

# CAMPUS NEWS

News, views and updates from a year on campus.



Leah Kenny,  
Senator Lynn Ruane  
& Eoin Caffrey

Photo: Naaise Cullhane

## Inspiring Generations Campaign Launched

In May, Trinity launched the public phase of its €400 million fundraising campaign. *Inspiring Generations* is the University's first major philanthropic campaign in its more than 400-year history and the largest ever undertaken in education on the island of Ireland. *Inspiring Generations* will support transformative educational experiences across the University that will attract the most innovative academics and the most talented students from all backgrounds, from the world over. Together they will research and address some of the major global issues of our time, from environmental challenges to cancer treatments. International launches have taken place in London, Paris, New York and San Francisco. Singapore, Hong Kong and Sydney are next on the list.



Benita Mbu

Photo: Paul Sharp

## Books Written and Illustrated by Dublin Schoolchildren join Book of Kells Exhibition

An exhibition of 80 handmade books written and illustrated by Dublin primary schoolchildren was unveiled by award-winning children's book author, Dave Rudden, in the Old Library in April. The exhibition marks the culmination of the Bookmarks programme, which sees children write and illustrate their own books over a two-month period with the help of authors, artists and children's book specialists from Trinity. The project aims to inspire children to become the next generation of storytellers, artists and creatives. Bookmarks is run by Trinity Access, which supports students from under-represented backgrounds to progress to further education.



Photo: Beate Schuler

## Inaugural Organ Concert and Restoration

In November, the Trinity community gathered for the Inaugural Organ Concert, performed by two of Ireland's leading organists, David Adams and Malcolm Proud, to celebrate the installation of the new Goetze & Gwynn organ and restoration of the iconic 1684 Pease organ case housed in Trinity's Public Theatre. Built in 1684, the organ is an important part of the cultural heritage of Trinity and of Ireland. Its latest major refurbishment has been made possible through the generosity of the John and Ann Boland Estate, the Trinity Association & Trust and a number of individual donors.

## Success and Celebration for Students with Intellectual Disabilities Graduating at Trinity

In January, six students with intellectual disabilities graduated from Trinity with a Level 5 Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice. They were joined on campus by family and friends and the sense of achievement, celebration and pride was immense. They were the first cohort of students with intellectual disabilities in Ireland to be conferred at this level from a university.



Marian O'Rourke, Mark Hogan, Niamh Biddulph, Hugh O'Callaghan, Dairine O'Rourke & Shane McGilton

Photo: Fennell Photography

## Trinity Launches the First Disabled Cycle Parking Facilities in Ireland

Trinity has installed the first disabled cycle parking facilities in Ireland. The facility is accessible, step-free and accommodates all types of non-standard cycles. The spaces, which allow for wider, hand-operated tricycles, as well as regular bikes, are clearly signposted and located next to a ramp. Opened in June, the disabled parking bay located next to Library Square is the first of four planned locations, with two more due to open before September.

Mark Nugent, Owen Keegan, Isabelle Clement & Professor Paula Murphy



Photo: Fennell Photography



Photo: Pixabay

## Biodiversity Week 2019

During Biodiversity Week, 18-26 May, Trinity highlighted the many improvements made around campus and plans to continue this great work. Some of the highlights included plans to install Swift Calls in the Museum building to encourage these migratory birds to return to campus to nest and breed. Their nesting routine was disturbed by building works in 2010 and they have not returned in the same numbers. This installation is of vital importance, as these birds are on the Birdwatch Ireland's amber endangered list. Many new pollinator and wildlife friendly shrubs and climbers have been planted in the bike park and around the catering building complex to entice and supply pollinators with a better variety of pollen and flowers to choose from. Other improvements include wild flower planting around College Park and the installation of wild flower turf with enhanced plant diversity in the triangular area between the top end of College Park and the Rugby Pitch.

Photo: Fennell Photography



Professor Martin Hairer, Ronan O'Gorman & Salam Al-Sabah

### Trinity Student Wins 2018 Hamilton Prize

Trinity student Ronan O'Gorman was honoured as one of Ireland's brightest young mathematicians when he received the 2018 Hamilton Prize along with eight of his peers, one from each of Ireland's universities. The awards ceremony was held on Hamilton Day, which is the anniversary of Trinity alumnus William Rowan Hamilton, whose discovery of quaternion algebra was made on 16 October 1843. Hamilton Day 2018 began with a masterclass for students and early career researchers in mathematics, given by this year's Hamilton speaker, Professor Martin Hairer from Imperial College London.

### Six Trinity Researchers Win Irish Research Council Advanced Laureate Awards

Six researchers from Trinity were among the 12 successful applicants of the Irish Research Council (IRC) Advanced Laureate Awards programme announced in April. The IRC Advanced Laureate Awards scheme was launched in 2018 to support exceptional researchers in conducting research that pushes the boundaries of our current knowledge. All six Trinity researchers receiving funding are at an advanced stage in their careers and will be supported to conduct ground-breaking, world-class research across a wide range of disciplines. Each awardee will receive up to €1 million in funding over a period of up to four years. Their research areas range from the development of novel methods of new magnetic material discovery and new approaches to the early diagnosis of cancer by examining tiny particles released into the bloodstream by cancer cells, to the creation of a bottom-up history of architecture in Ireland and Britain in the 1700s focusing on craftspeople rather than architects and patrons.



Dr Eavan O'Brien, Professor Michael Zaworotko, Professor Christine Casey, Joe McHugh, Professor John Atkins, Peter Brown & Liz-Anne Worrall

Photo: Marc O'Sullivan

### Professor Luke O'Neill is Awarded Prestigious EU ERC Award of €2.5m

Professor of Biochemistry and global pioneer in inflammation research, Luke O'Neill has been awarded an EU European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grant valued at €2.5 million. These highly prestigious awards allow exceptional researchers to pursue ground-breaking research. This is the first time a researcher from Trinity has won a second ERC Advanced Grant, the highest accolade among the ERC awards. Professor O'Neill's work is to make discoveries that might lead to new treatments for inflammatory diseases. His ERC-funded programme focuses on the metabolic changes that occur in a key cell associated with inflammation, called the macrophage. The overall aim of his research project is to elucidate how metabolic reprogramming controls inflammatory macrophage activation, which may lead to new therapeutic targets for inflammatory diseases.



Dr Conor McGinn & Niamh Donnelly

Photo: Fennell Photography

## Trinity’s School of Engineering Leads the Way in Robotics Research

Researchers from Trinity’s School of Engineering have showcased their next-gen research at Maker Faire Rome, Europe’s largest conference for makers and inventors. Maker Faire is a family-friendly showcase of invention, creativity and resourcefulness that spotlights hundreds of future-facing projects from around the world. In May, Trinity robotics engineers unveiled ‘Stevie II’, Ireland’s first socially assistive robot with advanced artificial intelligence (AI) features at a demonstration at Science Gallery Dublin. Stevie II is the successor to Stevie, a prototype assistance robot. Stevie won thousands of admirers and served as a proof of concept that a socially assistive robot could be deployed in long-term care environments to help seniors and people living with a disability.

### Scientists Develop Potential New Treatment for Childhood Cancer

Trinity scientists have developed a potential new therapeutic approach for synovial sarcoma, one of the most common soft-tissue cancers in teenagers and young adults. At present, the long-term survival rate for synovial sarcoma patients is below 50%, a fact that underlines just how important new discoveries are in improving the outlook for patients and their families. Using state-of-the-art CRISPR genome screening technology, the team – led by Dr Gerard Brien, Research Fellow in Genetics at Trinity – first identified the protein BRD9 as essential for the survival of synovial sarcoma tumours. They then set about designing new drugs to target this protein. Pre-clinical trials in mice showed that a newly developed drug blocks tumour progression. The next step will be to test the new drug in clinical trials in patients, which the scientists hope will take place in the near future.

### Trinity Becomes a Tobacco-Free Campus on National No Smoking Day

Trinity became a tobacco-free campus on National No Smoking Day, 6 March. The University has been building consensus to become a tobacco-free campus over the past five years and is now one with support from more than 70% of staff and students. Tobacco-Free Zones were introduced in 2016 and effected an 83% reduction in frequency of observed smoking in the Zones.

## Professor Owen P. Smith Gives a Lecture: '60 Years Since the Discovery of Burkitt Lymphoma'

On 24 September, the opening day of Cancer Week, Professor Owen P. Smith gave a lecture entitled *60 years since the discovery of Burkitt Lymphoma* at Trinity. Denis Parsons Burkitt (1911-1993), a surgeon and research scientist, and a key figure in the medical profession, received his B.A. in 1933 and graduated from Trinity as a physician in 1935. In Africa, he developed exceptional observational and analytical skills which led him to develop a successful treatment for the most common childhood cancer in Sub-Saharan Africa – Burkitt Lymphoma. His contributions to cancer remain salient today as his discoveries continue to generate new research.

## New Research Documentary on Positive Ageing

Based on 10 years of findings from the Intellectual Disability Supplement to The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (IDS-TILDA), a new research documentary: *Ageing with PRiDe* was launched at a gala screening in the Samuel Beckett Theatre. The documentary captures a day in the life of Mei Lin Yap, a woman with Down syndrome, as she explores what it is like to age in Ireland. Mei Lin wants to prepare for a happy, healthy ageing experience as she approaches her 30th birthday. The documentary tackles the challenges of ageing in a positive way for persons with an intellectual disability, while highlighting some of the key findings from the IDS-TILDA study.



Photo: Trinity Image Bank

Museum Building

## Hidden History of Stonemasons and Craftspeople who Built Victorian Dublin Uncovered by Trinity Project

The quarrymen, stonemasons and craftspeople who cut, carved and constructed Ireland's splendid Victorian buildings have long been lost to history, overshadowed by the architects and patrons who designed and commissioned them. Trinity has launched a ground-breaking research project, *Making Victorian Dublin*, which illuminates the hidden history of one of Dublin's most iconic Victorian buildings, the Museum Building. Built in the 1850s, the building was pioneering in its patriotic use of Irish marble and decorative stone. It established a taste for Connemara marble and Cork red limestone which spread across Ireland to Britain, the United States and even as far as Cape Town in South Africa. To mark the launch of the Irish Research Council funded project, a new interactive website, [makingvictoriandublin.com](http://makingvictoriandublin.com), allows users to explore a 3D digital scan of the splendid building and admire the double-domed main hallway, the richly decorated interior carvings and 32 spectacular columns of coloured Irish stone.

## Co-Cup Deposit and Return Scheme

Trinity in collaboration with Dublin City Council, Dublin City University, and 2GoCup Ltd. have launched the pilot Co-Cup Deposit and Return Scheme. The issue of disposable/single use plastics has garnered national and international attention in recent years. A recent government funded study estimated that up to 200 million single use coffee cups are used in Ireland every year, and these are not recyclable; that is 22,000 cups every hour. The Co-Cup Scheme aims to reduce this figure by implementing a deposit and return scheme for reusable cups in Dublin. Under the pilot scheme, when a tea or coffee is purchased, there is an additional charge of €1, which is refunded when the cup is returned. A lid can also be purchased for €1, which is kept and re-used.

Photo: Fennell Photography



Provost Patrick Prendergast & Dr Mary Robinson

## Mary Robinson Portrait Unveiling

A portrait of Trinity's former Chancellor, Dr Mary Robinson, was unveiled at a special event in May. To celebrate her 21 years as Chancellor, Trinity commissioned artist Mark Shields to paint the first ever portrait of a female figure to grace the walls of the Dining Hall and the first painting to be added to the collection since 1860. The commission was supported in full by the generosity of alumni.

Wakatobi white-eye



Photo: Seán Kelly

## Trinity Zoologists Find Two New Bird Species in Indonesia

Zoologists from Trinity, working with partners from Halu Oleo University (UHO) and Operation Wallacea, have discovered two beautiful new bird species in the Wakatobi Archipelago of Sulawesi, Indonesia. Their work sheds light on the complex evolutionary puzzle of how new species emerge. Details of their discovery, of the Wakatobi white-eye and the Wangi-wangi white-eye, have been published in the prestigious *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*. This is the same journal in which Alfred Wallace and Charles Darwin published their game-changing original ideas about speciation in 1858.



Photo: Naaise Culhane

Joe McGovern & Joe Veselsky

## Two of Ireland's Oldest Students Inspire Lifelong Learning

One hundred-year-old Joe Veselsky and 92-year-old Joe McGovern both attend evening and short courses at Trinity. Mr Veselsky has taken extra-mural courses in the School of Histories and Humanities every year since 2010 and is the oldest student to ever study at Trinity. In 2016, he was awarded an honorary degree by the University. Mr McGovern, a retired Garda, has recently returned to education after a gap of 75 years to study Latin. The two Joes met for the first time at Trinity in March 2019.

## Trinity Researchers Showcase Pollinator and Sustainability Friendly Gardens at Bloom Garden Festival

Two beautiful gardens designed by Trinity researchers were displayed at Bloom 2019. *The Pollinator-Friendly Organic School Garden* was designed by Dr Paddy Madden, from Trinity's School of Education, following extensive research into the state and status of nature in primary schools. The garden promoted understanding of the important role that pollinators play in food production and biodiversity enrichment and featured a fruiting hedge, solitary bee nurseries and vegetable beds made from recycled plastic. Assistant Professor in Trinity's School of Engineering, Liwen Xiao, led a team that created the E3 Garden to showcase exciting technology that simultaneously removes pollutants and generates electricity from wastewater. The two gardens have been created thanks to interdisciplinary collaboration between experts in botany, education and engineering, with the goal of inspiring children and adults in their appreciation and respect of nature.



Professor Liwen Xiao & Dr Dunzhu Li

Photo: Fennell Photography

## Trinity Remains Ireland's Leading University

Trinity remains Ireland's leading university in the latest QS World University Rankings, released in June. Trinity is positioned 108th globally, and 37th in Europe. Trinity was also named 28th best university in the world when it comes to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the new University Impact Rankings from Times Higher Education. Trinity was 10th in the world when it comes to climate action and 18th in the world in partnerships with other organisations. The rankings measure an institution's commitment to supporting the Sustainable Development Goals through its teaching, research and knowledge transfer.

## Trinity Joins New European University Network

Trinity is among the first universities in Europe to be selected as part of a newly launched university network part funded by the European Commission. Together with Barcelona, Utrecht, Montpellier and Eötvös Loránd in Budapest, the network was selected from hundreds of competing projects. The project involving Trinity will be called the Charm European University (Charm-EU) network and will focus on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Students and research staff will be able to move between the universities as their studies progress, providing a new and exciting interdisciplinary, challenge-based education.



Marguerite Browne, Caoilfhionn Jordan & Cedric Christie

Photo: Sarah Linn

## Ruth Christie Prize

Ruth Christie was a doyen of physiotherapy in Ireland. She trained in the Dublin School of Physiotherapy and attended lectures in Trinity. She was a founding member of the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists and in the 1970s she was invited by Trinity to set up a Physiotherapy Department in the Student Health Centre. In the early 1980s, to her delight, Physiotherapy became a full degree course in Trinity with the first graduates qualifying in 1987. Ruth passed away in 2018. The Ruth Christie Prize was established in 2019 following a gift from Ruth's children, Cedric Christie and Marguerite Browne. Her prize will be awarded annually to the student who obtains the highest mark in the overall degree classification of the B.Sc. Physiotherapy programme at Trinity. It will be administered by the Discipline of Physiotherapy, School of Medicine. Congratulations to Caoilfhionn Jordan, who is the inaugural recipient of the prize.

## Scholarship Opportunities for Students in Direct Provision

Provost of Trinity, Dr Patrick Prendergast, revealed in April that the University will be offering scholarships to students in direct provision. Young people in direct provision are classified as non-EU students, which means that under current state regulations, they are obliged to pay the non-EU student fee, which is upwards of €20,000. The University Council has secured 16 scholarships for students in direct provision who receive a place in Trinity through the CAO to cover the cost of fees, laptops, transport and food. These scholarships have been made possible thanks to alumni funding and University supports.