

# TRINITY

**ALUMNI** NEWS

OCTOBER 2020



**Trinity College Dublin**

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin

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**Inspiring Generations**

The Campaign for Trinity College Dublin



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## TRINITY 2019/20



# AS THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR BEGINS...

2020 has challenged staff and students to find new methods of teaching and learning. As a leading research university during a time of global crisis, Trinity has been busier than ever, and a great deal has been achieved in the last few months. In the video above we take a brief look back at just how well Trinity adapted...

## WE WELCOME OUR NEW STUDENTS



The COVID-19 pandemic has created uncertainty for all of us; the uncertainty is especially pronounced for our 'junior fresh' students commencing their first year at Trinity in very different circumstances. There may not have been Freshers' Week stalls out in Front Square this year, but our incoming students received the same warm welcome as ever.

Students and alumni from Trinity are making new discoveries and inspiring the next generation of history makers. We created a special video of welcome for our new students which included messages from alumni Oscar-nominated director, Lenny Abrahamson; the creator of the companion robot Mylo, Candace Lafleur; and some other familiar faces from the Trinity community.

# KIDS TALK COVID WITH PROFESSOR LUKE O'NEILL

WHERE DID CORONAVIRUS COME FROM?

WHAT ARE VIRUSES?

CAN ANIMALS GET A VIRUS?



**This is what children across the country wanted to know about COVID-19 and Professor Luke O'Neill was on hand to provide the answers in this Q&A video produced by AIB.**

## **AIB COVID-19 Research Hub at Trinity**

In April 2020, Trinity College Dublin and AIB joined forces to establish a research hub at the university to urgently accelerate the college's immunology project tackling the COVID-19 pandemic, caused by SARS-coronavirus-2.

The AIB COVID-19 Research Hub, located within the Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute, will play a critical role in the delivery of the Trinity COVID-19 Immunology Project. The hub will involve immunologists and infectious disease clinicians from St James's Hospital in Dublin.



# REDEVELOPMENT PLANS APPROVED FOR THE OLD LIBRARY

Dublin City Council has granted planning permission for the conservation and redevelopment plans for the Old Library. This follows last month's historic unveiling of the new Book of Kells Treasury and display which forms the first component of these redevelopment plans.

The Old Library is one of Ireland's iconic treasures and its precious collections, spanning millennia, have been in the care of the Library of Trinity for over 400 years. But it now faces significant conservation and environmental challenges. External pollution and dust accumulation are taking their toll on the collections and the fabric of the Old Library building. There is a need to modernise environmental control and fire protection measures. Recent fires in similar heritage sites across the globe provide stark warnings.

This ambitious redevelopment project will draw on the best 21st-century design and technology to safeguard

the Old Library building and conserve its precious collections for future generations. It includes urgent structural and environmental upgrades; and the redevelopment of facilities in line with

the best library and museum experiences around the world. The award-winning architects Heneghan Peng who successfully conserved and revitalised the National Gallery of Ireland are leading a world-class design team in this transformative development.

Central to the redevelopment plans will be the conservation and protection of the 18th century building, and its precious manuscripts and research collections. It will include the development of a new state-of-the-art Research Collections Study Centre for students and scholars both nationally and the world over. It will also re-envision the Library's treasures with a one-of-a-kind immersive exhibition.

*Continue reading...*

# 6 TRINITY SPINOUTS CREATING DIGITAL WELLNESS SOLUTIONS

The Trinity Research & Innovation (TR&I) centre has seen a growth in the number of welltech start-ups in recent years. Welltech is about creating an ecosystem of technologies connected to support our life purpose and pursuit of happiness. This emerging trend is largely a result of societal and cultural changes and more businesses seeking out ways to support and enhance overall staff wellbeing.

Trinity Alumni News looks at six wellness-focused start-ups from Trinity that are developing new technology to help deal with stress, health problems and accessibility. WaytoB has just spun out and the others are pre-spin-out.



## WaytoB

WaytoB makes independent travel easier for people with higher support needs, providing them with more opportunities to socialise, find work and get to wherever they need to go.

*Continue  
reading*

*Click here to visit  
[www.waytob.com](http://www.waytob.com)*



## AI-Vic

AI-Vic's company vision is to develop conversational AI agents for healthcare that can be integrated into the patient care pathway, working alongside clinicians to address constraints on clinical time and provide deeper patient insight.

*Continue reading*

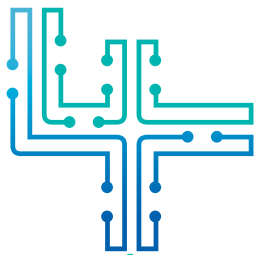


## Empushy

Empushy's goal is to fuse empathy with push notifications to create healthier digital experiences.

*Continue  
reading*

*Click here to visit  
[www.empushy.com](http://www.empushy.com)*



### **InterAct**

InterAct is a software platform with a suite of assistive technology training tools and technological solutions to support people on the autism spectrum to thrive.

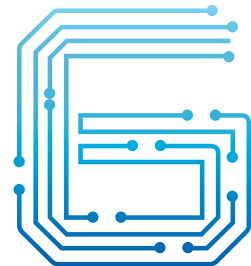
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### **Pilot Wellbeing**

Pilot Wellbeing aims to develop an application to safeguard the wellbeing and mental fitness of pilots and flight safety.

*Continue reading*



### **Simia**

Simia believes that retrospective financial analysis, proprietary risk management techniques and forward-looking AI can help employees identify and correct off-track behaviours to improve their financial wellness.

*Continue reading*





# ALUMNAE MAKING THEIR MARK

## **The LEGO Group appoints Fiona Dawson BBS, MA (1988) to its Board of Directors**



In August, The LEGO Group announced the appointment of Fiona Dawson, the Global President of Mars Food, Multisales and Global Customers, to its Board of Directors.

Fiona has worked for family-owned Mars, Incorporated for over thirty years. In her current role she sits on the Leadership team and is responsible for Mars Foods' portfolio of household brands, the various multi-segment markets, and their global customers. Mars, Incorporated has annual revenues of more than US\$35 billion. During her career, Fiona has held a wide range of leadership and marketing roles including President of Global Retail and Mars Chocolate UK, and European Marketing Vice President.

She has a passion for the advancement of women in business and is Chair of the United Kingdom's Women's Business Council, a government-backed and industry-led group seeking to advance women's careers in business and address the gender pay gap.

Fiona sits on the Board of the Trinity Business School in Dublin and she is a supporter of the Pathways to Business initiative. She is a Trustee of The Follicular Lymphoma Foundation. Previously Fiona has been President of the IGD, Vice President of the UK's Food and Drink Federation (FDF) and previously, served on the Economic Development Advisory Group to the UK's Department for International Development (DfID).

## **Emer Cooke BSc (Pharm), MBA, MSc (1982) is the female head of the European Medicines Agency**



In July, Trinity alumna Emer Cooke was appointed the new executive director of the European Medicines Agency (EMA). She is the first woman to lead the EMA in its 25-year history.

Emer moves to the EMA from her role with the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Geneva as Director of the Regulation and Prequalification Department, a role which she has held since November 2016.

With over 30 years of experience in international regulatory affairs, she began her career in the Irish pharmaceutical industry.

She worked for the pharmaceutical unit of the European Commission from 1998 to 2002 and at EMA between 2002 and 2016, where she held positions including Head of Inspections and Head of International Affairs.

The EMA is a decentralised agency of the European Union (EU). The agency is responsible for the scientific evaluation, supervision, and safety monitoring of medicines in the EU. The post-pandemic world is expected to be a crucial time for the regulatory body, as the EU may seek to expand its power in the public health sector - with Emer leading the agency at a crucial time for public health in the European Union.

Emer has also served on the Strategic Advisory Board of the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at Trinity.



# THE POLLARD BEQUEST: FIFTEEN YEARS HENCE

*Dr Lydia Ferguson, Department of Early Printed Books & Special Collections, Library of Trinity College Dublin tells us about Mary Pollard, and the impact of her bequest to Trinity.*

## **About Mary Pollard**

Mary Pollard was appointed to the staff of the Library in 1957 and a decade later became the first head of the newly created Department of Older Printed Books. She remained in the Library until her retirement in 1983, having been a pioneer in establishing new standards for the cataloguing of rare books and later publishing her definitive *Dictionary of members of the Dublin book Trade 1550-1800* (London, 2000). In recognition of this, she was conferred with a Doctor in Letters by Trinity in 2001.

## **The Collection**

From the early 1950s until her death, Mary Pollard built up her personal and extensive collection of children's books, mostly published before 1914 and with a focus on Irish publishers, Irish writers and books for girls. Items date from the 17th century to the early 20th century with a special focus on Irish imprints.

## **The Impact**

There have been several academic benefits as a result of the acquisition of this remarkable collection, including the annual Bookmarks programme, a story-writing, illustration and bookbinding workshop series for 5th class children, run by the Trinity Access Programme in collaboration with the Library and the School of English. The project aims to inspire children from under-represented backgrounds to progress to further education. The collection also enabled the establishment of an MPhil in Children's Literature and appointment of an Ussher Assistant Professor of Children's Literature, a post shared between the School of English and the Library.

In 2018, the cataloguing of the Pollard Collection was completed, and the books were made available for all to discover through the Library's online catalogue.

Mary Pollard's generosity has recently been recognised by the addition of her name to the frieze of donors' names above the bays of books in the Long Room, the first woman to be distinguished in this way.

*Find out more about leaving a gift to Trinity in your will.*

Provost, Dr Patrick Prendergast  
with previous Grattan Scholars



# WELCOMING THE 20<sup>TH</sup> GRATTAN SCHOLAR

TO TRINITY'S SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND PHILOSOPHY



Established in 2012 by the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy to serve as a catalyst for attracting and inspiring the best and brightest postgraduate students from around the world, the Grattan Scholars programme has succeeded beyond all expectations. We are delighted to welcome the 20th Grattan Scholar, Victoria Lugai, to Trinity in 2020.

Victoria, who will be the first Grattan Scholar in philosophy, will undertake novel research on responsibility and free will under the supervision of Dr Adina Preda, Associate Professor in Philosophy and Director of the newly created Trinity Centre for Justice and Values. *Continue reading...*

## **Supporting Scholarships at Trinity**

Trinity's commitment to scholarships goes back to the Foundation Scholarships established in its early years. *Inspiring Generations*, the Campaign for Trinity College Dublin, will continue to maintain and develop scholarships across the university so that every talented student can realise their full potential.

*Continue reading about  
Scholarships at Trinity*



# SCIENCE WITHOUT BORDERS

BY KEVIN KELLY

*Kevin Kelly is an Associate Professor in the School of Engineering and winner of numerous awards in teaching, civic engagement and innovation.*

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When Bia Vieira arrived in Dublin in September 2015 she was excited about starting a year's study at Trinity College Dublin, facilitated by the *Science Without Borders* scheme sponsored by the Brazilian government. "I knew not to expect the same weather as we have in Rio" she laughs, "but I was excited about coming to Ireland. I had read a lot about it and about Trinity and its history, and because I was part of the third year of the scheme, I was able to talk to alumni and they all had good things to say."

It is fair to say that Bia's time in Dublin met her expectations - and then some. A key decision was to apply for a module called *5E3 - Innovation in Product Development* which involved working as part of a global team on an innovation challenge proposed by an external partner. "That was exciting" she says, "but I certainly never thought that the work I did would end up on the cover of Time magazine!"

Associate Professor Kevin Kelly, who runs the *5E3* programme outlines:

“ Normally our projects are sponsored by external companies or occasionally philanthropically where there is a social impact objective, and I had noticed that these socially impactful projects often appealed more to certain students. I was discussing challenges in robotics with my colleague Professor Conor McGinn and we asked ourselves, could we not apply the *5E3* problem solving power to a challenge in that area? We threw a few ideas around and quickly settled on the topic for Bia's project - *How might we design an emotionally intelligent robot for elderly care?* ”

Following the *5E3* structure, Bia and three other Trinity students were partnered with another university - coincidentally in this case with University of São Paulo in Bia's home country of Brazil. Over the nine months of the project and facilitated by four one-week periods spent working together in the same country, the team produced their final prototype which was exhibited at an international innovation event in California in June 2016.

*Continue reading...*



# EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION



*Professor Clodagh Brook is Associate Vice Provost for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and an Associate Professor of Italian. Educated at the University of Oxford (D Phil) and at University College Dublin (BA and MA), she took up her position at Trinity College in 2017.*

Trinity has put EDI at the core of its mission. The first of the six goals in the 2020-25 Strategic Plan is to foster an ever more diverse and inclusive student community. 25% of Trinity students will come from underrepresented groups by 2025.

Trinity has a strong position on EDI already. Just this summer the Times Higher ranked Trinity third in the world for Gender Equality. In addition, we have the tutorial system, as well as a fantastic Disability Service, Access Programmes, Counselling services and Global Office. Nonetheless, there remains a lot to be done to fully embed EDI into college life and ensure Trinity is inclusive and welcoming to all.

In November 2019, the new role of Associate Vice Provost for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion was created to advocate for change. I was delighted and honoured to be appointed. With this role I apply more than a decade of research on minorities, equality and identity to Trinity's culture and policies, to improve our student and staff lives.

With a new and expanded Equality Office now in place, I have many plans for change. The first step is to draw together the brilliant work already being done in many parts of the campus by individuals and support them better

through the larger office. We need to build too on Trinity's strong work on gender (especially through Trinity Centre for Gender Equality and Leadership) to lead the college to attaining a Silver Athena SWAN award by 2024. This award recognises that actions taken by Trinity on gender over recent years have a real impact on the experiences of staff and students. While Trinity has unusually high numbers of women in Senior Management, Council and Board, there are many areas where we have a long way to go, and we need to think much more about intersectionality.

Another major area for me is race and ethnicity. In the wake of the George Floyd murder, the Provost and I sent a message to all staff and students in which we committed to tackling racism and ensuring institutional change. We are acting upon this commitment with the launch of a new Black Studies Elective, available to undergraduate students across college. I am also setting up a robust Race and Ethnicity working group tasked with taking change forward and tackling racism, as well as launching a Trinity inclusive curriculum project for all students. The proposed curriculum aims to make teaching accessible and engaging for students, including those with disabilities and from diverse economic, racial and cultural backgrounds.

*Visit the [Inclusive Curriculum website](#)*





# CAMPUS NEWS



## Irish Vikings had a strong connection to Norway

The first Irish Viking genomes have been published as part of the largest ever DNA analysis of Viking remains. The results shed new light on the identity of the Scandinavian warriors who travelled by sea to raid and eventually settle on the island. The findings have revealed that most Viking DNA evident in Ireland can be traced back to Norway and a large portion of Irish Vikings had brown hair and not the flowing blonde locks that have come to be associated with the invaders.

## Botany 5 in Five

In this 5 part series, academics from the Trinity School of Botany talk us through 5 plant species in 5 minutes and showcase the wonderful flora living in beaches, coastal meadows, peatlands, woodlands and in urban spaces across Ireland.



## The Pratchett Project

On September 17 & 18, the Pratchett Project ran the inaugural Pratchett Project Conference online, bringing over 536 people together to discuss the life and work of Terry Pratchett. The end of the conference led straight into Culture Night 2020, in which researchers and practitioners gave talks to an online audience of over 130 people.



## Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation

On September 25, European Day of Languages, Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation celebrated the work of Edna O'Brien in translation. Edna O'Brien spoke at the event, and we also heard from publisher Sabine Wespieser and translators Kathrin Razum, Giovanna Granato and Ana Mata Buil about their translations of *Girl* into French, German, Italian and Spanish.





## **Prestigious funding for international dementia research**

TILDA researchers at Trinity have been awarded a highly competitive US National Institute of Health (NIH) grant award to research determinants of physical and brain health in ageing. Trinity will join forces with the University of Michigan, the University of Southern California, Queen's University Belfast and University College London to undertake this grand challenge.



## **Landmark deal for UQ-Trinity inflammation startup**

A start-up company developing treatments for inflammatory diseases based on a research partnership between the University of Queensland (UQ) and Trinity has been acquired in a landmark deal, one of the largest in Australian and Irish biotech history.



## **European Researchers' Night is coming to Trinity**

START is all about bringing researchers and the public together, and this virtual event will have activities and challenges for all ages and all interests. Sign up to the mailing list to be the first to receive the full programme of events.

## **Evening & Short Courses**

Lifelong learning is a continual process for every one of us, whether it is for personal interest or professional development. Trinity offers a wide range of evening and short courses in a variety of fields.



## **Reboot and Reignite Business Series**

Trinity Business School partnered with Ibec to launch a free series of workshops and seminars to support businesses to rebuild in the COVID economy. The series kicked off in September and runs every Tuesday until November 10. You can watch any episodes you missed by clicking onto the website.

## **Trinity's commitment to gender equality recognised by five new Athena SWAN bronze awards**

Five Schools at Trinity – Social Work and Social Policy; Physics; Genetics and Microbiology; Psychology; and Law – have secured bronze Athena SWAN awards in the latest round – the results of which were announced September 28.



## **Dublin's Future Human becomes first major international tech event to go Hybrid**

The organisers of Future Human, Silicon Republic, have announced they will host the world's first major international hybrid tech event on October 29 and 30, from a purpose-built, state-of-the-art broadcast stage in Dublin. The line-up includes Cambridge Analytica Whistleblower Brittany Kaiser, former NASA astronaut Joan Higginbotham, emmy-award winning Felix Lajeunesse of Felix & Paul, composer and Oscars ceremony conductor Eimear Noone, young entrepreneur Shane Curran, and Trinity Business School Dean, Professor Andrew Burke.

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## **Trinity Remembers - alumni obituary webpage**

Trinity is proud to honour the lives of alumni, former staff and friends of the university. Their memory will continue living in the hearts and minds of the Trinity community. We offer our condolences and invite family members or friends to share an obituary on the alumni website. If you wish to add an obituary, please contact us at [alumni@tcd.ie](mailto:alumni@tcd.ie).

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## **Pritzker Prize Winners Trinity's Honorary alumnae**

Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara, have been awarded the Pritzker Prize for architecture, becoming the first Irish citizens to receive the internationally recognised distinction. Shelley McNamara, video speaking from Trinity's Long Room chamber in the Old Library, said accepting the prize without an audience brought to mind the "empty stage" of a Samuel Beckett play. You can watch Yvonne Farrell in conversation with Professor Christine Casey in our recent Inspiring Idea's webinar on the topic of COVID-19 and the future of Architecture.

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## **Tangent: Meeting & event space for hire.**

Tangent, Trinity's Ideas Workspace, located on the first floor of the new Trinity Business School on Pearse Street, offers social distance compliant space for hire.

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# Behind the Headlines

## The Age of Uncertainty

*Does Christianity give us the tools to cope with uncertainty?*

*How do we produce reliable news as misinformation spreads online?*

*Was Descartes right to think certainty was desirable?*

These are the questions that were tackled by *Behind the Headlines*:

*The Age of Uncertainty*, an online discussion by the Trinity Long Room Hub which explored the meaning of uncertainty, and how it shapes our feelings about the future.

[Click here to watch](#)

### Behind the Headlines 'The Age of Uncertainty' speakers:



**Professor Kenneth Pearce**

Ussher Assistant Professor in Berkeley Studies (Early Modern Philosophy),  
Head of Department of Philosophy



**Professor Siobhán Garrigan**

Loyola Chair of Theology,  
Head of School of Religion



**Carmel Crimmins**

Senior Editor, Top News, Reuters



**Professor Mani Ramaswami**

Professor of Neurogenetics,  
Director of Trinity Institute of  
Neurosciences (TCIN)

On Thursday, October 29, Trinity Long Room Hub presents *Behind the Headlines: Is there Still an American Dream*. For further information and to register, [click here...](#)



