President Responds to Title IX Regulations

BRENDAN W. CLARK ’21
MANAGING EDITOR

Trinity College released its response to the Department of Education’s proposed rulemaking on Title IX last week. Berger-Sweeney’s response was sent to students, faculty, and staff via email, with the note that her response “joins many thousands of others that have been submitted by individuals and institutions.” The response, formulated after the Department of Education’s release of more than 150 pages on Title IX rulemaking, comes several days before the Department is set to review and revise the College’s policies yielding “a report with specific recommendations to improve our efforts.” Moreover, added Berger-Sweeney, the College’s current policy is “fair, equitable, accessible to all parties... and is consistent with national best practices.” Berger-Sweeney expressed her concern that several of the new proposed policies “will undo some of that work and undermine our efforts to prevent and respond to sex discrimination and misconduct.”

Further, Berger-Sweeney identified several changes that were specifically troubling to Trinity. These changes included “that institutions must provide live hearings with cross-examinations,” that the “cross examinations must be conducted by the party’s advisor of choice,” and that the new regulations “would narrow the definition of sexual harassment.” Berger-Sweeney stated that the exclusion of attorneys as advisors would “further deter reporting and investigations and create inequities between students with disparate financial resources.” Further, the new regulations will be “detrimental to our ability to provide support and to prevent sex-based discrimination involving members of our community” and, according to Berger-Sweeney’s letter, will result in the erosion of a “quasi-judicial proceeding,” something that is difficult for a small college to facilitate.

Students Encouraged to Nominate 2020 Honorands

GILLIAN REINHARD ’20
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Nominations for honorand degree recipients and Commencement speakers for the Class of 2020 are accepted from members of the community online via Trinity’s website until Feb. 27. Chief of Staff and Assistant Vice President for External Affairs Jason Rojas M’12 spoke to the Tripod regarding the importance of the selection process and the desire to get students involved. “Criteria for selection is left open: anyone can be nominated,” explained Rojas. “Commencement is about the students who are graduating, so we want them to be part of the experience.” As Rojas explained, allowing students to take part in the nomination process is an initiative of Trinity College President Berger-Sweeney. Nominations are reviewed by the Honorand Review Committee, which, according to Trinity’s website, is comprised of “representatives from the faculty, staff, student body (through the SGA), and Board of Trustees.” SGA member Ben Feola ’19 spoke about the process in an interview with the Tripod from April of 2018, remarking that, “It (serving on the committee) was an enlightening experience.”

The Honorand Review Committee looks for nominees who have made significant accomplishments and have made enormous impacts in their respective fields. While many of those honored have pedagogical careers, the committee also hopes for names beyond academia. As Rojas explained, the committee hopes for a diverse list of nominees to choose from that reflect the values of the institution. Students interested in submitting a nominee, alongside relevant information on the figure’s professional background, can consult the College’s website. Nominations are due by Feb. 27.

Black History Month: Events this Week

“Unlikely Film Documentary & Discussion”
Wednesday, Feb. 6, 7:00 p.m., Cinestudio

“The Experience of the Black International Students”
Thursday, Feb. 7, 12:15-1:15 p.m., Alumni Lounge

“Black Jeopardy”
Friday, Feb. 8, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Vernon Social

“S.A.L.L. Presents: Roll Bounce”
Saturday, Feb. 9, 8:00-12:00 a.m., Washington Room

“Love, Sex, and Relationship: Black Edition”
Tuesday, Feb. 12, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Terrace Rooms B&C

“Vagina Monologues”
Wednesday, Feb. 13, 7:00-8:15 p.m., Vernon Social

See page 7 for more coverage of Black History Month.
It’s Time for Juniors to Participate

Trinity College’s Junior Class, in the fall semester, had two representatives in Student Government; one class president, who was uncontested, and one senator, who this semester went abroad. On the eve of a special election for four open SGA Senate seats, contested by six individuals, the question remains: why is the Class of 2020 not active in the advancement of an important campus purpose, and why have students not embraced an opportunity to shape the direction of Trinity?

To go an entire semester with hardly any representation means that the interests of the Class of 2020 were not heard throughout the course of important business conducted during the fall. While it is true that many of us studied abroad during this time, this is still not an excuse. How can we, as a class, feel that our needs are being addressed when we are hardly represented in our own student body?

Some of the most passionate Trinity students I have met are in my own grade. They’re involved in a variety of different activities. However, a lack of representation in SGA is a clear sign of disengagement.

I have written countless editorials on this issue throughout my work with the Tripod. When I graduate, I will certainly feel that I have made my mark on campus life and have been passionately involved in bettering Trinity. I truly believe this is something every member of my class should also feel upon graduating, but most likely will not.

Yet another question I have concerns why the three vacant senate seats were left unfilled throughout the fall. The Student Government Association surely knew of the lack of interested candidates when general elections occurred in September, yet they took no action to remedy the inequity until now. Why the delay? If the answer is that students were unwilling to serve, then each and every junior must consider their obligations and the imperative call of service to SGA.

Want to join the Tripod staff?

Join the staff or submit an article via the “Get Involved” section of our website, trinitytripod.com.
Trinity Partners with LITTLE Architecture

AMANDA HAUSMANN ‘21
NEWS EDITOR

Trinity College joined with LITTLE Architectural Consulting to further its goals toward a sustainable future. Most recently, students and faculty joined with LITTLE Architectural Consulting for a vision session, which consisted of a dinner and workshop, to discuss big-picture goals for improving Trinity’s environmental sustainability. LITTLE Architectural Consulting is an international architecture and design firm that is “recognized for high design solutions. LITTLE delivers results beyond architecture by combining expertise in architecture, building engineering, and interior architecture,” according to the LITTLE Architectural Consulting website. Additionally, LITTLE specializes in sustainable design and has “served as the architect of record for the nation’s first sustainable living/learning center.” The dinner and workshop were follow-ups to a project between Trinity and LITTLE that occurred in 2017. Consultants from LITTLE produced an overall report in 2017 that was inclusive to many aspects of Trinity, including sustainability. Now, LITTLE will produce another report specific to sustainability that will tackle some of the issues brought up by members of the Trinity community during the visioning session. Students in the visioning session were tasked with coming up with potential solutions to the greatest sustainability challenges that presently exist on campus, disregarding any financial limitations, according to Trinity’s Sustainability Coordinator Rose Rodriguez ’15 who was in attendance at the visioning session. One of the main challenges that was discussed was transportation. Students talked about ways to encourage students to take public transportation, such as renovating bus stops around campus to provide better lighting or reducing the cost of public transportation was also noted to potentially help reduce the number of cars on campus, which students pointed out may turn in turn make on-campus parking easier.

A second topic discussed was the issue of academics and sustainability. Specifically regarding the classes that currently exist or could exist at Trinity related to sustainability. Rodriguez stated that one of the reports presented is trying to complete is “looking at which courses are about sustainability and which ones simply have sustainability as a part of them.” Rodriguez mentioned the possibility of adding an option on the information for course enrollments where students or parents can filter courses that are specifically about sustainability. Rodriguez emphasized the importance of this with regard to the many possibilities for “using Trinity’s campus as a living lab” that could be capitalized on, such as opportunities being done at colleges and universities across the country.

Once Trinity receives the report from LITTLE, Trinity’s sustainability team will use that information to generate the campus’ “STARS” rating. STARS is a Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System created by AASHE, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. According to Rodriguez, the College can use the STARS rating as a baseline for understanding what changes need to be made to increase greater sustainability. Specifically, Rodriguez believes the rating will help Trinity “create a sustainability action plan for the campus that can serve as a living document. Something that will change over time and help to monitor the progress.” Rodriguez believes it is important to “be more transparent to make sure people really know where the College is.” In addition to the report by LITTLE and the STARS report, Trinity will use its data from its composting program to track the College’s sustainability progress. The newest report by LITTLE is expected to be received by the college within the next few weeks.

New International Student Advisory Board Requests Official Recognition and Approval From SGA

KATIE CLAIR, as well as several international students. As an organization created by and for international students, the board aims to help international students assimilate into the Trinity community through a series of events and programs every semester in order to better understand the problems that international students face. With the board composed of representatives of each class, it aims to display the diversity of foreign students at Trinity College. The group is different than International House (IHouse) in that IHouse attempts to expose Trinity students to international cultures through hosting events, whereas ISAB aims to integrate international students by providing an outlet for expressing issues that international students might encounter in their transition to a new environment.

The SGA met with Joseph DiChristina, Dean of Campus Life and Vice President for Student Affairs, in order to discuss the presence of substance abuse on campus as well as the administration’s plans for renovating Trinity’s campus. In order to better understand the presence of substance abuse at Trinity College, the administration plans on hosting representatives from the Hazelden Betty Ford Center who will listen to students’ experiences with alcohol and drug abuse and report to the administration on the extent of the problem while keeping students’ identities anonymous. Dean DiChristina also revealed that the administration’s plans for renovating a variety of buildings on Trinity’s campus. While the administration has decided to renovate buildings such as IHouse and House of Peace, as well as the bathrooms of Mather Hall in an effort to become more gender-inclusive, it is planning on closing Boardwalk and Park Place for the 2019-2020 school year while it invests the costs and benefits of spending around $2 million for buildings that only have 40 rooms.

The Student Government Association also heard updates from the Board of Overseers on the committee’s provision of expendable textbooks in the library in subjects such as calculus and economics.

Chief of Staff and Associate Vice President for External Affairs Jason Rojas added that Trinity “expects a lengthy review process of the more than 100,000 comments that were submitted in response to the proposed regulations.” Rojas also stated that he is presently in Washington, D.C. as of the time of publication to meet with “members of our federal delegation to directly share our concerns.” Berger-Sweeney’s letter, submitted along with an endorsement from Trinity for letters from the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges and other peer institutions, will be considered by the Department of Education as it finalizes the rules in the coming months. “The Department of Education will review the comments over the weeks and possibly months ahead and we hope and expect that they will make amendments to the proposed regulations.” Rojas added.
Admissions Introduces “Nominate a Bantam” Program

BRENDAN CLARK ’21
MANAGING EDITOR

The Trinity College Admissions Department introduced a new program to find new students. The program, called “Nominate a Bantam,” is designed to attract “intellectually curious, engaged students who want to be in an urban environment, where the campus does not begin and end with the walls,” said Vice President of Enrollment and Student Success Angel B. Pérez.

The program allows current Trinity students to submit the names of high school seniors for consideration. As a courtesy, the College will waive the Common Application fee for those students and their nomination will be noted in the student’s file. Pérez, speaking to the Tripod, added that a nomination “does not guarantee admission,” but is treated in a manner commensurate with nomination letters that Trinity’s Admissions Department receives from alumni and other individuals. Upon being nominated, the prospective student(s) are notified of their nomination and are then invited to apply.

Pérez added that he was “pleased” with the extent of the first nominations and added that the nominated students “had not previously been on Trinity’s radar.” Those on Trinity’s radar, said Pérez, are “anyone who has inquired to the college, students whose names have been provided through a PSAT testing service, and those who have attended an information session or come to campus for a visit.”

In an email to the campus community in December, Student Government Association (SGA) President Kristina Miele added that the program seeks to identify seniors who possess “the academic and personal qualities we value.” Miele continued, noting that those who nominate will “help shape our future and broaden our access to build a more diverse campus.”

While the program does seek to provide another avenue for nominations, Pérez stated that the “Nominate a Bantam” program is an “other ‘field that we will add to that application” and is another means by which the College can assess the qualifications of prospective students. Students who submitted nominations, said Pérez, have made the statement that “there are students who are passionate about shaping the student body here.” Pérez noted that nominations and letters of support are frequently received by faculty and by alumni and that the “Nominate a Bantam” program is a way for current students to get involved in the next generation of Trinity students.

The results of the nomination process will not be fully reviewed and considered until the end of March, Pérez added. As a program is new, the Admissions Office plans to continue it for at least the next year before determining the full extent of its efficacy and success.
fleck on the campus climate for women at Trinity. In my eyes, the fiftieth anniversary should be both a celebration and a call to action to improve the way women are treated at this institution. Of course, from an educational standpoint, I have always felt that I have been given the same opportunities and treatment in the classroom as my male peers; however, the area of campus life that feels the most heavy to me is Trinity’s social climate and nightlife. I have had experiences just about every weekend that have made me feel either unsafe or, dare I say, less than human, though now as I try to articulate these feelings into words, I am having a hard time. On nights out, the fun can be forced to an abrupt stop at any moment by a handy drunk rougue or a fraternity brother unsuitably elevated the crowd of scantily clad girls to decide who is good-looking enough to enter. On top of all of this, Trinity is home to an outwardly sexist and heteronormative hookup culture, which is generally considered (as I have gathered) from countless conversations in the girls’ bath-room in various campus buildings), to be one of the deepest flaws in Trinity’s social climate. It would also be naïve not to mention the fact that college campuses (yes, including ours) are rampant with sexual assault cases, both reported and unre- ported, that leave victims in perhaps the very definition of a hostile climate. My reason for pointing out these flaws and areas that need our work is that at the college is not to take away from the celebration of half a century of coeducation with equality. As far as a solution to these everyday inequalities, I think that the first step is solidarity and mutual empowerment between women across all races, financial standings, sexual orientations, and specific gender identities. We have a Trinity experience that is simply different from those of the men that sit in class beside us, and by acknowledging this fact and supporting one another we can work toward smoothing out some of those gaps and living in a social space that is more comfortable. This request is keeping an eye on one another to keep each other safe on nights out, spread- ing positivity and kindness amongst each other, or even something as simple as saying hello on the Long Walk. I truly feel that having each other’s backs and empower- ing each other is the first step for social remediation. On a lighter note, I know some seriously har- dass women who frequent this campus, and I am looking forward to a final request to meet each other and have strong, empowering, happy fiftieth, ladies of Trinity.

Trump’s Shutdown: Not So Bad in the Grand Scheme

ELEANA DAVOS ’20 STAFF WRITER

800,000 federal em- ployees versus 800,000 federal employees fur- loughed. 16 days ver- sus 35 days. 2013 versus 2018. Full versus partial government shut down. Democrat versus Repub- lican. Healthcare versus border security. Which numbers correlate to for- mer President Barack Obama’s government shutdown and which are numbers that relate to current President Don- ald Trump? The numbers may surprise some of you, the first numbers (before each versus) are num- bers that belong to former President Barack Obama, and the latter belong to President Donald Trump.

Why is it that people are so much more com- fortable with a govern- ment shutdown when it has to do with healthcare, when it arguably took a much larger toll on our government and economy than President Trump’s? Is it because media is so scared of portraying an unprecedented view of politics due to the stigma asso- ciated with being in sup- port of President Trump? Or could it be because the potential outcome of what could have been a success- ful shutdown is funding for a large concrete wall that would avoid illegal immigrants crossing the border into our country. Some think this is an in- human approach to border security, but consid- ering that Mexicans and other individuals south of the border are easily able to cross by means of jump- ing the fence or crawling under pipelines, etc., it is clearly not safe for the millions of legal citizens of the United States. Not to men- tion that during the fiscal year, approxi- mately 108,000 illegal immi- grants were convicted of a crime in the United States. Accord- ing to Catharine Shoichet writing for CNN, it is ex- pected that in 2019, the crime rate will rise 142% if nothing is done to safely secure the Mexican border. But what is it about Obama’s shutdown that made it completely accept- able in the eye of the pub- lic and media? Obama’s government shutdown was done in order to fur- ther his funding of the Af- fordable Care Act, at the end of his 16 days he clear- ly came out on top and was able to fund through to put this into prospective, the funding needed to get the Affordable Care Act off the ground, and, due to the hands of each American, was approximately 685 billion tax payer dollars. Yet Donald Trump’s demand for his border wall funding taking into account the materials, la- bor, and land acquisition would cost approximate- ly $25 billion. So, what is the thing this president does, regardless of how good it may be for the nation, will be scrutinized and dissect- ed, simply because the me- dia and many others have a vendetta against him.

Trinity Group

Tuesday nights in The Chapel
(take a right at the main altar and go down the stairs to the Crypt Chapel)
6:30 - Orientation and Meditation Instruction for first-timers
7 - Chanting and Meditation
7:45 - Discussion & Refreshments

WWW.TRINITYZEN.ORG / FB: TRINITY ZEN GROUP
We are still six hundred and some odd days away from the next general election and more than a year away from Iowa, and yet already-nine Democratic candi- dates have declared their intent to run for Pres- ident, with approximately another twenty possible contenders. And yet, in the Democratic Electoral- cating context, it seems that the different camps are already declaring war.

Take former Rep. Beto O’Rourke, the charismatic sec- Senate candidate from Texas. After a historic and “Kennedy-esque” campaign, some pundits began to mention his name as a possible 2020 contender.

Even without any con- ditioned party insiders began to publicly criticize him with Chicago Mayor and Obama’s chief of staff Rahm Emanuel, saying “you don’t usually prov- urement to a leader and we can be sure that the 2020 Democratic Presidential Convention will be one of the most competitive in years, with likely a double-digit number of candidates running” for the nomination. But candidates are perfect: that expectation is unrealistic. Vice President Biden and Sen. Warren are perfect candidates for easy and alluring media coverage, and outlets were all too happy to comply, pro- viding hours of free media time on the conflicts, potentially negatively coloring voters’ impressions in the process.

Primary elections are good. They provide an op- portunity for parties to de- termine the policies that are important to their vot- ers and better examine po- tential leaders. And we can be sure that the 2020 Democratic Presidential Primary will be one of the most competitive in years, with likely a double-digit number of candidates run- ning for the nomination. But candidates are perfect: that expectation is unrealistic. Vice President Biden and Sen. Warren and Sanders, the current front runners, would all be above the age of 70 on inauguration day.

Of course, all of this infighting makes for easy and alluring media coverage, and outlets were all too happy to comply, pro- viding hours of free media time on the conflicts, potentially negatively coloring voters’ impressions in the process.

On Jan. 31, 2019, the President announced peace was at hand in Afghanistan. “This peace is farcical, and far from reflecting the realities of the 17-year-long war in Afghanistan...”

The President tweet- ed on the Feb. 1 that “I inherited a total mess in Syria and Afghanistan, the “Endless Wars” of unlimited spending and death. “...we spent $50 billion in Afgh- anistan and have hit them so hard that we are now talking peace.” This is a fiction which fails to take into account basic military realities. 2019 marks a low point in NATO deployments in Afghanistan. Since 2015, the Afghan National De- fense Force continues to rely heavily on Americ- an support. Currently, American airstrikes are at their highest level since the beginning of the conflict, evidence not that “we...have hit them so hard” but that ground forces, both American, NATO, and Afghan, are incapable of practi- cal operations against Taliban strongholds.

To that end, I have one suggestion. Play this round with the gloves on. Con- structive policy discussion is necessary, even good in a primary. Aggressive op- position research and per- sonal attacks are just for their mission to be sold for popularity.


2020 Dems: Not Perfect, But Better Than Trump

23 vote with wide bipar- tisan support, evidenc- ing strong opposition on Capitol Hill to Trump’s foreign policy, which this columnist has ear- lier described as lacking cogency and direction. The resignation of Secretary of Defense Mark Esper as a cool head in a mer- curial White House, fur- ther destabilizes Trump’s doctrine of “principled re- alism.” The Afghanistan Peace Accords have been in Afghanistan since 2001, fighting against Taliban insur- gents who provided sup- ort and protection for Osama bin Laden. The recent decision by the President to withdraw around 7,000 troops, out of a force of 14,000, has been followed up by indications that a peace settlement is close to completion. This peace is farcical, and, far from reflecting the realities of the 17-year-long war in Afghanistan, peace will be achieved for domestic political gain at the cost of both the combat

The Paris Peace Ac- cords were reported in the Jan. 9, 1973, ending direct U.S. military in- vention on the battlefield. That peace was signed without consulting the government of South Vietnam. Current peace talks with the Taliban—and precip- itated the collapse of the South, the raison d’être for American involve- ment. The withdrawal of ground forces, with out proper arming and training of the forces of South Vietnam, made the American military intervention of North Vietnam and the unifi- cation of Vietnam under the oppressor banner of communism. The peace talks were aimed not at ending the conflict but simply American involve- ment—and responsibility—in that conflict. The President tweet- ed on the Feb. 1 that “I inherited a total mess in Syria and Afghanistan, the “Endless Wars” of unlimited spending and death. “...we spend $50 billion in Afgh- anistan and have hit them so hard that we are now talking peace.” This is a fiction which fails to take into account basic military realities. 2019 marks a low point in NATO deployments in Afghanistan. Since 2015, the Afghan National De- fense Force continues to rely heavily on Americ- an support. Currently, American airstrikes are at their highest level since the beginning of the conflict, evidence not that “we...have hit them so hard” but that ground forces, both American, NATO, and Afghan, are incapable of practi- cal operations against Taliban strongholds.

To that end, I have one suggestion. Play this round with the gloves on. Con- structive policy discussion is necessary, even good in a primary. Aggressive op- position research and per- sonal attacks are just for their mission to be sold for popularity.

The current front runners, would all be above the age of 70 on inauguration day. Sen. Harris, Gillibrand, and O’Rourke, as well as Reps. Gabbard, all have per- formed mea culpa’s of some
Black History Month: Liberation Celebration Dinner

TANUJA AMINA BUDRAJ ’21 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Liberation Celebration Dinner, celebrating “A Century of Black Excellence,” took place on Jan. 31, marking the beginning of Black History Month. The dinner opened up with Assistant Dean of Students John Semple Burns, opening not only for the delicious food, but for the whole month of February and the many events that will celebrate Black excellence. With performances from FriendsWorldMusic, Hartford’s Proud, and a local jazz band (G. Nelson Bellomo), the Liberation Celebration was a great kick off for Black History Month.

Black History Month, also known as African American History Month is the annual celebration of important figures and events in the history of the African diaspora for the whole month of February. Originally created in 1926 by historian Carter G. Woodson, African American history was only celebrated during the second week of February, which coincides with Lincoln’s birthday on the 14th and Frederick Douglass’ on the 14th. Black History week was then expanded upon by students and administrators at Kent State University in February of 1969. Countries such as the United Kingdom, Canada, and the Republic of Ireland, are all in observance of Black History Month. Here at Trinity, the Black History Month Committee (BHM), headed by Danyel Hudson, has been at work planning exciting and educational programs around the theme of Black history. Along with the support of eight organizations on campus (Trinity College Black Women Organization, IMANI’s Black Student Union, Men of Color Alliance, La Voz Latina, African Student Association, Caribbean Students Association, and House of Peace), the Black History Month Committee has put together a month full of events that the Trinity and Hartford community can enjoy and celebrate Black excellence.

With Trinity’s matriculating classes becoming more diverse throughout the years, the POC community has grown tremendously on campus and, in turn, increasing engagement with the residents of the Hartford community. Many of the organizations on campus that are participating in Black History Month come from different places in the African diaspora, creating a wide array of ways to celebrate Black History Month. From movie showings, to fun games, thought provoking discussions, and various social events, the BHM committee has organized many different ways for the community to commemorate African American History. The Liberation Celebration Dinner was the beginning to a month-long appreciation of Black History. The energy and excitement that was felt through students, faculty, and performers at the kickoff dinner will continue on throughout the month of February.

AASA Celebrates Lunar New Year with Food, Culture

BHAVNA MAMMANI ’21 FEATURES EDITOR

The Asian American Student Association’s biggest event of the year, Lunar New Year, took place last Friday in the grandiosity of the Washington Room. Lunar New Year is the celebration of the new year as by the lunar calendar, Lunar New Year is celebrated all over East Asia and is mostly thought to be a Chinese celebration, even though various countries celebrate the event as well. The celebration started the night before with dumpling night. When students and faculty were invited into the AASA home to make and cook handmade dumplings, the next day’s events, reminiscent of traditional Lunar New Year customs. Dumpling night encouraged the international community to get involved with AASA to ensure Lunar New Year be as authentic and close to home as possible. The Washington Room was decorated from wall to wall with red lanterns, pig decals (since 2019 is considered the year of the pig), and lights, and attendees were given red packets on their way in: giving red packets on Lunar New Year is a tradition the older tend to pass on to the younger meaning older people give younger people red packets as a way of good fortune for the upcoming year. Even supplemented with a red background photo station, AASA went all out in Lunar New Year décor, careful to keep in mind that red is a sign of good luck and good energy in East Asian culture. Presentations, given by members of AASA’s E-board, commenced the event with information on the different countries that celebrate Lunar New Year to give the audience an idea of how Lunar New Year isn’t just a Chinese event, but is celebrated by people all over East Asia such as South Korea and Vietnam. Complimentary food was provided to reflect the different regions and cultures that celebrate Lunar New Year: banh mi, a hard roll filled with marinated meat and pickled vegetables served with the tendon’s choice of either shrimp or tofu spring rolls and peanut sauce, was served as a representation of Vietnam’s traditional food while mapo tofu and homemade dumplings were served to represent China’s traditional Lunar New Year food. The event continued with dragon dances and women traditional dances performed by trained dancers followed by an authentic song performed by one of the dancers. Student Elizabeth Zheng ‘22 even did a beautiful impromptu karaoke performance of an Ariana Grande song. Overall, AASA’s effort to put on an event of this importance across East Asia was valiant and appreciated by many for its consideration of countries that celebrate Lunar New Year. They created an environment out of genuine appreciation for the culture and history of Lunar New Year and it shows in their devotion to recruit resources such as authentic food, performers, and information.

Cinestudio to Screen Unlikely

GILLIAN REINHARD ’20 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

According to a press release from the Trinity College Office of Communications, the screening of the documentary Unlikely was directed and produced by former admissions officer at Columbia University, John Semple Burns. The documentary focuses on the lives of five college drop-outs trying to complete their degrees. The documentary highlights inequality and systemic barriers students face in their pursuit of both a degree and a career and explores these issues in Akron, Atlanta, Boston, and Los Angeles.

As the press release noted, the documentary features president of the University of Maryland Freeman Hrabowski, executive director of the University Innovation Alliance Bridges Burns, NBA basketball player LeBron James, and CEO of Year Up Gerald Chertavian.

The screening of Unlikely and panel discussion to follow at Trinity College are copresented by the Office of the President and the Education Studies Program. The screening will take place on Feb. 6 at 7:00 p.m. in Cinestudio. As indicated in the press release, the panel will be moderated by director of Urban Educational Initiatives Robert Cotto, Jr, co-executive director of Hartford Youth Scholars Roxanna Booth Miller, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Success Angel Pérez and president of Hartford Promise Richard Sugarman.
Trinity College is currently the home of a very diverse international community, with 272 students that come from places all over the world. In this semester, 74 different nations are represented, which comprises all continents except for Antarctica. Just taking a trip to Mather Hall is enough to realize how rich our college is, not only geographically, but also culturally.

International students bring more than simple statistics and representation to Trinity: they come with a wide amalgamation of ideas and traditions that are such an incredible opportunity to learn about other countries through first-hand experience. As International Student Advisor Katie Clair stated, what the college has achieved by carefully admitting students has achieved by carefully stated, what the college realized, how rich our college is.

As International Student Advisor Katie Clair stated, what the college has achieved by carefully admitting students is "bringing the world to Harford, CT" and to Trinity as well. She also stated that maintaining such a diverse breadth of perspectives and ways of thinking "is vital to the liberal arts." Being around such a culturally rich environment is great for understanding different festivities and traditions and their meaning, and feeling transported to other parts of the world by simply attending festivals and celebrations in the Main Quad or the Washington Room.

For international students, this is undoubtedly true as well. Being in a different country, "maybe even a different continent," is an equally enriching experience. For some, it is the opportunity not only to grasp and enjoy this new way of life, but also to express their national identities with fervor and pride. In a conversation about different aspects of their culture, some international students have showcased thoughts regarding their individual nations and shed light on how culturally rich our campus is. Vidhi Vasa '22 expressed that the aspect she appreciates most about her native Indian culture is "visibility and warmth." Aashwin Basnet '19 of Nepal has expressed that the aspect he appreciates the most about his culture is that it "reflects people irrespective of their differences." He added that he is also very grateful for having the opportunity to have "very close ties with relatives and neighbors." and "to consider everyone in the society as brothers and sisters." About her native Belarus, Dasha Maliakaya '22 expressed that people are "patient, hospitable, and persistent," and that she has been able to express her culture through the Festival of All Nations. Similarly, Simran Sheth '19, also from India, added she has been able to express her culture "through the International House that holds events like Diwali and Holi."

Margarita Vergara '19 talked about how diverse her Panamanian culture is—a mixture of Afro-Caribbean, European, and American culture. She also added that Panamanians feel a great sense of pride for their country "everywhere they go," and that although her country has suffered from some problems in recent years, they "have never abandoned their cheerful spirit." Indian native Aadiv Sheth '22 stated during this conversation that he would like people to know that "when someone says Indian, there is no one kind of Indian that should come to mind. India is a vast and diverse country, and has a multitude of cultures, which leads to many different kinds of Indians." Similarly, Argentinian Federico Cedolini '22 talked about how the values "the food, the togetherness, how family is such an important part of her culture, and how he has several strong ties and friendships that "will last forever." Ange Pierreote Unwaliwase '22, from Rwanda, stated that her people "have some social customs, such as greeting everyone in the morning, respecting older people, celebrate Rwandan special events with families."
A Star is Born (2018) to be Shown at Cinestudio

ERIN GANNON ’19
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In the modern age of endless Hollywood re-makes and franchises that have no end in sight, Bradley Cooper’s A Star is Born brilliantly brands it-self as distinct from these categories, virtually nothing about how the film was marketed would lead audiences to realize that it is actually the fourth iteration of a film that first premiered in 1937. Mark-ing Cooper’s directorial debut, the 2018 version has been the subject of massive internet attention and awards-season buzz since premiering in March. Just four short months later, A Star is Born is making its way to Cinestudio. Ending a roughly four-year remake hiatus, 2018’s A Star is Born re-veives a film that has been adapted over and over again to provide cultural commentary during pivotal moments in American history. The original film starring Janet Gaynor and Fredric March premiered in 1937, just prior to the end of the Great Depression. The second version, now a musical, starring Judy Garland and James Mason, was released in 1954, during the post-World War II economic boom. The third, starring Barbra Streisand and Kris Kristofferson, came out at the height of the women’s movement in 1976. The latest version, starring Lady Gaga and Cooper himself, joins in on cultural conversations at a time where political tensions are more strained than entire generations have ever known before.

Though cultural context has changed with each re-release, the basic premise of the plot has remained – Jackson Maine, a successful musician, has met the talented but un-discovered Ally and takes her under his wing, helping her career to grow and eventually overshadow his own. The two fall in love, but their relationship is strained by an unwelcome and persistent third party – Jackson’s alcoholism. The couple must not only reconcile the differences in their career successes, but also cope with Jackson’s increasingly hazardous, drunken self-destruction. The result is a harrowing look at the intersections of notoriety, status, and substance abuse.

This A Star is Born re-frames questions of star-dom and public perception in the digital age, where celebrities are no longer alone in worrying about self-image. But, unlike its predecessors, as we follow Ally’s rise from rags to riches, we also watch Jackson’s career succumb to inevitable irre-levancy. A Star is Born was a fitting title for the story’s earlier versions, when Gay- nor, Garland, and Streisand were unmistakably the protagonists. Now, with the emphasis on Cooper’s character as well as Gaga’s, a more apt title might refer to a star burning out.

The 2018 rendition is a cinematic achievement in many regards, but the emo-tional weight of the film’s plot is without a doubt carried by a brilliant per-formance by Lady Gaga. Despite a surprising loss at the Golden Globes to Glenn Close, Gaga’s performance is now nominat-ed for an Academy Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role, despite the part being her first major role in a feature film. In addition to Gaga’s nomination, A Star is Born also secured six other Oscar nods, including Best Pic-ture, Actor in a Leading Role (Cooper), Support-ing Actor (Sam Elliott), Adapted Screenplay, Cinematography, Original Song, and Sound Mixing.

2019 Audio Recommendations for AirPod Users

LIZ FOSTER ’22
AS&E EDITOR

Like any other person who succumbs to peer pressure and the pursuit of materialistic satis-faction, I bought Apple’s newest toy: the elusive AirPods. Two weeks lat-er I’ve concluded a few songs slap in AirPods like no other.

“Rage” by Rico Nasty

“Rage” is Rico Nas-ty’s freestyle single off of her fourth mixtape Rage and packs an auditory punch. The gnarling guitar blasts under Rico’s feverishly rapping and yelling, literally. Moments in the track are under-scored by the rapper’s screams in the back-ground that switch from ear to ear as her flow conquers the phenomenal beats Kenny Beats has laid out. The production on this song is compelling, filled with a variety of instrumental layers that produce a genuinely complex track.

“For a song out of a time period characterized by political tensions, it’s surprisingly melancholy. Reflecting on a relationship filled with drugs and now sex, “Fweaky” reverberates like a drunken lullaby.

“Fweaky” by Miley Cyrus

“Fweaky” is a sexy, somber deep cut off of Miley Cyrus’ genuinely slept on “crazy days” mixtape Milky Cyrus and her Dead Petz. Miley’s voice croons over a delicate, trappy ballad by Ear Drummer’s label head Mike-WiLL-Made-It.

“For a song out of a time period characterized by political tensions, it’s surprisingly melancholy. Reflecting on a relationship filled with drugs and now sex, “Fweaky” reverberates like a drunken lullaby.

“M$” by ASAP Rocky and Lil Wayne

“One time for ASAP Yams” calls out Lil Wayne on the opening of this absolute banger of two of the 21st Century rap’s biggest names. Rocky snaps over murky, fuzzy beats that pound through the skull like you just chugged a Monster. The chorus soothes into a repetitive “Make ‘em talk about M$” before Wayne jumps on the beat, providing the exact excellence we’ve come to expect from the New Or-lleans legend. The song is an orchestral mix of two of the most iconic facets of the genre put-ting their all into a son-ically captivating force.

The Astroworld hit resounds in headphones like few other songs. This song is ba-sically already in 8D audio, an impressive feat.

“STARGAZING” by Travis Scott

The deep bass vibrations under booming claps and Travis’ auto tuned sing-ing. The LSD laced song floats through your head, swirling between the ears like a trippy dream.

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Lucía Cavallero is a sociologist and researcher at the Universidad de Buenos Aires, and member of the feminist collective Ni Una Menos. Her research focuses on economic criminality and gender.

Julia Cámara is a PhD student at the Complutense University. She was a coordinator of the Spanish feminist movement (M8), and an organizer of and speaker at Spain’s 2018 “feminist strike.”

Facebook.com/IWSCT

FRIDAY, FEB. 8th
12:30pm - 2pm
VERNON SOCIAL
LUNCH SERVED

In March, 2018, Spain, 5 million marched in an unprecedented “feminist strike.”

Come hear Spain’s leaders of the new global movement,

the International Women’s Strike.

Sponsors: WGRAC, PBPL, WMGS, POLS, INTS, Int’l Students Advisor, S.A.I.L, I-House, Socialist Action

Contact: laura.lockwood@trincoll.edu
**Men’s and Women’s Squash Have Victorious Weekend**

**CAM CHOTTINER ’20 STAFF WRITER**

With both teams rolling, men’s and women’s squash looked to keep up their red hot, yet typical, play with busy weeks facing Yale at home on Wednesday, Penn on the road on Saturday, and Williams back home just one day later on Sunday. With so many matches and so little time, it would surprise no one if fatigue began to set in for the Bantam squads. Nonetheless, both teams got started on Wednesday, squaring on with Ivy League rivals the Yale Bulldogs. The men got off to a blazing start as they took down Yale by a score of 7-2. Junior Thoboki Mshohlo, sophomore Ziad Sakr, first-year Aly Tolba, and sophomore Araymand Adik, all defeated their opponents without dropping a game. Senior Tom De Mulder, though not winning in straight games, had arguably the most exciting match of the day. After dropping the first two games in close fashion, Tom roared back in front of the home crowd, winning the next three games in what proved to be a thrilling victory. Meanwhile, the women took an even more convincing victory as they defeated the Bulldogs by a score of 8-1. Junior Salma Alam El Din and first-year Nadia Usenko were the lone Bantams that did not drop a single game. On Saturday, both the men and women traveled to Philadelphia to take Penn. The men faced an incredibly tough test as Penn was ranked #1 in the nation at the time of the match. Nonetheless, the Bantams showed that the two time defending champions were not to be taken lightly as they defeated the Quakers by a score of 6-3. Once again, Ziad Sakr won in straight games, with junior Andrew Lee and first-year Will Curtis joining him as they swept their opponents. The women, once again, were even more dominant, defeating Penn by a score of 8-1. Very similar to what was done last week, seven of the eight Bantams that were victorious did so in straight games, an incredible feat against a strong Ivy League opponent. On Sunday, the “Senior Day” celebration for the Bantams, the men defeated Williams College by a score of 9-0. Though the Ephs are no match for the Bantams, it is still remarkable that six of the nine Bantams won without dropping a game. On the other side, the women defeated Williams as well, this time by a score of 8-1. Much like the men, six of the eight victorious Bantams won without dropping a game. In crazy fashion, Nadia Usenko dropped only three points during the entire match. The women return to action on Feb. 6 at Harvard, while the men have the NESCAC Championships at Middlebury this weekend!
As the training only in these past few months.
their all off the water
season, the men’s crew
until the start of their
knowing weeks it is great to
ing weeks it is great to

track. However, after a
to campus to help
as they prepare to tran-

As the training only intensifies with the coming weeks it is great to know that there will be a few familiar faces back on the water with them when the season starts. As of last week, the team has found out that former 2018 graduate Timothy McDermott and former 2007 graduate Peter Graves will return to work as part-time assistant coaches for the team. Both of which expressed great excitement about being able to return to campus to help the team out at the start of their spring season.

Each of the returning alumni has a lot of talent to contribute to the team as they themselves have raised the bar of what it means to have been a rower at Trinity. Timothy McDermott was a walk-on to the team his freshman year and never imagined that he would row, initially thinking about playing soccer or track. However, after a few practices with the team, he quickly fell in love with the sport. In his first year alone he excelled in the sport, earning the opportunity to row in the stroke seat for the novice New England Championship.

For those that may not know, stroke seat also known as eight seat, is located towards the stern of the boat. The stroke is the one who sets the rhythm for the rest of the oarsmen, and demands a high level of strength and concentration. McDermott’s boat would go on to win a bronze at the New England Championship.

Mr. Graves was one of the 12th best in his senior year and despite having suffered a gruesome ankle injury he was able to return in his senior year in that same year, he was awarded the Wicks Award as the teams top novice rower. However, his record does not stop short in his freshman year. Mr. McDermott continued to excel in the sport, and despite having suffered a gruesome ankle injury he was able to return in his senior year and was in the boat that set the school record for the best time at the 2017 Head of the Charles (a well-known regatta held annually in Boston, MA). After Trinity, he accepted a position in the Trinity College admissions office as an International Admissions and Student Success Counselor. Another amazing alumnus that is making a return to campus is Peter Graves. At Trinity, Mr. Graves was one of the oarsmen in the 2005 Trinity boat that went to the Temple Cup at the Henley Royal Regatta. The Henley Royal Regatta is one of the best-known regattas in the world of rowing. This event occurs annually on the Thames river in England, and features some of the most competitive crews on all levels. Mr. Graves was also the stroke in his boat and beat Yale University by an incredible three lengths with a final time of 6:27. His boat is also the stroke in his first year alone he excelled in the sport, earning the opportunity to row in the stroke seat for the novice New England Championship.

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