It has been a full and eventful year for the Department, and we have lots of news and photos of events to share with you about what the Classics staff and our students have been doing both in College and beyond.

We are very pleased to welcome a new colleague, Dr Hugh Denard, who joined us in January from King’s College London. Hugh’s time is shared between the Classics Department and the College’s MPhil in Digital Humanities. A TCD alumnus (in Classical Civilisation and Drama), Hugh has published widely in drama studies and in the application of digital visualization tools to the Humanities.

Some highlights of our year were the Stanford lecture series and the lovely event in celebration of J.V. Luce in the Provost’s House in May. A new initiative this year has been participation in the GradLink mentoring programme, which has given us the pleasure of renewing contacts with former students. And building on the success of the annual speech competition for schools, we have added a new one-day Classical activity workshop to our schools’ outreach programme.

Some upcoming events in the current academic year will include our third Classics Forum on ‘The Creative Mind’, and an international workshop in June on ‘The Augustan Space: A Bimillennium Celebration (Rome AD 14 – Dublin 2014)’. Details of both events will be available shortly on our website at www.tcd.ie/Classics.

We hope you enjoy our 2013 Newsletter, and we look forward to keeping in contact with you by letter, email, or through Facebook. We are keen to hear your stories. And please do call in and see us if you are in the vicinity.

Christine Morris (Head of Department 2012-13)
STAFF NEWS

ANNA CHAHoud

After my three-year stint as Head of Department, I very much welcomed the opportunity of a semester’s sabbatical leave in September. I was immensely fortunate to be invited to apply for, and to obtain, a Visiting Fellowship at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa, which allowed me to go back to that beautiful city exactly twenty years since my time there as a PhD student. During my time there I have made progress with my Lucilius commentary, with the edition of Republican satire, invective and popular verse, and with the edited volume on Trinity College Latin manuscripts.

On my return to Ireland after Christmas, I was very pleased to be given an opportunity to speak, on the subject of fragmentary Latin texts, at a Colloquium on ‘Latin as a Research Tool’ in Cork, thus strengthening the fruitful collaboration with the Centre for Neo-Latin Studies in UCC.

I resumed my teaching in the Department in January, finding an exceptional collaborator for my Roman Comedy course in Dr Hugh Denard, an expert in ancient and modern theatre, who joined us from King’s College London. The final year students on the Ancient Rhetoric course, which I teach in conjunction with Martine Cuypers, have been as rewarding as ever with their skilful (and very witty!) composition of orations in classical form; under my (hardly needed) supervision they have once more acted as extremely competent judges in the Speech Competition organised by the Teachers of the Classical Association of Ireland.

In my role as Public Orator I have had, as always, the opportunity to introduce and meet extraordinary people, from the Burmese champion of democracy, Aung San Suu Kyi, in June, to the American playwright Sam Shepard in December (with his guest friend, performing artist and poet Patti Smith). These occasions are always exceptionally moving to me, as well as a cause of great joy and pride.

Next year will mark the Bimillennial anniversary of the death of Augustus, and I am looking forward to joining in the worldwide celebrations with a conference that will bring to Dublin, for the first time, the distinguished members of the international Augustan Poetry Network (Réseau international de recherche et de formation à la recherche sur la poésie augustéenne), with generous support of the Trinity Long Room Hub Institute for Research in the Humanities and of the Provost.

ASHLEY CLEMENTS

Thanks to the generosity of colleagues, I have enjoyed the luxury of a semester’s leave this past year, during which I finished a short book on one of Aristophanes’ finest plays, Thesmophorizousai (2014 CUP). But despite my time away from teaching, I yet found myself twice inspired by our talented students. The first occasion, just a few weeks into my leave, was at a performance of this very comedy by our own Classical Society (which comprises enthusiastic students from all of our degree streams and beyond), whose hilarious interpretation of Aristophanes’ play reawakened me to that immediate, elusive quality of laughter almost impossible to preserve when writing about comedy or trying to explain a joke (disclaimer: buyer beware!). Its success has prompted me to return this dazzling comedy to our Greek syllabus this forthcoming year, and, recruiting the expertise of our new colleague and expert in ancient theatrical performance, Dr Hugh Denard, explore new ways of (re)capturing Greek laughter.

My second experience of inspiration occurred at the end of my leave, whilst in Cambridge checking references, when I happened to bump into one of our past students in Classical Civilization, John Fahy (CC 2008), whose subsequent sideways move to the discipline of Social Anthropology (MA, Queen’s Belfast), culminated last year in PhD studies in Anthropology at King’s College, Cambridge, exploring Neo-Hindu religious movements in North East India.

As I return now to teaching modules on Greek Comedy and on Anthropology and the Greeks next Semester, I can think of no more impressive reminders of the diversity of creative and academic talent that our Department of Classics here at Trinity can boast, nor better illustrations of the capacity of our eclectic discipline not only to reinvent, entertain, and enrich us, but also open our minds beyond the Classical world to the possibilities of others.
CLASSICS NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2013

STAFF NEWS

MARTINE CUYPERS

Greek drama has occupied a prominent place in my schedule in the past year. The Classic Stage Ireland production of Agamemnon, in March 2012, was a great success, as was the Royal Irish Academy colloquium ‘Greco-Roman Drama in Context: Ancient and Modern’ in November. This event brought together scholars and theatre professionals and closed with an enlightening panel discussion on translating Greco-Roman tragedy for the modern stage. In College, I taught a new module in ‘Greek Tragedy and the History of Western Theatre’ to our MPhil students, as well as drama modules for both middle years’ students in Classical Civilisation and Greek, taught in synergy with Anna Chahoud and Hugh Denard’s ‘Roman Comedy’. The Senior Sophister ‘Ancient Rhetoric’ course went into its second year, and Anna Chahoud and I were again impressed by the demonstration speeches delivered by our students, which ranged from a Prosecution and Defence of Clytemnestra to a hilarious Praise of the Irish Breakfast (see p. 15).

Beyond teaching, I have been busy with the administrative duties of the School’s postgraduate directorship, which I took over in July 2012. Did you know that Histories and Humanities has by far the largest number of research students of all Schools in the Faculty? We have more than a hundred PhD students, all of whom are reviewed annually in a 45-minute interview. In chairing these interviews as well as many viva voce examinations, I have become very impressed by the range and quality of the research conducted by postgraduate students in the School. This also extends to the MPhil level, as all of the ca. 60 students enrolled in our seven taught Masters courses produce a substantial piece of research for their degree, often on original and ambitious topics.

With regard to research I look forward to the publication of the paperback edition of the Companion to Hellenistic Literature, co-edited with Jim Clauss of the University of Washington, in December, and to finishing a commentary on Book 2 of Apollonius of Rhodes’ Argonautica. Book 2 is often seen as a less interesting part of Apollonius’ Hellenistic epic, as it does not deal with the relationship between Jason and Medea. This is short sighted, I think, because the book contains very interesting experiments with narrative voice, intertextuality and aetiology, many of which are reflected in authors such as Callimachus and Virgil.

HAZEL DODGE

The academic year 2012-13 was a very busy one for me. Just before the teaching year started I completed three chapter entries for two Blackwell Companions (Blackwell Companion to Sport and Spectacle and Blackwell Companion to Roman Architecture); these are now in press and due out later this year. I spent the second semester in Louisville Kentucky where I had been nominated the Frederic Lindley Morgan Visiting Professor in Architectural Design in the Department of Fine Arts at the University of Louisville. I taught a class called ‘Building for an Audience: the Architecture and Art of Roman Spectacle’. It was a challenge as most of the 28 students had not studied the ancient world, but with the aid of Charlton Heston (Ben-Hur) and Russell Crowe (Gladiator) they quickly got to grips with the subject! I also gave a public lecture relating to my other major research interest on the quarrying and use of decorative stones in the Roman world, ‘Symbols of Victory and Colours of Power: Egyptian Stones for the City of Rome’.

The Library, and their excellent Inter-Library Loan system made for a great research base, and at weekends I went exploring on road trips. And I never could quite escape the ancient world of the Mediterranean. Nashville lived up to its moniker of ‘Athens of the South’ with its the pre-Civil War Tennessee State Capitol which is modelled on a Greek Ionic temple, and instead of a dome has a lantern that is a copy of the Choregic Monument of Lysicrates in Athens. Nashville also has its own version of the Parthenon, originally built in 1897 as part of the Tennessee

The Tennessee Capitol.
STAFF NEWS

Centennial Exposition. I have to admit the building really impressed me (it even has refinements!), despite everyone telling me it was tacky! The ancient world also provided the inspiration for many commemorative monuments, particularly for two historical figures whom I seemed constantly to follow, George Rogers Clarke (who founded Louisville and became an American hero in the war against the British) and Abraham Lincoln whose tomb is topped by an obelisk. As Lincoln was born in Kentucky, lived in Indiana as a boy and lived and married in Springfield Illinois, I encountered many statues of this presidential figure – although at times they bore a startling resemblance to Daniel Day-Lewis! Travelling by car also allowed me to see a slice of American culture, from a rodeo to deep-fried peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, to Superman whose giant statue (complete with underwear over his tights) proudly stands by the courthouse in the town of Metropolis, Indiana.

MONICA GALE

I have been busy this year getting to grips with my new departmental role as Study Abroad Coordinator: it has been great to meet all our visiting students (of whom we have had more than forty this year, the majority from the USA), however briefly. I was delighted, too, to have no fewer than three Americans and one Erasmus student in my Sophister Latin class, which gave it a wonderfully cosmopolitan feel. On the research side, I continue to plug away at my commentary on the poems of Catullus; I am also in the final stages of editorial work on a volume on violence in Latin literature, which should – I hope – be published some time next year. I have given a number of conference and seminar papers at various locations in the UK in recent months, and am in the process of making plans for a mini lecture-tour in the US in September.

BRIAN McGING

I am just coming to the end of my three-year period as Head of the School of Histories and Humanities. This role has drawn me away somewhat from the everyday life of the Department of Classics, and, regrettably, from the students. I attended last term the Classical Society’s hilarious and carefully prepared performance of Aristophanes’ *Thesmophoriazousai*, and it brought home to me just how unimportant university administration is, if it doesn’t have as its ultimate objective the creation of an intellectual space for our students to excel, inside and outside the classroom. The School of Histories and Humanities comprises an outstanding group of academic colleagues (we are the only School in the College this year to be 100% research-active), of administrators and of exceptional students. Its committees function efficiently and effectively, and the whole operates to our mutual advantage. It has been a privilege (as well as a challenge) to represent our interests in the College and contribute to the important (at times) deliberations of the wider College community.

As part of my duties, I have taken a role in the College’s new Global Policy, headed up by our colleague, Jane Ohlmeyer, Erasmus Smith’s Professor of Irish History. This policy aims to boost Trinity’s presence on the world stage and bring in more international students. The main international interest in the Humanities comes from North America (although some Indian schools may well prove keen partners), and I have been part of a small team visiting the east coast of the United States on three occasions in this last year; and I was recently in Canada too. My main effort has been to visit high schools from New York to New Hampshire, drawing attention to the attractions of studying at Trinity.

Although representing the College at large, I thought it made sense to visit schools that teach Latin and Greek. I have taken classes, met College counselors, Headmasters and students, and in general begun to build some links. I have always been of the opinion that students won’t come if they don’t get to see an actual person from Trinity (however odd). For those who worry, understandably, about the future of Greek and Latin, at Phillips Academy Exeter in New Hampshire there are 170 students in the school taking both Greek and Latin! I have visited a number of schools in the Boston area, but have enjoyed mixed fortune in Boston itself: when I visited in the autumn last year the city was closed up waiting for Hurricane
STAFF NEWS

Sandy, and this April I managed to schedule a busy day in Boston on Friday 19 April when some 8000 police were searching for the Marathon bombers. A day locked in my hotel at least enabled me to catch up with Trinity work, but it was disappointing as I had interesting classes lined up in Boston University Academy School and the Winsor School, as well as an event to meet parents and their children, and a lecture to alumni. My disappointment pales into insignificance, of course, against the backdrop of what the citizens of Boston had to endure that week.

Our alumni are a very important part of the image that Trinity presents to the world. The way in which they link with our international efforts was made clear to me by an event we organised in New York in April that was very kindly hosted by one of our alumni, Sean Reynolds. We invited students who had been offered a place in Trinity, their parents and other siblings, as well as alumni, their friends and some valued friends of the College. There were academics present (Jane O’Hlmeyer, Darryl Jones from English and myself), and colleagues from the Trinity Foundation and the Global Office. Jane gave a brilliant presentation on Trinity and the evening took off from there. The alumni were hugely important in talking with prospective students, and the mixture of people created a great atmosphere. A super evening! And there were acceptances first thing next day!

I have managed to keep publishing. Having written a book about Polybius in 2010, I seem to be working backwards, expanding details that I had touched on in the book. I also continue to publish Greek papyri from Egypt. I will be on sabbatical leave for the academic year 2013-2014, and will be concentrating on a new Loeb edition of the Greek historian, Appian. Translating poses more interesting strategic challenges than you might think.

CHRISTINE MORRIS

This past year has been busy but rewarding. I was very happy to be awarded an Irish Research Council Collaborative Research Project award for the year. This gave me the luxury of a full-time research assistant, a role fulfilled superbly by recent Ancient History and Archaeology (AHA) graduate Brendan O’Neill, as well as some buy out from teaching which Dr Sue O’Neill undertook with great skill. The greater challenge was juggling this with being Head of Department for the year!

Cyprus and Crete have loomed large in my schedule this year, and anyone who knows me will know my love for these two wonderful islands. In December, I was delighted to co-organise, with His Excellency Dr Michalis Stavrides of the Embassy of Cyprus, a very special and memorable Cypriot evening in College with a musical performance and a demonstration of traditional icon painting. Outside of College, I ran a day school on Cypriot archaeology at the Centre for Manx Studies (University of Liverpool) in November, and in February I was pleased to be invited to address the Irish Hellenic Society on the topic of ‘Sweet Land of Aphrodite: travels in the archaeology of Cyprus’.

In April I visited Cyprus to teach and give a public lecture within the framework of the Erasmus exchange which I co-ordinate for the Department, and I also had the great pleasure of helping to launch Dr Giorgos Papantoniou’s book on Religion and Social Transformations in Cyprus, the fruits of his doctoral thesis completed here in TCD. Another enjoyable occasion was the invitation by former AHA student, Stephen Murphy (now a Curator in the Metropolitan Museum of Art), to chair part of his session at the European Association of Southeast Asian Archaeologists held in Dublin Castle in September.

April and again July also saw research trips to Eastern Crete to pursue the collaborative programme of work (with Alan Peatfield and Costis Davaras) on Minoan peak sanctuary figurines. This work included 3D laser scanning of the material, which we plan to make openly available online, as well as some experimental work on figurine production, both undertaken in collaboration with Brendan O’Neill. Recent fruits of research include The Archaeology of Spiritualities edited with Alan Peatfield and Kathryn Rountreee (Springer 2012), and a chapter on ‘Goddesses in Prehistory’ with Lucy Goodison, for the Blackwell Companion to Gender in Prehistory.

3D Laser scanning of Cretan Bronze Age figurines.
I am now finishing my second year in Trinity College and it has been a busy but highly enjoyable one. My teaching load has increased so I have started teaching modules on the history of the Roman Empire to our AHA students and Power and Identity in Classical Athens for Classical Civilisation. In addition, I taught a research-based module to Senior Sophister students on ‘Kings and Cities in the Hellenistic World’. It’s a great enjoyment to be able to teach a research interest, especially to smart, interested students. Other than that, I have continued teaching a fairly broad range of subjects from Junior Freshman to MPhil level.

I have had a chance to travel a bit around Ireland giving papers: Cork, Limerick, Galway, and Maynooth, as well as giving the inaugural lecture to the Classics Society in TCD this year on the ‘Greeks in India and Afghanistan’. I presented at the Classical Association conference in Reading this April and spoke at a conference on Hellenistic Athens in Edinburgh in June. I have published two articles this year and have been continuing a number of projects: an edited volume on the Hellenistic court, a translation of the fragments of Arrian, the famous biographer of Alexander the Great, and, most importantly, turning my PhD thesis into a book. Plenty to keep me busy academically.

The last year has been one of change for me as well. Nicolette Pavlides and I got married twice over the summer of 2012 – civil in Limerick, religious in Cyprus – and I can heartily recommend a wedding under the Mediterranean sun! A two-week honey-moon in Thailand over the Christmas topped off a wonderful year – beautiful country, manic cities. All in all, I am thoroughly enjoying my time in Trinity. TCD is a great place to work and Dublin is a great place to live.

After completing both my doctoral thesis (2008) and a one-year postdoctoral Fellowship in Trinity (2009-2010), I left for my country (Cyprus) at the other edge of Europe, having the impression that my actual engagement with my second beloved country was coming to an end. Nonetheless, happily, my bonds with Ireland were soon to be re-established. I am currently holding a three-year (2011-2014) Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship co-funded by the European Commission (Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowships) to work on the project entitled ‘Unlocking’ Sacred Landscapes: A Holistic Approach to Cypriot Sanctuaries and Religion. This project constitutes a collaboration between the Department of Classics, Trinity College Dublin and the Laboratory of Geophysical – Satellite Remote Sensing and Archaeoenvironment, Foundation for Research and Technology, Hellas (FORTH), Institute for Mediterranean Studies (IMS).

My main research agenda is based on interdisciplinary approaches. Bringing together archaeological, textual, epigraphic, art-historical, and anthropological evidence, I work on ancient Cypriot ritual space, sanctuaries and religion from the Late Bronze Age to the Roman period. My broader area of interest includes the interaction of Cyprus with other Mediterranean and Near Eastern cultures, particularly mainland Greece, the Syro-Palestinian coast and Egypt.

My first monograph, entitled Religion and Social Transformations in Cyprus. From the Cypriot Basileis to the Hellenistic Strategos has recently been published by Leiden (Brill 2012). This monograph focuses on religion to explore how the socio-cultural infrastructure of Cyprus was affected by the transition from segmented administration by many Cypriot kings to the island-wide government by a foreign Ptolemaic correspondent. It approaches politico-religious ideological responses and structures of symbolism through the study of sacred landscapes, specific iconographic elements, and archaeological contexts and architecture, as well as through textual and epigraphic evidence.

A highlight of 2013 for me was the book-launch of the above monograph both in Nicosia and in Athens. The book was first presented in February 2013 in Nicosia by Dr Jennifer Webb, Prof. Maria Iacovou and Dr Christine Morris. In April 2013 the book was also presented in the Cycladic Museum of Athens by the Director of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Prof. James Wright.

In addition, in collaboration with the University of Cyprus and the Association for Coroplastic Studies, in June 2013 I organised an international conference on ‘Hellenistic and Roman Terracottas from Ancient Mediterranean’.
The Department hosted a cultural event in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus on 12 December 2012, marking the transfer of the EU Presidency from Cyprus to Ireland. The event comprised a musical performance by the Cypriot group ‘Cyprogenia’, and a demonstration of traditional Cypriot icon painting by Mr Mattheos Mattheou. Mr Mattheou also held a seminar on traditional icon painting the following day, and then generously donated the completed icon to the Department.

We are also pleased to report that the excellent lecture series given by our 2009 lecturer, Dr Johannes Haubolt, has just appeared as *Greece and Mesopotamia: Dialogues in Literature* (CUP 2013).

CULTURAL EVENT IN COLLABORATION WITH THE CYPRIOIT EMBASSY

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ALUMNI APPEAL THANK YOU

Thank you to all alumni who have donated to the Trinity Alumni Appeal. Your generosity has helped many Classics students. If you would like to donate to the 2013 Alumni Appeal please go to: www.tcd.ie/development/alumniappeal or phone +353 1 896 2088.
On 1 May 2013 the Provost, Professor Patrick Prendergast, hosted a reception in memory of Professor J. V. Luce in the magnificent Saloon of the Provost’s House. Over a hundred guests, including former Provosts Professor Tom Mitchell and Professor John Hegarty, gathered to greet Mrs Lyndall Luce, her daughters Alice and Kristina and their families. It was a truly memorable occasion, culminating in Mrs Luce’s generous presentation to the College of one of her husband’s Gold Medals, which will henceforth be the medal of office for the Public Orator in College. ‘The Orator is the Voice and Pen of the University; the Orator has the important task of the formal justification to the Senate of the candidate’s claim to his or her degree’, wrote Professor Luce, who was Public Orator for 33 years (1972-2005), the longest tenure in the history of College. The Provost highlighted this oratorical achievement recalling some of the distinguished recipients of honorary degrees introduced in Latin by Professor Luce, from Neil Armstrong to Nelson Mandela, from Seamus Heaney to Bono to Bill Walsh. A selection of his Latin orations, complete with photo gallery and video of Professor Luce’s last Commencements as Public Orator in July 2005, may be viewed on the dedicated space that our Department created with kind permission of the Luce family (www.tcd.ie/Classics/jvl).

Oratory comes with time-honoured requisites: clarity, style, and consistency in speech as in life (so Cicero would have it), and most importantly, effective delivery, which Demosthenes viewed as ‘the first, the second, and the third most important acquirements of the orator’. Throughout his career, Professor Luce gave hundreds of brilliant examples of his excellence in all these tasks. Brian McGing, Regius Professor of Greek and Public Orator 2005-2008, celebrated his predecessor’s elegant and dignified style, forceful clarity, and unique gravitas. Professor Luce was a philologist in the original and deep sense of the word — in his own definition, ‘one who loves language and is serious about education’. This vocation and mission guided him all his life, as Professor McGing emphasised throughout his moving address, in which he also announced that the College hopes to create a philanthropically funded, new position in the classical languages, named for Professor Luce. It was the wish of the family that Anna Chahoud, Professor of Latin and Public Orator (2008-present) would close the formal part of the celebration in Latin. Her tribute was a grateful acknowledgment of Professor Luce’s advice, support, and enduring memory.

(Anna Chahoud, August 2013)
The School of Histories and Humanities launched its first Careers Mentoring Programme (‘GradLink’) in January 2013. The programme is an interactive learning and educational experience, provided to Junior Sophister students to assist them in their personal and career development. Graduates of each Department within the School were invited to participate in the mentoring programme. A total of 22 mentors from the Departments of History, Classics and History of Art participated in the inaugural mentoring programme.

The Department of Classics was delighted to welcome back the following alumni as mentors in this year’s programme: Jason Bolton, conservation consultant; Kate Higgs, solicitor; Delia Donohoe, teacher; Barry Prendiville, accountant; Lewis Purser, Irish Universities Association, and Caroline Byrne, food and drink journalist and blogger. Following the launch event, students were assigned a graduate mentor, based on their area of interest. Mentors and mentees met two to three times over the duration of the programme, which runs over the course of the academic year.

A mid-way mentoring event, held in March, was addressed by Professor Ian Robertson, an internationally recognised psychologist and motivational speaker, who spoke to students and mentors on “The Winner Effect – Success and How to Use it”.

We were delighted to host the 2nd annual Classical Association of Ireland Teachers Speech Competition for schools in ancient Greek, Latin and Classical Studies on 7 March, 2013. We were treated to excellent performances from students as a host of characters from Greek tragedy, history and Greek and Latin epic. Our own students (including visiting students), many of whom were studying Ancient Rhetoric with Anna and Martine, acted as judges.

A new initiative this year was a Saturday workshop aimed at 11-14 year old students, which we co-organised with the Classical Association of Ireland Teachers. We welcomed around forty students who enjoyed a variety of activities from working with Roman coins, to learning to write in ancient Greek on papyrus, writing Latin, and making copies of ancient clay figurines – with the help of TCD Classics staff and postgraduate students. We very much hope to make this an annual event!

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EVENTS

We greatly value the strong links we have with many of our Classics graduates, and we have been delighted to be able to draw upon the wealth and breadth of their experience for the benefit of our current undergraduates. Feedback from the programme was very positive; students benefited from the exchange of ideas and careers advice from their mentors, and we were thrilled by the willingness of our graduates to ‘give something back’ to College and renew their links with us.

Our warmest thanks to Jason, Delia, Barry, Kate, Caroline and Lewis for their enthusiasm, commitment and time in participating in our inaugural mentoring programme. And thanks also to Nonie Gaynor and to Sarah Ryan from Careers for their hard work in organising the events. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please contact our Global Officer, Nonie Gaynor at ngaynor@tcd.ie.

IN MEMORIAM

ALFRED EDWARD HINDS, 17 FEBRUARY 1930 – 3 MAY 2013

Generations of Trinity Classics graduates who knew ‘Alfie’ Hinds were greatly saddened to hear of his death earlier this summer. He was both a gentleman and a gentle man, as well as a warm and kind teacher. Above all, he was an adored husband and father, and I am sure all will join me in expressing our sympathies to his family – his wife Muriel, his son Stephen and his daughter Catherine.

Alfred was a Belfast man, of course, and attended Methodist College, where he was Head Boy in 1947-1948. To my astonishment, Stephen also tells me that he was Captain of the School First XV, although my surprise is probably due more to Stephen’s evident lack of the sporting gene than to anything inherently unrugby-like in Alfred. After Methody, it was Trinity College Dublin and a stellar undergraduate career: Foundation Scholarship in 1950, and B.A. (Mod.) First Class and a Gold Medal in his Finals in 1952. (He had ruined his knee in his last term at school, so there was no rugby in Trinity). After two years in Queen Mary’s College London, he returned to Dublin in 1955, where he began his long career as a lecturer in Trinity (he retired in 1995) and his long and happy marriage to Muriel.

Bedell Stanford, Herbert Parke and Donald Wormell were the professorial stars when Alfred joined the department, but certainly when I was an undergraduate (1970-1974) and then appointed to a lectureship (1979), Alfred was very much the operational heart of the department: the mark-books attest his ordered, careful and accurate mind, and he was the master of the time-table. I suspect most former undergraduates will remember his lectures as I do – highly organised and clear, up-to-date bibliographically (a trait not always shared by colleagues) and informed by a deep knowledge and evident love of Greek and Latin literature. By modern standards Alfred published little, but he belonged to a tradition in which it was more important to be wise than to show it, and to teach others to be wise. Five decades of students were the beneficiaries. He was a quiet, but very effective teacher, and equally patient with brilliant first class students as with those whose attention to the task in hand was sometimes less than full.

At Alfred’s funeral Stephen spoke delightfully of the family expeditions, of his father’s love of music and Classical poetry; but it was clear that Alfred’s greatest joy and glory was his wife and family.

(Brian McGing, August 2013)
STUDENT NEWS

Our congratulations to all of our students on their achievements and awards over the past year!

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS AND SUCCESSES

Trinity College Dublin Scholars
Cathal McManus (SF Classical Civilisation) and Jamie Chandler (SF Ancient and Medieval History and Culture) were awarded Schol this year. Cathal adds to the success of our other recent Classics Scholars, Venina Svetli Kalistratova (Classics) and Charlie Kerrigan (Latin).

DU Classical Society
Awarded ‘Best Small Society’ by the Central Societies Committee in 2011-12. Congratulations to all involved in this great success!

POSTGRADUATE AWARDS AND SUCCESSES

MPhil Graduating Class of 2012
We were delighted to welcome back last year’s graduating class with their families in April. Yasmin Hamed was awarded the Huxley prize for the best MPhil thesis.

Our MPhil class of 2013 is a wonderful international mix of students from Ireland, North America, Spain and Holland. A TCD Sports scholarship was awarded to class member Brian Hill, who joined us from Harvard.

Postgraduate Research Awards
Irish Research Council postgraduate studentship: Elizabeth Bourke is researching ‘The Cult of Asklepios in Greece 420BC-200CE: healing, landscape and experience’. Our new A.G. Leventis postgraduate studentship was awarded to Constantina Alexandrou, who is working on Late Cypriot anthropomorphic figurines.

Postgraduate Teaching Awards
Congratulations to Cosetta Cadau on her success in these new awards.

Successful PhD Completions
Kevin McGee, Petrarch’s Aeneid: Critical Assessments of Virgil in the Africa (Supervisor: Anna Chahoud).

Mairéad McGrath, Pregnant Words: A Study of Eumenides 657-666 (Supervisor: Martine Cuypers).

Selga Medenieks, Cyrus the Great, Religion, and the Conquest of Ancient Anatolia (Supervisor: Brian McGing).

Emmett Tracy, Versiculi Simplices? The Issue of Simplicity and the Hymni Ambrosiani (Supervisor: Anna Chahoud).

Conor Trainor, The Ceramics Industry of Ancient Sikyon (Supervisor: Christine Morris).

Katarzyna Zeman-Wisniewska, Goddesses with Upraised Arms in Crete and Cyprus. A Comparative Study (Supervisor: Christine Morris).
**STUDENT NEWS**

Classics scholar 2013 Cathal McManus with Professor Duncan Kennedy.

DU Classical Society performance of Thesmophoriazousai.

MPhil class of 2012.

Conor Trainor with President Michael D. Higgins.

Mairead McGrath and Selga Medenieks with TCD Chancellor, Mary Robinson.
ALUMNI VOICES

HELEN SONNER - TCD MPHIL CLASSICS 2009, AND HUXLEY PRIZE WINNER

Helen has just completed her doctorate at Queen’s University Belfast and wrote the following note to the Department:

‘In a very profound sense, this is a milestone that I would not have been able to cross, had I not had the privilege of the TCD MPhil programme. Many, many times over the past three years, things I learned in the MPhil came to my rescue. My thesis offers a model for understanding the rise of the word “plantation” in early modern English, some six decades after “colony” had been domesticated into the anglophone vernacular in both England and Scotland. Tracing and recovering that story required me to cross many disciplinary and methodological boundaries. Throughout the research, I found myself drawing on the formal exposure to historiography, material culture, and cultural history which Trinity’s MPhil in Classics offered, in addition to all you taught me in the realm of my pre-existing interests in literary, textual, and linguistic issues. It was a struggle, at first, to make the rapid leap from fifth century Greece to early modern Britain and Ireland – but the broad foundation that I gained in the School of Classics was ultimately the difference between submitting the thesis in three years or four (or, perhaps, not finishing at all). I cannot thank you enough.’

ANTHONY WILSON - B.A. CLASSICS, 1950

We were delighted to receive a lovely letter from Anthony Wilson in response to last year’s Newsletter. He generously offered us his collection of books, including a super collection of novels about the ancient world, which we collected from Belfast and now reside on our library shelves. We were very saddened by the news that he passed away in the spring of this year. In his letter, he recalls the Department, his fellow students, and his travels in the Mediterranean:

‘One year we followed the route of Hannibal’s invasion of Italy and crossed the Alps with an “elephant”, our nickname for our Fiat minibus. We got out and walked up and over the Col delle Traversette, and looked down, like Hannibal perhaps, on the plains of Italy. We then surpassed Hannibal by entering Rome in triumph.’

ALUMNI NOTES

On Trinity Monday we welcomed back as a scholar of the decade, Professor Duncan Kennedy (Foundation Scholar 1973), Emeritus Professor of Latin Literature and the Theory of Criticism, University of Bristol.

In February Dr Donncha O’Rourke addressed the Classical Society, giving a characteristically brilliant lecture on ‘Latin Love Elegy and Atomic Physics’. Donncha has recently taken up a post in the Department of Classics at Edinburgh.

Other Classics alumni taking up academic posts recently include Mairead McAuley at University College London (joining Fiachra Mac Gorain there); Laura Jansen, University of Bristol; Jo Day is now lecturer and curator of the Classical Museum at University College Dublin; Ian Russell is taking up a post in Koç University in Istanbul, with which we are delighted to have established a new Erasmus link.

Professor Niall Rudd has most generously donated several hundred more books to complete the collection hosted in the Classics Departmental Library. The whole library was re-organised by student volunteers over the summer.
Senior Sophister student Charlie Kerrigan delivered the following speech as part of the Ancient Rhetoric module:

Humbly I speak, and directly to you, ladies and gentlemen, in the hope of defending that which ought not need defending, and so by persuasion win you to my theme. We live in an era of modern madness, where all is but that which it seems to be, and that which seems to be is all that is. We live in an age of emotional and financial turmoil, where nothing is safe from the prying lies of vengeful bit-part diatribes against our native ways, where all is statistic, all is regime.

I need not elaborate my subject to you, for who is ignorant? Who does not know? Who is as yet inexperienced in our famous breakfast? I have no need to mention thick, succulent sausages, crisp-black rashers and birdseye potato waffles; no need to mention gleaming yellow yolks piled high atop crusty bread, no need to mention the rivers of ketchup and melted butter which flow through the plate as if sent from heaven itself to glaze our homely meal. Res ipsa loquitur. No, rather than waste my time in vain description and direct praise, as my enemies are wont to do, I want that you should fix a vision of our breakfast before your eyes, and that you should fall in love with it.

Our age is chiefly villainous in its assumption of superiority. Calorie-counting cholesterol-conscious cads tally our five-a-day, our RDA, and in this way proclaim “It was ever thus.” They seek relentless reduction of our diet to the bare minimum of sustenance and flavour, in an effort to improve the nation. If only they could see! Have they not taken heed of the old wisdom, the wisdom perched below the snowy peak of Parnassus, the wisdom which proclaims “Nothing in excess”? And yet in attempt to curb excess they, the hypocrites, commit the very fault they are trying to suppress.

“How long a sacrifice can make a stone of the heart.” Picture the glorious bygone days of our nation, when our men, women and children, lived simpler, purer, lives, untainted by the dietary (and, I shudder) vegetarian propaganda of this age of ours; when obesity wasn’t invented and where food, any food, was cherished as communal wealth. Did muesli sustain Brian Boru as he felled the Viking Menace at Clontarf? Or what did Silken Thomas, brave man, request as his final meal before facing the English gallows at Tyburn? Grapefruit? Did not Wolfe Tone, as he wept aboard that French galley off the Irish coast, all hope of revolution lost, lament that never again would he return to Belfast and its famous fried bread? Did not Roger Casement trade his mother’s black pudding recipe for German arms and Irish freedom? What fuelled Pearse as he stalked the post-office in Easter Week and braved foreign fire and domestic scorn to restore our nationhood to a suffering people? The answer is obvious. Do not feel pressured into rejecting this most delicious of our meals. The generations of dead Irish men and women called on in our Proclamation derived their daily bread from sausages and rashers, and eggs, and delicious hash browns.

Grease is good, ladies and gentlemen; salt is good; calories good; and our nation owes its sustenance to a breakfast now cruelly under attack from those who wish to decry the fry. Summon your voices to the cause. Announce from the rooftops an end to this tyranny. I have said little and omitted much; I have spoken against a modern madness which slanders my subject, in praise of that which is praiseworthy, and in defence of that which should be defended. Make up your minds that happiness depends on being free, and that freedom depends on a full Irish Breakfast. The nation, like the army, marches on its stomach. And if in the words of our glorious uncrowned King “no man has the right to fix a boundary on the march of a nation,” then no one, no one, ladies and gentlemen, has the right to fix a boundary on the future of our glorious Breakfast.
Remember.

The Power of a Legacy to Trinity

There’s an old saying that the true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade one does not expect to sit. When you leave a legacy to Trinity however big or small, you’re planting a tree which will grow to provide shelter to many. You’re empowering ground-breaking research which will benefit people in Ireland and all over the world. You’re supporting students from all backgrounds to access a Trinity education. You’re helping preserve our unique campus and heritage for new generations. When you remember Trinity in your will, you join a tradition of giving that stretches back over 400 years – and reaches far into the future. For more information about leaving a Legacy to Trinity, please contact Eileen Punch.

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The Department has a very active Facebook page, which is updated regularly by Dr Christine Morris with lots of interesting photos, information on upcoming events, current media stories relating to the ancient world and other items of interest from staff and students. Please log on to our Classics Facebook page and like us!

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