The Trinity Oscar Wilde Centre (1998) provides academic platforms for the intellectual and practitioner development of Master of Philosophy students in the School of English programmes in Irish Writing and Creative Writing. In the increasingly challenging context of similar university centres based in Dublin – UCD ‘Ulysses’ Centre, Boston College, Notre Dame, NYU - and other creative arts hubs such as the Irish Writers’ Centre, among many others, the Trinity Oscar Wilde Centre continues to attracts a distinguished international cohort of students of all ages and cultural and educational backgrounds and aspirations.

The public Evening Lecture series (Michaelmas Term and Hilary Term) is hugely popular, as the enclosed report shows, while the numerous outreach events are also drawing good audiences and very positive and encouraging responses from both the university and wider community.

The Centre has been well maintained and is used by the Masters students as both a research centre and an important point of social contact throughout their time at Trinity College. As the following report indicates, the Centre is a key focus for the intellectual and cultural life of the College and the interface with Dublin and its environs.

At the end of the academic year (2015) Ms Lilian Foley, the Executive Officer of the Centre, retired from College and Professor Gerald Dawe, who established the Centre, stepped down as Director. To ensure continuity and the development of the Centre for the future, the School of English secured suitably qualified replacements. In November 2015, Ms Sophia Ní Sheoin took up the position of Executive Officer to the Centre (wilde@tcd.ie). Professor Eve Patten took over as Acting-Director of the Trinity Oscar Wilde Centre 2015-16 (epatten@tcd.ie). The new Director, from 2016-7, is Professor Ian Sansom (IANS@tcd.ie)
TRINITY OSCAR WILDE CENTRE
(1998)
SCHOOL OF ENGLISH
Trinity College Research Centres
Annual Report 2015-16

Centre Name: Trinity Oscar Wilde Centre / Acting Director: Prof Eve Patten
Contact: 21 Westland Row, College/ Name of School with primary responsibility: English
Head of School: Prof Christopher Morash/ Centre Executive Officer: Ms Sophia Ní Sheoin

The Centre has currently 36 Masters Students ranging from The Netherlands (1), Korea (1),
Ireland (13), Ecuador (1), Brazil (1), Iran (1), India (1), Canada (2), UK (6) and USA (9). The
Centre is an integral part of the School of English; its director and executive are
fulltime/part-time members of the academic and administrative staff of the School of
English. The Centre, through its director, reports weekly to the Head of School on all
activities and developments, plans and projects – academic and public - organised by the
Centre for the School of English.

The Trinity Oscar Wilde Centre is the internationally-recognised base at Trinity College for
two long-running Masters Programmes offered by the School of English (Irish Writing and
Creative Writing). The Centre also collaborates frequently with several other Schools, the
College Library, and with the Trinity Long Room Hub. It plays a leading role in literary
outreach programmes in Ireland and has well-established partnerships with The Arts
Council, UNESCO City of Literature, RTE and other national and international cultural
institutions. The Centre also maintains a vibrant alumni community via its website.
Recent developments include the establishment and cataloguing of the **Roy McFadden
Collection**, a long-term loan of the poet’s extensive personal library, and the consolidation
of the **Robert Greacen Collection**, which is housed along with the McFadden Collection in
the Centre. These collections, which add to the Centre’s existing **Vivian Mercier Collection**,
will be available to graduate students and researchers specialising in Irish literary studies.

1. Activities:

**Evening Lecture Series: English Literature**
13 October 2015: Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (Darryl Jones)
19 October 2015: Shakespeare, *King Lear* (Ema Vyroubalova)
27 October 2015: Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations* (Clare Clarke)
3 November 2015: W.B. Yeats, Selected Poetry (Tom Walker)
10 November 2015: Kazuo Ishiguro, *Never Let Me Go* (Bernice Murphy)
17 November 2015: Emily Dickinson, Selected Poetry (Philip Coleman)
24 November 2015: Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights* (Jarlath Killeen)
1 December 2015: Brian Friel, *Translations* (Paul Delaney)
8 December 2015: F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (Stephen Matterson)
15 December 2015: Shakespeare, *King Lear* (Ema Vyroubalova) REPEAT LECTURE
**Evening Lecture Series: Literature and Revolutions**

19 January 2016: "The Novel and 1916" by Eve Patten  
26 January 2016: "The Beastly Rebels of 1381" by Brendan O'Connell  
2 February 2016: "Edmund Burke: Prophet of Doom" by David O'Shaughnessy  
16 February 2016: "In the wars: Irish writing, 1914-1945" by Gerald Dawe  
23 February 2016: "1968 and Writing the Troubles" by Tom Walker  
1 March 2016: "Revolution, failed: The Spirit of '68 up against the wall" by Sam Slote  
8 March 2016: "Literary and cinematic afterlives of the Prague Spring" by Ema Vyroubalová  
15 March 2016: "You say you want a revolution? The Beatles in the 1960s" by Darryl Jones  
22 March 2016: "Changed Times: 1916 and Irish Time" by Chris Morash  
29 March 2016: "Nineteenth century scientific revolutions in HG Wells's *The Time Machine*" by Clare Clarke

**Readings/Speakers/Masterclasses/Publications**

**Public Event to celebrate the life and work of poet Derek Mahon, 7th April 2015, Trinity Long Room Hub.** This event, marking the career of Irish poet and Trinity Graduate Derek Mahon, included a lecture by Professor Hugh Haughton, York University, and readings by the actor Stephen Rea.

**Public Reading:** Katy Hayes, Visiting Writer Fellow, Monday, 7th December, 2015 (Room 3074, Arts Building) 7pm, followed by a wine reception.

**Book Launch**

**Public Reading:** Professor Peter McDonald, M.Phil. in Creative Writing External Examiner. Tuesday 17th November 2015 (Arts Building).

**Public Reading:** Gavin Corbett, Irish Writer Fellow, Monday, 31st March, 2016 (The Synge Theatre) 7pm, followed by a wine reception.

**The Briena Staunton Master Class 2016**
There were eight Master Classes for the M.Phil in Creative Writing students by a number of invited guests. This class is funded by a private donor.

Tuesday 26th January: Gavin Corbett  
Tuesday 2nd February: Gerard Lee  
Tuesday 9th February: Sara Baume  
Tuesday 16th February: Carlo Gebler  
Tuesday 23rd February: Evelyn Conlon  
Tuesday 8th March: Dermot Bolger  
Tuesday 15th March: Jonathan Creasy  
Tuesday 22nd March: Eoin MacNamee
MPCW Visit to the Printing Firms
23rd November 2015 Jonathan Williams took the M.Phil in Creative Writing students on an annual research and information visit to various Dublin printing firms.

Public Lecture
March 28th 2016. Gerald Dawe’s Lecture 'The Teacher Poets: Reflecting the Rising' RTE-TCD (TCD)

Public Debate
May 23rd 2016. Gerald Dawe contributes to 'Brexit' Public Debate (Long Room Hub)

Public Creative Writing Workshops at TCD
Gavin Corbett, The School of English- Arts Council of Ireland Writer Fellow, gave two free Public Creative Writing Workshops. The workshops ran over two days, on Saturday 9th July, from 10am to 1pm, and Saturday 16th July, from 10am to 1pm.

Undergraduate Creative Writing Workshops
Gavin Corbett, The School of English- Arts Council of Ireland Writer Fellow, gave a series of Undergraduate Creative Writing Workshops to students in the School of English. The hour-long workshop series ran weekly over 9 weeks in the Hilary Term 2016.

Current Students/Alumni//Staff publications:

Sara Baume: Spill Simmer Falter Wither (Winner of the Davy Byrne Award 2014)
Lean Cullinan: The Living
Andrew Fox: Over our Heads
Keith Payne Broken Hill
Phyl Herbert: After Desire
Liz McManus: A Shadow in the Yard
Mary Turley-McGrath: Forget the Lake and New Grass under Snow
John Holten: Oslo, Norway
Gerald Dawe: The Stoic Man, Mickey Finn’s Air, Collected Early Poems
Deirdre Madden (ed.): All over Ireland

The Rooney Award for Irish Literature (1976)
The Rooney Award, dedicated to emerging writers in the field of Irish Literature, is administered by the Trinity Oscar Wilde Centre. The selection board includes: Gerald Dawe (Chair, TCD), Carlo Gebler (Co-Chair, QUB), Eilis Ni Dhuibhne (UCD), Eilean Ni Chuilleanain (Fellow Emeritus TCD), Riana O’Dwyer (NUIG), Jonathan Williams (TCD).
A special event was hosted in Trinity College Dublin to honour this year’s winner, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature, and to pay tribute to the Rooney Prize benefactors, former US Ambassador to Ireland, Dan Rooney, and his wife, Patricia Rooney. The Rooneys have supported what is now the longest-established literary award in Ireland since 1976. The Award of €10,000 was presented by Dr Peter Rooney, at The Dining Hall, Trinity College Dublin on the 5th September 2015, to bi-bilingual poet
Doireann Ní Ghríofa. Doireann was born in Galway, grew up in Co. Clare and currently lives in Cork. Ireland Chair of Poetry Eiléan Ní Chuilleánáin described Ní Ghriofa as ‘a poet to watch, with a fresh view of the world.’

Visiting Writer for Michaelmas term – Katy Hayes
The Visiting Writer Fellow October-December 2015 was Katy Hayes, who ran a twelve-week series of workshops in MT 2015.

Writer Fellow January-June 2016
The Arts Council/School of English Writer Fellow January – June 2016 was Gavin Corbett. A twelve-week series of specialist workshop was offered to the graduate students in HT, 2016.

M.Phil. in Irish Writing students presented papers at the "Samuel Beckett and World Literature Conference
Six students from the M.Phil. in Irish Writing, TOWC, presented papers at the *Samuel Beckett and World Literature* Conference held at the University of Kent from May 4th to 5th, 2016. Bernadette Fox, Moonyoung Hong, Holly Anna Furey, Kurt McGee, Eimhin Walker, and Christopher J. Wycraft spoke on Beckett’s contribution to Irish literature.

Roy McFadden Library
The Roy McFadden Library, Oscar Wilde Centre, was opened on Thursday, 28th January 2016 by the Honorable Sir Donnell Deeny, Pro-Chancellor of the University of Dublin, with members of the McFadden family, the Provost, and the Acting Director of the Centre, Professor Eve Patten. The reception was held in the TOWC.

2. Monies generated and grants in aid

Irish Times Studentships for the M.Phil in Creative Writing: €5,000 over 4 years 1997/8 to 2000/01
UNESCO €4,000: Thomas Kilroy *Across the Boundaries*
Abbey Theatre: Stage rehearsal in the Samuel Beckett Theatre of the play *Blake* by Thomas Kilroy (part of *Across the Boundaries*)
Briena Staunton Masterclasses: €10,000 over 5 years sponsored by Dr Jim Meaney
Minor Works Scheme: €8,672.00 McFadden/Greacen shelving facilities, TOWC 1st Floor.

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Professor Eve Patten, Acting Director, TOWC, School of English
Professor Christopher Morash, Head, School of English
21st April 2017