Message from the Head of Department

In the last decade the Department of Classics at Trinity has continued to flourish, both in the good times at the beginning of the new millennium and in the less favourable climate of more recent years. We attract, as always, top class students at undergraduate and postgraduate level who go on to take up a wide variety of jobs in business and the financial world, in the civil service and cultural institutions, in schools and universities. And our academic staff perform at the highest levels of international excellence. We have a long and distinguished tradition of Classical learning and we intend to pass it on in full health to future generations.

In general in the Arts and Humanities in Trinity we have been remiss in communicating with our alumni. In Classics we have vowed to do better, and this newsletter will, I hope, be the first of a more regular contact with our former students. We have opened a Facebook page and hope that you will feel free to tell us your news either in any of the modern means of electronic communication or in good, old-fashioned letters.

Anna Chahoud, Professor of Latin

Message from the Head of School

The most important development of recent years has been the formation of the School of Histories and Humanities in 2005, in which we joined forces with History (a single department now), History of Art and the Centre for Gender and Women’s Studies. This was a coming together of willing allies that slightly pre-dated the College’s restructuring programme. The departments in our school continue to operate their own degrees and activities under a Head of Department, but there is a School Executive Committee overseeing separate committees for Research, Postgraduate Teaching and Learning and Undergraduate Teaching and Learning. That may sound like a lot of committees, but all of them conduct business relevant only to us (as opposed to big central College committees), and even (or especially) long-standing members of staff find that there has been a big improvement in the quality of academic discussion. It has all developed into an extremely effective and strong alliance. The first Head of School was Jane Ohlmeyer, Erasmus Smith’s Professor of Modern History (2005-8), who did a wonderful job of pulling everything together. She was followed by Roger Stalley, Professor of the History of Art (2008-2010) and recently myself. We have been very lucky in having, since the beginning, the same (and outstanding) Administrative Officer, Dr Debra Birch. We also have excellent colleagues in our IT officer, Pat Carty and in our Extramural director, Dr Patricia Stapleton.

Brian McGing, Regius Professor of Greek
In Memoriam

John Victor Luce (1920–2011)

It seems only fitting to begin by recording the death on 11 February 2011 of J. V. Luce. He was 90 years of age. Older readers of this newsletter will remember him particularly as a teacher, but he was a remarkable figure in the College and the wider Classical world. He was a student of extraordinary ability. He was successful in Foundation Scholarship in his first year as an undergraduate and won gold medals in both his degree subjects (Classics and Philosophy), and was also a brilliant sportsman: he played hockey for Ireland and captained the College teams in hockey, squash and cricket. There followed a long and distinguished academic career. His first book, The end of Atlantis: new light on an old legend (1969) remains the best discussion of the Atlantis legend, while his last book, Celebrating Homer’s Landscapes (1998) was another beautifully written and classic account. It was perhaps the physical environment of the eastern Mediterranean that chiefly occupied him, but he had other interests, as evidenced by his excellent Introduction to Greek philosophy (1992) or the entertaining, but deeply knowledgeable, Trinity College Dublin. The first 400 years (1991). It would be hard to exaggerate how well he wrote, an elegant and dignified simplicity that, perhaps curiously, did not owe anything obvious to classical stylistic models, although in its forcefulness, effectiveness and structured clarity was certainly informed by the best principles of Classical rhetoric. The same rhetorical principles informed his Latin, which one reviewer of his public orations likened to the style of Pliny the Elder. He was Public Orator for 33 years, the longest tenure in Trinity’s history. Fittingly, he was appointed Erasmus Smith’s Professor of Oratory in 1984. In administrative matters, he held the posts of Senior Dean (1977-1985) and Vice-Provost (1987-1989). One of John’s most important, but in some ways least recognised, legacies is his role in introducing to Trinity the study of the Classical world in translation. Both Bedell Stanford, the Regius Professor of Greek at the time, and John were frequent visitors to North America and could see where the academic future of Classics lay. Together they oversaw the establishment of new courses in Classical Civilisation, and Ancient History and Archaeology. We are planning to celebrate the memory of John Luce in a fitting way and will be in touch with alumni to let you know our plans.

J. V. Luce beside the portrait of his father A. A. Luce (1882–1977) in the Dining Hall.

Awards & Honours

Professor John Dillon, Emeritus Professor of Greek, was elected a corresponding member of the Academy of Athens in June 2010, in recognition of his significant and original contribution to the study of Greek philosophy.

Dr Hazel Dodge was appointed as the Archaeological Institute of America’s Samuel H. Kress Lecturer for 2010-11. In the autumn of 2011 she delivered a series of lectures in North America on ‘Roman spectacle in the Greek East’, ‘Symbols of Victory and Colours of Power: Egyptian Stones for the City of Rome’, and ‘Rulership, Patronage and Architecture in the Roman Capital’. Most recently, Hazel has been nominated as the Visiting Professor of Architectural Design in the Department of Fine Arts in the University of Louisville for January-May 2013.

Professor Brian McGing was elected a Foreign Member of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium in 2009.

Dr Christine Morris received a Trinity College Provost’s Teaching award for 2010. These prestigious awards aim to ‘promote teaching as a scholarly activity and to reward those who have made an outstanding contribution in the pursuit of teaching excellence’. The awards are made through a rigorous process of nomination by students and colleagues, followed by submission of a teaching portfolio which is evaluated by an academic panel.
Our Degrees
Introducing the new M.Phil. in Classics and Single Honors in Ancient and Medieval History and Culture

We hope those reading this newsletter might look at the Classics website to see the range of our programmes. Our Single Honors Classics degree still stands at the core of our teaching and learning operations, with its substantial philological demand (e.g. unseen papers in finals, unlike Cambridge, where there is no language element in the second part of Tripos). Ancient History and Archaeology and Classical Civilisation, joint honors programmes studying the ancient world in translation, started in the late 1970s and have been a great success story from the very beginning. There are now entry quotas of 23 and 29 students respectively, and the quotas are nearly always exceeded. Currently there are over 190 students enrolled in these courses. Two years ago we devised a new School-based degree, Ancient and Medieval History and Culture, incorporating elements from Classics, History and History of Art. This has met its quota (15) in its first three years and is showing all the signs of developing into a successful and popular subject. Four years ago in Classics we put on for the first time a one-year taught Masters in Classics, which provides students with a strong foundation in the methodologies and approaches to the study of the ancient world. It is another demand on our time, of course, but the take-up has been strong, and we think it is an important addition to Classics in Ireland.

Read more...
Ancient and Medieval History and Culture:
www.histories-humanities.tcd.ie/undergraduate/ancient-medieval
M.Phil. in Classics:
www.tcd.ie/Classics/postgraduate/mphil

Our Research Centres
The Centre for Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies
The Centre for the Study of the Platonic Tradition

The Dublin Centre for the Study of the Platonic Tradition is the brainchild of Professor John Dillon. It formed an important part of our original application to the government’s Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions seeking funding for our joint project with Biblical Studies, Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies. In 1999 we were awarded £275,000 for three years and thereafter €1.17 million for a five year period. This money mostly went towards the support of postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows, but it also enabled five sabbatical leaves and busy traffic of researchers in and out of Trinity. The Plato Centre is also a self-standing operation, which recently received generous funding from the Newman Foundation, and we are delighted to acknowledge their support for what is a busy hive of Platonic (and other) discourse.

Read more...
www.tcd.ie/mnes
www.tcd.ie/plato
Anna Chahoud
I joined the department in 2006, having studied Classical Philology in Bologna and Pisa and taught in the UK before coming to Ireland in 1999. My contribution to teaching covers Latin language and literature from the early Republican to the early imperial period (comedy, satire, Virgilian epic, historical and philosophical prose). Final-year undergraduate and Masters courses include Roman rhetoric; transmission and textual criticism; classical education and European identity.

As a linguist I am especially interested in the interaction between spoken language and literary genre in Roman Republican literature. I immensely enjoyed working on the volume Colloquial and Literary Latin (CUP 2010) with E. Dickey, and contributing to the Blackwell Companion to the Latin Language (2011). My primary literary interest is in early Roman satire; my commentary (in progress for CUP) on the fragments of Gaius Lucilius explores the relationship between epic, comedy and prose in the creation of the new genre. My concern with the survival of fragmentary texts through the grammatical and scholarly tradition of Late Antiquity has led me to study ancient Latin linguistics in its own right. Future directions include a commentary, with J. N. Adams, on the influential work on errors and changes in language by the 5th century grammarian Consentius.

One of the wonderful things about Trinity is the Old Library collection. With generous support from the Long Room Hub I initiated a European network for the study and digitisation of medieval and Renaissance Latin manuscripts, with a view to creating a Trinity centre for the study of Latin transmission and textual criticism.

Among my visits abroad and the lectures I have been fortunate enough to be invited to give overseas, I recall with special pleasure the Loeb Classical Lecture at Harvard in October 2010, and my two visits to the University of Virginia in the same year, where I was thrilled to meet Professor Ted Courtney, Trinity Alumnus and Scholar (1951), whose scholarship I have revered since my undergraduate years.

Ashley Clements
Since joining the Department in 2006, I have been taking full advantage of the rare opportunity afforded by Classics at Trinity to explore with students several inter-disciplinary domains that reflect my primary research interests. These include the relation between philosophy and literature in the Archaic and Classical Greek periods, and the contribution anthropological theory has made (and might make) to our understanding of the cultures of Greece and Rome. In concert with modules on these topics, work continues on two major projects: a book on the Greek comic poet Aristophanes and an introductory guide to the past, present, and possible future dialogues of Anthropology and Classics. But this year will also see a series of further articles examining Greek popular epistemology, and the senses and ‘synaesthesiа’ in Greek literature and philosophy, topics perhaps most famously addressed in earlier scholarship by the Trinity Classicists W. B. Stanford and J. I. Beare.

Martine Cuypers
I previously worked in Hamburg, Leiden, Groningen, Chicago and Washington D.C. and am still delighted about my move to TCD in 2005. Beyond happily covering my ‘staples,’ such as Homer, Athenian Drama and Hellenistic Poetry, I am currently co-teaching Gender and Sexuality with Monica Gale and Ancient Rhetoric with Anna Chahoud. I have also taught topics as varied as ethnicity, ancient literary criticism, sport, biography, and the epic tradition from Homer to Claudian. In addition, I have become heavily involved in the M.Phil. programmes in Comparative Literature and Literary Translation, where I co-ordinate a module on Literature and Exile and teach topics such as stage translation, fictional world building and history as narrative. My contributions to these programmes occasionally take me as far afield as Italian Renaissance drama, Dutch literature and cyberpunk.

Hazel Dodge
The last few years have been particularly busy! From 2007-2010, I served as the School of Histories and Humanities Postgraduate Director of Teaching and Learning, a most rewarding experience, which, however, did not leave much time for research. Nevertheless, I managed to submit my book for Bristol Classical Press, Spectacle in the Roman World, which was published at the end of 2010. I have also contributed to two handbooks on sport and spectacle in the ancient world, due for publication later in 2012. And the progress is slow, though definite, on a sourcebook to the city of Rome, a collaborative project with Dr Jon Coulston of St Andrews University in Scotland and Professor Christopher Smith, Director of the British School at Rome.

I continue to teach courses on Roman history and archaeology, Greek and Roman Art, and Architecture and
archaeological method. I have recently taken over as co-ordinator for the School Single Honors degree in Ancient and Medieval History and Culture, a very exciting new venture between three areas in the School, Medieval History, History of Art, and Classics. As part of this I have been able to indulge one of my research interests and been part of the development of a new course on the city of Rome in the ancient and medieval periods.

The most exciting event of the last few years was my appointment as the Archaeological Institute of America’s Samuel H. Kress Lecturer for 2010-11. I made two big trips to the States at the beginning and end of the academic year, lecturing at Universities of Cincinnati (Ohio), Kansas (Missouri), Nebraska (Lincoln), Southern Nevada (Las Vegas), Oklahoma, Louisville (Kentucky), Miami University (Oxford) and Creighton University at Omaha (Nebraska). I also lectured in Canada at Ottawa and Toronto. I was totally exhausted at the end of each visit, but I was met with great kindness everywhere, saw several old friends, and made many new ones. I was able to squeeze in visits to Boston, New York, Washington DC, Chicago and San Francisco along the way as well – sailing under the Golden Gate Bridge was something else! On the back of my time spent in the States, I have just been nominated as the Visiting Professor of Architectural Design in the Department of Fine Arts in the University of Louisville for January to May 2013.

Monica Gale

I was away from College for several months in 2007–8, following the birth of my son, Orlando. Since returning to the fray, I’ve contributed to the development of two new Classical Civilisation modules, Gender and Sexuality in the Ancient World (with Martine Cuppers) and Power and Identity in the Ancient World (with Claire Taylor and her successor as Walsh Lecturer, Rosie Harman).

On the research side, I’ve been focussing on two major projects, a volume on Tests and Violence in the Roman World, jointly edited with my partner, David Sourifield of NUI Maynooth, and a commentary on the complete poems of Catullus. Both are to be published by Cambridge University Press; I’m hoping that the latter will eventually offer a more up-to-date alternative to Quinn’s edition, which some readers of this newsletter may remember fondly (or otherwise!). I’ve also published two books in recent years, an Oxford Readings volume on Lucretius, and a commentary with translation on Book 5 of Lucretius’ De Rerum Natura.

In September last year, the graduate students of Yale University invited me to be their annual elected speaker: I much enjoyed my all-too-brief visit to New Haven, in the course of which I gave a paper on the Trojan War in Roman love-poetry. I’ve also given several conference and seminar papers at less far-flung venues, mainly in the UK, and was delighted to run into former students on more than one of these occasions.

Brian McGing

At the moment I am Head of the School of Histories and Humanities, and this takes up a large proportion of my time. It is, however, time well spent, as the School brings together a very strong group of scholar-teachers, dedicated, I think I can safely say, to the pursuit of excellence. Big reductions over the last few years in the block grant from government to the universities pose perhaps the main challenge to the maintenance of excellence in teaching and research. Dealing with this difficult situation accounts for a great deal of our effort.

Aside from administrative matters, I did publish a book recently on the 2nd century BC Greek historian, Polybius (Oxford 2010). He wrote about the rise, and the beginning of the decline of Rome’s empire. Although his style is ordinary and inelegant – which is the main reason Polybius does not usually appear on Classics set-book courses – his themes were political power, the relationship of small states with superpowers, the nature of government. For this reason he has remained a figure of importance in political science circles since Macchiaveli took him up in the 16th century. John Adams, the second President of the United States, was particularly influenced by Polybius. I am currently doing a new translation for the Loeb Classical Library of the Alexandrian historian, Appian, another marginalized historian of the ancient world, although in his case perhaps somewhat more deservedly so than Polybius. I am also working on very interesting 1st century AD administrative papyri from the Chester Beatty Library. I am one of the editors of the journal Archiv für Papyrologie und verwandte Gebiete and I continue to edit the Trinity journal, Hermathena.

Christine Morris

Much of my teaching focuses around Greek archaeology and the Ancient History and Archaeology programme (as well as the Junior Freshman Myth and Religion course which continues to be a joy to teach). For our new M.Phil programme, I contribute a course on ‘reading’ Aegean art, where I get to share my research interests in experiential and sensory archaeology with the students. In 2010 I was thrilled to be awarded a Provost’s teaching award. On the administrative side of things I served as the first Director of Teaching and Learning for Undergraduates in our newly formed School, and as Head of Department (both 2005–7); to my surprise I discovered that I enjoyed these bureaucratic tasks! I continue to represent TCD on the Management Committee of the Irish Institute of Hellenic Studies at Athens. The Institute’s activities have grown to include the annual Greek study tour, student bursaries, a postgraduate internship in Athens, and Irish-based field-projects in Greece. I also co-edited our first publication, The Lure of Greece (2007).

A highlight of 2008 for me was the World Archaeology Congress (WAC) coming to Dublin (hosted at UCD). I served on the organising committee and co-organised a panel on the ‘Archaeology of Spiritualities’ (appearing this year as an edited volume with Springer). Travels in 2008 included a teaching trip to Cyprus to inaugurate a new Erasmus link with the University, which I coordinate; running a study tour to Greece for Irish teachers of Classics; and speaking at the European Archaeological Association conference in Malta. I am a member of the EAA working party on Archaeology and Gender in Europe, and this group met in the wonderful setting of Barcelona in 2010. A big boost to my research on Crete with Alan Peatfield was a 2-year research award from the IRCSSH for our project ‘An intra-site GIS analysis of the archaeological ritual assemblage from the Afitopadhes peak sanctuary in Crete.’ As part of this we hosted an international workshop in Dublin in 2010 on Minoan peak sanctuaries.

Shane Wallace

I have recently been appointed to the post of Walsh
Family Lecturer in Classics and Ancient History. One of the few Limerickmen in Classics, I am proud not only to be returning to Ireland but particularly to be taking up a three-year position at Trinity College Dublin. I say returning because although I took my BA and MA in Ireland – Galway and University College Dublin respectively – I completed my PhD at the University of Edinburgh (2006-2010). During that time, however, I was fortunate enough to receive a number of research awards which allowed me to live, study, and sightsee in both Paris and Athens.

My research deals with the political history and epigraphy of the Hellenistic period, from the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BC to the death of Cleopatra VII in 30 BC. In particular, I am concerned with the relationship between the new Hellenistic monarchies and the old Greek city-states. How did the kings and cities balance ideas of royal authority and civic independence? My PhD explored the use of the political concept of freedom as an aspect of this question. I am currently revising it for publication, as well as editing a book on the Hellenistic court.

At Trinity I teach Greek and Roman history at all levels. I teach specialised courses on a number of subjects: Kings and Cities in the Hellenistic Period, Greeks and Barbarians, which explores the Greek perception of non-Greek peoples, and a language module on Diodorus Siculus, a much-maligned Greek historian of the 1st century BC who remains nonetheless a major source for the history of the years 480–302 BC.

**Featured Books**

Eleanor Dickey and Anna Chahoud (eds.), *Colloquial and Literary Latin* (Cambridge University Press, 2010)


Hazel Dodge, *Spectacle in the Roman World* (Bristol Classical Press, 2011)


Kathryn Rountree, Christine Morris and Alan Peatfield (eds.), *The Archaeology of Spiritualities* (Springer, 2012)

For more staff publications see: [www.tcd.ie/Classics/staff](http://www.tcd.ie/Classics/staff)
Student News

Postdoctoral Fellows
In recent years, no less than three of our graduates have been awarded prestigious postdoctoral fellowships by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences: Dr Donnacha O’Rourke (IRCHSS Fellow 2009-10, now Senior member of the Centre for the Study of Greek and Roman Antiquity at Corpus Christi College, Oxford); Dr Giorgos Papantoniou (IRCHSS Fellow 2009-10; IRCHSS/CARA 2011-14, TCD/Laboratory of Geophysical-Satellite Remote Sensing & Archaeo-environment, FORTH/IMS, Crete) and Dr Catherine Ware (IRCHSS CARA 2010-13, Liverpool/NUIM). In addition, Dr Carl O’Brien (PhD 2007) secured a Humboldt Fellowship. He will be working on the Demigure in Neoplatonism at the University of Heidelberg.

Research Students
Long Room Hub postgraduate students were granted to Kevin McGee in Text, Contexts and Cultures and Frank Lynam in Digital Humanities.
IRCHSS postgraduate studentships were awarded to Selcuk Evans (2008-9), Mairéad McGrath (2009-), Selga Medeniaks (2011-12), Laerke Recht (2008-11) and Katarzyna Zeman-Wisniewska (2009-).
Trinity College Postgraduate Research Studentships were granted to Mairéad McGrath (2008-9), Rebecca Megarry (2009-) and Brendan Landell (2011-).
Philanthropically funded Classics Postgraduate Research Studentships were granted to David Breekner and Kathryn Sanborn in 2011.
Cosetta Cadau secured a postgraduate studentship under the EU Sardinian Development Grant (2009-12).
Conor Trainor was awarded a Fitch Bursary by the British School at Athens. He will be doing petrological work in the Fitch Lab on the ceramics from the Sicyon Survey project.
Nilüfer Akçay published the first Turkish translation of Ovid’s Heroides, a book which originated from her MA thesis completed at Istanbul University.
Kevin McGee organised a staged reading of The Rage of Hercules, Kevin’s own translation of Seneca’s Hercules Furens, in The New Theatre in February 2012, directed by Andy Hinds (Classic Stage Ireland). Although Seneca was hugely influential on the Renaissance stage and Shakespeare and his contemporaries viewed his tragedies, rather than those of the Greeks, as the pinnacle of ancient drama, this was, surprisingly, the premiere of this Senecan tragedy on the Irish stage.
Frank Lynam won a Young Author Award for this paper at the 3D-ARCH International Workshop in Trento 2011, entitled ARCRANGE AND ARCSCEER: Presenting a New Approach to Archaeological Data Management and Representation.’ Read the paper at: http://www.map.archi.fr/albim/Portal_of_Architectural_Image-Based-Modeling/Article-Lynam.html.
With fellow students from University College Dublin, Pamela Zinn and Mairéad McGrath took the initiative for a Postgraduate Interdisciplinary Classics Seminar Series (PICSS), where Irish postgraduate students in Classics can discuss work in progress with their peers. Five meetings of PICSS are scheduled in the academic year 2011/12.
A large delegation from Trinity College attended the first Royal Irish Academy Postgraduate Conference in Classical and Near Eastern Studies, held at Queen’s University Belfast in March 2011. Nilüfer Akçay, Selga Medeniaks, Elizabeth Bourke, Cosetta Cadau, Matthew Diskin and Mairéad McGrath all delivered excellent papers.
To our delight three of our research students recently gave birth to healthy babies. Congratulations to Faheema Ali, Cosetta Cadau and Kalyspo Faropoulou!

M.Phil. Students
Our current M.Phil. Classics students are, once again, a vibrant international cohort. Alongside our own graduates (Yasmin Hamed and Katie McCann), we welcome students from Cyprus (Constantina Alexandrou), from the UK (Liz Chandler) and from North America (Ashley Brewer, Pablo Clemente, Alayne kayne, and Taylor Teske).
Classics staff also participate in many interdisciplinary programmes, teaching and co-ordinating modules and supervising dissertations in Comparative Literature, European Studies, Literary Translation, Medieval Languages and Cultures, and Public History and Heritage. Congratulations to Wouter Mulders, who received a distinction in the M.Phil. in Literary Translation 2011 and whose translation portfolio and thesis were supervised by Martine Cuypers.

Undergraduate Students
Henry Lynam (TSM Greek) created the search tool WordChorus as part of his Senior Sophister thesis project. WordChorus is designed to find patterns in Ancient Greek texts. Have you ever wondered how many verses in the Iliad begin with a rough breathing? Or how many words in Antigone end in οί? Find out at www.wordchorus.com! Henry also obtained grants to present his work at events of the EU-funded ‘Interedition’ project in Brussels and The Hague.
Ella Hassett’s (TSM Ancient History and Archaeology) beautiful archaeological drawings, published a while back in Archaeology Ireland, can now also be admired at www.facebook.com/TrinityCollegeDublinClassics.

Deirdre Craig, ‘Generic Fluctuations: Metapoetic Water in Properties’ (PhD 2008/09, Monica Gale)
Barry Dixon, ‘Platonic Diacritic and Gadamerian Hermeneutics’ (PhD 2008/09, John Dillon)
Aoife Fitzgerald, ‘The City in the Ancient Near East’ (MLitt 2008/09, Hazel Dodge)
Siobhan Hargis, ‘The Development of the Campus Martius, Rome’ (PhD 2008/09, Hazel Dodge)
Diego Honorato, ‘“Myth” and “Reason”: a dichotomy revisited from the perspective of the philosopher Xavier Zubiri’ (PhD 2008/09, John Dillon)
Geoffrey McEvoy, ‘Reactions to the Great Library of Alexandria’ (MLitt 2008/09, Brian McGing)
Helen Connolly, ‘Greek, Roman and Jewish Sacrificial Temple Practices in Asia Minor, The Levant and Egypt’ (MLitt 2009/10, Brian McGing)
Grant Couper, ‘Self-interest, Self-help and the Roman State: policing the north-western provinces of the Empire’ (PhD 2009/10, Hazel Dodge)
Laura Jansen, ‘Inspirational Agency and Creative Desire in Ovid’s Amores’ (PhD 2009/10, Monica Gale)
Suzanne O’Neill, ‘The Architectural and Cultural Reception of the Temple of Apollo at Bassai and its Frieze’ (PhD 2009/10, Christine Morris)
Selena Martin, ‘Children of Kadmos: A Study of Euripides’ Bacchae’ (MLitt 2009/10, Martine Cuypers)
Matthew Diskin, ‘The Ghost of Brennus: Gaulish Themes in Classical Literature and Roman Policy in the West’ (PhD 2010/11, Brian Mcging)
For research degrees awarded in earlier years see: www.tcd.ie/Classics/postgraduate/degrees/theses.php
Friends of the Department

The A. G. Leventis Foundation have funded a position in Greek Archaeology and History since 1997 – held by Dr Christine Morris – and two years ago they joined forces with the Andrew A. David Foundation to re-launch that position as the Andrew A. David Lectureship in Greek Archaeology and History. Andrew A. David was a student at Trinity in the 1950s, and we are very grateful to his daughter Rea David for her support. It was a particular pleasure to welcome Anastasios Leventis to Trinity for the first time last year when he came for the Public Forum we organised to celebrate the inauguration of the Andrew A. David Lectureship (see also Events, p. 10). Most recently the Leventis Foundation has generously agreed to sponsor two postgraduate scholarships in Hellenic Studies at our University.

One of our oldest collaborators is Professor Marianne McDonald of the University of California at San Diego. As well as being the world’s leading expert on Greek drama in its modern guises, Marianne is also one of the most important figures in the technological advancement of Classical studies. It was her generosity that enabled the Thesaurus Linguae Graecae, a searchable databank of the whole of Greek literature from the beginning to AD 1500, the single most important electronic resource in the Greek literature. Marianne’s generosity has been used in many ways, not least in the provision of travelling scholarships for our students to visit the Mediterranean world.

Bill Walsh and his family continue to provide for our position in Greek History. The Walsh Family Lectureship has become a central part of our teaching and research profile, and is widely recognised now internationally as a great opportunity for a young scholar to get a start in the academic world. Our most recent Walsh Family Lecturers were Dr Claire Taylor, who went on to a fellowship at the Centre for Hellenic Studies and is currently teaching at Newcastle University, and Rosie Harman, now a lecturer at University College London. At the start of the academic year 2011/12 the lectureship was taken up by Dr Shane Wallace, a specialist in Hellenistic history, who in the past months has become a valued member of our team.

Above: Bill Walsh (m) and Trinity College Provost John Hegarty present a Gold Medal to Classics student Kevin McGee.

Dorothy Cross, Peter Fallon, Anastasios Leventis, Tom Mitchell, Demetrios Michaelides and Paul Cartledge at the forum ‘Why Does the Past Matter? The Greco-Roman world in the 21st Century’ (see also page 10).

Among many other sites, students on the 2011 Study Tour to Greece visited the theatre at Epidaurus.
We are always delighted to receive visits from former students and their family members. A recent testimony to our Alumni’s attachment to the Department is the generous gift of Ms Elinor Powell, daughter of Ashley Powell (1885–1967), Reid Professor at the Dublin University School of Law 1930–1935. Elinor recently presented the Department with the Bishop Berkeley Gold Medal awarded to her father in 1910, when he was a Law student in Trinity College Dublin, having obtained moderatorship in Classics two years earlier. Ashley Powell distinguished himself during the First World War and acted as a defence lawyer in Egypt, where he received a Certificate of Honour in 1913 and the Order of Nahda in 1919. Returning to Ireland in 1929, he set up a law practice in the Dublin Four Courts and Munster Circuit. He became Senior Council in 1947 and was elected Bencher of the King’s Inn in 1956. He was a member of the Diocesan Council of the Church of Ireland, a Registrar of St Patrick’s Cathedral in Dublin, a Director of the Irish Civil Service Building Society and Governor of King’s Hospital School. We would like to express our most sincere thanks to Elinor, who came all the way from British Columbia to meet us and give us, along with her generous gift, the opportunity to honour the memory of her eminent father.

We have turned Professor George Huxley’s generous donation to the Department into a prize for the best M.Phil. Dissertation of the year. The Huxley prize has been awarded to Helen Sonner (2009), to Adrian McMahon (2010), and to Helen Lambert and Margaret Desmond (2011). We thought this was a suitable encouragement for those taking the new degree, and are very grateful to George for this and for all his advice, help and unwavering support over many years.

Books stand at the centre of our operations, and even if electronic resources are one of the great ways into the future, we still need the ‘real thing’. When Godfrey Bond died in 1997 – Godfrey graduated from Trinity in 1949 before going on to a distinguished career as a Eu- ripidean expert in Pembroke College Oxford – he left his library on Greek literature to us, a valuable research resource, now housed in our seminar room on the 6th floor of the Arts Building.

One of the finest readers of Latin poetry of the 20th century and up to this day, Niall Rudd (B.A. 1950, M.A. 1956, Ph.D. 1957) has been an ambassador of Trinity excellence in scholarship in the UK, Europe and North America for sixty years. He was conferred an Honorary Degree in 1998, on the 50th anniversary of his being awarded Foundation Scholarship. His monographs on Roman Satire, on Horace and Juvenal are seminal studies, the rigour and insight of which makes them simply timeless. His Lines of Inquiry (1976) is an inspiring key into poetic artistry and intertextuality, published well before the subject became fashionable. His studies of the classical tradition complement his interest in English poetry, from Ben Johnson to A. E. Housman. His impeccable translations of Latin texts for prestigious publishers have made even the most subtle and difficult texts available to a wider public. He is Professor Emeritus at the University of Bristol and Honorary Research Fellow in the School of English at the University of Liverpool. Continuously over the decades he has demonstrated his devotion to his Alma Mater through visiting lectures and most generous donations. A recent example was the gift to the Department of over 800 books, which was merely the last and most substantial of his regular gifts over the years; to this donation he has most recently added a financial contribution towards the refurbishing of the Classics Department Library where students spend long hours every day.
Events and Updates

Stanford Memorial Lectures
This lecture series was established, by public subscription, to honour the memory of William Bedell Stanford, Regius Professor of Greek in Trinity College from 1940 to 1980, and Chancellor of the University of Dublin from 1982 to 1984. The series allows a scholar doing innovative work in an area of Classical Studies the opportunity to explore a topic of her or his choice in depth in three lectures which, suitably expanded, are then published by Cambridge University Press. Our most recent Stanford Lecturer was Dr Vicky Rimmell (University of Rome, La Sapienza), who spoke on ‘Enclosure and empire: the poetics of interiority in Roman literature’ in 2009. The most recent book flowing from the series is Alison Sharrock’s Reading Roman Comedy: Poetics and Playfulness in Plautus and Terence (2009, paperback 2012). For the next series of Stanford lectures, which will take place in November 2012, we will welcome back our former Walsh Family Lecturer Dr Peter Liddell (University of Manchester).

For a complete list of past speakers and publications see www.tcd.ie/Classics/research/stanford.php

Research Seminars
Each year the department welcomes many visiting speakers, invited through the Classics Research Seminar, the Centre for Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies or the Plato Centre. Invited lectures in 2010 and 2011 included:

- 23/2/2012 Hans van Wees (University College London), ‘Conquest, Ethnicity and Religion in Archaic Greece’
- 23/11/2011 Dr. Heidi Köpp (Trier), ‘Travel and transport in Ancient Egypt’
- 14/11/2011 Professor J. Andrew Overman (Macalester College) ‘Recent Archaeological Discoveries from Roman Galilee’
- 26/10/2011 Dr Samantha Martin-McAuliffe (UCD), ‘ Dwelling in the Landscape: the Prehistoric Burial Tumulus of Lofkend, Albania’
- 12/10/2011 Conor Trainor (TCD), Exploring Ancient Sikyon: Pottery and the Search for a Lost City
- 30/3/2011 Dr Wolfgang Polleichtner (Bochum) ‘Between Plagiarism and Original Thoughts: The Challenge of the Testimonies of Iamblichus’
- 16/3/2011 Dr Hugh Denard (KCL), Walking with Avatars: Life, Art and Theatre in Rome, 100 BCE-200 CE
- 9/3/2011 Dr Lydia Langerwerf (Groningen) ‘From Catiline to Spartacus: Rebel Daring in Greek and Latin Historiography’
- 22/2/2011 Professor Eric Gruen (Berkeley) ‘Jewish Appropriations of Greek Mythology’
- 9/2/2011 Professor Roy Gibson (Manchester) ‘What were ancient letter collections for? Autobiography and the modern (re-)arrangement of ancient letters’
- 8/12/2010 Dr Jon Coulston (St Andrews) ‘Trajan’s Other Trophy: the Tropaeum Traiani at Adamclisi, Romania’
27/10/2010 Dr Wolfgang de Melo (Ghent), ‘Passive Periphrases from Plautus to Egeria’

08/10/2010 Professor Demetrios Michaelides (Cyprus) ‘Medicine & Healing in Ancient Cyprus’

24/03/2010 Professor Andrew Erskine (Edinburgh) ‘Hellenistic Parades and Roman Triumphs’

04/11/2009 Professor Tony Woodman (Virginia), ‘Intertextuality in Tacitus’

Irish Institute of Hellenic Studies at Athens

The Irish Institute of Hellenic Studies in Athens (IIHSA) was founded in 1996 to facilitate Irish-based students and scholars working in Greece. It is run from Ireland by representatives from Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin, NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth, and University College Cork. Christine Morris has been our representative on the Managing Committee since the institute’s foundation and John Dillon served as its Director until the end of 2011. Among its activities, the IIHSA coordinates Irish archaeological fieldwork in Greece and organises yearly study tours for students of Irish Universities. It also offers student bursaries and a postgraduate internship in Athens, and organises lectures, research seminars and workshops, in Athens but also in Ireland, such as the Dayschool ‘From Papyrus to Kindle: the Power of Writing in the Greek and Roman World, held in Trinity College in November 2011. Read more: www.iihsa.ie/news.html

Workshop on Minoan Peak Sanctuaries

This international workshop, held in Trinity College, brought together, for the first time, the majority of scholars working on primary material from Minoan peak sanctuaries (of the Cretan Bronze Age) to discuss their material and research challenges over three days. To open the workshop Dr Alexandra Karetsou (former Director of the Iraklion Museum, Crete and Director of the Iuktas excavations) gave a public keynote address in Trinity College to an audience of over a hundred.

Trinity College Students Go Digging

A key teaching innovation in the Ancient History and Archaeology degree has been the introduction of practical modules for academic credit. Starting in 2009-2010 our students can now pursue practical archaeological work (such as excavation, survey, internship in a museum) or a guided study tour during the summer vacation for academic credit. They keep a reflective diary and then write a short research paper on a topic arising from their practical experience. This skills based learning is proving an excellent new dimension to our students’ learning experience and has further increased the already high number of students who graduate from Trinity College with hands on experience in archaeology.

New Exchanges: Cyprus, Geneva, Ravena

In addition to our Erasmus agreements with Bordeaux and Fribourg, we have recently started exchanging students with the universities of Geneva, Ravena, and Cyprus. The link with the University of Cyprus introduces a new type of collaboration, as it focuses on exchanging staff and postgraduate students. From the University of Cyprus, Professors Ourania Kouka and Maria lakovou have come to Dublin and taught our archaeology students. Christine Morris, Brian McGing and Hazel Dodge have made return visits, each giving undergraduate lectures and a public lecture, and postgraduate student Katarzyna Zeman-Wiśniewska spent a semester in Cyprus.

Hermathena

Brian McGing has been editing Hermathena (founded 1873) for 25 years. Apart from a brief period in the 1970s, it has been a journal concentrating on the ancient Mediterranean and its extension into the modern world. It is now a much more international journal in terms of contributions, reviewers and subscribers than it was in earlier times. For a recent article on the name ‘Hermathena’ written by our excellent Editorial Manager, Eileen Kelly, see www.tcd.ie/Classics/hermathena


Ancient History and Archaeology students Elaine McElroy and Frank Lynam excavating at Priniatikos Pyrgos in Crete in 2009.
Contact us...

We are very interested in hearing your story and staying in touch. We will not communicate your contact details to anyone else without your permission. Contact:

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Professor Anna Chahoud, Professor of Latin, Head of Department
Dr Ashley Clements, Lecturer in Greek Literature and Philosophy
Dr Martine Cypers, Lecturer in Greek
Dr Hazel Dodge, Louis Claude Purser Senior Lecturer in Classical Archaeology
Professor Monica Gale, Associate Professor of Latin
Professor Brian McGing, Regius Professor of Greek,
Head of School of Histories and Humanities
Dr Christine Morris, Andrew A. David Senior Lecturer in Greek Archaeology and History
Dr Shane Wallace, Walsh Family Lecturer in Classics and Ancient History

Postdoctoral Fellows
Dr Giorgos Papantoniou, IRCHSS CARA Postdoctoral Fellow

Research Associates
Dr Jon Coulston, Professor Andrew Erskine, Professor Andrew Smith,
Dr Adam Marshall, Dr Suzanne O’Neill, Dr Nicolette Pavlides

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Professor Marianne McDonald, Professor Tom Mitchell

Alumni Voices
Kate Higgs
Classical Civilisation, 2007

Fourth year in Classics was the highlight of my college experience. For Irish students coming out of the Leaving Cert education system, it can take a year or two to fully comprehend the idea of independent thought and research. But by the final year of my Classics degree, I was fully equipped with the necessary skill-set to set about exploring an area of my own choosing (in my case Imperial Roman women who used their feminine wiles to gain power and influence), working and shaping my project into a satisfyingly substantial piece of work. Classes in fourth year centre on each lecturer’s area of expertise, and are given in a less formal seminar format. This afforded us both the privilege of studying with lecturers who were imparting cutting edge research and the opportunity to present our own ideas and opinions to our peers. It was challenging and satisfying to think hard about complex issues that are both grounded in ancient concerns and also still pertinent to the way we approach the world around us today. That is the beauty of studying the Classics as the foundation of Western culture: you learn to appreciate just how relevant many ancient theories and ideas are to modern debates.

Classics at Trinity challenges you, it teaches you to question assumptions, to think critically and creatively, and, once the cobblestoned path has been trodden, it opens doors not only to further study but also to a myriad of future careers. This realisation only properly struck me recently as I embarked on a career in Law. It was my grounding in skills acquired during my Classics degree – the ability to think analytically and conduct research, to write succinctly, and to present ideas confidently and lucidly – which ultimately led to my gaining employment in a field that has now become more competitive than ever.

Cover image Demosthenes Epibomios, marble relief c. 1737. This neoclassical work of Italian provenance belongs to the College Art Collection and is hosted in the Classics Department. It featured among 120 works selected from collections worldwide to celebrate Greek art at the exhibition La Forza del Bello: L’Arte Greca conquista l’Italia, organised by Salvatore Settis in Mantua in 2008. The relief has in recent years become our departmental icon and it features prominently on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/TrinityCollegeDublinClassics) and website (www.tcd.ie/Classics/).