Dear Colleagues,

We have been delighted to watch the positive changes in the economic stability of our country filter through to our students and graduates in this last year. For example, unemployment amongst primary degree graduates from the class of 2013 (the survey of the Class of 2014 is currently underway) shrank to 3% (6% nationally) and there was a 10% increase in the number of vacancies advertised by employers through the Careers Service during the past academic year. Meanwhile, competitiveness is still a key theme, with the numbers undertaking research or further study having grown significantly (40%) suggesting that the thinking, amongst primary degree graduates at least, is that a postgraduate qualification is often a pre-requisite for securing employment.

In order to transition students into this changing environment, we have been delighted to have Specialised Careers Advisers working with both our International Student Community and with students with disabilities. These advisers along with the rest of our team have allowed us to extend our reach of service and provide an inclusive and multicultural ethos in everything we do. In particular, our work with Career Pathways, a joint collaboration with the Disability Service, and a unique and innovative project, has been awarded the Association of Higher Education Careers Services Employability Award, at the Annual Gradireland Graduate Recruitment Awards. For more information on Career Pathways see www.tcd.ie/disability/career/pathways

824 students attended specialist careers talks
1043 ‘one to one’ sessions with students and graduates
3129 employers attended workshops and class sessions
88 employers visited

www.youtube.com/user/TRINITYCOLLEGEDUBLIN
This year also saw us collaborate with the office of Global Relations and the Alumni Office in the launch of three new Gradlink Mentoring Programs. The School of Nursing and Midwifery, the School of Dental Science and the School of Physics mentoring programmes are well under way now building on the experience of the other schools already taking part which include the Schools of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies, Social Sciences and Philosophy and the School of Natural Sciences. If you think the programme would benefit your School please don’t hesitate to let us know and we can discuss the options.

We have also taken the opportunity this year to develop our interactive offering with the launch of the first in our series of Webinars. Two of our advisers, Orlaith Tunney and Sarah Brown went live with “Stand Out CV’s” which is now available online for students and graduates.

And finally, this year saw us trial roving CV clinics around the University and the Trinity Centre at St James hospital in February. This has been a great way for us to reach out to students in their own environment.

The coming academic year brings more change and innovation and as well as increasing our presence in the timetables of many students we will be enabling an exciting and diverse range of activities and events on a regular basis with our new ‘Careers Weekly’ initiative.

Looking forward to working with you in the coming year,

Sean Gannon
Survey of Academic Staff conducted last Autumn by Maria Tierney (MSISS final year) for the Careers Advisory Service

- **75% of respondents** felt the Careers Service adds value to the academic mission of the university
- **82% of respondents** felt the Careers Service is an important resource for students
- **69% of respondents** felt the skills needed for effective engagement in the workplace should be developed within the UG curriculum of ALL programmes
- **86% of respondents** feel the skills needed for effective engagement in the workplace should be developed within the UG curriculum of SPECIFIC programmes
- **63% of academic staff** surveyed feel that more opportunities for work placements and internships should be available in the curriculum for students.

Some comments from respondents include:

“The staff in the Careers Advisory Service have been most helpful to us in the past, and provide our SS students with a very useful service”

“Over the past number of years the CAS has run specific workshops for our SS students. Feedback has been extraordinarily and uniformly positive. Students draw heavily on and benefit greatly from the expertise within this Service. Our department has a strong and ongoing relationship with the Service and regular contact to update each other about changing employment landscapes and demands. This relationship is critical to effectively preparing our graduates for future employment”

“I have worked with Careers Advisory in various ways over the past years and have found the Service to be an invaluable resource and one which students value.”