

## **MAGISTRA IN LITTERIS**

**Anna Martha Rowan**

Aedificia quidem quasi significare et declarare mores civitatis suae aperte demonstravit Numa rex Romanorum antiquissimus, qui sacellum Fidei erexit eiusque numini sollemne instituit; tantum valuit apud maiores veritas constantia fidelitas. In aedibus Fidei, templo iterum iterumque reverenter renovato in vertice Capitolino, servabantur diplomata sanctissima populi Romani. Quid vos, cives Hiberni? De moribus vestris, credo, fidem facit ANNA MARTHA ROWAN, quae omnem fere Hiberniam aedificatam diligenter descripsit. Quomodo mulier insigni modestia ac pudore tantum monumentum ad caelum exstruere potuit nationi Hiberniae, quantum ille Eques Auratus Britannicus patriae suae? Si quaeritis, paucis dicam. Ab infantia ex fonte quodam purissimo hausit, cum primam degeret aetatem in splendidis aedibus avitis, quae aedificatae essent id genus architectonicum quod apud nos dicitur Georgianum. In flore aetatis Hiberniam petivit, ubi triginta fere per annos operam strenuam dedit numinibus Architecturae Hibernicae, quae excoluntur in templo finitimo atque gratissimo Collegio nostro. Ibi die fausto chartas quas Alfredus architectus illustris adnotatas reliquerat, ea disiectas suscepit et compositas fidelissime auxit perenni monumento memoriae recentiorum architectorum artificumque atque omnium quae in Hibernia aedificaverant numero quinquaginta fere milia. Pulchre id fecit et liberaliter, quod electronice, ut ita dicam, editum esse volumen voluit mulier piissima. Si pluribus opus sit, adiciam quod magis admiremini, grati sodales: virtute huius mulieris librum illum luculentum editum esse de vita Ricardi architecti illustris, cuius consilio saeculo praeterito ineunte surgebant hinc quadrangulum quod adhuc dicimus herbarum, illinc aedes anatomiae in campo Collegii. De quibus aedificandis haec scriptor tam fidelis quam lepida ac perurbana hoc rettulit: Jacobo cuidam professori anatomiae adeo displicuisse lineamenta incepti aedificii ut vehementi impetu in caput architecti umbraculum quoddam affrangeret. Quod ut legi in libro de vita operibusque Ricardi eiusque filii Vitruvii, ego me subrisisse confiteor. Commendo vobis feminam fidelem, praeditam piissima constantia et eleganti iudicio in discernendis atque describendis quae optima sint in architectura. Hoc solum restat, quod a vobis posse videatur benignitas eius eximia, nam una cum coniuge dilecto nuperrime sumptuosam bibliothecam privatam in templo Fidei Architecturae Hibernicae dono munifico posuit. Mulierem igitur tam bene meritam maximo plauso gaudentes accipiat magistram in Litteris, aptissima peroratione audita:

Quam reverenter, quam fideliter homines colat, quorum memoriam tam grata praedicatione prorogat et extendit ut libros de vita eorum ediderit: pulchrum istud et probandum.

## MASTER IN LETTERS

Ann Martha Rowan

Architecture is a powerful symbol of a nation's ideals. The first public building to rise in the city of Rome was a shrine dedicated to Faith, the goddess of veracity, loyalty and fidelity. The temple of Faith, enlarged and restored many times, grew into a landmark on the Capitol Hill and into an archive of important state documents. If you search for a modern account of Irish architecture, you will find none worthier of reverence than the work of ANN MARTHA ROWAN, faithful historian of the Irish built landscape. Of a gentle, modest, retiring nature, she has erected an imposing monument, achieving for this country what Sir Howard Colvin did for British architecture. A taste for fine buildings runs in her blood: her ancestors built Hampton, a magnificent example of Georgian architecture in Maryland, where our candidate spent her early childhood. On coming to Ireland, she has worked for over thirty years (and still works) in the Irish Architectural Archive, the splendid temple to Irish architecture erected in Merrion Square forty-two years ago, with which the College has such close connections. It was in the Archive that she came upon the treasure left by the eminent architect Alfred Edwin Jones. She transformed, and enormously enlarged, that wealth of material into a detailed, accurate, comprehensive biographical index of architects, builders and craftsmen, covering nearly fifty thousand buildings in our island. The *Dictionary of Irish Architects 1720-1940* is not only immensely authoritative; it is a democratic masterpiece of Digital Humanities. This achievement is but one of her contributions to Irish architectural history. Our College has a special debt of gratitude to her: the first monograph she was responsible for was devoted to Sir Richard Morrison, the maker of Botany Bay and Anatomy House in the early nineteenth century. Facts must be laid out faithfully, but the gifted biographer knows how to construct an engaging narrative. Here is a revealing example, from her entry on Anatomy House: "The professor of anatomy was dissatisfied with various aspects of the design, and is said to have broken an umbrella over Morrison's head when he met him in the unfinished building" (*The Architecture of Richard Morrison and William Vitruvius Morrison*, 1989, 85). As if a lifetime of faithful research and largely volunteering service were not enough, our candidate, in a joint gift with her husband Alistair, has recently donated a lavish personal library to the Irish Architectural Archive. In recognition of her faithful and generous service to the country, the University is proud to bestow on her the title of Master in Letters.

Perpetuating the memory of people in the grateful tribute of a published biography  
is a splendid act of respect and loyalty, and deserves praise.  
(Pliny, *Epistles* 7.31.6)

**DOCTOR IN EDUCATIONE**  
**Johannes Antonius Scott**

“Naturam immensam copiam mundi genuisse” inquit Robertus ille philosophus, disserens de rerum natura qualem vulgo tradita sit, “multo clarius intellexeris quam si Aristotelis obscura secutus, naturam esse principium et causa motus et quietis eius, in quo inest, primum per se, et non secundum accidens.” Sophos! Vir pari ingenio adest, Academici, qui in integrum Regiae Societati Dubliniensi restituit Roberti illius emblemata, quo doctissimus quisque philosophus naturalis Hibernicus ornaretur sollemniter. Etiam vero maiorem gloriam hic candidatus adeptus est in liberis educandis. Summo cum gaudio praesento vobis JOHANNEM ANTONIUM SCOTT, fervidum fautorem universae institutionis philosophicae naturalis. Quadraginta per annos secreta naturae physica dilucide docebat apud sororis Universitatis Collegium Dubliniense, dum officiis permultis libenter susceptis fungitur tum decanus scientiis praepositus, tum magistratus Collegii, tum denique primus curator communitatis civilis. At, dicitis, nondum laudavi quod fecit pulcherrimum. A fideli sodalitate incipiam. Amicus ei gratissimus erat Thomas, reverendus frater Carmelitanus, a quo rudimenta mathematica et physica hic adolescentulus didicerat; cum ille a Collegio Carmelitano ad Dubliniense profectus esset, sodales quasi unanimi solebant persequi studia communia. Erant forte olim in Novo Mexico, cum repente stupentes viderent nescio quem puerum sagittantem radium quoddam igniferum, quod ipse sibi fabricaverat ut certatim exhiberetur. Unde sagaciter viri nostri consilium primi inierunt certaminis instruendi ut ingenia omnia adulescentia funditus educantur physica ratione. Quinquaginta fere abhinc annos primum certavere adulescentes in aedibus principis civitatis Dubliniensis; paulo postea crescentem numerum, candidato fautore, accipiebant aedes magnificae Regiae Societatis Dubliniensis. En sequebantur nationes quaedam Europae confederatae, sequebatur res publica Africae Orientalis, undique gentium pueris puellisque certantibus curiosissimo ingenio. Iure quidem gaudet candidatus Hiberniam mirabili exemplo fuisse toti orbi terrarum; nonne gaudebimus nos, spectantes ut olim hic, quanta ingenio puerili exquisitas extractas exhiberi possint? Habemus virum praestanti virtute, pedagogum egregium, quem probata reverentia naturae et rerum et hominum emblemata decoraverunt physici Collegii Londiniensis; philosophum denique piissimum, cuius rationem discendi ac liberaliter docendi contenderim cum antiquo illo auctore naturalium quaestionum. “Equidem” inquit enim ille “tunc rerum naturae gratias ago cum illam non ab hac parte video qua publica est, sed cum secretiora eius intravi, cum disco quae universi materia sit, quis auctor aut custos”, itemque “Nisi ad haec admitterer, non tanti fuerat nasci” (Sen. *N.Q.* Praef. 3). Salute virum vere sapientem, vere pium, qui universos ad secretiora universi admittere voluit.

**DOCTOR IN EDUCATION**  
**John Anthony Scott**

“The whole World is but a System of the Works of Nature”, wrote Robert Boyle in his illustration of Aristotle’s rather obscure definitions (*Free inquiry into the vulgarly receiv’d notion of nature*, 1686, p. 45). The eminent seventeenth-century scientist lent his name to Ireland’s most prestigious scientific honour; no less enlightened is the man who stands before us today, who gave a new impetus to the Boyle Medal when he was President of the Royal Dublin Society. The celebration of professional excellence is, however, a mere corollary of our candidate’s lifelong commitment to science education. I am delighted to present to you JOHN ANTHONY SCOTT, a distinguished pioneer and patron of public science in Ireland. He boasts a forty-year academic career in Physics at University College Dublin, where he also served as Dean of Science, as a member of the Governing Authority, and as the first Director of Public Affairs. He had a loyal friend in Fr Tom Burke, his former teacher at Terenure College and colleague at UCD. During a research trip in New Mexico, the two scientists happened to see a schoolboy flying a rocket he had made himself for a local science fair. That moment sparked the idea of the Young Scientist Exhibition, which they founded in 1963 to promote scientific projects in secondary schools. The first competition took place in the Mansion House; its growing popularity soon suggested a larger venue, and our candidate gladly moved it to the RDS. The concept was adopted in European Union countries in 1989, in Africa in the new millennium, and has inspired many initiatives for children and the general public at home and abroad. The EU competition has guest competitors from Japan, New Zealand, Russia, the United States, South Korea, Canada and China. “It’s great to think that something which started in Ireland is now moving around the world,” he says, “that’s something we should be very proud of.” You only have to glance through the titles of projects submitted every year – for more than fifty subsequent years now! – to be simply awestruck. This man has an extraordinary ability to stimulate an understanding of the physical world and the role of humanity in it (if I may borrow the phrase inscribed on the Kelvin Medal of the Institute of Physics, one of his many public recognitions). The depth of his reasons and the virtue of his goals remind us of the ancient philosopher’s preamble to the *Natural Questions*: “I am very grateful to nature, not just when I view it in that aspect which is obvious to everybody, but when I have penetrated its mysteries; when I learn what the stuff of the universe is, who its author or custodian is ... Being admitted to these studies makes life worth living” (Seneca, *Natural Questions, Praef.* 3). Such awareness, now stimulated among schools worldwide by our honorand, calls for a grateful applause.

**DOCTOR IN SCIENTIIS**  
**Jacobus Harris Simons**

δός μοί ποῦ στῶ καί κινῶ τήν γῆν.  
(Archimedes)

Mathematicam numquam erravisse si forte negaverim, argumentis perlucidis refellit JACOBUS HARRIS SIMONS, vir peritissimus artibus mathematicis, sollers in negotiis, eximius benignitate. Quae enim et quanta profecerit liceat summatim exponere. Mathematicum egregium primo habuit Collegium illustre Technologicum Cantabrigiae Novanglorum, deinde Universitas Georgio illustri philosopho Hibernico dedicata; vulgo autem appellari solet ab his artifex cultus splendide renati, ab illis rex quorundam quantorum vel item expugnator universi thesauri. Equidem pulchellis nominibus praeopto formosam pulchritudinem numerorum, a quibus statim incipiam ut decet et virum et diem sollemnem. VII ex omnium numerorum hic maxime digilit; in otio numeros bis multiplicare solet, in negotio, ut puto, terque quaterque. IV annorum natus puer percallidus interpretatus est paradoxa difficillima Zenonis Eleatis. In iuventute secutus est Eulerum, qui LXX demonstrationibus docebat theoremata arithmetica eo maiore attentione esse digna, quo magis eorum veritas esset abscondita et demonstratu difficilis. Ut hoc: in superficie sphaerae lines ducito quolibet modo ut figurae exhibeantur: summa laterum summae verticum subducta, summam figurarum componito: nil interest quot vel quae figurae fuerint, invariabiliter summa efficit duo. Nunc sumito annulum, lineis quolibet modo in superficie ductis, rationem facito ut supra fecistis: invariabiliter summa efficit nulla. Quibus proprietatibus inventis fundamenta prima iacta sunt generis algebrae cuiusdam, cui spectant huius studia de formis peculiaribus et constantia geometrica, libello utilissimo philosophiae naturali edito cum collega sapienti; cui olim spectabat, ni fallor, Archimedes Syracusanus: nam “ταῦτα δὲ τὰ συμπτώματα” inquit “τῆ φύσει προσηρῆχεν περὶ τὰ εἰρημένα σχήματα, ἡγνοεῖτο δὲ ὑπὸ τῶν πρὸ ἡμῶν περὶ γεωμετρίαν ἀνεστραμμένων οὐδενὸς αὐτῶν ἐπινενοηκότος, ὅτι τούτων τῶν σχημάτων ἐστὶν συμμετρία (Archim. *De Sphaera et Cyl.* i. 2.132-133). Nunc venio ad aliud genus numerorum – an potius dicam nummorum? Vir enim ingeniosissimus XXXVII annorum ad artem quandam nummariam animadvertit fauste et feliciter. Infallibili mathematicae auxilio increscebat, ut ait poeta (Hor. *A. P.* 421), dives positus in faenore nummis; sed recte intelligite tam innumerabiles ei esse divitias quam munificas. Vires quidem omnino deficerent si vellem numeratim laudare benignitates immensas quae vir una cum coniuge dilecta largitus est praesidio scientiae atque saluti universae: HS  $\overline{MD}$  dono dedit Universitati sibi carissimae in regione Novi Eboraci, ubi triginti fere per annos principia mathematica ex cathedra docebat; HS  $\overline{DC}$  eidem dedit ut studia novissima et geometrica et physica instituerentur; neque neglexit iuniores discipulos eorumve magistros ubicumque perlicitentur, dono facto HS  $\overline{DCCL}$ . Quod erat demonstrandum: numquam erravisse Mathematicam neque hunc virum insignem, liberalissimum munificentissimumque.

**DOCTOR IN SCIENCE**  
**James Harris Simons**

Give me somewhere to stand and I will move the earth.  
(Archimedes)

Math works. Should anyone demand proof of this incontrovertible truth, you have a living one in the phenomenal career of JAMES HARRIS SIMONS, mathematician, entrepreneur, philanthropist. His academic credentials could hardly be more impressive: he is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and holds a PhD from Berkeley. Popular imagination has given him extravagant titles: “Renaissance Man”, “The King of Quants”, “The Mathematician who cracked Wall Street”. We prefer the mysterious beauty of numbers, as befits both the occasion and the man. His favourite number is 7. He likes multiplying things by 2 (many times over, one suspects). At the age of 4 he first heard of Zeno’s paradox, and actually understood it. His scientific breakthrough followed the steps of the great Euler, who authored 70 volumes of mathematics and believed that theorems were all the more deserving of attention if their truth was hidden and difficult to demonstrate (*Demonstration of arithmetic theorems*, 1737, 1). For instance (prepare to be astonished): take a sphere and draw a line to form triangles all over its surface. The sum of the resulting vertices – edges + faces = 2. Cover the surface with any manner of polygon and count again: vertices – edges + faces = 2, invariably 2. Now take a different shape, say the surface of a donut, and play the same game: the result is 0, always invariably 0. Here you have the first beginnings of algebraic topology, somewhere between our candidate’s *Characteristic Forms and Geometric Invariants* (Chern and Simons 1974), with its vast influence on theoretical physics, and Archimedes’ initial discoveries: “Now these properties were inherent in the nature of the figures mentioned, but they were unknown to all who studied geometry before me, nor did any of them suspect such a relationship in these figures” (Archimedes, *The Surface and Volume of the Cylinder and Sphere* i. 2.132-133). At the age of 37 this mathematician turned to the financial world, and realised, before too long, that a mathematical model might help to predict trends. Maths definitely works. The hedge fund he established under the name of “Renaissance Technologies” grew from 1982 to 2015 into a figure of assets worth \$65 billions. In 1994 he and his wife Marilyn established the Simons Foundation to support scientific research, education and health: it is the largest science foundation on earth. More numbers? He donated \$150 million to Stony Brook University, where he had served as Chair of Mathematics from 1968 to 1982; \$60 million towards the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics at Stony Brook; \$75 million to Math for America, which he established for the support, development and motivation of teachers, especially in high poverty schools. “That’s the thing about mathematics: you never know where it’s going to go”, he says. He is right: mathematics has taken him through a marvellous journey of discovery, distinction, and boundless benefaction.

**DOCTOR IN UTROQUE JURE**  
**Hillaria Rodham Clinton**

Mea sententia hoc unum attinet,  
scire te fideliter petisse quae digna putaveris fide.

“Quis autem dixit naturam maligne cum mulierum ingeniis egisse et virtutes illarum in artum retraxisse? Par illis, mihi crede, vigor, par ad honesta, libeat, facultas est; dolorem laboremque ex aequo, si consuevere, patiuntur. In qua istud urbe, di boni, loquimur?” (Sen. *Ad Marc.* 16.1-2). Iure quidem iniquitatem indignabatur philosophus ille, sed heu quam paucis placebat iusta sententia viri sapientis! Mulieribus esse pares virtutes, pares facultates pravissime diu negabat maxima pars hominum et doctorum et indoctorum; mulieres tandem fuerunt quae fausto die saeculi praeteriti concilio vocato apud Senecam (conveniunt enim rebus nomina saepe suis), municipium quoddam Novieboracense, primae promulgarent statuta de paritate iustissima. Numquid opus est illa antiqua indignatione? “In qua istud urbe, di boni, loquimur?”. Vae nobis, etiamnunc indignari oportet. Dubito quin temporibus nostris vehementior vel facundior quisquam audiri potuerit quam mulier haec fortissima. A puella enim coluit et pietatem et aequitatem, primo discipula in ludo Bostoniensi illustrissimo, deinde Juris Doctor apud aedes lucis et veritatis quas dicimus Universitatem Yalensem. Consiliis iustissimis initis, patrona indefatigabilis officia sua praecipua sumpsit ut iura omnia defenderet ad infantes atque adulescentes, ad puellas matronas familias pertinentia. At etiam maiora, immo maxima munera adire ausam viginti abhinc fere annos, virtute eximia animo impavido de re publica merentem primo salutavere cives dominam fidelem, deinde senatorem strenuam ac tenacissimam; nuper principatum ipsum (mirabile visu) primam in patria petentem, munere gravi de rebus externis feliciter expleto. Cui sescenties fere cives ne miremur libenter adnuisse propugnanti societatem hominum aequis legibus coniungendam nullo discrimine generis vel gentis, aetatis vel dignitatis; civitates omnes periclitantes demum pacandas muliebri humanitate ac pietate, ut hac faultrice feliciter evenit in Hibernia septentrionali; libertatem denique vindicandam antiqua lege iustissima Solonis Atheniensis, qui fundamenta posuit rei vere publicae. Mendacissimo cuique δημαγωγῶν, ubicumque inveniatur, nos decet repugnare, quod (si eloquentiam Isocratis mihi licet usurpare) “ἐπαίδευε τοὺς πολίτας ὥσθ’ ἠγεῖσθαι τὴν μὲν ἀκολασίαν δημοκρατίαν, τὴν δὲ παρανομίαν ἐλευθερίαν, τὴν δὲ παρρησίαν ἰσονομίαν, τὴν δ’ ἐξουσίαν τοῦ πάντα ποιεῖν εὐδαιμονίαν” (Isocr. *Areop.* 20). Nunc est nobis occurrendum iniuriae, sodales sapientes, nunc est perseverandum in recto, hac comite ac duce intrepida, cuius praehonorabile nomen tandem resonet fideli gratissimaque acclamatione, dum ad vos duco

HILLARIAM RODHAM CLINTON

**DOCTOR IN LAWS**  
**Hillary Rodham Clinton**

I have never felt that anything really mattered  
but knowing that you stood for the things in which you believed.  
(Eleanor Roosevelt)

“But who has asserted that Nature has dealt grudgingly with women’s natures and has narrowly restricted their virtues? Believe me: if they wish to, they have an equal amount of vigour, equal capacity for the performance of good deeds, and equal endurance of suffering and toil, if they have trained themselves to it. In what city, good heavens, are we thus talking?” (Seneca, *To Marcia* 16.1-2). This indignant appeal to equality was raised by the ancient philosopher Seneca, and was a rare isolated voice in classical antiquity. It took eighteen hundred years for a public declaration of equality to be issued, at that memorable convention for women’s rights held at Seneca Falls in July 1848. A hundred and seventy years later, that cry of disbelief is still sadly appropriate: “In what city, good heavens, are we thus talking?”. In our lifetime, who has raised that appeal more eloquently and forcefully than the exceptional woman who stands before us today? Her appeal to equality and justice first resounded in Wellesley College, where she nurtured that wonderful combination of empathy and justice, which she called ‘mutuality of respect’. She made a mission of her vision, as she pursued a Juris Doctor degree from Yale Law School and entered the legal profession, acting and writing powerfully in defence of the rights of children, women and families. Some twenty five years ago she raised the stakes, with unparalleled energy and courage spent in the service of her great country at the highest level. The United States of America have hailed her First Lady, Senator, Secretary of State, and, most recently, the first female presidential nominee by a major political party in American history. Almost sixty-six million people have given her their vote of confidence, sharing her belief that a true democracy is a society in which everyone is equally valued as a human being, from infancy to old age, irrespective of gender, status or nationality; it is a society in which women have the power to effect a transformative change towards development, justice, and peace—is there anyone in this Hall who doesn’t recall her long-standing support for the Peace Process in Northern Ireland? She has argued and battled for a model of democracy informed by the spirit of its first lawgiver, the wise Solon of Athens: a good government based on liberty, equality and happiness. Let us reject any populist charade, “which trains the citizens in such fashion that they look upon insolence as democracy, lawlessness as liberty, impudence of speech as equality, and licence to do what they pleased as happiness” (Isocrates, *To the Supreme Court* 20). Let us resist, persevere, and go Onward Together. This extraordinary woman is leading the way. Let this Hall finally resound with the respectful acclamation of her name:

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON



**DOCTOR IN UTROQUE JURE**  
**Paulus Josephus Johannes Drechsler**

Fide ac fiducia si rem tenere ausu's  
Tibi feliciter petita evenient omnia.

Quaerenti quae sit virtus praecipua optimi ducis non aptius respondetur quam hoc monitu prudenti et peracuto: "Sicut musicus chordas pollice temptatas facit symphonas, aures tu acerrime intende: non enim potest surdus varietates vocum noscere." Talia concinne fatus est PAULUS JOSEPHUS JOHANNES DRECHSLER, Eques Commendator Excellentissimo Ordini Imperii Britannici adscriptus, dux et quasi choragus praevalidus. Summo cum gaudio eum in gremium recipimus quadraginta post annos a quo feliciter processit ad gradum Baccalaurei in Arte Ingeniaria. Laurea ornatus celerrimis modis a patria vehebatur ut arte chemia peritus consuleret officinae imperiali Britannicae illustrissimae, de qua bene meruit viginti et quinque annos, opera strenuissime data ad fines fere terrarum. Creatus est deinde praefectus fabrum apud officinam aedificatoriam tam viribus praestatem quam reverentem amoenitatis locorum; de qua, ut scitis, meruit decem per annos. At nuperrime uno eodemque anno tota quasi Britannia de hoc viro certare videbatur. Quidni? Aptissime gubernator delectus est a vetustissima illa navicularia quae multas per gentes negotia administrat ingentia; iure praevectus est in concilium supremum opificum confoederatorum, honore summo a regina Elizabetha decoratus. Nonne fuit architectus callidus prosperitatis suae? Sed rectius dicam, si quaeritis, artificem indefessum prosperae posteritatis, cui magnopere curae est ne flos iuventutis marcescat inerti inseguitate, sed auxilio educationis liberalis, disciplina aequi laboris feliciter proveniat ad bonum commune. Non tantum aures intentas, sed oculos praevidentes semper exhibet dum promovet iusta commercia, institutiones liberales, officia benevola a prima aetate colenda. Cum vero beneficia largiretur civibus vicinis, patrios pari pietate excoluit. Memor enim parentis, qui apud nos fortiter promovebat disciplinas artesque omnes negotiales, hic fidelissimus auxilia libenter ac liberaliter adducit discipulis doctisque negotialibus omnibusque alumnis Sanctissimae Trinitatis ubicumque sint in orbe terrarum. Iam duco ad vos virum plane egregium, quem eloquenter Latine dixerim "maximum publicanum, cuius in negotiis gerendis magnitudinem animi non tam homines probassent, nisi in eodem benignitas incredibilis fuisset" (Cic. *Rab. Post.* 3). Sed quin planius dicam, ut iuvat virum bonum et decet filium Almae Matris tam fortunatum, tam potentem boni efficiendi? "Salve, carissime, ad nos te redisse gaudemus."

**DOCTOR IN LAWS**  
**Paul Joseph John Drechsler**

All of our dreams would come true  
And our world will be right.  
(Eric Clapton, *Running on Faith*)

What is the secret of a successful leader? You will not get a more illuminating answer than this: “It is a bit like being a piano tuner. If you really listen well, you can then make some really good sounds”. This powerful image comes from PAUL JOSEPH JOHN DRECHSLER, CBE, an engineer with a finely attuned ear, a remarkable sense of tempo, and exceptional conducting skills. It is a pleasure to welcome him back to this Hall exactly forty years since his graduation in Engineering Science. From the day of that first achievement, he has wasted no time. In that very same year he joined Imperial Chemical Industries, one of the largest manufacturers in Britain, which he served for nearly twenty-five years, holding senior positions in Europe and the Americas, magisterially conducting the company’s main international businesses. We next saw him at the helm of Wates Group, the prestigious British construction firm, for a decade marked by public recognition of commitment to the future of the built environment. In 2015 he was appointed Chairman of the legendary Bibby Line Group, the longest established shipping line in Britain, now managing, from his Liverpool headquarters, a colossal operation of business industries across sixteen countries. In the same memorable year, he accepted the position of President of the Confederation of British Industry and received the title of Commander of the British Empire. But this is not merely a story of personal success; it is the celebration of an engineer devoted to making our children’s dreams come true. These touching words inaugurated his most recent position: “I’m looking forward to getting my feet under the desk, helping to power productivity and making sure our young people get the right education and skills to help them succeed in the economy of the twenty-first century.” His vision and leadership extend to encouraging responsible business (“Business in the Community”), to fighting education inequality (“Teach First”), to promoting youth social action (“Step Up to Serve”). While making our neighbouring island a better place, he has never forgotten his Alma Mater. He has given invaluable support to the Trinity Business School – which his father had once pioneered and guided, and which he assists as Chairman of the Business School Development Steering Group – and to the College at large, through indefatigable networking activities across the world. We take great pride in this successful and loyal alumnus. The finest orator of all times would aptly say of him: “the magnanimity that marked his business relations would not have gained such recognition from the world, had he not also been filled with a boundless philanthropy” (Cicero, *On behalf of Rabirius*, 3). Dare we add a more informal greeting, borrowed from one of his musical heroes? “Hello old friend, it’s really good to see you again.” Truly he has achieved his highest ambition: being a force for good.