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MESSAGE FROM
THE DEAN

Sumer Is Icumen In! But before we all head for the various tropical paradises in which we university types are accustomed to spend our many months of stress-free summer vacations, I am proud to present this, the second in our ongoing series of literally unputdownable Faculty Newsletters.

Like the cycle of the seasons, changes are happening in the Faculty office. Many of you have already met her, but I would like to take this opportunity to welcome (rather belatedly) Jade Barreto to the Faculty team. After 10 years in the Faculty, Cathy Gibson is leaving us to take up a new role as HR Partner for the Academic Services Division. I have no idea how we will manage without her. I'm sure you'll all join me in wishing her the very best in her new role.

I want to end by thanking all staff, academic and professional. I am aware of how hard everybody works, and the levels of dedication, commitment, and enthusiasm which I see around me every day is truly wonderful. Like all Universities, Trinity operates to a very significant extent on the good will of its staff. Thanks to everybody, and enjoy the summer.

Professor Darryl Jones
Dean of Faculty
TRiSS
(Trinity Research in Social Sciences)

As you know, TRiSS was founded last year as a vehicle to support research in the social sciences at Trinity. It offers a single unifying identity for social science research in Trinity, and provides research infrastructure, communication and collaboration support. TRiSS now represents 14 social science disciplines in College across 8 schools, and houses 50 PhD students in our HQ on the sixth floor of the Arts Building. It was with great pleasure that we welcomed the Confederal School of Religions, Peace Studies and Theology as a new member of TRiSS this year and we are looking forward to welcoming more new members in the future as TRiSS continues to expand.

This academic year has been a particularly busy one for Trinity Research in Social Sciences (TRiSS). Things really kicked off with the official TRiSS launch by the Provost and Robert Watt (Secretary General of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform) back in November. The launch event was a huge success with over 100 academics involved in the social sciences in attendance. The launch paved the way for an exciting year which saw many new initiatives being rolled out …

First up, thanks to generous support from the Faculty, TRiSS successfully commenced a Summer School programme with three courses - in Management and Leadership, Quantitative Research, and Childhood Bilingualism – commencing in the coming weeks. TRiSS also introduced a “TRiSS presentations and pizza” series this year with TCD academics giving short TEDx-style presentations on their research over an informal lunch. This was a great success and will be a firm fixture in the TRiSS calendar going forward.

Through support provided from TRiSS member schools, TRiSS funded a number of exciting research fellowships for TRiSS academics and PhD students this year. These include wide-ranging research from conflict and stock market volatility to climate change denial to interfaith dialogue in the Israeli-Palestinian dispute to the History of the European Court of Justice, to name but a few. These exciting projects are at the cutting edge of their fields and TRiSS is proud to be in a position to support these projects and will run a seminar series showcasing the results next year. Watch this space!

TRiSS also hosted four long-term visiting scholars this year from the London School of Economics, Bocconi, Tulane and Roosevelt universities and already has a full line-up of visitors for next year.

TRiSS looks forward to another busy year ahead and welcomes all academics with an interest in the social sciences to visit our website (www.tcd.ie/triss) and join us for the many events we have in the pipeline. Wishing all our associated academics and postgraduates a fulfilling and productive summer and looking forward to engaging with you over the months and years ahead.

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Eleanor Denny
Director of Trinity Research in Social Sciences
New Staff

Member

I am the Ussher Assistant Professor in Development Economics at Trinity College Dublin and a Research Associate at the Centre for the Study of African Economies at the University of Oxford. Previously, I was an Earth Institute Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at Columbia University. I received my DPhil in Economics from the University of Oxford in 2014.

I am a micro development economist with a focus on urban economics, labor economics and public economics. Most of my research uses geo-referenced individual level data that I combine with environmental data. For example, my paper which was recently published in the Journal of Development Economics uses geo-referenced micro data from household surveys and ShakeMaps produced by the U.S. Geological Survey to estimate the labor market effects of a large earthquake in Indonesia.

I am fascinated by cities, especially the rapid growth of cities in low-income countries. In work with Doug Gollin from Oxford and David Lagakos from UC San Diego we compare living standards of people living at different levels of population density in 20 countries across Africa. What we find is surprising. For almost any measure of living standards, people are better or equally well off in more densely populated areas. So despite how cities in the developing world may sometimes look to outsiders, it comes as no surprise that people wish to move to cities. Cities require large investments in infrastructure, such as roads, sewerage, water and electricity. In a project with Sam Asher from the World Bank and Paul Novosad from Dartmouth College, we collaborate with the Tanzanian government to examine the cost of transport infrastructure.

In part of my recent work I explore the use of big data, such as mobile phone data, to answer questions in development. As part of this research agenda, I am working with Josh Blumenstock from UC Berkeley and Dave Donaldson from MIT on a study that uses cell phone records to estimate the distributional consequences of urban transport infrastructure.

It is important to me to produce research that is policy-relevant. Over the past ten years I have worked with governments across Africa and as a consultant to the World Bank and the United Nations.

I really enjoyed my first year at TCD. I have found the Department of Economics to be a fantastic place to work, and there are many people in the Department and the College working on related questions, creating a stimulating research environment.

Martina Kirchberger
Ussher Assistant Professor in Development Economics
THE CLASH

When The Clash played in the Exam Hall Trinity College Dublin on 21 October 1977 they were fresh from a cancelled show and mini riot at Belfast’s Ulster Hall the night before. Bringing the white heat of UK Punk Rock to an Irish audience, The Clash played two sets of 35 minutes, inspiring attendees and kick-starting dozens of careers in the process.

On 21st October 2017 a full day symposium featuring talks, Q&A’s, readings and screenings by original members of The Clash’s touring party, former TCD Student Officers involved in promoting the shows, filmmakers and close associates of the band. The event will be held in the Examinations Hall, TCD - the original venue for the 1977 shows.

The day’s celebrations will culminate in a DJ Set by filmmaker, DJ and Clash associate Don Letts at the The Grand Social, Dublin.

Take this opportunity to attend screenings, Q&A’s and readings featuring Julien Temple, Don Letts, Robin Banks and Johnny Green, and to attend the first ever performance in Dublin by legendary DJ Don Letts.

Tickets on sale soon!

GLUTTONS FOR PUNISHMENT

Welcome to Christine Morris, the new Head of School of Histories and Humanities and Andrew Loxley who became Head of School of Education in Hilary Term. Many thanks on behalf of all the Faculty to David Ditchburn for his sterling work as Head of Histories and Humanities for the past 4 years!

Our thanks also to Eoin O’Sullivan, David Hervey, Martine Smith and Oran Doyle, all of whom have kindly agreed to continue for an additional term as Head of School. It is far, far better that they do....

A big HELLO too to Stephen Matterson in his new role as Director of TSM. Our thanks to Sarah Smyth, for all her good work in this role.

Welcome to Victoria Bruce, School Administrative Manager of the School of Education.

Thanks and best wishes to Jackie Sharpe who is retiring this year from her role as School Administrative Manager in the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies. All the very best for the future!
School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies

In 2016-2017 the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies has been on a very positive and dynamic trajectory. Supported by the strategic commitment of the College and the Faculty to invest into a strong and vibrant languages school we were able to make a number of key appointments. After filling the Chair of German (1776) in the previous year and also making a second senior appointment with Professor in German Mary Cosgrove, a specialist in memory studies, medical humanities and literary economics, we replaced two retiring colleagues in Italian. In September 2016 we welcomed Dr Igor Candido, a specialist in Medieval and Renaissance literature and this September we will be joined by Associate Professor Clodagh Brook, who has a research specialism in intermediality. Our new Ussher Assistant Professor in Literary Translation and Digital Humanities, James Hadley also started in September 2016. All these appointments considerably strengthen our contribution to interdisciplinary cross-School Master’s Programmes and to College research themes such as ‘Identities in Transformation’ and ‘Manuscript, Book and Print Cultures’.

On the internationalisation front the School has pursued a number of strategic initiatives which are coming to fruition this year. The academic year 2017-18 will see the start of our new MEELC programme, an interdisciplinary undergraduate degree in Near Middle Eastern and European Languages and Cultures, which has the historical and contemporary relationships between Europe and the Middle East at its core.

The MEELC degree as well as its twin, our highly successful European Studies degree, will be key elements of the joined undergraduate degree between Trinity College and Columbia University, which will be brought to Council for final approval in the autumn with a start date of September 2018.

In another move to extend our global reach we are developing a strategic relationship with Beijing Foreign Studies University, the top languages university in China. College recently signed a 1+1+1 agreement which will see BFSU students in the future taking our one-year Master’s Programmes as part of their Master’s degrees. Already our Non-EU student numbers in programmes such as Comparative Literature and Literary Translation have more than doubled over the last two years.

In Spring 2016 the Trinity Centre for Literary Translation moved into its splendid new premises, a fully refurbished Georgian House in 36 Fenian Street just outside Lincoln Gate. In the Centre our School partners with two prestigious external stakeholders, Literature Ireland and Dalkey Archive Press.

Finally we would like to congratulate some colleagues for particular achievements. Dr Balaz Apor in Russian and Slavonic Studies won the only societal challenges grant in the Humanities in Trinity in the first round of the Horizon 2020 programme with the COURAGE project which investigates cultural opposition in former socialist countries.

Prof Sarah Alyn-Stacey in French recently was made a Knight of the National Order of Merit by the French government in recognition of her scholarship and her contribution to Irish-French cultural relations.

Professor Juergen Barkhoff
Head of School, Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies
The Trinity Centre for Asian Studies

The Trinity Centre for Asian Studies (TCAS) welcomed many guests from East Asia to College during this past academic year, including the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Fumio Kishida, and the Party Secretary of China’s Guangdong Province, Mr Chun Hua Hu. Minister Kishida’s visit marked the 60th anniversary of Japan-Ireland diplomatic relations. Mr Hu led a business delegation of 150 companies from Guangdong. During the year, TCAS students also enjoyed lectures by Ireland’s outgoing Ambassador to China, His Excellency Paul Kavanagh, and the Indonesian Ambassador to the UK and Ireland, Dr Rizal Sukma.

Trinity Week University Challenge 2017

After a nail-biting finish, the School of English beat a crack team of research scientists to win this year’s Trinity Week University Challenge competition. Winners three years in a row! Congratulations! Look upon their works, ye mighty, and despair!