Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement

Philanthropy and alumni engagement have played a crucial role in the university since Trinity’s foundation, empowering lasting global impact in research and education.

This year Trinity celebrated two crucial capital development projects made possible through philanthropy: the completion of the Trinity Business School and a new Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies development known as the E3 Initiative. With both these projects, exceptionally generous philanthropy enabled the leveraging of significant state investment and loans.

In 2019 Trinity will publicly launch its first ever comprehensive philanthropic campaign which will be the most ambitious fundraising campaign ever undertaken on the island of Ireland. The focus of the Campaign will be on the two ‘umbrella’ areas for which philanthropy is essential: investment in staff and students through a series of transformative professorships and scholarships; and investment in major capital development and research infrastructure projects, including the Trinity St James’s Cancer Institute, E3 Institute, the Trinity Business School, and the Library and its unique collections.

RIGHT – Dr Martin Naughton, Trinity STEM student
Aedin McAdams (Zoology) and Provost Patrick Prendergast at the announcement of the new E3 initiative
The Naughton Foundation announced the single largest private philanthropic donation in the history of the state to Trinity, a gift of €25 million, paving the way for Trinity’s ambitious new E3 Initiative...
The Naughton Foundation and E3
In 2018 we continued to witness the transformative contribution of the Naughton family to Trinity. In May, the Naughton Foundation announced the single largest private philanthropic donation in the history of the state to Trinity, a gift of €25 million, paving the way for Trinity’s ambitious new E3 Initiative. E3 will bring together engineers alongside natural scientists and computer scientists to strive for solutions to some of the greatest challenges facing our planet today. Martin and Carmel Naughton and their family invest in excellence in many fields including education, science, technology, engineering and the arts. Their support to Trinity includes the development of the Naughton Institute incorporating Trinity’s nanoscience institute, CRANN, and the Science Gallery, the Seamus Heaney Professorship in Irish Writing, the Naughtons Scholarships programme and now the development of the E3 Initiative at Trinity.

Other philanthropic highlights
Other philanthropic highlights this year included a contribution by Nobel laureate and Trinity alumnus, Professor William Campbell, who donated to the Department of Zoology from his Nobel Prize fund. Trinity used this donation to establish the W. C. Campbell Moderatorship Prize, Undergraduate Research Prize, and Postgraduate Teaching Inspiration Award. Trinity also received a significant legacy from Professor John Byrne to support Computer Science and Engineering students through the Student Hardship Fund.

The Irish Longitudinal Study in Ageing (TILDA) was awarded continued funding from the Department of Health, The Atlantic Philanthropies and Irish Life. This new round of funding enables TILDA to continue its valuable work as Ireland and the world face the challenge of an ageing population.

The Samuel H. Kress Foundation Conservation Fellowship was awarded to Trinity to fund a ten-month placement in the Conservation Department of the Library. This enabled the appointment of Lauren Buttle to conserve and rehouse papyri, including Books of the Dead, Mythologies and legal documents from the collection donated in 1838 by Edward King, viscount of Kingsborough.

The Ryanair Foundation announced €1.5 million funding of a Professorship of Entrepreneurship. The new professorship will drive and direct entrepreneurship and innovation at the Trinity Business School and across the university.

Alumni engagement
With over 140,000 alumni in 150 countries worldwide, Trinity is committed to staying in touch with all graduates in order to provide opportunities for them to engage with, and support, their alma mater.
This year two new services were launched to engage alumni worldwide. Trinity Alumni Online is an interactive platform for alumni to connect with each other and mentor students. To date over 3,000 alumni have registered on the platform. Trinity Talks is a new online service providing access to educational lectures and talks from across the university in a centralised location. These benefits add to Trinity’s recently launched Alumni Room, a dedicated space in Front Square for alumni to enjoy when visiting Trinity.

On campus, a variety of engaging events for alumni are offered which includes the Trinity Business Alumni series of events and a new focus on alumni events in Innovation & Entrepreneurship. Internationally, there are 76 alumni branches around the world, supporting the local network of alumni through a variety of events and engagements with visiting Trinity staff. Alumni have been very generous with their support of Trinity during the year. Two hundred and twenty two alumni mentors connected with 720 student mentees during a series of alumni to student mentoring events on campus. In addition, many alumni abroad have supported international student recruitment as well as being host to many Trinity students studying abroad. Over 1,000 alumni volunteered during the year and more than 2,500 alumni donated to the University in support of Trinity’s research and education mission.
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