

Honorary Degrees

Between winter 2018 and summer 2019, Trinity awarded nine honorary degrees to outstanding individuals. Among them were a major 20th-century poet, Thomas Kinsella, patron of Irish art, and architecture Carmel Naughton, and Ireland's Ambassador to France, Patricia O'Brien.

Michal Lipson (Sc.D.)

Michal Lipson, an American physicist known for her pioneering work in silicon photonics, is currently the Eugene Higgins Professor of Electrical Engineering and Professor of Applied Physics at Columbia University and was formerly the Given Foundation Professor of Engineering at Cornell University, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. She works at the interface between physics and electrical engineering and since 2014 has been named by Thomson Reuters as one of the top 1% most cited physicists. She is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the CRANN Nanoscience Research Institute at Trinity.

Carmel Naughton (Litt.D.)

Carmel Naughton is a pre-eminent advocate of the visual arts in Ireland. Her contribution has been recognised by numerous organisations including the Royal Irish Academy, the Royal Hibernian Academy and the Prince Charles Medal for services to the Arts in Northern Ireland. Together with her husband Martin, she was named Philanthropist of the Year by the Community Foundation for Ireland in 2016. Serving on the Board of the National Gallery of Ireland, she oversaw the fundraising and construction of the new Millennium Wing. She was also the driving force behind the publication of the first comprehensive reference text on Irish art and architecture *Art and Architecture of Ireland*, coordinated by the Royal Irish Academy.



Photos: Maxwell Photography

Provost Patrick Prendergast,
Dr Mary Robinson, Thomas Kinsella,
Catherine Corless & Michal Lipson

Thomas Kinsella (Litt.D.)

Thomas Kinsella is recognised as a major 20th-century Irish poet. His work is included in all of the major anthologies and critical surveys of Irish poetry in English. Kinsella is widely known for the contribution he has made to the understanding of the Irish-language tradition, from his engagements with early Irish in *The Táin* through to the translations gathered in *An Duanaire* and, in the *New Oxford Book of Irish Verse*. His poems are celebrated for their profound personal candour sensitivity. He is considered a poet of searing political and public critical insight.

Catherine Corless (LL.D.)

Catherine Corless is a historian whose research focussed on the Bon Secours Mother and Baby Home in Tuam. Having been informed that no specific records regarding the institution existed, she requested records of 796 deaths at the Home. The meticulous cross-referencing of records of births, deaths and burials led to the uncovering of a mass grave and the shameful history of the institution. She pursued this work in the face of many obstacles and without the support of an academic institution. She received the Bar of Ireland Human Rights Award in 2017.



Carmel Naughton



Patricia O'Brien

Patricia O'Brien (LL.D.)

Patricia O'Brien is a Trinity Law Graduate who served as Under-Secretary General and Legal Counsel to the United Nations from 2008 to 2013. Appointed by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, she advised on all legal issues faced by the Secretary General, the UN Secretariat and the other principal organs of the United Nations. She was the first, and still the only, female UN Legal Counsel. In 2013, she returned to Irish public service and was appointed Permanent Representative and Ambassador of Ireland to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva. She is currently Ireland's Ambassador to France and Monaco.

David Cabot (Sc.D.)

Ornithologist and writer David Cabot has devoted his life to the study of Ireland's flora and fauna. A graduate of Zoology from Trinity, he has written several books on wildlife in the Collins Natural History series from *Irish Birds, Ireland*, to a new work, *The Burren*. In praise of the wildlife expert's contribution and observation of nature, the Public Orator Professor Chahoud added: "Birds preserve the harmony of a place and it is for us to preserve the harmony of their places, our candidate says. He has done that all his life." He was conferred with a Doctorate in Science.



Carmel Naughton, Patricia O'Brien, David Cabot, Provost Patrick Pendergast, Shelley McNamara, Yvonne Farrell, Cormac Ó Gráda & Dr Mary Robinson

Cormac Ó Gráda (Litt.D.)

Cormac Ó Gráda, Emeritus Professor of Economics, University College Dublin, has been an outstanding Irish economic historian for the last three decades. In 2010, he was awarded the Royal Irish Academy's Gold Medal in Humanities. His research interests range from 18th-century France to 19th-century Manhattan to Mao's Great Leap Forward. His profound insights into the Irish Great Famine have broadened to a reinterpretation of famine in global history and to a rethinking of the impact of the bubonic plague. He was elected president of the Economic History Association for 2017-18 – the first time an Irish-based historian has been so honoured.



Shelley McNamara, Yvonne Farrell, Cormac Ó Gráda & Dr Mary Robinson

Yvonne Farrell (Litt.D.) and Shelley McNamara (Litt.D.)

Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara co-founded the Grafton Architects in 1978. They have received many accolades for their pioneering work including an appointment as the sole curators of the Architectural Biennale in Venice in 2018. Their University commissions are particularly celebrated including work at the Luigi Bocconi University, Milan and at Universidad de Ingeniería y Tecnología, Lima, Peru. They have described their first building at Trinity (the Parsons Building) as an important turning point in their career. Both have taught in numerous European and American Schools of Architecture, including jointly holding the Kenzo Tange Chair at Harvard Graduate School of Design. They are Fellows of the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland, Honorary Fellows of the Royal Institute of British Architects and elected members of Aosdána.