Trinity welcomes two million visitors to the campus each year – these include dignitaries on state visits to Dublin; visiting fellows, lecturers and speakers at academic symposia and student societies; tourists and visitors to the Book of Kells, Science Gallery Dublin and other campus attractions; and the few exceptional individuals who are conferred each year with honorary degrees.

At the winter commencements in December 2018, the poet, Thomas Kinsella, the Galway historian, Catherine Corless, and the American physicist Michal Lipson were awarded honorary doctorates.

At the spring commencements in April 2019, six distinguished individuals received honorary degrees: patron of Irish art and architecture Carmel Naughton, wildlife expert and writer, David Cabot, Irish Ambassador to France, Patricia O’Brien, economic historian, Professor Cormac Ó Gráda and architects Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara. Mary Robinson presided over the ceremony for the last time as Chancellor of the University of Dublin, after 21 years in the position.

In May, French philosopher and writer Bernard Henri Levy brought his one-man play, ‘Looking for Europe’, to the Public Theatre as part of a marathon tour during which he performed in twenty European capitals ahead of the elections to the European Parliament on 24th May. Trinity’s Public Theatre was his only Dublin date and the only venue on his whole tour that was not a commercial theatre.

Trinity celebrated its one millionth visitor to the Book of Kells and Old Library Exhibition for 2018 in November. This is the first time that one million visitors have visited the Book of Kells Exhibition in a given year. The one millionth visitor was Cassie Clemans who travelled with her husband Andy from Bend, Oregon, USA to celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary in Ireland.
Trinity welcomes two million visitors to the campus each year...
Visitors from the US are the largest international group to visit the Book of Kells Exhibition annually, and make up 36% of the total visitor figures.

The Book of Kells Exhibition has seen a continuous growth in figures with total visitor numbers increasing annually. In the last four years alone there has been a 50% increase in visitors.

Trinity’s Zoological Museum, a constantly popular educational attraction for tourists, researchers and students alike, maintained Full Accreditation status under the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland and was one of ten recipients to receive an award at a ceremony in Kilkenny Castle in June.

Welcoming dignitaries
The King and Queen of the Netherlands visited Trinity as part of their State visit to Ireland in June. King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima were given a special viewing of the Dutch Fagel collection, an 18th century collection built up over five generations by the Fagel family, many of whom held high public office in the Netherlands. It is enormously rich in French, Dutch and English works on politics, religion, economics, sciences, natural history and travel, and reflects the professional concerns of the family. The royal couple also viewed the Book of Kells and other items in the 18th century Old Library building.

The previous month, the King and Queen of Sweden visited Trinity. Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden participated in an idea generation workshop with young people, as part of the mental health and well-being project OPEN MIND in Science Gallery Dublin. Carl XVI Gustaf King of Sweden and the Queen hosted a banquet that evening in Trinity’s Dining Hall with the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins and the Provost in attendance.

The Nigerian monarch, His Imperial Majesty, The Ooni of Ife, Oba Enitan Babatunde Ogunwusi, Ojaja II, and his royal entourage paid a courtesy call to the Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation during his visit to Ireland in July, accompanied by the Ambassador of Nigeria to Ireland, H.E. Dr. Uzoma Emenike. Discussions explored how the Centre might develop educational and cultural collaborations with universities and cultural organisations in Nigeria. His Imperial Majesty spoke of his great interest in language and culture and expressed his wish that the relationship between Trinity and Nigerian universities might be further developed.

Other dignitary visits through the year included the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, TD; His Excellency Mr Juan Manuel Santos, Former President of Colombia; His Excellency Mr Sergei Aleinik, Ambassador of Belarus; Dr Seong-Min-Yoo of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea; Mr Tibor Navracsics, EU Commissioner of Youth, Sport, Culture and Education; His Excellency Mr Alie Kabba, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Sierra Leone; Mr Carmelo Abela, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Promotion of the Republic of Malta; Mr Jan Peumans, Speaker of the Flemish Parliament; and a Parliamentary Delegation from Iran.
Welcoming speakers

In October poet Paul Muldoon gave the annual Edmund Burke lecture on the place of the artist in society. Other speakers at Trinity Long Room Hub events included actor Stephen Rea and literary critic and author, Adam Mars Jones, inaugural Briena Staunton Visiting Fellow to the School of English.

Co-discoverer of the DNA double helix, James Watson, together with seven Nobel Prize winners were among the glittering guests and speakers at the symposium, Schrödinger at 75, held in Trinity and in the National Concert Hall, marking the 75th anniversary since Erwin Schrödinger gave his seminal *What is Life?* lectures in Trinity College in 1943.

EU Commissioner for Competition, Margrethe Vestager received the Gold Medal from the College Historical Society (The Hist) in January, after taking part in a Citizens’ Dialogue, and in August the Hist welcomed George R.R. Martin, author of *A Song of Ice and Fire*, which was adapted into the HBO Game of Thrones series. Speakers at Trinity’s other student debating society, the Philosophical Society (The Phil), included mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, author Sebastian Barry and food writer and television presenter, Mary Berry.
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