

## OPINIONS

It's Okay to TCERT Your Friends

Forrest Robinette '16 argues that friends should be thinking of safety when it comes to TCERT. pg. 3

## FEATURES

At Trinity and Around the World

Serena Elavia '14 interviews English Professor and poet Ciaran Berry. pg. 9

## INDEX

OPINIONS . . . . . 3	ARTS . . . . . 12
NEWS . . . . . 6	SPORTS . . . . . 15
FEATURES . . . . . 9	

# The Trinity Tripod

HARTFORD, CONN.  
Trinity College

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## SGA initiates new health campaign

ELAINA ROLLINS '16  
STAFF WRITER

The life of a college student often revolves around food, and Trinity's Student Government Association (SGA) has made recent efforts to improve this aspect of college life. The SGA's Safety and Wellness Committee recently

founded the Snap It Campaign, an initiative that seeks to ensure Trinity students receive quality food on a regular basis.

Chartwells, the food company which services Trinity, explains on its website that it is "dedicated to providing the academic community with innovative, healthy dining

options." However, recent incidents and conversations reported by students spurred Jason Gordon, the chair of the Safety and Wellness Committee, to found the Snap It Campaign. Gordon heard of several students who had gotten food poisoning after eating the Chartwells food.

The Snap It Campaign seeks to respond to these health concerns and complaints. The SGA explains on its new Facebook page, "Trinity College's Snap It Campaign 2012-2013," that the project is meant to ensure the health of its students. Especially during the flu months and exam period, healthy meals are an essential for college students with large workloads.

In order to make this goal a reality, the Snap It Campaign is set up so that students can take a digital photo of any food on campus that is obviously unsafe to eat. Using a camera or cellphone allows the student body to bring attention to any major problems with their



COURTESY OF rmlc.com

The Snap It Campaign was recently started by the Safety and Wellness Committee.

see SNAP on page 6

## Class of 2013 comes together for annual Senior Snowball



For more photos from the evening, see page 9.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HANNAH MALENFANT '13

## Trin. Jesters perform famous Oscar Wilde play

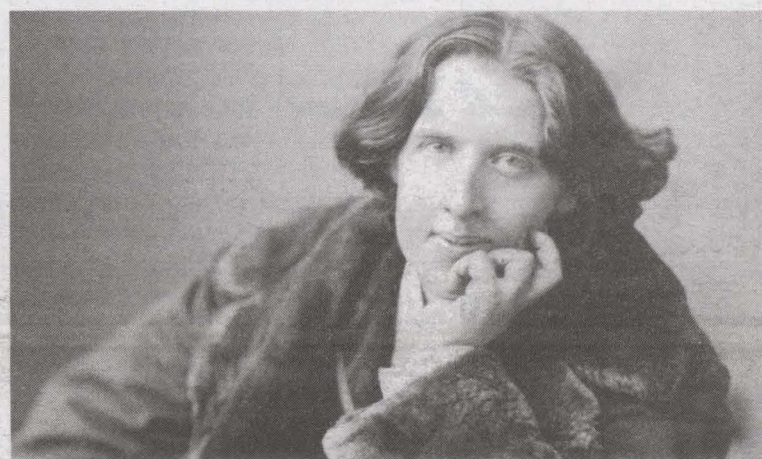
ASHLEY MULLEN '15  
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday, Dec. 6 the Trinity College Jesters presented "The Importance of Being Earnest," a play written in 1895 by the famous author Oscar Wilde. Directed by students Gaia Cloutier '16 and Allison Stegeland '15, the play took place in Performance Lab 152 of the Trinity Commons, and included a group of nine other Trinity students ranging from freshmen to juniors. The three act play starred David

Field '15 as the protagonist Jack Worthing, and John Stiller '14 as the witty Algernon Moncrieff, known as Algie. The rest of the cast was made up by Mary Iris Loncto '16, Corrina Lyon-Hall '16, Kyra Saniewski '15, Dora Shao '16, Sierra Slade '15, Allison Stegeland '15, and Sarah Wallingford '15.

Illustrating a humorously upbeat and wildly accurate comedy about Victorian society and manners, "The

see STUDENTS on page 13



COURTESY OF gdefon.com

Students performed "The Importance of Being Earnest" for their peers last week.

## Harding-Lane hats storm Trinity's campus

JACKIE SANDERS '14  
STAFF WRITER

Looking for the perfect holiday present? Harding-Lane hats are ideal for both girls and boys at Trinity. Since Henry Howard '15 started selling them this fall, he's made quite a profit. Harding-Lane hats feature a signature needlepoint design on the front in a variety of patterns and colors. The hat itself was

designed from scratch to have a deeper, more comfortable fit. They also do custom designs for large orders, and, for a small fee, you can add a monogram or lettered stitching. The hats have been featured in many publications such as Glamour, Nylon, Women's Wear Daily, and Town & Country. With the standout white sailcloth strap on the

see TRENDY on page 10



COURTESY OF harding-lane.com

Harding-Lane hopes to expand their brand to include more different designs.

# Trinity Tripod

Established in 1904

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# WANT TO WRITE?

Staff meetings are held Tuesday nights at 5:30 p.m. in the *Tripod* Office in the basement of Jackson. Join us!

PLEASE RECYCLE  
YOUR COPY OF  
*The Trinity Tripod*

## Tripod Editorial

### Teach For America, a possible fix

Hartford has often been described as a city of pockets. These pockets are filled with many different types of people: banks and big-time financial companies, wealthy middle-class families, and on the other end of the spectrum, immense poverty. The existence of the latter is what many don't know about Connecticut's capital and was something I soon found out my freshman year. One of the education classes I took had a mandatory community engagement component to it; I walked 15 minutes once a week to McDonough Elementary School and worked inside of a first-grade classroom, and it was there that I witnessed firsthand how Hartford's poverty directly affects public school education and students' overall potential.

Hartford's unemployment rate is 16.9%, considerably higher than the state's average of 9.3%, while the percentage of Hartford residents that have earned a bachelor's degree or higher stays at a mere 12.3%. This is compared to the statewide 38.2% of residents who have gone to college. These striking results demonstrate how deeply rooted the problems that plague Connecticut, and more specifically Hartford, are in education. As a direct result of the minimal education Hartford residents receive, crime and

poverty rates increase. Dropout rates in Hartford are far above the statewide average, and with more people on the streets unable to maintain a stable job due to their lack of education, crime increases and the overall quality of life decreases.

These facts are undeniable and expose the realities that impede on the success of the Hartford public school system. This idea that so much poverty and crime exists outside of our Trinity bubble is a scary concept to come to terms with, and one that many people go their four years without recognizing. However, without understanding the problem, how can we ever work together to move forward to combat it? Isn't it our responsibility, as human beings, to make sure that others get the opportunity to attain a quality education no matter where they grow up? Numerous student groups on campus are involved with Hartford schools and youth in some way, and all of it is important. However, we need to do more. The achievement gap continues to exist and hold back promising children, and this affects not just the future of Hartford but our entire nation.

The problem is pressing, yet it is not without its solutions. Teach For America is one organization that is combating the achievement gap with its long-

term goal, where "one day, all children in this nation will have the opportunity to attain an excellent education."

Currently, there are 10,000 corps members reaching 750,000 students across the nation in 46 different regions. TFA continues to expand into new regions that suffer from a widened achievement gap in an attempt to have the greatest impact possible.

As TFA expands, we see the future get brighter and more promising for students from all backgrounds, regardless of socioeconomic status or ethnicity. We see the need for passionate and motivated individuals to get involved in the transformation that TFA and other dedicated education reformers have been working hard to achieve in places just outside of Trinity. The response to this call to action can take form in various ways: if you are an underclassman, become apart of programs outside of Trinity that deal directly with Hartford because it is full of culture, life, and promise. If you are upperclassmen, I encourage you to apply to Teach For America if you are looking for a way to make a truly powerful and meaningful impact on our neighboring community.

-LMK

### Life lessons from "Boy Meets World"

As I'm sure most of you know by now, Ben Savage and Danielle Fishel recently signed on to reprise their roles as Cory Matthews and Topanga Lawrence on the TGIF staple "Boy Meets World." The new show, titled "Girl Meets World," will follow Cory and Topanga's lives as they raise a 13-year-old daughter. With all the buzz about the sequel and the speculation of which characters from the 90's hit will make appearances on the new show, I've found myself thinking about what made "Boy Meets World" so special during its seven-year run. Aside from being incredibly funny, the sitcom explored themes and taught life lessons that have stuck with me since the show ended and that I hope will be woven into the new show as well. That being said, here are the most important life lessons I learned from watching "Boy Meets World."

Be yourself no matter what. We all remember when Cory, Shawn, and Topanga were in middle school and Topanga dressed like a hippie and was constantly talking about the strange things she would do with her parents. Cory and Shawn always made fun of her for being "weird," and she was better friends with Minkus, the token stereotypical nerd, than she was with the two main char-

acters. Fast forward a few years, and Cory and Topanga are dating and along with Shawn the three of them begin to develop bonds that rival those of Harry, Ron, and Hermione. We know that these relationships endure through college and Cory and Topanga get married, and I know everyone is hoping to see Rider Strong reprise his bad boy on the sequel. All of this happens after we meet a rather bizarre, unique, 12-year-old Topanga who refuses to change for anyone, and still finds the love of her life. Topanga taught young girls that it is okay to express yourself however you want, and that you don't need to conform for life to work out in your favor.

You can be tough and emotional at the same time. This is one that people might have missed, because it didn't come up in every season. Remember Harley Keiner, the bully in seasons two and three who dressed like John Travolta in "Grease"? He was constantly putting Cory in lockers and intimidating the middle schoolers, but he had a poetic and emotional streak that he often tried to hide. He didn't really reconcile with this until he returned to the school and had to confront Griff, who had taken his place, and he came to terms with who he was as a person. I'm not saying that the show made it alright to be a

bully, but it did show that there is often more to people than meets the eye, and that accepting this will help you form relationships and better appreciate people for who they are.

And finally, my personal favorite and the one that nearly every "Boy Meets World" lover will remember: "life's tough, get a helmet." Because we all empathize with Cory, we were definitely a little frustrated when Erik smacked him on the forehead and delivered this message, but by the time Cory gives it back a few seasons later we've come to understand that Erik might have been a little smarter than we thought. Life is tough, and we need to be prepared for anything and everything it might throw at us. "Boy Meets World" taught us to put on our metaphorical helmets and attack life head on, because if we do we will be rewarded. It might not be with a fairytale-esque love story a la Cory and Topanga, but it is the only way to take advantage of everything life has to offer, and "Girl Meets World" will be the perfect opportunity for us to make sure Cory and Topanga are doing just that.

-ALR

## Reflections on time spent at Trinity and the things to come

IMMANUEL ADEOLA '14  
STAFF WRITER

The holiday season comes with many distinct joys. The first, and probably the most relevant for us college students is that after a long and hard fought battle with exams, we get to go home and forget how miserable they made us. The holiday season is also a time to give thanks in appreciation of the numerous blessings we have received over the course of the year. We are thankful for family and friends, and for all others who have shaped our lives in one way or another.

It is also a time to truly take measure of how far we have come as a student. Whether you are a senior entering your final semester, or a freshman finishing your first semester, the deceptively short break is an opportunity to look back at the past months and examine everything that has happened in your life.

Before you dismiss this as yet another cheesy piece of advice you would hear from your parents or a therapist, note that I am not referring to the same themes that they would undoubtedly be thinking about for you. Unlike them, my perspective is one

that is purely confined to your time at Trinity and not the greater theme of life and what it all means. Sometimes, time moves so fast we often forget to pause and notice all the changes that have occurred around us.

This semester we have seen a great deal of changes occur or at least placed in motion. We witnessed a new group of freshmen nervously join the Trinity community. We hosted Keydong nuns from Tibet who built a beautiful sand mandala. We celebrated the dawn of Bistrot late night. We revamped efforts to simplify recycling methods and foster more recycling. We remembered those lives that were taken away from us on 9/11. A visiting professor from Duke discussed the unfortunate presence of racism in the twenty first century. A group of brilliant students presented their summer research projects at a science symposium. We had the daunting annual internship fair. Career Services launched a new brand to expand their presence on campus and demonstrate their commitment to our future success. Our parents got a chance to see what we actually do when we're away at college during Parents Weekend. The former

governor of Puerto Rico gave a talk about being aware of poverty and how we can best tackle the issue. "The Dark Knight Rises" and "The Avengers" came to Cinestudio. Our football team had an undefeated season. Relay for Life held a dodgeball tournament for cancer. Students across campus united their voices against sexual assault. PRIDE hosted an open-forum discussing chivalry and sexism. The Chapel program continued its streak of hosting a successful "Lessons and Carols" program which attracts alums, current students, parents, and Harford residents. I-House hosted its annual Diwali celebration. MOCA's talent show was a great success, bringing together Trinity students with other college students and Hartford residents. CSA hosted an amazing Christmas themed party. TCBWO had their annual and always entertaining "Milk, Sex, and Cookies". Psi U hosted an amazing "tropical" this year. AD and AASA joined forces yet again to host their annual "Nightfire". A social committee was formed to examine the social climate on campus. We all witnessed a major shift in school policy concerning Greek Life. President Obama was re-

elected for another four years.

Many of these events in one way or another have affected every student at Trinity. However, their importance does not stem from their effect on us, but rather if we even remember them. Can you say you remember at least five? College is fast-paced, and we all know that it consists of little battles that we encounter on a daily basis. Sometimes, it's better to be losing the war but winning some of these battles because winning a battle builds the confidence we need to win the war. We cannot always concern ourselves with the bigger picture. The big picture is of great significance in the much larger context of our future, but at times, the

biggest personal advances we make come from those small battles that we did not even believe held any significance. It is crucial to always draw from everything we do, no matter how small or insignificant they seem.

I urge all of us to remember that part of the college experience, as many of us might know, is living in the moment yet having a constant eye to the future. Next semester, I encourage you to explore more parts of campus life that you have yet to experience. As unfounded as it might seem, you never know where or when you will find that piece of inspiration that will help you win the long four-year war we know as college.



COURTESY OF www.nytimes.com.

Immanuel Adeola '14 urges students to remember to live in the present while at Trinity.

## Friends don't let friends get TCERTed: A misguided principle

FORREST ROBINETTE '16  
STAFF WRITER

I've often heard the phrase "Friends don't let friends get TCERTed." This motto means that if your buddy has had way too much to drink, you shouldn't call for trained medical help because being TCERTed is a

pain. You don't want to put your friend through the embarrassment, the punishment, or the financial cost of being TCERTed even if he has had a dangerous amount of alcohol. I don't believe that every student lives by this code, but it seems evident that this attitude does exist on campus to some degree. Students are hesitant to call the emergency response team because it means some very bad consequences.

Firstly, being TCERTed means embarrassment. I don't think many students consider an extensive TCERT record to be a source of pride. Many a time, I've heard negative gossip circulating around "that

guy (or girl) who got TCERTed last night." or, more often, "that freshman who got TCERTed." It's evidence of irresponsibility and an inability to hold one's liquor. In my experience, it's rarely evidence of being a badass. People who stay in control are always more respected than those who don't.

Secondly, being TCERTed means almost certain punishment by the college. If a student is under twenty-one, and I assume that many TCERTed students are, the college is very likely to take disciplinary action. And if the student has a record of such behavior, the consequences may be even more severe. Enough alcohol related incidents can eventually spell suspension or expulsion. When someone is TCERTed, the college will know about it. The inevitability of some kind of disciplinary repercussions is another significant deterrent.

Thirdly, the emergency medical team will send a student to the hospital where he

or she will be charged a hefty bill for treatment. Perhaps a student's stomach has to be pumped to prevent alcohol poisoning and treatment like that is not cheap. The hospital bill, in most cases, would go straight to one's parents which would make for a fun conversation with mom and dad. Many people avoid calling TCERT as a friend because of these consequences making it an unpopular choice among students. For many students, this is the logical choice and is expected of a good friend. Why would you want to put your buddy through all that stuff? Maybe he hasn't had that much to drink anyway. Maybe calling TCERT is not necessary. We have to expel these thoughts and doubts and just make the call. No matter how unpleasant being TCERTed is it could be the difference between life and death. The hospital bill, the embarrassment, the disciplinary consequences are all trivial when one's life is potentially at stake.

I understand why this is a norm for some students on campus. The majority of students here are not medical experts. If I saw an extremely sick friend, I wouldn't know whether medical action is necessary or not. I wouldn't

want to be that person who unnecessarily called TCERT when my friend wasn't actually in serious trouble. The fact is that we have to ignore these fears and stigmas because any person's wellbeing is always the most important priority. No one should ever regret taking precautions to protect a friend's life.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the students who are a part of TCERT. I, thankfully, have never required their services or seen them at work, but I still know that they provide a valuable and very selfless service to the entire student body. And from what I've seen they go largely unappreciated. I remember receiving a very sad email towards the beginning of the year from a member of TCERT. In the email, a plea was made to the student body to be more respectful to TCERT members while they are at work. The email reminded students that TCERT members are

only working to keep students safe and healthy. I realize of course that if a student is in need of TCERT's services, respect isn't on the forefront of their mind. However, we should always make an effort to behave respectfully towards classmates who are there to help out. Students like those involved in TCERT who take initiative to help others and give up their weekends and nights should be commended, appreciated and respected.

The "friends don't let friends get TCERTed mentality" is a warped

code of honor. Safety and wellbeing should always take priority over fear of more trivial consequences such as a big hospital bill or punishment from the college. If you see a friend or stranger who looks to be in need of serious

medical help, just make the call. The consequences of being TCERTed may be a big pain, but they are nothing compared to the possibility of a student losing their life.

# Savvy's Single Survival Guide: Santa Edition

BY: SAVAHNA REUBEN '15  
STAFF WRITER

*Put the pint of Ben and Jerry's down. There are better ways to survive being single this holiday season. Whether you're involved in a "complicated" fling, you're hoping for something to happen when we return from break, or you obsessively stalk your soul-mate on Facebook who has yet to know that you actually exist...if you're single over the holidays, you've never felt more alone. That doesn't mean though that this holiday season has to be filled with anxiety, depression or an intense and unadulterated loathing of every couple that you see holding hands. In fact, the holidays can be a time for us to focus on other types of relationships that we completely overlook and take for granted. Before I hit you with that sentimental bomb however, let's review a few key tips from, "Savvy's Single Survival Guide (Santa Edition)."*

**Everyone loves a good holiday movie or cinematic tear-jerker over the holidays. Here is a comprehensive list of movies to stay away from for all you singletons out there:**

Unapproved Movies: 1. Love Actually; 2. It's a Wonderful Life; 3. The Holiday; 4. Twilight (the whole bundle of them); 5. Serendipity; 6. Hitch; 7. 50 First Dates.

Approved Movies: 1. Home Alone (1-3); 2. Elf; 3. How the Grinch Stole Christmas; 4. Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer (the animated version); 5. Zoolander; 6. Whip It; 7. Jaws.

**Everyone loves a good Christmas song. But listening to particular songs that inspire feelings of loneliness and longing are (just going out on a limb here) not your best bet to surviving a single holiday season. So, please enjoy this list of discouraged and encouraged songs:**

Discouraged Songs: 1. Kissless Christmas; 2. Where are You Christmas; 3. Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire (it's that first line...gets me every time); 4. Colder Weather; 5. All I Want For Christmas is You; 6. Christmas (Baby Please Come Home); 7. Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas; 8. Thinkin' Bout You; 9. I Won't Give Up; 10. Anything Michael Bublé.

Encouraged Songs: 1. Jingle Bells; 2. Santa Claus is Coming to Town; 3. Santa Baby; 4. Jaws Theme Song; 5. We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together; 6. Gangnam Style; 7. Thrift Shop; 8. Girl On Fire; 9. All I Want For Christmas is My Two Front Teeth; 10. Jingle Bell Rock.

**It's very easy to get caught up in un-productive activities that only perpetuate loneliness. So here is a list of detrimental and productive activities:**

Detrimental: 1. Staring up longingly at a mistletoe; 2. Stalking a particular Facebook; 3. Obsessively checking your texts; 4. Starting to believe in Horoscopes and basing everything you do off of yours/your wannabe lovers'; 5. Lying in bed all day, potentially crying; 6. Going to an ice skating rink alone (that's just asking for it); 7. Staring into a beautiful fire while drinking hot chocolate and letting your mind wander; 8. Trying to build a snowman or have a snowball fight by yourself (you will lose); 9. Drinking too much Bailey's.

Productive: 1. Spending time with your sister/baby cousin/weird Uncle/drunk Aunt; 2. Making plans with platonic friends; 3. Volunteering at a food/toy bank or at a location that was affected by Hurricane Sandy; 4. Cooking/learning to cook baked goods and pies for everyone (not just you) in your family to enjoy; 5. Putting actual clothes on (not that one pair of sweatpants that you lay around the house in all day); 6. Playing with your dog, Sparky; 7. Play with your cat, Mr. Willingford III; 8. Shopping for things you don't exactly "need"; 9. Drinking too much Bailey's.

## WRITE FOR OPINIONS NEXT SEMESTER.

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# Chanel Palacios '14 on why Snapchat is better than Instagram

CHANEL PALACIOS '14

ARTS EDITOR

Words with Friends, Dominos, Instagram, Sleep Cycle, there's a ridiculous amount of apps out there. And unless it's Bank of America or Chipotle, most of the apps are useless. I present to you one of my favorite useless apps: Snapchat.

For those of you who don't believe in stupid apps, Snapchat should make you reconsider. It's the one place where you can take and send completely hideous/stupid/ridiculous/hilarious pictures without having them permanently on the internet or in someone's phone. Although that's not entirely true.

Snapchat allows you to send photos with a limited viewing time of a maximum of ten seconds, or less if you want it that way. The photos have no save option, meaning these photos are fleeting. Which possibly explains why the symbol is a ghost. (Kudos to my editors for explaining that.) As the website states, "There is value in the ephemeral. Great conversations are magical. That's because they are shared, enjoyed, but

not saved." However, the app isn't foolproof so beware. If you really don't want anyone else to ever see you without makeup, make sure the person doesn't have an iPhone, or something that can take a screenshot. Other than that possible downside, Snapchat is wonderful.

Here are some Snapchat facts. (Say that five times fast.) The Snapchat team is composed of four Stanford students by the names of Daniel Smith, David Kravitz, Bobby Murphy and Evan Spiegel. Their philosophy statement says, "We believe in sharing authentic moments with friends. It's not all about fancy vacations, sushi dinners, or beautiful sunsets. Sometimes it's an inside joke, a silly face, or greetings from a pet fish."

Let's get the obvious out of the way. Snapchat must have been invented by some guy who was asking some girl for naked pictures. Except the Snapchat team is made of four guys. Clearly they bonded over a common problem. Their philosophy statement reads "inside joke." I read that as "naked pictures." No judgment on the girls who send those kinds of pictures in a regular message, but many girls are reluctant to find naked pic-

tures of them on the Internet or being passed around in various social circles. Behold! The invention of Snapchat! So for those girls under the illusion of complete privacy, I remind you of the ability to screenshot. Snapchat will tell you if someone takes a screenshot, but that's after the fact. Damage can already be done. If you trust whoever you're sending a Snapchat, or think it's necessary to last through winter break, then Merry Christmas to all those guys out there. Otherwise, here are the real purposes of Snapchat.

1. Excessive pictures of yourself are now socially acceptable.
2. Hideous duck-faces are now also socially acceptable. Bonus points if you're a guy making the face. Fake, orange tans are not socially acceptable. Sorry, but unless it shows up only on the app, and not real life, don't do it.
3. You are miserable in the library and everyone needs to know it. Even that one friend from freshman year who you don't talk to.
4. Someone is picking their nose in the middle of the library. You must warn society to stay away from germs.
5. You are drunk in some

frat basement. Your roommate is staying in sick/studying and you want them to know you're thinking of them. Another caution. If they can screenshot it just to remind you of what you don't want to remember, they definitely will.

6. Semester abroad photos to your nearest and dearest who you miss oh so much. They will appreciate the pictures of foreign hot guys and beautiful scenery while they are studying in a smelly common room.

7. Sickness has taken over, and you want your family to feel really sorry for you and send you money and a care package.

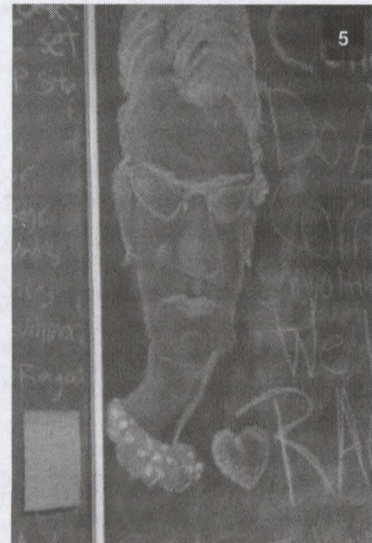
8. Remind your high school friends how much fun you're having in college without them. Or, more realistically, send them pictures of you crying because you miss them so much.

9. Your roommate is sitting oddly, and you want to draw silly or inappropriate things on their face, but they have a presentation the next day. It would be frowned upon for your roommate to show up to class with the words "butt face" on her forehead, but you can do it with Snapchat's drawing feature.

10. Quite honestly, the best reason for Snapchat is to show

how awesome you think you are. Lydia Kay '13 describes it as "a personal mirror." Experiment with the perfect angle so that the next selfie you take has the potential to be your new Facebook profile picture.

Snapchat is very simple. It's distracting at times. But so is bubble wrap. The fun is in its simplicity. So why did I write an article about this instead of bubble wrap? Because bubble wrap isn't free, and I definitely don't want to share it. So instead, I send priceless photos of myself blatantly not doing work. Happy finals everyone!



COURTESY OF: C. PALACIOS '14.  
Snapchat can be used for a variety of purposes.

## On equality: Is same-sex marriage becoming a social norm?

JEFF SYBERTZ '13

STAFF WRITER

This past week, the US Supreme Court agreed to hear two cases involving same-sex marriage to determine whether California's Proposition 8 and the Defense of Marriage Act are unconstitutional.

In 2008, California voters approved a ballot measure to make same-sex marriage illegal.

In February of this year, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Proposition 8 was unconstitutional because it was an infringement on the civil liberties of California citizens. The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is a federal law enacted in 1996 that defined marriage as the legal union between one man and one woman. Under this law, states do not have to recognize same-sex marriages from other states and same-sex couples are unable to receive marriage federal benefits. The Supreme Court will now determine the constitutionality of both cases. Although the decision will not necessarily end the debate over same-sex marriage, the fact that the Court has agreed to hear these cases just a month after three more states voted to legalize same-sex

marriage and a few months after President Obama officially supported the issue means that there is an increasing norm across the country that says marry is a human right that everyone possesses, regardless of sexual orientation.

Currently, same-sex marriage is legal in nine states and the District of Columbia. Although this number means that it is not legal in 41 other

states, people around the country are starting to realize that preventing others from marrying is simply a violation of a person's civil rights. Aside from the nine states that have legalized same-sex marriage, a number of states recognize marriages from other states and some have granted same-sex couples the right to civil union. A civil union is not the same as a marriage.

In many ways, granting civil union rights to same-sex marriage couples is a further derogation of their rights because it blatantly says that they are different from the rest of society and, therefore, not entitled to the same rights.

However, it is nonetheless a recognition that same-sex couples do have some government-protected rights.

In the grand scheme of things, a civil union is better than no recognition or a constitutional prohibition, but it is still not enough.

What has been the most encouraging part of these recent marriage equality advancements is the fact that it has been the electorate, not politicians or the government spearheading these movements. In Maine, Maryland, and Washington, the three states that passed marriage equality bills this past November, a popular referendum was the method of legalization. That is to say, more than a majority of the voters in these three states supported marriage equality. Other states that have marriage equality have passed constitutional amendments but the fact that a popular vote granted marriage equality in these three states means that people are starting to realize that a democratic society cannot have marriage inequality. Granted, there will always be people in this country who will be fundamentally opposed to same-sex marriage and they are entitled to their own opinions. However, it appears that the power of these people is quickly deteriorating, especially in this past year.

2012 has been quite a year. We have reelected a president, suffered through a terrible natural disaster, witnessed civil unrest throughout the Middle East and southern Europe, and are preparing to welcome into the world a future heir to the British throne. Yet I believe that marriage equality will ultimately define this historical year.

Now we have the Supreme Court ready to hear two cases regarding DOMA and California's Proposition 8. It will be interesting to see where the court will fall on these two cases because it currently has four fairly conservative justices and four fairly liberal justices with one that usually falls in the middle. Although we would like to think that something as basic as the right to marry would be able to transcend conservative and liberal ideologies, the past has shown us that nothing is immune to politics. Moreover,

unlike the ballot measures to pass marriage equality in Maine, Maryland, and Washington, the electorate does not really have any power in determining how the Court will rule. Nine men and women will have the final and only say on these two cases. Their job is to resist the special interests from both sides and objectively determine the constitutionality of two cases. Hopefully, they will realize that the US Constitution is in favor of granting equal rights to all of its citizens, regardless of gender, race, religion, or sexual orientation. However, even if they ultimately rule that DOMA and California's Proposition 8 are both constitutional, the norm that marriage equality should exist will not disappear.

We have reelected a president, suffered through a terrible natural disaster, witnessed civil unrest throughout the Middle East and southern Europe, and are preparing to welcome into the world a future heir to the British throne. Yet I believe that marriage equality will ultimately define this historical year.

A recent Pew Research Poll said that 49 percent of Americans are in favor of allowing same-sex marriage and only 40 percent oppose it. That 49 percent is rapidly increasing and I imagine that within a few years, that number will be around 55-60 percent.

Hopefully, in that time, more states will have legalized same-sex marriage and put more pressure on the federal government to protect all of its citizens.

# NEWS

The Trinity Tripod

## Snap It responds to food related health concerns on Campus

continued from page one

Chartwells food. Pictures can be sent to the email address [trincollsnapit@gmail.com](mailto:trincollsnapit@gmail.com). This information is posted all over campus on blue fliers advertising the campaign. The posters grab many students' attention because they feature a photo of a bug sitting in a plate of food. However, the Snap It Campaign noted on its Facebook that this image is meant to be representative – it is not an actual photo of Chartwells' food.

The Safety and Wellness Committee plans print any pictures received through email and then compile them

in a safe place. Once the Committee receives ten photos that display obvious health risks, the Safety and Wellness Committee members will meet with Toby Chennette, an employee who works with Chartwells at Trinity.

So far the Snap It Campaign has received a few complaints, but nothing warranting a meeting with Chartwells. Gordon explains that, "students need to know that there is something they can do if they receive food that presents them with obvious safety/health risks." Gordon met with Chartwells earlier this year to talk about the

food that is served on campus. However, the Safety and Wellness Committee did not inform Chartwells about the Snap It Campaign before it was launched.

On the Snap It Campaign's official Facebook page, a few Trinity students have shared their frustration with the food options on campus. One student explains that a few months ago she found a piece of broken plate in her made-to-order food at Mather. She says that she was lucky she noticed the glass before eating her meal or accidentally putting the piece of plate in her mouth.

Another student, who is



COURTESY OF rnlc.com

Chartwells is trying to improve their customer satisfaction hearing students concerns about food served in the dining halls.



COURTESY OF dineoncampus.com

SGA encourages students to take photos about food that may cause health concerns.

very vocal about his irritation with Chartwells, posted on the Facebook page that, "Chartwells is a joke, it's a disgrace that our parents pay this much money for us to eat such terrible, low-grade, overpriced food."

It is clear that some students express serious discontent toward Trinity's food options. One first year student explained that she does not eat meat at Mather because she once saw massive amounts of raw meat sitting out behind the dessert bar for a long period of time. The Snap It Campaign is meant to give a voice to these com-

plaints students may feel every day, yet are not voiced to an organization with any power to make a change.

Gordon stated that the Snap It Campaign is meant to point out irregularities or unusual circumstances in Chartwells food – it does not want to attack Chartwells' overall performance. He explained that the Snap It Campaign is "about ensuring that Trinity students have a means of speaking out about the food that they receive on this campus." The SGA is trying to look out for Trinity students, not condemn the food company that services them.

## Dean Lindsey retires after 11 years as Dean of First Year Program

CARA MUNN '15  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This past week on December 3, the Trinity College community was informed that Dean Lindsey will be retiring in May. After serving 11 years as the dean of the first year program, Lindsey will leave Trinity behind to pursue other endeavors. Students and faculty are saddened by the announcement.

"Dean Lindsey has continually impressed me with the guidance, support and friendship she offers students at Trinity. Being one of Dean Lindsey's advisees during my first two years at Trinity was a wonderful experience and I can't

think of a better person to have led the First-Year Program," said Erica Bertoli '14 who had dean Lindsey as a freshman mentor.

Faculty members also are very sad to see Dean Lindsey go, but wish her luck on the next journeys in her life. She has been an immensely capable Dean, managing the first year seminars, helping to choose the first year book, organizing June Days, advis-

ing, and taking the numerous phone calls from parents anxious about their children as they arrive at the College," said G. Keith Funston Professor of English and American Studies and Dean of Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs Rena Fraden.

~Madeline Dickinson '14

According to Fraden's email to the campus community, the next year will be a transition for the

first year program here at Trinity. "We do not expect to make any large changes to the First Year Program except in reconfiguring, for this transitional year, who will manage which areas of the Program," said Fraden in her email to the campus community. She will be deeply missed by her students. "I have known Dean Lindsay since my freshman year, and she has been an incredible mentor to me. Although she is no longer my advisor I know she will always be available to give advice with whatever I

may need. She is so caring and passionate about teaching. Without her my Trinity experience would not nearly have been as successful as it has been," said Madeleine Dickinson '14.

The implementation committee for building community will be restructuring the duties of staff who work in Student Life, devising a House System that is somehow involved with student advising, and restructuring the first year program at Trinity.



COURTESY OF trinkids.org

Lindsey has been successful as the head of the first year program here at Trinity College and everyone is sad to see her leave.



COURTESY OF trincoll.edu

Dean Margaret Lindsey will retire after 11 years of service at Trinity College.

# Rose Lichtenfels '14 presents on grassroots campaign experience

KARISA CERNERA '14  
NEWS EDITOR

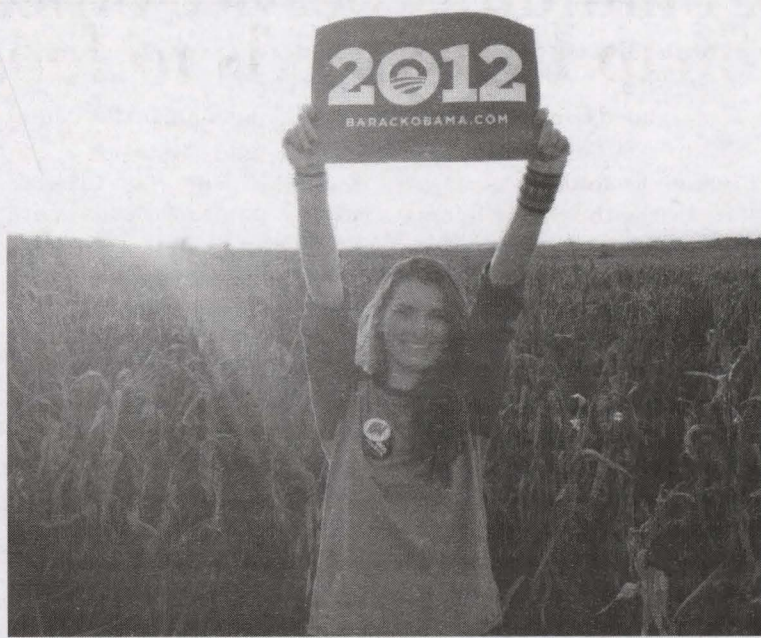
Last Thursday December 6th, Rose Lichtenfels '14 spoke to students and faculty members at Trinity College about her experiences in working as a field organizer for President Obama's campaign this past fall. Stationed in Iowa, Lichtenfels helped to register voters, canvas neighborhoods and promote early voter registration. Iowa is one of a handful of states that allows early voting prior to the election in November. Voting in Iowa started on September 27 and ran until Election Day on November 6th. "Elections are won in the Dirt of the Field," said Lichtenfels reiterating the gen-

eral motto for her campaign team.

Lichtenfels told the audience that Iowa was one of the most amazing places that she had ever visited. "Although there are many corn fields and picturesque farms, the state is predominantly urban and progressive," said Lichtenfels. Going completely out of her comfort zone, she was nervous about going to Iowa without knowing anyone. However, she was pleasantly surprised by how quickly she acclimated to her surroundings. "The people in Iowa couldn't be more genuine. It's a pretty incredible place," said Lichtenfels. She lived with a family whose son was also working on Obama's campaign and they were very hospitable

and understanding of her situation. In working in Iowa, Lichtenfels actually felt more connected to president Obama than she previously had. "There is a ton of significance for Obama. Iowa was where he started and it was an honor to see his last campaign for the election actually end in Iowa," said Lichtenfels.

She went on to show the audience the importance of fieldwork in any campaign. "It is really important to live in the see the communities and understand how people live in order to understand voter registration," said Lichtenfels. Iowa was separated into quarters and there were 4 offices working to promote voter registration and Obama's campaign throughout Iowa. Lichtenfels believed that it was the fieldwork that won the Obama campaign. "Obama's campaign, had more field officers in a ration of about three to one compared to the Romney campaign," said Lichtenfels. Overall, there were 714 field offices for president Obama's campaign compared to on 263 offices for governor Romney. However, she relayed to the audience the difficulties in rallying support for a candidate already in office because many voters continued to feel disillusioned by the current economic state of the country. "It is actually really hard to get people to rally around registration because we already had an established candidate. We found



COURTESY OF ROSE LICHTENFELS '14

Rose spent last semester working as a field organizer for Obama's campaign in Iowa. a lot of voters who had voted for Obama in '08 but were unsure for this election," said Lichtenfels. However, she took pride in knocking on doors and making phone calls.

Because voting starts to early in Iowa, Lichtenfels was rallying people to vote early from the minute she arrived in Iowa. "Republicans in general like to have a good turnout on Election Day where as Democrats like to focus on early election," said Lichtenfels. They set up early voter registration sights at places including town halls, union halls and college campuses. Lichtenfels field group also organized concerts that were linked to early voting sites. In one particular college campus takeover in Iowa, Bon

Jovi and Bruce Springsteen performed. After the performances, college students were allowed to vote at non-partisan early voting sites right on campus. "This was a really great way to rally college kids to vote because it was tying an exciting event to an early voting experience," said Lichtenfels.

She went on to explain the most exciting but also nerve racking part of her experience in Iowa was known as GOTV. GOTV or get out and vote, is the last 4 days of the campaign before the election. "GOTV is a culmination of all the hard work we have been doing," said Lichtenfels. She and other canvassers went door to door,

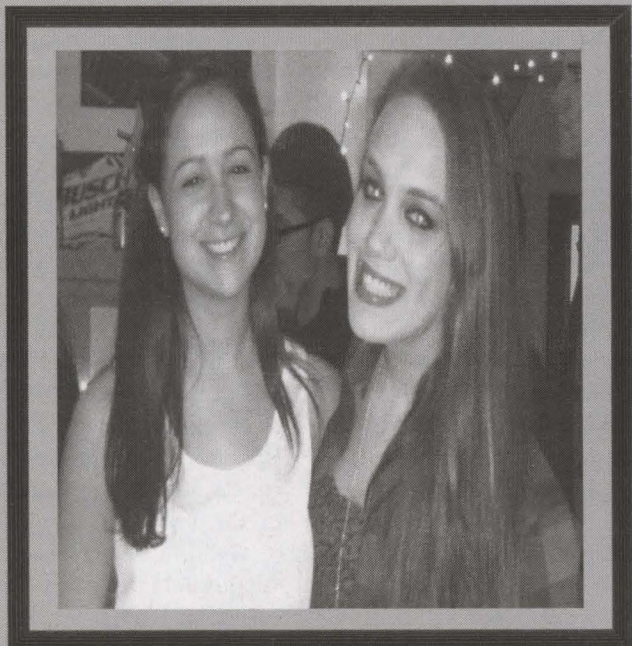
*continued on page 8*



COURTESY OF ROSE LICHTENFELS '14

Obama's campaign in Iowa greatly benefited from field workers and volunteers.

## Happy Holidays



## Love News



## MAC of SGA sponsors Holiday Dinner

KRISTINA SMITHY '14  
NEWS EDITOR

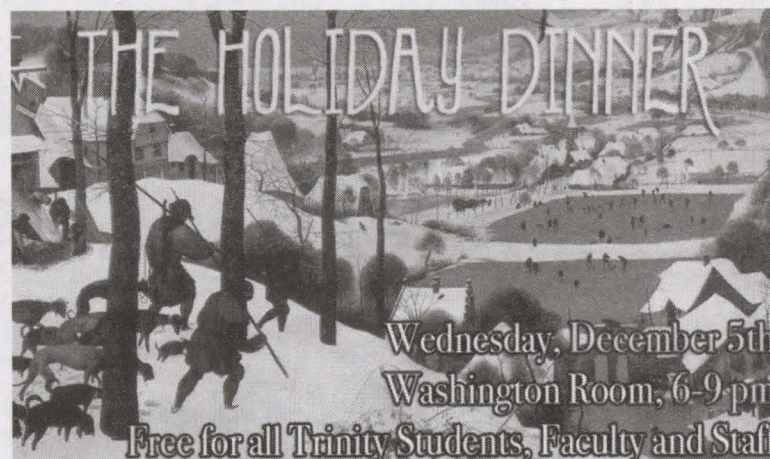
This past Wednesday, Dec. 5, the Multicultural Affairs Council of SGA presented The Holiday Dinner. The dinner ran from 6-9pm in the Washington Room. The food was free for all Trinity students, staff, faculty and family. The food served was representative of all different cultures. "It was a great time and there was lots of enjoyable food from different cultures, from an outsider's perspective [not on SGA] it was delicious, if anything!" Malcolm Evans '13 said.

The organizations represented were the Asian American Students Association, Caribbean Students Association, Encouraging Respect of Sexualities, International House, Imani, Men of Color Alliance, Trinity College's Black Women Organization, The Mill, La

Voz Latina, and the Women and Gender Resource Action Center. Students enjoyed the change of pace from the regular dining. "I thought the dinner was a nice change from the normal dining routine," Serena Elavia '14 said. Morgan Wolf '16 agreed and also

The eggnog was superb and the conversation was plentiful.

-Peter Deraska '14



Wednesday, December 5th  
Washington Room, 6-9 pm  
Free for all Trinity Students, Faculty and Staff

COURTESY OF facebook.com

The Holiday Dinner was presented by the Multicultural Committee of SGA. enjoyed the opportunity to meet new people, "I really enjoyed it. It was great to have some high quality food for a change. It was also a great experience to meet new people." It was a nice showcase of different groups on campus and foods. The groups were pleased with the way it turned out." It was one of the best we had, we were well prepared for it, and we had a great turnout," Tonnay Brown '13 from IMANI said.

The music and the food was really appreciated by students and thought it made a great atmosphere. "It was delicious and the music was cool to have in the background. Tons of people went, it was a great student

body turnout," Malcolm Lloyd '14 said. The large turnout allowed for great conversation and mingling. "The eggnog was superb and the conversation was plentiful," Peter Deraska '14 said. Overall the event was really appreciated by the student body, a lot of great food was provided, along with a great atmosphere with great friends. "The Holiday Dinner was a great success. I want to thank Juan Hernandez, SGA Vice President of the Multicultural Affairs Council for taking the lead and making this event happen. The dinner serves as yet another example of the diversity we have on campus. It was great to hear that people enjoyed the food and had a good time. I hope that MAC will consider doing another similar dinner next semester," SGA President Dobromir Trifonov '13 said.

# Community Service office urges students to join tutoring services

ALIE SCHREIBER '13  
STAFF WRITER

Trinity College and the Office of Community Service offer two different, student-run tutoring services. ConnectiKids (CTKids) and the Kennelly Mentoring Program offer the opportunity to work with students of all different ages.

CTKids is an on-campus tutoring service that is offered to elementary age children. The students from MD Fox Elementary School are brought via bus to Trinity's campus. The program is offered on Mondays for 1st and 2nd graders and on Tuesdays for 4th graders for about an hour each.

The program coordinator this year, Gavin Freeman '14, commented that "The children are always a joy to work with and it is a very rewarding experience. Seeing the children make actual intellectual progress over an academic year because of our help as

tutors is an experience unlike any other."

This past semester there were approximately 25 Trinity students who tutored, but the program needs more tutors for next semester.

The children are always a joy to work with and it is a very rewarding experience. Seeing the children make actual intellectual progress over an academic year because of our help as tutors is an experience unlike any other.

-Gavin Freeman '14

Students can help out on either Mondays or Tuesdays depending on their schedules.

Current CTKids tutor Rachel Reingold '14 said: "I have been a mentor of CTKids mentoring for three semesters now, and find it to be one of the most amazing, constructive, and rewarding pro-

grams. CTKids provides both student and mentor with an opportunity to build a lasting relationship while aiding the student in their academic ventures. This mutually beneficial program creates an open and accepting environment for children to study, learn, and have fun while doing it all."

For more information on CTKids please email [gavin.freeman@trincoll.edu](mailto:gavin.freeman@trincoll.edu). The Kennelly Mentoring

program is in its 2nd year at Kennelly Middle School, but in its 5th year as a tutoring program at Trinity College. The program was originally founded at MD Fox Elementary School, but when MD Fox began its renovation last year the program moved to Kennelly.

Trinity students spend time in 6th grade classrooms throughout the week. 45 students participated in the program this semester. The majority of students would go once a week for about an hour but some students go multiple times a week.

Sarah Gardiner '13 is one of the students who is leading this program this year. When asked about the program she stated that: "Trinity students spend time in 6th grade classrooms throughout the week providing one-on-one attention to students, investing in their success and developing meaningful relationships. They serve as tutors, role models, and ultimately, friends. We host all of our 6th graders on campus at the end of every semester for a celebration with food, games, and crafts. It's always a wonderful time had by all."

If you are interested in more information about the program at Kennelly Middle School please email [TrinityAtKennelly@gmail.com](mailto:TrinityAtKennelly@gmail.com).



COURTESY OF [ctkids.org](http://ctkids.org)

Many times the program brings the students to Trinity for a different experience.



COURTESY OF [ctkids.org](http://ctkids.org)

Trinity students act as students and mentors to elementary students during the week.

## Coming up at Career Development

**MONDAY, January 7th**  
**Get Hired: Insurance & Financial Services Career Fair**  
**Marriott Downtown**  
**3:00-6:00p.m.**

**FRIDAY, January 11th**  
**NYRC Interview Day in New York**

**WEDNESDAY, January 16th- FRIDAY,**  
**January 18th:**  
**Bantam Sophomore Success Program**

## Open semester dedicated to Obama Campaign

continued from page 7

Lichtenfels.

Rose received four course credits for her open semester. Trinity offers an open semester program where students can study away from the college in which they are supervised and evaluated by a member of the Trinity staff. "Had it not been for my advisor, I don't think that this incredible experience would have worked out," said Lichtenfels. During the entire semester, she was in constant contact with her advisor Stefanie Chambers and together they worked to integrate the experience into her academic major at Trinity. Lichtenfels also has to have clear academic projects at the end of her campaign experience to receive credit for her open semester.

To end her presentation, Lichtenfels urged students to do an open semester at Trinity College. Similarly, she urged any students at Trinity College interested in politics to work on a campaign. "I am proud to have been apart of this whole experience. It has been the best grassroots campaign in history as of now. If you are in politics at all, I encourage you to work for a campaign," said Lichtenfels. To learn more about open semesters at Trinity College, refer to the Trinity College Handbook.

reminding Iowans to vote and unpacking a plan with them." I know it sounds crazy but we would actually ask people if they knew where their polling site was and asked how they were getting there. It is statistically proven to get people to vote," said Lichtenfels. Although GOTV was very successful, Lichtenfels and her fellow canvassers were confident that they were going to win Iowa. "Going into election day, I was already confident that we were going to win," said Lichtenfels. In this past election, the state of Iowa topped the 2008 votes by 43,000 and going into Election Day, Iowa had already received 137,355 votes due to early voting prior to the election. "There was an increase in turnout by 20.3 percent in Iowa in this past election," said Lichtenfels. On election night, Lichtenfels felt pride in her country as well as the candidate that she had just spent the last few months endorsing. She stated that the most amazing part of winning for her office was being recognized by Obama for all their hard work. "It was important to work for a candidate who acknowledged and appreciated the work that we did," said

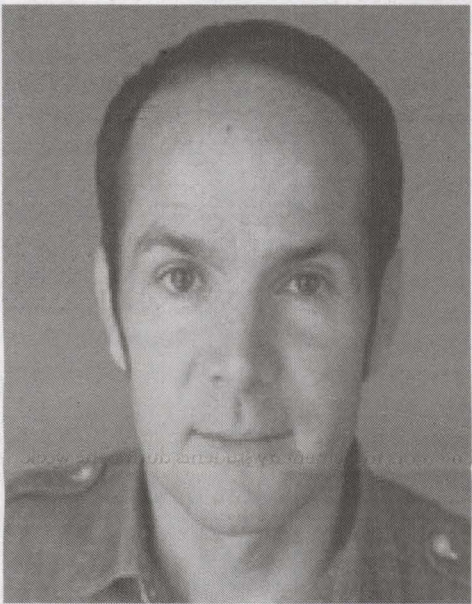
# FEATURES

The Trinity Tripod

## At Trinity and around the world: Writing Prof. Ciaran Berry

SERENA ELAVIA '14  
FEATURES EDITOR

"Just keep writing" is the theme of Professor Ciaran Berry's life. In early November, Berry, who is the director of the creative writing program at Trinity and an assistant professor of English, won the prestigious Whiting Writer's Award for poetry. Since 1985, the award has been given out annually to those whose writing shows great promise. The selection process is top secret; even Berry has no idea who nominated him and his work, and randomly received a call one day in September notifying him of the win. Each year, ten writers in the early stages of their careers are given the award in the fields of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and playwrights. Berry was one of two poets to receive the award. As well, the award comes with a non-restrictive \$50,000 stipend that recipients can use to further their careers as



COURTESY OF trincoll.edu

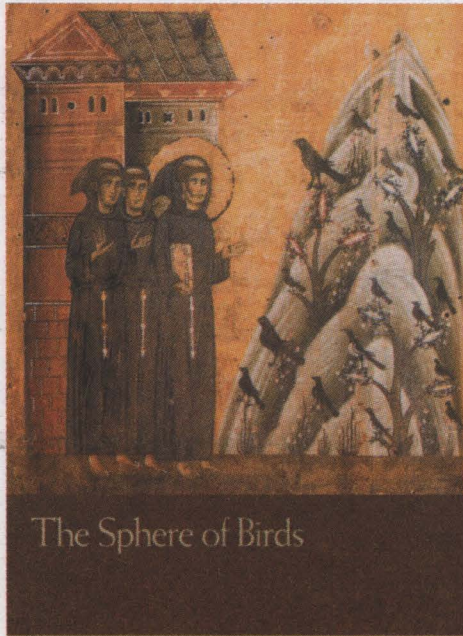
Professor Ciaran Berry is quickly gaining literary recognition.

writers. According to Berry, his wife has some ideas for what they can do with the stipend, including becoming home owners, as long as Berry can install a large writing room.

After being notified of the award, Berry attended the awards ceremony on October 23 at the New York Times Center in New York City. He says that winning this award is a very "nice feeling," and that it is honorable to have his name on the winners list with so many other talented poets and writers. Receiving the Whiting award in the early stages of his career serves as an encouraging force, according to Berry.

A native of Ireland, Berry did his undergraduate work at the University of Ulster, and after graduating, moved back home to work on a novel that he claims was "horrible." He would write for three hours in the morning, take a walk, and then write for three more hours in the evening. When it was clear that the novel was not going well, Berry realized that poetry was a better outlet for him. "I would have an entire poem, or the workings of one, completely thought out during my walk," he says about how he eventually realized that his true potential was in poetry. For Berry, writing poetry came naturally to him. Loving poetry from an early age, Berry says that he liked the way that it sounded and he was the only student in class who would get excited when the teacher would assign poetry homework. Like all writers, Berry pulls his inspiration from a variety of sources including lines from other poetry and newspaper clippings, all of which he keeps in large notebooks. His research is neither done in a scholarly nor calculated way, but rather he explores whatever he finds interesting and tries to learn more

about what intrigues him. He says that a budding writer will be successful if they "read what inspires them and work at their craft every day." Those who want to be successful have to practice writing like they are learning to develop a new muscle, and must learn to just put "one word after the other." If you practice at it, the rest will all fall into place. Berry says that the best writers write for the love of the art, and that writers shouldn't write with the intention of creating a best-seller. "Whatever you write will find its place in the world," says Berry.



COURTESY OF bibliovault.org

"The Sphere of Birds" was Berry's first published work of poetry.

Before Berry arrived at Trinity in 2009, he received his Masters of Fine Arts at New York University and then taught expository writing at various institutions. During this time, he published a book called "The Sphere of Birds" and applied for creative writing teaching positions, which is how he landed at Trinity.

At Trinity, Berry teaches poetry in a way that demystifies many of the misconceptions about poetry. He says that poetry is not meant to be a sphinx-like riddle, or language that doesn't make any sense, but instead is a way of explaining the world. To help his students realize this, he tries to discuss poems in class that are relatable and have concrete, decipherable details, and likes to take apart poems by syntax, lines and metaphors. Having small, intimate classes at Trinity allows him to teach poetry in this manner, Berry says. On why he loves teaching here, Berry says "Trinity has a lot of interesting students and it is fascinating to watch them discover something within themselves, catch fire with it and develop it into a passion." Poetry is more important than most people think, as Berry says that the U.S. wouldn't be what it is today without poets like Walt Whitman who shaped the national identity and show present day readers what it was like to be a human at a given point in history. For those who think that writing is outdated, Berry begs to differ and says that there may be more writing being done now than ever. With the explosion of social media and blogs, writing is everywhere and constantly surrounds us; despite the advances in radio and television, writing may be at its strongest point ever. With so much writing out there, though, Berry says that people still need to pick out what is good writing.

At Trinity, Berry teaches Intro to Creative Writing, Advanced Creative Writing, and a senior workshop on poetry. Currently, he is on leave, working on his second book, and will return to Trinity in the spring.

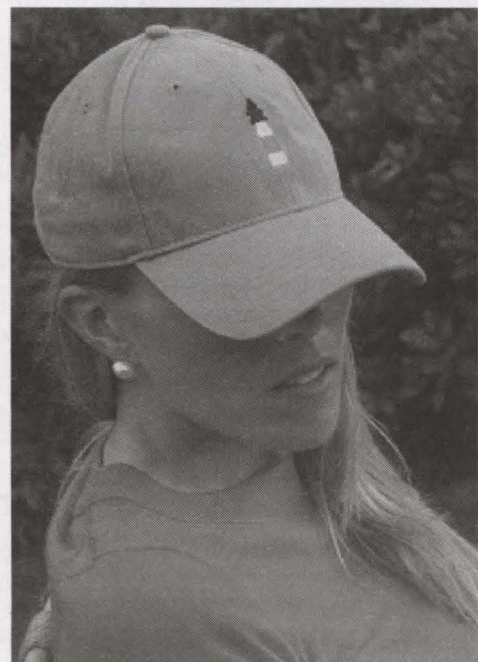


ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF HANNAH MALENFANT '13

# Trendy Trinity: Harding-Lane attire sold by Henry Howard '15

continued from page one

back, the hats are hard to miss! Harding-Lane was started in 2009 by a brother and sister duo who always dreamed of working together. Growing up in Massachusetts, both Sarah and Steve Gifford became familiar with the New England style. They also realized how difficult it was to find the perfect fitting baseball cap that didn't have brand names or team logos on it. Today, the company is based out of Dedham, Massachusetts. While they now offer many different needlepoint hats, they started with just a few designs: the striped bass, the seagull,



COURTESY OF harding-lane.com

Harding-Lane attire is available online and at many retailers.

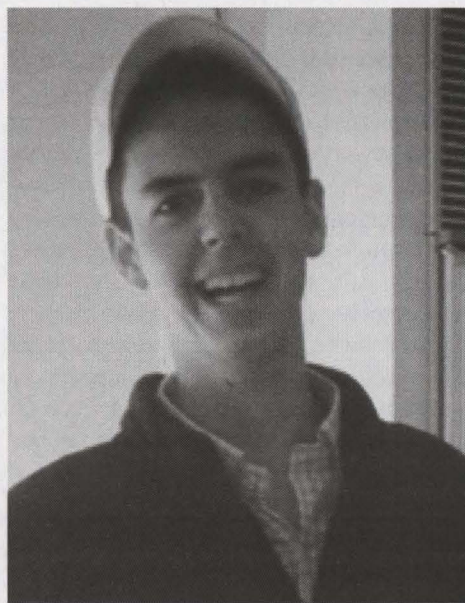
the crab, and the duck.

Howard purchased a few of his own Harding-Lane hats before he began working for the siblings. After wearing his hats at Trinity, he received many compliments and realized how well sales would be on our campus. While the hats usually retail at \$30, Henry sells them at a reduced price for only \$20. He also makes 20-percent commission on all sales, and has made a fair amount of money this fall. When asked about his sales, he said "Trinity has the best clientele for Harding-Lane. Sales have been incredible, much better than Steve, Sarah, or I even thought when I brought the hats to campus in September."

This past fall, Howard has sold the hats at school events where he thinks there will be a huge student turnout. He had particular success at homecoming and parent's weekend, and hopes to sell the hats on the quad during spring weekend as well. Howard uses social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter to advertise and reach out to the Trinity community. Recently, he added the convenience of accepting all credit and debit cards which has helped sales as well.

In the future, Harding-Lane hopes to expand even more, particularly in the South, both in stores and on college campuses. They also plan on releasing more designs as the seasons come. In the near future, be sure to look out for the "skier hat," which should come out sometime this winter. Later down the road,

will hopefully bring in other accessories as well. Both Sarah and Steve look forward to expanding their com



COURTESY OF Henry Howard '15

Henry Howard began selling Harding-Lane apparel this year.

pany. For Howard, working for Harding-Lane has been extremely useful. He has gained important entrepreneurial and advertising skills. He looks forward to continued partnership with Harding-Lane, and enjoys seeing the company grow and being part of a great idea launch. Howard knows he's doing his job as the Harding-Lane hats are becoming more and more frequent sightings on campus.

Howard is also planning on creating a custom Trinity hat exclusively for our school. He imagines a big needlepoint "T" on the front. He is currently

in the process of working through the logistics and assessing the interest level before committing to such a large order. Keep an eye out during the Spring semester for this unique design!

Harding-Lane hats can be purchased at [www.harding-lane.com](http://www.harding-lane.com), in various stores in New England, and on several college campuses. If you're interested in buying from Howard, you can find him on Facebook or via cell (781)752-8895. He has a great selection of hats in stock from now until December 17. In addition, he is running a promotion of three hats for \$50, which is an incredible deal. Whether you're looking for a holiday present for a parent, sibling, significant other, or best friend, a Harding-Lane hat is the perfect choice!



COURTESY OF harding-lane.com

Harding-Lane has been featured in many magazines and papers.

## Food Dudes: Authentic Mexican food at El Sarape on Broad St.

AESHA SHAH '14 and BRITTANY VIOLA '14  
STAFF WRITERS

Most Trinity students that like Mexican know about the cute, family-run restaurant, El Sarape, located just off campus on Broad Street. It's pretty much the definition of a "hole in the wall" restaurant tucked in a little corner with a laundromat next to it. The interior of the restaurant is very small, cozy and inviting. When you first walk in, you'll see all kinds of candy, snacks, and homemade desserts inside a glass case. The walls are painted bright orange, specials written in chalk in Spanish hang on the walls, as do several sombreros in the back. The atmosphere is very casual.

The menu offers a wide variety of traditional and authentic Mexican food. This is not Chipotle, guys. The restaurant has open seating so we decided to get a booth by the window. Once we sat down, the friendly wait-

ress brought over tortilla chips with three different types of salsa. Be sure to try all three; our favorite was the green salsa. We decided to start with the Nachos Supreme with chicken and lettuce. Aesha ordered a burrito con pollo (chicken) with beans and rice for her dinner, while Brittany ordered the Fajitas de carne asada (steak). The menu is written in Spanish but the descriptions are in English making it easy to read.

The Nachos Supreme came out stacked with chicken, beans, sour cream, cheese tomatoes, and jalapenos! The tortilla chips are

crispy, and the ingredients are always fresh and delicious. The addition of lettuce to the appetizer adds to its tastiness. The nachos are a definite must-order at El Sarape. We've made sure to get them every time we've come. Brittany's steak fajitas arrived at the table in a sizzling dish of tender, juicy steak, onions, and peppers. Homemade tortillas were brought out separately. The dish also comes served with rice, beans, and guacamole. The portions are very large for most items on the menu. Aesha's chicken burrito was humongous! The burrito was filled with juicy, shredded chicken, crisp let-

tuce, tomatoes, and cheese. It was topped with sour cream and guacamole. El Sarape is perfect for those with big appetites. The leftovers are also great to have in your fridge after a late night out.

El Sarape offers an assortment of authentic Mexican dishes including quesadillas, tacos, seafood dishes, sopes, gorditas, taquitos, tostadas, tamales, enchiladas, and much more. They serve breakfast Monday - Saturday from 10am to 1pm and from 9am to 1pm on Sundays. Their breakfast menu includes many egg dishes accompanied with different meats, vegetables, and beans. They have a variety of drinks, non-alcoholic and alcoholic such as Mexican beer, flavored waters, Mexican sodas, and horchata. The restaurant doubles as a bakery, selling homemade breads and pastries. We heard that the tres leches cake is very rich and indulgent. We would've ordered it for dessert if we weren't so full after dinner!



COURTESY OF AESHA SHAH '14

El Sarape specializes in serving traditionally-made Mexican food.



COURTESY OF AESHA SHAH '14

The interior of El Sarape is casual, but distinctly Mexican with sombreros hanging on the wall and specials written in Spanish.



COURTESY OF AESHA SHAH '14

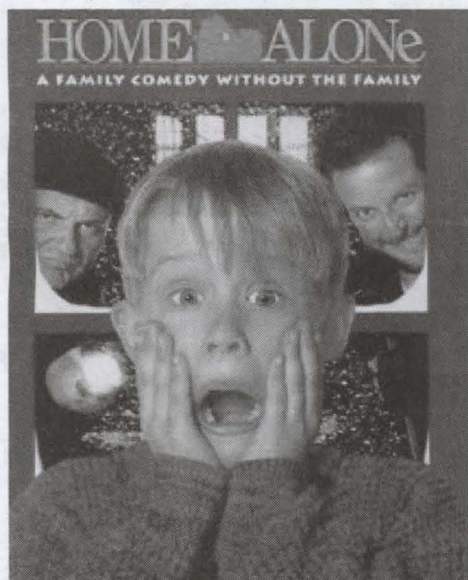
The steak fajitas come with rice, beans, guacamole and tortillas.

# Through the Grapevine: Christmas movies to watch over break

URSULA PETERSEN '15  
STAFF WRITER

As we go into finals week, it's easy to lose your head. As you pour over old notes, readings, essays, and even flashcards with a coffee in hand, keep in mind one thing to get you through these next few weeks: December 25 is coming up. That's right, this is part two, or rather, a follow up to last week's article, which featured the best Christmas albums. But even better, this week, I'll be focusing on the best Christmas movies. So when finals are over, settle on the couch at home, turn down the lights, and enjoy some of the following holiday films.

"Home Alone" (1990): If you haven't seen this, you've been doing Christmas wrong. One of the most recognized Christmas films of all time, this 90s classic stars child superstar Macaulay Culkin. Arguably, (since Culkin hasn't been in anything in...years, really) this is his most popular film. The movie focuses on young Kevin (Culkin), who's accidentally left behind when his family goes off on vacation, leaving him 'Home Alone.' Culkin gets into various hijinx, including defending his home against a pair of idiotic burglars. The best moment of the film is when Kevin scares off a pizza delivery man, and then delivers the famous line, "Keep the change, ya filthy animal."



COURTESY OF imdb.com

'Home Alone' is a classic holiday movie starring young Culkin.

"A Christmas Story" (1983): Possibly the kookiest Christmas movie of all time, based on the book "In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash", is told from the perspective of nine-year old boy named Ralphie (Peter Billingsley). The story takes place in the late 30s/early 40s, back in the good old days, where kids were still stupid enough to stick their tongues to cold metal poles (who even does that?) We follow the conquest of young Ralph, focused on his Christmas greed, all directed at the glorified Red Rider BB Gun, much to the chagrin and disapproval of his elders, who often tell him "You'll shoot your eye out!" Along the way to Christmas day, viewers get to partake in witnessing Ralphie's altercation with the local bully, his hilariously disappointing interaction with a mall Santa, and Ralphie dropping the F-bomb during the family's Christmas Tree shopping excursion. The film has been a favorite of mine since childhood, since I, along with every other kid in the world, always knew there would be that one present your parents insisted you couldn't have...but then ended up getting you anyway.

"Elf" (2003): I watch this movie year round. Not even kidding, I think the last time I watched this was in July. I just can't resist the cheer of Buddy the Elf, played by the riotous Will Ferrell. As the title might suggest, Ferrell plays an elf, or at least, that's what his character believes. Ferrell plays Buddy, an orphan adopted by a North Pole elf, who finds out that, at age 30-something, he's actually a human. The film follows Buddy's journey to New York City, where he attempts to connect with his biological father, who's the epitome of a scrooge, and just happens to be on the naughty list. The cast is noteworthy, featuring Mary Steenburgen, who played Ferrell's mother in "Step Brothers," and a blonde Zooey Deschanel. Perhaps notable of all, however, is a cameo by Peter Billingsley (Ralphie from "A Christmas Story"), who plays a gossiping, busy body elf at the North Pole.

"Love, Actually" (2003): This is yet another Christmas movie I could watch year round...but that might just be because I love Alan Rickman so much. Yes, it's true, Professor Snape was in a Christmas movie. Set in England, this film follows the love lives of various London inhabitants in the five weeks leading up to Christmas. The film features other Harry Potter actors, Bill Nighy and Emma Thompson, as well as various other English actors: Colin Firth, Hugh Grant, Liam Neeson, Keira Knightley, and Rowan Atkinson. The film explores everything from first love, to platonic love, to love for a spouse, and even heartbreak. The best part of the film doesn't even happen to be the declarations of love, but rather, the performance of "All I Want For Christmas," performed by ten-year old Olivia Olson, a breathtaking rendition that's incredible for anyone of any age.



THE ULTIMATE ROMANTIC COMEDY

loveactually

COURTESY OF imdb.com

It's a strange experience watching Professor Snape in a rom-com.

"It's a Wonderful Life" (1946): I've been forced to watch "It's a Wonderful Life" every single year for as long as I can remember. When I was younger, its meaning was lost on me, and I rolled my eyes in anticipation for the moment we could change the channel to a Christmas special or another movie. But as I grew older, and finally understood the real meaning of Christmas (hint: it's not presents), I found that Jimmy Stewart's character of George Bailey won me over and earned "It's a Wonderful Life" the title of my favorite Christmas movie of all time. The story

is all about George Bailey, a man who would do anything for anyone and everyone, even going as far as to sacrifice his college education, a trip to Europe, and financial opportunities that would increase his own personal wealth. Bailey struggles with his life decisions one Christmas, going so far as to consider suicide, until his guardian angel shows up to show him how important he truly is, and how his life has touched so many around him. It's in this parallel universe that George Bailey realizes how much he has loved and been loved, and what's really important in life. If you decide to watch this, be sure to keep a box of tissues by your side, this is one of the only movies I can honestly say has ever made me cry.

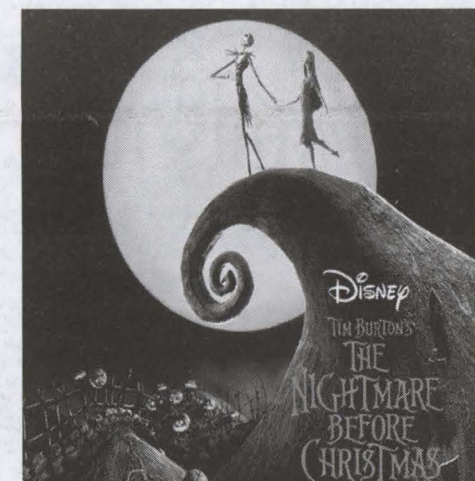
Honorable Mentions:

"The Grinch Who Stole Christmas" (2000): Featuring comedian Jim Carrey and pre-Gossip Girl/pre-raccoon eyes Taylor Momsen

"The Polar Express" (2004): If only we could all take a train to the North Pole... Starring Tom Hanks and Josh Hutcherson

"The Nightmare Before Christmas" (1993): Another one of Tim Burton's creepy animation-style movies, but with a holiday twist

"National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" (1989): Featuring Chevy Chase from SNL and 'Community', this hilarious Christmas movie will have you in stitches at the end.



COURTESY OF imdb.com

The Nightmare Before Christmas is both eerie and charming.

## Michael Stein presents on equal rights for the disabled

HANNAH HOLLAND '15  
STAFF WRITER

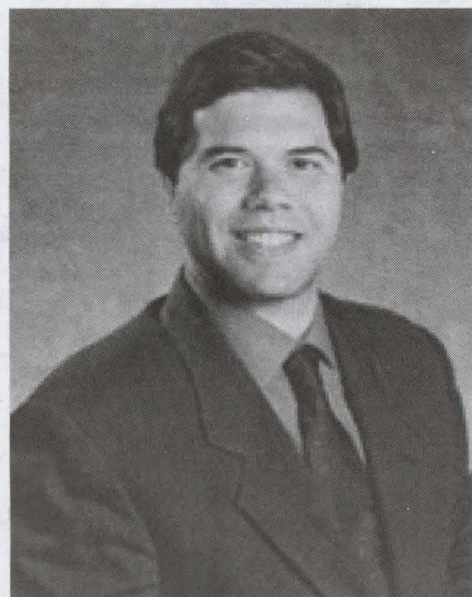
Despite the staggering numbers of people living with disabilities, 20-percent of all people below the poverty line and 1/3 of all children enrolled in schooling systems, there is a flagrant absence of any United Nations treaty expressly defending these people.

To inaugurate Human Rights Week, the co-founder and executive director at Harvard Law School Project on Disability, Michael Stein, shared his experiences on the United Nations General Assembly fighting to adopt a treaty promoting the fair and equal treatment of the disabled population.

The main goal, Stein argued, is to make those 600 million people living with disabilities visible to the rest of the world. He argued that the human rights umbrella of protection can, ultimately, impact a singular person.

As the UN Convention progressed, in December of 2006, disparities between the opinions of the participating UN delegates became evident. The European Union argued for a nondiscrimination treaty while the United

States still considered the issue of the humane treatment of those disabled to



COURTESY OF law.harvard.edu

Stein has lead the effort on achieving great disability rights.

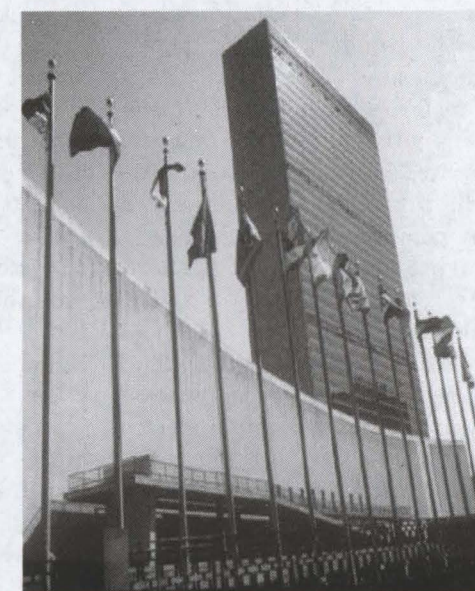
be a concern on a national level. Although the United States did not ultimately block the treaty, they refused to disclose any information they had collected through their enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act of the 1990s. Italy came fully equipped with its own mock

treaty. To combat the voluminous catalogue of differing opinions and ideas, the UN made history and targeted non-Government Organizations, or NGOs, to participate in the discussion. In other words, those suffering from disabilities were given the opportunity to both share and explain their struggles to the delegates. 85 participants registered the first day, by the last day, 850 people had come to share their story. Ironically, the UN came fully equipped with merely two handicap accessible bathrooms. The overwhelming consensus from each story, Stein explained, was a desire to be seen. Thus came about the unofficial slogan of the convention, "nothing about is without us."

The treaty argued for a world that catered to the handicapped community, not the fixing of disabled people, people that are not even broken to begin with. The treaty largely functions as a social model. There are sections included to protect sexual rights, personal rights and, among other things, a fundamentalist approach to decision making. Then in March of 2007, the treaty gained the most signatures of any UN treaty drafted to

date.

Twenty years ago Stein, who is bound to a wheelchair, lived in a world that had no bus lifts, no handicapped restrooms and no ramps. It is the mundane, it is the buses and the bathrooms, the two story buildings and the visibility that make the different for those living with a disability. With this treaty, they will be visible.



COURTESY OF wikipedia.org

The United Nations has considered disability rights recently.

## Cinestudio: “Perks of Being a Wallflower” stays true to the novel

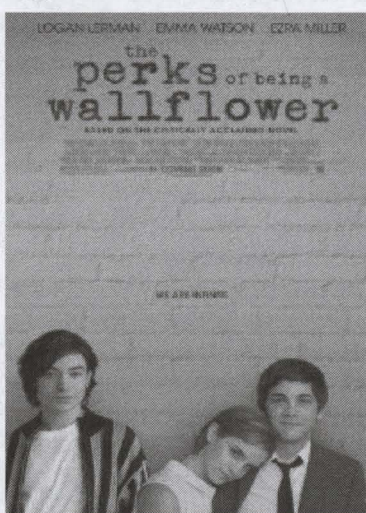
ZACHARY HAINES '14  
STAFF WRITER

This year finally saw the big-screen adaptation of Stephen Chbosky's famous young adult novel “The Perks of Being a Wallflower.” The story follows Charlie (Logan Lerman), a shy, awkward teenager feeling displaced and confused by the pressures of life as a freshman in high school. Along the way he gathers a rather motley collection of friends: Patrick (Ezra Miller), the resident queen; Mary Elizabeth (Mae Whitman) a punky wannabe activist; and, most importantly, the lovely Sam, played by the ever-stunning Emma Watson in her first major on-screen role since Hermione Granger (unless, of course, you count her handful of lines in last year's “My Week with Marilyn”).

Their experiences run the gamut of teenage angst – sex and sexuality, drugs and alcohol, dating and friendship, and those occasional, effervescent moments Chbosky so famously dubbed, “feeling infinite.” All of this is set against the dark backdrop of the secrets of Charlie's past: there is mention

of a close friend's death, as well as several hints about a rather complicated relationship with his mysterious Aunt Helen (Melanie Lynskey makes a cameo appearance). I won't go into the ins and outs of the plot and I certainly won't spoil the film for those of you who didn't already worship the book; however, I will say that the movie presents a somewhat tamer version of the story. Whereas Chbosky's novel pushed the boundaries of what is appropriate for a young teen to read about, the film adaptation appeals to a wider audience. The film even comes packaged up with a feel-good soundtrack and vibe that are in stark contrast to the jagged awkwardness of the novel.

Interestingly enough, unlike most novel-to-film adaptations, Chbosky took over just about every facet of creative control in the making of the film. Not only did he write the screenplay, adapted from his own novel, but he also directed and executive produced. Clearly, this story is so near and dear to Chbosky's heart that he couldn't dream of relinquishing control to anyone else. It is easy to see why, too—“Perks” is so renowned for its



COURTESY OF imdb.com  
The film's success is due to its young cast.

intimate, personal, relatable nature, I can imagine that a large portion was based on the real experiences of Chbosky and his friends growing up—though that is only conjecture. Being that the author of the book actually made the movie, one can't really say that the movie wasn't faithful to its source; however, there are differences between the two.

As previously mentioned, the movie struck me as having been “cleaned up” a bit. I wondered if Chbosky, having lived with one incarnation of “Perks” for so long, decided that it was time for a change of scene. He

gave the film a pop quality that, at least when I was growing up and passing “Perks” around amongst all my friends, the book was not known to have. Perhaps that is Chbosky's way of indicating that the ideas embodied in “Perks”—figuring out who you are as you mature and surpassing the traumas of the past—apply to everyone, and can still wield the same potency in many different forms. Whether you're a newcomer or old fan, I think you'll be pleased with the life the story has taken.

Part of the film's success is due to its promising young cast. Logan Lerman as Charlie has its kinks to work out: it was evident that there was some difficulty on the part of both the actor and director to reconcile the character of Charlie on screen. Though it's understandable—I imagine trying to render such appealing awkwardness in a commercial film would be like trying to assign a young actor to effectively portray Holden Caulfield on screen (an endeavor I think we should all wholeheartedly resist undertaking!). However, I for one am excited to see what else Lerman has to offer. The

same goes for Ezra Miller, who absolutely won me over in last year's “We Need to Talk About Kevin”—I mean, only someone with real acting chops could hold their own alongside Tilda Swinton the way he did. Comparatively, Miller went for much lighter fare with “Perks,” but I have no doubt we'll all be seeing amazing (and amazingly devastating!) things from him in the future. Lastly, who could forget Emma Watson—I can only imagine how badly she must want to rid herself of Hermione Granger forever and ever. She is definitely on the right track: she accessed a totally different character—an averagely smart, wayward, sexually uninhibited (non-magical) American teen—with surprising grace. Is she the next Naomi Watts, who can say? But the rest of her career is laid out at her feet and I can only hope she continues to make as suitable decisions as this one.

Altogether, with Chbosky's and the force of some of the most promising acting talents-on-the-rise, “Perks of Being Wallflower” is a complete attempt at making screen magic out of one of young America's most beloved novels.

## The Mill's final performance showcases a variety of student artists

ROSEMARY PERALTA '13  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For the final concert of the semester, the Mill was looking to bring infectious, feel good music right before the woes of finals week commenced. The festivities were kicked off by a couple of Trinity's own acts, duo Cam & Leah and DJ Metasine. The Mill gladly provided a space for these students to flaunt their impressive talents; Trinity may be small but it has plenty of big music to share.

DJ Metasine, also known as junior Connor Proctor, opened up featuring a variety of catchy electro remixes along with his own innovative live sets, galvanizing quite the buzzing dance party amongst the crowd. “[I am] obsessed with sounds and the power they have over us,” says Proctor, “I had a blast performing with the bands and am excited for future shows there.” His work is heavily influenced by popular acts such as Pretty Lights and Michael Menert. As an upcoming artist, Metasine has been establishing his work on his Soundcloud and Facebook pages, putting forth a unique blend of electro music, mellow dubstep vibes and synthesizer lines that are ideal for both easy listening and live parties. He looks forward to dedicating more time to his music after graduating

from Trinity.

With a collaboration dating back to freshman year, the hip-hop duo Cam & Leah brought a strong following out to the Mill, all excited to hear their more recent tracks. Leah's smooth vocals as a backdrop to Cam's Brooklyn rapping style resulted in a fun, interactive performance. The two have significantly refined their sound, progressing from a younger fun-loving sound seen in tracks such as “Trinity Girls,” to more profound lyrics with a grown up twist. Aside from their collaborative tracks, Cam and Leah spend serious time working on their individual work.

The student acts did an amazing job of setting up the ambiance for bands Ghost Beach and Fort Lean. The Mill aims to host more student shows during the spring and to attract student artists to use their facilities, such as the fully equipped recording studio. For those looking to get serious about becoming an artist, the Mill provides ample opportunities for producing mixtapes, EP albums, and establishing a presence on campus as well as among the other NESCACs.

For their third appearance at the Mill, Fort Lean was sure not to disappoint, performing tracks off of their recently released EP *Change Your Name* along with older hits. This quirky quintet from

Brooklyn features Wesleyan graduates—frontman Keenan Mitchell, bassist Jake Aron, drummer Sam Ubl, guitarist



COURTESY OF Rosemary Peralta '13  
Trinity's DJ Metasine spins his own songs.

Zach Fried, and keyboardist Will Runge. Fort Lean has received extensive praise from a variety of online music blogs, magazines, and newspapers, proving themselves to be a strong revival of the influential rock music seen in the sixties and seventies. Although the band describes Fort Lean as a “place you can go [where] the weather is perfect all the time,” their music projects “very nostalgic sort of references to the past which happen to be a lot of sixties references just in terms of harmonic progression.”

“I want people to focus more on the darker elements of our songs,” says Aron during an interview with the

Brightest Young Things blog. Despite the lyrical darkness they aim for, fans prefer the comically ambiguous term “jangly” to describe the feel of Fort Lean's music; it suggests a jovial, beachy California vibe. Back in 2011, the *New York Times* commended Fort Lean for their shows all across the city, “this is a big band playing small rooms that, especially compared with many of the acts performing this week feels comically out of place.” Strongly inspired by this level of praise, Fort Lean hit the studio with a more serious attitude, spending more time writing the songs and improving their overall sound. *Change Your Name* was produced at the Manhattan Germano Studios by Chairlift's Patrick Wimberly and mixed by the renowned Michael Brauer who has worked with the likes of the Rolling Stones and Bob Dylan. MTV HIVE raves about the EP, admiring their “big rock sound with intricacies and quirky touches like arena rock vocals and handclaps.” The frontman Mitchell comments “we're a rock band that makes you feel good and real weird...our strategy is to make rock music we'd want to listen to and play it the best we can.” Fort Lean is on fast track to fame attracting very positive reviews from influential music reviews. The *New York Times* writes,

“Three or four decades ago, Fort Lean would have been a mainstream success spawning emulators. Nowadays it's a one of one, not that anyone should bother trying to compete.”

To close off the festivities, the “tropical grit pop band” Ghost Beach brought on feel good beats. Also hailing from Brooklyn, the duo has recently released their EP *Modern Tongues*, fully armed with retro synthesizer beats and tropical-pop, with a grungy twist. Reviews of the work have also been positive, likening the vocals to that of early Passion Pit and admiring their memorable lyrics. The duo frequently shares free downloads on their website as they work on their full length release projected to be out later this year. Both Fort Lean and Ghost Beach are in important points of their careers, excited to continue putting forth eclectic, innovative music.

The evening of the final fall concert was a wonderful combination of student acts and amazing new artists on the scene; it was exciting to see Fort Lean playing with Metasine. The Mill urges student acts to become a part of their shows, use the facilities, and put forth the kind of music performed this past weekend.

Many thanks to Cam & Leah, Metasine, Trinity Hillel, and all of the Mill supporters who came out!

# Students put on successful adaptation of Oscar Wilde's classic

continued from page one

Importance of Being Earnest" follows the protagonist Jack Worthing in his attempts to live a double-life. In keeping with his embodiment of two personas, he uses the name Jack in his life in the country, and the name Ernest in his life in the city. Jack, played by Field, wore a trim black dress suit and top hat, creating a major contrast to Algie, played by Stiller, who dressed in a similar Victorian-era black suit, but topped it off with a colorful silk bowtie. The authentic costumes of the actors also provided a creative contrast to the lack of scenery in the performance lab, which only contained four chairs, two tables, and various props such as teacups and cucumber sandwiches.

In the play, Oscar Wilde's clever witticisms are conveyed through every character's actions and phrases, in which a satirical view of marriage is seen with a cynical and critical eye. In the first scene of the play, Algie displays an opinion about marriage while talking to Jack when he says, "...if you ever get married, which seems to me extremely problematic, you will be very glad to know Bunbury. A man who marries without knowing Bunbury has a very tedious time of it." Using the imaginary person of Bunbury as a means of escape, Algie tells Jack how every husband needs a regular respite from his marriage. The fact that he exposes this taboo infidelity in such candid terms gives the scene a measure of humor, while also illustrating the natural cynicism that Oscar Wilde sees in relation to marriage.

Stiller portrayed the character of



COURTESY OF DAVID FIELD

Trinity students professionally and hilariously portrayed the tongue-in-cheek tone of writer Oscar Wilde.

Algie with humorous gestures and extravagant hand flourishes that perfectly reflected Algie's carefree and comical personality. The actor managed to reveal Algie's cynical and pessimistic view of marriage with short phrases such as, "Divorces are made in Heaven" and "If ever I get married, I'll certainly try to forget the fact," encouraging the lively Trinity audience in the performance lab to laugh continuously. Algernon makes no effort to hide the fact that he does not like the idea of marriage, which ultimately changes later in the play when he meets Jack's

ward, Cecily. But before his introduction to Cecily, Algernon treats marriage with humorous disdain and mockery, a complete contradiction to Jack's almost reverent view of a marriage.

The play also features ironic jokes about death throughout the course of the plot. In Lady Bracknell's first appearance onstage, she talks about death in relation to her friend Lady Harbury, saying, "I hadn't been there since her poor husband's death. I never saw a woman so altered; she looks quite twenty years younger." Instead of

giving sympathy and condolences in regard to a friend's death, Lady Bracknell invokes humor in describing how Harbury's death affected his wife, Lady Harbury. Although no major characters die in the storyline, the death of outside characters help Oscar Wilde to include his own witty aphorisms about life. Lady Bracknell later treats death as an inconvenience that she cannot be bothered with, which is seen in her conversation with Algernon about his imaginary friend Bunbury as she says, "I think it is high time that Mr. Bunbury made up his mind whether he was going to live or to die. This shilly-shallying with the question is absurd." Lady Bracknell acts as if death is something that a person actually has control over, giving her an air of cruel ignorance and indifference. Her casual treatment of the grave situation of death gives the play a new layer of dark humor, while also connecting to Oscar Wilde's inherent idea of life being a work of art.

Oscar Wilde's invention of words such as "shilly-shallying," and his inclusion of satirical and witty aphorisms that give the play a comedic air, were creatively intertwined with the student directors' own creative license. The two directors inserted humorous musical clips to enhance the satirical nature of the romance between Jack and Lady Bracknell's daughter, Gwendolen. Overall, the student directors created a unique and engaging version of "The Importance of Being Earnest," in which the student actors professionally and hilariously portrayed the tongue-in-cheek tone of Oscar Wilde's own voice.

## Trinity's LaMaMa program wows in their "Search for Home"

POOJA SAVANSUKHA '15  
STAFF WRITER

On Friday, Dec. 7, the Trinity LaMaMa theater and dance company presented an ensemble performance piece showcasing the collaborative work of Danielle Conley '14, Henry Moorhead '14, Malcom Moon '15, Marisa Tornello '15, and Hannah Postman of the Oberlin class of 2015. The showcase was a culmination of skills the students acquired in the Fall 2012 Trinity/La MaMa Performing Arts Semester in New York City.

"Searching for Home" explored themes of displacement, migration and self-identification, from the perspectives of historic and contemporary personas. The cast took on the roles of an Underground Railroad runner, a Revolutionary-era immigrant, a 21st century American-born middle-schooler, and two immigrants – one a young German girl, the other an Italian mother – who come to America through Ellis Island.

By narrating their individual experiences through monologues eloquently weaved together into one performance, the performers did an excellent job in engaging the audience with their promising acts. Through their presentation of the original material the audience was drawn in to the thoughts and dilemmas of every persona. It was amazing how the performance made it simple for one to relate with types of identities that one doesn't come by on a daily basis, simply because of the universality of the overarching themes.

The show began with the cast members walking around stage to the sound of their own recorded voices, with each



COURTESY OF MALCOLM MOON '15

Tornello '15, Conley '14, and Moorhead '14 teamed up with Moon '15 and Postman to create a creative piece.

of them listing various first and last names. Through the varying pace of the background sound, the characters explored relations with space and movement. Their movements also explored their relationships with one another, hinting at the idea of self-identification in that they were attempting to find their own physical space, balanced in relation to others. Even though the show consisted of a sequence of monologues and the characters did not have any direct interaction, their collaborative movements served to help the audience to easily conceive the unity of their pieces.

The show, for the most part, consisted of every character alternating their moments on stage. While maintaining their individual identities, the alternating monologues allowed the audience to see the importance of identity, freedom, family and location in the "search for home." The different perspectives reinforced the universality of the ideas. In no way did the acts come across as disjointed or awkward, as every character

very fluidly took away from the thoughts that the audience had been left with earlier. In a way, the acts were perfectly woven in together.

Moon explained, "We all worked hard to not only present a message about our themes but to create an interdisciplinary piece." This was seen in the way that every monologue consisted of more than a mere delivery of script. The actors used minimal props, but their movements on stage and the use of space played a crucial role in making the performance effective. Furthermore, about midway through the performance, the characters came together on stage, and sang an ensemble that reinforced their collaboration even through individual acts, and served to relieve the audience from the extremes of emotions that had been evoked. That being stated, while great deals of the ideas expressed were melancholic, the script and the performances did a good job to balance the acts to keep them from being too overwhelming. There was subtle humor,

and the action and the songs sung by actors were crucial in maintaining an ideal balance.

At the end of the performance, not only was the audience well acquainted with the various personas, but the audience was also empathetic. The title of the performance was suggestive of more than just the physical 'home,' a sense of comfort. Home comes across as not just a place but a state of mind. It is easy to relate to such themes from one's own experiences, and the company did a great job in going a step further and exploring the idea through a multitude of cultures, as well as through time. Ideas of heritage, sense of acceptance, as well of the feeling of comfort were among some of the ideas effectively portrayed.

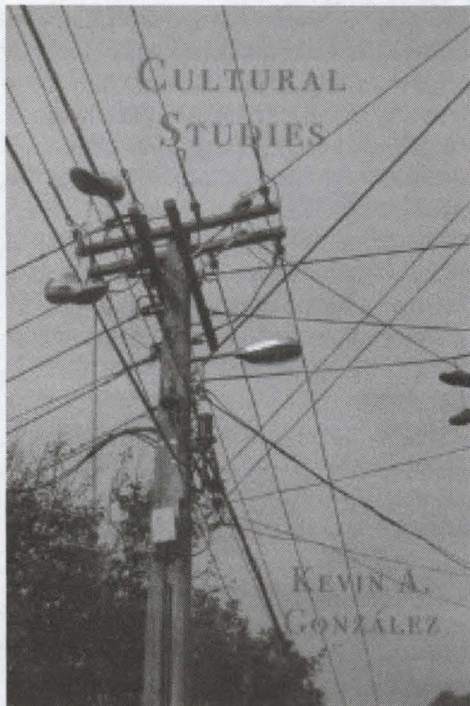
For those interested in Theater and Dance, the Trinity/La MaMa program in New York is an excellent Study Away option to consider. Moon attests to this in his statement, "I've learned so much about myself as an artist and the role art plays in society." The program exposes students to the world of theater, through internships it offers that allow for one to not only attend a myriad of shows, but also meet great artists. Having New York City as a campus itself is the dream for those interested in theater, and it is easy to take advantage of what the city has to offer, while in the program.

Michael Burke, who according to the company has been successful in "helping students tap into deeper levels of creativity that they didn't know existed," directs the program. The company further acknowledged that "Without his guidance this piece would not have been so strong."

# A.K. Smith series comes to a close with a reading by González

NATALIE WEINSTEIN '14  
ARTS EDITOR

On Tuesday, Dec. 4 students gathered into the Rittenberg Lounge in Mather Hall for the final reading in this year's A.K. Smith Series. The common hour event featured Trinity's own Kevin González, who joined the school's creative writing program earlier this year. The reading capped off the series with the works of a professor who has quickly become a favorite among his students at the school.



COURTESY OF indianareview.blogspot.com  
González's first collection of poems, published in 2009.

Kevin González was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico and brings this sense of his culture to his writing. As an accomplished writer and professor, he has fellowships from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and the Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing. In the past, he has received

the Narrative Prize, the Playboy Fiction Prize, and the Michener-Copernicus Award for his works. In addition, his stories have appeared in *Playboy*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Narrative Magazine*, and in two editions of *Best New American Voices*, along with other magazines and anthologies.

González is currently the editor of *jubilat*, a publication geared toward publishing the best contemporary American poetry, along with a varied selection of reprints, found pieces, art, and interviews with poets and other artists. The magazine creates a discussion that displays the beauty and uniqueness of the ordinary. At the same time it shows how experimenting with language and imagery allows for self-expression. The *jubilat* is funded in part by support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the UMass Arts Council.

In addition to his affiliation with *jubilat* and his various accomplishments, Carnegie Mellon University Press published González's first collection of poetry, entitled "Cultural Studies," in 2009 and he is currently working on a new novel.

During the reading, González chose to share an excerpt from his novel in progress. He commented on the passage he chose to read and the fact that it "has a narrative arc, not dissimilar to short stories." González pointed out that although this flashback is a part of his novel, it is more than capable of standing on its own as a short story separate from the work.

The novel is written in the present tense from the first person point of view of the protagonist, but in telling the story of his father's youth, it reads like a third person narrative. The setting is 1962 in San Juan, Puerto Rico

and Hector, the protagonist's father, goes to Phillips Academy and proceeds to get kicked out of school. The narrative progresses to a scene where Hector's father gives him a car for his birthday, not knowing he has been kicked out of school, demonstrating González's use of humor in his writing.

The excerpt details Hector's birthday, which begins with his friends beating on him and ends with him coming into contact with a tiger. González's writing flows effortlessly from serious topics that are then light-



COURTESY OF themadisonreview.blogspot.com  
González inspired with a reading from his latest novel.

ened by fantastic ones. Throughout the reading, the words of his work were given an extra sense of authenticity due to González's Spanish affectation. His writing is filled with humor and comic relief, yet manages to tackle the more difficult topics of race relations and sexuality.

At one point he writes, "It had taken Hector 16 years and a trip over seas to realize he wasn't white," indicating the race issues experienced by an adolescent male in Puerto Rico. In the story, Hector is not accepted at Andover because of his race, providing the audience with the unfortunate truth about certain prejudices during this point in time. González adds a sense of reality to the text and goes on to describe how people called Hector a "spic" at Andover, a negatively charged racial slur toward his race. González's balance of honesty, humor, and reality combine to create a narrative that flows easily and entertains.

González's writing style is very lyrical, and even though he read a short story, it read like a poem. The humorous story encompassed a wide range of topics including the death of one's mother, the question of sexuality, the struggle with one's racial identity, and the ever-classic coming of age tale. His reading was inspiring because it evoked such a strong reaction from the audience. One student who attended the reading stated, "I have not had the chance to take a class with [González] yet, but after listening to this reading I would be interested in signing up for one of his creative writing courses." González's use of detailed facts and his Puerto Rican heritage authenticated the plot of the story and gave the audience a true sense of what it meant for Hector to live and mature in Puerto Rico in 1962.

The A.K. Smith Series ended with an enjoyable and inspiring reading by one of Trinity's new and esteemed professors. González captivated the audience with his unique writing style and his ability to evoke images with his authentic Spanish accent and his well-written words.

## CINESTUDIO

### Roman Polanski's "TESS" in 4K

Tuesday, December 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, December 12, 7:30 p.m.

### "SAMSARA" in 4K

Thursday, December 13, 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, December 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, December 15, 2:30 p.m.  
Saturday, December 15, 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, December 16, 2:30 p.m.  
Sunday, December 16, 7:30 p.m.

### "BACK TO THE FUTURE"

Friday, December 14, 10:30 p.m.

See [cinestudio.org](http://cinestudio.org) for more showtimes

## WRITE FOR ARTS.



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# Belcher, Costas challenge Americans to reflect on violent norms

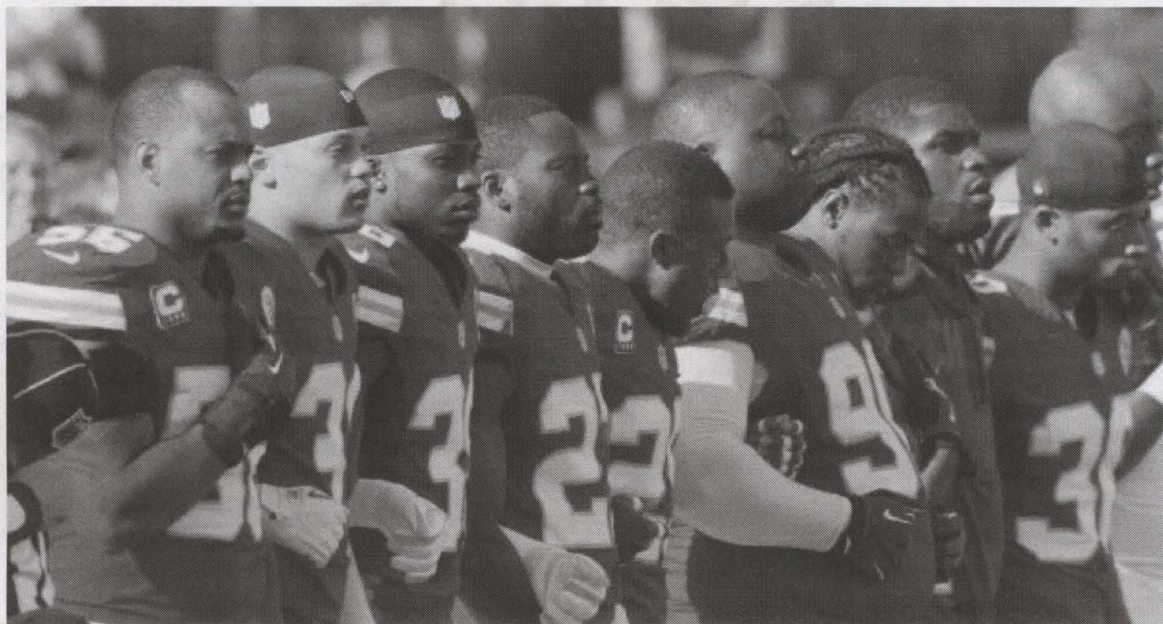
WILL WALTHALL '14  
SPORTS EDITOR

It has been a little over a week since former Kansas City Chief Javon Belcher took he and his girlfriend's lives in a true moment of madness. An hour after killing 22-year old Kasandra Perkins, the mother of his three-month-old daughter, Belcher arrived at the Chiefs' practice facility to tell coach Romeo Crennel and owner Scott Pioli that he was grateful for all they had done for him. Crennel and Pioli then witnessed Belcher putting a bullet through his own head. The chilling incident has shaken the Chief's organization, the NFL and fans across the country.

The Chiefs' roster took a vote and elected to play their game the next day, despite the tragic occurrence. They earned only their second victory of the year in an emotionally charged effort against the Carolina Panthers.

Before the game commenced, Arrowhead Stadium shared a moment of silence for victims of domestic violence, not for Belcher. Honoring the death of a murderer was not on the Chiefs' agenda.

Just hours following the Chiefs' win, legendary sportscaster Bob Costas sounded off about the Belcher murder-suicide during the nationally televised, primetime match-up between the Eagles and



COURTESY OF Newsday.com

The Kansas City Chiefs honored victims of domestic violence with a moment of silence at Arrowhead Stadium last Sunday.

Cowboys.

"In the aftermath of the nearly unfathomable events in Kansas City, that most mindless of sports clichés was heard yet again: Something like this really puts it all in perspective."

Costas went on to share excerpts from a piece by sports journalist and gun-control advocate Jason Whitlock, who harshly criticized "our current gun culture."

"But here," wrote Whitlock, "is what I believe. If Jovan Belcher didn't possess a gun, he and Kasandra Perkins would both be alive today."

Bob Costas's comments drew criticisms from pundits and media outlets across the nation who believed that it was

not his place to make a political statement about gun control. Whether or not you agree with the decision to share his view, Costas's motives were well intentioned. It is time for Americans to stop shying away from the topic and start having a serious discussion.

The world of professional sports is not unfamiliar with problems concerning firearms. In December 2009, former Washington Wizards Gilbert Arenas and Javaris Crittenton pulled handguns on one another in the team locker room, leading to indefinite suspensions. In February 2007, NFL defensive back Pacman Jones was involved in an altercation at a Las Vegas strip club that

led to member of his entourage firing bullets into the crowded club. The incident left a guard wounded and an ex-professional wrestler paralyzed.

In a recent "USA Today" article, several NFL players estimated that "three-quarters of NFL players owned guns." Though only a conjecture, players, coaches, and owners share a popular belief that the rate of NFL gun ownership is significantly greater than the American average.

Firearms are an important facet in the lives of many Americans. The second amendment grants us the right to bear arms under the assumption that guns will be used for resource accumulation and pro-

tection from danger. Unfortunately, a large number of Americans choose to use firearms for other reasons.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 31,347 Americans died from firearms in 2009. In July 2012, 12 people in Aurora, Colorado were killed and 58 wounded at the hands of a violent lunatic. Just two weeks later, a white supremacist fatally shot six and wounded four others at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin. Everyday on the news, there are more and more stories about the newest victims of gun violence. Yet neither Presidential candidate dared to touch the topic of gun control because the political risks were too great. It took Javon Belcher and Bob Costas to remind the American people that this is a conversation worth having.

Regardless of personal background or former exposure to violent culture, professional athletes are not supposed to be criminals. They are supposed to be role models. The tragic deaths of Belcher and Perkins further shine light on how gun-related tragedy affects America and reminds us that the world of sports is no exception to violent behavior. Athletic organizations, especially the athletes themselves, have the power to address the issue of responsible gun ownership. The bullet is in their court.

## Men's Basketball rolls over Bridgewater heading into winter break

BART HARVEY '16  
STAFF WRITER

Trinity moved to 4-5 on the season with a convincing 77-52 win over Bridgewater State University Bears on Saturday. Finishing off the semester, Trinity heads into a three-week recess following this weekend's victory.

Trinity held the lead for the majority of the game until Bridgewater junior Brendan Monteiro converted a field goal one minute into the second half, cutting the Trinity lead to eight points. Guard Hart Gliedman '15 answered with a timely basket, sparking a 7-0 run for the Bantams, including a crucial three-point play from forward Jamil Ebo '15.

The Bantams maintained their lead throughout the rest of the game, silencing a spectacular individual effort from Bridgewater sophomore Kyle Gibson, who scored a game-high 18 points. Guard Alexander Conway '15 scored a team-high 12 points for the Bantams, while Hart and Jaquann Starks '16 scored 10 apiece. Sole senior Mick DiStasio finished with nine points, seven assists, two steals and a block.

Trinity jumped out to an early lead thanks to the energetic contributions from

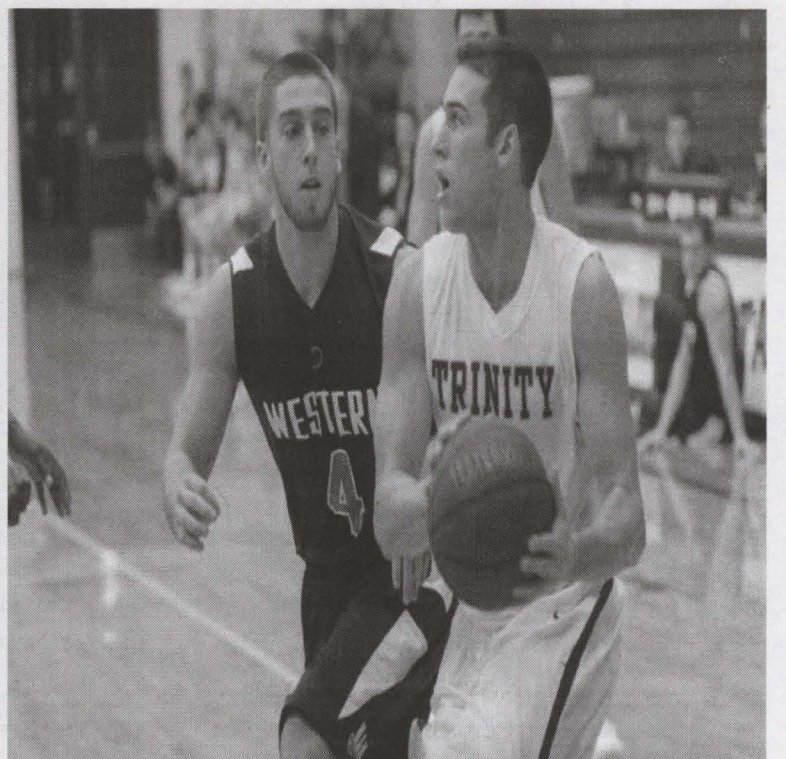


COURTESY OF athletics.trincoll.edu

Forward Mickel Simpson '15 looks to take on more of a role: tallying eight points. Mickel Simpson '15 and forward Shay Ajayi '16. Simpson scored all eight of his points in the first half, while adding nine rebounds, two steals, and an assist in the game. Ajayi added six rebounds in the first half, helping the Bantams jump out to an 33-22 lead at the midway point.

Head Coach James Cosgrove had this to say about the Bantams performance, "This was a good win for our young guys. With only one

The Bantams will continue to progress as the young squad continues to gain experience as well as develop chemistry. DiStasio has started all nine games, contributing almost 30



COURTESY OF athletics.trincoll.edu

As the sole senior on the squad, Captain Mick DiStasio '13 tallied nine points, minutes per game, while averaging nine points per game and 3.5 rebounds per game. The Bantams have benefited from the strong performances of first-year standouts Starks and Ajayi. Starks is averaging 21 minutes per game, scoring 8.5 points and dishing out two assists per game. Ajayi has started all nine games, also serving 21 minutes per game, averaging 8.5 points and almost seven rebounds.

The Bantams have

increased their points per game, field goal percentage, and three-point percentage over their last three games. Trinity hopes to continue their hot streak when they commence the second half of their season against NESCAC rivals. The Bantams will return to campus to compete in the Trinity Invitational on Dec. 29th and 30th which will feature the Bantams, McDaniels College, FDU-Fordham, and Regis College.



# Trinity College SPORTS

Inside Sports:  
Men's  
Basketball  
Victory and NFL

The Trinity Tripod

## Men's Squash Preview: "All in" for their 14th Championship

NICK AUERBACH '14  
OPINIONS EDITOR

Trinity men's Squash is "all in" this season. That's what it reads in large print on a banner hanging behind the squash courts in the Ferris athletic center. This notion was once taken for granted because Trinity has undoubtedly been a squash juggernaut for well over a decade. Their 13-year dynasty came to an end last season, and now their confidence has been shaken, even if just a little, and their commitment has been questioned. It was unsettling for fans to see the once-considered Squash Gods reveal they did in fact have an Achilles heel, and that they now appear to be mere mortals.

Mortals? Maybe. Mere? Definitely not. Head coach Paul Assaiante has once again collected a group of drop shot masters, footwork wizards, and conditioning freaks. There will still be wall-hugging rails, tactical lobs, and seemingly impossible nicks. More importantly though, the team is hungry. They want revenge, they want what's theirs: the Potter Trophy. The loss to Yale last year ended their 252 game winning streak, which was the longest in collegiate



COURTESY OF Facebook.com

The Bants huddle together looking to bring home their 14th championship. sports history. Needless to say, this was a wake-up call. The loss to Princeton in last year's National Championship finale deprived them of their anticipated 14th straight title. Initially the players were left heartbroken. Now they are ticked off.

Following the loss to Yale last year, Assaiante talked about his team changing roles: they were the hunted and now are the hunters. More motivated than ever, the Bantams can truly go on the attack, a game plan they are excelling at as well this year. This season they are 5-0,

absolutely dominating their competition by a combined score of 42-3, with no more than one individual loss in three matches and none in the other two. Superb recruiting has yet again yielded some of most talented freshmen from the United States and abroad. The newcomers' list is headlined by Zeyad Elshorafy '16 from Alexandria, Egypt, who has been competing for one of the top roster spots, and could hold down the No. 1 for the next four years. Seniors like Reinhold Hergeth, Johan Detter, and Juan Diego Lopez



COURTESY OF Athletics.trincoll.edu

Men's Squash celebrates their 13 year dynasty that came to an end last season. '13 will continue to provide a veteran presence for Elshorafy and the other young but important players like Miled Zarazua '15 and Moustafa Hamada '15. This, with a dash of Junior Matt Mackin's flair, will give Trinity's squash team a lethal combination of patience and bite required to execute when it counts.

A controlled rage will be crucial moving forward because the road to the College Squash Association (CSA) Nationals will not be without its challenges. After Winter Break, Trinity will

entertain key match-ups against Yale at home on Jan. 23 and Rochester away three days later on Jan. 26. The Bantams will continue their rigorous schedule at Harvard and Princeton both Feb. 12 and Feb. 16 respectively. All of the aforementioned opponents could threaten Trinity's attempt at another dominant and uninterrupted run for a 14th championship. While the schedule is projected to be nothing short of an upward battle, Trinity's squash team is indeed poised to be "all in" for the CSA Nationals.

## This Day in Sports Dec 11

1981- Muhammad Ali loses the last bout of his career to Trevor Berbick. In his illustrious career that spanned over twenty years, Ali won 56 of his 61 fights, 37 by knockout. The People's Champion is considered to be the greatest Heavyweight boxer in the history of the sport and is one of most influential American athletes of all time.

1985- The Edmonton Oilers defeat the Chicago Blackhawks by the ridiculous score of 12-9. The combined 21 goals scored tied an NHL record and set another one: the 62 points scored (combined goals and assists) is the highest single-game total in NHL history. Surprisingly Wayne Gretzky, The Great One, failed to score a goal but was an important contributor to the point total as he recorded a monstrous seven assists.

2009- Tiger Woods informs the American public of an indefinite hiatus from PGA competition. The widely admired golf superstar became the subject of moral scrutiny after a massive wave of young women revealed sexual exploits with the married Woods. The once revered golfer's wife, Elin, divorced Tiger in 2010 and he and his longtime caddy Steve Williams parted ways. In addition to losing millions of dollars in endorsements, Woods has failed to win a major event since the 2008 U.S. Open.

## Trinity College Bantams

### Men's Basketball

Dec. 29	vs. McDaniel	3 p.m.
Dec. 30	Trinity Invitational	
Jan. 2	vs. Merchant Marine	2 p.m.

### Women's Basketball

Dec. 30	at WPI	3 p.m.
Dec. 31	at Johnson & Wales	1 p.m.

### Men's Ice Hockey

Dec. 30	at Nichols	1:10 p.m.
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### Women's Ice Hockey

Jan. 4	at Williams	7 p.m.
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