SGA Election Preview

Shawn Olstein ’22

SGA election are coming Sept. 14—find out who is running and what positions are contested in the Tripod this week.

Advice for Class of 2024

Bailey McKeon ’22

The Tripod’s Features Editor shares her 10 pieces of advice for the Bants of the Class of 2024.

Megan Thee Stallion

Liz Foster ’22

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How Megan Thee Stallion found a way to dominate the music season and the charts.

Fall Sports on Hold

Anna Bauer ’23

PAGE 12

Trinity’s fall sports and practices are radically altered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Also in this issue...

Opinion: Waiting to Study Abroad? Remember Otto Wambler, page 6

Spiritual and Religious Life Connects Virtually, page 7

National Hockey League Continues Through COVID, page 11

SARS-CoV-2 at Connecticut’s Colleges: The Tripod Charts Cases Across the State

Daniel J. Nesbitt ’22

The choropleth map above shows the relative amount of confirmed COVID cases for nine Connecticut colleges and universities. The data shown were obtained from the New York Times interactive page “Tracking Coronavirus Cases at U.S. Colleges and Universities,” and the data are current as of Thursday, Sept. 3. The yellow regions on the map indicate an area with large numbers of confirmed COVID cases, while the lighter, purple regions indicate an area with relatively few confirmed COVID cases at colleges. It is important to note the limitations of this dataset. First, all these data compiled by the Times is all publicly available, meaning delays in reporting by schools could result in out-of-date, inaccurate data. Second, each school has a different, unique plan for re-opening, with varying combinations of remote and in-person learning, which could result in increased or decreased likelihood of infection. Finally, each school likely has a different testing protocol, meaning positive cases could be detected more quickly at certain schools than others, and with varying degrees of accuracy depending on the specifications of the test employed. The choropleth shows that the University of Connecticut, located in Storrs, CT (yellow region, top right), has the greatest number of cases among Connecticut schools with 186 confirmed COVID cases as of Sept. 3. Yale University has the second-greatest case total with 126 confirmed COVID cases, shown as the large colored region over New Haven, CT. These are the two largest hot spots on the map at present. Central Connecticut State University has the third highest number of cases.

Tripod Examines Progress on President’s Special Opportunity Hires

Brendan W. Clark ’21

PAGE 1

Trinity’s faculty Educational Policy Committee (EPC) and the College’s senior academic administrative faculty in late June not expected to begin the hiring process, though an email from Cardenas to Berger-Sweeney also told the Tripod that the positions would be reserved to “increase our faculty diversity.” This amounts to eighteen estimated positions—six each year, appointed over three years—based on the July email from Berger-Sweeney.

It was not immediately clear when the College expected to begin the hiring process, though an email from Cardenas to faculty in late June noted that it will occur in the 2020-2021 academic year while a general hiring freeze remains in place.

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The Trinity Tripod has been published by the students of Trinity College since 1994. 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-seemay be met with consequences: and what is not. Most important is to understand that the level of seriousness on what is acceptable and what is not. Most important is to understand that the level of seriousness and that countless administrators have sought various solutions to the problem the pandemic introduces. But appearances are not necessarily the sanitizing stations, colorful "Protect the Nest" signage, and touchless door mechanisms are but a modicum of the most fundamental element of effective leadership in a time of crisis, clear and seamless communication that informs and directs students. Following the first positive COVID-19 case on campus, announced via email on August 29, students were informed that updates on positive tests will not always be made to the community. This, on its face, seems problematic: students should know when and where positive cases emanate. If that means ten emails in the course of a day, then so be it; the level of communication in large part dictates the degree of seriousness and suggests that we need to change course promptly as they grow out of hand. As a solution to this tended infrequent updating, the College launched its COVID-19 dashboard. As of Monday evening, the College's alert level stands at "Green" and the dashboard reflects only one positive case on-campus (others occurred before students returned). But the dashboard was updated only "twice" during "business hours" throughout the week. Only twice a week while students are tested four out of seven days! Twice a week when tests can come back positive one day after an update was issued? The numbers are incongruous. Between Friday and Monday, when the dashboard has yet to be updated, Trinity could have seen any number of variations in cases. We simply do not know. On a small campus of 2,000, Trinity's rumor-mill is always turning. With a pandemic on our hands, students cannot afford to be getting all of their information from the alleged tales of what happened on Vernon Saturday night. If this College is to succeed, data cannot be hidden. If the College has good cause to only update its dashboard twice a week, tell the community why. Nothing can be left to chance. If Trinity's policy is unclear, that gathering in groups of 25 indoors violates no policy. Many students have had disciplinary meetings this week for incidents that range from a casual hello to friends to being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Countless others par- ty at off-campus residences, another veil that Trinity cannot pierce. When these stories circulate, strong administrative response is needed. We need more clarity on what is acceptable and what is not. Most importantly, violators should be met with consequences: if we expect to make it the semester, Trinity cannot advertise one message yet enact and enforce another.

We Need More Than Assurances

As COVID-19 forces col-

lege to implement various means of testing, reporting, and protecting their stu-
dent body from harm, Trin-
ity College has succeeded in providing a comprehen-
sive testing procedure. It is clear that the institution has made a concerted effort this summer to afford the sense of a safe environment and that countless adminis-
trators have sought various solutions to the problem the pandemic introduces. But appearances are only half the battle: the sanitizing stations, colorful "Protect the Nest" signage, and touchless door mechanisms are but a modicum of the most fundamental element of effective leadership in a time of crisis, clear and seamless communication that informs and directs students. Following the first positive COVID-19 case on campus, announced via email on August 29, students were informed that updates on positive tests will not always be made to the community. This, on its face, seems problematic: students should know when and where positive cases emanate. If that means ten emails in the course of a day, then so be it; the level of communication in large part dictates the degree of seriousness and suggests that we need to change course promptly as they grow out of hand. As a solution to this tended infrequent updating, the College launched its COVID-19 dashboard. As of Monday evening, the College's alert level stands at "Green" and the dashboard reflects only one positive case on-campus (others occurred before students returned). But the dashboard was updated only "twice" during "business hours" throughout the week. Only twice a week while students are tested four out of seven days! Twice a week when tests can come back positive one day after an update was issued? The numbers are incongruous. Between Friday and Monday, when the dashboard has yet to be updated, Trinity could have seen any number of variations in cases. We simply do not know. On a small campus of 2,000, Trinity's rumor-mill is always turning. With a pandemic on our hands, students cannot afford to be getting all of their information from the alleged tales of what happened on Vernon Saturday night. If this College is to succeed, data cannot be hidden. If the College has good cause to only update its dashboard twice a week, tell the community why. Nothing can be left to chance. If Trinity's policy is unclear, that gathering in groups of 25 indoors violates no policy. Many students have had disciplinary meetings this week for incidents that range from a casual hello to friends to being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Countless others party at off-campus residences, another veil that Trinity cannot pierce. When these stories circulate, strong administrative response is needed. We need more clarity on what is acceptable and what is not. Most importantly, violators should be met with consequences: if we expect to make it the semester, Trinity cannot advertise one message yet enact and enforce another.
College Campus Safety Report: Aug. 31 - Sept. 7

Tuesday, Sept. 1
Library

Fire  Unintentional, caused by a contractor working in the building.
This case is closed.

Sunday, Sept. 6
High Rise

Liquor Law Violation  Four students received disciplinary referrals.

Tripod Study Abroad Safety Investigation: Faculty Approval and Provider Disclosures

KIP LYNCH '22
NEWS EDITOR

The Trinity Tripod is examining all facets of study abroad safety. Over a series of forthcoming articles, the Tripod will dive into the issues through administrative, faculty, student, and legal lenses. Managing Editor Daniel Nesbitt '22 examined last year the limited scope of the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act) and noted that this resultled in less than transparent crime statistics. Nesbitt referenced a particular incident unreported under the Clery Act in February 2018 when "the Tripod reported that three Trinity students abroad in Barcelona were mugged in early January of the same year. However, the ASR (annual security report) stated that the Office of Study Away reported zero incidents of any category. When asked about this discrepancy, Heavren clarified that "in this case, there was a Clery reportable crime but it did not occur in the Clery geography, thus it was not included in the full report." Study abroad programs at Trinity must be approved by the Office of Study Away and the College’s faculty Curriculum Committee. According to the Faculty Manual, the Curriculum Committee, which includes faculty representatives as well as representatives of the administration and students, is responsible for "the approval, and periodic review, for study away programs and offerings. To fulfill this responsibility, the Curriculum Committee reviews any newly proposed study away programs and associated materials, often including individual course syllabi." The Tripod spoke to Associate Dean for Curricula and Associate Professor of Theatre and Dance Mitchell Polin whose job is to provide clearance for approving programs by the Curriculum Committee.

Discussing reasons why a program may be rejected, he stated that "the Committee will often seek advice from associated Departments and Programs whose areas are represented in the study away program. The Committee members need to make certain that any credits earned are equivalent to a credit earned through the completion of a course on our home campus. In past academic years, programs have been rejected for not meeting the criteria of the college." Programs are then typically reviewed annually by the Office of Study Away, which submits its recommendations to the Curriculum Committee.

On whether the faculty have raised questions of concern relative to program safety, he stated that "The Office of Study Away has not received questions or concerns, in recent years, regarding program safety. However, safety reports are available from the Office of Study Away upon request." The Trinity College is not alone both in the popularity of study abroad programs as well as the lack of transparency surrounding crime statistics. In a 2017 article on study abroad programs at Cal State Fullerton, Brandon Pho noted the university "has seen a nearly 100 percent participation increase in a study abroad program that is lacking in safety records." An internal audit by CSU System’s Office of Audit and Advisory Services found numerous weaknesses, including the "lack of a documented process for selecting third-party providers of study abroad programs."

The nonprofit Protect Students Abroad, founded by Elizabeth Brenner and Ros Thackurdren in 2012, has sought to address gaps in program safety. Brenner and Thackurdeen have identified that "at campus-hosted study abroad forums, the goal of programs is to recruit students. Thus, program materials have the flavor of marketing, with beautiful photos and captions that promise a life-changing experience. Because there are no transparency requirements of the study abroad industry, it can be difficult for parents and students to find both neutral and comprehensive information about student safety." Importantly, study abroad programs and providers "have no obligation to disclose safety information, and we are aware of programs that have not answered safety questions truthfully."

The Trinity Tripod reached out to Director of the Office of Study Away Jennifer Summerhays for comment on Trinity’s external providers, but did not hear back as of the time of publication.

SGA Executive Board Election Preview

SHAWN OLSTEIN '22
NEWS EDITOR

Next week, Trinity College’s Student Government Association (SGA) will be holding elections for the organization’s executive board. Elections will be held online from Monday, Sept. 14 to Wednesday, Sept. 16. Ballots will be electronically distributed by the Student Activities Involvement and Leadership Office (S.A.I.L.). The executive board positions open for elections are the SGA President, SGA Vice President, Vice President of Communications, Vice President of Finance, Vice President of Multicultural Affairs. Beyond these SGA executive board positions, the classes of ‘21, ‘22, ‘23, will be holding their presidential elections. All class senator elections as well as the class of ‘23 class president election will be held in the coming weeks. Traditionally, SGA executive board and class presidential elections are held at the end of the spring semester, however these elections were delayed until the start of this year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Despite a combined total of eight elected offices up for election between the SGA executive board and class presidencies, only three elections are contested. SGA Vice President, Vice President of Communications, Vice President of Finance, as well as the classes of ‘22 and ‘23 presidential elections are uncontested. The candidates for these elections are as follows: Jack Stone ‘22 SGA Vice President, Madely White ‘22 and Jordan Lewis ‘22 SGA Vice President of Communications (serving alternative semesters), Camille Valentinse ‘22, Virt President of Finance, Drew Gardner Class of ‘21, President, Leah Herbin, Class of ‘22 President. The three contested elections are SGA President, Vice President of Multicultural affairs, and Class of ‘23 president. Felicia McDevitt ‘21 and Giovanni Jones ‘21 are running for SGA President. Jedrick Estrella ‘22 and Renita Washington ‘22 are running for Vice President of Multicultural Affairs. Jason Farrell Jr. ‘23 and Thursday Williams ‘23 are running for Class of ‘23 president. In a statement to the Tripod on his SGA presidential candidacy, Jones ‘21 stated, “For the longest time, I’ve appreciated being able to work from behind the scenes. I grew comfortable in positions where one does not hold the title nor receives the credit. Because of this, I’ve developed a mindset where everything became secondary to ensuring that the work got done.” Presidential candidate McDevitt ‘21 touted her three years of SGA experience as information to her a “fierce dedication” to serving the interests and concerns of the students. Furthermore, both candidates identified the problems of racial injustices and sexual assault on campus as key issues. McDevitt stated, “As a community, as student organizations, and as individuals, we are met with a critical opportunity to build upon dedicated student activists’ work this summer (namely Instagram accounts @blackatin and @triumphsurvivor).” Jones stated, “As Trinity must navigate through, and address, 3 pan-demics, COVID-19, racial injustice, and sexual misconduct, it is imperative that we bring to office an executive board that is committed to working to get solutions.”
EPC, Special Opportunity Hires

continued from page one

over new faculty positions. Interim Chair of the EPC and Associate Professor of Mathematics Paula Russo explained to the Tripod that the EPC is generally responsible for determining the allocation of open lines across departments within the College and “carefully reviews” proposals brought by department and program chairs.

Eighteen new positions, “preferably at the senior/tenured level” per Berger-Sweeney’s email, could constitute a formal increase in the size of the faculty under the Stewart Amendment, a provision in the Faculty Manual which affords the faculty oversight in the process of increasing faculty size. The Stewart Amendment would require a vote of the faculty to authorize the EPC to begin a “formal inquiry” and would require a subsequent vote to change its size as part of a two-step approval process. The two-step vote, which originally arose in response to an attempt by the College administration to eliminate the Education Department in 2015, does have a caveat in that faculty approval of a formal inquiry is only “normally” required. Professor emeritus of Economics Mark Stater, who stated that the increase in hires may require a realignment of positions, suggested that the number of hires available in a given year exceed the number of Special Opportunity Hires.

Stater noted that while he had not received any notice of an intent by the EPC to begin a formal inquiry or a vote for the faculty “would entertain a motion if it came through the proper channels.” For an increase to be successful, 60% approval would be required.

Russo told the Tripod that her understanding of the Stewart Amendment, requires that “any recommendations for overall changes in the size of the Faculty, or for (other) substantial changes in the educational policy of the College, must be approved by the Faculty.” Still, Russo noted that the EPC has “not yet had a formal discussion about increasing the size of the faculty” and added that such decisions of allocation and timeline were among those topics that the “committee will be considering” over the course of the next year. Special Opportunity Hires positions will not be the only positions to be considered during the upcoming year. Four previously authorized but unfilled positions will be advertised, according to Russo (according to Maynard’s June email). While the College did institute a hiring freeze in response to the coronavirus, Russo noted that the “EPC will be allocating some open positions to departments” that had previously been applied for, but those positions will not be “this hiring upcoming year.”

The senior administration declined to outline the Tri- pod in August what criteria would be used in their hiring process, though Russo clarified that the hiring criteria is an administrative decision and that others “determine whether the candidate meets the goals of the College.” The Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion also “makes a recommendation as to how well the proposed candidate meets the College’s goals for diversity,” Russo added. Recommendations on faculty appointments are ultimately extended from the College’s Appointments and Promotion Committee to the Dean of the Faculty. Cardenas—in her June email—added that “students of color will be included in the nomination process.” It was not immediately clear whether students would be appointed or if an invitation to participate would be extended to certain community members as part of the process.

COVID Cases at Connecticut Colleges and Universities

continued from page one

among Connecticut schools with a total of 30 confirmed COVID cases, CCSU is shown in the choropleth map as the purple region near New Britain. The U.S. Coast Guard Academy (near New London, bottom right), has a total of nine confirmed cases while Sacred Heart University (near Bridgeport, bottom left) has just six total cases. Trinity has had two total confirmed cases (but only one on-campus) as of Friday, Sept. 4, while Connecticut College, University of Hartford, and Wesleyan University each have just one confirmed COVID case. These four schools are not depicted in the choropleth map due to the relatively low number of cases.

In terms of Trinity’s total testing capabilities and results, the College has reported that 4,310 COVID PCR tests have been completed between Aug. 17 and Sept. 4, with only two positive tests—a promising sign. Additionally, the College has had a total of 46 invalid tests. The total test outcomes are shown in the figure below. As of Sept. 4 Trinity has a positive PCR test rate of just 0.02%, however the rate will likely increase as more data is made available.

Trinity Test Results (Aug. 17-Sept. 4)

| 0.02% Positive | 99.98% Negative | 1.07% Invalid |

| COVID Cases at Connecticut Colleges and Universities |

Intercollegiate Update: News on Nearby Campuses

Connecticut College

Connecticut College returned to campus this fall with a dashboard for monitoring COVID cases on campus. The dashboard is updated four times a week and tracks both the volume of testing and the number of positive test results. The percentage of positive results is one of the important metrics tracking the College’s freeze in response to the coronavirus. Isolation capacity is decreasing and confidence in the ability to complete contact tracing is moderate. As a result, parts of the College or the entire College in the future could be told to “opt out of campus” to minimize in-person contact. This alert level is the automatic status of the campus during on-boarding quarantine at the start of the semester.

Middlebury College

At Middlebury, student leaders have become responsible for enforcing the College’s COVID-19 policies, according to the Middlebury Campus. The Campus reported that “nighttime gatherings that exceed 10 participants, sometimes without face masks” have become the responsibility of both student leaders and faculty. The student leaders appear to have taken a role greater than Public Safety at Middlebury, where Residential Life staff have become responsible for collecting “the names, and sometimes the cell phone numbers, of students who break COVID-19 policies.” Part of this shift in responsibility away from the College’s public safety office was spurred by the protests over the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, according to the Middlebury Campus. The Campus also noted that Middlebury has already asked several students “to leave campus” and “more students to then not return to campus” according to comments from Dean of Students Derek Doucet. It was not immediately clear how many students had been removed from the campus or what their particular violations were.

Colby College

Colby College returned to campus this fall and, like its peer institutions, rolled out an extensive testing program. The College has conducted more than 6,400 COVID-19 tests (4,700 on campus; 1,700 before arrival) over the past month. Of those tests, they have had five positive cases to date (a rate of 0.08 percent). Of those five positive cases, two were employees and three students. The two employees were re-tested and received two consecutive negative results. Neither was or had recently been ill, nor had either individual been in contact with another student that had tested positive. Both employees had recently been ill, nor had either individual been in contact with another student that had tested positive. Both employees had recently been ill, nor had either individual been in contact with another student that had tested positive.

n=4310

0.02% Positive
98.91% Negative
1.07% Invalid
At Trinity, Arbitrary Enforcement Is the “Normal”

BRENDAN W. CLARK ’21 EDITING-IN-CHIEF
AND DANIEL J. NESBITT ’22 MANAGING EDITOR

Quod vastum et inutile est, lex non requirit, “the law does not require what is vain and useless,” or so the maxims go. For Trinity College, matters are exasperating its new “Community Contract” that students have or will find themselves soon beholden to, it seems that vanity and uselessness shall come to be the guiding principles of administrative enforcement this fall. The “Community Contract” will permit the College to “if needed...follow procedures outlined in the student handbook” to enforce disciplinary action on students. How, though, will students know what potential violations and acts may constitute disciplinary procedures? When the potential for punishment runs the gamut from “parental notification” to expulsion, one would expect students to be duly apprised of the penalties of the “law” on this campus for their actions. For instance, does a single case of forgetting a mask have the potential to result in disciplinary consequences? Will students be apprised of the mask’s significant other in a dorm or its absence? The possibilities for punishment seem endless.

The Trial sought clari-
y from the newly promoted Dean of Campus Life and Student Affairs Joe [sic]. Ignorance of the law, then, seems a valid defense at Trinity this fall. Students are left without knowledge of when an act may move from disciplinary action. They have no defense if action is taken and sanctions zealously doled out, nor do they have an outline to point to in an effort to contest proceedings. Arbitrary and capricious enforcement, ably exemplified by the tone of whichever dean catches you, seems to be the inevit able outcome of this “any possible violations” policy. Why? Joe [sic], you cannot at tach specific violations to punishments, or at least speculate as much, is difficult to understand. For example, the Community Contract states that students “may not travel (leave campus or housing)” or “figure stripping a poster which displays a shadow of a person in white.” The possibilities are endless.

Waiting to Study Abroad? Remember Otto Warmbier

JACK R. CARROLL ’24 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If there is one skill that any of us have gained from the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has imposed, it is the persistent abili ty to conduct thorough re search and strategically plan one’s way toward making any important travel decisions. As colleges and universities in the U.S. consider the future of study-abroad programs, it is important for students to use their pandemic-enhanced research skills to make well-informed travel decisions when deciding where to study in a post-pandemic world.

Worldwide, the country or region to spend an ex ample semester, students should take note of the existing laws, the established legal and social norms of the country in which one chooses to study. A failure to conduct such necessary research and planning might result in the collected information could impose potentially grave consequences to one’s individual safety, health, and overall well-being. In order to truly grasp the severity of the pernicious consequences that are associate d with poor-informed travel decisions, let us recount the devastating death of Otto Warmbier, a former student at the University of Virginia, who passed away in 2018 after having traveled to North Korea. To understand why his death, Otto, a particularly ad ven turous student with a penchant for traveling, decided to visit North Korea, on route to Hong Kong, where he had initially planned to com plete a study abroad pro gram. The trip to North Korea was arranged with the highly questionable travel group, Young Pioneer Tours, which the company offers “bud get travel to destinations your mother would rath er you stay away from.”

Pyeongyang, the cap ital and largest city of the North Korean dictatorship renowned for starvation, nuclear weapons, labor camps, and govern ment-imposed murder, was the destination of travel for Otto and his friends. They initially having reservations about the trip, Otto’s par ents, nevertheless, allowed him to leave. Otto’s moth er, Cindy, was lighted her thoughts when allowing Otto to travel to North Korea. “Why would you want to go there?”

To his mother’s defense, Otto was an intelligent and academically-driven young man whose extensive travel background made him all-the-more qualified to undertake the trip, Otto, who was once described as a “nuthead,” was the Secretary of North Korean officials, proved North Korean claims to his mother, Cindy, that Otto had contracted and loved ones to become familiar with in the post-pandemic society by encouraging us and a document showing the death of Otto was authenticated by the North Korean army. We can begin to prevent the loss of human life in a post-pandemic society by encouraging us and loved ones to become familiar with, informative and thoughtful individuals with the important decisions in their travels and other life pursuits.

Waiting to Study Abroad? Remember Otto Warmbier

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Furthermore, it was determined that Otto did not suffer from torture and after being removed from a feed ing tube died on June 19, 2017, at the age of 22 years old.

While the true recount of the circumstances of Otto’s death remains ambiguous and subject to scrutiny and belief, all readers can agree that the death of Otto Warmbier was devastating for his family and a tragic blow to the community that supported him. Hopefully my peers returning to and returning to college who, like Otto, are intelligent, ambitious, and eager to build their futures and enjoy their young adult lives, are able to see themselves in Otto and in turn recognize the grave consequences of grief and tragedy left by death as a constant reminder to make educated and safe travel decisions when consid ering studying abroad in the future.

While many of us may not be able to prevent the widespread feeling of uncertainty and speculation amongst the post-pandemic society by encouraging us and loved ones to become familiar with, informative and thoughtful individuals with the important decisions in their travels and other life pursuits.
"...The curriculum approved un- der Bill AB331 misses many mean- ingful opportunities to promote diversity by forgetting to include a myriad of historically oppressed and underrep- resented social groups in the United States -- the Irish among one of them.

The story of the Irish in the United States is one of immense suffering and tragedy: the dark times, from brutality to callousness to compas- sion, from the burning of homes to the burial of the dead. It is a story that many Irish immi- grants to America read from their ruling class, used the land to graze their sheep -- a life of backbreak- ing physical labor, em- ployment discrimination, poverty, racial caricatures, and violent confrontations with anti-Catholic and an- ti-Irish factions awaited.

Indeed, it was not un- common for one to see anti- Irish job-listing advertise- ments in newspapers that read "No Irish Need Apply": as well as the destruc- tion of Irish property, such as the burning of homes. It is also worth noting the anti-Irish efforts, which hardly scratched the surface of the brute oppression that the Irish faced, were mainly driven by the anti-Irish and an- ti-Catholic group known as the "Know Nothings." They were a neo-na- tionalist hate group disguised as a political party which aimed to combat Irish im- migration to the U.S. and declare their Protestant religion as the national religion.

It would not be until decades after their arrival that the Irish would begin to gain social footing in the United States, specifically, through their large voter turnout in state and local elections in which they elected leaders of the Irish community into positions of power in government. Furthermore, it would not be for another hun- dred years until the first Irish-Catholic U.S. Presi- dent, John Fitzgerald Ken- nedy, would serve in office.

Lastly, and most dis-turbingly, it would not be for another 150 years from the start of the fam- ine that Britain would take some responsibility for its devastating con- tributions to the famine.

As a descendant, my- self, of the generations of
While the Trinity College Chapel has remained relatively unoccupied over the past six months, students of Trinity’s faith-based organizations have begun the transition to campus in the hopes of reconnecting with their religious groups. Just as places of worship have in the “real world,” Trinity’s various faith based organizations have succeeded in creating the welcoming ambience of meetings that are typically held in person despite the move from the physical world to Zoom. College Chaplin Reverend Trevor Beauford relayed how students can continue to be part of these groups even as they face this fall, “we will be engaging virtually and when allowed, we will offer outdoor services. All faith traditions will have the opportunity to meet for prayers and public worship.”

With only a few weeks of “in person” under their belts, some organizations are starting to create a new normal, including online religious meetings and services. In particular, Chapel Council, a student-led Christian organization, has gathered virtually since returning to Trinity. The first Council meeting consisted of student members, including first-year students who had recently joined. The members were able to introduce themselves, discuss ideas, and reflect upon their plans for the upcoming semester. Trinity Episcopalian and Protestant communities are another group that has gathered online. On Sunday, Sept. 6, Episcopal College Chaplain Reverend Rebekah Hatch led a virtual service for students and the community, preaching on scripture and welcoming students back to campus despite their separation from the College’s Chapel. Chapel Council member Alex Chambers ’22 explained that students were able to participate as if they were in the Chapel. Though the service took place on Zoom, students were able to read scripture, engage with their community, and listen to recordings of College Organist Christopher Houlihan’s music from the Chapel organ. Some services, such as those in the Episcopal tradition, will be offered online until outdoor meetings can be formed in groups not exceeding 25 individuals.

Trinity’s current policy restricts gatherings to no more than 25 masked individuals, socially distanced in an outdoor space. Fortunately, technology is being set up to live-stream services, such as Catholic mass, if the number of attendees hits the limit. Associate Chaplain for Roman Catholic Life John Campbell said that he hopes to be able to gather for Catholic mass after Sept. 14. Campbell explained that the Office of Spiritual and Religious Life hopes to utilize the large tent adjacent to the Chapel as a location to hold outdoor services. “There is a lot of anxiety in the world right now,” Campbell remarked, “So, the more we can get students to take care of each other, pray, and remain even kinder, the better campus will be. We can make this a fabulous semester if we step up and take care of ourselves.”

Campbell also began a “Monday Morning Chaplain” series, where he reflects on God and the world. This program, begun over the summer, has allowed Campbell to remain connected with members of the Catholic community. The health and safety of Trinity students will remain a priority as organizations continue to reevaluate the structure of their gatherings. Rev. Beauford also explained the plans for several other groups: “The Friday Jumlah Prayers will be in the new Muslim Prayer Room in Crescent 76. Shabbat will be virtual for the time being, and Chapel services and mass will be online until further plans develop,” plans develop,” Thus, despite distance, spiritual and religious life remains strong at Trinity this fall term.

New Student Orientation typically takes up four or five days and is devoted to ensuring that new students can become acquainted with life at Trinity prior to the beginning of classes. Orientation leaders will often aid new students in adapting to the many newfound difficulties of college. This aid can take on many forms such as showing new students around to their classes, answering unresolved questions, or simply being a role model during this unsettling transition period. Orientation this year, however, looks much different than it has in previous years.

The effects of coronavirus have begun to grow apparent on college campuses across the United States, and the effects are also evident throughout New Student Orientation at Trinity. With much preparation on part of the Trinity administration, mainly through the Student Activities, Involvement, and Leadership program (S.A.I.L.), the orientation process has still been deemed a success despite the comparative lack of in-person programming. This year, the majority of events during New Student Orientation were virtual, a significant departure from the tradition of previous years. All introductory meetings between new students and orientation leaders were done over Zoom. Other activities promoted by the S.A.I.L. Team were also done through Zoom meetings, however, new students were still able to claim their next t-shirts in person. The S.A.I.L. team worked hard to find activities for students that could operate online. There were many different activities available for new students to attend, similar to those from in-person years. Although the most substantial setback this year was having virtual orientation sessions rather than in-person sessions, the S.A.I.L. team at Trinity made it possible for students to attend activities such as yoga, bingo, trivia, the annual candle-lighting ceremony, and even Convocation. The entire process went generally well, despite a few technical glitches over Zoom.

“Orientation went as well as it could have gone, given the situation we’re in,” said Maddie Recker ’23, an orientation leader.

“Meeting virtually is not the most ideal way for freshmen to meet their classmates, however, my group showed up to our meetings and we all made an effort to make orientation go smoothly,” she remarked. Recker voiced her concern over the fact that there is “nothing we can do about this situation without putting people in danger of contracting the virus. Even still, the whole process went smoothly.” When reflecting on the experience as a whole, Recker commented, “I would have changed the way everyone received their orientation group.” In previous years, the orientation group assignments were done through freshmen seminar groups. This year, however, the groups were assigned before class registration was held due to the pandemic.

A Virtual Introduction Like No Other: The Tripod Speaks With Orientation Leader Maddy Recker ’23

TRINITY COLLEGE

President Berger-Sweeney speaking at the virtual Convocation for the Class of 2023 this year.

FEATURES

Spiritual and Religious Life at Trinity Remains Connected With Students, Even from a Distance

MAURA KEARY ’22 FEATURES EDITOR

OLIVIA PAPP ’23 FEATURES EDITOR

The Episcopal tradition, providing students with a chance to participate as if they were in the chapel. We can make this a fabulous semester if we step up and take care of ourselves.” Campbell also began a “Monday Morning Chaplain” series, where he reflects on God and the world. This program, begun over the summer, has allowed Campbell to remain connected with members of the Catholic community. The health and safety of Trinity students will remain a priority as organizations continue to reevaluate the structure of their gatherings. Rev. Beauford also explained the plans for several other groups: “The Friday Jumlah Prayers will be in the new Muslim Prayer Room in Crescent 76. Shabbat will be virtual for the time being, and Chapel services and mass will be online until further plans develop.” Thus, despite distance, spiritual and religious life remains strong at Trinity this fall term.

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A First-Year’s Perspective on New Student Orientation

KATIE CERULLE ’23
FEATURES EDITOR

The first days of an ordinary freshman year consist of experiencing nothing but new people—bouncing from dorm room to frat backyard, and occasionally winding up in a classroom with up to 50 of your peers. But not this year. COVID-19 has taken a toll on usual freshman year activities across the country, and Trinity College is no exception. Teddy Komjathy, a freshman on the lacrosse team from Wellesley, Massachusetts, is making the most of his first few days on Trinity’s campus. The check-in process that Trinity students went through upon arrival involved showing proof of a negative COVID test taken no more than three days before moving into campus, taking another COVID test, and completing a packet of documents that lay out the importance of your health and safety and keeping those around you safe. As a freshman, Teddy emphasized that having to complete all of these tests ensured that he felt safe coming into school for the first time. Additionally, having students take COVID tests each week shows that the college is dedicated to having all students remain on campus for as long as possible.

In addition to discussing how Trinity is ensuring the safety of its students, Teddy also spoke about the ways that Trinity has facilitated bonding between members of the freshmen class. “Trinity has given us the time and the place to make new friends while staying within the COVID guidelines,” he added. He also touched on the benefit of having outdoor tents, seating outside the cave, and the ability to be on the quad in small groups. These small moments of face-to-face contact with peers has been helpful in the process of acclimatizing to campus culture.

As a replacement for the usual first-year orientation, there have been numerous Zoom meetings with orientation leaders that gave first-years the platform to bond with other students virtually despite the pandemic’s restrictions. “It’s good for students to have an opportunity to meet others in an organized way,” Teddy remarked. In addition to these Zoom meetings held by the orientation leaders, the College also implemented an online alternative to important freshmen events such as Convocation and Matriculation. These two events are usually memorable experiences that students talk about through their time at Trinity. Completing these two events virtually were valuable additions in an attempt to normalize the Trinity first-year experience. Coming to college for the first time in the era of COVID, it was tough for Teddy to form expectations about how Trinity was going to achieve a social and enjoyable first few days in Hartford.

“I was hoping that there was going to be a lot of socializing and getting to know people, but I also knew that that would be achieved in a different way,” he stated. The emphasis on keeping students and faculty of the college safe and healthy has limited the amount of face-to-face gatherings, Teddy mentioned, but he is exceedingly grateful to the college for allowing him to have a partial in-person experience and get to engage in some of the friendships and Trinity traditions that make our campus the special and unique place it is during the academic year.

1. Keep your head up. Your college experience is just beginning. You have a world of opportunities waiting for you that you aren’t even aware of yet. No one has “the perfect plan,” and you might be especially rare in the midst of a pandemic. Don’t get down about it. Believe that good things are coming. They are.

2. Don’t party. That being said, our promising future here is contingent on our ability to follow proper health and safety protocols and keep COVID cases on campus as low as possible. It’s not worth engaging in things now that could compromise the rest of our semester here. Trinity historically has an active social scene but there are other ways to engage with your peers and meet new people. As a student body, we need to collective and continue to keep the number of COVID cases low on campus. The better we do this, the more restrictions will be lifted.

3. Please don’t party. Enough said.

4. Give it time. It’s okay to be unhappy during this period of transition. Adjusting to college is not easy and every returning student this year have similar experiences. But we’re all still here for a reason. Be patient. You will find friends. You will find your path here at Trinity. Social circles open up dramatically before you even realize it.

5. Get out of your comfort zone. Take a risk! You are here to grow, and, believe it or not, you are in charge of your own growth. Grab the reins! Take control! Plant your seeds and see how you blossoms. Try a club you are unsure about. Email your online classmates and attend social distancing and study. These small changes can initiate a whole new community for you here at Trinity.

6. Say hello to the person next to you. It’s the easiest way to make a new friend. And it’ll bring some light into someone else’s day. Everyone has a time when we may be feeling disconnected, friendliness goes a long way.

7. Speak up about what you are struggling with. Trinity offers so many resources to support your success. You and only you are responsible for reaching out to these sources. Help will not miraculously find you. We mustn’t be afraid to ask for guidance even if it’s being offered for a reason. Visit the Counseling Center, engage in a spiritual activity, or seek academic support. Never forget that you are not alone and that so many people on this campus are dedicated to helping and supporting you along your college journey.

8. Learn about your resources. Consequently, in order to utilize your resources, you have to know about them if you are going to reach out to them! Ask others to point you in the right direction, or simply search for help on the Trinity website (www.trincoll.edu) if you are unsure where to turn.

9. Balance is important. Starting a new routine here can be overwhelming, especially during an era where establishing routines is harder than ever. Remember to take time to take care of yourself. Consider virtual self-care opportunities offered through Trinity’s Bantams in Balance program or find ways to engage in self-care at a distance by doing yoga on the quad.

10. Practice gratitude. As much as this may not be the start you had imagined or dreamt of, we are all so fortunate to be here. This is a unique opportunity for each and everyone of us to strive to be better humans and take advantage of our beautiful Hartford campus. Be thankful for what you do have. Sometimes a good attitude is all that you need to start the day off right.
Every Summer is a Hot Girl Summer For Her: How Megan Thee Stallion Stole the Music Season

LIZ FOSTER ’22
MANAGING EDITOR

In a world where bars hold their doors wide open, strangers clustered in crowds, and artists talking with someone on the street didn’t induce an instant finish, Megan Thee Stallion appeared as a shining beacon. The Houston rap star leaped onto the scene in 2018 with a song, "Savage," which became a viral sensation. Megan’s songs quickly climbed the charts and became popular, inspiring millions with her unique brand of raunchy lyricism and hot-girl energy.

Megan’s success story is one of resilience and determination. She bounced back from a horrific shooting incident, which almost derailed her career, and emerged stronger than ever. Megan’s ability to connect with her audience through her music and personal experiences has made her a beacon of hope for young people worldwide.

In honor of National Suicide Prevention Month, I’ll be reviewing Kevin Hines and Greg Dicharry’s masterful documentary, Suicide The Ripple Effect. As some readers of the A&E section of the Trinity Chronicle may remember, this review is already vastly different from the other critiques I’ve written for this publication in that it is unusually personal. This is because this documentary’s straightforward and intimate nature, I have decided to voluntarily share my experiences and plainly tell you that this film is an extremely vital watch for anyone suffering from any kind of mental illness.

"Hope" may just look like a four-letter word to those who have lost it, but Hines and Dicharry created a piece of art that brings the essence of urgency and importance home to us. "Hope" is not just a word, it is a message of genuine hope to those who may recognize, in one way or another, the difficulties you may be facing.

With the explicit intention of shining a light on the severity and fragility of mental illnesses, the film’s message is one of hope, strength, and acceptance. It is a call to arms for all of us to cherish our lives, and to be as mindful and compassionate as we can possibly be to one another.

The documentary is an urgent call to action. It is a beacon of hope, a reminder that no matter how isolated or alone we may feel, there are others who understand and care. The ripple effect of hope is all around us, and it is up to us to carry it forward.

In conclusion, I want to address the readers who understand what it means to suffer mentally and may struggle with suicide. If you or someone you love is struggling, please reach out for help. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available 24/7 at 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255) or text "START" to 741741 to connect with the Crisis Text Line.

I strongly urge you to watch Suicide The Ripple Effect and to share it with those who may be struggling. Our lives are precious, and every one of us has the potential to make a difference. Let us not waste another moment, but let us use our voices, our actions, and our love to create a world where hope is the default setting.
Weekly Skylights: The *Tripod* Looks to the Clouds

JOEY CIFELLI ’23
A&E EDITOR

(Right) There’s something about summer that’s hard to describe. The dislikes come to mind first: the heat, the bugs, the bug bites, sweat, sunscreen, sunburn, bug spray. Everything is sticky all the time. I really do not care for it. And the good things, the things that make me love those months, they’re much less tangible. Walking in a grass field in the evening, for example, when the sun is going down and the breeze is soft. Trees rustling if any happen to be nearby, and the grass cool on your feet. Or, in the middle of the day, when the sun is beating down overhead, sitting on a flat rock on a creekbed. Your shoes and socks lying next to you and your legs dipped in the sparkling water. It’s those moments, whether they appear big or small or frequently or only once, mixed into the terrible things, which are unending, that make summer hard for me to place. **8.8/10.**

(Right) Clothes fashioned from the ripe fibers of cloud possess many unique qualities, vain in a way that today’s sky has its own sky within itself. By which I mean, typically the sky constitutes the ephemeral part of our world, ever forming and reforming, while the land remains static and defined. Today, there’s some acknowledgement of those historic roles, and the clouds have staged themselves in a satirical representation of both spheres. Notice how the bottommost layer of clouds are finely textured. And their shape. Do they not resemble mountains? To find the “sky” of this sky, tradition holds: look up. There’s a wonderful, hazy blanket there. That warmer area on the right is especially touching. The way that light blends cozily with its blue-grey surroundings is just great. I think there may be a little cheekiness at play here, between realms outside our own. What a delight that it looks like this! **7.6/10.**

(Right) As the school year kicks back up again, I get to thinking about possibilities, you know. All is blank. What’s going to be the thing this year. How will I change? Will I improve? I don’t know, it’s always hard to tell with these kinds of things. The endless choices can be paralyzing to everyone sometimes, certainly to me. It’s ironic that total freedom can leave us feeling more trapped than a limited number of choices. I learned in economics a couple years ago that, for determining the opportunity cost of an action, we only consider the next best option. I think there’s something to that. Instead of mourning the infinite loss of possibilities, we should appreciate the solvity of a choice. Who cares how it turns out? Better to fail than do nothing. **6.8/10.**
As the NHL season winds down, this year’s playoffs are being held under unique circumstances. Disregarding the lack of fans in the stadium and the interruptions in their season, the National Hockey League has safely arrived at round two of the playoffs this past weekend. Game Six resulted in a tie-up series, at (3-3). The most interesting standout thus far coming out of Game Six was the intense match-up between the Philadelphia Flyers and New York Islanders on Saturday.

What should have been an easy sweep for the Islanders turned into a fight for control of the puck very early on in the match. The Flyers came out strong with two goals in the first period and put the Islanders’ goalie under constant fire throughout the period, which certainly demonstrated their excellent tactical abilities with the puck.

While the Islanders were able to make a comeback later in the period and get a shot on goal, they were not able to recover as well on the defensive end, which resulted in them entering the period down by a goal. Things were not looking up, but they certainly showed through-out the match that they had the spirit to recover strong. During the second period, the Islanders came out in full force and synchronized their attacks on the net, coming one after another to score. They were able to cause havoc on the Flyers net and score a total of three goals taking the lead, 4-3, in an exciting turn of events. Things took a turn for the worse in the third period as the Flyers were attempting to tie the game up and send it into overtime. While the Islanders were playing excellent defense throughout the third period, the Flyers were able to maneuver the puck in a transition from defense to offense and again demonstrate their control of the puck. In a matter of 15 seconds, the Flyers’ center was able to take the puck across the mid while their forward, Scott Laughton, went to the far right side. The Islanders made a push for the center, leaving Laughton open for a pass and a rush on goal for the shot to tie the game up at 4-4. While the Islanders attempted to make a comeback, they could not connect as an offensive front, but managed to hold out on defense allowing Game Six to go into overtime in what would become one of the most exhilarating and thrilling moments of the match.

Overtime saw both sides relentlessly firing shots on the net for any chance to gain a lead and win Game Six. However, much like the first and third periods, the Islanders struggled to come to defense to keep the 3-0 lead against the Flyers, who were not able to rally back on offense and make a successful attack on net.

While the Flyers attempted a last-minute push in the third period, they came up unsuccessful and the Islanders advanced with an end game score of 4-0. The Islanders took their first win to Las Vegas.

The beginning of the game saw a strong start for the Lightning, who were quick to put up three goals. One of these three was provided by center Brayden Point, who wasted no time in ensur- ing the Lightning came out of Game Seven on top.

The Western Conference has also been shaping up to be a good toss-up between the Knights and the Dallas Stars. Particularly for the young Knights team who went to the Stanley Cup during their first season (2017-2018) and lost to the Washington Capitals. A win against the Dallas Stars would allow them to have a second spot at a Stanley Cup win and a chance to bring home their first win to Las Vegas.

The next game of the Stanley Cup Playoffs will take place tonight, Sept. 8, at 8:00 p.m. with the Stars facing off against the Knights. Then, the Eastern Conference continues on Wednesday with another face-off between the Islanders and the Lightning, possibly giving the Islanders a chance to reclaim themselves after last night’s performance. It will certainly be a game worth fans paying attention to. However the matches turn out, you can bet that the Tripod sports team will be on the case, pro- viding you with the latest up-to-date accounts on the most thrilling moments in the NHL season this year for your reading pleasure.
COVID-19 Rears Its Ugly Head in Trinity Athletics

ANNA BAUER '23
SPORTS EDITOR

The COVID-19 pandemic has complicated just about everything at Trinity College. Athletic teams are no exception to this. It has already been decided that Trinity will not be participating in any NESCAC competitions or NCAA championships this fall. However, according to the Director of Athletics, Drew Galbraith, the athletic department is doing everything it can so that all sports can have team practices in a safe manner.

This starts with a COVID-19 Education Workshop, with an assigned athletic training staff member, as well as an Athletic Orientation for all athletes before practices begin. The general guidelines are that indoor groups will be limited to ten students and outdoor groups will be limited to 25 students; however, the requirements that each team must adhere to during practices will vary depending on the sport and the kind of contact that would usually occur.

For example, volleyball will have group sizes limited to seven athletes at a time, and, to prevent close proximity, there will be no blocker when any hitting is done at the net. The football team will be required to split up into four groups of 20 and two of the four groups will practice at the same time, but on opposite ends of the field. For our lacrosse and soccer teams, coaches have the choice of either running multiple practices or dividing the groups as they see fit based on the team roster sizes.

In addition, at least for the first few weeks, no defensive plays or drills will occur during any team practices, and all of the players will be wearing masks under their helmets. This mask rule applies to all athletic teams. In addition, each practice must also have adult supervision, i.e. no captain’s practices. No close contact will occur throughout practices at the start, and, again, face coverings will be worn. The daily occurrence is speed and conditioning work, but 12 feet of distance will be required between each athlete.

The winter teams have the potential to begin with a more normal start given that their first practice starts Oct. 15, while the spring and fall teams begin Sept. 18 – a full 14 days after the last students have arrived on campus. At the moment though, the close proximity required for winter sports like wrestling, basketball, ice hockey, and squash still leave these teams beginning with small group work and, of course, masks.

Now, while masks may seem like the devil when exerting a lot of physical energy (especially when your own sweat makes you feel like you’re drowning), the wearing of masks may allow athletic practices to normalize over the course of the semester. On a separate note, the swimming and diving team plans to utilize the U.S. Swimming guidelines, indicating how to properly distance within the parameters of a pool.

While this may be quite a rocky start, there remains hope that a slow progression to what practices and activities usually look like can be made by mid-October. However, as one might assume, this is entirely dependent on the virus levels staying manageable not just on Trinity’s campus, but within the surrounding community and Connecticut as a whole. So, to all the athletes, keep the faith and hopefully we will see you in games soon.

Strength and Conditioning Steps-Up During Phase I

MATEO VAZQUEZ ’21
SPORTS EDITOR

As the Bantams return to campus, they are finding numerous ways to adapt to the new challenges that they must face in light of the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on athletics. An area of their training that looks quite different during the Phase-1 stage of athletics reopening is the Strength and Conditioning program. One major change for the program includes the reduced number of athletes that are allowed to train per session and utilize the equipment at one time.

The varsity gym welcomes the highest flow of traffic for athletes who are training both during the on-season and off-season. However, changes that were implemented this semester ensure that athletes are ready to take on their upcoming seasons by reducing traffic and high volumes of students utilizing the spaces at one time. Another major change athletes must adapt to includes outdoor Strength and Conditioning, which they will partake in under tents when the weather is not feasible for training. This allows for an easier environment for athletes to safely train and reduces the need to wear a mask, given that each individual has more than 12 feet of space between them and others.

The varsity gym will provide athletes with a diverse schedule including strength, circuit, and weight workouts, as well as a variety of bonafide workouts if athletes would like to participate in multiple sessions. The new changes also allow the athletes to work with a variety of coaches that they may not have had the chance to in past years and will be a good way to further familiarize themselves with the staff.

Athletes will notice that there are a lot of advantages for them during this fall season to specifically develop their skills on a personal level. Trainers throughout this week will be conducting a baseline test that allows athletes to have a detailed personal plan that highlights their strengths and weaknesses to further develop themselves throughout the semester.

Then, prior to the end of the semester in the fall, there will be another cycle of baseline testing which will highlight any changes of improvement and of course allow them to further focus on different areas of their training over the winter break. A weekly nutrition newsletter that provides tips, workout outlines, and goals to help athletes to properly distance within the parameters of a pool.

The COVID-19 testing has been taking place in the fieldhouse of Ferris Athletic Center.

The Trinity Athletics Strength and Conditioning Program will adapt to social distancing protocols as made clear by the college’s COVID-19 guidelines as well as those set by the state of Connecticut.