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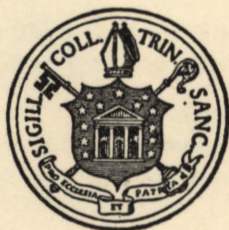
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Trinity College Bulletin



Reports of the President, the Dean,
the Librarian,
and the Treasurer

Hartford, Connecticut

October, 1942

Trinity College Bulletin

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Trinity College

Bulletin



Reports of
the President, the Dean,
the Librarian,
and the Treasurer

Hartford, Connecticut

October, 1942

REPORT OF THE DEAN

September 28, 1942.

To the President of Trinity College:

I have the honor to present herewith my report as Dean of the College during the past year.

In the year just closing the College has felt very keenly the strain of the great effort of the country to utilize all available activities and men for victory. Under pre-war conditions in 1940-41, as noted in the Dean's report a year ago, an unusually large number of students left Trinity in order to enlist in the armed forces, and during 1941-42 attendance was still further curtailed for the same reason. The registration of 536 students in September, 1941, was approximately normal, representing a drop of only 5.6% below the record enrollment of the preceding year. Before the Commencement in May, however, a total of 94 undergraduates had withdrawn from the College, including 46 students who went directly into one or another of the nation's armed services.

The situation with regard to failures due to poor scholarship, at the same time, showed a slight improvement, particularly in the Trinity Term, when the gravity of the national emergency had become obvious to everyone. 33 students, in all, were required to withdraw after the January and May marking periods because of unsatisfactory scholarship, and it is probably not unfair to assume that several of the men who left to enlist, disturbed as they were by the imminence of an important change, might have been added to the list of failures if they had remained in the College. Furthermore, in view of the numerous and unusually lucrative opportunities for employment last year, it is gratifying to realize that only four students resigned in order to obtain full-time employment, although many others found part-time work on the College campus or in the city of Hartford. It should be added, finally, that six men entered the College at the beginning of the second semester.

The total number of students for the past five years, arranged by classes, was as follows:

	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42
Graduate Students	9	8	12	8	7
Seniors	88	101	96	112	113
Juniors	113	91	119	126	122
Sophomores	101	125	154	156	133
Freshmen	187	208	182	162	160
Special Students	1	0	4	3	1
Non-Matriculated Students	3	4	0	1	0
Total	502	537	567	568	536

96 members of the Class of 1942 received degrees in course on May 17, 1942. The degrees conferred were Bachelor of Arts, 42; Bachelor of Science, 54. The records of Mr. Thomas S. Wadlow, Alumni Secretary, show that 57 members of the graduating class have already entered the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps; of the others, 20 are employed in positions largely connected with the war effort, 17 are registered in professional schools, and 2 are at work as teachers.

The induction and enlistment of our undergraduates continued throughout the summer months of 1942; as a matter of fact, the process was accelerated during August and early September and to such an extent that 83 students failed to return for the beginning of the new academic year. The admission of a Freshman Class of normal size does not counterbalance the number of departures of upperclassmen, although it does credit to the efforts of Dr. Harold C. Jaquith, Provost and Dean of Freshmen, and Prof. Carl L. Altmaier, Secretary of Admissions, who report the entrance of 181 new men, including 164 Freshmen and 17 transfer students. The Freshmen have been assigned to Faculty advisers, to the same men, for the most part, who handled the difficult task of advising last year with patience and effectiveness and for whose work Dean Jaquith expresses high praise.

During the Trinity Term there were but few changes in the courses of instruction other than those necessary to adjust the work to conditions developed by the war. The introduction of new courses designed to prepare our students for greater efficiency in their future military service and the adaptation of the College curriculum to a shortening of the time for a degree from four years to three, or even less if the intervening summers are utilized to the fullest extent, mark the chief changes. The establishment of a joint Wesleyan-Trinity Summer Term was justified by the unexpectedly large enrollments of 300 students for the first six weeks at Middletown, including 92 Trinity undergraduates, and 356 students in the second session at Trinity, including a registration of 108 men from this College.

The general improvement in grades for the summer work reflects credit on the teaching of the members of our Faculty who sacrificed their regular vacation period and is likewise a tribute to the efforts and seriousness of purpose of the students taking advantage of the accelerated program in order to train themselves more rapidly for a part in the nation's war effort. An unfortunate but inevitable complication arose from the fact that the courses offered were necessarily fewer in number than those available during the winter semesters, so that students lacking only one or two subjects for a degree were forced to substitute other work of a similar nature. Two committees of the Faculty have been and will

be obliged to review dozens of individual programs in order to insure the maintenance of the established curricula.

The record of the scholarship of the undergraduate body during the Christmas and Trinity Terms was likewise characterized by a slight improvement over that of the preceding year. The average of the grades for the Christmas Term was almost identical with the corresponding figure for 1940-41, whereas the average for the Trinity Term showed a marked rise and brought the average for the entire year to a point 1.2 per cent above last year's average grade. The improvement can be ascribed in part to the increased efforts of most students after the enemy's attack at Hawaii and to the withdrawal from the College of those men who could no longer restrain their eagerness to enter the Army or Navy immediately and who, as a result, could not focus their attention on academic pursuits. Some men in the latter category remained at their work here, however, and deserve to be commended for their successful attempts to increase their ultimate value to the nation and its armed services.

The average grades of the undergraduates during the last five years are as follows:

Grades in per cent	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42
Whole College	75.2	74.9	74.4	73.7	74.9
Fraternities	72.7	72.9	71.4	70.9	72.9
Neutral Body	77.0	76.5	76.9	76.4	76.5

Other averages for 1941-42 are: Seniors, 79.6; Juniors, 76.5; Sophomores, 74.1; Freshmen, 70.7; resident students, 73.5; and non-resident students, 76.4. The Scholarship Cup, awarded annually to the fraternity receiving the highest percentage of marks above eighty, was won in 1941-42 by the Beta Beta Chapter of Psi Upsilon, with 44.9 per cent of honor grades.

Last year, for the first time, a group of Freshman candidates for a general B.A. degree without a major subject was permitted to choose a curriculum which did not include Mathematics. So far, the plan has affected a comparatively small number of students who have not progressed beyond the first year of their college work, so that it is still impossible to judge properly the consequences of the new curriculum. Fifteen years ago, more or less, all high schools required for graduation a year and a half of Algebra and at least a year's study in Geometry. Then came a reduction by many high schools from a year and a half of Algebra to but one year and not more than one year in Geometry. The situation with regard to Trigonometry, of course, was even less standardized, and the College has attempted to solve the problem with parallel Freshman courses, the one for those who have presented Trigonometry for admission and the other for those who have had a lesser amount of Mathematics. However, students are often found whose ability

or preparation is so poor that they are scarcely able to hold a place in a class in College Mathematics of the most elementary description. It is probable, moreover, that the continuing needs of the Army and Navy, and particularly those of the Army Air Forces, will keep the question of Mathematics in the foreground. A change in the content of the Freshman Mathematics course to include Spherical Trigonometry, for instance, has already been planned for the coming academic year.

The regulations governing the attendance of students in classroom and laboratory periods were altered in January by vote of the Faculty and a new system was in operation during the Trinity Term. The main feature of the new rules involves the classifying of the students in four groups at the end of every term. Class I, the Dean's List, includes those students whose average grade is higher than 85 per cent and allows its members an unlimited number of unexcused absences during the following semester. Members of Class II, with an average grade between 78 and 84 per cent, are entitled to five unexcused absences in every course, while the students in Class III, those who have average grades between 70 and 77 per cent, are allowed four unexcused absences. Membership in Class IV is prescribed for all new students, as well as for those men whose average grades amount to less than 70 per cent, and for students enrolled in fewer than five courses. Three unexcused absences in every course are granted to undergraduates in Class IV. In all cases, the loss of one semester-hour of the credit for a course is the penalty for every unexcused absence in excess of the number at the disposal of any single student. Penalties assessed under the new system have affected a larger number of individuals, although the penalties have not been as severe, in the main, as was the case when three semester-hours of credit were deducted as soon as the student was charged with one unexcused absence in excess of the number allotted to him. The number of students in the four new classifications was as follows:

	Jan., 1942	May, 1942
Class I (85% or better)	70	69
Class II (78%-84%)	120	117
Class III (70%-77%)	125	123
Class IV (below 70% ; reduced programs)	190	133

As usual, every effort was made to guard the health and to look after the general physical welfare of the students. Dr. H. C. Swan, the College Medical Director, reports that there were 499 incidents of illness among Trinity students last year, including four cases of appendicitis, eight of German measles, three of chicken pox, and seven of mumps. I quote further from Dr. Swan's statement:

"Upper respiratory infections were responsible for most of the disabilities among the students. There were 249 students in whom illnesses occurred and for whom excuses were issued.

"The incidents of illness for which excuses were given were 499, with the loss of 1611 days from classes. It is to be noted that 260 were out for one day, 75 were out for two days and 165 were out for three or more days. There were 46 students ill twice, 28 ill three times, and 33 were ill four or more times."

On two occasions during the last academic year, a registration for Selective Service of certain divisions of the nation's man power has involved Trinity students. Facilities were provided to make it possible for the young men in question to register at the College so that they would not be compelled to interrupt their studies and return to their places of residence. During the past year the age of selective draft for the Army was lowered from twenty-one years to twenty, and a further reduction is possible. In consequence, the following figures are significant, inasmuch as they show the ages (on January 1, 1942) of the 536 students enrolled in the Christmas Term:

Age	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
No. of students	4	35	95	111	129	87	47	15	7	3	1	0	2

It is evident that a repetition of the experiences of 1918, when the age limit was dropped to eighteen years, would make most young men of normal college age liable to Army service, and such an action, in turn, would have the effect of discouraging men from entering college and would make the stay of any who might enter very uncertain. In the last weeks of 1941, however, the situation as it affected the colleges was brightened by the action of the Navy in opening Class V-7 of the Naval Reserve for college students. The subsequent establishing of similar categories for naval aviation and for Freshman and Sophomore members of the Naval Reserve, the Candidates Class for Commission of the Marines, and the Air Force Reserve and Enlisted Reserve Corps of the Army has been in conformity with the avowed wish of the Navy and War Departments that as far as is consistent with pressing needs, young men should continue their studies with a view to making themselves more valuable to the nation as potential officer material. Since the inception of the several reserve branches for college men, 105 Trinity students have applied for admission to the Naval Reserve, 22 for the Marine Corps Reserve, 26 for the Air Force Reserve, and 182 for the Army ERC, Unassigned. Acceptances to date include: Navy, 47; Marines, 6; Army Air Force, 14; Army, 145.

The discrepancy between the number of applications and the number of acceptances given at the end of the preceding paragraph can be accounted for partially by the existence of a quota limiting

the enlistments in the Army ERC, but it is also due in many cases to minor physical defects which could be corrected. Consequently, the work of the Physical Education Department at the present time is of exceptional importance, both in connection with its physical training and athletic programs and with regard to its valuable assistance in organizing the student body for efficient service in the event of a disaster in Hartford. Mr. Raymond Oosting, Director of Physical Education, reports:

"During the college year 1941-42 several changes were made in the athletic and physical education program. These changes were due largely to the entry of the United States in the war. Previously Juniors who had passed certain Physical Education requirements were excused from further attendance. This practice has been discontinued and students are required to attend three full years. Rigorous body building exercises have been emphasized in all groups. Students were given Army-type physical examinations in the hope of discovering remediable physical defects. It is apparent that the students realize the need for this increased emphasis on physical fitness and the majority has responded wholeheartedly. A standard twenty hour Red Cross First Aid Course was added to the program, and the Faculty approved a new regulation requiring all students, beginning with the Class of 1945, to pass this First Aid Course as part of the Physical Education program.

"The athletic teams representing the College enjoyed a very satisfactory year. College spirit was at a particularly high pitch during the football season. The football team won six of seven games played. The highlights, from the Trinity standpoint, were the victories over the strong Amherst team and the previously undefeated Coast Guard eleven. The largest crowds ever assembled on Trinity Field attended the Wesleyan and Coast Guard games.

"The swimming and baseball teams also enjoyed outstanding seasons. The swimming team won six of eight meets and the two defeats were by one point margins. During the course of the season Jack Tyler established three new College swimming marks, two of them previously held by his brother Dave, now a Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps.

"The athletic record of the year would hardly be complete without mention of the feats of the baseball team which won eight games and lost three. Captain Beidler's team won a 7-4 contest from Princeton, winner of the Ivy League Championship, and wound up the season with a 1-0, ten inning victory over Yale before a fine Class Day crowd on Trinity Field.

"At one of the spring meetings of the Athletic Association it was voted to waive the Freshman eligibility rule for the duration

of the war, a policy which has been adopted by a majority of the colleges in the country."

College activities outside the classrooms were materially restricted after December. It was felt that dances held off campus, with the attendant week-end house parties at the fraternities, would disrupt considerably an already shortened academic schedule. Thus, the Sophomore Hop in November was the first and last social affair of its kind to be held during the year. The staging of two plays by the Jesters, the regular appearance of the *Tripod*, the record of the year's student activities in the *Ivy*, the uninterrupted operation of the various student clubs and societies all contributed, to be sure, to a superficial and illusory semblance of normal college life. Several excellent lectures on topics of the day, however, together with the well-conducted radio programs sponsored by the College were sufficient to bring the most inveterate dreamer back to the world of reality if, indeed, he could dream at all amid the activities of the College air raid wardens, the volunteering for the watch in the Chapel tower, the student mass-meetings in the Chemistry Auditorium, and the recruiting visits of the different armed services.

We have just completed, in short, a difficult, and yet a challenging year. It has brought its periods of discouragement along with its inspirations. So far, the Faculty and the student body have met every problem resolutely and effectively, disposing of every question while it was still in an incipient stage and anticipating the development of further difficulties. Nevertheless, it is evident that liberal education, as we know it, is in a state of flux. Some of the lessons that we are learning will demand more or less radical changes in our academic life. The events of the past months must have stimulated every thoughtful man to examine anew his educational creed. An opportunity for constructive thinking stares us in the face, and I cannot believe that we shall let it go by unrecognized.

Respectfully submitted,

ARTHUR H. HUGHES, *Dean.*

