We’ve just come from the Alumni Room, which I’m sure you’ll agree is one of the most attractive spaces on college. This Room was co-funded by Alan and Kyle, together with Fearghal Naughton. They understood the importance of giving graduates a space they could call their own on campus.

Their generosity ensured that the Room was designed and decorated to the highest specification. I know from my frequent meetings with alumni all around the world, that it’s hugely appreciated. It makes a great difference, particularly for graduates flying in from abroad, to have this place to meet.

- The other initiative is, of course, the new Trinity Business School, which we opened three weeks ago. What a tremendous building it is! It was conceived in high ambition and, in execution, it has more than delivered on that ambition. It includes what is now the largest auditorium on campus, which has more space, even, than the Exam Hall. It’s a space not only for business students, but for the whole university.
The Trinity Business School is a landmark in the history of the College because it was enabled by philanthropy. Donor support was the cornerstone which enabled us to finance the whole project.

The success of the Trinity Business School will transform the whole story of the university. Trinity Business School has become the template for how to fund essential strategy projects in the university. The experience of planning and completing the Business School has given us the confidence to launch “Inspiring Generations”, our philanthropic campaign with a goal to raise 400 million euro and generate 150 thousand hours of volunteering.

Alan and Kyle Dargan were decisive in making the Business School possible and they are exemplars of what we hope for in Inspiring Generations. Their support goes far beyond the financial – I don’t know how many hours Alan has given to DUFC and to the Student Managed Fund and to the Provost’s Council but I do know what a difference he has made and what an inspiration he is to our students.

Part of our reason for creating the Benefactors Wall was not only to thank our donors, but to honour the principle of public philanthropy.

We want people looking at this wall to feel inspired by the concept of giving. We achieve ... ... ... in order to give back - Alan and Kyle embody this.

May I now invite all of you to look up at the Benefactors Frieze and welcome the new names. Over four and a quarter centuries, there are a select few names only. We now celebrate the 56th and 57th names: Alan and Kyle Dargan.

Thank you.

* * *
(L to R) Alan Dargan, Kyle Dargan, Provost Patrick Prendergast
Address at the Alumni Mentor Stewardship Event

Saloon, Provost's House, Trinity College

Good evening, and welcome everybody.

This is the first ever Alumni Mentor Stewardship Event. We trust it will become an annual event. It’s so important that we take this time to thank you for your wonderful contribution to the college and our students.

In Trinity, we’re dedicated to preparing our students for dynamic careers and responsible citizenship. We’re not just training students for their first jobs; we’re giving them the skills, resilience and creativity which they will need to build fulfilling careers and lives in a rapidly changing world.

Our educational mission aims to give students opportunities inside the lecture room, and outside - in clubs and societies, in acceleration programmes, in volunteering, in studying abroad and the myriad other activities which help to embed the Trinity Graduate Attributes, which are:

- To Think Independently,
- To Communicate Effectively,
- To Develop Continuously, and
- To Act Responsibly

We believe that these attributes will help students succeed in 21st century life and work.

The college-wide Alumni Mentorship programme was established in 2017 – though some individual Schools have more long-standing programmes. Already it has become one of the key ways in which we embed the Graduate Attributes.

This programme speaks for itself. ‘Mentoring’ is a powerful word, which conveys the imparting of knowledge and experience – generally, though not invariably, from one generation to the next. Education comes from the Latin ‘to lead out’. Mentoring is intrinsic to Education – it is a two-way process: the mentee draws out knowledge from the mentor, and in turn, the mentor draws out the mentee’s potential.
Mentors are graduates who have achieved in fields that interest the students and who have experience managing teams, self-starting, setting up abroad, getting published, raising money, and all the other things that students dream of.

Most of us can remember the anxiety we felt as students around entering the world of work. It was mystery to us. How to use our learning in a professional capacity? How to apply for jobs? How to perform in interviews? How to know what questions to ask potential employers? How to think about salary? How to keep building our skillset?

These are not trivial questions. Knowing how to transition from college to the workplace can make all the difference between a brilliant career and under-achievement. And the workplace today is more challenging, because more transitional, then when I was a student. We owe it to our students not just to teach them how to ‘think’ but also how to ‘act’ – how to get things done in the world.

Graduates are ideally placed to help with this transition. Not only because they can draw on experience and contacts, but because they embody successful transition. They provide reassurance that a Trinity Education can be a springboard to fulfilment in all kinds of careers, anywhere in the world.

Mentors are vital for the practical experience they impart – from how to give a professional presentation to the skills of networking, from information-gathering to making contributions at business meetings.

Just as important, by their very action of returning to college to volunteer their experience, alumni mentors embody responsible citizenship and the concept of ‘giving back’. Students, either consciously or unconsciously, register the generosity of their mentors and I believe this has a profound effect on how they will conduct themselves in life and the workplace.

I don’t know if there is research to back me up, but I believe that those who have experienced positive mentoring are more likely to be generous to younger colleagues when their turn comes. We all remember adults who went out of their way for us and made a huge difference. The right help at the right time can be transformative. Having benefitted from it, we are moved to try and make such a difference ourselves.

‘To act responsibly’ is one of our four graduate attributes. Alumni mentors are ‘acting responsibly’ to the next generation. They lead by example.
Over 300 alumni have actively participated in mentoring programmes in Trinity this year and over 600 students have been positively impacted. Over 90% of students and alumni found the mentoring programme beneficial and would recommend it.

We are extremely fortunate to have such dedicated alumni. We don’t take you for granted. I want to thank each and every one of you for giving your time to the next generation of Trinity students. We know that this university could not do as well as it does without the support of our graduates worldwide.

Mentoring is a two-way experience. Mentoring enables you to stay deeply connected to your university, and it enables you to improve other people’s lives by sharing your experience. I know that this is deeply rewarding. One mentor put it eloquently, saying:

“Mentoring evokes your own experiences as an undergraduate and you are giving back to the college that enhanced your life.”

Mentoring is relatively a new programme for the college. It is made possible through collaboration between Trinity Development and Alumni, TDA, the Careers Service and many of the Schools. I thank all involved in enabling this programme.

This Trinity mentoring programme was established just two years ago. We hope that it will grow and bring many more alumni and students together.

Just six weeks ago, we launched the first comprehensive philanthropic campaign in the history of the university, a campaign we’re calling ‘Inspiring Generations’.

This Campaign is encouraging our graduates and friends globally to support Trinity’s initiatives in education, research, and public engagement. The Campaign highlights capital development projects, including a new Law School and a pioneering Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies Institute, E3. And it’s underpinned by a ‘New Generations’ programme to bring the best global talent to teach and research in Trinity, and to create more pathways to the Trinity Access Programme.

Our goals are ambitious but achievable: we want to raise 400 million euro, and to inspire 150 thousand hours of volunteering from the Trinity community worldwide. That’s a lot of hours! But we’re confident in our alumni. The Trinity Mentoring Programme is part of what gives us this confidence. All of you have already contributed to our ambitious goal through your
efforts this year. You are in the vanguard, if you like, of the new spirit which we are inspiring in our community.

I would like it to become second nature for every Trinity graduate to stay deeply connected to the university and, in the course of their careers, to ‘give back’, whether through financial support, mentoring, coaching, fund-raising, serving on boards of committees of clubs and societies.

It’s through the dedication, passion and commitment of all in our community – staff, students, graduates – that we will continue to progress the great education, research and creativity that has such impact in Dublin, Ireland and the world.

On behalf of the university, I thank you all. I thank and congratulate you for being part of Inspiring Generations, before it was ever launched to the world. I hope the experience of mentoring has been enriching and that you will continue to act as mentors to new generations of undergraduates. I hope your mentees of the past year will do you proud. I’m sure they will!

Now is an exciting time for Trinity. I hope you will stay involved and be part of the work of this great university as it goes from strength to strength.

Many thanks.

* * *

Provost Patrick Prendergast speaking in the Saloon at the Alumni stewardship reception 2019
Reception in the Saloon for Alumni mentors, 2019
Good afternoon,

It’s a pleasure to welcome so many distinguished guests to Trinity College Dublin. It’s an honour for our university to host CHCI’s annual meeting.

I know that earlier today you had a panel on Advocacy for the Humanities. I’m sorry not to have been able to attend. Let me say a few brief words now on this subject.

The first thing to say is that this isn't something that I – or anyone else - should have to do. Why should arts and humanities need advocacy? It's self-evident that they are essential to the progressiveness of any society. I say that as a mechanical engineer.

Each and every society is the sum of its history and culture, its arts and literature, its politics and laws, its religious, philosophical and social practices. And each and every society interacts with other societies in a rich, inter-dependent exchange of knowledge, creativity, and culture.

Without education in the arts and humanities we would find ourselves not knowing where we came from, not knowing what we should value or how we should relate to others. We would lose perspective on where we’re headed.

But it seems that arts and humanities, as academic disciplines, are under threat - not necessarily threat of disappearing, but threat of being side-lined. Rather than advocate, however, I’d prefer just to talk about how we do things in Trinity. Because in this university, arts and humanities are so embedded that it would be impossible to remove them and expect to continue functioning. As well try and function on half a heart, or half a liver.

In Trinity, we’ve identified four attributes which we believe all graduates will need in order to flourish in their careers and lives in a rapidly changing world. These attributes are:
- To think independently
- To communicate effectively
- To develop continuously, and
- To act responsibly

It can be a challenge to embed all four attributes, and I’m not sure that we could, without the benefit of our multi-disciplinarity. Arts and Humanities, in particular, go across the university.

Student societies perform plays, films and concerts, for the benefit of all on campus. The creative arts give us the metaphorical means to confront moral issues, to start thinking about what it means to ‘act responsibly’.

The Trinity Long Room Hub drives political, social and cultural discourse on campus. The Hub takes on responsibility for debating crucial issues of the day, predicated on research. It brings together academics and other experts from across society. In just a short decade, the Irish public has come to see the Hub as a place of dialogue, discourse and elucidation.

The Hub also coordinates cross-faculty, interdisciplinary research. In Trinity we know that issues like ecology, digital engagement, ageing and international development require an interdisciplinary approach. The age of silos is past. Confronted with the global issues confronting humanity and the planet, it’s axiomatic that we should coalesce expertise and perspective.

With our cross-faculty Medical Humanities initiative, we acknowledge the central role that arts and humanities play in human health. They also play a central role in planetary health. Over the next few years we’ll be building a pioneering new Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies Institute, E3, to bring different disciplines together to help tackle climate change and biodiversity loss.

It’s through literature, art and the humanities that we articulate and depict the crisis now facing us. They bring narrative, metaphors, history and understanding to the crisis facing us - without which, we can’t hope to overcome it.

A hundred and forty years ago, Gerard Manley Hopkins, with astonishing premonition, seemed to envisage the horror of biodiversity loss in his poem, ‘Inversnaid’. He was writing about Scotland but he lived many years in Dublin, and this poem has always reminded me of the Irish landscape:
What would the world be, once bereft
Of wet and wildness? Let them be left,
O let them be left, wildness and wet;
Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet.

As an engineer, I’m excited about using technology to fight climate change. But we also need to change hearts and souls, to focus attention on the urgency of the mission and on the beauty of our planet. Engineers haven’t the words for this. It takes a poet.

Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet

Thank you

* * *

(L to R) Professor Joep Larsen (Honorary Fellow), Professor Jane Ohlmeyer (Director, Trinity Long Room Hub), and Provost Patrick Prendergast. There had been a reception in the Saloon the night before.
Good afternoon and welcome to the San Francisco launch of ‘Inspiring Generations’.

This is the first comprehensive philanthropic campaign in Trinity's history and the largest such campaign ever to be launched in Ireland. It’s been years in the preparation, and we’re very excited about it.

This is our fourth launch outside Dublin, following London, Paris and New York. We'll also be bringing the message to Singapore, Hong Kong, and Sydney.

Trinity has so many connections in the San Francisco area, through our work on innovation and entrepreneurship and through the Global Brain Health Initiative, or GBHI, our collaboration with UCSF, generously funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies.

You'll hear more about GBHI in a moment and I'm pleased to welcome tonight Dr Bruce Millar from the GBHI team in San Francisco.

* * *

The ‘Inspiring Generations’ philanthropic campaign builds on a magnificent run of recent achievements for Trinity:

- from acceptance into the elite League of European Research Universities,
- to the launch of plans for our landmark Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies Institute, E3
- and the opening just last month of the inspiring new building for the Trinity Business School which will make Trinity’s reputation as a leading global destination for business education and research.

These achievements show what Trinity can achieve when the whole community pulls together. This Philanthropic Campaign, unique in its scale and reach, has benefitted from the tremendous
involvement of so many people – staff and students, alumni and friends.

Our goals with this campaign are ambitious but achievable: we’ve set out to raise 400 million euro to support our mission in education and research, and we want to inspire 150 thousand hours of volunteering from the Trinity community around the world.

The naming of this campaign - ‘Inspiring Generations’ – reaches back to our great past, and looks forward to a remarkable future.

* * *

Our university owes its very start to philanthropy: the grant of lands from Dublin Corporation in 1592. This initiated a cycle of giving - of bequests, grants of land, trust funds and endowments – which put our university on the road to great things - from the Erasmus Smith Trust that established chairs in history and physics in the 18th century; to the Atlantic Philanthropies endowments in the 21st century.

This ‘giving’ extends beyond the financial – it also involves giving time and expertise. Throughout Trinity’s history, graduates and friends have remained involved with the college. They’ve inspired generations through mentoring, coaching, fund-raising, serving on committees of clubs and societies, and establishing alumni associations around the world. That’s why we’ve set the target of 150 thousand hours of volunteering – we want to build on the extraordinary enthusiasm that people feel in being part of the great story of Trinity College Dublin.

And, of course, when we talk about inspiration, we’re talking about the achievements of staff and graduates.

Take Samuel Beckett, who graduated from Trinity in 1927 and was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1969. Beckett made his home in France but maintained a lifelong relationship with Trinity. In the 1960s he donated proceeds from the New York performance of his play ‘Krapp’s Last Tape’ to the fund that built the Berkeley Library.

We chose Beckett and a young present-day student Leah Kenny, who has written her thesis on Beckett, to encapsulate the theme of ‘Inspiring Generations’ in a specially-commissioned artwork that you’ll see more of in a moment.

Or take another Nobel Prize winner, Bill Campbell. As a Trinity undergraduate in the 1950s, he was inspired to start research into
parasitic worms. Two decades later, this interest led to the discovery of a cure for river blindness – every year, 25 million people are treated with the drug he invented and that he was instrumental in persuading Merck to distribute free of charge. We’ve now established a William C. Campbell Lectureship in Parasite Biology – so that more students can be inspired.

Or think of former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson. What an inspirational role model she has been - as Trinity student, professor, senator and Chancellor. To each of these roles, she’s brought her passion for justice and social reform. Her current advocacy of climate justice has helped inspire our students in their campaigns to divest from fossil fuels and end single-use plastics on campus.

We’re building this Campaign on the remarkable legacy of graduates like Samuel Beckett, Bill Campbell, and Mary Robinson. We want future generations to be inspired, as they were.

In Trinity we pride ourselves on offering opportunity to talent. This is a place where people of extraordinary ability can maximise their potential and make extraordinary contributions to the world.

* * *

Last year we secured over 100 million Euro in research funding. We’re among the most successful universities in Europe in terms of winning competitive research grants.

Our campus is a place of excellence and achievement, discovery and creativity. With this Campaign, we’re inviting graduates and friends to be part of our story and to support this university of proven success.

The flagship projects of the Campaign have been carefully chosen – these are where Trinity can create excellence and impact. These transformational projects include:

- One, Putting Ireland at the forefront of research and technological innovation for generations to come with our new **E3 Institute**, and with the creation of Dublin’s **Grand Canal Innovation District**;
- Two, Ensuring that the **Old Library** and its extraordinary collections continue to exist for future generations;
- Three, Developing Ireland’s first comprehensive cancer care centre, the **Trinity St James’ Cancer Institute**; and
- Four, Building a **Law School** to rival the best in the world.
These initiatives will be underpinned by a ‘New Generations’ programme to bring the best talent to Trinity from Ireland and the world. A fundamental aim of ‘Inspiring Generations’ is to fund new Professorships and tenure-track academic posts across the University.

Simultaneously we'll create more pathways to bring talented students to college, from backgrounds not traditionally represented at third-level. The success of the Trinity Access Programme over 26 years has changed the lives of thousands of students.

An investment in Trinity is an investment in Ireland’s future, in our young people, and in the research that helps solve global challenges.

* * *

I want to thank all of you for coming here this evening. The community of Trinity alumni and friends in the U.S. is so important in our global network.

In particular, Trinity has many alumni in the West Coast, which is partly a testament to the abilities of our Computer Science and Engineering graduates. It was thanks to the foresight of one man, Professor John Byrne, known as ‘the father of computing in Ireland’ – Prof Byrne set up Ireland’s first Computer Science department as early as 1969. He taught many people in this room, including me. Since then, generations of our graduates have come to the West Coast, many of them to make successful careers in IT.

And let me mention two of our California-based alumni who are particular supporters and valued advisers of Trinity: Paul Johnson, Chairman of Exponent Inc., who has been one of the driving forces behind E3; he helped mould the E3 vision from the start, and his backing was critically important in enabling us to leverage State funding. And Stuart Coulson, one of the early internet pioneers, who has supported us in developing innovation and entrepreneurship across Trinity – you’ll hear from Stuart in a moment.

The strength and enthusiasm of Trinity alumni, and supporters like Paul and Stuart, has encouraged us to launch Inspiring Generations globally, with campaigns around the world.

* * *

Trinity succeeds because it has always reached out – it reaches out across the island of Ireland, and to the outside world; it reaches out
to the frontiers of research; it reaches out to expand educational access and extend public engagement; it reaches back to a great past in order to build a great future.

With this Campaign we’re reaching out to all those around the world who want to make a difference, and who have confidence in Trinity’s power to make that difference.

When many people act together, inspired by similar aims, great things can happen. I believe that we should all seek to make a difference.

Samuel Beckett said this most movingly, particularly since he wasn’t a man for facile optimism. He said:

“Let us do something, while we have the chance! It is not every day that we are needed.”

Thank you.

* * *

(L to R) Gerard McHugh, Stuart Coulson (member of the Provost’s Council), Veronica Campbell (Bursar), Provost Patrick Prendergast, Jane Ohlmeyer, Paul Johnston (member of the Provost’s Council), Diarmuid O’Brien
Launch of Science Gallery PERFECTION Exhibition

Science Gallery Dublin

Your Excellency, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening,

The launch of a new exhibition in Science Gallery is always an event. And this evening’s is particularly exciting: for the first time an exhibition comes to us through our global network: PERFECTION has travelled to Dublin from Science Gallery in the University of Melbourne – the third science gallery in our global network, after Trinity’s and King’s College London.

This is the first of many exhibitions that will travel to Dublin through our network. Our own Science Gallery Dublin exhibitions have gone out around into the world - over 2 million people worldwide have visited our touring exhibitions in New York, Singapore, Manila, Bergamo, and Moscow. It’s exciting now to be the recipient of Melbourne’s.

We’re delighted to welcome His Excellency, Richard Andrews, the Australia’s Ambassador in Ireland. His presence here with us this evening marks the importance of the occasion: the transmission of Australian art, science and curatorship to Dublin.

Science Gallery was opened in 2008 as a unique initiative: ‘where Science and Art collide’ is the wonderful tagline.

In Science Gallery we exhibit science visually. We bring scientists, artists, philosophers, engineers, computer scientists and curators together to design exhibitions that enthuse and challenge people, and explore science at its boundaries.

These exhibitions have the capacity to introduce people to challenging and complex issues. The power of Science Gallery’s approach is that exhibitions founded on scientific research are explored in very human ways that we can connect with.

Science Gallery exhibitions amply demonstrate how science affects all aspects of our lives – from leisure and entertainment, to security, to the workplace, to learning and the natural world. Science Gallery is a creative platform that brings together different perspectives and
it’s a space to consider often challenging questions about what future we want to build.

Science Gallery was global in outlook from the start - science and art are universal and they are porous. A society and culture which seals itself off from the world will not progress artistically and scientifically in the way that more open, collaborative societies do.

Extending the science gallery network around the world is a natural progression from our founding principles. A global network enables us to share and collaborate on research, innovation, and the visual arts: it engages people with global issues that affect all of us living on the planet.

This exhibition that opens tonight is fully illustrative of the universality of science and art. Conceived and curated in Melbourne, it resonates here in Dublin.

- Why do humans strive for perfection?
- Is increased usage of technology bringing us closer to perfection or increasing our desire for it in dangerous ways?

These are important, timely, relevant questions and I look forward to exploring this exhibition in full.

Science Gallery Dublin has almost a half a million visitors annually - 40 percent of them are 15 to 25 year olds; many are younger again. I’m delighted that they will be getting to see international work of this calibre.

* * *

It’s not perfection that we seek to inspire. Voltaire called perfection the enemy of the good, and Churchill called it the enemy of progress, and I think Picasso called it the enemy of creativity. I believe this exhibition shares their reservations.

Instead of seeking perfection, Science Gallery seeks to understand why humans pursue perfection. Which is a different question altogether. I look forward to considering some of the answers.

I hope everyone here this evening, and all future visitor enjoy this exhibition. Our thanks and congratulations to Science Gallery Melbourne.

Thank you.

* * *
Provost Patrick Prendergast & Ann Mulrooney (Director of the Science Gallery) on the stairs launching the exhibition
Good afternoon,

It’s great to see so many here – so many who have worked with Chris on Board and Council, and across all three faculties and divisions.

Chris arrived in Trinity just five short years ago – although, having been a doctoral student here, it was a return rather than an arrival. He returned in a really significant role – the inaugural Seamus Heaney Professor of Irish Writing. He immersed himself thoroughly not just in the School of English, but in the whole life of the university. And in 2016 he stepped up to the role of Vice-Provost and Chief Academic Officer.

Perhaps, it’s because I come from engineering that both recent vice-provosts have come from the humanities. Certainly, I have benefitted from their perspective, articulacy and sense of narrative that the humanities bring to the running of the university.

As Vice-Provost and CAO, the Vice-Provost deputises for the Provost, as required, and has overall responsibility for academic activities - that involves coordinating strategic planning and research, as well as undergraduate and postgraduate education and the student experience.

This is, it goes without saying, a very large and significant role.

Chris has served as Chair of:
- the Planning Group,
- the Heads of Schools Committee,
- the Quality Committee,
- the Junior Academic Promotion Committee.
- And he was interim Chair of the Equality Committee.

As well as serving on Board and Council, and all appointment committees for professorial posts.

In these roles, he served with distinction. As Chair of the Planning Group, he worked with many stakeholders to establish a new mechanism for allocating Faculty and School budgets. The Baseline
Budgeting Model – or BBM – was implemented in 2017 as the mechanism for allocating budgets. Bringing the BBM into existence was a major achievement as budget allocation is by far the most difficult internal task in any university.

While acting as Chair of the Equality Committee, he chaired a working group of the Equality Committee to draft a plan for implementation of the important *HEA National Review of Gender Equality in Irish Higher Education Institutions*.

The past three years in which Chris has served as vice-provost have been particularly busy and focussed ones for the college. Among our great missions has been the renewal of the undergraduate curriculum, the Trinity Education Project.

The final story has yet to be written on ‘TEP’, but when it is, it will be clear that Chris has been instrumental to its success. He acted as overall Project Sponsor and chair of the TEP steering committee and Workstream 1 “Transition”.

Another piece of major work was Chris’s role in coordinating – or masterminding - the move from Two Subject Moderatorship, or TSM, to the recently launched Trinity Joint Honours Programme. The Joint Honours programme is so much more flexible, creative and contemporary than TSM. It will make a profound difference to the formation of our students. It is a particular legacy of Chris’.

Another legacy project is the new Strategic Plan which we’ll be launching in the autumn. A good Strategic Plan is essential to progressing the university. Just two days ago, Chris presented a draft of the new Strategic Plan to the a joint meeting of the board and council, setting out vision, values and mission and providing a conceptual framework for the strategy and a summary of high-level cross-cutting goals.

As anyone familiar with Chris’s books would expect, the Plan is hallmarked by clarity, expressiveness and elegance of language and a wonderful absence of jargon, cliché and policy-speak. It will no doubt go through more drafts before it reaches its final form, but Chris’ articulacy must be retained. Language is the medium through which our strategy is delivered. If the language is imprecise or tired, so too is the Strategy. We’re very fortunate to have Chris’ work on the Strategy.

On a personal note, I’ve enjoyed a warm working relationship with Chris which has made it possible to progress many important and difficult initiatives for the university. Chris can always be relied on to bring a fresh perspective, cogently and positively articulated, on
all subjects. He is motivated by a well-honed sense of what passes muster academically, and is a sound judge of what matters within the academy. He got to grips with finances, strategic planning and project management. In manner, he is calm and considerate of others and this is much appreciated at board and council.

After an extremely full three years, he is now returning to research. His scholarship is such that it goes beyond his discipline – my holiday reading over the last Christmas break was a history book on Irish nationalism* - *Ireland, Inventing the Nation* - and came across an encomium to Chris’ work on the Irish theatre.

The role of vice-provost is all-consuming, but he found the time to teach a module on the M.Phil. in Irish Writing, to supervise two PhD students, and to keep several book projects on the go - but I know that he has missed having the time to do in-depth research.

He holds, as I’ve said, a key position in the college – Seamus Heaney Professor of Irish Writing. Those of us who love Irish literature must be glad that he will now have time to complete his research into the theatre of W.B. Yeats and Dublin as a city of literature. We look forward to the book and other research outcomes.

First I imagine, he will wish to take a well-deserved holiday!

Chris, on behalf of the whole university, I thank you for the past three years and for all your service to the university.

* R.V. Comerford, *Ireland. Inventing the Nation*
Sheena Brown, Provost Patrick Prendergast, Chris Morash (Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer 2016-2019), & Anne Morash

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Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It’s my great pleasure to welcome you all to Trinity College Dublin.

Welcome, His Excellency Dr Saeed Mohamed Ali Al Shamsi, the United Arab Emirates Ambassador to Ireland.

Welcome Dr Abi Abubaker, Head of the Al Maktoum College of Further Education in Dundee, and to your colleagues.

And welcome to the students, all seventy of you. We’re delighted to have you with us. I hope you’ve had an enjoyable day and are getting familiar with our campus.

This is an important event for us. It’s the first time we’ve welcomed Al Maktoum foundation students to Trinity. We hope this will become an annual event.

As announced this weekend, Trinity is establishing an Al Maktoum Centre for Middle Eastern Studies in our School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies, following generous funding, from the Al Maktoum Foundation, for four posts in Middle Eastern Studies.

This inaugural group of students is representative of Trinity’s ever-increasing engagement with Middle Eastern Studies.

Let me talk a little bit about this engagement:

The students have enjoyed, I know, a full day of tours, talks and introductions to Trinity and Ireland. I hope you’ve got a sense of our university as a multidisciplinary place where we conduct education, research and innovation across arts & humanities, science and engineering, and health sciences.

Languages and Cultural Studies is one of the largest and most important schools in our Faculty of arts, humanities, and social sciences. We research and teach in 17 languages in Trinity, including many of the major European languages and Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew, Japanese, Korean, and Turkish.
Trinity’s engagement with Middle Eastern languages and cultures goes back centuries. A professorship of oriental studies was instituted in 1762* and, in 1855, a professorship of Arabic studies was established†: one of the early professors was Mir Aulad Ali, a professor of Indian descent, who has the distinction of having been referred to in the poet, W.B. Yeats’ *Reveries Over Childhood and Youth.*‡

But it’s in recent years that we have really strengthened our engagement - with the creation in 2017 of a new degree course in Middle Eastern and European Languages and Cultures. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Anne Fitzpatrick for her brilliant work in developing Near and Middle Eastern Studies in Trinity.

This degree course is one of four courses chosen for the dual BA programme between Trinity and Columbia University New York. Students on this dual programme spend two years in Trinity and two years in Columbia University. The first Director of the programme is Professor Zuleika Rodgers, from the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Studies.

In addition, all students specialising in the Arabic language in Trinity spend a year at a university in the Middle East. Students who acquire that level of linguistic and cultural experience really do become world citizens.

And Trinity’s engagement with the Middle East goes beyond the degree programme. This academic year we have 167 students from the near and middle East enrolled on our undergraduate and graduate programmes, up from 145 in 16/17. These students bring cultural richness to our campus, reflected in the student societies and associations they have helped set up like the Arabesque Society and the Muslim Students’ Association.

Right through the 20th century Trinity welcomed students from the Middle East – particularly to our School of Medicine. But in recent years these figures have increased dramatically – and we hope will continue to grow.

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† Ibid, page 126
‡ Ibrahim, V. “The Mir of India in Ireland: Nationalism and Identity of an Early ’Muslim’ Migrant”, *Temenos - Nordic Journal of Comparative Religion*, 46(2), 2010
It’s natural that this university, which began back in 1592 when theology was part of every student’s curriculum, should have a history of engagement with the Middle East. The Middle East is the cradle of three of the great world religions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam. And today it’s, increasingly, an area where our graduates like to study and work.

We’re delighted to be in a position to offer our graduates a degree which will set them up so well for living and working in the Middle East.

The funding of four new professorial posts, by the Al Maktoum Foundation, is truly transformative. It will enable us to educate many more students in Middle Eastern Studies and to do more research. Our ambition is for the Al Maktoum Centre for Middle Eastern Studies at Trinity College Dublin to be recognised as world leading in the field.

We’re delighted to have this connection with the Al Maktoum College of Further Education in Dundee. We look forward to many fruitful engagements.

Trinity’s long-standing commitment to world languages, literatures and religions, and our determination to welcome students from all over the world, comes from our being an open, globally-oriented university, going right back to our foundation 427 years ago.

We believe that knowledge has no boundaries and that the most exciting scholarship comes from communication, collaboration and connection –between disciplines, between languages, and between countries and cultures.

When it comes to communication, collaboration and connection there is no substitute for face-to-face encounters – by which I mean coming face-to-face with people and with places. I say that as a user and celebrant of online communication. Online is great. It has transformed everything. But it can’t replace traveling, meeting and talking to people and places, establishing the human and emotional bonds that bring us together.

This is why we’re so delighted to welcome these seventy students to our college. It’s wonderful for us to meet you, and I hope it’s as interesting for you to be here.
It isn’t teaching term, but I hope nonetheless that you will get to meet some of our students. Such connection is so important for them and for you.

I hope that, for some of you, at least, this visit stirs up an interest in Ireland and that you will return. Or that you might be interested in keeping a connection with Irish people and Irish culture, wherever you might find yourselves.

In our turn, we look forward to building on our connection with the Middle East. The Al Maktoum Foundation is recognised, internationally, for its contribution to the promotion of understanding and peace across cultures and for its humanitarian work, notably in education.

Trinity is proud to be supported by the Al Maktoum Foundation. Understanding and peace across cultures is the basis of research and education.

Just behind me here is a brand-new portrait that you may be interested in, particularly as women undergraduates. It’s the first portrait of a woman ever to be hung in this Dining Hall.

These portraits have remained in place unchanged for 160 years. We like tradition in Trinity, but in recent years, we realised that it was time that a woman graduate joined them on these walls.

We chose Mary Robinson, the former Chancellor of this University and the former president of Ireland and UN High commissioner of Human Rights. She is perhaps our most eminent living graduate and like the other figures in these paintings, she has hugely advanced social justice in Ireland and globally.

Promoting understanding and peace across cultures is something that Mary Robinson has dedicated her life to – not least in Northern Ireland. I’m happy that this evening, as we celebrate Trinity joining the Al Maktoum family of centres, that she beams down on us.

I wish you all a few wonderful days in Trinity and Dublin.

Thank you.

* * *
Provost Patrick Prendergast addressing the Al-Maktoum Scholars in the Dining Hall, July 2019
Thank you for inviting me here today. I’m delighted to be here and to have this opportunity to talk to you about what I consider to be one of the three essential missions of the 21st century university: Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

My university, Trinity College Dublin, has put huge focus on innovation and Entrepreneurship over the past ten or twelve years and with great success: Trinity is now recognised as one of Europe’s leading universities for entrepreneurship.

I know that Al Akhawayn University is also putting great focus on innovation. Hence this class on Entrepreneurship.

In our time together this afternoon, I’d like to talk, first, about what I think are the best conditions for any university looking to develop innovation and entrepreneurship. And then I’ll focus on student entrepreneurship because I’m sure that’s what you’ll be most interested in.

But first, let me introduce myself.

* * *Personal Context* * *

As Professor Van Genderen has said, I’m the President of Trinity College Dublin, which is Ireland’s leading university and one of Europe’s leading universities. I was elected to this position eight years ago by the staff and student representatives.

I’m a mechanical engineer by training and previous to taking on the presidency I was Professor of Bioengineering in Trinity. Bioengineering is of course a ‘compound discipline’ joining engineers and medical scientists. I was fortunate that it really began to take off in the 1990s when I was an Assistant Professor. I was there from the beginning and was decisively involved with the development of bioengineering in Irish universities and the growth of a large medtech field in Ireland. It was great preparation for
future policy-making around to be involved with such a forward-looking field so early on.

Trinity is a multidisciplinary university with three faculties – arts, humanities and social sciences; engineering, science and mathematics; and health sciences. I’m an engineer but I certainly don’t prioritise it above other subjects. Everything we achieve in the university, including innovation and entrepreneurship, comes from our dynamic multidisciplinarity.

My other great interest is engineering and the environment - nature and cities. I grew up in a rural area of Ireland – a small village, near the sea, surrounded by fields and hills. I’m particularly interested in man’s relationship with the environment and in how we could use our skills and technologies to live better in the planet.

Again, I think this interest worth mentioning because I think it’s increasingly the case that we should encourage both students and professors to go beyond disciplinary focus.

Immersion in your discipline is essential but for new perspectives and ideas – for genuinely innovative ideas – it helps to think beyond your discipline. Interests outside your core discipline may be the very things that trigger innovation.

Bringing together skills, learning and interests in new and different ways helps to develop the kind of creative and adaptive mindset that is best suited to address the great global issues of our age like climate change, clean energy and migration. This is something I’ll be talking about later in the context of the Student Experience.

Now let me turn to what I think are the best conditions for student entrepreneurship in a university.

* * Best conditions for fostering Innovation and entrepreneurship* *

First, Excellent Research: In-depth research is the basis for university innovation. Licenses and spin-outs are only as good as the research behind them.

Universities that excel at research have excellent staff who are well-funded to pursue their research interests.

The second condition is enabling Multi- and Interdisciplinarity: Today, the most exciting research happens at the interface of disciplines. Bioengineering, which I’ve just mentioned, is a case in point. And innovation happens in all disciplines - it’s certainly not confined to science or health sciences.
A university with a particular focus on just a few disciplines can do good innovation but the radicalism that happens when disciplines collide is certainly conducive to fresh and new ways of thinking. A classic example is Mark Zuckerberg who studied computer programming and psychology in Harvard - he drew on both to create Facebook.

The third condition is **Global Engagement** – we are living in an ever more globalised world so that the term ‘global village’ isn’t just a soundbite. In this world, a university that is inward-looking and doesn’t forging connections with customers and investors worldwide.

When I talk about a university developing Global relations I mean that a university should:

- Firstly, have a global staff and student body, who come from all countries in the world, bringing their diverse skills and mindsets to the campus;
- Secondly, do collaborative research with partner universities round the world, and partner for global student exchange programmes, and
- Thirdly, put focus on the internationalism in the curricula – whatever the discipline, the curriculum should focus on the global dimension, familiarising students with the importance of thinking beyond the local and domestic. I am sure in this class, you spend a lot of time looking at different examples of entrepreneurship around the world and thinking about how you can apply them here.

The fourth condition is that the university be supported by a **strong regional innovation ecosystem**. A good innovation ecosystem means: business-friendly government policies and university access to industries that are interested in partnering to commercialise research. Proximity to creative and cultural institutions and industries and indeed to restaurants and cafés also helps. The role that coffeeshops played in creating Silicon Valley is the subject of many an article*.

The fifth condition is **Technology-focus**: technology keeps advancing all the time and universities have to advance in tandem. To be left behind technologically is to suffer relegation. Universities need dedicated departments and personnel to ensure that they are leveraging the opportunities of emerging technologies. All graduates, regardless of discipline’ must be ‘technology natives’.

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* [https://joel.is/how-coffee-shops-helped-my-startup/](https://joel.is/how-coffee-shops-helped-my-startup/)
The sixth condition concerns the **Student Experience outside the classroom**, also called **extracurricular activities**. In the university, learning to be an entrepreneur happens as much outside as inside the lab, lecture-room or tutorial. The most successful graduates are disruptive in the best way – they are creative about fundraising, networking, and presenting their ideas.

It would be arrogant and wrong to think that we can teach them the right kind of disruptive approach through tutorials and lectures alone. We can’t. We need to provide space for them to learn outside the classroom, from participation in non-academic activities. Universities that succeed best at innovation make space for extracurricular experiential learning.

The seventh and final condition is to **Create the right Innovation processes and pathways**. Innovation doesn’t just happen. It needs to be facilitated. Universities that are good at student entrepreneurship help students to license and commercialise, they set up pipelines with industry. They establish student accelerator programmes. They have support staff dedicated to enabling innovation.

If these processes and pathways aren’t put in place, students might still have great ideas – but they won’t be able to commercialise and innovate around them.

To recap: the seven conditions that I’ve identified as essential for a university hoping to excel at innovation are:

- Excellent Research
- Interdisciplinarity
- Global relations
- A strong regional ecosystem
- Technology-focus
- Focus on the Student Experience, or Extracurricular, and
- Create the right innovation processes and pathways

Now let me turn to Trinity. How successful have we been at creating the right conditions in my university?

**Trinity: the Seven Conditions**

Let’s proceed through the seven conditions, one by one:

First, **Research**:

Research is the bedrock of everything we do in Trinity. Last year Trinity won **€100.6 million** in research funding. The significance of
this figure isn’t just its size but the increase that it represents. In 2013 we won €74 million so we increased our research funding by a third, in five years.

The foundation of our success in innovation is our remarkable research staff and excellent support staff who provide expertise when it comes to applying for and winning, EU research grants.

Second, **Interdisciplinary**:

And we have started embedding interdisciplinarity into the undergraduate curricula. Starting this September, all undergraduates will take an elective module outside their core course of study. We’re encouraging them to take a course outside their faculty – so science students might take, for instance ‘Cultures and Societies of the Middle East and North Africa’ – and humanities students might take ‘Cancer, the Patient Journey’ or ‘Vaccines, Friend or Foe’.

Third, **Global Relations**:

This is an area which Trinity has put a huge amount of work in over the past decade and I’m very proud of our results.

When I became President of Trinity I could see the opportunity afforded by globalisation for our students to go very far afield, further than Europe, and to spend meaningful periods abroad, not just a semester. And in turn, for Trinity to get global students whose experience would enrich the campus. And for our staff to develop international collaborations all around the world.

Our number of non-EU students coming to campus has almost trebled in eight years; we now have 24% international students. Regarding exchanges: to EU 398 under the Erasmus exchange programme, and 156 Non-EU University-wide exchanges, mainly US but also Asia. Overarching figure is 931 students outbound when all exchange types are included.

Our student outlook is absolutely global.

The fourth condition is a **strong regional ecosystem**.

We are lucky in Trinity. Successive governments have been highly business-focused and our country is an important ‘gateway’ state for multinational companies wishing to trade with the European Union.
Today Ireland is European headquarters to nine of the top ten global software companies, and nine of the top ten US technology companies, including Facebook, Twitter, and Google. And also headquarters to Medcare giants, Pfizer and Merck. The World Bank lists Dublin as one of the top 10 places in the world to do business.

Ireland’s innovation ecosystem and our unbeatable location within it has certainly been instrumental in our success with innovation.

Fifth, **Technology focus**

We’ve made a commitment to all students that they will graduate as ‘effective communicators’ – that includes not just the traditional sense of communication, face-to-face and through meetings, speeches and presentations - but communicating online and through social media and technology,

In Trinity, all our students do a piece of original research – they produce a thesis on something that no-one else has ever examined in quite that way. Traditionally this original research was handed in as a written dissertation, but we’re changing this - it may now take the form of a performance, a composition, a film, a piece of software or a product.

We cannot tie our students to old ways of doing things when new, exciting ways have opened up.

Students are early adopters and drivers of technology – so it can be a question of us trying to keep up with them, rather than teaching them!

Sixth is the **Student Experience or Extracurricular.**

This is another area where Trinity enjoys an historic advantage. We have always put focus on the student experience. The oldest student debating club in the world was founded in Trinity in 1770.

Today we have over 150 student societies and sports clubs – including every type of sport imaginable, and political, religious, language, cultural, recreational, charitable societies - you name it! If their interests aren’t represented by an existing society, students go ahead and create a new one.

Participation in clubs and societies involves students in fundraising, volunteering, leadership, strategizing team management – all skills which are essential for entrepreneurship.
The biggest growing field of student extracurricular is around innovation. This is because of the student accelerators we’ve put in place, which I will talk about now.

Now let’s turn to the seventh and final condition, **Create Innovation processes and pathways.**

I’m extremely conscious of the importance of having the right processes and pathways to facilitate innovation because the situation in Trinity ‘before’ and ‘after’ we did this was dramatic for student entrepreneurship.

About six years ago we started thinking about undergraduates. How could we release the innovation and entrepreneurial capacity of our students? How could we get them to start thinking about scaling up and funding and marketing their business ideas? We were sure they had wonderful ideas – we had to find a framework for them to work in.

And so LaunchBox was born. LaunchBox is an initiative to encourage student innovation and entrepreneurship. It’s open to all students in every discipline. LaunchBox is now part of Tangent, Trinity’s Ideas Workspace*.

Here are some images of Tangent. This takes up a whole floor of our brand-new Trinity Business School, as you can see.

![Tangent](https://www.tcd.ie/tangent/)

It’s a brilliant space.

* [https://www.tcd.ie/tangent/](https://www.tcd.ie/tangent/)
Let me go into some depth on Tangent and LaunchBox and the student companies that we have incubated.

Just like with our revised campus formation procedure, LaunchBox has been a remarkable success. Putting in place the right processes and pathways to support innovation has proved as transformative with students as with staff.
Within a year of being rolled out in 2014, LaunchBox was assessed by the international University Business Incubator Index as a ‘Top Challenger’ and placed just outside the world’s ‘Top 25’, from 800 student incubators assessed.

In its first four years, LaunchBox supported 38 student companies which went on to raise a total of €3.7 million in venture capital. Remember, these are purely student-run companies.

Typically, these companies represent a mix of disciplines and a mix between hardware, software, and physical products.

The college supports the student teams with office, or rather ideas space, with mentoring, access to investors.

Every year more than 50 student teams vie for a place on the programme at an annual pitch event. The process is highly competitive – this year the highest ever number – 12 – got through to the judging panel. Here are some of them*.

These teams will have a hard act to follow because some previous LaunchBox teams have been hugely successful.

Let me just expand on some of these companies, given in this booklet – there is a copy for everyone in the audience.

LaunchBox 2019 Teams

Bounce
For companies struggling to understand their customer, Bounce takes the guesswork out of marketing. We provide a smartphone solution to market research, allowing companies to reach the mobile generation. Unlike competitors, Bounce offers clients the ability to hyper-target their audience, allowing them to reach anyone, anywhere at any time.

EthiCart
EthiCart makes sustainability simple by providing a user-friendly app, with quick, easy to understand information around products sustainability and ethical standards. If you want to shop more sustainably but lack time to research and a place to get the information needed, EthiCart enables and empowers you to buy products that align with your values.

FloWaste
FloWaste is a waste analytics product that aims to reduce avoidable food waste in the hospitality and food sector. By giving users information on the type, amount, and source of the waste, FloWaste users can make informed decisions about their menu and shopping patterns to reduce waste and save money.

Jolt Analytics
For residents who want to save money and time, Jolt Analytics provides technology enabled smart saving services on your energy bills. Jolt Analytics services include a sensor and a Jolt app which enable you to monitor your utility spending, among other features.

KeepAppy
KeepAppy is the app that puts wellness into peoples pockets everywhere. With a combination of 8 different features, KeepAppy empowers users to engage in their full wellbeing potential. KeepAppy is a social enterprise, with a mission to destigmatise mental illness and reduce the number of lives lost to suicide each year.

Macalla
Between podcasters, radio presenters, musicians and sound technicians, Macalla aims to tackle the challenges facing new users who try and enter the world of sound. Macalla’s team has a over 5 years of AV production experience while also having a background in engineering, computer science, and business.
NeuronWoods

NeuronWoods is a Data Science and AI solutions company which operates on two business lines - Services and Products. NeuronWoods have launched their first product Al-logist, which is an AI assistant for radiologists.

Snaggletooth

Snaggletooth is an innovative toothbrush company devoted to fighting gum disease. Snaggletooth toothbrushes are like a dream date - handsome and smart - but it is when you get it home that you see all it has to offer!

Study.ie

Study is an aggregator of learning experiences that reduces the amount of steps someone needs to take in order to find learning that suits them. Study allows the individual to refine their search, compare and contrast offerings with their standardised offering layout, and ultimately make a booking or reserve their place.

Two White Socks

Traditional equestrian wear can be stiff, austere and lack colour. Not anymore! Two White Socks brings fun patterns and bright colours to the outfits of horse-riders, helping to brighten up their outfits (and lives). Designed for riders by riders, this game-changing equestrian apparel brand seeks to shake up rider wear for good.

The Homeless Wallet

The Homeless Wallet is dedicated to finding a way to facilitate cashless donation to people experiencing homelessness.

EcoSystem

The EcoSystem focuses on improving the efficiency of utilising existing space by providing secure and comfortable Japanese capsule style accommodation to homeless. In addition, the team is aiming to increase the accessibility of social care information through bringing all services under one roof.
**FoodCloud** is among the most famous student start-ups in the world. It featured in *Time* magazine. It was established with the aim of using technology to bridge the gap between food want and food waste. It links up retailers and restaurants to charities.

Established in 2013, today it employs over 30 people and works with over 9000 charitable organisations in Ireland and the UK. It has supplied over 50 million meals with food that would otherwise have been wasted.

Supermarkets and restaurants love the FoodCloud app! They get the marketing upside of not getting a reputation for destroying otherwise edible food AND Foodcloud’s price to take it away is cheaper than conventional disposal, so there is also a financial benefit.

**Armatix** is taking digital art creation to the next level. It’s a "deep tech" company in the AI space, at the forefront of complex computing. Founded in 2013, it received over €3m in innovation funding in 2018, and recently closed a €2.7m funding round. It employs 10 people in Dublin.

**Equine MediRecord** is an app and website that allows proper recording of medicines administered to racehorses and other bloodstock. Horse racing is a big deal in Ireland and the founder comes from a family that has raised horses for generations. This app has won a number of awards including the ‘Number One Draft Pick Startup Competition’ at the One Zero Conference (which is the largest sport technology conference in Europe). They are now planning on moving into the US market.

As you can gather, I’m very proud of the success of our student entrepreneurs.

Many of our students companies, including FoodCloud, the most famous, are social enterprises. Other social enterprises, incubated by LaunchBox, include Nu – an ethical clothing company and writing for Tiny, which is about creating stories for hospitalised children.

In this year’s cohort there are four social enterprises – Ethicart, FloWaste, KeepAppy and the Homeless Wallet.

I’m delighted to have that diversity – to be fostering all kinds of innovation on campus.
Conclusion

LaunchBox is only six years old. Tangent only opened in the new Trinity Business School this year. We only revised our campus company formation ten years ago, opening the floodgates for more spin-outs.

We are only at the start of our innovation story. The potential of our staff and students seem unlimited. It is tremendously exciting.

Undoubtedly student entrepreneurship is among the most exciting developments for universities for a century or more. It is a game-changer.

Our job as educators is to give you the opportunities to develop your ideas. If I have any take-home advice it’s to reprise what I’ve been saying already: draw on your interests, your use of technology, your friendships. Build up all of these. Like all creativity, innovation is personal. Your idea will come out of your particular circumstances, experience and perspective. It will be something that no-one else has thought of doing in quite that way. It will be something you own.

Thank you.
Provost Patrick Prendergast in the Innovation and Entrepreneurship class at Al Akhawayn University
Colleagues, Distinguished Guests,

Thank you for inviting me here today. It’s a pleasure to be here in this beautiful country. We arrived into Marrakesh on Tuesday and yesterday visited Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, and now here we are in Rabat and your wonderful university.

I’m particularly delighted to have been asked to talk to you about what I consider to be one of the three essential missions of the 21st century university: Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

My university, Trinity College Dublin, has put huge focus on innovation and Entrepreneurship over the past ten or twelve years and with great success: Trinity is now recognised as one of Europe’s leading universities for entrepreneurship.

I know that Mohammed V University is also putting great focus on innovation. I’ve had a look at your innovation mission and initiatives online* and I’m delighted to see that we share a broadly similar approach with focus on building industry partnerships and developing interdisciplinary research.

In particular, I’m most interested that you’re also planning an innovation district – or as you say, an Innovation City - and your university has signed an agreement with government to develop this. In Trinity we’re in exactly this position – I’ll be talking a little more about our plans for an Innovation District in Dublin.

In our time together this afternoon, I’d like to talk, first, about what I think are the best conditions for any university looking to develop innovation and entrepreneurship. And then I’ll hone in on Trinity and talk about the specific initiatives that we’ve put in place and what we’ve achieved.

* http://www.um5.ac.ma/um5r/content/innovation-et-transfert-0
But first, let me introduce myself.

* * *Personal Context* * *

As Professor has said, I’m the President of Trinity College Dublin, which is Ireland’s leading university and one of Europe’s leading universities. I was elected to this position eight years ago by the staff of the university, following an election campaign, in which I set out my manifesto. Innovation and Entrepreneurship featured strongly in my manifesto and I’m proud that we have delivered, and more, on this priority.

I’m a mechanical engineer by training and previous to taking on the presidency I was Professor of Bioengineering in Trinity. Bioengineering is of course a ‘compound discipline’ joining engineers and medical scientists. I was fortunate that it really began to take off in the 1990s when I was an Assistant Professor. I was there from the beginning and was decisively involved with the development of bioengineering in Irish universities and the growth of medtech in Ireland.

Bioengineering is responsible for a number of spin-outs in Trinity. It was great preparation for future policy-making around innovation to be involved with such a forward-looking field so early on.

Trinity is a multidisciplinary university with three faculties – arts, humanities and social sciences; engineering, science and mathematics; and health sciences. Many of our achievements, including innovation and entrepreneurship, comes from our dynamic multidisciplinarity.

My other interest is the environment - nature and cities. I grew up in a rural area of Ireland – and, probably because I’m an engineer, I’m particularly interested in man’s relationship with the environment and in how we could use our skills and technologies to live better in the planet.

My dream - which I hope to achieve when I’ve a little more time! - is to build an eco-house in the Irish countryside, which will be carbon neutral, with zero emissions and encouraging of pollination and biodiversity.

Again, I think this interest worth mentioning because I think it’s increasingly the case that we should encourage both students and professors to challenge disciplinary boundaries. Immersion in your discipline is essential but to gain new ideas and perspectives—genuinely innovative ideas – it helps to think beyond a single discipline.
Now let me turn to what I think are the best conditions for innovation in a university.

*

*Best conditions for fostering Innovation* *

Is it possible to identify the ideal conditions for a university that wants to excel at innovation? I've listed 7:

First, **Excellent Research**: In-depth research is the basis for university innovation. Your license and spin-outs are only as good as your research.

Universities that excel at research have excellent staff who are well-funded to pursue their research interests. There will be a balance between Investigator-led research and strategic research in large research centres.

Whatever way research funding works in a particular country, universities that want to excel at innovation must, in the first instance, focus on investing in excellent staff and must find ways to fund their research.

The second condition is enabling **Multi- and Interdisciplinarity research and education**: Today, the most exciting research happens at the interface of disciplines. Bioengineering, which I've just mentioned, is a case in point. And innovation happens in all disciplines - it's certainly not confined to science or health sciences.

A university with a particular focus on just a few disciplines can do good innovation but the radicalism that happens when disciplines knock against each other is certainly conducive to fresh ways of thinking.

The third conditions is **Global Relations** – we are living in an ever more globalised world so that the term ‘global village’ isn’t just a soundbite. In this world, a university that is inward-looking and doesn’t take account of global developments or forge global collaborations, will not succeed at innovation.

When I talk about a university developing Global relations I mean:
- One, having a global staff and student body, who come from all countries in the world, bringing their diverse skills and mindsets to the campus;
- Two, doing collaborative research with partner universities round the world and organising global student exchange programmes, and
Three, putting a focus on the global in the curricula – encouraging students to think beyond the local and domestic.

The fourth condition is that the university should be supported by a strong regional innovation ecosystem. A good innovation ecosystem means: business-friendly government policies and access to industries that are interested in partnering to commercialise research. It involves access to Venture Capital, and to a mentorship and support base.

The fifth condition is Technology-focus: technology keeps advancing all the time and universities have to advance in tandem. To be left behind technologically is to suffer relegation. Universities need dedicated departments and personnel to ensure that they are leveraging the opportunities of the latest technologies.

The sixth condition concerns student entrepreneurship and the Student Experience outside the classroom, what is also called the extracurricular. In college, learning happens as much outside as inside the lab, lecture-room or tutorial. This has always been the case but when it comes to being innovative and entrepreneurial, the most successful graduates are disruptive in the best way – they are creative about fundraising, networking, and presenting their ideas.

It would be wrong to think that we can teach entrepreneurship through tutorials and lectures alone - we can’t because it’s about culture. We need to provide space for students to learn from each other and from participation in non-academic activities. Universities that succeed best at innovation make space for the extracurricular.

The seventh and final condition is to Create the right Innovation processes and pathways. Innovation doesn’t just happen. It needs to be facilitated. Universities that are good at innovation help staff to license and commercialise, they set up pipelines with industry. They establish accelerator programmes. They have support staff dedicated to enabling innovation.

If these processes and pathways aren’t put in place, staff and students might still have great ideas – but they won’t be able to commercialise their ideas and innovate.

Now let me turn to Trinity. How successful have we been at creating the right conditions in my university?

* * *Trinity: the Seven Conditions* * *

Let’s proceed through the seven conditions, one by one:
First, **Research**: Research is the bedrock of everything we do in Trinity.

A few years ago we were invited to join LERU, the League of European Research Universities. This is a powerful EU research and education policy group of just 23 prestigious members including the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Heidelberg, Strasbourg, Zurich and KU Leuven.

And this slide shows our success with ERC grants relative to other LERU members. As you see, Trinity is placed 14th of the 23 LERU members in terms of winning ERC grants, which is good, but when it comes to ERC grants **per academic staff**, we are fourth – just behind Cambridge, Oxford, LMU Munich and KU Leuven.

Last year Trinity won **€100.6 million** in research funding. The significance of this figure isn’t just its size but the increase that it represents. In 2013 we won €74 million so we increased our research funding by a third, in five years.

How did we do this? We got very good at winning competitive EU grants. This slide demonstrates Trinity’s success nationally. As you see, Trinity has won half of all Irish European Research Council grants – even though we only have 17% of Ireland’s academic faculty.
The foundation of our success in innovation is our remarkable research staff and excellent support staff who provide expertise when it comes to applying for and winning, EU research grants. Second, **Interdisciplinary**

In Trinity we’ve organised our research into nineteen interdisciplinary research themes. Here they are.

**RESEARCH FOR IMPACT: Research Themes**

All these themes involve multiple disciplines. For instance – Research into Ageing means looking at the whole life experience of...
ageing people. That involves epidemiology, geriatric medicine, demography, social policy, psychology, economics, nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and technology-related sciences.

We understand the importance of providing physical locations for interdisciplinarity. We have five interdisciplinary research institutes – three of them housed in particularly wonderful buildings, I must say. Here they are:

This is Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute, the Trinity Long Room Hub, and is CRANN Institute for Nanoscience, Trinity College Institute for Neuroscience and the Trinity Translational Medicine Institute.

We’ve also started embedding interdisciplinarity into the undergraduate curricula. Starting this September, all undergraduates will take an elective module outside their core course of study. We're encouraging them to take a course outside their faculty – so science students might take, for instance ‘Cultures and Societies of the Middle East and North Africa’ – where they will learn of course about Moroccan history, culture and societies. And humanities students might take ‘Cancer, the Patient Journey’ or ‘Vaccines, Friend or Foe’.

By encouraging them to go outside their discipline, we are challenging them to move out of familiar, comfortable ways of thinking and seeing. This helps open their minds – it makes them more ‘innovation-ready’.
I should emphasize however, that as with many universities, interdisciplinarity is something we need to continue to get better at in Trinity. The way the university model has developed over hundreds of years is around single disciplines and departments. Breaking out of our silos isn’t easy.

Third, **Global Relations**

This is an area which Trinity has put a huge amount of work in over the past decade and I’m very proud of our results*.

When I became President of Trinity I could see the opportunity afforded by globalisation for our students to go very far afield, further than Europe, and to spend meaningful periods abroad. And in turn, for Trinity to get global students whose experience would enrich the campus. And for our staff to develop international collaborations all around the world.

So with my team I started to put in place a global relations strategy. We set up research partnerships and student exchange programmes with global universities: in the United States, Canada, Australia, China, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Russia, and in Egypt, Lebanon, Kuwait, UAE, and also now here in Morocco.

Here are some tables showing results:

As you see, we’ve seen steady growth of non-EU students coming to campus – it has almost trebled in eight years. And we’ve seen similar strong growth in non-EU research collaborations.

Our campus today has staff and students from all over the world and our curricula are international in focus. We have a Centre of Asian Studies and a Centre for Middle Eastern (and North Africa) Studies. We teach 17 languages including Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew, Japanese, Korean, and Turkish. Our research themes include International Development and Identities in Transformation. Our students spend time abroad in education programmes and internships.

We are an Irish university and proud of what we contribute to Ireland and the Dublin region, but our outlook is absolutely global.

The fourth condition is a **strong regional ecosystem**.

* Trinity Growing Globally, see [http://www.tara.tcd.ie/handle/2262/86423](http://www.tara.tcd.ie/handle/2262/86423)
In Ireland we have a highly-developed open economy, and deep historic links to the United States and Canada. Successive governments have been highly business-focused and our country is an important ‘gateway’ state for multinational companies wishing to trade with the European Union.

Today Ireland is European headquarters to nine of the top ten global software companies, and nine of the top ten US technology companies, including Facebook, Twitter, and Google. And also headquarters to Pharma giants, Pfizer and Merck. The World Bank lists Dublin as one of the top 10 places in the world to do business.

Trinity is located in the heart of Dublin city. We are ten minutes’ walk from the tech area where the tech giants have their headquarters. About six minutes’ walk from government buildings. Right beside museums, art galleries, restaurants, retail. Our location is a gift. This map shows the clusters around us.

Ireland’s innovation ecosystem and our unbeatable location within it has certainly been instrumental in our success with innovation.

I’ll now discuss our 60m euro University Bridge Fund.

Fifth, **Technology focus**

Technology increasingly underpins every one of our university activities – from student ID cards to ordering books in the library to booking sports facilities to launching campus campaigns. We’re synergising our activities through technology platforms.
We have made a commitment to all students that they will graduate as ‘effective communicators’ – that includes of course not just the traditional sense of communication - face-to-face and meetings, speeches and presentations - but also communicating online and through technology.

In Trinity, all our students do a piece of original research. Traditionally this was handed in as a written dissertation, but we’re changing this - it may now take the form of a performance, a composition, a film, a piece of software or a product.

We cannot tie our students to old ways of doing things when new, exciting ways have opened up.

Students are early adopters and drivers of technology – so it can be a question of us trying to keep up with them, rather than teaching them!

I should say that keeping ahead of technology is not easy, and there is room for improvement in Trinity. For instance, we have yet to fully exploit the potential of online education. We’ve developed a number of fully online postgraduate courses as well as MOOCs or Massive Online Open Courses, but this is an area where we can do more.

Sixth is the **Student Experience or Extracurricular**.

This is another area where Trinity enjoys an historic advantage. We have always put focus on the student experience.
Participation in clubs and societies involves students in fundraising, volunteering, leadership, strategizing, team management – all skills which are essential for entrepreneurship.

We try not to overload our students with coursework and to leave space on the timetable free for extracurricular. They won’t develop fully if they don’t get to explore outside the classroom.

The biggest growing field of student extracurricular is around innovation. This is because of the student accelerators we have put in place, which I will talk about now.

The seventh and final condition, Create Innovation processes and pathways.

I’m very conscious of the importance of having the right processes and pathways to facilitate innovation because the situation in Trinity ‘before’ and ‘after’ we did this was dramatic. Trinity went from creating less than one campus company a year between 1986 and 2008, to creating seven campus companies a year for the next five years. This booklet describes the transformation.

What changed? The impetus was a revision in our Technology Transfer Office’s procedures for the approval of campus company formation.
This slide shows the dramatic and steady growth in campus companies.

Today in Trinity we have 98 campus companies, which have raised €200 million in investment and revenue €1.2 billion in exports and created 3,000 plus jobs.

This success is thanks to our office, Trinity Research & Innovation, which supports commercialisation of research at every stage of the process. They help with:

- IP management
- Developing a Business model
- Identifying customers
- Building a Team and
- Engaging with investors.

It’s this hands-on, targeted, methodical support that has ensured success for our researchers looking to commercialise their research.

Spin-out companies are headed up by professors in departments and might involve postgrads. About six years ago we started thinking about undergraduates. How could we release their innovation and entrepreneurial capacity? How could we get them to start thinking about scaling up and funding and marketing their business ideas? We were sure they had wonderful ideas – we had to find a framework for them to work in.

And so LaunchBox was born. LaunchBox is an initiative to encourage student innovation and entrepreneurship. It’s open to all students in every discipline.

**LaunchBox**

Just like with our revised campus formation procedure, LaunchBox has been a remarkable success. Putting in place the right processes
and pathways to support innovation has proved as transformative with students as with staff.

Within a year of being rolled out, LaunchBox was assessed by the international University Business Incubator Index as a ‘Top Challenger’ and placed just outside the world’s ‘Top 25’, from 800 student incubators assessed.

Since its inception in 2013, LaunchBox has enabled the creation of 50 startups that have gone on to raise over €6 million euro. Remember, these are purely student-run companies.

Typically, the companies represent a mix of disciplines and a mix between hardware, software, and physical products. The college supports the student teams with office, or rather ideas space and with mentoring and access to investors.

Every year more than 50 student teams vie for a place on the programme. The process is highly competitive – this year the highest ever number – 12 – got through to the judging panel. Here are some of them: https://www.tcd.ie/tangent/accelerators/launchbox/launchbox-2019-team/

These teams will have a hard act to follow because some previous LaunchBox teams have been hugely successful.
To take two examples: FoodCloud is among the most famous student start-ups in the world. It featured in Time magazine. It was established with the aim of using technology to bridge the gap between food want and food waste. It links up retailers and restaurants to charities.

Established in 2013, today it employs over 30 people and works with over 9000 charitable organisations in Ireland and the UK. It has supplied over 50 million meals with food that would otherwise have been wasted.

Supermarkets and restaurants love the FoodCloud app! They get the marketing upside of not getting a reputation for destroying otherwise edible food AND Foodcloud’s price to take it away is cheaper than conventional disposal, so there is also a financial benefit.

And Artomatix is taking digital art creation to the next level. It’s a "deep tech" company in the AI space, at the forefront of complex computing. Founded in 2013, it received over €3m in innovation funding in 2018, and recently closed a €2.7m funding round. It employs 10 people in Dublin.

* * * Success* * *

To summarise, we’ve focussed strongly on all seven ‘conditions for innovation’ in Trinity.

What has this meant for the university? How successful have we been?

This begs the question, what does success look like? How can we measure how well a university succeeds at innovation and entrepreneurship?

It’s important not to measure too narrowly. There are a number of metrics to consider.

The first metric is of course, commercialisation of research.

I’ve already established Trinity’s success in this domain: 98 campus companies raising €200 million in investment, 50 student companies raising €6 million.

And between 2014 and 2018, we agreed 112 licence agreements, 91 patents, 286 Invention disclosures, and over 450 collaborative agreements with Industry.
For a faculty of 3000, these figures are excellent, I believe.

Let’s turn to the next metric:

When it comes to innovation, then at least as important as how well your staff are commercialising research, is what your graduates are doing? Are they entrepreneurial and innovative? Are they out there creating successful companies and being creative about their ideas?

As it happens, the entrepreneurial success of Trinity graduates has been measured – not by us, but by international research firm, Pitchbook, who for the past four years have made an evaluation of undergraduate alumni who go on to create companies that secure first round venture capital funding. Trinity has been rated the number one university in Europe for educating entrepreneurs, every year for the past four years. Trinity is the only European university in PitchBook’s global Top 50.

Let’s turn to the third metric, which is about embedding innovation and entrepreneurship into the university’s mission. The question to ask yourselves is: Has innovation and entrepreneurship changed the way that we educate and research?

I believe that in Trinity it has. Our focus on innovation and entrepreneurship has translated into a new 21st century approach to research and education. To illustrate, let me close with three initiatives, one that we’ve just completed, and two that we will deliver in a few years’ time:

A few months ago we opened the new purpose-build Trinity Business School on campus. Here it is.

It’s a really wonderful building – with the largest auditorium on campus. It’s near zero-energy, with solar panels, green walls, recycled water and fresh air flow. It’s co-located with TANGENT, our innovation and entrepreneurship hub.

Tangent, is where our student accelerator, LaunchBox, that I’ve just mentioned, is located.

The Trinity Business School raises our game in terms of business education and research. And as we made clear from the outset, the new School isn’t just for business staff and students. It’s for the whole university.
Co-locating them in this way gets across that innovation and entrepreneurship is a skill that all students should develop.

The second initiative I’d like to mention is our new Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies Institute, or E3 as we call it. Work has started on this and it will be built in two phases over the next few years.

E3 will harness new methods of learning and research at the frontiers of disciplines to educate new kinds of engineers and scientists prepared for the challenges of the 21st century workplace. It will partner with industry and NGOs to help meet emerging opportunities in energy and engineering design, while sustaining the earth’s natural capital.
E3 will showcase a new approach to STEM education. It will be transformative both in terms of content – with more focus on the challenges of sustaining the earth’s resources – and in terms of methods and teaching techniques.

Students of engineering, natural sciences and computer science will learn from each other to develop innovative solutions towards, for instance, renewable energy, personalised data, water, connectivity and sustainable manufacturing.

E3 is a hugely ambitious initiative. We would not have had the confidence and the inspiration to launch this were it not for our great success with the ‘seven conditions for innovation’.

Being research-focussed, interdisciplinary and global; prioritising the student experience and technology usage; being part of a strong regional innovation ecosystem and putting in place the right pathways and processes – all this has changed the way we think about our mission. It has raised our ambition.

When the E3 research Institute is built it will be located in a new Trinity tech campus, ten minutes’ walk from our main campus. This will be the lynchpin of the new Grand Canal Innovation District.

You’re planning your own Innovation City I know, so I don’t have to go into any explanation of what this will be.

A new innovation district, with a new university campus at its heart, is a vital step in enabling Dublin to be ranked as a top 20 global city for innovation. Trinity has already signed an agreement
with government and other Dublin universities and business stakeholders to develop this.

With a second Trinity campus at the Grand Canal Innovation District, we will be further enriching the ecosystem and increasing the synergy between the university and the city.

The Grand Canal Innovation District will play a crucial role for Dublin and for all Ireland, connecting to global networks and promoting all types of innovation.

* * *Conclusion* * *

Of these initiatives, the Trinity Business School and E3 have been enabled by alumni. We reached out to our graduates asking them to support these ground-breaking projects which would be game-changers for Trinity and Ireland and for global education and research. Our graduates were responsive. They were hugely generous. Without them, we could not have built the new Business School and we would not have started work designing and building E3.

This makes the Business School and E3 community initiatives in the truest sense. They are enabled by the global Trinity community of high-achieving graduates.

And that is the message I would like to end on: the importance of community, the difference graduates can make. Perhaps I should make this the eighth condition for innovation and entrepreneurship: create a community around your university, keep your graduates connected in, keep telling inspiring stories of what your staff, students and graduates achieve, and the difference your research makes.

Great things happen when people come together. We cannot innovate alone; it takes an ecosystem. A university that is performing at its highest level and embedded in its city and region and involving its whole global community of graduates creates an ecosystem around it. That is when discovery happens.

Thank you.

* * *
Provost Patrick Prendergast & Professor Mohammed Rhachi, *le Président de l’Université Mohammed V de Rabat* before the lecture at the university.
Thank you, Geraldine*, and good afternoon, everyone

It’s my pleasure to welcome you to the Provost Professional Staff Awards, which recognise the contribution of exceptional professional staff, including all administrative, technical and support staff.

The awards were inaugurated in 2016 to create a formal process to acknowledge outstanding contributions. They’re our opportunity to celebrate professional staff whose hard work, creativity and dedication are a key element in the success of the university. The awards allow us to capture and promote enhancement initiatives that make a decisive difference to the whole university, but which may not always be known or recognised beyond the local area particular unit or department.

These awards are part of Trinity’s approach to recognising staff, which began with the Provost Teaching Awards in 2001, to recognise exceptional educators, and now include the Global Engagement Awards inaugurated in 2015 to recognise staff making exceptional contributions to global education, cultural understanding and global experiences.

I’m delighted that our university has put in place these formal means to recognise staff. 3,400 people work in Trinity and over half are professional staff doing vital work. It goes without saying that there would be no Trinity College without our professional and support staff.

Our current Strategic Plan states (I quote) that

“Trinity’s position as a university of global consequence will only continue to be secured by academic, administrative, and support staff capable of delivering our mission”.

The Provost Professional Staff Awards recognise those who have performed exceptionally to help us deliver our mission.

* Geraldine Ruane, Chief Operating Officer
We have created three categories of award:

- **Enhancing the Trinity Experience Award**
  This is presented to an **individual or team** demonstrating exceptional service and commitment to the University and our visitors.

- **Individual Leadership Award**
  This is presented to an **individual** who demonstrates outstanding leadership skills that have a positive impact on a team; and

- **Outstanding Colleague Award**
  This is presented to an **individual** who delivers outstanding service to the Trinity Community.

As you know, staff are invited to nominate colleagues. The nomination process is fairly lengthy and rigorous, involving a form and a letter of support, which then goes to a selection committee, consisting of myself, the Dean of Students, the Presidents of the SU and of the Graduates Students Union, representatives of our academic and professional staff, and an external reviewer, Dr Claire Bohan from DCU.

It’s necessary that the process be rigorous and comprehensive. I know that the process of nominating and writing letters of support involves further commitment in an already full workload so I really appreciate the response:

- We’ve received 119 nominations for 304 people – some of the nominations are for teams.
- 450 people wrote letters of support.
- Nominations came from academics, students and professional staff on behalf of all levels of professional staff in all of the faculties and divisions in Trinity.
- There were nominations from 18 schools and across all areas.

I’m delighted that so many people are engaging with these awards. The level of response shows that people value these awards and are happy to have this means of recognising colleagues who care for the future of Trinity and perform exceptionally.

I’d like to thank those involved in organising, particularly Louise Power and Lorraine Sheils from the Learning and Development team.

* * *

Now let’s turn to the nominations, shortlists and winners in the three categories. As I’ve said, there are 119 nominations, so I’m
afraid we don’t have time to read out all the names – although all nominees, individuals and teams, will receive a certificate.

There are 37 shortlisted across the three categories and nine winners. We invite all the shortlisted to come and receive a framed certificate and the winners to receive their award.

In the first category, **Enhancing the Trinity Experience Award**, we have 39 nominations, 12 shortlisted and four winners. The 12 shortlisted are, in alphabetical order:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Registry Student Case Team</th>
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<tr>
<td>Anatomy CTO Donor Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Botany Technical Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Intelligence Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Coull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne-Maire Diffley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Eustace-Cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin McAndrew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martina Mullin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorraine Norton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eimear Rouine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science Course Office</td>
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I congratulate all. To be nominated is a significant achievement and a mark of your colleagues’ respect; to be shortlisted is a recognition of really exceptional work.

The four winners are:

<table>
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<th>Anatomy CTO Donor Programme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anne-Maire Diffley, Library Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin McAndrew, Senior Tutor’s Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martina Mullin, Health Promotion Officer</td>
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The second category is the **Individual Leadership Award**. Here there were 11 nominees, all of them shortlisted:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lorraine Byrne</th>
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<tr>
<td>Colette Ding</td>
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<td>Bernadette Gavagan</td>
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<td>Carol Heeney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Keane</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosie King</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carlos Mandolesi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mona Pigott</td>
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</table>
I congratulate and thank all of you for your wonderful work. I invite the two winners to receive their award:

- Lisa Keane, Trinity Access Programme
- Aine Wade, School of Medicine

The third category is the **Outstanding Colleague Award**. Here there were a remarkable 69 nominations, of which fourteen were shortlisted:

- Sinead Browne
- Shane Doggett
- Robbie Gallagher
- Pamela Hennessy
- Maura Horan
- Catherine Kelly
- Oonagh Kinsman
- Marie-Pierre Lavergne
- Kieran Lewis
- Ann Matthews
- Louise Power
- Philomena Smith
- David Sullivan
- Liza Toye

My congratulations to you all. The three winners are:

- Sinead Browne, Provost’s Office
- Kieran Lewis, Disability Service
- David Sullivan, Genetics Department

And my thanks to all of you who took the time and trouble to nominate colleagues. I hope that the process of nomination served to reinforce your appreciation of the importance of the work you do.

Speaking on behalf of the Selection Committee, we have found it most rewarding to be apprised of the many initiatives on-going in the university, which enable us all to deliver on our great mission. And it’s inspiring to be able to recognise you here this afternoon.

Thank you.
(L to R) Provost Patrick Prendergast, Siobhan Ward (Anatomy), Anne-Marie Diffley (Library), Martina Mullen (College Health), David Sullivan (Genetics) Martin McAndrew (Postgraduate Advisory Service), Sinead Browne (Provost’s Office), Philomena McAteer (Anatomy)
Good afternoon, everyone,

I hope you’ve been enjoying a really great day. I’m sorry that my schedule didn’t permit me to attend more and hear the keynotes and the Headstart pitches, but I’m glad to have this time with you now.

This is an event I particularly wanted to attend because innovation around healthcare is one of my personal research interests – previous to being elected Provost I was Professor of Bioengineering so I’ve great experience with the medical devices industry in Ireland and Europe.

I’m also on the governing board of the EIT, and have been since 2012. It’s been a privilege to be part of the ambitious team which has helped the EIT to start to deliver on its mission to achieve a step change in innovation in Europe – to build networks across the continent and so create a pan-European innovation ecosystem.

The EIT thinks big – and it is having effect. The KICs are particularly flexible and successful. I’m delighted that Trinity is such an enthusiastic participant. As has probably already been mentioned today, Trinity participates in 29 EIT Health projects in total, of which 15 as Lead Partner. And we are active in all three programme areas or ‘pillars’ in EIT Health – innovation, campus and accelerator.

In Trinity we characterise our mission in education, research and innovation as interdependent: what we educate determines what we research and how we innovate, and what we research feeds back into how we educate. Like the EIT, we think the key to a dynamic economy and a high-performing third level sector is interaction between universities, research bodies, businesses, entrepreneurs, investors, government, employers and graduates.

To this end, we take a full and comprehensive view of our mission. We want staff and students to combine a deep understanding of their discipline with an awareness of how to use that understanding to engage with, and contribute to, our 21st century world.
That means encouraging students to develop their skills inside and outside the classroom in order to prepare them for global careers and engaged citizenship. And it means provide opportunities for students and staff to research and innovate – to apply their knowledge to real-life situations, to commercialise their research and extend their learning and experience by working and studying abroad and building global networks and partnerships.

In Trinity we believe all research and disciplines have the potential for innovation. Tangent, Trinity’s Ideas space, where we are now, is open to staff and students from all three faculties.

Europe has such huge potential. We are a wealthy, dynamic, innovative continent, a single market with high standards of human rights, consumer protections and equality legislation. Europe is high-performing. But by creating more collaborative pathways, we can bring about more innovation and creativity - encouraging business interactions across our borders to create jobs and open up opportunities.

In one of the first speeches I made as an EIT board member, back in 2013, in Vilnius, I said that a company in north Europe should be able to recruit easily from universities in southern Europe; and entrepreneurs in eastern Europe should be able to interest investors in west Europe.

The EIT’s mission is to make this happen. I believe all partners involved – governments, businesses, entrepreneurs, investors, universities, research bodies, employers, graduates – are committed to this mission because we understand the benefits, which are cultural and environmental, as well as economic.

I continue to hope and believe, that whatever happens with Brexit, the UK will remain the closest of partners. The EIT, Horizon2020, the European Research Area have benefitted hugely from UK membership. Something so important, with so many advantages and no downside, must be safeguarded.

* * *

As everyone knows, a flourishing innovation ecosystem depends on having a pipeline of new companies, products and services constantly coming on stream. Early intervention to support start-ups is crucial, hence the importance of EIT Health’s aptly named Headstart programme.

You’ve been hearing pitches from Headstart teams all day.
And with the ‘Audience Award’ you’ve been given the chance to participate and make your choice. I’ve no doubt that deciding which of these teams impressed you most was difficult – I’ve had a look at the different entrants and the quality is so high – each has identified an important medical need and come up with an ingenious solution. Four of the 22 finalists are Trinity-linked. I’m particularly proud of them, of course, but I congratulate all the nominees. Collectively, they enhance EIT Health – their solutions are proof of the importance of having this means of furthering European innovation.

It’s my pleasure now to present the Audience Award to one of our Headstart teams.

And the winner is...

[Present award]
Good afternoon,

And welcome, everyone, to Trinity’s first ever Research Excellence Strategy and Research Charter.

Research and scholarship is at the heart of all we do in Trinity College. Our ground-breaking contributions to knowledge goes around the world, whether in the form of books, or inventions, or medical breakthroughs, or new ideas or products.

Trinity research has changed the way that people think and act. It has inspired generations of staff and students to achieve and excel.

Just this week, Trinity’s ground-breaking research made headlines with the report of the discovery of researchers, here in St James’, under Principal Investigator Dr Margaret Dunne, of the potential use of a particular type of T-Cells – called MAIT cells – in new treatments for oesophageal cancer.

Such headlines about Trinity research and spin-outs, or student start-ups, or outstanding books or lectures by staff are, by now, a constant.

Research excellence drives our mission in education, innovation and public engagement. We put focus on basic and applied research, and, very importantly, we prioritise the resourcing of research.

In the Research Excellence Strategy, which we’re launching today, we include a table breaking down the sources of research funding over the five years from 2011 to 2017. It’s very interesting to study. What it shows is that Irish State support to our research remained fairly steady over the five years – it took a dive in 2013/14, but otherwise, we received the same amount in state research funding, €66 million, in 2017 as we did in 2011.
Where we've made really significant gains is in EC funding, industry funding and what we call ‘other’, which includes philanthropy and commercial activities. It’s our success with all these that has allowed us to pull ahead.

* * *

Research excellence drives our mission in education, innovation and public engagement. When Trinity makes headlines with a new spin-out – as we did this week with the sustainable X-ray marker, Combimark2 – or when our students win awards, or our academics engage with public policy and social issues in conferences or the media – all this comes out of our foundation of research excellence.

By creating the *first ever* formal Research Strategy and Charter in the history of the university, we are reaffirming that research and scholarship are at the heart of everything we do. Just like the heart pumps blood around the body and to all the major organs, we are explicitly linking research to the key priority areas for the university, including:

- Education
- Recruiting and fostering talent
- Collaborations with industry and peer institutions
- Public engagement and communication.

I’m impressed at the coherence and link-up across the Research Excellence Strategy and Charter. Everything is contextualised within the wider Irish and global landscape. Mission is clearly linked to goals and actions. Any reader of this Strategy and Charter can see at a glance where our priorities lie, and how our research strategy links to, for instance, staff recruitment or Trinity’s digital strategy.

* * *

I congratulate Linda Doyle and her team, and all involved in putting together this Strategy and Charter – very many people, I know, were part of the year-long and comprehensive consultation across the college.

The Strategy and Charter represent a really formidable achievement – they position research, set ambitious targets and clarify thinking. We are currently putting together our next Strategic Plan, which will run 2019 to 2024. Both the Research Strategy and Charter will be invaluable in bringing direction, coherence and link-up to the Strategic Plan.
I thank all of you for the work you’ve put in. By progressing Trinity on its journey as a great global research university, you are helping to inspire generations to come.

Thank you.

*   *   *

Orla Sheils (Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences), Ann Dalton (Deputy CEO, St James’s Hospital), Provost Patrick Prendergast, Linda Doyle (Dean of Research), Rose Anne Kenny, Professor of Geriatric Medicine & Director of MISA
Dar es Salaam university address: “Embedding Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the University”

University Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Colleagues, Distinguished Guests,

Thank you for inviting me here today. It’s a pleasure to be here in this beautiful country and I’m delighted to have this opportunity to talk to you about what I consider to be one of the three essential missions of the 21st century university: Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

My university, Trinity College Dublin, has put huge focus on innovation and Entrepreneurship over the past ten or twelve years and with great success: Trinity is now recognised as one of Europe’s leading innovation universities.

I know that the University of Dar es Salaam is also putting great focus on ‘facilitating entrepreneurship and demand-driven innovation’.

In our time together this afternoon, I’d like to talk, first, about what I think are the best conditions for any university looking to develop innovation and entrepreneurship. And then I’ll focus in on Trinity and talk about the specific initiatives that we’ve put in place and what we’ve achieved.

But first, let me introduce myself.

* * *Personal Context* * *

I’m the President, or Provost as we call it, of Trinity College Dublin, which is Ireland’s leading university and one of Europe’s leading universities. I was elected to this position eight years ago by the staff of the university, following an election campaign, in which I set out my manifesto of how I intended to lead. Innovation and Entrepreneurship featured strongly in my manifesto and I’m proud that we have delivered, and more, on my priorities.

* https://www.udsm.ac.tz/web/index.php/directorates/udiec
I’m a mechanical engineer by training and previous to taking on the presidency I was Professor of Bioengineering in Trinity. Bioengineering is of course a ‘compound discipline’ joining engineers and medical scientists. I was fortunate that it really began to take off in the 1990s when I was an Assistant Professor. I was there from the beginning and was decisively involved with the development of bioengineering in Irish universities and the growth of medtech in Ireland.

Bioengineering is responsible for a number of spin-outs in Trinity. It was great preparation for future policy-making around innovation to be involved with such a forward-looking field so early on.

Trinity is a multidisciplinary university with three faculties – arts, humanities and social sciences; engineering, science and mathematics; and health sciences. So much of what we achieve in the university, including innovation and entrepreneurship, comes from our dynamic multidisciplinarity.

My other interest is the environment - nature and cities. I grew up in a rural area of Ireland – and, probably because I’m an engineer, I’m particularly interested in man’s relationship with the environment and in how we could use our skills and technologies to live better in the planet. My dream - which I hope to achieve when I’ve a little more time! - is to build an eco-house in the Irish countryside, which will be carbon neutral, with zero emissions and encouraging of pollination and biodiversity.

Again, I think this interest worth mentioning because I think it’s increasingly the case that we should encourage both students and professors to challenge disciplinary boundaries. Immersion in your discipline is essential but to gain new ideas and perspectives – genuinely innovative ideas – it helps to think beyond a single discipline.

Now let me turn to what I think are the best conditions for innovation in a university.

* * *Best conditions for fostering Innovation* * *

I’ve identified seven conditions which I think universities should put in place if they want to excel at innovation. These are:

First, **Research**: In-depth research is the basis for university innovation. Your license and spin-outs are only as good as your research.
Universities that excel at research have excellent staff who are well-funded to pursue their research interests. There should be a balance between investigator-led research and strategic research in large research centres.

Universities that want to excel at innovation must, in the first instance, focus on investing in excellent staff and must find ways to fund their research.

The second condition is enabling **Multi- and Interdisciplinarity research and education**: Today, the most exciting research happens at the interface of disciplines. Bioengineering, which I've just mentioned, is a case in point. And innovation happens in all disciplines - it’s certainly not confined to science or health sciences.

A university with a particular focus on just a few disciplines can do good innovation but the radicalism that happens when disciplines knock against each other is certainly conducive to fresh ways of thinking.

The third condition is **Global Relations** – we are living in an ever more globalised world so that the term ‘global village’ isn’t just a soundbite. In this world, a university that is inward-looking and doesn’t take account of global developments or forge global collaborations, will not succeed at innovation.

When I talk about a university developing Global relations I mean:
- One, having a global staff and student body, who come from all countries in the world, bringing their diverse skills and mindsets to the campus;
- Two, doing collaborative research with partner universities round the world and organising global student exchange programmes, and
- Three, putting a focus on the global in the curricula – encouraging students to think beyond the local and domestic.

The fourth condition is that the university should be supported by a **strong regional innovation ecosystem**. A good innovation ecosystem means: business-friendly government policies and access to industries that are interested in partnering to commercialise research. It involves access to venture capital and to a mentorship and support base.

The fifth condition is **Technology-focus**: technology keeps advancing all the time and universities have to advance in tandem. To be left behind technologically is to suffer relegation. Universities
need dedicated departments and personnel to ensure that they are leveraging the opportunities of the latest technologies.

The sixth condition concerns the **Student Experience outside the classroom**, what is also called the **extracurricular**. In college, learning happens as much outside as inside the lab, lecture-room or tutorial. This has always been the case but when it comes to being innovative and entrepreneurial, the most successful graduates are disruptive in the best way – they are creative about fundraising, networking, and presenting their ideas.

It would be wrong to think that we can teach entrepreneurship through tutorials and lectures alone. We can’t because it’s about culture. We need to provide space for students to learn from each other and from participation in non-academic activities. Universities that succeed best at innovation make space for the extracurricular.

The seventh and final condition is to **Create the right Innovation processes and pathways**. Innovation doesn’t just happen. It needs to be facilitated. Universities that are good at innovation help staff to license and commercialise, they set up pipelines with industry. They establish student accelerator programmes. They have support staff dedicated to enabling innovation.

If these processes and pathways aren’t put in place, staff and students might still have great ideas – but they won’t be able to commercialise their ideas and innovate.

To recap: the seven conditions I’ve identified as essential for a university hoping to excel at innovation are:

- Excellent Research
- Interdisciplinarity
- Global relations
- A strong regional ecosystem
- Technology-focus
- Focus on the Student Experience, or Extracurricular, and
- Create the right innovation processes and pathways

Now let me turn to Trinity. How successful have we been at creating the right conditions in my university?

* * *Trinity: the Seven Conditions* * *

Let’s proceed through the seven conditions, one by one:

First, **Research**:
Research is the bedrock of everything we do in Trinity. A few years ago we were invited to join LERU, the League of European Research Universities. This is a powerful EU research and education policy group of just 23 prestigious members including the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Heidelberg, Paris-Sud, Zurich and KU Leuven.

Last year Trinity won **€100.6 million** in research funding. The significance of this figure isn't just its size but the increase that it represents. In 2013 we won €74 million so we increased our research funding by a third, in five years.

How did we do this? We got very good at winning competitive EU grants. This slide demonstrates Trinity’s success nationally. As you see, Trinity has won half of all Irish European Research Council grants – even though we only have 17% of Ireland’s academic faculty.

The foundation of our success in innovation is our remarkable research staff and excellent support staff who provide expertise when it comes to applying for and winning, EU research grants.

Second, **Interdisciplinary**

In Trinity we’ve organised our research into nineteen interdisciplinary research themes. Here they are.

All these themes involve multiple disciplines. For instance – Research into Ageing means looking at the whole life experience of ageing people. That involves epidemiology, geriatric medicine, demography, social policy, psychology, economics, nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and technology-related sciences.

We understand the importance of providing physical locations. We have five interdisciplinary research institutes – three of them housed in particularly wonderful buildings, I must say. Here they are:

This is Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute. This is the Trinity Long Room Hub and this is CRANN Institute for Nanoscience, the Trinity College Institute for Neuroscience and the Trinity Translational Medicine Institute.

We’ve also started embedding interdisciplinarity into the undergraduate curricula. Starting this September, all undergraduates will take an elective module outside their core course of study. We’re encouraging them to take a course outside
their faculty – so science students might take, for instance ‘Cultures and Societies of the Middle East and North Africa’. And humanities students might take ‘Cancer, the Patient Journey’ or ‘Vaccines, Friend or Foe’.

By encouraging them to go outside their discipline, we are challenging them to move out of familiar, comfortable ways of thinking and seeing. This helps open their minds – it makes them more ‘innovation-ready’.

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This is an area which Trinity has put a huge amount of work in over the past decade and I’m very proud of our results.

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Here are some tables showing results:

As you see, we’ve seen steady growth of non-EU students coming to campus – it has almost trebled in eight years. And we’ve seen similar strong growth in non-EU research collaborations.

Our campus today has staff and students from all over the world and our curricula are international in focus. We have a Centre of Asian Studies and a Centre for Middle Eastern Studies, and we have the Trinity International Development Initiative (TIDI).

Our research themes include International Development and Identities in Transformation. Because these are cross-disciplinary themes, they involve many schools and departments. Our School of Law, for instance, has collaborated with the Faculty of Law here in the University of Dar es Salaam, to organise a programme on
Constitutionalism for the Judiciary of Tanzania*. Also, Professor in Engineering Laurence Gill, 2016-2018, ran an international humanitarian innovation academy – a student led and staff steered initiative involving an innovation and entrepreneurship summer school on water and sanitation with UDSM. And Professor Susan Murphy works together with colleagues from UDSM on the GATE Project on gender awareness and transformation through education.

We are an Irish university and proud of what we contribute to Ireland and the Dublin region, but our outlook is absolutely global.

The fourth condition is a strong regional ecosystem.

We are lucky in Trinity. Ireland is an English-speaking nation, with a highly-developed open economy, and deep historic links to the United States and Canada. Successive governments have been highly business-focused and our country is an important ‘gateway’ state for multinational companies wishing to trade with the European Union.

Today Ireland is European headquarters to nine of the top ten global software companies, and nine of the top ten US technology companies, including Facebook, Twitter, and Google. And also headquarters to Medcare giants, Pfizer and Merck. The World Bank lists Dublin as one of the top 10 places in the world to do business.

Trinity is located in the heart of Dublin city. We are ten minutes’ walk from the tech area where the tech giants have their headquarters. About six minutes’ walk from government buildings. Right beside museums, art galleries, restaurants, retail. Our location is a gift. This map shows the clusters around us.

Ireland’s innovation ecosystem and our unbeatable location within it has certainly been instrumental in our success with innovation.

I’ll now discuss our €60 million euro University Bridge Fund.

Fifth, Technology focus

Technology increasingly underpins every one of our university activities – from student ID cards to ordering books in the library to booking sports facilities to launching campus campaigns. We’re synergising our activities through technology platforms.

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We have made a commitment to all students that they will graduate as ‘effective communicators’ – that includes of course not just the traditional sense of communication - face-to-face and meetings, speeches and presentations - but also communicating online and through technology.

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We cannot tie our students to old ways of doing things when new, exciting ways have opened up.

Students are early adopters and drivers of technology – so it can be a question of us trying to keep up with them, rather than teaching them!

I should say that keeping ahead of technology is no easy feat and there is room for improvement in Trinity. For instance, we have yet to fully exploit the potential of online education. We’ve developed a number of fully online postgraduate courses as well as MOOCs or Massive Online Open Courses, but this is an area where we can do more.

Sixth is the **Student Experience or Extracurricular.**

This is another area where Trinity enjoys an historic advantage. We have always put focus on the student experience.

Today we have over 150 student societies and sports clubs – including every type of sport and societies that are political, religious, linguistic, cultural, charitable - you name it! If their interests aren’t represented by an existing club, students go ahead and create a new club.

Participation in clubs and societies involves students in fundraising, volunteering, leadership, strategizing, team management – all skills which are essential for entrepreneurship.

We try not to overload our students with coursework and to leave space on the timetable free for extracurricular. They won’t develop fully if they don’t get to explore outside the classroom.

The biggest growing field of student extracurricular is around innovation. This is because of the student accelerators we have put in place, which I will talk about now.
The seventh and final condition, Create Innovation processes and pathways.

I’m very conscious of the importance of having the right processes and pathways to facilitate innovation because the situation in Trinity ‘before’ and ‘after’ we did this was dramatic. Trinity went from creating less than one campus company a year between 1986 and 2008, to creating seven campus companies a year for the next five years. This booklet describes the transformation.

What changed? The impetus was a revision in our Technology Transfer Office’s procedures for the approval of campus company formation.

This slide show the dramatic and steady growth in campus companies.

Today in Trinity we have 98 campus companies, which have raised €200 million in investment and revenue €1.2 billion in exports and created 3,000 plus jobs.

This success is thanks to our office, Trinity Research & Innovation, which supports commercialisation of research at every stage of the process. They help with:

- IP management
- Developing a Business model
- Identifying customers
- Building a Team and
- Engaging with investors.

It’s this hands-on, targeted, methodical support that has ensured success for our researchers looking to commercialise their research.

Spin-out companies are headed up by professors in departments and might involve postgrads. About six years ago we started thinking about undergraduates. How could we release their innovation and entrepreneurial capacity? How could we get them to start thinking about scaling up and funding and marketing their business ideas? We were sure they had wonderful ideas – we had to find a framework for them to work in.

And so LaunchBox was born. LaunchBox is an initiative to encourage student innovation and entrepreneurship. It’s open to all students in every discipline.
Just like with our revised campus formation procedure, LaunchBox has been a remarkable success. Putting in place the right processes and pathways to support innovation has proved as transformative with students as with staff.

Within a year of being rolled out, LaunchBox was assessed by the international University Business Incubator Index as a ‘Top Challenger’ and placed just outside the world’s ‘Top 25’, from 800 student incubators assessed.

Since its inception in 2013, LaunchBox has enabled the creation of 50 startups that have gone on to raise over €6 million euro. Remember, these are purely student-run companies.

Typically, the companies represent a mix of disciplines and a mix between hardware, software, and physical products. The college supports the student teams with office, or rather ideas space and with mentoring and access to investors.

Every year more than 50 student teams vie for a place on the programme. The process is highly competitive – this year the highest ever number – 12 – got through to the judging panel. Here are some of them:

These teams will have a hard act to follow because some previous LaunchBox teams have been hugely successful. Slide

To take two examples: **FoodCloud** is among the most famous student start-ups in the world. It featured in time magazine. It was established with the aim of using technology to bridge the gap between food want and food waste. It links up retailers and restaurants to charities.

Established in 2013, today it employs over 30 people and works with over 9000 charitable organisations in Ireland and the UK. It has supplied over 50 million meals with food that would otherwise have been wasted.

Supermarkets and restaurants love the FoodCloud app! They get the marketing upside of not getting a reputation for destroying otherwise edible food AND Foodcloud’s price to take it away is cheaper than conventional disposal, so there is also a financial benefit.

And **Artomatix** is taking digital art creation to the next level. It’s a “deep tech” company in the AI space, at the forefront of complex computing. Founded in 2013, it received over €3m in innovation funding in 2018, and recently closed a €2.7m funding round. It employs 10 people in Dublin.
To summarise, we’ve focussed strongly on all seven ‘conditions for innovation’ in Trinity.

What has this meant for the university? How successful have we been?

This begs the question, what does success look like? How can we measure how well a university succeeds at innovation and entrepreneurship?

It’s important not to measure too narrowly. There are a number of metrics to consider.

The first metric is of course, commercialisation of research.

I’ve already established Trinity’s success in this domain: 98 campus companies raising €200 million in investment, 50 student companies raising €6 million.

And between 2014 and 2018, we agreed 112 licence agreements, 91 patents, 286 Invention disclosures, and over 450 collaborative agreements with Industry.

For a faculty of 3000, these figures are excellent, I believe.

Let’s turn to the next metric:

When it comes to innovation, then at least as important as how well your staff are commercialising research, is what your graduates are doing? Are they entrepreneurial and innovative? Are they out there creating successful companies and being creative about their ideas?

As it happens, the entrepreneurial success of Trinity graduates has been measured – not by us, but by international research firm, Pitchbook, who for the past four years have made an evaluation of undergraduate alumni who go on to create companies that secure first round venture capital funding. And guess what? Trinity has been rated the number one university in Europe for educating entrepreneurs, every year for the past four years. Trinity is the only European university in PitchBook’s global Top 50.

Our graduates are the most entrepreneurial in Europe, which speaks for itself.
Let’s turn to the third metric, which is about embedding innovation and entrepreneurship into the university’s mission. The question to ask yourselves is: \textbf{Has innovation and entrepreneurship changed the way that we educate and research?}

I believe that in Trinity it has. Our focus on innovation and entrepreneurship has translated into a new 21st century approach to research and education. To illustrate, let me close with three initiatives, one that we’ve just completed, and two that we will deliver in a few years’ time:

A few months ago we opened the new purpose-build \textbf{Trinity Business School} on campus. Here it is.

It’s a really wonderful building – with the largest auditorium on campus. It’s near zero-energy, with solar panels, green walls, recycled water and fresh air flow. It’s co-located with an innovation and entrepreneurship hub – or what we call simply an Ideas Space, which provides an interface between Trinity and the vibrant innovation ecosystem on our doorstep.

This ideas space, Tangent, is where our student accelerator, LaunchBox, that I’ve just mentioned, is located. The Trinity Business School raises our game in terms of business education and research. And as we made clear from the outset, the new School isn’t just for business staff and students. It’s for the whole university.

Co-locating the Business School with the Ideas Space gets across that innovation and entrepreneurship is a skill that all students should develop.

The \textit{second initiative} I’d like to mention is our new \textbf{Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies Institute}, or E3 as we call it. Work has started on this and it will be built in two phases over the next few years.

E3 will harness new methods of learning and research at the frontiers of disciplines to educate new kinds of engineers and scientists prepared for the challenges of the 21st century workplace. It will partner with industry and NGOs to help meet emerging opportunities in energy and engineering design, while sustaining the earth’s natural capital.

E3 will showcase a new approach to STEM education. It will be transformative both in terms of content – with more focus on the challenges of sustaining the earth’s resources – and in terms of methods and teaching techniques.
Students of engineering, natural sciences and computer science will learn from each other to develop innovative solutions towards, for instance, renewable energy, personalised data, water, connectivity and sustainable manufacturing.

E3 is a hugely ambitious initiative. We would not have had the confidence and the inspiration to launch this were it not for our great success with the ‘seven conditions for innovation’.

Being research-focussed, interdisciplinary and global; prioritising the student experience and technology usage; being part of a strong regional innovation ecosystem and putting in place the right pathways and processes – all this has changed the way we think about our mission. It has raised our ambition.

When the E3 research Institute is built it will be located in a new Trinity tech campus, ten minutes’ walk from our main campus. This will be the lynchpin of the new Grand Canal Innovation District, which we’re planning in Dublin.

An Innovation District is a new kind of urban centre where universities, high growth companies and tech and creative start-ups are embedded in an amenity-rich residential and commercial environment. Over the past decade the development of these districts in cities such as London, Barcelona, Toronto and Boston have enabled both rapid innovation and economic growth.

Innovation districts work by bringing together a critical mass of talent, finance, innovation and enterprise. They are located in a concentrated urban environment and provide the proximity, density and scale of activities that are essential for international competitiveness.

A new innovation district, with a new university campus at its heart, is a vital step in enabling Dublin to be ranked as a top 20 global city for innovation. Trinity has already signed an agreement with government and other Dublin universities and business stakeholders to develop this.

With a second Trinity campus at the Grand Canal Innovation District, we will be further enriching the ecosystem and increasing the synergy between the university and the city.

The Grand Canal Innovation District will play a crucial role for Dublin and for all Ireland, connecting to global networks and promoting all types of innovation.
Of these initiatives, the Trinity Business School and E3 have been enabled by alumni. We reached out to our graduates asking them to support these ground-breaking projects which would be game-changers for Trinity and Ireland and for global education and research. Our graduates were responsive. They were hugely generous. Without them, we could not have built the new Business School and we would not have started work designing and building E3.

This makes the Business School and E3 community initiatives in the truest sense. They are enabled by the global Trinity community of high-achieving graduates.

And that is the message I would like to end on: the importance of community, the difference graduates can make. Perhaps I should make this the eighth condition for innovation and entrepreneurship: create a community around your university, keep your graduates connected in, keep telling inspiring stories of what your staff, students and graduates achieve, and the difference your research makes.

Great things happen when people come together. We cannot innovate alone; it takes an ecosystem. A university that is performing at its highest level and embedded in its city and region and involving its whole global community of graduates creates an ecosystem around it. That is when discovery happens.

Thank you.

* * *
Provost Patrick Prendergast speaking with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dar es Salem and his leadership team.
Colleagues, Distinguished Guests,

Thank you for inviting me here today. It’s a pleasure to be here in this beautiful country and I’m delighted to have this opportunity to talk to you about what I consider to be one of the three essential missions of the 21st century university: Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

My university, Trinity College Dublin, has put huge focus on innovation and Entrepreneurship over the past ten or twelve years and with great success: Trinity is now recognised as one of Europe’s leading innovation universities.

I know that the University of Dar es Salaam is also putting great focus on ‘facilitating entrepreneurship and demand-driven innovation’.*

In our time together this afternoon, I’d like to talk, first, about what I think are the best conditions for any university looking to develop innovation and entrepreneurship. And then I’ll focus in on Trinity and talk about the specific initiatives that we’ve put in place and what we’ve achieved.

But first, let me introduce myself.

* * *Personal Context* * *

I’m the President, or Provost as we call it, of Trinity College Dublin, which is Ireland’s leading university and one of Europe’s leading universities. I was elected to this position eight years ago by the staff of the university, following an election campaign, in which I set out my manifesto of how I intended to lead. Innovation and Entrepreneurship featured strongly in my manifesto and I’m proud that we have delivered, and more, on my priorities.

* https://www.udsm.ac.tz/web/index.php/directorates/udiec
I’m a mechanical engineer by training and previous to taking on the presidency I was Professor of Bioengineering in Trinity. Bioengineering is of course a ‘compound discipline’ joining engineers and medical scientists. I was fortunate that it really began to take off in the 1990s when I was an Assistant Professor. I was there from the beginning and was decisively involved with the development of bioengineering in Irish universities and the growth of medtech in Ireland.

Bioengineering is responsible for a number of spin-outs in Trinity. It was great preparation for future policy-making around innovation to be involved with such a forward-looking field so early on.

Trinity is a multidisciplinary university with three faculties – arts, humanities and social sciences; engineering, science and mathematics; and health sciences. So much of what we achieve in the university, including innovation and entrepreneurship, comes from our dynamic multidisciplinarity.

My other interest is the environment - nature and cities. I grew up in a rural area of Ireland – and, probably because I’m an engineer, I’m particularly interested in man’s relationship with the environment and in how we could use our skills and technologies to live better in the planet. My dream - which I hope to achieve when I’ve a little more time! - is to build an eco-house in the Irish countryside, which will be carbon neutral, with zero emissions and encouraging of pollination and biodiversity.

Again, I think this interest worth mentioning because I think it’s increasingly the case that we should encourage both students and professors to challenge disciplinary boundaries. Immersion in your discipline is essential but to gain new ideas and perspectives–genuinely innovative ideas – it helps to think beyond a single discipline.

Now let me turn to what I think are the best conditions for innovation in a university.

* * *Best conditions for fostering Innovation* * *

I’ve identified seven conditions which I think universities should put in place if they want to excel at innovation. These are:

First, **Research**: In-depth research is the basis for university innovation. Your license and spin-outs are only as good as your research.
Universities that excel at research have excellent staff who are well-funded to pursue their research interests. There should be a balance between investigator-led research and strategic research in large research centres.

Universities that want to excel at innovation must, in the first instance, focus on investing in excellent staff and must find ways to fund their research.

The second condition is enabling **Multi- and Interdisciplinarity research and education**: Today, the most exciting research happens at the interface of disciplines. Bioengineering, which I've just mentioned, is a case in point. And innovation happens in all disciplines - it’s certainly not confined to science or health sciences.

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Our research themes include Smart and Sustainable Environments, and Nature PLUS research Centre. Part of the work of that centre is Dr Matt Saunders work – Matt is here this delegation - he
collaborates with the International Livestock Research Institute here in Nairobi.

We are an Irish university and proud of what we contribute to Ireland and the Dublin region, but our outlook is absolutely global.

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We cannot tie our students to old ways of doing things when new, exciting ways have opened up.

Students are early adopters and drivers of technology – so it can be a question of us trying to keep up with them, rather than teaching them!

I should say that keeping ahead of technology is no easy feat and there is room for improvement in Trinity. For instance, we have yet to fully exploit the potential of online education. We’ve developed a number of fully online postgraduate courses as well as MOOCs or Massive Online Open Courses, but this is an area where we can do more.

Sixth is the Student Experience or Extracurricular.

This is another area where Trinity enjoys an historic advantage. We have always put focus on the student experience.

Today we have over 150 student societies and sports clubs – including every type of sport and societies that are political, religious, linguistic, cultural, charitable - you name it! If their interests aren’t represented by an existing club, students go ahead and create a new club.

Participation in clubs and societies involves students in fundraising, volunteering, leadership, strategizing, team management – all skills which are essential for entrepreneurship.

We try not to overload our students with coursework and to leave space on the timetable free for extracurricular. They won’t develop fully if they don’t get to explore outside the classroom.

The biggest growing field of student extracurricular is around innovation. This is because of the student accelerators we have put in place, which I will talk about now.

The seventh and final condition, Create Innovation processes and pathways.

I’m very conscious of the importance of having the right processes and pathways to facilitate innovation because the situation in Trinity ‘before’ and ‘after’ we did this was dramatic. Trinity went from creating less than one campus company a year between 1986
and 2008, to creating **seven** campus companies a year for the next five years. This booklet describes the transformation.

What changed? The impetus was a revision in our Technology Transfer Office’s procedures for the approval of campus company formation.

This slide show the dramatic and steady growth in campus companies.

Today in Trinity we have 98 campus companies, which have raised €200 million in investment and revenue €1.2 billion in exports and created 3,000 plus jobs.

This success is thanks to our office, Trinity Research & Innovation, which supports commercialisation of research at every stage of the process. They help with:
- IP management
- Developing a Business model
- Identifying customers
- Building a Team and
- Engaging with investors.

It’s this hands-on, targeted, methodical support that has ensured success for our researchers looking to commercialise their research.

Spin-out companies are headed up by professors in departments and might involve postgrads. About six years ago we started thinking about undergraduates. How could we release their innovation and entrepreneurial capacity? How could we get them to start thinking about scaling up and funding and marketing their business ideas? We were sure they had wonderful ideas – we had to find a framework for them to work in.

And so LaunchBox was born. LaunchBox is an initiative to encourage student innovation and entrepreneurship. It’s open to all students in every discipline.

Just like with our revised campus formation procedure, LaunchBox has been a remarkable success. Putting in place the right processes and pathways to support innovation has proved as transformative with students as with staff.

Within a year of being rolled out, LaunchBox was assessed by the international University Business Incubator Index as a ‘Top Challenger’ and placed just outside the world’s ‘Top 25’, from 800 student incubators assessed.
Since its inception in 2013, LaunchBox has enabled the creation of 50 startups that have gone on to raise over €6 million euro. Remember, these are purely student-run companies.

Typically, the companies represent a mix of disciplines and a mix between hardware, software, and physical products. The college supports the student teams with office, or rather ideas space and with mentoring and access to investors.

Every year more than 50 student teams vie for a place on the programme. The process is highly competitive – this year the highest ever number – 12 – got through to the judging panel. Here are some of them:

These teams will have a hard act to follow because some previous LaunchBox teams have been hugely successful. Slide

To take two examples: FoodCloud is among the most famous student start-ups in the world. It featured in time magazine. It was established with the aim of using technology to bridge the gap between food want and food waste. It links up retailers and restaurants to charities.

Established in 2013, today it employs over 30 people and works with over 9000 charitable organisations in Ireland and the UK. It has supplied over 50 million meals with food that would otherwise have been wasted.

Supermarkets and restaurants love the FoodCloud app! They get the marketing upside of not getting a reputation for destroying otherwise edible food AND FoodCloud’s price to take it away is cheaper than conventional disposal, so there is also a financial benefit.

And Artomatix is taking digital art creation to the next level. It’s a "deep tech" company in the AI space, at the forefront of complex computing. Founded in 2013, it received over €3m in innovation funding in 2018, and recently closed a €2.7m funding round. It employs 10 people in Dublin.

* * * Success * * *

To summarise, we’ve focussed strongly on all seven ‘conditions for innovation’ in Trinity.

What has this meant for the university? How successful have we been?
This begs the question, what does success look like? How can we measure how well a university succeeds at innovation and entrepreneurship?

It’s important not to measure too narrowly. There are a number of metrics to consider.

The first metric is of course, **commercialisation of research**.

I’ve already established Trinity’s success in this domain: 98 campus companies raising €200 million in investment, 50 student companies raising €6 million.

And between 2014 and 2018, we agreed 112 licence agreements, 91 patents, 286 Invention disclosures, and over 450 collaborative agreements with Industry.

For a faculty of 3000, these figures are excellent, I believe.

Let’s turn to the next metric:

When it comes to innovation, then at least as important as how well your staff are commercialising research, is **what your graduates are doing**? Are they entrepreneurial and innovative? Are they out there creating successful companies and being creative about their ideas?

As it happens, the entrepreneurial success of Trinity graduates has been measured – not by us, but by international research firm, Pitchbook, who for the past four years have made an evaluation of undergraduate alumni who go on to create companies that secure first round venture capital funding. And guess what? Trinity has been rated the number one university in Europe for educating entrepreneurs, every year for the past four years. Trinity is the **only** European university in PitchBook’s global Top 50.

Our graduates are the most entrepreneurial in Europe, which speaks for itself.

Let’s turn to the third metric, which is about embedding innovation and entrepreneurship into the university’s mission. The question to ask yourselves is: **Has innovation and entrepreneurship changed the way that we educate and research?**

I believe that in Trinity it has. Our focus on innovation and entrepreneurship has translated into a new 21st century approach to research and education. To illustrate, let me close with three
initiatives, one that we’ve just completed, and two that we will deliver in a few years’ time:

A few months ago we opened the new purpose-build Trinity Business School on campus. Here it is.

It’s a really wonderful building – with the largest auditorium on campus. It’s near zero-energy, with solar panels, green walls, recycled water and fresh air flow. It’s co-located with an innovation and entrepreneurship hub – or what we call simply an Ideas Space, which provides an interface between Trinity and the vibrant innovation ecosystem on our doorstep.

This ideas space, Tangent, is where our student accelerator, LaunchBox, that I’ve just mentioned, is located. The Trinity Business School raises our game in terms of business education and research. And as we made clear from the outset, the new School isn’t just for business staff and students. It’s for the whole university. Co-locating the Business School with the Ideas Space gets across that innovation and entrepreneurship is a skill that all students should develop.

The second initiative I’d like to mention is our new Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies Institute, or E3 as we call it. Work has started on this and it will be built in two phases over the next few years.

E3 will harness new methods of learning and research at the frontiers of disciplines to educate new kinds of engineers and scientists prepared for the challenges of the 21st century workplace. It will partner with industry and NGOs to help meet emerging opportunities in energy and engineering design, while sustaining the earth’s natural capital.

E3 will showcase a new approach to STEM education. It will be transformative both in terms of content – with more focus on the challenges of sustaining the earth’s resources – and in terms of methods and teaching techniques.

Students of engineering, natural sciences and computer science will learn from each other to develop innovative solutions towards, for instance, renewable energy, personalised data, water, connectivity and sustainable manufacturing. E3 is a hugely ambitious initiative. We would not have had the confidence and the inspiration to launch this were it not for our great success with the ‘seven conditions for innovation’.
Being research-focused, interdisciplinary and global; prioritising the student experience and technology usage; being part of a strong regional innovation ecosystem and putting in place the right pathways and processes – all this has changed the way we think about our mission. It has raised our ambition.

When the E3 research Institute is built it will be located in a new Trinity tech campus, ten minutes’ walk from our main campus. This will be the lynchpin of the new Grand Canal Innovation District, which we’re planning in Dublin.

An Innovation District is a new kind of urban centre where universities, high growth companies and tech and creative start-ups are embedded in an amenity-rich residential and commercial environment. Over the past decade the development of these districts in cities such as London, Barcelona, Toronto and Boston have enabled both rapid innovation and economic growth.

Innovation districts work by bringing together a critical mass of talent, finance, innovation and enterprise. They are located in a concentrated urban environment and provide the proximity, density and scale of activities that are essential for international competitiveness.

A new innovation district, with a new university campus at its heart, is a vital step in enabling Dublin to be ranked as a top 20 global city for innovation. Trinity has already signed an agreement with government and other Dublin universities and business stakeholders to develop this.

With a second Trinity campus at the Grand Canal Innovation District, we will be further enriching the ecosystem and increasing the synergy between the university and the city. The Grand Canal Innovation District will play a crucial role for Dublin and for all Ireland, connecting to global networks and promoting all types of innovation.

* * *Conclusion* * *

Of these initiatives, the Trinity Business School and E3 have been enabled by alumni. We reached out to our graduates asking them to support these ground-breaking projects which would be game-changers for Trinity and Ireland and for global education and research. Our graduates were responsive. They were hugely generous. Without them, we could not have built the new Business School and we would not have started work designing and building E3.
This makes the Business School and E3 community initiatives in the truest sense. They are enabled by the global Trinity community of high-achieving graduates.

And that is the message I would like to end on: the importance of community, the difference graduates can make. Perhaps I should make this the eighth condition for innovation and entrepreneurship: create a community around your university, keep your graduates connected in, keep telling inspiring stories of what your staff, students and graduates achieve, and the difference your research makes.

Great things happen when people come together. We cannot innovate alone; it takes an ecosystem. A university that is performing at its highest level and embedded in its city and region and involving its whole global community of graduates creates an ecosystem around it. That is when discovery happens.

Thank you.
26 July 2019

Speech on Trinity’s E3 (Engineering, Environment, and Emerging Technologies) Institute

University of Western Cape, Republic of South Africa

Good afternoon,

I’m delighted to have this opportunity to talk to you about a particularly exciting initiative of Trinity College Dublin: our new Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies Institute, which we call E3. It will open in two phases over the next few years.

I’ll talk about our intentions for E3 – how we will research, what we will teach. But I want to start with how the idea for E3 came about and why I prioritised it.

* * *Global Challenges* * *

I’m a mechanical engineer by training and previous to taking on the leadership of Trinity College Dublin, I was Professor of Bioengineering in Trinity. Bioengineering is a ‘compound discipline’ joining engineers and clinicians and I was fortunate that it really began to take off in the 1990s when I was an Assistant Professor. So I was there from the beginning and was decisively involved with the development of bioengineering in Irish universities and the growth of medtech in Ireland.

I saw the impact of bioengineering on people’s lives – how multi-disciplinary teams could work together. That was inspiring.

Since becoming Provost in 2011 I’ve to think more about global issues that are impacting people’s lives at scale – issues like water shortage, energy provision, climate change, migration, inequality, biodiversity loss, the ageing population, conflict resolution.

These are the defining issues of the age. If we can’t come together to agree on how we will tackle these vital issues, then our future looks compromised. Most of the intellectual horsepower of the planet is located in universities, so it is universities that have to come together.
Universities have a responsibility to help solve vital global issues. Universities are centres of excellence, they bring the generations together into a single place and, at their best, they nurture ground-breaking ideas and encourage a radical approach to problem-solving.

Through the ages, universities have helped nurture ideals of democracy, religious freedom and human rights.

Universities can play a decisive part in confronting the kinds of global issues that I’ve mentioned. Currently, universities already have a role here, of course.

Many universities – including ours - have initiatives in, for instance, international development, gender equality, post-conflict justice, environment, biodiversity. The research and teaching coming out of all these initiatives is often superb.

At the same time, these initiatives have less impact than they might do because universities aren’t yet leveraging the huge opportunities for interdisciplinarity and for global collaboration.

In theory, as high-performing institutions, we could be addressing challenges wholesale - but this isn’t happening yet. That’s because of the way that academic research is set up, structured and funded. The approach to learning is still very much based around separate schools, disciplines and departments, while the recognition of research achievements are structured primarily around publications.

There are strengths and advantages to the current approach but in terms of solving global issues, I believe that we need to think radically and to find an approach which encourages our students in new and fresh ways of thinking and which really facilitates collaboration – that’s collaboration between disciplines, and collaboration between universities, industry, government, civil partners and other stakeholders.

All this was on my mind. Of course, I understand the scale of the task – we’re not going to solve global challenges in one institute or in one country!

But I’m mindful always of the words of Trinity’s great graduate, the political theorist Edmund Burke. Burke said: ‘Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little.’
If as individuals and as universities, we all do our bit, then that will soon scale up. I wanted for Trinity to be part of the solution – to be open to doing things differently.

This is where E3 comes in.

* * *E3: sustaining natural capital* * *

Doing things differently, rethinking how we operate as universities, will involve really leveraging the opportunities presented by interdisciplinarity. The most exciting discoveries today take place at the interface of disciplines.

In the 21st century, our planet is increasingly being shaped by technology, and it’s critical that we humans make technological interventions that increase the sustainability of the planet.

We need to use technology to sustain, rather than deplete, our natural capital.

We need to create technologies in symbiosis with the natural world, so that technology becomes an ‘evolutionary force’ directed for the good of all life on earth.

We should be going further than mitigating emerging challenges. We should use technology to strengthen the resilience of our natural capital.
It makes absolutely no sense, in the 21st century, for natural scientists to be putting all their efforts into examining the natural world and advising on sustainability without reference to what engineers and computer scientists are doing and what resources are involved in creating technologies.

E3 will be one of the first institutes globally to integrate engineering, technology and the natural sciences, at scale, to address challenges of a livable planet.

It will co-locate staff from Trinity’s Schools of Engineering, Natural Science and Computer Science and Statistics, and it will link-up with our centres for nanomaterials and raw materials.

This diagram represents the idea:

E3 will be a key partner for government, industry and NGOs, in Ireland and internationally, in meeting the emerging opportunities in energy and engineering design, while sustaining, or perhaps replenishing, natural capital.

The following sequence of slides further explains the rationale for E3:
Leading to our vision “Balanced Solutions for a Better World”.

**E3: funding**

Having identified the need for E3 – in Ireland and globally – and having received the support of the college community, the next step for us in Trinity was to work out what form the new institute should take and how to fund it.

We knew that we could not build it in the way we wanted through state support alone. We were fortunate – the project was compelling enough to gain the support of a particularly generous donor who gave the largest private donation in the history of the Irish state – a grant of €25 million. He contributed to E3 because he believes in education, and the transformative power of education for young people and society. Through his generosity, we were able to raise a further €15 million from the state.

This happened last year. It has been transformative. We are now able to create E3 in the way we want.

**E3: Learning Foundry and Institute**

E3 is being developed in two phases: the learning institute, which we’re calling the E3 Learning Foundry, and the E3 Research Institute.

The E3 Learning Foundry is already fully financed and it will open in three years’ time in a new building on our campus, subject to receiving planning permission. The E3 Learning Foundry will able us to create 1,800 new places for students in the STEM disciplines – that’s really important in terms of educating Ireland’s growing population.

E3 won’t just educate more students. It will educate them in a different way, changing the way that engineering, natural sciences and computer science students learn, both in terms of content – with more focus on the challenges of managing the earth’s resources – and in terms of methods and teaching techniques.

Following current trends in higher education, E3 will mean students spending less time inside traditional classrooms, and more time working on multidisciplinary projects outside these rooms. This means that students will develop transversal skills by learning and implementing.

To achieve this, we want to develop more student learning spaces. We’ve done our research, and we know that for the learning spaces
to be effective, they have to be: student-managed, flexible, smart and innovative, and interactive and collaborative.

The spaces should give students access to new learning opportunities through innovative tools and technologies – we know that this makes students more self-motivated to learn new skills. So these learning spaces have to be ‘smart spaces’.

Here is an impression of the new building provided by the architects:

![Image of the new building](image)

Good interaction leads to collaboration. We will provide a crowdsourcing platform on the app so that students can engage in peer learning. Often the skills that are needed for a particular project exist already within the student population. Let’s tap into that. Crowdsourcing will give students the opportunity to help and share each other. This crowdsourcing will be facilitated by Tcoins – a virtual currency that students can trade in exchange for help with learning new skills.

The Foundry is the first phase of E3. The second phase is the **E3 Research Institute** which will bring researchers together with industry and policy-makers in an interdisciplinary environment. They will focus on bringing solutions rapidly to market and will be instrumental in the development of new energy solutions and a more sustainable approach to natural capital.

The E3 Research Institute will located in the Trinity Tech Campus, about 8 minutes’ walk from our main campus, on Grand Canal Dock, which is the area in Dublin where Twitter, Facebook, Google, and other tech multinationals have their headquarters, as well as Irish start-ups.
This is the area where we are currently planning to locate an innovation district to serve Dublin and Ireland.

* * *Grand Canal Innovation District* * *

An Innovation District is a new kind of urban centre where universities, high growth companies and tech and creative start-ups are embedded in an amenity-rich residential and commercial environment. Over the past decade the development of these districts in cities such as London, Barcelona, Toronto and Boston have enabled both rapid innovation and economic growth.

Innovation districts work by bringing together a critical mass of talent, finance, innovation and enterprise. They are located in a concentrated urban environment and provide the proximity, density and scale of activities that are essential for international competitiveness.

A new innovation district, with a new university campus at its heart, is a vital step in enabling Dublin to be ranked as a top 20 global city for innovation. Trinity has already signed an agreement with government and other Dublin universities and business stakeholders to develop what we are calling the Grand Canal Innovation District.

The E3 research institute will be the lynchpin of the second Trinity campus at the Grand Canal Innovation District.

This District will play a crucial role for Dublin and for all Ireland, connecting to global networks and promoting all types of innovation. I want to see Ireland taking leadership in the development of a low-carbon economy and E3 will be positioned to spearhead that development, contributing not only to growing the Irish economy but to meeting Ireland’s commitment to international development. E3 will help Ireland to capitalize on a fast-developing and fertile market for enterprise, product development and policy leadership in developing sustainable solutions for our planet.

* * *Conclusion* * *

So these are our plans for our new Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies Institute. The plans are well advanced – the E3 Learning Foundry will open in three years and the E3 Research Institute three years after that. As you can no doubt see, I am pretty excited about it!
I hope I’ve shown how E3 links into our university’s approach to education, research and innovation and how it links into our plans for an innovation district for Dublin and Ireland.

With E3, we are hoping to do something transformative. I know that around the world, including here in the University of Western Cape, there are others of radical vision and ambition. I look forward to us all working together.

Thank you.

* * *

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(L to R) Carol Newman, Leo McNamee, Ronan Hodson, Susan Murphy, Provost Patrick Prendergast, Laurence Gill, and Mathew Saunders – the Trinity delegation on the Africa trip, 2019
Thank you Juliette’ and good evening all.

It’s a great pleasure to be here and to have this chance of meeting you all. My team and I have been in Africa for the week, the past two days in South Africa. It’s been a very full schedule. Here in South Africa, we’ve visited the universities of Wits, Pretoria, Nelson Mandela University in Port Elizabeth, and Western Cape and Cape Town. On Monday my colleagues will go to Stellenbosch and their Vice-Chancellor visited us in Dublin last week. We had great meetings with all, and we look forward to building collaborations on student exchange and ever closer research programmes.

It’s a pleasure to introduce our team here: Laurence Gill from Engineering, Susan Murphy and Matt Saunders from Natural Sciences, and Carol Newman from Economics and Head of the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy. And Global Relations colleagues Ronan Hodson and Leo McNamee. And Emily Daniels from the Provost’s Office.

Now as we near the end of our trip, that started in Dar es Salaam a week ago – it’s wonderful for me to be meeting with you. Wherever I go in the world I like to meet with Trinity graduates. We had a great event earlier in the week in Nairobi. And every time I remind myself of what a great, globally connected community we have. I know that the South African alumni branch is a strong one – Juliette and our colleague, Gerard McHugh, who visited Johannesburg last year, have told me about their great encounters so I’m delighted now to have this opportunity myself.

I thank John Murphy, who has taken over as branch contact head for his work, and I’m looking forward to getting a chance to talk to each of you this evening.

* * *

* Professor Juliette Hussey, Vice-President of Global Relations
In our time together now, I’d like to fill you in briefly on how Trinity is doing – what we have achieved and what we look forward to achieving. And I’d like to say a few words about our Philanthropic Campaign, Inspiring Generations, which we launched earlier this year.

* * *

Our university has been enjoying a great period of growth. There are lots of stand-out initiatives. Let me mention a few of the most notable.

Just two months ago, we formally opened the Trinity Business School in a wonderful new building on the site of the old Luce Hall and opening onto Pearse Street. The new building is both the manifestation and the focal hub of Trinity’s deep investment, not only in the Business School, but in innovation and entrepreneurship as a college-wide activity for all staff and students.

Trinity’s MBA programme has now entered into the top 50 of such programmes world-wide and the whole of the first floor of the Trinity Business School now houses Tangent, Trinity’s Ideas Workspace, which aims to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in all staff and students. Tangent is a wonderful space geared towards team learning – it has a prototyping workshop and an ideation space as well as Trinity’s noted student accelerator, LaunchBox. In a very tangible way, Tangent fulfils the new building’s mission to raise the game not just for the Trinity Business School but for the whole university.

The Trinity Business School has been greatly enabled by alumni generosity. Forty-five donors – graduates and business leaders – came together to donate €20 million. Their generosity enabled us to leverage a further loan from the EIB.

Alumni generosity is also at the heart of another remarkable initiative which is just getting under way.

Last summer we made our formal announcement of our plan to build a new Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies Institute, which we’re calling E3.

E3 will be a game-changer. It will educate students of engineering, natural sciences and computer science to address the challenges of a liveable planet. It will be transformative both in terms of content - with more focus on sustainability – and in terms of methods and teaching techniques.
Students will learn from each other to develop innovative solutions towards, for instance, climate change, renewable energy, personalised data, water, connectivity and sustainable manufacturing.

E3 is a truly ambitious initiative and we’ve already raised over 40 million of the 60 million euro needed, thanks to state support and philanthropy, including the largest single philanthropic gift in the history of the Irish state – €25 million euro from the Naughton family.

E3 will be developed in two stages – first the E3 Learning Foundry to educate more students in the STEM disciplines, and then the E3 Research Institute which will be the centrepiece of a new campus at Grand Canal Dock.

We have ambitious plans for this new campus. In July, the Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, launched a far-reaching plan for the creation of the Grand Canal Innovation District in Dublin.

The new Trinity tech campus in the Grand Canal Innovation District will be located just ten minutes’ walk up Pearse Street from our main campus.

Those of you who haven’t been in Dublin for a while will be delighted I think to see the changes on Pearse Street – just in the past decade Trinity has opened Science Gallery, the Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute, the Lir Academy of Dramatic Art, and now the Trinity Business School – all wonderful buildings, which the local Pearse Street community are very happy with.

The Grand Canal Innovation District will continue the regeneration of the area and it play a role for all Ireland, creating a centre for innovation, connected nationally, and promoting all types of innovation, including in the creative arts.

Another initiative dear to the hearts of alumni is Printing House Square, a new residential square built on the Oisin House site. It will house 250 new student rooms, sports facilities, and student services.

* * *

The enthusiasm and generosity of alumni and friends for our initiatives have encouraged us to launch the first comprehensive philanthropic campaign in Trinity’s history and the largest such campaign ever to be launched in Ireland.
Over the past three months, this campaign, *Inspiring Generations*, has been launched already in Dublin, London, Paris New York, and San Francisco. And we’ll soon be bringing the message to Singapore, Hong Kong, and Sydney.

Our goals with this campaign are ambitious but achievable: we’ve set out to raise €400 million euro to support our mission in education and research, and we want to inspire 150 thousand hours of volunteering from the Trinity community around the world.

The flagship projects of the Campaign have been carefully chosen where Trinity can create excellence and impact. These transformational projects include:

- One, Putting Ireland at the forefront of research and technological innovation for generations to come with our new E3 Institute, and with the creation of Dublin’s Grand Canal Innovation District;
- Two, Ensuring that the Old Library and its extraordinary collections continue to exist for future generations;
- Three, Developing Ireland’s first comprehensive cancer care centre, the Trinity St James’ Cancer Institute;
- Four, Building a Law School to rival the best in the world.

These initiatives will be underpinned by a ‘New Generations’ programme to bring the best talent to Trinity from Ireland and the world. A fundamental aim of ‘Inspiring Generations’ is to fund new Professorships and tenure-track academic posts across the University.

Simultaneously we’ll create more pathways to bring talented students to college, from backgrounds not traditionally represented at third-level. The success of the Trinity Access Programme over 26 years has changed the lives of thousands of students.

An investment in Trinity is an investment in Ireland’s future, in our young people, and in global research to help confront globally challenges.

* * *

I want to thank all of you for coming here this evening. The community of Trinity alumni and friends in South Africa is an important of our global network.

Trinity could not have developed in the way it has without the support of our alumni. Graduates like yourselves have remained
engaged with the college, attending events like these, returning to campus on visits, and staying connected through the alumni office.

Many of you give financial support through the University of Dublin Fund, and through funding scholarships and access programmes. You help with mentoring students and graduates when they come abroad.

We’re hugely grateful. As a sign of our appreciation, last year we opened an Alumni Room in Front Square. This is yet another initiative that was enabled by generous philanthropic support and it’s for your use for you to relax in or hold meetings in, so do please avail of it whenever you’re in Dublin. It’s a particularly comfortable and beautiful room, and most importantly it gives you a home on campus. Please do continue to stay in touch. It means so much to us.

* * *

And now, to tell you a bit more about our Campaign, Inspiring Generations, we’ve put together a video which we’re delighted to show you now.

Afterwards I look forward to mingling and meeting each of you personally. I hope that, like me, you’ll be inspired by our Campaign and will continue to be part of the great story of Trinity College Dublin.

[Play Video]

Thank you.

* * *
Provost Patrick Prendergast (seated, centre) with alumni
Thank you Jennifer*, and good evening, all,  

And welcome back to Trinity College for the Alumni Weekend 2019.

This Alumni Weekend is a great Trinity tradition, now in its 55th year. On this weekend we welcome over 400 graduates back to the college, with a full programme of events. Personally, this Weekend is always a highlight; Sheena and I are just back refreshed from our holidays, and there is still a holiday air about the place, and we have an opportunity to meet many graduates.

This evening we welcome several class reunions, including from [Friday] Medicine, Pharmacy and Natural Sciences Business [Saturday] ESS, Legal Science, General Studies, Engineering and Psychology. It’s great to see so many of you here, and coming such distances – from Australia, Canada, South Africa and Malaysia as well of course as Europe and Ireland. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank the Class champions who organised their class groups to return tonight.

And my thanks to the Alumni Office, to Jennifer Taaffe and Ali Hartney and their teams. They have done a tremendous job organising this Weekend.

We regard our relationship with you, our alumni, as life-long. We now have over 140,000 alumni living in 150 countries, and on my missions abroad, I always try to meet as many graduates as possible.

We’re lucky in Trinity that our graduates are so committed to the university, so supportive and eager to stay connected. In return we hope that you draw strength, both personally and professionally, from contact with the college, and with each other.

I want to take this opportunity to tell you briefly about exciting developments here in your university.

* Jennifer Taaffe, Director of Alumni & Supporter Relations
I know that a visit to the new Trinity Business School has been included in your weekend programme – to take place tomorrow afternoon, I believe. It’s really worth seeing; a new gem for the campus - a showcase Scott, Tallon and Walker building, exemplary in terms of sustainability – with green walls, recycled rainwater, low energy ventilation systems, and photovoltaic rooftop panels offsetting carbon.

I’d recommend everyone to do the tour, regardless of whether you’re a business graduate because this is a building for the whole university. The first floor is taken up by Tangent, Trinity’s Ideas Workspace where our acclaimed student entrepreneurship takes place in LaunchBox. Since its start in 2013, LaunchBox has enabled Trinity undergraduate teams from all disciplines to create 50 startups that have gone on to raise over €6 million euro.

Tangent helps fulfil the new building’s mission to raise the game not just for the Business education but for the whole university, and indeed for Dublin and Ireland because the new School will play its part in developing Dublin into a global innovation hub, similar to London, Amsterdam and Barcelona.

Trinity is at the forefront of making this happen. Last year, the Taoiseach Leo Varadkar launched our far-reaching plan for an innovation district to be created in Grand Canal Docks, with a new Trinity tech campus at its centre.

The new Trinity Business School has been enabled by philanthropy. Of the €80 million costs, a quarter - €20 million – came from donations from Trinity graduates and friends and this enabled a large loan from the European Investment Bank.

This transformative role played by philanthropy is a milestone for the whole university. Following on the success of the approach with the Business School, Trinity this year launched the first comprehensive college-wide philanthropic campaign in the history of the university, and the largest such campaign ever to be launched on the island of Ireland.

The campaign, Inspiring Generations, aims to raise €400 million towards key priority projects - including the Old Library; the Trinity-St James Cancer Institute – which will deliver integrated patient-centred cancer care and cutting edge interdisciplinary research; a new Law School; and a new Engineering, Environment and
Emerging Technologies Institute (E3). The Campaign also has a goal of reaching 150 thousand hours of alumni volunteering. Alumni who take part in the student mentorship programme, who organise global branch events or who take part, as so many of you do, in committees such as A&T and TBA, are all helping to contribute to this volunteer hours target.

Let me show you our campaign video: Click Here

* * *

With **Inspiring Generations** we’re inviting our community of alumni and supporters to join us in making our ambitious vision for the university a reality, so that Trinity can continue to inspire future generations to make a positive impact on the world.

The strength and enthusiasm of Trinity alumni and supporters has encouraged us to publicly launch **Inspiring Generations** with campaigns around the world. This year we’ve already launched in Dublin, London, Paris, New York and San Francisco, and over the next few months we’ll be taking the campaign to Singapore, Hong Kong and Sydney.

An investment in Trinity is an investment in Ireland’s future, in our young people, and in global research.

* * *

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you, here in this room, who are already supporters of Trinity, some of you for very many years. Your support means everything to us. Quite simply, the university could not have developed in the way it has without you.

As a sign of our appreciation, we’ve opened an Alumni Room in Front Square. This, too, was enabled by philanthropy and it’s a particularly handsome and comfortable room. It’s for your use to relax in when you visit campus or hold meetings in, so do avail of it. And do please continue to stay in touch – online and in person.

As we approach the 2020s, we have so many exciting initiatives in place. With your help, we look forward to continuing with the great education, research and innovation that has such impact in Dublin, Ireland and the world.

Before I finish, let me draw your attention to the newest portrait in this Dining Hall. I’m sure you’ve noticed it - the first new portrait
here since the 1860s, and the first of a woman: our chancellor, graduate, former senator and professor of law, Mary Robinson. It’s a painting by Mark Shiels, and again we have graduate philanthropy to thank for enabling this. I know that this portrait of Mary Robinson, one of the great global humanitarians of our age, will inspire generations to come.

Thank you.

I now invite you to stand for First Grace.

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(L to R) Ivor Rees, Anne Claffey, Lorna Hogg, Provost Patrick Prendergast, James Darling, Ann Rees, Sheena Brown