



TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN  
Annual Report 2007 - 2008







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## TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

### Annual Report 2007 - 2008

#### Members of the Board of Trinity College Dublin during the 2007/08 academic year were:

##### Ex-Officio Members

Provost, Dr John Hegarty (Chair)  
Vice-Provost, Professor Ruth Byrne  
Senior Lecturer, Professor Colm Kearney  
Registrar, Professor Jürgen Barkhoff  
Bursar, Professor Clive Williams

##### Elected Fellows and Fellow Professors

Dr Sinéad Ryan (2007-2010)  
Professor John Donegan (2005-2008)  
Professor John Kelly (2005-2008)  
Professor Marina Lynch (2005-2010)\*  
Professor Jagdish Vij (2006-2010)  
Professor Eunan O'Halpin (2005-2008)  
Professor John Parnell (2005-2008)  
Dr Amanda Piesse (2005-2010)

##### Elected Non-Fellow Academic Staff

Dr Andrew Butterfield (2005-2008)  
Ms Mary Coffey (2005-2008)  
Dr Alison Donnelly (2005-2010)  
Dr Eoin Mac Cárthaigh (2005-2010)  
Dr Donal O'Donovan (2005-2008)

##### Elected Non-Academic Staff

Mr Michael Slevin (2005-2010)  
Ms Mary Leahy (2005-2008)\*\*  
Dr Kieran J McGinley (2005-2008)

##### Student Representatives

President Graduate Students' Union,  
Mr Alessio Frenda (2007-2008)  
President Students' Union,  
Mr Andrew Byrne (2007-2008)  
Education Officer Students' Union,  
Mr Bartley Rock (2007-2008)  
Welfare Officer Students' Union,  
Ms Una Faulkner (2007-2008)

##### External members

Mr Brian Sweeney,  
nominated by Trinity College Dublin (2005-2010)  
Ms Geraldine Clarke,  
nominated by the Minister for Education and Science (2005-2010)

##### In Attendance Ex-Officio

Secretary, Mr Michael Gleeson  
Treasurer, Ms Grace Dempsey  
Assistant Secretary, Ms Anne FitzGerald

\*Prof Marina Lynch was replaced by Prof Henry Rice on 21/11/07

\*\*Ms Mary Leahy was replaced by Ms Peggy Murphy on 30/1/2008





## Foreword

This Annual Report sets out a summary of Trinity College Dublin's developments and achievements during the academic year 2007/08.

In introducing the Report, I would like to thank all the staff of the College, academic, administrative and support, for their part in our achievements – these could not have been attained without their unstinting support.

Trinity College Dublin has been ranked 53rd place in the top world universities by the Times Higher Education Supplement's world university rankings and 13th place in Europe. This is the highest ranking the College has ever achieved, up 25 places on last year's world ranking of 78. TCD remains the only Irish university to make it into the top 100 world universities.

Our stated ambition was to build on our reputation as Ireland's number one university and be among the top 50 universities in the world. We are very pleased to have almost achieved that in a relatively short period of time. Such a high ranking is an outstanding achievement for a university in a small country, competing internationally with much larger and better-resourced universities. A university's reputation is built on the ability and performance of staff and students. Our strategic priorities are aligned to the highest academic values and the national social, cultural and economic goals.

The academic year 2007/08 was another successful one for the College: TCD is the first choice of the majority of high achieving students from the second level sector; Trinity researchers across all disciplines received recognition for their achievements, both at home and

abroad; and the College was highly successful in securing funding for research activities.

However, similar to all other Irish universities, the College is facing funding difficulties. The overall level of public funding for higher education in Ireland is low in comparison to international levels, and it is a challenge to provide high-quality research, teaching and infrastructural support to staff and students. A major challenge relates to the economic outlook along with the level and uncertainty in relation to future funding particularly with the recent indications from the Higher Education Authority (HEA) of further real reductions in core State funding in the coming years due to the deterioration of the public finances and the ongoing implementation of the HEA Recurrent Funding Model. The situation is serious and is addressed in Section 9 of this Annual Report.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Taoiseach, the Minister for Education and Science, the many Ministers whose support is greatly valued, the Board and Executive of the Trinity Foundation, the Higher Education Authority, Science Foundation Ireland, the Health Research Board, IRCHSS, IRCSET, and the many other agencies and individuals, both public and private, who have supported the College.

John Hegarty,  
Provost









## 1 Introduction

The 2007/08 academic year was another successful and productive one for the College:

- The College was the only university in the State to feature in the top 100 universities worldwide, placed 53rd, and the top 50 European universities (13th) in the Times Higher Education Supplement's world university rankings. It was ranked 37th in Arts and Humanities
- A new academic structure consisting of three faculties came into effect on 1 January 2008
- Trinity staff members continued to excel in research achievements and received national and international distinction
- Income to support all research activities continued to grow, reaching a record level of €71.1 million
- The College continued to attract the top achievers in the Leaving Certificate and equivalent examinations
- Fifteen professorial appointments were made, two of which were to newly-created Chairs
- 4,177 students had their degrees conferred
- Eleven new postgraduate and two new undergraduate courses were introduced
- 24 patent applications were filed and six commercial licenses were issued.

## 2 Academic Developments

### 2.1 Academic and Central Governance Restructuring

A new three-faculty governance model came into effect in January 2008 comprising the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, the Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science and the Faculty of Health Sciences, thus facilitating meaningful devolution of decision-making and budgets to Schools. This was a result of the programme of restructuring that started in 2005/06 following an 'Agenda for Change' and which involved College-wide debate and consultation.

Faculty Deans were elected in Michaelmas Term 2007 and took up office in 2008. During the year the Restructuring Implementation Oversight Group, based on input from several sub-groups, made recommendations to Council and Board on: Academic Officers; Strategic Devolution; Strategic Recruitment; and a holding position on Committee Structures.

In July 2008 a new central governance structure was implemented which comprises Faculty Executive Deans, the Vice-Provost as Chief Academic Officer, and a Chief Operating Officer responsible for administration and support services. The new structure involves a reconstituted Executive Officers Group, an Academic Management Group, a Senior Administrative Management Team, and Faculty Executive Committees.

### 2.2 Modularisation and Academic Year Structure

Towards the end of the previous academic year, the College's Board and University Council had given their support in principle to the recommendations of the Working Group on Modularisation and Academic Year Structure for (a) the adoption of a new term structure based on two twelve-week teaching terms with a third term devoted to assessment and end-of-year examinations, and (b) the introduction of a new core and elective curriculum structure.

Detailed discussion with the academic community took place over the course of the 2007/08 academic year to address a number of substantial operational issues and to develop and refine the Working Group's original recommendations. In May 2008, the recommendations were approved and the new academic year structure will come into effect from the 2009/10 academic year.

Changes to the timing of the existing academic year structure require statutory change, and the Statutes Review Working Party undertook the necessary re-drafting. The statutory amendment will be subject to the normal approval processes in Michaelmas Term 2008\*.

### 2.3 Strategic Innovation Fund

In August 2007, the Higher Education Authority (HEA) issued a call for proposals for funding under the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) as established by the Minister for Education and Science. This was the second cycle of SIF funding and €130 million was made available for allocation.

The key objectives of the fund in the second cycle remained largely similar to the first cycle and included:

- the enhancement of the delivery of core activities of education and research, through effective and creative

\* Statutory approval was secured in Michaelmas Term 2008



institutional and inter-institutional collaboration and, where necessary, appropriate internal restructuring and rationalisation efforts;

- to support innovation and quality improvement in teaching and learning, including enhanced teaching methods, programme restructuring, modularisation and e-learning;
- to support access, retention and progression at institutional level and through inter-institutional and inter-sectoral collaboration.

Trinity's bid focused on (i) management information systems, (ii) increasing 4th Level capacity/graduate education, (iii) continuing restructuring, (iv) enhancement of learning, (v) widening participation, and (vi) internationalisation. The second cycle of SIF required a greater level of collaboration with a larger number of institutional partners than the first cycle. The majority of projects were organised under two main groupings, the Dublin Region Higher Education Alliance (DRHEA) and the C4 Group (TCD, UCD, NUIG and UCC).

In addition, Trinity also submitted plans for two widening participation projects, the *Roll Out of the Certificate in Contemporary Living*, and the development of existing diplomas in Deaf Studies to degree level. The College also collaborated in several sectoral projects submitted by the Irish Universities Association.

In February, March and June 2008, the HEA made announcements concerning different projects with which Trinity is involved and confirmed that Trinity was successful in securing almost €16.5 million in total. Due to the current economic crisis, this sum has been revised downwards and only contractual commitments entered into since the announcement of SIF 2 have been funded.

#### 2.4 THES World University Rankings

Trinity College Dublin was the only Irish university to feature in the top 100 universities and the top 50 European universities in the 2007 Times Higher Education Supplement's world university rankings\*. The College was ranked 53rd place in the world, up 25 places on last year's world ranking of 78. It has also been ranked 13th place in Europe (25th in 2006).

The THES university rankings list the world's top 200 universities measured on peer review, number of citations per faculty member, ratio of students to staff and the number of international students and staff.

To be ranked in the top 100 universities in the world is an outstanding achievement for a university in a small country, competing internationally with much larger and better-resourced universities.

#### 2.5 Quality

Trinity College Dublin is a globally recognised university of high quality in teaching and research. Education at TCD is distinctive in being research-led, balanced and student-centred. The College is committed to maintaining the exceptional quality of its undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and research and a major component of Trinity's strength lies in the commitment of its staff to its students.

Election to Fellowship is an honour marking the exceptional quality of the College's academic staff. Research achievement or scholarship of a high order is the primary qualification for Fellowship, coupled with evidence of the candidate's contribution to the academic life of the College, as shown in particular by participation in the work of his or her Department or School and an effective record in teaching.

Twenty-one Fellows, including two Honorary Fellows, the Honorable, Mr Justice Ronan Keane and Professor Adrian Hill, Professor of Human Genetics at Oxford University, were announced on Trinity Monday 2008.

In 2007/08, the Quality Office facilitated the quality reviews of the School of Chemistry, the School of English, the School of Education and the School of Computer Science & Statistics. A review of the College's Tutorial Service took place in November 2007, the first cross-College review. The Quality Office assisted in the review of the B.Sc. in Human Nutrition and Dietetics in May 2008. This course is delivered jointly by Trinity's School of Medicine and the School of Biological Sciences at Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT).

The academic year 2007/08 saw the completion of year three of the second cycle of academic reviews (2004-2011). A review of the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies due to take place in 2007/08 was postponed due to the unavailability of Reviewers and will now be carried out in the 2008/09 academic year.

The Quality Committee considered the eighteen-month progress reports from the following areas during the year: the Department of Civil, Structural & Environmental Engineering and the Department of Biochemistry. These reports were the last progress reports to be received in

\* TCD was ranked 49th in the world in the 2008 Times Higher Education-QS world university rankings



respect of Departments reviewed during the first cycle of academic reviews (1998–2004).

During 2007/08, Trinity continued to engage with the principal national stakeholders involved in quality assurance/quality improvement through its participation in the activities of the Irish Higher Education Network, the Irish Universities Quality Board and the Irish Universities Association.

### 3 Educational Matters

#### 3.1 Student body

The College's student population represents every county in Ireland, 114 nationalities, and a wide range of social backgrounds and age-groups.

In total, there were 15,716 registered students in 2007/08. Of these, 7% were from EU countries other than Ireland, 3% were from Northern Ireland, 3% were North or Central American, and 3% were from other parts of the world.

The College surpassed the target of 15% CAO quotas for non-traditional students - including those from a socio-economically disadvantaged background, those with a disability and mature students - when in 2007, 17% of all CAO places were filled by non-traditional students, up from 14% in 2006. Fifty-eight percent of the non-traditional students registered in 2007 were mature students.

#### 3.2 Admissions Statistics/Entrance Exhibitioners

Trinity attracted a substantial proportion (11%) of first-preference applications in the CAO system in 2007. A total of 50,870 pupils sat the Leaving Certificate examination in 2007. Of those that applied to the CAO 1,705 achieved 545 points or more and 25% of these students accepted a place at Trinity College.

A total of 569 first-year students were awarded 'Entrance Exhibition Awards'. The students receiving these awards each achieved 545 points or higher (more than 6 A2 grades) in their Leaving Certificate examination or equivalent second level examination. The students represented 281 schools from all 32 counties in Ireland as well as from other EU schools.

The academic calibre of Trinity students remains impressively high and the College continues to attract the highest number of academically talented students.

#### 3.3 Scholarships

Trinity Foundation and Non-Foundation Scholarships have long been a measure of academic achievement. Undergraduate students, at the end of their second year (or third year in the case of medical students), sit a special examination and only those who achieve first class honors are awarded a scholarship for a period of up to five years. In 2007/08, seventy-one students were awarded these prestigious scholarships on Trinity Monday 2008.



*Newly elected Trinity College Scholars, Karina Jakubowicz (left) and Georgina Folan from the School of English, celebrate at the announcement of new Fellows and Scholars*

Recipients of the scholarships were representative of all faculties: the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (20); Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science (29); Faculty of Health Sciences (14); and Multi-Faculty (8).

#### 3.4 The Curriculum - New Undergraduate and Postgraduate Courses

The College continued to encourage and support new courses built around new areas of knowledge, new directions within disciplines and curricular innovation in addition to students' needs and introduced the following courses in 2007/08:

##### Undergraduate Degree

BA (Mod) in Irish Studies

BA (Mod) Natural Science (Molecular Medicine)

##### Postgraduate Degree

M.Phil. in Literatures of the Americas

M.Phil. in English Language Teaching (ELT)

MSc in Computer Science

(Interactive Entertainment Technology)

MSc in Mental Health

MSc in Physical Sciences in Medicine









MSc in Biomedical Sciences (Intercalated)  
Professional Doctorate in Dental Surgery

**Postgraduate Diploma**

Higher Diploma in Midwifery

Postgraduate Diploma in Conscious Sedation in Dentistry

Postgraduate Diploma in Management

Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Behaviour Analysis

The academic year 2007/08 saw the highest number of students (599, including 67 visiting students) complete the Broad Curriculum cross-faculty courses since the initiative was launched. In 2007/08 the thirteen courses, spanning a range of subjects in the arts, humanities, social and earth sciences, attracted students from most undergraduate programmes in College. The courses are designed to promote breadth of learning at undergraduate level and the qualities desirable in a Trinity graduate: inquisitiveness, analytical ability, adaptability, breath of reading, ethical responsibility, international outlook, articulacy, literacy and numeracy.

Engagement with the Bologna process continued. By the end of the 2007/08 academic year, the definition of courses in terms of their constituent modules and associated European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) credit weightings had been confirmed across the range of taught programmes, undergraduate and postgraduate.

### 3.5 Commencements, Firsts and Gold Medal Awards

Twenty-eight commencement ceremonies were held in 2007 during which 4,177 degrees were conferred (2,737 primary degrees and 1,440 higher degrees).



Robert Fisk, Robert Redford and John Hume, three of the Honorary Degree recipients at the 2008 Summer Commencements

Three hundred and thirty-seven students received first class honors (primary) degrees in 2007/08 and, of these, 65 were awarded Gold Medals.

Honorary conferring took place at the Commencement ceremonies on 14 December 2007 and 11 July 2008. At the Winter Commencements, Shirin Ebadi, Veronica Dunne, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga were honoured. Recipients of honorary degrees at the Summer Commencements were Robert Redford, John Hume, Robert Fisk, Dónal Lunny and Melissa Webb.

### 3.6 Trinity Access Programmes



Second level students participating in the TAP Summer School 2008

The Trinity Access Programmes (TAP) are a range of initiatives aimed at increasing the participation rate at third level of young adult and mature students from under-represented socio-economic groups. The programmes were established as part of an overall strategy to address low progression rates to third level by students in some socio-economic groups and are an illustration of the College's social mission in action.

TAP owes its continued success to a network of highly productive partnerships with schools, further education colleges, families, students, Trinity staff, businesses, community groups and other Higher Education institutions, nationally and internationally.

TAP receives its funding from the Higher Education Authority through the Strategic Initiatives Fund, the Department of Education and Science and a number of individual and corporate donors. These funds support the following initiatives:





- The Primary and Second Level Programmes
- The Pre-University Preparation Courses: Young Adults and Mature Students, TCD
- The Partnership Courses in Liberal Arts: TCD and City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee Colleges (CDVEC)
- The Post Entry Progression Programme.

There were 143 admissions to Trinity College through the Trinity Access Programmes in 2007/08.

Linking with 20 primary schools and 24 secondary schools which have little or no tradition of progression to third-level, TAP, with the assistance of some 30 College departments, enabled over 4,000 students, parents and teachers to participate in on-campus activities during 2007/08, including the Mathematics and Science Exploration Programme for sixth-class pupils and 'Take the Lead' for fifth-class pupils.

TAP has developed a range of post-entry supports in response to student needs. These include a variety of pre-university programmes, financial and personal support, extra tuition, a Writing Resource Centre, a Maths Help Room, the Studio (a learning resource centre), a supported accommodation scheme and end-of-term review workshops. TAP also works closely with the Library and with other support services in College including the Student Counselling Service, the Disability Services, the College Health Service, the Accommodation Office and the College Tutorial Service to ensure that the transition to third level is smooth and to support the successful completion of degree programmes by TAP students.

### 3.7 Provost's Teaching Awards

Recipients of the 2007/08 Provost's Teaching Awards were: Professor Sylvia Draper, School of Chemistry, Dr Oran Doyle, School of Law (Early Career Award), Dr Paul Spiers, School of Medicine and Professor Cyril Smyth, School of Genetics and Microbiology (Lifetime Achievement Award). Recipients were all recognised for their dedication and commitment to teaching and learning excellence.

The awards are the College's principal means of acknowledging those academic staff who have made an outstanding contribution in the pursuit of teaching excellence in the College and who promote teaching as a scholarly activity.



*Prof Sylvia Draper, School of Chemistry, Dr Paul Spiers, School of Medicine, Dr Oran Doyle, School of Law and Prof Cyril Smyth, School of Genetics and Microbiology, recipients of the 2007/08 Provost's Teaching Awards*

## 4 Human Resources

College's Human Resource function, the Staff Office, is structured around four main service areas, namely Recruitment, Staff Planning and Payroll, Staff Relations, and Staff Development. In addition, each Faculty has a Human Resources Adviser: these were appointed during the year.

2007/08 was a busy year for the Staff Office with high levels of operational activity – almost 7,000 job applications were processed and there was much involvement in the adaption and input to the College's revised structures, including a review of the Principal Committee, with responsibility for Human Resources, the Personnel and Appointments Committee.

To retain and improve the status of the College, TCD must recruit, develop and retain people of exceptional calibre. A total of 346 recruitment competitions were held to fill 420 vacancies. This is an increase on the 259 competitions held in 2006/07.

### 4.1 Academic Appointments

During the 2007/08 academic year, 120 new and replacement academic appointments were made. Of these, 15 were to Professorial Chairs (listed below), five were to Associate Professorships, six to Senior Lectureships, six to Lecturer/Registrars and 97 to Lectureships. The College's Strategic Plan 2003-08 identifies the quality of academic staff as one of the College's major strengths.





### Newly Established Professorial Chairs

*Michael McNamara Professor in Construction Innovation* – Professor Mark Dyer  
*Professor /Academic Director Trinity Long Room Hub* – Professor Poul Holm

### Established Chairs

*Professor of Biochemistry (1960)* – Professor Luke O'Neill  
*Professor of Education (1905)* – Professor Michael Grenfell  
*Professor of Moral Philosophy (1837)* – Professor Peter Simons

### Personal Professorial Chairs

#### External

*SFI Research Professor of Computer Science* – Professor Matthew Hennessy  
*SFI Stokes Professor of Phonetics and Speech Sciences* – Professor Nick Campbell  
*SFI Stokes Professor of Integrated Neuroimaging* – Professor Thomas Frodl  
*SFI Stokes Professor of Translational Immunology* – Professor Padraic Fallon  
*SFI Stokes Professor of Microbial Pathogenesis* – Professor Jay Hinton

#### Internal

Professor Dan Bradley, Genetics and Microbiology  
(*Professor of Population Genetics*)  
Professor Thorfinnur Gunnlaugsson, Chemistry  
(*Professor in Chemistry*)  
Professor Alan Kramer, Histories and Humanities  
(*Professor of European History*)  
Professor Ian Ross, English  
(*Professor of Eighteenth-Century Studies*)  
Professor David Taylor, Engineering  
(*Professor of Materials Engineering*)

The Staff Office issued 1,547 contracts: 30% were to new hires and the majority of these were to researchers. The other 70% covered changes to existing terms and conditions, extensions, secondments and legislative entitlements to indefinite duration contracts for academic staff.

In the 2007/08 academic year, Trinity hosted 166 visiting staff from overseas who contributed to research, or teaching, or both.

### 4.2 Staff Development

The Staff Development Office is committed to supporting Trinity's mission through relevant, continuous, lifelong

training and development of all staff by providing a wide training and development service. Separate and in parallel with this, CAPSL provides a range of training and development services focussed on teaching, research and academic management for academic staff.

The Performance Management Development Scheme (PMDS) process was implemented in 2007/08 in College. Training was conducted on a large scale during the previous academic year when 634 people were trained as reviewers and reviewees during the main roll-out of the system. In 2007/08, 106 staff members were trained for PMDS: these were mainly new entrants.

In 2007/08 there were 442 enrolments in 38 different courses on the Staff Development Programme. As the PMDS process becomes increasingly integrated into College life it has become a key input to the Annual Staff Training Programme. In addition to this programme, the Staff Development Office provided support to individual work units, administered funding of external academic courses and the study/examination leave scheme, and sourced external short courses when necessary.

## 5 Research Activities

### 5.1 Research Themes

Trinity's research strategy encompasses all major academic disciplines and is committed to world-class research activities in key areas across science, engineering, social sciences, medicine and the arts. The College's strategic focus is on five key areas – European & International Integration, Culture & Creative Arts, Materials & Intelligent Systems, Biosciences & Translational Research and Transport, Energy & Environment. In each of these areas Trinity has significant research activities, linked nationally and internationally, building on a cornerstone of inter-disciplinarity to deliver research of global consequence.

Engaging with TCD on research matters takes place on many levels: the College has significant research partnerships with multinational and indigenous industry; it operates a unique 'researchers in residence' programme to embed partners at the heart of collaborative research projects; with the Science Gallery, Trinity is opening a window to the world of research in its broadest sense, fostering curiosity, stimulating debate and engaging the minds of tomorrow's investigators; through its policy of Creativity in the Community – at local, national and global levels - Trinity is committed to delivering world class research for societal benefit.









## 5.2 Research Funding

In 2007/08, Trinity was extremely successful in securing funding for research activities. Income to support all research activities reached a level of €71.1 million for the year, representing an increase to the 2006/07 academic year figure of €70.6 million. The contribution to indirect costs from research activity, however, continues to be below the full economic cost of hosting the research resulting in the core budget cross-subsidising research activity. This position is not sustainable.

There were 1,794 active research accounts compared with 1,552 in the previous year, an increase of 15.5%. Over the last number of years, there has been a shift in sources of research funds away from EU/foreign sources to Irish sources largely driven by Science Foundation Ireland and HEA-funded PRTL I initiatives. Research activity supported 1,720 employees, including 680 postgraduate students, in 2007/08.

Source of Research Activity Funding	Year ended 30 Sept 2008
Science Foundation Ireland	37%
Enterprise Ireland/Bioresearch Ireland/PATS	9%
Higher Education Authority	6%
Commission of the European Communities	6%
Others	42%

## 5.3 Trinity College's New Research Initiatives

Trinity spearheads several major national longitudinal studies, including children's research and ageing, and activities in nanoscience and telecommunications research supported by Science Foundation Ireland centres of excellence on campus. The Trinity Academic Medical Centre which is at the planning stage aims to combine best practice in patient care with cutting edge research and teaching in a single governance model based on world-leading healthcare centres. Similarly, TCD's major research institutes and centres in areas such as neuroscience, globalisation, immunology, molecular medicine and the Trinity Long Room Hub for the arts and humanities are firmly established among the international leaders in their fields. Trinity is instrumental in driving significant national collaborative research ventures such as the National Digital Research Centre (NDRC), Molecular Medicine Ireland (MMI) and the National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT).

In addition to Trinity College's ongoing interdisciplinary research initiatives in these areas, the following new projects were among those launched during 2007/08:

### *Immigrant Youth Research Project*

TCD's Children's Research Centre and Integrating Ireland partnered on a new research study, the *Immigrant Youth Research Project*, which aims to gain an understanding of what are the key experiences and issues for migrant young people for example exploring how migrant young people find life in Ireland, looking at issues such as school, friendship, recreation, and relations with 'local' young people. The Minister for Integration, Conor Lenihan TD, officially launched the study in July 2008.



Minister for Integration, Conor Lenihan, TD with Abdul Rama Zeroug from Algeria and Merryjoy Itambo from the Democratic Republic of Congo at the launch of the *Immigrant Youth Research Project*

### *Biodiversity Research Project*

The School of Natural Sciences is leading a €1.6 million research project funded by the Environmental Protection Agency STRIVE Programme on the 'Sectoral Impacts on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services'. This four and a half year project, started in April 2008, is studying the impact of the cultivation of bioenergy crops, of new guidelines for road landscaping and of innovative aquaculture practices in Ireland on genetic, species and landscape biodiversity and the ecosystem they provide.

### *DISCOVERY*

In 2007, a multidisciplinary translational medicine consortium, DISCOVERY, was established under the direction of TCD's Professor of Pathology, John O'Leary. The consortium comprises researchers and clinicians from several Irish institutions dedicated to carrying out world-class research in the area of ovarian and endometrial cancer. Its central goal is to understand these cancers and to develop new methods for early detection and design novel treatment options.





### *Molecular Medicine Ireland*

The Provost of TCD, the Presidents of NUIG, UCC and UCD, and the Registrar of RCSI established a charitable company to coordinate their health research activities. The company, Molecular Medicine Ireland, will strengthen Ireland's profile in health research by combining and building on the biomedical research strengths of each institution and was launched by the Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin TD, in April 2008.

### *High Content Analysis Facility*

A new €2 million imaging and screening facility, providing extremely advanced imaging of human cells that will improve patient care and accelerate drug discovery in cancer and inflammatory diseases, was launched in February 2008, at the TCD Institute of Molecular Medicine (IMM) at St James's Hospital. The High Content Analysis Facility, the first of its kind among European academic institutions, has the capacity of generating hundreds of times more scientific information that will result in radical improvements in the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

### *Metropolis*

Researchers from the GV2 Group at the School of Computer Science & Statistics have collaborated with staff and students of the Central Remedial Clinic (CRC) school in Clontarf to design a computer game based in virtual Dublin. The game was launched at the CRC in May 2008 and was developed as part of the project 'Metropolis', a €2.5 million four-year project, funded by Science Foundation Ireland.

## **5.4 Research Links with Other Institutions**

### *TCD, NUIG and GSK Partnership for Research into Alzheimer's Disease*

In October 2007, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Micheál Martin TD, announced that Glaxo-SmithKline (GSK), with the support of IDA Ireland would invest up to €14.6 million, in collaboration with the Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience (TCIN) and NUI Galway, on a major research and development programme for the discovery of new therapies to treat Alzheimer's disease. For this collaboration, TCD and NUIG are working jointly with GSK's UK-based Neurology Centre of Excellence for Drug Discovery on the development of tools designed to make future clinical trials in Alzheimer's disease more efficient, employing 22 highly qualified medical professionals, PhD students and post-doctoral scientists.

### *TCD and UCD Launch Ireland's First Collaborative Graduate Programme*

A pioneering collaborative graduate programme between the two chemistry schools in UCD and TCD was launched by the Chief Scientific Adviser, Prof Patrick Cunningham, in September 2008. The first of its kind in Ireland, *Dublin Chemistry* will provide a structured programme of high quality courses to support the research of its PhD students. With over 40 research group leaders and 180 postgraduate research students, *Dublin Chemistry* has the critical mass necessary to compete with leading universities in the US and Europe.

### *Humanities and Social Sciences Partnership between TCD and Carlow College*

Trinity College Dublin and Carlow College, the two oldest institutions of higher education in Ireland, agreed a new strategic collaborative partnership in the humanities and social sciences in November 2007. The primary focus of this collaboration concerns teaching and research in the humanities and social sciences.

### *'Increasing Diversity, Improving Access'*

This new inter-university access programme, launched in February 2008 by Trinity Access Programmes, UCD New ERA and DCU Access Service - supported by Irish Life and Permanent plc - is committed to improving the educational opportunities for non-Irish born students attending access linked schools. As part of this initiative, the university access programmes have also undertaken to increase the percentage of non-Irish born students participating in primary and second level outreach activities.

### *New Strategic Partnership between TCD and Naas General Hospital*

In November 2007, TCD's School of Medicine agreed a new strategic collaborative partnership in medical undergraduate education with Naas General Hospital which recognises Naas General Hospital as an affiliated clinical teaching centre for students of the TCD School of Medicine.

### *Joint PhD Research Programme in Arts and Humanities Launched by TCD, NUI Galway and UCC*

An innovative new PhD programme for research in the arts and humanities which will be delivered by TCD, NUIG and UCC was launched in January 2008. Thirty-one scholarships were made available for the new integrated PhD entitled 'Texts, Contexts, Cultures' through HEA PRTL1 4 funding. The new research programme is a radical departure in PhD training where postgraduate students in the arts and





humanities will have the opportunity to develop research skills in challenging interdisciplinary contexts.

### 5.5 Scholarship and Award Success for TCD's Researchers

Trinity researchers across all disciplines received recognition for their achievements, both at home and abroad.

The Royal Irish Academy enrolled four TCD academics as new members in 2008: Dr Katharine Simms, Senior Lecturer in History, in the School of Histories and Humanities and Director of the Medieval History Research Centre; Prof James Lunney, Associate Professor of Physics and Head of the School of Physics; Prof Kingston Mills, Professor of Experimental Immunology at the School of Biochemistry and Immunology; and Prof Patrick Prendergast, Professor of Bioengineering at the School of Engineering and Director of the Trinity Centre for Bioengineering. Election to the Royal Irish Academy is the highest academic honour in Ireland.

In October 2007, the largest research grant in the humanities ever to be awarded in Ireland went to 'Massacres, Myths and Memory – the 1641 Depositions Project', an ambitious collaborative research project between Trinity College Dublin, Aberdeen University and Cambridge University. Lead by Prof Jane Ohlmeyer, Head of the School of Histories and Humanities, the funding of €1 million was granted by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS), the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) in the UK, as well as Trinity College Library. The three-year project aims to transcribe and digitise the manuscript collection comprising 3,400 depositions, examinations and associated materials, in which Protestant men and women of all classes told of their experiences following the outbreak of the rebellion by the Catholic Irish in October, 1641.

Prof Jane Grimson, Director of the Centre of Health Informatics was awarded the O'Moore Medal by the Health Informatics Society of Ireland (HISI) in November 2007 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the development of healthcare informatics within Ireland and throughout the world.

Trinity's School of Engineering secured an Engineering Lectureship from Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Engineering Professorship and Lectureship Programme in February 2008. One of six recipients, the supported research is focused on high-level design for media systems.

Prof John Nolan from the School of Medicine won the Irish

Healthcare Award in October 2007 for his study on Diabetes.

Dr Stephen Connon, lecturer in Organic Chemistry, was awarded a European Research Council Starting Independent Investigator grant as part of the programme for research in December 2007. There were over 9,000 applications from across the Sciences competition for some 300 awards. Dr Connon's research group is attempting to exploit catalytic strategies employed by highly efficient biological catalysts (enzymes) towards the design of synthetic systems for a wide range of chemical reactions for which no active and selective catalysts are currently available.

Dr Daniel Kelly, lecturer in Biomechanical Engineering, was awarded the Science Foundation Ireland President of Ireland Young Researcher Award in June 2008. Dr Kelly's research focuses on regenerative adult stem cell based technology to develop alternative sources of cells for cartilage repair. Through the award, Dr Kelly will receive funding of almost €1 million over the next five years and will also spend time abroad working in a laboratory with a complementary research background. This will allow him to bring back vital new skills and experience to his research group in Trinity.

Dr Declan Dagger, School of Computer Science and Statistics, was the winner of Enterprise Ireland's inaugural 'One to Watch' award. This award recognises researchers whose commercialisation efforts are considered to have the most business potential. Dr Dagger was presented with his award by Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr Jimmy Devins TD, at the first Enterprise Ireland Applied Research Forum in June 2008.

Over €8 million in funding was awarded through 29 Health Research Board awards to TCD researchers in the year 2007/08. These awards include the following schemes: Research Project Grants; Transitional Research Awards; Post-Doctoral Fellowships; Health Services Research Fellowships; and Nursing and Midwifery Fellowships.

The Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) awarded the College 38 Postgraduate Research Scholarships, eight Postdoctoral Fellowships and two Senior Research Fellowships. The Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology (IRCSET) awarded the College 11 Embark Initiative Postdoctoral Fellowships and 27 Postgraduate Research Scholarships.

A total of 14 Stokes professorships and lectureships were awarded to Trinity College Dublin under the Science





Foundation Ireland Stokes Professorship and Lectureship Programme which were announced by the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Micheál Martin TD in December 2007.

Trinity postgraduate student David Hoey was awarded the 2008 Engineers Ireland Biomedical Research Medal. This award is made annually by Engineers Ireland to a final year PhD student who has been judged by a select committee to be making a significant contribution to the field of biomedical engineering research.

Seven Trinity College students were successful in achieving Fulbright Scholarships for 2008-09. The Fulbright Commission awards scholarships to Irish citizens to study and research in the United States and to US citizens to study and research in Ireland and continues to contribute to on-going dialogue and collaboration between Ireland and the United States.

TCD's Centre for Deaf Studies is a partner in SIGNALL, an EU project that was awarded the European Award for Languages (EAL) 2008. The SIGNALL project's aim is to increase the awareness of Deaf Culture and Sign Language in the EU.

#### **Among the breakthrough successes for TCD Researchers were:**

##### *TCD Researchers Develop Groundbreaking New Tests for the Prediction and Risk Assessment of Early Alzheimer's Disease*

In November 2007, TCD announced the development of a new test for the early detection of Alzheimer's disease by the Chair of Psychiatry, Prof Harald Hampel and his research team based at the Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience (TCIN) and the Adelaide & Meath Hospital Dublin, Incorporating the National Children's Hospital (AMiNCH), Tallaght. In April 2008 the discovery of a second new test for the prediction and risk assessment of early Alzheimer's disease was announced. These two new discoveries in Alzheimer's disease led by the TCD/ AMiNCH research team were published in the world-leading peer-reviewed neurology journal, *BRAIN*, and top-level American Psychiatry journal *Archives of General Psychiatry*, and were presented at the 2008 International Psychogeriatric Association (IPA) conference in Dublin.

##### *Major Breakthrough in the Treatment of Coeliac Disease by TCD Researchers*

Researchers in Trinity College Dublin in conjunction with

collaborators in the UK and Netherlands discovered seven gene regions linked to causing Coeliac disease. The groundbreaking discovery, announced in March 2008, will lead to a better understanding of Coeliac disease and ultimately to the development of new treatments. The findings by the TCD team of researchers, which was led by Dr Ross McManus of the Institute of Molecular Medicine, in collaboration with Prof David Van Heel of the London School of Medicine, were published in the world - leading journal, *Nature Genetics*.

##### *New TCD Research to Impact on Future Cancer Therapies*

In September 2008, Trinity scientists made an important breakthrough in how cells commit suicide. This has the potential to have an impact on future cancer therapies. Led by Smurfit Professor of Medical Genetics, Prof Seamus Martin, the groundbreaking research was in understanding the role of the Bcl-2 gene family which is involved in developing resistance to cancer chemotherapy. The research team's findings were published in the internationally renowned journal, *Molecular Cell*.

##### *TCD Collaborative Research Identifies Rare Chromosomal Anomalies*

An international research collaboration between researchers in the US, Europe and Trinity College Dublin identified rare chromosomal aberrations that are associated with a variety of developmental disorders in children including some cases of autism. The study's findings, which involved Dr Louise Gallagher, Clinical Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry and Professor of Psychiatry, Prof Michael Gill were published in the internationally renowned *New England Journal of Medicine* published in September 2008.

## **6 Innovation and Commercialisation**

Trinity Research & Innovation (TR&I) actively supports Trinity's wider research portfolio. The unit promotes and manages the interface between TCD researchers, funding agencies and industry. It is also responsible for managing TCD's Intellectual Property, Technology Transfer and Innovation, Commercialisation and Entrepreneurship. In line with the Irish National Development Plan and TCD's Strategic Plan, Trinity Research & Innovation seeks to promote the successful exploitation of new ideas incorporating new technologies.

Trinity Research & Innovation facilitates the interactions between the university, external agencies and industry, through four divisions: Research Development, Contracts,









Technology Transfer and Entrepreneurship. The unit has undergone significant growth during 2007/08 with 13 new members.

### 6.1 Intellectual Property

In the course of the year, the Research Development Section processed a total of 1,227 research and funding applications while the Contracts Section processed a total of 684 contracts entered into by TCD valued at over €126 million. The Technology Transfer Section was responsible for filing 24 patents, six commercialisation licences and two spin-out companies.

### 6.2 Entrepreneurship and Innovation

The Entrepreneurship section registered 43 postgraduates and researchers onto the Entrepreneurship Programme and supported eight projects (the highest number to date) on the MBA workout programme.

The Trinity Innovation Award was presented to Dr Steven Collins and Mr Hugh Reynolds, Co-Founders of Havok.com and sold to Intel for €76 million in 2008. The Award was given in recognition of their success in creating Havok, which is now the world leader in the development and sale of real-time physics and animation software to the games industry.

## 7 Capital Development Programme

During the course of the 2007/08 academic year, the College's capital development programme saw the completion of some key projects with the official openings of the Naughton Institute, the Sports Centre and the Trinity Irish Art Research Centre. Large capital projects undertaken include the refurbishment of existing facilities at 15/16 Westland Row, the Moyne Institute, Dunlop Oriel House, the Sir Patrick Dun Research Laboratory at Trinity Centre at St James's Hospital, the Trinity Technology and Enterprise Campus and the new Faculty Offices.

Planning continued on a number of other projects including the Luce Hall refurbishment, Foster Place and the Long Room Hub.

### 7.1 Completed Projects

#### *Trinity Irish Art Research Centre*

The renovated Provost's House Stables, new home to the Trinity Irish Art Research Centre (TRIARC), was officially

opened by artist Louis le Brocqy, and photographer, Jacqueline O'Brien, in June 2008. The €1.5 million project, funded by a private donation, houses a new research and teaching facility including a teaching/exhibition space, study area and ancillary services at ground floor level and a reading/archive room and offices at first floor level.



*Converted stables at the Trinity Irish Art Research Centre*

#### *Sports Centre*

Trinity's new state-of-the-art Sports Centre was officially opened by the Minister for Arts, Sport & Tourism, the late Séamus Brennan TD, in April 2008. The €30 million building contains 6,500 sq.m. of modern, purpose built recreational space, housing a 25m, 6-lane swimming pool with adjoining sauna and steam room. The swimming pool has a floating floor allowing the depth to be adjusted to cater for a wide range of activities from beginners' lessons to scuba training and water polo. Other facilities include two sports halls, a substantial fitness theatre, an aerobics studio together with accommodation for sports clubs and spaces for reflexology and other holistic treatments. The building has separate high quality changing areas for wet and dry sports. A striking element of the building is the spectacular climbing wall which is visible for almost the entire height of the building from Westland Row. The Centre was made possible by a very substantial donation from Atlantic Philanthropies, one of many Atlantic Philanthropies supported projects in Trinity.

#### *Naughton Institute*

The Naughton Institute, a €100 million state-of-the-art new science facility which houses Ireland's first purpose-built nanoscience research institute, the Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices (CRANN) and the world's first Science Gallery, was officially opened by the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern TD, in January 2008. CRANN has



received substantial government investment, €74 million of which has come in research grants through Science Foundation Ireland (SFI).



*The Naughton Institute*

Known as the Naughton Institute in recognition of a major donation from Dr Martin Naughton, Chairman of the Glen Dimplex Group, the building houses 150 scientists, technicians and graduate students and provides them with the technology required to explore the world of nanoscience.

Specialised vibration-free laboratory facilities add to the uniqueness of this building. Researchers and scientists at the Institute can develop apparatus and techniques to build new structures and devices atom by atom, which generates endless possibilities for biotechnology, information and communications technologies.

#### *Science Gallery*

The building also includes an innovative public venue, the Science Gallery. Fitted out and operated with assistance from State and private funding, the Science Gallery engages the public with major current and future issues in science through interactive exhibitions, events, discussion and debates.

## **7.2 Proposed Construction Projects**

### *Biosciences Development*

This site, between Cumberland Street and Sandwith Street, which was previously used as a surface car park, is being redeveloped to provide a mixed development of academic and commercial space of over 30,000 sq.m.. The academic facilities to be housed include a Biosciences Institute with supporting facilities and additional third level teaching

and research accommodation. The commercial space will include shops, office accommodation and laboratory space. The development adjoins Pearse Railway Station and the design incorporates a new entrance to the Station. This project started on site early in August 2008 and is due to be completed in December 2010.

### *Long Room Hub*

The Trinity Long Room Hub is scheduled for construction in the second half of 2009. This initiative will facilitate the College's strategic development of research in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences through the full exploitation of the College's outstanding research collections and the creation of a community of scholars across a range of disciplines. It will seek to answer questions about human identity in global contexts, focussing research energies and thereby helping to realise the creative potential of Trinity College as a great national and international institution.

Physical space is essential if we are to create a 'living community of scholars' around the Long Room Hub and assist towards a goal of doubling the number of post-graduate students by 2012. Planning has started on a project to provide physical accommodation for a Reading Room, Visiting Researchers' rooms, a Knowledge Exchange, a Video Conferencing suite and a Digitisation area.

### *Trinity Centre, Tallaght Hospital, Phase 2*

Planning permission has been received from South Dublin County Council for a 5,000 sq.m development to be built alongside the existing Trinity Centre at Tallaght hospital. The proposed building, estimated to cost €20 million, will provide research accommodation for the proposed Institute of Preventive Medicine and teaching and research space for the College's School of Nursing and Midwifery Studies.

### *Construction Industry Innovation Centre*

With the generous support of developer Mr Bernard McNamara, Trinity has established the Michael McNamara Chair in Construction Innovation and intends to construct a centre to house a Construction Innovation Research Centre as part of a new purpose design for Civil, Structural and Mechanical Engineering.

In addition to the projects above, a planning application will be lodged shortly for the refurbishment of the accommodation at 3/4 Foster Place and Anglesea Street. The Luce Hall Students Centre project will be brought to planning application stage during the coming months. It involves the conversion of the former sports facilities in the





Luce Hall to a new Students' Centre. This is consistent with the College's Strategic Plan and the space will include an events venue, social spaces and accommodation for the Students' Union, student societies and a number of student support services.

Developing the potential of the Trinity Technology and Enterprise Campus is being studied so that the College is positioned to develop this site as soon as market conditions are favourable. This site has the capacity to meet the long term expansion requirements of the College.

#### *Development Control Plan*

In parallel with the preparation of the new Strategic Plan 2009-2014, the Development Control Plan for the College will be updated next year and reviewed to support the College's strategic goals. The proposed transfer of activities to the Biosciences Development will release buildings and space for possible redevelopment and the new Development Control Plan must identify a strategy for phased redevelopment of these locations and of underused parts of the campus. Because of the timescales involved in developing and constructing large building projects, the Development Control Plan will also outline the sequence of future developments beyond 2014.

### **7.3 Energy Conservation**

Trinity consumed over 33.3 million kWh of electricity and over 32 million kWh of natural gas during 2007/08. This modest growth from the previous academic year is a consequence of the full occupancy of the newer buildings located on the north east corner of the campus. Costs were €7.3 million for all utility related costs for the year.

Savings were achieved through the e3 group, comprising UCD, DIT, DCU and TCD, as they used their collective purchasing power to get the most advantageous electricity and gas tenders from suppliers. The bulk of Trinity's electricity is sourced from Airtricity. Using such a 'green' energy supplier is an effective way to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions substantially.

An on-going programme of energy conservation work includes targeted measures in specific buildings and a programme of communication and education of building users. The energy reduction programme set up a monitoring and targeting system for selected buildings and then worked to reduce energy consumption within them. The current phase of this programme commenced in March 2007 and tackles ten buildings targeting a 10% reduction over three years.

In the course of 2007/08, alternative proposals for energy sources in new buildings were examined, designs were optimised to reduce energy consumption and in-house refurbishments were reviewed to improve and reduce energy consumption while the commissioning of buildings aimed to operate energy consumption as economically as possible.

The new Biosciences Development is an opportunity to have a more efficient building with a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant. It will be a priority to ensure that this is included as part of the design and installation. These types of research buildings are very energy intensive. They can use up to three or four times more energy than typical office space. The potential for on site electricity generation and heat recovery could reduce the net annual operating costs significantly.

## **8 Fundraising**

The future of Trinity College depends primarily on its people - staff and students - as well as investment in its teaching, research, innovation and outreach. Significant funding is required if College is to confirm its position as one of the world's leading universities. To this end, Trinity Foundation raises funds from College's alumni and friends.

Trinity groups its fundraising priorities into five themes, each articulating the relevance, importance and value of a university today - with an adopted mission that Trinity will play a pivotal role in helping Ireland be the most productive place to invent, work and learn and the most civilised place to live and contribute to local and global society.

The College cannot rely on State funding alone - securing private support is essential to Trinity's future. In the period 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008, €28.5 million was secured in private donations (€31 million in 2006/07). The benefits of this private support can be seen throughout College.

Highlights (by theme) include:

#### **Health – healthier people living in a healthier society**

- Capital funding for the Biosciences Institute on Pearse Street
- A new Professorship in Neural Engineering - building on the College's leadership position in neuroscience linking its Centre for Bioengineering and School of Medicine
- Capital funding for a Centre of Preventative Medicine



**Wealth** – *creating the tools to build a new economy*

- Lectureship in Social Entrepreneurship in the Business School's Centre for Non-Profit Management
- Capital and recurrent funding for Science Gallery

**Wisdom** – *nurturing the creative mind*

- Major grant to support the Library's long term capital development
- Numerous library acquisitions, including a first edition of Newton's *In Principia*

**Confidence** – *strategic thinking to support Ireland's role in the world*

- Funding to support international doctorates in Global Health in partnership with African universities

**Participation** – *active citizenship, social inclusion and a sustainable society*

- Core funding for four positions in the National Institute of Intellectual Disability
- Numerous student scholarships for the Trinity Access Programme and other student bursaries.

Trinity's alumni have continued to support the Save the Treasures Campaign which has now raised over €1.25 million from nearly 3,000 alumni. This has funded the preservation of over 100,000 books in the Long Room.

Planning for the next phase of fundraising is underway, ensuring it will support College's emerging Strategic Plan for the period 2009-14. Current priority projects include:

- Completing the funding for the Biosciences Institute on Pearse Street
- Refurbishment of the Long Room with expanded Humanities research facilities
- New Business School Building and new Engineering development
- Professorships & Lectureships in College's academic priorities.

Central to College's fundraising success is the outstanding contribution of the many volunteer groups that support Trinity including the TCD Association and Trust, The Business School's Advisory Board, the External Advisory Board of the Long Room Hub, the Medical School's Tercentenary Board, the Trinity Business Alumni, the Science Gallery Governing Board, the USA Fund and the UK Trust. These volunteers give their time, strategic input and considerable financial support. The College is extremely grateful for the support of

these groups. Special mention is due to the Board of Trinity Foundation, which plays a key role in co-ordinating College's philanthropic strategy.

## 9 Financial Position

The Funding Statements for the year ended 30 September 2008, prepared on an agreed harmonised basis for the Irish University sector, were approved by the Board on 21 January 2009 and represent Part I of the financial reporting requirements of the Universities Act encompassing the core teaching/research and research grants and contracts activity in the Income & Expenditure Account. The College's external auditors KPMG have issued an unqualified audit opinion on the Funding Statements. Part II of the financial reporting requirements is the Consolidated Financial Statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards. These statements cover all College activities (both core teaching and research and self-funding activities) in the Income & Expenditure Account and are currently on hold awaiting clarification from the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and other relevant Government Departments regarding the technical accounting treatment of pension liabilities.

The College has reported a deficit of €0.9 million for the year ended 30 September 2008 (Appendix I), an improvement of €1.27 million over the previous year. This outturn has resulted in the College's accumulated deficit increasing to €9.78 million at 30 September 2008. The financial deficit continues to grow mainly due to the cost to date of compliance with the Protection of Employee (Fixed Term Work) Act 2003 (FTWA) for which substantial provision has been made in the accounts with no additional funding for this legislative obligation being received from the Government. The pay:non pay ratio (excluding research) in the current year is 67:33 however, when adjusted for a number of once-off factors associated with the FTWA and Board approved strategic allocations/expenditure, the underlying pay:non pay ratio is 71:29 compared to the current Board policy of 70:30. The Net Assets of the College at 30 September 2008 as set out in the Balance Sheet (Appendix II) amount to €650 million. Similar to last year, the pension funds of the University sector continue to be the subject of ongoing discussions with the HEA with the resolution of this issue being critical in bringing certainty to financial planning and management of the College.

In contrast to teaching, the funding environment for research is strong with Research Grants and Contracts





income amounting to €71.1 million for the year (Appendix I) however the College is heavily dependant on the Irish State. The level of activity in the current year supported 1,720 staff, including 680 postgraduate students. As in previous years, the contribution to indirect costs from research activity in many cases continues to be below the full economic cost of hosting the research. This position is not sustainable.

The effective break-even outturn for the year under review has been achieved despite the adverse economic and funding environment. The financial situation continues to be a cause of concern and presents significant challenges for the College in the years ahead. The biggest challenge is associated with the economic outlook along with the level and uncertainty in relation to future funding, particularly with the recent indications from the HEA of further real reductions in core State funding in the coming years due to the deterioration of the public finances and with the ongoing implementation of the HEA Recurrent Funding Model. This model is effectively an allocation mechanism for the core grant funding where there is no control over the standard unit of resource and where the funding per student declines as overall student numbers increase in the sector. The continuing real reduction in State funding runs counter to the national goal of achieving a 'smart' economy.

The College continually finds itself financially constrained in the absence of base funding levels and the OECD recommended multi-year funding, both of which are needed to provide a platform for financial planning on a year-to-year basis. The continued erosion of core funding coupled with the impact of the growth in research without full cost recovery has undoubtedly adversely affected the College's financial position, its capacity to address serious risks and its ability to invest strategically.

The financial strategy which is required to underpin the College's next Strategic Plan 2009 – 2014 must be based on the following two fundamental priorities:

- 1) generating both new and additional streams of income that will underpin the core activities of teaching and research and reduce the risk associated with a further downturn in State funding
- 2) securing capital funds to maintain existing infrastructure and develop new projects in response to academic requirements and the needs of students and staff.

Delivering on these priorities will no doubt be an even greater challenge in the current economic climate. It will,

therefore, necessitate the continued strong management of the College's finances to not alone maximise the effective utilisation of existing resources but also to identify creative solutions that make the most of investment, development and commercial opportunities and to diversify its income sources.

## 10 Conclusion

The College performed well in 2007/08 despite pressures caused by funding difficulties. The College is financially well-positioned to focus on the challenges ahead and to drive forward, building on its achievements to date. However, in order to deliver on national objectives, the College will need to work with all levels of government to develop a financial strategy that delivers funding from a combination of both public and private sources in a sustainable manner.

At this time of unprecedented national economic crisis, it is vital that new ideas, knowledge and high level graduates have the greatest possible impact on the creation of new sustainable jobs and the renewal of existing businesses and services. Trinity, in partnership with its sister institutions, must show leadership in this domain, especially in the current climate. The College is actively working on this.

The College's goals, as outlined in The Strategic Plan Update 2006 include: Trinity's international standing as a research-led university will increase significantly and it will be the international reference point for at least one area of research. Our research achievements will be strongly reflected in our educational programmes, at both postgraduate and undergraduate levels. The developments in graduate education will advance the new 'Fourth-level Ireland', expanding the number of postgraduates and providing integrated PhD programmes that include modules for advanced and transferable generic skills.

Trinity's undergraduate curriculum and methodology of delivery will be considered the best in Ireland and will be among the best in the world. There will be a multicultural and diverse social mix among our staff and students, with a high number of international students, and the 'Trinity Experience' for both staff and students will be enhanced. Trinity's contribution to Ireland's social, economic and cultural vibrancy will be widely recognised in Irish society.

The College faces the future with confidence.



*Appendix I:*

**Income and Expenditure Account**  
Year ended 30 September 2008

	2008 '000	2007 '000
<b>Income</b>		
State Grants	103,259	104,854
Student Fees	82,643	76,039
Other Income	23,365	19,773
	209,267	200,666
Research Grants and Projects	71,167	70,604
<b>Total</b>	<b>280,434</b>	<b>271,270</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Academic Faculty Offices	111,149	104,833
Academic and Other Services	25,170	23,318
Premises	27,339	27,232
Amount Allocated for Capital Purposes	9,482	5,847
Central Administration and Services	16,185	15,726
General Educational Expenditure	8,658	8,530
Student Services	6,445	5,214
Miscellaneous Expenditure	8,884	9,795
Academic and Related Services	213,312	200,495
Research Grants and Projects	68,040	72,961
<b>Total</b>	<b>281,352</b>	<b>273,456</b>
Deficit for year on Activities before Amortisation of Capital Reserves and Grants, Ancillary Services and Depreciation of Fixed Assets	(918)	(2,186)
Surplus on Ancillary Services	2,789	4,308
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	(27,116)	(26,928)
General Reserve Transfer	24,327	22,620
<b>Deficit for year</b>	<b>(918)</b>	<b>(2,186)</b>

*Appendix II:*

**Balance Sheet**  
Year ended 30 September 2008

	2008 '000	2007 '000
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	707,357	675,731
<b>Financial Assets</b>	-	92
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Bank and cash balances	167,969	149,521
Debtors and prepayments	37,155	62,050
Stocks	372	314
	205,496	211,885
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Creditors and accrued expenditure	(202,161)	(188,938)
Bank balances	(3,357)	(1,443)
	(205,518)	(190,381)
<b>Net current (Liabilities) / Assets</b>	(22)	21,504
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>		
Creditors due after one year	(57,211)	(53,905)
	650,124	643,422
<b>Represented By:</b>		
General reserve	659,903	652,258
Investments	-	25
Revenue reserve	(9,779)	(8,861)
	650,124	643,422





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