Trinity Withdraws from Scholarship Program

CHRIS BULFINCH '18
NEWS EDITOR

Trinity has ended its partnership with QuestBridge, a nonprofit dedicated to connecting low-income students to institutions of higher education, according to staff from Trinity’s Office of Admissions. The decision was made for reasons of financial expediency: in the words of Angel Perez, Trinity’s Vice President for Enrollment and Student Success, Trinity “[was] spending an insane amount of money” relative to the number of QuestBridge students who ultimately matriculated to Trinity. Vice President Perez believes that the reallocation of resources previously used for Trinity’s partnership with QuestBridge will allow the College to “cast a wider net” in terms of admissions, ultimately furthering its goal of broadening its student body.

see QUESTBRIDGE on page 3

New Sororities


The initiative to establish new sororities on campus is currently spearheaded by two organizations, The Stella Society and the Order of the Elms. At least one, but possibly both, will have national affiliation and one, but possibly both, will have Greek letters by that time. The initiative to establish new sororities on campus is currently spearheaded by two organizations, The Stella Society and the Order of the Elms. At least one, but possibly both, will have national affiliation and one, but possibly both, will have Greek letters by that time.

Kathryn Wojcik, Director of Campus Life Initiatives and Social Houses, and Joe DiChristina, Dean of Campus Life and Vice President

see SORORITY on page 4

Squash Remains Undefeated

IAN MCDONALD '20
STAFF WRITER

Sitting at the No. 1 and No. 3 spots in the nation, the men’s and women’s squash teams handily defeated opponents over the weekend as they both took on stiff competition against Colby, Dartmouth, and Connecticut. Both teams are currently riding a six-game winning streak with no signs of any team getting in their way. At the Kellner Center this past Friday, the Bantams opened up the weekend against Columbia. In the first matchup, Columbia was made for reasons of financial expediency: in the words of Angel Perez, Trinity’s Vice President for Enrollment and Student Success, Trinity “[was] spending an insane amount of money” relative to the number of QuestBridge students who ultimately matriculated to Trinity. Vice President Perez believes that the reallocation of resources previously used for Trinity’s partnership with QuestBridge will allow the College to “cast a wider net” in terms of admissions, ultimately furthering its goal of broadening its student body.

see SQUASH on page 12

ACT Demands Released

The Action Coalition of Trinity published a list of 13 demands on Sunday

CHRIS BULFINCH ’18
NEWS EDITOR

Brightly colored pieces of paper were posted around campus on the night of Sunday, Dec. 4 detailing 13 demands that a student group identifying themselves as the “Action Coalition of Trinity” were making of President Berger-Sweeney and Trinity’s administration. The posting of the flyers was followed up on Monday, Dec. 5 with a meeting between concerned students and President Berger-Sweeney in the Cave.

The demands, pictured later in this article, address a broad variety of issues, many of which have been discussed publicly before. Some of the demands echo sentiments expressed at previous demonstrations such as the Solidarity rally last November, which occurred on the heels of unrest at the University of Missouri in the fall of 2015. The demands also highlight Trinity’s efforts to become a sanctuary campus. The Action Coalition of Trinity (ACT) is, according to their Facebook page, “a student-led group acting against the perpetuation of oppressive structures, and fighting for support of all identity groups at Trinity College.” This mission entails “fighting against sexism, racism, homophobia, xenophobia, ableism, heteropatriarchy, and fighting for support of all identity groups at Trinity College.” This mission entails “fighting against sexism, racism, homophobia, xenophobia, ableism, heteropatriarchy, and fighting for support of all identity groups at Trinity College.”

see ACT on page 3

Campus Favorite Lolita Starts Fresh

Popular student band Lolita discusses a new lineup, their future on campus and original work

Lydia Haynes ’18 fully embodies her persona of Lolita.

TRIP SLAYMAKER ’18
AKE EDITOR

Stage presence is a vital aspect of any great musical act. The ideal rock band revolves around not only the musical contributions of its members, but also their unique personalities. Trinity based rock band Lolita checks every box that a great college band should, especially in terms of personality. In its current lineup, each of the four members of the group has both undeniable musical talent and a kind of star quality. There is something about them that suggests they would look excellent on a poster. Though it has a large and growing fan group on an off-campus, Lolita has humble beginnings. The group’s lead singer Lydia Haynes ’18 was around from the start: “It was kind of an excuse for me to just jam...And pretend to be a rock star.”

see LOLITA on page 9

Squash Remains Undefeated

The nationally-ranked men’s and women’s squash teams improved their winning streak to six games this past Friday, the Ban
tams opened up the weekend against Columbia. In the first matchup, Columbia was made for reasons of financial expediency: in the words of Angel Perez, Trinity’s Vice President for Enrollment and Student Success, Trinity “[was] spending an insane amount of money” relative to the number of QuestBridge students who ultimately matriculated to Trinity. Vice President Perez believes that the reallocation of resources previously used for Trinity’s partnership with QuestBridge will allow the College to “cast a wider net” in terms of admissions, ultimately furthering its goal of broadening its student body.

see SQUASH on page 12

New Sororities

The Stella Society and the Order of the Elms are two interest groups in the process of affiliating with national sororities

CAMPBELL NORTH ’17
EDITOR IN CHIEF

During the fall of 2017 women on Trinity’s campus will have the opportunity to rush the chapters of two newly-established sororities on campus. At least one, but possibly both, will have national affiliation and Greek letters by that time. The initiative to establish new sororities on campus is currently spearheaded by two organizations, The Stella Society and the Order of the Elms. At least one, but possibly both, will have national affiliation and Greek letters by that time. The initiative to establish new sororities on campus is currently spearheaded by two organizations, The Stella Society and the Order of the Elms.
The Trinity Tripod
Established in 1904

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The Trinity Tripod has been published by the students of Trinity College since 1904. Its staff members are committed to the reporting and distribution of news and ideas that are relevant to the College community. The Tripod is published weekly on Tuesdays during the academic year. Student subscription is included in the Student Activities Fee (SAF). For non-students looking to subscribe, a one-semester subscription costs $18.50. Those opinions do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the staff, and it has soured many staff members in to effect December 1st.

We all know someone who is worried about their credit count at Trinity. Have you ever overheard someone in Mather stressing about graduating on time? Maybe you yourself have expressed concerns to a professor, or an advisor, about next semester as you’re trying to make up a full class credit. It’s difficult to reach 36 credits in four years. Things get messy, and it’s easy to find yourself falling short in courses towards your degree. Luckily for Trinity students, a great opportunity is presented in the J-Term program (as commonly abbreviated). Now entering its fourth (successful) year, Trinity’s J-Term allows students to enroll in a half-credit course between Jan. 9-20. These classes typically meet daily for a cumulative 20 hours over the week and a half.

In Jan. 2017, 13 courses were taught at Trinity in Paris, one will be taught at Trinity in Trin-idad, and one will be taught in Nepal. Courses appealed to a wide range of topics including, but not limited to: Environmental Problems (POLIS 244), The Godfather: The Art of Hard Choices (LACS 223), Analyzing and Communicating Financial Data (COLL 203), Campus Sexual Assault: Sociological Perspectives (SOCLS 234), The History of Wine (HIST 237), and Environmental Sustainability in the Caribbean: Trinidad & Tobago as a Case Study (NTNB 210). I implore you to also consider the benefits of J-Term: you’ll be taking fewer classes meaning you don’t have to juggle multiple subjects and a larger workload. You can focus your attention on one or two courses.

A Letter Addressing Trinity Staff Pay

We reserve the right to edit for grammar and refuse publication.

Opinions expressed in Tripod editorials represent the views of the executive board of The Trinity Tripod. These opinions do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the staff. Please limit letters to 400 words or less. Email letters to tripod@trincoll.edu no later than the Saturday prior to publishing.

If you are interested in writing, please send an email to tripod@trincoll.edu.

January Term: A Worthy Alternative

We all know someone who is worried about their credit count at Trinity. Have you ever overheard someone in Mather stressing about graduating on time? Maybe you yourself have expressed concerns to a professor, or an advisor, about next semester as you’re trying to make up a full class credit. It’s difficult to reach 36 credits in four years. Things get messy, and it’s easy to find yourself falling short in courses towards your degree. Luckily for Trinity students, a great opportunity is presented in the J-Term program (as commonly abbreviated). Now entering its fourth (successful) year, Trinity’s J-Term allows students to enroll in a half-credit course between Jan. 9-20. These classes typically meet daily for a cumulative 20 hours over the week and a half.

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The new pilot programs/trips offered in Paris, Trin-idad & Tobago, and Nepal, J-Term also presents itself as an ideal time to study abroad - especially if you’re apprehensive about a se- mester or a year away. Fina- nally, J-Term gives you the chance to catch up on cred- its (or get ahead on cred- its) and it acts as a way to discover a new interest.

If you’re interested in J-Term, it’s not too late to sign up! While registra- tion for J-Term programs began on Nov. 7, and tech- nically ended on Dec. 1, late registrations are ac- cepted through Tuesday, Jan. 3 (with a late fee).

“Concerned Staff Member”
Trinity Announces End of QuestBridge Program

Continued from page 1

ing Trinity’s demography.

According to it, website, QuestBridge “is a powerful
platform that connects the
nation’s brightest students from low-income backgrounds with
leading institutions of higher education and further
opportunities.” QuestBridge is a
different kind of college
application, distinct from
the Common Application. All of
QuestBridge’s partners com-
mit to meet 100 percent of
accepted students dem-
strated need, and Quest-
Bridge applications are free.

Trinity’s relationship with QuestBridge goes back
more than a decade to 2004. Trinity was in fact one of
QuestBridge’s founding part-
ner schools. Involvement in QuestBridge requires pay-
ment: Trinity’s partnership
cost $100,000 annually, in
addition to Admissions staff’s
taxe l p r e s s t o Q u e s t-
Bridge events and trainings. Perez determined that
QuestBridge, though in his es-
timation a valuable program, was not the most effective
avenue for admissions mon-
ey. By leaving QuestBridge, Perez believes that Trinity’s admissions office will “be able to
partner with more Quest-
Bridge-like organizations”
around the country, netting
significantly more applicants.

The decision to leave QuestBridge was made amongst the
admissions office staff and Trinity’s adminis-
tration. Over the summer, a proposal was submitted and
discussed at meetings involv-
ing Perez, members of the admissions office, members of the financial aid committee, Allison Draper, Trinity’s Direc-
tor of the Center for Interdisci-
niplinary Science, a Lecturer
of Environmental Science, and
the QuestBridge Liaison, in
addition to President Berg-
er-Sweeney. Current Quest-
Bridge Scholars attending Trinity were informed of the
decision later in the summer.

The decision to withdraw from QuestBridge will have
no impact on the financial
aid offers of current Quest-
Bridge scholars at Trinity.
Perez explained that one of his foremost concerns
was “how the students [inolved in QuestBridge] are going to feel,” saying that
“I wanted to make sure that our students felt supported.”

The group also held events for academic advise-
ment, career planning, mental health, and similar topics.

The decision to leave QuestBridge has not proven univer-
sally popular among the Trin-
ity community. In a Facebook
group entitled “Alumni for a
Better Trinity College,” alum
Eran Paskel noticed the deci-
sion, reflecting that she was
“very disappointed” and “dis-
mayed” by Trinity’s departure.

Several alumni posted com-
ments echoing this sentiment.

While expressing that he was “sad” to see Trinity’s in-
volvement with the program
end, Mickolas reflected that
he “had a lot of hope that the
admissions office will work to replace it with something
even more substantive for
low-income, high-achieving students.” Mickolas explained that Trinity’s withdrawal from
QuestBridge was “sad” to see
Trinity’s withdrawal from
QuestBridge scholars and oth-
er “to form an organization
for low-income students as a
whole at Trinity” with help
from Trinity’s administration.

ACT Demands Action from Trinity Administration

Continued from page 1

ry, classism and other
forms of discrimination.”
A hashtag has been start-
red by the group, “#IsTrin-
WithUs?” whose Twitter
page was created this month.
The Facebook page promis-
es future demonstrations.
The group appears to have
formed in the last few weeks.

In response to the ubiqui-
tious flyer’s demands and its
providing a deadline of
Friday to take action, Presi-
dent Berger-Sweeney, along with
Jason Rossa, Trinity’s Director of Community Rel-
lations, and Karla Spur-
lock-Evans Trinity’s Dean of
Multicultural Affairs, Senior Director of
Multicultural Affairs, and a
Trinity, met with ACT rep-
resentatives in the Cave. In
a wide-ranging discussion,
President Berger-Sweeney
listened attentively to stu-
dents relating stories of in-
sensitivity, discrimination, profound discomfort, and dis-
illusionment with the culture of Trinity. Some students who spoke broke into tears.

The ACT’s demands were also discussed at length. The
issues of diversity amongst the
faculty, diversity train-
ing for faculty, staff, and
students, and gender-neutral
bathrooms were particularly
touchy issues: President
Berger-Sweeney affirmed her
support for the majority of the
demands, reflecting that the
issue was one of the
major issues they were
meeting on initiatives to address
some of the demands. She
pushed back on the demand
for bathrooms to be 50
percent people of color as
infeasible, and explained her
view on the complexities of
implementing gender-neu-
tral bathrooms: this senti-
ment drew strong reaction
from the assembled students.
President Berger-Sweeney
briefly addressed each of
the demands, pausing
often as students interject-
ed, sharing perspective or
offering suggestions. Ulti-
mately, her busy schedule
did not allow her to address the
entire list; Dean Spur-
lock-Evans continued the
discussion after President
Berger-Sweeney’s depa-
ture. Trinity’s administration
made overtures to continue
the discussion, disseminating
content and continuing
meeting to future meetings
with concerned students.
In addition to the fly-
ers status, the current
student representatives have
been delegated.

The Board does hold
meetings among Trin-
ity’s Board of Trust-
ee’s Student Union forced
their way into a Board of
Trustees meeting on Nov. 19.

Trinity’s administration
is “working to increase the
number of opportunities for... abstracts... among
Students Remain Uninvited to Trustees Meetings
of Student Affairs, both mentioned that these initia- tives were fundamental and would necessitate a demand to join a GLO, a limited supply of available spots. “There’s a lot of women that want to join sororities and they can only take so many people,” said Wojcik, “it makes sense that there is a desire to add oth- er sororities into the mix.”

Greek life opportunities offered to males outnumber those offered to women nine to five. The addition of a new soror- ity would help to expand Greek life opportunities for female Trinity students. “Greek life has proved an enriching experience for Trinity students, and the opportunities afforded at the different Greek houses continue to attract many of our best campus leaders,” said Evan Scollard ‘17, In- ter-Greek Council Presi- dent. “Expanding the cur- rent options will allow us to achieve gender parity in the system by carving out more opportunities for female students to become involved, and there- by create options for lead- ership. The IGC’s primary goal has been just to ad- dress the disproportionate- ly few sororities compared to fraternities. I am proud to say that we have worked with these two new groups to facilitate that change.”

The Stella Society is currently comprised of 11 female members, while the Order of the Elms is comprised of 14 students. Once these societies select a female as a successful and with, their names will be replaced by the Greek let- ters of the relevant sorority.

The process to establish a chapter of a nationally rec- ognized Greek Letter Orga- nization (GLO) on Trinity campus requires campuses collabora- tion between multiple of- fices. Founding members of the Stella Society toyed with the idea last winter, “it was something we were think- ing about, and then Evan Scollard gave us the for- mal idea with the note that Trinity is trying to close the gap between men and wom- en in Greek life,” said Miele.

The Stella Society met with the administration to start this process last winter and Order of the Elms started the process after meeting with the administration this fall. Both are currently estab- lished as interest groups, meaning there have many of the same privileges as other GLOs.

However, there was no formal process in place to establish a new GLO when the Stella Society initially approached the administra- tion last February. “When I first learned there wasn’t any kind of practice to follow when it comes to students who express interest to form a Greek Letter Organiza- tion,” said Dean DiChristina. “After meeting with the Stella Society, DiChristina met with the Student Or- ganization Review Commit- tee (SORC) and Timothy Dunn, Title IX Coordina- tor, to develop the timeline for students interested in es- tablishing a GLO to follow. This is the process that the newly formed Greek Life Recognition Policy. It re- quires that students first demonstrate interest by submitting a written let- ter and forming an interest group of at least four mem- bers. Once these groups are formed and members submit Wojcik to review the letter, a process is set in motion to ensure that the proposed organization, “becomes part of the structure of the Col- lege, and is not something that just sits out there, outside the student organ- ization structure, not be- ing able to be assisted and helped. Then Kathryn steps in with her role in campus life and social houses and providing guidance for stu- dents” said DiChristina.

Both groups are current- ly in the process of working with Wojcik. In her advis- ing role, Wojcik works with the National Panhel lenic Conference (NPC), the umbrella organization for soror- ities. She sends a report to the NPC detailing aspects of Trinity College culture, Greek life at Trinity and details about the relevant interest groups. The NPC then sends this report to the 26 national sorority chap- ters. The group must decide whether they are interested in expansion, based on criteria including the number of alumni in the area, the geographical location of the school, and school size. Throughout spring 2017, the IGC, with help from Wojcik, will work to set a timeline for when a variety of interested sororities can visit Trinity and get a sense of college life. If a sorority is very interest- ed in expanding to Trinity, they notify Wojcik to set drinking culture incited interest in forming a new GLO. “That is an important part of this whole conversation it is open,” said DiChristina.

The interview also offers a time for Wojcik, DiChristi- na, IGC leaders and the relevant interest groups to ask direct questions to the sororities. “This is a match- ing process,” said Wojcik, allowing both Trinity so- rities and the nationally recognized organizations to find the right fit for one and other. After the inter- view process, the society will determine the group with which they hope to af- filiate. These decisions will be made by the end of April.

Currently, Wojcik is working with the NPC to decide whether or not they will colonize both societ- ies this spring, or colonize in fall and decide next year. If they choose only to colonize one group for national affiliation this spring, it will be the Ste- lla society, since they were first approved by Trinity. If this occurs, the Order of the Elms will remain a lo- cal organization until receiving national status later on.

Once the societies are colonized by the NPC and receive national recognition, they will work over the summer with nationals to set up a re- cruiting team. If the order agrees, they also hope to collaborate with the internal structure of their sororities, including executive board structures, and the recruitment pro- cess to be established next semester. “We’re hoping it will be able to rush the coming fall.”

The Stella Society has already planned a holi- day-themed philanthropic event that aligns with their mission to promote “Integ- rity, character, leadership, and sisterhood, through involvement in and service to the campus and commu- nity. Members dedicate themselves to the better- ment of Trinity College and will support one another in lifelong achievement.”

This semester, members of the Stella Society will sell “Stella Sweetie” candy cane grams - during com- mon hour in Mather and the Caves. Proceeds will be donated to the homeless shelter, My Sisters Place. In addition to philanthrop- ic events, the Stella Society also hopes to collaborate with currently established national GLOs on campus.

Order of the Elms also looks to establish a greater presence on campus. The society hosts a “Meet and Greet” Sunday Dec. 11 from 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. The event will be posted on their Facebook page by Wednes- day evening. The event will also set to plan philanthropic and social events throughout out the next two semesters and invite new members to join throughout the year.

Both of these groups also hope to create new ini- tiatives. Those interested in donating or receiving mem- bership information can contact DiChristina. The Stella Society also hopes to collaborate with currently established national GLOs on campus.

The Stella Society hopes to collaborate with currently established national GLOs on campus. As always, the SGA hopes to advance their roles as leaders on campus.
Xenophobia Accurately Describes Attitudes in 2016

HUNTER SAVERY '20 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Can we define 2016 in a single word? According to dictionary.com, yes. That word is xenophobia. The website defines xenophobia as “hatred of foreigners or people from different cultures.” Fear of the “other” has certainly pervaded the news cycle for the last year, not only in the United States, but also across the globe, particularly in Western nations. Dictionary.com chose the word based on a spike in searches for the word, likely due to the apparent international trend. In a similar vein, Merriam-Webster recently tweeted that “xenophobia” was the word of the year to track if you’re fact-checking. The year 2016 saw the Syrian refugee crisis, Brexit, the rise of the alt-right movement in America, and the coup de grâce, Donald Trump’s election as U.S. President. The past year has been a strenuous one, and an unfortunate reaction that has arisen for many, is fear of the “other.” Xenophobia is not an old word, its first use dates to the 19th century. Dictionary.com notes that employment choices at Trinity College can fix. Even if the College was to hire exclusively people of color for the next 10 years, this ratio could never be achieved thanks to tenure policies that even the most liberal institutions adopt. A 50% ratio of color ratio is impossible, and it is embarrassing for me as a liberal to see a demand like that next to something as urgent as environmental protection or expanded retention rates. Demanding that Trinity re-release its financial statements is another nonsensical demand: all of these statements are published each financial year, and an extensive year-end summary is posted annually. This highlights an issue with the way we frame our demands: people often call for people who do not feel comfortable with the idea of 100% gender-neutral bathrooms. One must consider the rights of all in the situation, cisgender and transgender people alike. The problem is that the demand is without substance. “Make gender neutral bathrooms available in all buildings” is more reason than ever to demand that not all of them are raptists. Ten years ago Merriam-Webster declared the word of the year to be “truthiness.” This word was coined by comedian Stephen Colbert as a way to describe the phenomenon of believing the concepts or facts one wishes to believe, rather than concepts or facts known to be true. Truthiness was a popular choice for Word of the Year at that time. Ten years down the road, the world is dealing with the consequence of living in what many are calling a post-fact world. Xenophobia is embraced, thanks to politicians and leaders who validate fear of the “other,” despite the lack of sound reasoning behind a border wall or a ban on Muslim immigrants.

ACT Demands Misrepresented Activism

MAX FIRUGAY ’19 NEWS EDITOR

Yesterday, a flyer was distributed all over campus. I am sure that everyone has seen at least one, since they are plastered all over every wall on campus. The problem is, if you’ve never thought about this issue before, this is a difficult issue to understand. The problem at hand, xenophobia, is a problem that has been with us since the founding of our nation. Xenophobia is the fear of the “other.” Fear of the “other” has certainly pervaded the news cycle for the last year, not only in the United States, but also across the globe, particularly in Western nations. Dictionary.com chose the word based on a spike in searches for the word, likely due to the apparent international trend. In a similar vein, Merriam-Webster recently tweeted that “xenophobia” was the word of the year to track if you’re fact-checking. The year 2016 saw the Syrian refugee crisis, Brexit, the rise of the alt-right movement in America, and the coup de grâce, Donald Trump’s election as U.S. President. The past year has been a strenuous one, and an unfortunate reaction that has arisen for many, is fear of the “other.” Xenophobia is not an old word, its first use dates to the 19th century. Dictionary.com notes that employment choices at Trinity College can fix. Even if the College was to hire exclusively people of color for the next 10 years, this ratio could never be achieved thanks to tenure policies that even the most liberal institutions adopt. A 50% ratio of color ratio is impossible, and it is embarrassing for me as a liberal to see a demand like that next to something as urgent as environmental protection or expanded retention rates. Demanding that Trinity re-release its financial statements is another nonsensical demand: all of these statements are published each financial year, and an extensive year-end summary is posted annually. This highlights an issue with the way we frame our demands: people often call for people who do not feel comfortable with the idea of 100% gender-neutral bathrooms. One must consider the rights of all in the situation, cisgender and transgender people alike. The problem is that the demand is without substance. “Make gender neutral bathrooms available in all buildings” is more reason than ever to demand that not all of them are raptists. Ten years ago Merriam-Webster declared the word of the year to be “truthiness.” This word was coined by comedian Stephen Colbert as a way to describe the phenomenon of believing the concepts or facts one wishes to believe, rather than concepts or facts known to be true. Truthiness was a popular choice for Word of the Year at that time. Ten years down the road, the world is dealing with the consequence of living in what many are calling a post-fact world. Xenophobia is embraced, thanks to politicians and leaders who validate fear of the “other,” despite the lack of sound reasoning behind a border wall or a ban on Muslim immigrants.

One of the themes most central to Donald Trump’s presidential campaign was the issue of immigration. Trump ran on walls with Mexico. Many Trump supporters were simply elated by the notion of a physical barrier between them and the other. Trump promised a hard-line immigration and deportation policy, which was applauded by scared white people in general, and more specifically, former Ku Klux Klan leader and white supremacist, David Duke. Trump was hesitant to reject the hate monger’s support, and white nationalist groups were not the only people who voted for Donald Trump. In fact, over 62 million Americans did. They voted for a man who, in reference to Mexican immigrants said, “They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.” Well, at least Trump knows that not all of them are raptists.

Ten years ago Merriam-Webster declared the word of the year to be “truthiness.” This word was coined by comedian Stephen Colbert as a way to describe the phenomenon of believing the concepts or facts one wishes to believe, rather than concepts or facts known to be true. Truthiness was a popular choice for Word of the Year at that time. Ten years down the road, the world is dealing with the consequence of living in what many are calling a post-fact world. Xenophobia is embraced, thanks to politicians and leaders who validate fear of the “other,” despite the lack of sound reasoning behind a border wall or a ban on Muslim immigrants.

In 2016, the facts simply did not matter to much of the
The Electoral College No Longer Serves Our Interests

Consider a fictional country in which after a yearlong lead-up, free elections were held to select its next President. When the votes were finally tallied, a clear winner, the candidate with the most votes, emerged, and yet the loser was named that country’s next President. Imagine the official response from the United States’ terms like “undemocratic” and “oppressive” come to mind. Perhaps we would invade (after all, we do have a bit of a history on that front), to “bring democracy” to people who had been denied it. Undoubtedly, the fictional country’s democracy would be called into question.

In light of the recent election, the only self-evident truth is a need for the Electoral College’s abolition.

“...A school event made no effort to compromise with the winter sport schedule.”

Women’s Ice Hockey, Men and Women’s Basketball, Swim and Dive, Indoor Track, and Wrestling. A selection of winter sports schedules as possible. 

The past and anticipation for the future as seniors congregate for first of the dwindling school events they will ever attend as a class. Ask anyone on campus, even the freshmen, and they will be able to tell you how special a tradition Senior Snowball is. It is a night meant to celebrate and exalt the soon-to-be graduates.

While I am not a senior yet, my experience as a junior and a winter athlete has me skeptical about the future given the way this event was planned. The last thing that was important was for this piece to come across as a whining winter athlete who is upset that her basketball schedule is infringed on one night of dancing and drinking. If that is the case then I have done my fellow winter athletes an injustice. I understand that it is difficult to plan school events such as this, one and I believe it is possible to find a date that does not conflict with anyone’s schedule. However, winter sport schedules are solidified before the summer, and it frustrates me that more thought was not given to the possibility of a Friday Snowball date would without a doubt exclude this group of students. 

Trinity athletes are some of the most hard-working, dedicated, and ambitious students on campus, and the message this sends is worrisome to me. Are we going to continue to omit and overlook these students? Do not get me wrong, students and athletes know the commitment that is expected of each individual. They know that sacrifices need to be made. There are tails missing events that other students are able to attend. However it is both disappointing and discouraging that a school event made no effort to compromise with the winter sport schedule. If there was an effort made, it was certainly not clear.

The Friday date this weekend excluded nearly all winter sports that a Saturday date would not have, including Men and Women’s Ice Hockey, Men and Women’s Basketball, Swim and Dive, Indoor Track, and Wrestling. A selection of winter sports as possible.

In order to preserve the integrity of our democracy, it is surely time for a change.

During our country’s infancy, the Electoral College was created, in the words of Alexander Hamilton, to ensure that “the office of president will never fall to the lot of any man who is not in an eminent degree endowed with the requisite qualifications.” As a reality TV star with no political experience and conflicting business interests in numerous foreign countries prepares to take office, it would stand to reason that the Electoral College was formed with this exact situation in mind. Despite the Electoral College’s original purpose, Donald Trump was elected in the name of the United States. In order to preserve the integrity of our democracy, it is surely time for a change.
Trinstagram: Class of 2017 Enjoys Senior Snowball Event

COURTESY OF (from left to right) Grace Gill ’17, Will Boyd ’17, Natalie Sooksatan ’17, Elly Worsley ’17, Kelly Vaughan ’17, Julianna Leone ’17, Ryan Miller ’17, Sam Esposito ’17, Miguel Adamson ’17, Lisa Hobannesian ’17, Katie Tonyai ’17, Annelise Gilbert ’17
Student Government Makes Senior Snowball Sparkle

AMANDA LUNDEGARD '17 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This past weekend, it was that time of year for the event all seniors look forward to, the annual Senior Snowball dance. Nearing the start of finals and the end of the semester, students at Trinity might be wiped out. However, thanks to the hard work and planning of both the Student Government Association and Greek organizations, the seniors were able to kick back and enjoy Senior Snowball, a night of celebration. Snowball took place on Friday, Dec. 2, in the Washington Room. Senior Class President Nick Recka ’17 noted that Snowball “was an incredible time. I’m glad it came together as well as it did. It was a great bonding experience for all of the seniors, and it would not have happened without the support of the SGA Senior Council.”

The festivities began with pre-gatherings hosted by some of the Greek organizations on campus. Seniors were organized in groups by freshman residence halls — nostalgia sparked the re-unification of old friends and reminiscence about our first days on campus. At 8:30 p.m., students who lived in Jones, Elton, and Funston freshman year gathered in Alpha Delta Phi. Transfer students, IDP year gathered in Alpha Delta Elton, and Funston freshman students who lived in Jones, days on campus. At 8:30 p.m., unification of old friends and roommates and friends who, over the years, have become busier with their involvements at Trinity was a treat. Sedona Georgeescu ’17 added that her favorite time of the night was getting together with her freshman year roommates. “That’s what makes Snowball so special — it gives everyone a time to look back at their four years and reflect on what an amazing time it has been.” This was a night both to live in the present and appreciate the memories of the past that we have collected here at “Camp Trin.”

After the pre-gatherings, the whole class was invited to a formal event in the Washington Room above Mather Hall. The excitement continued with excellent live music, hors d’oeuvres, and an open bar. The SGA confirmed that all of the decorations came from local vendors, as they worked close with the production company PowerPose. Through Chartwells, the planning committee was able to provide a beautiful ice sculpture for the Class of 2017. The evening’s concert began with a performance by互动 rock band Animal Years. With Mike McPadden on vocals and guitar, Anthony Spinato on drums, and Anthony Saladino on bass, the Animal Years trio provided the perfect live thrill for Trinity seniors.

After Animal Years, Snowball boasted DJ Yosa as the main performer. Yosa Nosamiefan ’17, ended the spectacular night with popular dance music for everyone to enjoy. Georgeescu suggested, “[that DJ Yosa was] an obvious choice. We were so lucky that he agreed to perform for Snowball even though he is a senior. I think it made the music situation that much sweeter.”

Senior Snowball was a gala to remember. Although the evening was bittersweet seeing old classmates and realizing that college does not last forever — the event was incredible to say the least. The dedication of SGA and Greek life members who coordinated and hosted the ball resulted in an unforgettable bash. Senior Senator Ali Chalif ’17 expressed that the best part of Snowball was “seeing every one in our grade together in the Washington Room having an amazing time. No matter the club in which they participate, their major, sports team, Greek affiliation, or other social group on campus, people were having an amazing time as the Class of 2017.”

HOPE GILLAN ’18 STAFF WRITER

It’s the last week of classes and the fall semester is quickly winding down. Everyone has the gloom of finals looming over them. Many are stressed out and are planning accordingly by committing themselves to long nights in the library. Here is some advice to get over this hump and make it to the long-awaited winter break. First off, staying up late is definitely not the answer to making it through finals stress free. Our bodies need an average of nine hours of sleep a night, so commit to a nightly routine, avoid caffeine prior to bedtime, and set your alarm for the next morning. By scheduling alarms to ring at the same time each morning you create a schedule that allows your body to function better. When in the library it is easy to be distracted by friends, different websites and the hum of conversation. Be sure to pick a location in Raether where you know you can focus, personally I enjoy the third-floor cubbies.

To combat procrastination, an app that allows you to create a list of websites that constantly distract you from your work and will block you from using them for whatever amount of time you choose. To reduce stress, write down everything you want to accomplish so you are organized and allow yourself to take breaks. Another great way to reduce stress is to meditate. Meditation has been shown to help relax and increase your focus and memory, as well as strengthen your immune system. There are several apps that offer easy meditation, a great one is “Heads Up!” and it’s free in the app store. Going to the gym, going for a walk, or even getting off campus for an hour can allow for greater focus when returning to the library. The build up of stress and the lack of sleep associated with finals week often cause a large percentage of the student body to become ill. To fight against this almost inevitable curse of finals — drink Emergen-C, wash your hands often, and again, get plenty of sleep.

Also, while there is still time before final exams begin, try to prepare as best you can. It can’t hurt to invest in a large box of Emergen-C, Vitamin D pills, and healthy study snacks that increase concentration like blueberries, nuts, and green tea.

Bantam Survival Guide: How to Deal with Finals Stress

This event reunites seniors with the students who lived in their first-year residence halls.
Arts & Entertainment

Lolita Reloaded: New Year, New Members, New Sound

Continued from page 1

She says, in a self-depreciating voice, “We were offered a show at the Mill after two weeks of playing together, and I had the thought ‘I really like this. I want to keep doing this.’” Earlier (and in some cases, future returning) members of the band include Ebben Maeda ’16, Henry Minot ’17, Alex Rusharsky ’18 and AJ Ballard ’16.

The band’s current lineup has only been playing together for the duration of this semester, but guitarist Cooper Jennings ’19 and drummer Max Fertik ’19 played together before joining. Bassist Chuck Sweeney ’20 is a new addition, and long-time musician. “We’re lucky to have played in bands in the past,” says Sweeney.

With the help of the students who run Trinity’s Vernon Street music center The Mill, Lolita has remained an adored Saturday night touchstone for students who gravitate toward the band’s classic rock and first-wave inspired sound. Haynes, Fertik, Sweeney and Jennings draw musical cues from the earlier iterations of Lolita, and walk in the footsteps of great bands like Blondie, the Talking Heads, and countless other seminal music acts.

When Lolita performs, students tend to swarm to them. Haynes is in the habit of going all-in on stage persona, often donning a manifestly hard-rock look for Lolita shows and on occasion, beyond. “There are people who see me and shout ‘Lolita!’ It’s kind of a persona, though now it’s more for the stage.” But the persona of Haynes and her band mates has spread quickly, and grown along with student enthusiasm.

“I saw that someone had etched ‘Lolita’ into a desk in LSC,” Jennings says. “But maybe they just wanted to say ‘I like this book title.’” The still-edgy Nabokov classic is the source of the band’s name.

Regardless of whatever fame the band might achieve, it is clear that each member is interested most of all in the joy that music gives them. Fertik is in it for the experience. “It’s a very unique feeling to perform. Being afraid to be on stage… I don’t think that’s something any of us experience. It’s such an ecstatic feeling, and I don’t want to ever get away from that.”

Now with the band becoming more established once again, the members can look toward the future. Jennings has some idea of what that means. “We’re playing a lot more originals,” he says. The guitarist seems deeply excited by the idea.

In the past, the earlier lineups of Lolita usually performed only covers. The band has often performed identifiable crowd-pleasers like Heart’s “Barracuda,” The Cranberries’ “Zombie” and the hits of Joan Jett. But with the start of a new era in the band’s history, it only makes sense to branch out. The pull to produce more music that is personally identified with Lolita itself has been growing in strength.

Haynes helped write the two most polished original songs, “Serious” and “June Haze.” “We wanted to play songs that people know and would be excited about, and then hopefully they would be excited about us. But now…”

The band’s original work “Serious” is a well-written song with intricate passages that make use of Hayne’s trademark soaring vocals. Sweeney supplies the powerful bassline, while Jennings’ razor sharp guitar riffs and Fertik’s drums make the sound hurtle forward.

These future developments show promise and a good amount of optimism on the part of the band. Their achievements and skill will only grow with time. Lolita might someday capture far more attention than it already does. Watch Lolita re-hearse their original song covers.

The original lineup of Lolita, which featured some of Trinity’s most well-known musicians. This lineup of the band is a new iteration, but Lolita will be producing more original music in the near future.

COURTESY OF Trip Slaymaker ’18

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This lineup of the band is a new iteration, but Lolita will be producing more original music in the near future. Watch Lolita rehearse their original song.

COURTESY OF Trip Slaymaker ’18

“Serious” on the Trinity Tripod online Arts page.
The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols held its 58th annual service at the Trinity College Chapel on Dec. 4. The program, performed twice (one service at 4:00 p.m. and a second at 7:00 p.m.), featured a wide array of talents and musical styles. The music was primarily provided by the Trinity College Choir, the Chapel Singers and the African Choir, while the readings were provided by various members of the Trinity community, including President Joanne Berger-Sweeney.

The Lessons and Carols service showcased solos from alumni Liesl Odenweller '88, Patrick Greene '07, Becket Greten-Harrison '07 and Devin Romanul '07. In particular, the night featured an original composition by Greene, which was performed by the Trinity choirs as well as alumni soloists. Also noteworthy was the Trinity African Choir's impressive arrangement of a carol with words and music by Malibongwe Thwala '17. The night was significant for choir director John Rose, Distinguished Chair of Chapel Music, who commemorated 40 years of service to Trinity's music programs.

Want to write for the Tripod?

Since 1904 the Trinity Tripod has been the main source for on-campus news and worldly issues.

Make something of yourself.

Email: tripod@trincoll.edu
On Friday, Dec. 2, the Trinity Men’s Hockey team hosted Hamilton College. A plethora of penalties against the Bantams gave way to three power-play goals scored by Hamilton in the first period alone. Anthony Sabitsky ’18 finally managed to score one goal for Trinity in the second period but a fourth and final goal by Hamilton in the last period shut the door for any chance of a comeback.

Despite outshooting the Continentals by an exceptional margin of 46-27, Trinity fell 11-4. The loss was the team’s third on the season and their second dropped match against a NESCAC opponent.

The following day, the men took on fellow NESCAC opponent Amherst College. The Bantams got off to another rough start when Amherst scored within the first two minutes of the game Sabitsky quickly responded with a goal of his own five minutes later, assisted by Liam Feeney ’20 and Ryan Pfeffer ’19. At the start of the second period, it was Trinity’s turn to score early, when Tyler Whitney ’18 netted a goal in 50 seconds, assisted by Pfeffer, putting the Bantams up 2-1. However, a tripping penalty on Trinity later in the second gave Amherst the power play opportunity they needed to battle back and tie the game 2-2. Late in the same period, after intense back and forth action between the two teams, Charlie Zuccarini ’19 managed to sneak one by the Amherst goalie off assists by Fee- ney and Brandon Cole ’17, sending the Bantams into the third period up 3-2.

Amherst tried to rally back in the last period and even tied the game but after a heated scuffle around the visiting team’s net, a deflected Sean Orlando ’17 shot bounced right to Cole, who edged the puck in and sealed the game 4-3 in favor of Trinity. The Bantams outshot their opponents 41-18 with goalkeeper Alex Morin ’18 getting credit for 15 saves. The men return to the ice on the Dec. 9 at Hobart and come home Jan. 6 to play Williams.

Hockey Bounces Back from Tough Loss, Beats Amherst

MEGHAN O’REILLY ‘19 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Strong Core of Underclassmen Leads Wrestling Team

JUSTIN FORTIER ’18 STAFF WRITER

Two years ago, seeing the Trinity Wrestling team finish in any slot above the bottom position might have been considered a miracle, but this year the expectations are much higher. Last fall, the wrestling team brought a massive new infusion of talent, adding 18 new first-years to the roster. This year the critical mass remained, and 13 sophomores and six freshmen anchor the 23-man roster. That investment in new talent is beginning to pay dividends as Trinity has slowly started improving their performances.

Most recently, on Nov. 3 at the Ted Reese Invitational hosted by the University of Southern Maine, the Bantams wrapped up the tournament with 45 points, enough to take seventh place in a field of 13. Captain Grant Sorensen ’19 led the way for the Bantams, closing out with five wins and a single loss in the 149-pound weight class, with his only loss coming to Southern Maine’s Dan Del Gallo who is ranked No. 2 nationally. The Trinity captain won his first two rounds with decisive pins, before a hard-fought, 5-3 victory in the fourth round sent him to a match up against teammate Lucas Kaminski ’20 who Sorensen pinned at 2:20. Kaminski took home the fifth place title while Sorensen took home third place. Nolan Cornu ’19 earned a pin and an 8-3 decision before losing in the fifth place match.

The night before the invitational, the Bantams tested the mats, as they took on the University of Southern Maine in a head-to-head matchup. Unfortunately, Trinity did not fare well in the lighter weight classes, nor did they perform well in the heavier weights. A breath of fresh air came in the 165 and 174-pound weight classes as Cornu and Cerrone ’20 both took down their opponents. Cerrone controlled Southern Maine’s Aaron Weiss for a 13-6 victory in the 174-pound weight class, while Cornu edged a 3-2 win over Josh Smith.

On Nov. 18, the NCAA Division II East Stroudsburg University Warriors defeated Trinity in a 29-15 loss in their home season opener. The Ooting Gymnasium served as the site of the warm-up match for the Springfield Invitational. Although the Bantams were spared the humiliation of having their score doubled, it came as the result of a single win by decision and two Warrior forfeits accounting for the bulk of the Bantams points. Mason Sangillo ’19 won an 11-7 decision in the heavy weight bout, putting six of 15 points on the board for the home squad. Trinity’s Sorensen was bested 3-2 in the 157-pound match by East Stroudsburg’s Blake Cohen.

On Nov. 19, Sorensen and teammates Cornu and Sun- gille each won three matches at the Doug Parker Invitational tournament, hosted by Springfield College. This season's first-year experiment. They are building to better and better performances this year, and provided the underclassmen continue into the coming seasons, they will be a formidable team in the future.

Captain Grant Sorensen ’19 had five wins and just a single loss in the 149-pound weight class.

Strong Core of Underclassmen Leads Wrestling Team

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Squash Teams Sweep Columbia, Dartmouth and Colby

Continued from page 1

third year, and No. 6 na-
tionally ranked player,
Osama Khalifa was able to
defeat Trinity’s Michael
Craig ‘19, the Lions would
not win another game. An
impressive performance
from Bantams Kush Ku-
mar ‘20 helped pave the
way to an 8-1 victory.

The women’s team fol-
lowed suit of the men also
defeating Columbia 8-1.
In the first seven games of
the match, the Bantams
did not drop a single game.
Captain Raneem Sharaf
‘18 continues to dominate
court as she defeated Tan-
vi Khanna, allowing only
13 points in three games.
Commanding victories
from co-captain Anna
Kimberley ‘17 and Julia
LeCoq ‘18 also set the tone
for the Trinity victory.

The Bantams came into Saturday with mo-
mentum against Dart-
mouth, and it showed.
The men’s team showed
no mercy and shut out
Dartmouth in a 9-0 vic-
tory. This match was rou-
tine for the Bantams, with
Tom De Mulder ‘19 cruis-
ing to an easy win, allow-
ing just 16 total points in
three games. The thriller
of the match came at the
No. 8 spot, when after los-
ing the first two games,
Trinity’s Nku Patrick ‘19
came all the way back to
win three games in a row,
and keep the shut out go-
ing. The women’s team
saw much of the same
success as the men did-
it to the No. 24 ranked
Mules. In their closest
match, the Bantams end-
ed the weekend with a 7-2
victory. The women came
out to play, and left the
weekend with their heads
held high after shutting
out Colby and leaving the
weekend undefeated as
well. No woman for the
Bantams let up more than
nine points total in their
individual matches, some
of the most imposing vic-
tories being those by Alex-
ia Echeverria ‘17, who
only let up three points,
and Phoebe Carlisle ‘17
who dominated her oppo-
ponent, allowing just four
total points in her match.

Both teams will take
some time off from match-
ests until the New Year,
when the men’s team will
take off against the Uni-
versity of Pennsylvania
and Princeton Universi-
ty on Sunday Jan. 8 and
Monday Jan. 9. The wom-
en’s team will start the
New Year a little later
when they take on Frank-

W. Basketball Looks to Build on Four-Game Winning Streak

NATE CHOUKAS ‘18
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Women’s basketball con-
tinued their 2016-17 cam-
paign at Norwich Universi-
ty this weekend, claiming
a title at the Ed Hockenbury
Invitational for the sec-
ond year in a row. Trinity
defeated the Bridgewater
State Bears 63-48 in the
opening contest, before clip-
ning the Norwich Cadets
56-50 in the final, mov-
ing to 4-1 on the season.

Center Courtney Erick-
son ‘19 led the Bantams
in both contests, dropping
career-high 20 points
against the Bears and then
18 against the Cadets. Er-
ickson went on to receive
the tournament’s Most
Outstanding Player award.

In the first tilt, the Ban-
tams shot an impressive
45% from the field, hold-
ning Bridgewater State to
36%. Rebecca Riefler ‘19
and Erica Junquet ‘19 add-
ed offense with 17 and 11
points respectively. At the
half, Trinity found them-
selves tied 23-23 before
rolling into the third quar-
ter, where they outscored
the Bears 20-9, and taking a dou-
ble-digit lead early in the
fourth quarter. The Cadets
rallied early in the fourth
quarter cutting the lead to
six, but the ensuing string
of Trinity buckets stopped
any sort of comeback.

In the championship
contest, points were harder
to come by, as both teams
shot 35% from the field.
While Norwich led in re-
bounds and scoring in the
paint, the Bantams were
able to capitalize on a mul-
titude of Cadet turnovers,
scooring 23 points. Captain
Kautilin Lewis ‘17 had a
great all-around perfor-
ance, scoring 12 points
with six rebounds and five
assists, and Riefler added
another 10 points.

Trailing 25-22 at half-
time, Trinity continued its
dominant third-quarter
play, outscoring the Cadets
20-9, and taking a dou-
ble-digit lead early in the
fourth quarter. The Cadets
made a push late in the
fourth quarter, but it was too
little too late, as Trinity held
on for the championship.

The Bantams look to
continue their four game
winning streak as they host
Coast Guard (2-4) and Salve
Regina (1-6) this week.

Kush Kumar ‘20 (left) and Raneem Sharaf ‘18 (right) both won in decisive fashion this weekend.

COURTESY OF Trinity College Athletics

M&W Swimming and Diving @ Clark 1:00 p.m.
Men’s Ice Hockey @ Elmira 5:00 p.m. & more

This Week in Sports
Sun
**NO ATHLETIC EVENTS**

Sat
Home Games & Invitational