Board of Trustees
Approve Capital Budget, Discuss Mental Health

DANIEL NESBITT ’22
NEWS EDITOR

The Trinity College Board of Trustees recently held a meeting on Saturday Feb. 8, 2020, during which the Board voted on a number of important subjects including the capital budget for fiscal year 2021 (FY21) and the refinancing of existing debt to better finance upcoming capital projects. In addition, the Board discussed various other topics, including Trinity’s engagement with Hartford, and the Task Force on the Status of Women at Trincity, among other things.

The Board approved the promotion of multiple professors. Professor Reo Matsuzaki of the Political Science department was promoted to associate professor with tenure. Also, professors Shafqat Hussain and Todd Ryan of the Anthropology and Philosophy departments, respectively, were promoted to full professor. In addition, the Board approved a revised conflict-of-interest policy for trustees and senior management employees. In the most significant vote by the Board, the finalized capital budget for FY21 was approved. The capital budget allocated a total of $5.6 million, distributed mainly among four different infrastructure projects. For classroom upgrades and cyclical information technology replacements, $1.6 million was allocated, and $1.5 million was allocated for fiscal year 2021 (FY21) and the refinancing of existing debt to better finance upcoming capital projects. In addition, the Board discussed various other topics, including Trinity’s engagement with Hartford, and the Task Force on the Status of Women at Trinity, among other things.

The Board approved the promotion of multiple professors. Professor Reo Matsuzaki of the Political Science department was promoted to associate professor with tenure. Also, professors Shafqat Hussain and Todd Ryan of the Anthropology and Philosophy departments, respectively, were promoted to full professor. In addition, the Board approved a revised conflict-of-interest policy for trustees and senior management employees. In the most significant vote by the Board, the finalized capital budget for FY21 was approved. The capital budget allocated a total of $5.6 million, distributed mainly among four different infrastructure projects. For classroom upgrades and cyclical information technology replacements, $1.6 million was allocated, and $1.5 million was allocated

Commencement 2021 Nominations

GILLIAN REINHARD ’20
FEATURES EDITOR

Members of the Trinity College community, including current students, are invited to submit nominations for candidates to receive honorary degrees from the College and serve as commencement speaker for the 2021 Commencement. We encourage student nominations of honorand candidates so the review committee and Board of Trustees have a diverse and exciting pool of nominees that reflect that aspiration and values of the graduating class and student body,” explained Chief of Staff and Associate Vice President for External Affairs Jason Rojas.

Once nominations are received, a committee of faculty, staff, students, and Trustees reviews the nominations in ascrath of a final, diverse list of honorands. “Commencement is primarily a celebration of student achievement and success and to the furthest extent possible we want their voices to be heard in this important process of identifying individuals worthy of this special recognition by the College,” added Rojas. Members of the community are able to submit nominations online at: trincol.edu/honorands/honorand-nominations.

The form to nominate a candidate will be open until Mar. 4, 2020 at 5 p.m. A committee of students, faculty, staff, and trustees will create a final list of candidates. In April, President Berger-Sweeney will submit the final list of nominations to be approved by the Board of Trustees.

see TRUSTEES on page 4

Trinity Aims for Greater Inclusivity in College Admissions

BRENDAN W. CLARK ’21
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Trinity College has recently embarked on a new initiative that seeks to foster greater inclusivity in the college admissions process by crossing socioeconomic boundaries. Trinity, which joined the American Talent Initiative last year, has sought to meet the alliance’s objectives by focusing on access. The Hartford Courant reported that the initiative, sponsored by Bloomberg Philanthropies, includes 128 participating institutions, with local affiliates including “Trinity, Connecticut College, Wesleyan University and Yale University.” The Courant reported that Trinity administrators have found that the initiative’s goal aligns with the college’s own commitment to diversifying its student body. The Tripod spoke with Vice President for Enrollment and Student Success Angel Perez, who echoed this assessment, adding that the partnership “felt natural for us because we were already doing extensive work of cultivating a wider pool of students from across the socioeconomic spectrum.” Participation in the initiative does not mean “quotas,” stressed Perez, who indicated that the college wants “to ensure that each class we enroll is the most talented—regardless of their ability to afford a Trinity education.” Trinity, in an announcement in Aug. 2019, indicated that the Class of 2025 had “17 percent first-generation students,” which was up from 13 percent the year previous year. The initiative as a whole seeks to increase access to 50,000 students. As the Courant indicated, that objective is meeting with mixed success, “gains in lower-income enrollment among 120 member institutions for the 2018-2019 academic year ‘levelled off.’ Still, as Perez told the Courant, the real meaning of institutions working to reach the objective is to rally "institutions across the country around one common goal, study what was successful and what was not and adjusting.” Perez emphasized that he feels the college’s commitment is particularly important, as for many “college is the first time they will engage deeply with students from other socioeconomic backgrounds.” Perez continued, noting that “students can learn to work together, embrace each other’s differences, and communicate across deep difference—we are setting them up for success after college.” The initiative will also be a part of the comprehensive campaign, added Perez, who indicated that the college’s vision “members of our community to invest in helping us continue to attract the best and the brightest to Trinity.”
Letter to the Editor
Andrew Legnani: State Senate Candidate for Sixth District

To the Editor:

I write to provide an important correction to your story, “Data Show Trinity Has Most VPs in the NESCAC” (February 4). The story’s general premise, as stated in the final paragraph, is that “the size of Trinity’s administration is larger than that of our NESCAC peers institutions.” This is a false assertion. In fact, Trinity has one of the smaller senior administrative teams in the NESCAC. The Tripod seems to have equated the title of VP with development operations, without taking into account key institutional differences. Where Trinity uses the title vice president, other schools may use provost, chief communications officer, chief diversity officer, or dean. Those roles are commonly considered executive-level positions. While the titles and scopes of some roles have changed over the past several years, the number of senior administrators at Trinity—those with vice president-level responsibilities and who report directly to the president—is nine, a number that has not changed since 2008.

When this information and comparative NESCAC data were presented to the faculty in 2018, only Bates and Hamilton had fewer executive-level staff; several others had the same number as Trinity: Middlebury, Wesleyan, and Williams had more. NESCAC institutions also differ somewhat in terms of what roles are considered part of the senior administration, as well as in the scope of some of those roles. For instance, Angel Pérez, Trinity’s vice president for enrollment and student success (whom the Tripod story said was the “second-highest paid admissions official in the NESCAC”), is responsible for admissions, financial aid, and the college’s student success and career development operations, while many of his counterparts in the NESCAC have portfolios limited to admissions or to admissions and financial aid. This is information that Trinity and likely every other NESCAC institution would have shared if asked.

Unfortunately, the Tripod did not seek comment or clarity from anyone in preparing its story, relying instead on what it found listed on institutions’ 990 forms. As a former college newspaper editor myself (so very long ago!), I sympathize with the challenges and demands of putting out a student paper every week. It’s grueling work that can feel thankless. But it’s important work, and it’s incumbent upon the Tripod to make every effort to get things right. That means, among other things, seeking out a variety of sources—data and human—before drawing conclusions. As I have consistently, I again extend the offer for my office to provide ongoing support and guidance to the Tripod in its work. I hope you’ll take me up on it.

Andrew Legnani

Letter to the Editor
In Response to “Trinity Has Most VPs in the NESCAC”

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-time subscription costs $10.00 and a one-year subscription costs $20.00. Please address all correspondence to: 300 Summit St. Box 702582 Hartford, CT 06106-3100 Phone: (860) 297-2584

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The Trinity Tripod is always looking for student contributions in photography, writing, and graphic design. Anyone interested in joining the Tripod can email tripod@trincoll.edu. Additionally, our website holds information regarding standard rates for advertisements.

The Trinity Tripod

Established in 1904
"Now then-Trinity!"

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Letters to the Editor should be submitted via email to thetripod@trincoll.edu. All letters will be run with names and classes unless otherwise requested by the writer. Permission to reproduce letters published in the Tripod will be granted only upon the writer’s request. The Tripod reserves the right to edit all letters for any reason.

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But it’s important work, and it’s incumbent upon the Tripod to make every effort to get things right. That means, among other things, seeking out a variety of sources—data and human—before drawing conclusions. As I have consistently, I again extend the offer for my office to provide ongoing support and guidance to the Tripod in its work. I hope you’ll take me up on it.

Andrew Legnani

Alumnus and State Senator
Trinity College, Class of 2002

Andrew Legnani: State Senate Candidate for Sixth District
I write in response to the 2/4/20 article in the Tripod entitled “What is ‘Alum- ni for a Better Trinity’?”. Gillian Reinhardt ‘21 is the writer of the article, and I discussed several inaccuracies afterwards, and she kindly edited accordingly. Thank you to the Tripod for making those changes.

There are several other key issues the article missed. First and foremost, it’s important to see the Face- book group in the proper context. The Trinity com- munity can be proud it has an alumni-led group on Facebook that is the largest and most active of its kind in the NESCAC. There’s a simple reason for this: Trinity is alone in the NESCAC for its free -fall in ranking since 2006. By almost every measure, the school has reversed historic strengths in se- lectivity, graduation rate, and national ranking. Keep in mind that Trin- ity has had the most en- gaged alumni in the peer group. As recently as 2009- 2011, Trinity ranked #11 in the country for alum- ni giving, with 49% of all alumni participating, ac- cording to alumnifactor. com. That kind of zeal lasts a lifetime. Like all energy and matter, alumni enthu- siasm never completely vanishes: it changes into other forms of engage- ment. College friends stay as close as ever, but the topic of conversation shifts from institutional pride to the unfortunate trajec- tory of our alma mater, or perhaps nostalgia, sports teams, or Music Ed.

People want to un- derstand the issues fac- ing their embattled alma mater beyond public re- lations stories. They’re hungry for real informa- tion. “Alumni for a Better Trinity” is the only place where you can read and discuss unfiltered news. It is the antithesis of sug- ar-coated public relations. Moreover, it’s populated by people of significant standing not just in the Trinity community, but in the category of Higher Ed. There have been many times when the “Alumni for a Better Trinity” group has delivered value to the com- munity, but I offer these three recent examples:

1. On 11/14/19, the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce released a study of the Return On Investment from the de- grees at 4,500 colleges. The results read like a tournament at the Kell- ner Squash Center. Trini- ty was the highest ranked liberal arts college in the state of Connecticut and #10 overall among U8 lib- eral arts colleges. No other liberal arts schools in the state even broke into the top 20. Over 40 years, the value of the degree is esti- mated at over $1.3 million (compared to $1.09 million for Wesleyan). At 15, 20, 30, and 40-year intervals after graduation, a Trinity degree showed a return on investment that outpaced Williams, Swarthmore, Middlebury, Hamilton, and a legion of other beher- moths. “Alumni for a Bet- ter Trinity” published this positive data (with charts) full a week before BEFORE college applications were due. By contrast, the Com- munications team at Trin- ity did not report this data until 1/16/20—that’s a full two months after the report was released, as well as the day AFTER applications were due. To make matters worse, it wasn’t even post- ed on the College’s official Twitter account; it was a vaguely positive posting on the personal Twit- ter account of the head of digital communications.

2. In the fall of 2019, “AFBT” uncovered the fact that Google News search results included every NESCAC school’s website except one—Trinity. This observation was posted on 9/25/19 complete with a side-by-side comparison of NESCAC peers. It wasn’t until 12/5/19 that the Communications Depart- ment at Trinity corrected the problem and got Goo- gle to address this glaring omission. The staff of 13 employees that make up the Communications team at Trinity was oblivious to the issue until it was brought to their attention. If the issue hadn’t been raised by “AFBT,” there can be no doubt that Trin- ity would still be the only NESCAC school excluded from Google News today.

3. On 5/25/18, Trinity receptionist Debbie Cook was abruptly terminated after serving the College for 32 years under nine dif- ferent presidents. She was informed at breakfast and then immediately escorted off campus. It was cruel to treat a long-term, low-level employee this way after so many years of loyal ser- vice, but it was particular- ly wrong considering she had cancer and was less than two years from retire- ment. Three days after her termination, “Alumni for a Better Trinity” set up a Go- FundMe page for Debbie to help with medical expen- ses. Alumni knew Debbie, recognized her needs, and did the right thing. The page raised over $1,800 in just 24 hours and was shared 281 times. As had as the decision was to terminate Debbie in this manner at this time, the repercussions to the in- stitution were even worse than anticipated—as a re- sult of the layoffs of Debbie and other employees that year. Trinity plummets 406 spots in the Time/ Money annual college ranking later that year.

In each of these situ- ations, Trinity fell short in some way. And even when the school had pos- itive news in the ROI study from Georgetown, it still fell short when it came time to promote the news at a critical time.

“Alumni for a Better Trinity” has been contro- versial precisely because it shines a light on these shortcomings. To the ad- ministration, it can be embarrassing. It’s im- portant to note, however, that “AFBT” is a Closed Group for this exact rea- son. In other words, only people who are part of the group can read and partic- ipate directly on the page. Many things are right at Trinity today, but many are wrong. Communities like “Alumni for a Bet- ter Trinity” exist to shine a light on both. And in a connected world, in- stitutions can either ig- nore or learn from what stakeholders have to say.

Should the adminis- tration embrace the new model of open dialogue and transparency, they’ll find an audience at “Alum- ni for a Better Trinity” that’s eager to listen—and just as eager to be heard.

Douglas Kim ’87
Co-Moderator
“Alumni for a Better Trinity”
Trinity College Republicans Host Candace Owens

SHAWN OLSTEIN '22
NEWS EDITOR

On Feb. 11, conservative political commentator Candace Owens came to Trinity’s campus to speak at an event sponsored by Trinity College Republicans. Held in the Underground, room 121, Owens’ talk centered on her life experiences growing up as a black woman and how her grandfather encouraged her to work hard for herself. Ms. Owens began the talk by discussing the importance of education and the role of government in the lives of individuals. She emphasized the need for a strong work ethic and the importance of hard work in achieving success.

Following her talk, Ms. Owens answered a few audience questions. She discussed the current political climate and the importance of engaging in meaningful discussions. She also touched on the importance of education and the role of government in the lives of individuals. She emphasized the need for a strong work ethic and the importance of hard work in achieving success.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held in April, at which, according to President Berger-Sweeney’s email, “certain final construction budgeting for FY21 will be completed.” The President’s office also noted, “As we look to the April Board of Trustees meeting, the Planning & Budget Council will continue to monitor revenue and spending projections so that the most up to date information is available when final action is taken,” the President’s office noted.

Finally, looking ahead to the College’s bicentennial celebration, the President’s Office noted that no board action has been taken regarding this matter, “senior administrators continue to engage in planning discussions.”
**Gymtimidation: Informal Gender Segregation in Ferris**

Alexandra Boussican '23

Contribution Writer

The gym is a great way for non-athlete students to stay active and in shape during theiray. However, it is more oriented towards male students. While going to the gym, I have noticed some discrepancies between the equipment designed for men and women. It is not uncommon for you to walk into the gym and see a divide between the two genders. In my experience, most women often have trouble finding machines focused on cardiovascular activities and the men stay in the strength and weights section. This can, however, be seen in most gyms, resulting from a sense of gym intimidation.

“it is not uncommon for you to walk into a gym and see a divide between two genders... This can however be seen in most gyms, resulting from a sense of gym intimidation.”

Alex Dahlem '20

Opinion Editor

In a party plagued by struggles to effectively streamline diverse viewpoints, the one thing that seems to unite every Democrat across the country is the goal of defeating Donald Trump. The most un-presidential president in our nation’s history. As the Democratic primary field continues to narrow one thing has become increasingly obvious: there is seemingly no clear and unifying character. In a party plagued by struggles to effectively streamline diverse viewpoints, one narrative promoted by Bernie and Biden supporters alike is that the other will lose the general election should they become the nominee. What neither side realizes is that if we coalesce around whichever candidate becomes the nominee, then that feared outcome of losing is impossible.

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The Trials and Tribulations of Democratic Unity

Alex Dahlem '20

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“That’s Hot”: How Paris Hilton Redefined Pop Culture

LIZ FOSTER ’22 MANAGING EDITOR

Before there was the “Instagram influencer,” there was the socialite. Before there was Kim Kardashian, there was Paris Hilton. Often attributed as one of the first ity star, business woman, socialite, actress, model, and fashion designer to be “famous for nothing,” Hilton’s dumb blonde is doing Hilton a massive disservice.

Without Paris Hilton, the modern “Instagram model,” TikTok star, or YouTube beauty guru

often attributed as one of the first people to be “famous for nothing.” Paris Hilton has successfully shaped the current landscape of fame and popularity. To reduce [her] to a “famous for nothing” dumb blonde is doing Hilton a massive disservice.

people to “be famous for nothing.”

wouldn’t exist. There wouldn’t be the Jenner nor Kylie Cosmetics without the blonde trendsetter. A leaked sex tape boosted Hilton’s fame, similar to once-assistant Kim Kar
dashian. Shortly after “One Night in Paris” nonsensical release, Paris Hilton and her best friend Nicole Richie (adopted daughter of famous musician Lionel Richie) premiered the first season of their now iconic reality show The Simple Life. The show featured the two millionaires strug
gling in the rural America, showing the two working as farm hands, maids, and waitresses among other tasks for
eign to the heiresses’ lives. This success catapulted Hilton’s career as a busi
nesswoman as she sold perfumes, shoes, and other accessories to her devoted fanbase. Over the years, Hilton would secure a foothold in every media and industry form from Hollywood to the mu
sical industry to advertising and real estate. Paris Hil
ton remains an inescapable piece of pop culture.

In 2018, Paper Magazine acknowledged Hilton’s massive impact on the digital age, declaring that: “Hilton didn’t do anything to deserve this attention beyond simply being herself. Now, Hilton’s invention has multi
died for me, “that’s hot.” The longevity of Hilton’s career speaks to her sta
tus as a pop culture icon.

Personally, Paris changed my life with her signature phrase, “that’s hot.” When I found myself saying “that’s hot.” if someone moves my laun
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“Everyday I find myself saying ‘that’s hot.’”

Candace Owens Gives Voice to Campus Conservatives

MAURY KEARY ’22 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Candace Owens, a conservative activist and one of the most signifi
cant voices in media and politics visited Trinity College on Feb. 11. She attracted over 300 guests

“My hope is that this event has provided a spark to Republicans on
campus, because, as it’s clear to most, our voices are not heard, as they should be... I know that there are more Republicans on our cam
pus than what there appears to be”

after what she mentioned took a long fight against the administration in or
der for her to present. She was invited by the Trinity College Repub
licans Club, which was just founded in 2018 by Nick Engstrom ’22. My hope is that this event has provided a spark to Republicans on campus, because, as it’s clear to most, our voices are not heard as they should be. By viewing the audience at the event, I know that there are more Republi
After the reading, Owens co-founded the campaign of Blest—
black exit from the left—
with a vision in mind to build a better future for America. Being one of the few conservative
ners to ever present at Trinity, Owens advocated for the spread of her campaign and she gave the students something we have been waiting to hear for awhile. “I think it’s important to show up,” she told the audience, “especially in a place where you don’t hear conser
vative principles.”

What this campus needs is more conservatives to speak out and con
tinue to host more speakers like Owens. Small campuses, such as this one, should support the ability to speak one’s mind and create organi
zations that mean some
ting as students are allowed the freedom to voice another perspective.

One of the most note
worthy points that Owens discussed was how certain countries rotate on an arc throughout time, from

throughout this time, from

the United States—
they resort to creating unnecessary problems. “We have so much peace, it seems like there is no fight, and so we’re taking it for
granted.” Owens mentioned.

the everyday individual
the power to make millions if their numbers add up. Without Hilton’s career to look up to, the path of becoming a star by

ing upon personal brands, modern influencers would be lost in the digital world.

The longevity of Hilton’s career speaks to her status as a pop culture icon.

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lege campuses—where all voices should be heard.
Trinity College’s Rome Campus Celebrates “50 Anni”

Trinity Offers Roman Summer

An undergraduate outdoor program in Rome will be enlivened this summer by the expansion of a course on the ancient city and its literature. The program will be led by Professor George E. Parker, who is currently the director of the Rome Center for Urban Culture and History at Trinity College. He will be joined by several other faculty members from the college.

The Spring 2020 Rome Class celebrates the fiftieth anniversary.
Kai-Lilly Karpman ’20 Shares Original Poetry in CT Circuit

Representing Trinity College in the prestigious Connecticut Poetry Circuit, Kai-Lilly Karpman ’20 is sharing her work professionally for the first time this spring as she tours Connecticut colleges. Encouraged by Associate Professor of English Claire-ran Berry to submit five poems for consideration, Karpman was one of five talented artists chosen by a panel of poets in the state. Karpman and the four other college students will visit each of their schools to read their work.

Luckily enough, the first reading of the tour at Trinity College, was right at home for Karpman. Sharing her poems in a professional setting for the first time, Karpman was thrilled to have the loving support of her professors, friends, team-mates, and mentors in the audience. It was especially rewarding for Karpman to share her work through this opportunity in front of Professor Berry and Artist-in-Residence Clare Rossini as Karpman values the immense growth they have had on her jour- ney of growth as a poet. These two professors have been engaged in Karpman’s journey and eager to help her elevate her own work, leading Karpman to cherish her first professional poetry reading even more so as the faces of these mentors she attrib- utes much of her growth to shine among the audience.

An avid reader since she was a young child, Karpman became inspired by the power of poetry after she read the work of Sylvia Plath. Plath’s fearless ex- pression of horrific experi- ences so gripping and in- fluential, leading Karpman to craft her poems with a similar boldness and pas- sion for intensity. An En- glish and Women’s, Gender and Sexuality double ma- jor, Karpman likes to focus her work around the body and romance, exploring in- terpersonal relationships and sprinkling in inspira- tion from poet Sharon Olds’ impressive expression of the body. Additionally, Karpman uniquely writes about the places she’s vis- ited and memories she’s made on her own road trips across the country. Although this was Karpman’s first profes- sional poetry reading, the poet has certainly had ex- perience reading in many semi-professional set- tings. This past summer, Karpman took part in a three-week-long program at the University of Iowa where she, along with elev- en other aspiring artists, wrote poetry together and shared their pieces under the guidance of a profes- sor from the University’s Master of Fine Arts pro- gram. While this experi- ence allowed her to grow her confidence by connect- ing and sharing with other poets, Karpman’s experi- ence in her first two pro- fessional readings in front of an audience as part of the Connecticut Poetry Circuit have enabled her to grow her confidence in her own work immensely.

Preparing to tour the remaining three colleges in the Connecticut Poet- ry Circuit, Karpman con- tinues her journey with aspirations of becoming a published poet one day.

Drug Culture at Trinity: How Does it Impact Students?

GILLIAN REINHARD ’20 FEATURES EDITOR

“I could buy drugs about as easily as I could buy candy at the store or go to the Cave,” explained one Trinity student. The stu- dent’s comments on drug culture at Trinity were used in the senior thesis, “The Longest Walk: Rape, Drugs, and Racial Aggres- sion at Trinity College,” by Chiara Davis ’17. To- day, the project remains one of the most thorough- ly documented accounts of drug culture on campus in terms such as drug use.

In her work, Davis pro- vided the anecdote of Trin- ity’s matriculation ceremon- ies for the current senior class in September of 2016. Following the ceremony, two students were trans- ported to Hartford Hospital for illegal substance abuse. As Davis’ work explains, marijuana remains ‘Trin- ity’s drug of choice.’

Another student interview in the thesis project ex- plained, “I could get drugs (specifically, marijuana) at 2 p.m. on a Monday or 3 a.m. on a Thursday, and I would never even have to leave my dorm room.”

Health Consciousness: Alcohol and Other Drug Specialist Pamela Mulready provided one-hour workshops, available to pursue while also man- aging a full course load of Trinity classes. Additionally, she spoke of the Self-Manage- ment and Recovery Train- ing (SMART) Recovery peer support group, offered each Wednesday night at 6 p.m. SMART also offers a meeting each Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. for those with a loved one struggling with substance abuse.

The Trinity College Health Center aims to continue its mission of making knowledge about narcan, as well as the Trinity Medical Amnesty Policy, more available to all students so they are aware of what to do in a drug-related emergency. Additionally, Mulready offered a program of workshops, with a meal provided, on using narcan effective- ly to anyone interested. Students and other members of the community looking for further in- formation on narcan and drug abuse as well as re- sources forforums for drug- ing, or with loved ones struggling, are encour- aged to contact Pamela. mulready@hhchealth.org.

Tripod History: Trinity at WWII

World War Two at Trinity College

World War Two greatly affected Trinity College and the Tripod. Enrollment dropped significantly in the early 1940s.

In 1945, the Tripod suspended publishing for a year. It returned in 1946 in a magazine format, publishing just five issues, although it officially returned to the cam- pus as a newspaper by 1947.

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CAROLINE RICHARDS ’22
ARE EDITOR

I was told to read this gem of a book by my moth- er, which, as it happens, is how the best literature al- ways ends up in my hands. At this point in life I pre- tty much exclusively read books my mom tells me to, one, because I don’t have a lot of extra reading time on my hands at school, and two, because they’re always damn good. How she has the time to chew her way through all this delicious literature I have yet to discover. It is something I aspire to. But, I digress. This particular case of reference was spe- cial. In fact, it was one of the first things she said to me when she came to pick me up from the boat a few weekends ago: “Hoor ey, you have to read this book.” She said it before she asked how school was, or requested any other personal interaction with trees that gets your way when you return from col- lege after awhile. I think she may have also said “It changed the way I look at the world,” but I could just be making that up con- sidering it most certainly changed the way I look at the world. Anyway, I knew it was going to be good: the signs were all there, and if you have a feeling that this is a sign yet, I will make it explicit: this is a sign to read The Over- story by Richard Powers.

This book is essentially a story of series women woven together in one gigantic, profound, over- arching story that by the end will literally blow your mind. It follows nine Ameri- can narratives, from pho- tographers to engineers to artists, and how the natural world has shaped them or impacted their lives in a way that spurs them into action. Specif- ically, it weaves together the stories of how their interaction with trees force them to confront de- forestation and the overall decline of trees in Ameri- ca. It’s deeply heartbreak- ing at times and uplifting at others, but one thing is certain: it is done with worldy wisdom it’s practically an encyclope- dia of life. One that reads and lucrative like a fable.

This book requires you to read very carefully, but each line feels like you’re learning something new about the way you look at yourself and your place on this Earth. Not only did I find this book to be incred- ibly relevant given all of the environmental issues we’re currently facing, but I also found it to be refreshing about that. It wasn’t easy to read, and it required me to pay attention. It’s complex- ity is staggering because it’s seemingly seamless the way Powers unites all of these people’s experi- ences in a way that isn’t far-fetched or in any way romantic. He’s vivid and realistic about the human experience, yet simultane- ously able to capture it’s in- tangible magic. The result is a well-deserved Pulitzer Prize Winning, already iconic masterpiece of liter- ature. Powers also went on to win the Man Booker Prize for Fiction, a pres- tigious literary award open to virtually any book written in the English language, making it one of the most competitive and sought-after awards in the literary industry. In the case of The Over- story, I can see why this was the obvious choice. It is full of richness, both in language and meaning.

With issues of climate change, one of the many problems activists face is that no one wants to pay atten- tion. With life in gener- al, I find people struggle to pay attention to the things that matter. This attitude has taken a huge toll on both nature and humanity. This book gives me hope because it seems, for once, to give attention to all the right things. If you don’t read it, you’re only doing yourself and the en- tirety of the human race a great disservice.

The Trinity College De- partment of Music presents Bright Star as the spring musical at Austin Arts Cen- ter’s Garmany Hall on the Trinity College campus, Thursday – Saturday, Mar. 5 – 7, 2020. Admission is free, though tickets are required. For ticket reservations and additional information, please call the Austin Arts Center Box Office at (860) 297-2199. The Box Office is open Monday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Satur- day, 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Bright Star, written and composed by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell, is a blue- grass musical set in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. Inspired by a true- life event, Bright Star is a tale of love and redemption in the Appalachian South of the 1920s and 1940s. The blue- grass score is fantastically beautiful, the script tremen- dously clever, and the story itself filled with mystery and suspense. Nina Pinchin, Associate Director of Edu- cation at Hartford Stage, will direct and Kevin Scott provides musical direction. The two have previously worked together at Trinity on Little Shop of Hor- rors, Edges, and Huddled Masses. Choreography is by Trinity senior Kristina Kurker ’20, lighting design by William Hughes ’22, and stage management by Simi Schreiber ’22.

Pinchin shares, “Bright Star starts with a simple welcoming phrase ‘if you knew my story.’ The musical is at its core such an improbable good sto- ry-filled with heartbreak, laughter, and redemption. We started our rehearsal process this winter talking about the truly remarkable stories we are all carrying around: miracle births, in- sanely unlikely meetings of grandparents, sharp jux- tapositions of where we’ve come from and where we are now, and the myriad of disparate characters that have inspired us to become who we are. It is amazing how much you can learn about a person, and people in general, by the way we tell our stories. Bright Star for sheer story- telling will not disappoint.”


Students are also in- volved in the pit band: Nayanatara Ghosh ’22 (gui- tar), Benjamin Liske ’20 (percussion), David Mar- rotto ’22 (Assistant Mu- sic Director/piano), Tyler Somerville ’21 (bass), Tul- si Sumukadas ’20 (fiddle).

The Overstory published in 2018 is David Powers twelfth novel. It follows the stories of nine Americans as they grapple with deforestation.

**From a Press Release from the Austin Arts Center**
“I’m a fuckin’ liar,” laughs Halsey, new Ash-LEY Frangipane, on the final track “929,” of her third studio album Man-ic. Basing her career off of brutal, raw honesty, her closing the album with this line is the per-fect tinge of irony from the New Jersey native. Throughout the sixteen tracks of Manic, Halsey explores the uncertainty of navigating adulthood under the microscope of fame. For years, Halsey floated under the radar as an underground icon for Tumblr kids and Twit-ter stans alike. After her breakout feature on the Chainsmokers’ “Clos-er,” she skyrocketed to mainstream fame that in-creased exponentially fol-lowing the release of her 2018 single, “Without Me.” Manic is the first of Halsey’s albums to not feature a storyline. Both 2015’s Badlands and its 2017 follow-up hopeless fountain kingdom (HFK) were concept albums: her debut focused on Halsey’s escape from her mental demons in the metaphor of “escaping the badlands,” and HFK retold the story of Romeo and Juliet through the lens of Frangipane’s own relationship with Norwegian producer Lido.

Listening to the songs in order gives you insight into her all-over-the-place mindset, or sort of “manic” state, if I may say so my-self. She’s trying to come to terms with who she is right now and how she got there, and introduc-es the listener to this in-credibly dynamic person-ality. With Manic, Halsey speaks to the angsty teen in all of us struggling to hash out all the thoughts that come into our heads as we try to navigate our ways through adolescence and into young adulthood. Halsey’s coming to terms with her enormous suc-cesses while staying re-alistic and saying, “Hey, I’m not totally okay and I don’t have it completely together mentally.” “Ashley,” the album’s opener, sets the tone im mediately as Halsey soft-ly sings, “standing now, in the mirror that I built myself,” referencing the career she’s built as Halsey—not Ashley. The song explores the darker aspect of her position as an international pop star.

The listener can feel her confusion as she wonders if her platform was worth the sacrifices she made. She leaves her fans a promise, “I’ll leave you the dust, my love” whilst sti-lunaneously fearing what will happen if she stops being Halsey, asking, “But if I decide to break/Who will fill the empty space?” “929” gives a narrative account of her life, both personal and public, up to this point in her career. The song, which is the first take recorded by Halsey, is almost reminiscent of a character’s introduc-tion in a musical. She hits listeners hard with lines like, “I stared at the sky in Milwaukee and hoped my father would finally call me” and gets at the reactionary and self-de-structive mechanisms that plague so many of us with, “and I’m picking my hair out in clumps in the shower.” The song also is an ode to her fans. Since the beginning of her career, Halsey staked a name for herself with her inexplicable bonds with her fans. Countless pho-toes, videos, and stories are strewn about the Internet showcasing how Halsey never fails to remember a fan regardless of how long it’s been since she last saw them. She acknowledges the power she holds over her fans as she reference-s a fan in Detroit, “Ash-ley, you gotta promise us that you won’t die/ Cause we need you,’ and honest-ly, I think that she lied.” Even after multiple plat-inum songs and albums, sold out world tours, and countless awards, Halsey still doubts her impact on her audience. “I am” is your typical drunk girl anthem of the digital age, as Halsey at-tempts to find some kind of validation through her phone instead of the actu-al, physical human contact provided by a one night stand. The song pays trib-ute to her early days as a tri-state area emo kid, calling to mind bands like Brand New and Taking Back Sunday with its lo-fi guitars and bombastic drums. The singer teases fans with another Brand New reference on the al-bum’s Japanese version in “I’m Not Mad” where she antagonizes a former boyfriend with a reference to “Mix Tape” from Your Favorite Weapon: “I’ve got a twenty dollar bill that says/ You’re never, ever, ever gonna change.” “Killing boys” - Halsey has a personal vendetta to complete that involves, as the title of the song suggests, killing boys who have wronged her throughout her romantic past. She samples Jenni-fier’s Body, paying homage to both her 2018 hallow-en costume and the icon-ic film starring Megan Fox as a bisexual succubus. She references yet another iconic female film star, and Halloween costume, as she sings, “I don’t wanna Uma Thurman your ass.” Her anticipate-able single “You should be sad,” Halsey comes at us with some serious pop-country vibes (said vibes also re-occur with Finally it beau-tiful stranger). The music video for the single pays homage to other pop ladies of the decades, including Christina Aguilera, Lady Gaga, and Shania Twain with different costumes to allude to each icon. She dresses up as Shania in two instances, from Twain’s hits “That Don’t Impress Me Much” and “Man, I Feel Like A Wom-an.” Halsey also makes com-ments that she referenced Carrie Underwood in pro-viding what serves as a sequel to the pop-country singer’s 2006 track “Before He Cheats,” by recounting what happens “After He Cheats” to the listener. As explained by Halsey on her Spotify page, she felt it necessary to include a break up song on the album and saw country as the most appropriate. All of this taking on different personalities fur-ther underscores the over-arching theme of Manic. Halsey takes on multiple personalities, and if you take each track one by one successively, it certainly takes the listener on an emotional rollercoaster, leaving them feeling dis-comforted and a little confused regarding which version of Halsey is the true Ashley. But that’s just it, there isn’t just one version of her. She is all of these multifaceted personalities and feelings that she shares with us. In an interview for the album, Halsey explains the Japanese legend of three faces: the one you show to the world, the one you show to your close friends and family, and the third that you never show any-one. This third face is the truest reflection of one’s self. Manic is undoubt-ly Halsey’s third face, but one she allowed us to see.

Power Fem Anthem: “killing boys” “You should be sad”

Emo Hours: “More” “clementine”

Break Up Bangers: “Without Me” “Graveyard”

Inside Her Head: “Ashley” “929”
Women’s Track Competes at the Triangular Classic

The Trinity College Bantams traveled to Springfield, Mass this past Saturday to compete in the Women’s Indoor Track and Field Triangular Classic. Senior co-captain Samantha Feenstra posted a winning time of 5:11:83 in the mile run, followed by junior Julia Burdulis in seventh place with a time of 5:33:74. Junior Hannah Neufeld took first place in the 400-meter dash with a time of 1:01:40 followed by freshman Christina Alcaro in eighth place with a time of 1:04:48. In the 60-meter dash, junior Emma Buckley finished second with a time of 7.931 followed by three other Bantams finishing within the next five points and eight rebounds. Overall, Trinity had a strong performance. The Bantams ended the Howe Cup with a 1-0 lead, but Trinity had a strong finish to advance the tournament. Trinity is seeded as number four in the tournament, and this win advances them to a 1-7-8 record. They will compete in the NESCAC semifinals on Saturday of this upcoming weekend at Tufts University.

Women’s Squash Puts Up a Valiant Fight Against Yale

In their double header this weekend, the Trinity men’s hockey team went 1-1 in both games against Wesleyan. On Friday, the Bantams celebrated their six seniors, Nick Fiorentino, Adam Anderson, Barclay Gammill, Tedy Loughborough, Liam Feeney and Jack McCarthy, on Senior night. After an aggressive game, Wesleyan beat the Bantams 4-1, with Jamie Callahan getting Trinity on the board during the second period. Despite the loss, the seniors and their families were honored for their dedication to the Men’s hockey program over the years. The Bantams came out strong at Wesleyan on Saturday, ready to turn the weekend around, and they managed to finish off their regular season games with a win. Junior Nick Polsinelli got the Bantams their first goal, scoring only four minutes into the game. Sophomore goal-tender Jonah Capriotti had 25 saves in net. Trinity finishes the regular season with a 17-6-1 record, and will host Amherst College at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday in the quarterfinal game of the NESCAC tournament.

MATEO VAZQUEZ ’21
SPORTS EDITOR

This past weekend, the Women’s Squash team had the opportunity to compete in the Howe Cup, the National Team Championship, hosted at Yale University. While this tournament was the end of the National Team events, there are still individual rounds that are set to occur in two weeks at the University of Pennsylvania. None of these matches are in essence a final wrap up of the season for the team to demonstrate their excellent performance.

The tournament proved to be a great demonstration of the Bantams’ squash program. Trinity won spots number two through six by a combined score of 9-0. The Bantams kept the competition on their feet. This weekend the team also had remarkable improvements in the national rankings.

Junior Akanksha Salunkhe, who was previously ranked at number 18 nationally, was able to win 3-0 against the number 16 nationally ranked individual. However, across the board the matches were quite competitive, and the intensity only progressed further into the rounds. Unfortunately, Yale beat Trinity by 3-2 in the sixth match after a very hard fought battle. The match was so quick paced that at certain moments, one could not even see the ball moving. Nonetheless, Yale saw an opportunity to build momentum and capitalized upon that chance to secure the victory.

In comparison to last year, the team did make remarkable improvements in their style of play and overall had a great season. The team had similar results last year in the Howe Cup which was hosted by Harvard. In the 2019 Howe Cup, the team also lost 9-0. Hence, they faced a similar struggle the past few years in executing their style of play in the Howe Cup, and is definitely a focus point for the team in their upcoming season.

In retrospect, the Howe Cup was a unique opportunity to witness very closely nationally ranked players face off against one another. The level of play was quite spectacular for both sides, leading to astounding results. While the Howe Cup did not fall in favor of Trinity, the tournament was a reflection on the high level of skillful squash playing that Trinity still brings to the court.

The Bantams ended the tournament in fourth place, something that is, in itself, quite an accomplishment. Moving forward, it will be interesting to see what the team can do from this point of departure. As previously mentioned, though the Howe Cup marks the end of the regular season, there is still many more opportunities for individuals on the team to compete in upcoming matches. The National Championship individual rounds are an amazing chance to demonstrate the type of players and the level of skill that the Bantams still bring to the game. We cannot wait to see what the outcome of the individual squash matches in the near future will be, and we wish the Bantams the best of luck moving forward with their other competition this semester.
Women’s Hockey Hosts Senior Night Game Against Wesleyan in their Last Regular Match of the Season

This past weekend, the Trinity College women’s hockey team hosted their senior night with a game against Wesleyan. This was the last regular season match for the team and was essential in securing a spot for the playoffs.

The game was one of their toughest match-ups of the season, as Wesleyan is one of the more skilled hockey teams within the NESCAC. Within the first few minutes of the game, it seemed as if the Bantams’ chances at winning were compromised as Wesleyan dominated control of the puck and completed a successful shot on goal early on. There was a lot of back and forth movement that followed, yet the outcome of the game was not sealed. Near the end of the period, the Bantams had the chance to score on a power-play. The Bantams then fired back with a quick attack a few minutes later and were able to tie the game at 1-1. This kept the Bantams alive, provided the energy needed to bring into the second period of play.

As the game progressed, it did seem that Wesleyan was the favored team to win. They were quick to the puck and consistently dominated the ice. The Bantams continued to fight for control, but neither team was able to score in the second period as there was a stalemate. This continued into the third period of play as both teams were vigilant in a desperate attempt to land a shot. Despite the endless attempts, both sides came up empty-handed. Hence, the fifth overtime game of the season commenced.

It was quite obvious entering the overtime that both defenses were quite exhausted. However, the end of the game was far from over. Entering into overtime the Bantams made a quick push on a high attack, but came up empty-handed. This was followed by numerous attacks on Wesleyan, but they too came up short-handed. Toward the end of the overtime the Bantams caught another break. Wesleyan committed a foul which resulted in another power play opportunity for the Bantams. After numerous fast attacks on the goal, the Bantams were finally able to score. After a split in the defense and the Wesleyan goalie getting caught on the other side of the post, junior Camille von Steiner was able to wrist a shot into the goal and sealed the win at 2-1. This was an excellent end to an incredible senior night and exactly the kind of momentum the Bantams needed to push their way into the playoff season.

We wish them the best of luck in the rest of their season as they sit in the eight seed spot to start the playoffs, for the second-straight season.

The team will be traveling to Vermont to take on Middlebury on this upcoming Saturday, Feb. 29. We wish the team the best of luck!

Kai Karpman ’20 tends to the goal.