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### Trinity College Bulletin, 1939-1940 (Report of the Dean)

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**Trinity College**  
HARTFORD CONNECTICUT

## REPORT OF THE DEAN

*October 10, 1940*

*To the President of Trinity College:*

The college year 1939-40 began with the enrolment of 551 regular undergraduates, including 182 newly admitted Freshmen. Of these undergraduates 281 were in residence, including 106 of the Freshmen. The dormitories were more seriously overcrowded than ever before; and as a relief measure, the President arranged for the accommodation of 18 upperclassmen in the house at 84 Vernon Street, vacated by the Phi Psi Chapter of the Alpha Chi Rho Fraternity, which had moved to a larger house. With the new dormitories now available, such measures are happily not necessary, though every room in the dormitories is again occupied at the beginning of the present college year.

Statistics of enrolments, by classes, during the last five years are as follows:

### SUMMARY OF ENROLMENTS

	1935-36	1936-37	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40
Graduate Students . . . . .	10	7	9	8	12
Seniors . . . . .	83	90	88	101	96
Juniors . . . . .	97	98	113	91	119
Sophomores . . . . .	119	134	101	125	154
Freshmen . . . . .	172	173	187	208	182
Special Students . . . . .	0	2	1	0	4
Non-Matriculated Students . . . . .	8	12	3	4	0
Total . . . . .	489	516	502	537	567

In reference to some apparent disparities in this Report between figures for 1939-40 and those for earlier years, it should be explained that last year the Faculty adopted the practice of classifying undergraduates according to their completed years of attendance in college rather than on the basis of promotion, as heretofore. Actually, the number of Freshmen in 1939-40 was the largest in the history of the College.

Losses in numbers of undergraduates for reasons other than unsatisfactory record in studies were somewhat larger than usual. Between September and June, 21 men had left the College for such reasons, as compared with 16 in 1938-39; and during the summer, 45 more men dropped out of the College, as against 35 in the summer of 1939. Thus the non-academic mortality in 1939-40 amounted to 66, as compared with 51 in the year before. Besides financial difficulties and discouragement with studies, which are

the familiar causes of such withdrawals, new causes have appeared in the desire for specialized technical training and the temptation to take advantage of increased opportunities for employment in industry; and there have been a few instances of enlistment in the Army or Navy.

Academic mortality took a toll of 31 undergraduates, including 18 Freshmen, 12 Sophomores, and 1 Senior. The following is a tabulation of the numbers of men dismissed on account of unsatisfactory scholarship during the last five years.

	1935-36	1936-37	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40
Seniors . . . . .	0	1	2	0	1
Juniors . . . . .	1	2	2	2	0
Sophomores . . . . .	5	3	4	3	12
Freshmen . . . . .	21	19	18	17	18
	<u>27</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>31</u>

In percentages of the total enrolments of regular undergraduates the total academic mortality in each of these years was as follows: in 1935-36, 6.2%; in 1936-37, 5.1%; in 1937-38, 5.3%; in 1938-39, 4.2%; and in 1939-40, 5.9%. The installation of Dr. Harold C. Jaquith as Dean of Freshmen beginning with 1940-41 and the establishment under him of a system of specially delegated Faculty Advisers for Freshmen, growing out of the Board of Freshman Counselors which has been operative during the past two years, is an important part of the answer the College is making to the problem of Freshman academic mortality.

The scholastic attainment of the College body as a whole was slightly below that of 1938-39. The numbers of students on the Dean's List in February of the last five years have been as follows: in 1935-36, 45; in 1936-37, 48; in 1937-38, 66; in 1938-39, 63; and in 1939-40, 55, including 21 Seniors, 17 Juniors, and 17 Sophomores. (Freshmen are not eligible for this List.)

The percentages of honor grades and of failing grades in June of each of the last five years are as follows:

#### SCHOLARSHIP AVERAGES

	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Fraternities: Honor Grades . . . . .	31.6	30.8	34.6	33.3	26.5
Neutral Body: " " . . . . .	50.4	45.9	47.6	48.5	47.8
Whole College: " " . . . . .	41.7	38.9	42.1	41.8	38.3
Fraternities: Failures . . . . .	8.3	9.4	7.9	5.7	8.5
Neutral Body: " " . . . . .	6.2	6.2	5.6	3.8	5.4
Whole College: " " . . . . .	7.2	7.6	6.5	4.7	6.8

The average grades of the undergraduates in June of the last five years have been as follows:

	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Fraternities: Average . . . . .	72.5	71.9	72.7	72.9	71.4
Neutral Body: " " . . . . .	76.9	76.3	77.0	76.5	76.9
Whole College: " " . . . . .	74.9	74.2	75.2	74.9	74.4



The scholarship cup, awarded annually to the fraternity whose members secure the highest proportion of honor grades during the year, was won by Sigma Nu, with 45.3 per cent of honor grades.

The average grades of various categories of undergraduates may be of interest. By classes, they were as follows: Seniors, 78.7; Juniors, 75.1; Sophomores, 74.4; Freshmen, 71.1. The corresponding figures for 1938-39 were as follows: Seniors, 79.8; Juniors, 76.5; Sophomores, 72.4; Freshmen 72.2. The average grade of the three upper classes in 1939-40 was 75.8; in 1938-39 it was 76.7. The average grade of all resident students in 1939-40 was 72.1 and of all day students, 76.8; in 1938-39 the average grade of resident students was 73.6 and of day students, 76.7. The average grade of resident Freshmen in 1939-40 was 69 and of Freshman day students, 73.9; in 1938-39 the corresponding figures were 70.1 for resident Freshmen and 74.1 for Freshman day students.

An interesting experiment with a four-course program for 89 of the 167 Freshmen who took the final examinations in June calls for separate attention. The average grade of this group of 89 students was 68, whereas that of the 28 students who had reduced their programs to four courses by dropping a course in 1938-39 was 65.6. At the start of the year, it appeared that not a few of the Freshmen were taking the four-course program merely as a lightening of their load and an excuse for general neglect of studies. At midyears, nevertheless, the Freshmen made about 60 grades above 90 as contrasted with only about 40 in the preceding year. This item was, however, offset in the eyes of the Faculty by the unusually large number of Freshmen placed on probation at midyears. Those with four-course programs were placed on probation in accordance with the regular rule, though failing at that time in only one course, and several of these men were actually making better than average grades in their work as a whole. If probation for these men had depended on failing in two courses, as it does for students carrying five courses, the number of Freshmen on probation would not have been large. But the Probation List did seem on the face of it to be remarkably long. The fact that the grades throughout the College, in the three upper classes as well as in the Freshman Class, were going to be lower at the end of the year than in 1938-39 could not be known, so that it did not discount the impression that the Freshman Class were making a poor showing. As a result, the experiment has been abandoned for the coming year. It will be interesting to see whether some of the disadvantages of the old five-course program for all Freshmen have tended to disappear after the interim of the year's trial of the four-course plan.

The numbers of men on probation in February in the last five years have been as follows: in 1935-36, 52; in 1936-37, 34; in

1937-38, 58; in 1938-39, 55; and in 1939-40, 72. Of these 72 men on probation, 4 were Seniors, 6 were Juniors, 16 were Sophomores, and 46 were Freshmen. It is a matter for regret that so many Freshmen were put on probation. The significance of probation is impaired when it becomes so widespread. It is to be hoped that the next year will bring improvement in this detail of college discipline.

In September, 1940, 173 new students were admitted to the undergraduate categories; of these, 159 were Freshmen, 91 of them resident students and 68 of them day students. Of 14 students admitted in advanced standing, 8 are residents and 6 are day students. In September, 1939, 192 undergraduates were admitted, of whom 182 were Freshmen. Professor C. L. Altmaier, Secretary of Admissions, reports that the Class entering in 1940 does not excel that entering in 1939 in scholastic aptitude as measured by the battery of tests administered to entering students.

Increased Alumni interest and activity presages a happy future for the College. A few years ago there were only five active local Alumni Associations and now there are fifteen holding regular meetings. In addition the Alumni Fund has increased regularly and the new dormitory drive supported by over a thousand Alumni was entirely successful. It is probable that our Alumni, if properly led on to the task, can substantially increase the number of worthy students applying for admission from year to year.

Of the year's experience in athletics, Ray Oosting, Director of Physical Education, writes:—

“During the college year 1939-1940 the Trinity College Varsity Athletic teams enjoyed a better winning percentage in their games and contests than during the previous academic year, jumping from 39% to 48%. The Freshmen teams, however, reversed this order, going from 61% during the 1938-1939 season to 44% during the year just completed. With the full-year Freshman and Transfer rule now in effect we should not expect the teams to make the same fine records which were established in the early thirties.

“The football team again brought credit to the institution. The team remained undefeated until the final two games of the season, when injuries to key men and lack of sufficient reserves proved too great a handicap. The Wesleyan-Trinity football rivalry, one of the oldest college football rivalries in the country, continues to be the feature athletic attraction of the year for all Trinity men.

“The teams which won 50% or better of the games played were the football team, the basketball team, the baseball team, the tennis team, and the cross country team. The best record was made by the baseball team, which won eight of the eleven games



played. Prospects for the 1940-1941 season seem fairly bright in spite of the record of last year's Freshmen. The swimming and tennis teams in particular should be stronger. One of last year's Freshmen is ranked as one of the outstanding swimmers in college competition in the East."

The health record was on the whole satisfactory. There was a total of 207 students sick with a loss of 1032 days. Of the students living at home, there were 99 sick at home and excused on account of statements from parent, guardian, or physician. These students lost 511 days because of illness. Besides the above, there were 32 students living at home absent on account of illness who lost at least 49 days but received no excuses, as they would not bring a statement from their parent or physician. Of the students living on campus, there were 108 whose class absences were excused because of illness. These students lost 521 days because of their sickness. There were 21 resident students visited for whom the conditions found did not warrant an excuse from classes. There were 32 incidents when a resident student was ill while visiting his home or elsewhere and excuses were issued on account of statements from parent or physician.

This Report may safely leave details of the social activities of the year to the *Ivy*, which itself deserves special and honorable mention for the originality and skill displayed in its production. Suffice it here to say that the traditional activities in dramatics, journalism, and the various scholarly clubs and social organizations were carried on in abundant though not excessive measure. The College had the pleasure of sponsoring some notable organ recitals by M. Marcel Dupré in the Chapel. There were several interesting lectures open to the public in the Auditorium. In that chamber were also held monthly meetings of the Student Body, which proved to be the most impressive innovation of the year in undergraduate life at the College.

The completing of the fence along Vernon Street from the new gate presented by the Class of '90 ("Semper agens aliquid") to the old College Gate in front of the President's House seems in a way symbolic of a year that has seen much labor expended in figuratively mending our academic and administrative fences. In conclusion, I would emphasize the particular importance of attention to our entering students. We should all continue to bend every energy toward assuring the best possible quality of Freshmen among the limited number that the College can undertake to educate, and the greatest probability of their being able to remain steadily in the College despite the distractions of the day.

T. L. Hood, *Dean*