Inside Umoja Coalition

KATIE CERULLE '22
MANAGING EDITOR

BIPOC students and allies at Trinity fight for their rights following a reckoning on race this summer.

Weekly Skylights

JOEY CIFELLI '23
ARE EDITOR

Our weekly cloud review by the indomitable Joey Cifelli ’23 will surely lift your hearts to the sky.

Senior Sports Spotlight

MATEO VAZQUEZ '21
SPORTS EDITOR

The Tripod highlights the accomplishments of senior rower Andrew Frankini.

To Our Readers: Keep your eye out for the Tripod's new Sunday morning feature series on issues of critical importance to the Trinity community. Check it out on Instagram or our website, trinitytripod.com.

This week, Kaylen Jackson ’21 sits down with SGA president Giovanni Jones ’21.

The Tripod Reviews Quarantine Policies

KAT NAMON '22
MANAGING EDITOR

The significant coronavirus case increase at Trinity has prompted a Tripod review of Trinity’s contact tracing protocols and an examination of students living conditions in the Doonesbury dormitory, where positive case students remain in isolation in order to limit the spread of the virus across campus. The Tripod has also learned additional details concerning how College is approaching and evaluating this significant uptick in cases in relation to operations and precautions.

There are presently 13 students in isolation, the Tripod has learned, with a possible fourteenth following an increase in the positive case count to 15 when the College’s COVID-19 dashboard was updated Monday evening. The increase of nine cases reported over two days last week appears to qualify as an outbreak under the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommended definition issued earlier this year. That guidance specifies that an outbreak has occurred when “two or more contacts are identified as having active COVID-19, regardless of their assigned priority” or when “two or more patients with COVID-19 are discovered to be linked, and the linkage is established outside of a case investigation and contact tracing.”

At least two cases last week were related to students residing in the first floor of the Jones dormitory, according to an email from Dean of Campus Life and Vice President for Student Affairs Joe DiChristian.

COVID-19 Update: Case Increases at Trin

Trinity Test Results (Sept. 14 - Sept. 21)

Days from the first. According to the Dashboard, “In some cases, their original positive test was before their arrival on campus and they were never active cases on campus.” As shown in the figure above, the positive test rate between Sept. 14 and Sept. 21 was approximately 0.33% (“including 5 “priors”), a significant increase from last week’s (Sept. 7 through Sept. 14) test rate of 0.14% as shown in the figure below. In addition, the invalid test rate for this week was approximately 1.55%, nearly double last week’s invalid test rate of 0.82%.

Trinity Test Results (Sept. 7 - Sept. 14)

The U.S. News & World Report rankings for 2021 were released on Monday, Sept. 14, placing Trinity in a tie at #44 among National Liberal Arts Colleges, an increase of two from last year’s #46. Trinity tied for #44 with Denison University in Granville, Ohio and Union College in Schenectady, New York.

Though President Berger-Sweeney has not yet published any official communications on the matter, Chief of Staff to the President Jason Rojas told the Tripod that though “rankings are not an adequate reflection of quality, we are pleased that others are taking notice of our progress and that the measures in which we improved align with the things we care about.”

In an email to alumni, Vice President for College Advancement Michael Casey wrote that Trinity’s increase in rank “was driven by steady improvements in a number of categories” including “graduation rate performance,” “social mobility,” “alumni giving,” and “financial resources.” His email also announced that the College is “planning an exclusive webinar that will go into a bit more depth on the rankings sometime in the very near future,” however no further details have been announced as of Monday, Sept. 21.

This year’s U.S. News rankings methodology saw graduation rate performance, as measured by a comparison of actual and expected graduation rates, as an important new ranking indicator. Trinity currently has a graduation rate of 76%, which is higher than the overall average of 68% for all liberal arts institutions.

Exercising the data available on Trinity’s COVID-19 Dashboard, the College has reported that a total of 4,507 COVID-19 PCR tests have been completed between Sept. 14 and Sept. 21, with a total of 15 positive test results. Trinity has recorded 23 positive cases total among students, 9 of which have been “prior,” referring to “test results of individuals who previously tested positive for COVID-19 and received another positive test result less than 90 days from the first.” According to the Dashboard, “In some cases, their original positive test was before their arrival on campus and they were never active cases on campus.” As shown in the figure above, the positive test rate between Sept. 14 and Sept. 21 was approximately 0.33% (“including 5 “priors”), a significant increase from last week’s (Sept. 7 through Sept. 14) test rate of 0.14% as shown in the figure below. In addition, the invalid test rate for this week was approximately 1.55%, nearly double last week’s invalid test rate of 0.82%.

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Contact Tracing and Doonesbury Quarantine Reviewed

continued from page one

to impacted students on Tuesday, Sept. 15, suggest- ing a linkage. The CIDC does, however, indicate that an outbreak is “relative to the local context.” It remains unclear if the 40 students in isolation for possible con- tact, identified in an email from DiChristina on Sept. 16, remain in quarantine.

Chief of Staff and Assoc- iate Vice President for Ex- ternal Affairs Jason Rojas indicated that the College’s “Hartford Healthcare in- fectious disease specialist” does not consider the cases last week an outbreak and instead defined them as “an uptick in cases.” Rojas went on to clarify that “with ef- forts to isolate and quar- rantine students, their focus is to limit the spread of disease.”

Following this uptick, the College did not re- send its guidance on stu- dent gathering last week, electing to allow students to gather in groups of six outdoors. The Tripod in- quired about what the College is considering in deciding whether or not to permit outdoor gather- ings. Rojas indicated that “testing has given us, with some degree of certainty, a sense of what we should do from a public health per- spective.” Because of se- rious testing procedures, the administration believes “that it was allowable, at this moment, for very small groups to gather outside.”

People wearing masks and physically distancing out- doors in very small groups appears to be one way that students can socialize in a safe manner.” Rojas cau- tioned, however, that this privilege could “change at any moment, depending on whether conditions improve or worsen.” As of Monday evening, the College’s alert level remains at yellow.

Investigating the Contact Tracing and Relocation Process:

For any student who tests positive, Trinity has advised them to “return to your residence and stay there with your mask on until a healthcare profes- sional or on-call campus staff member contacts you.” Students are encouraged to “begin to pack necessary belongings” in prepara- tion for moving to Doones- bury. Student dormitory rooms are then sanitized by the College. Impacted students can walk to the dormitory or may elect to be driven by a nurse.

Trinity’s Health Center informs professors about positive results and that students will be partici- pating in classes remote- ly during the duration of their quarantine. The Tri- pod has reached out to Di- rector of Student Health Services Martha O’Brien for a comment and has not received a response but will update if one is received. DiChristina, however, told the Tripod that students are first “advised to contact staff for support,” which includes “staff in the Coun- seling and Wellness Center and the Health Center.”

Students who test pos- itive also work closely with contact tracers. The College’s guidance indicates that the tracer asks for a list of names of individuals “with whom you have been in close contact for the two days prior to the collec- tion date of your positive test.” According to mul- tiple students who tested positive, however, contact tracing only asks students to name those they had been in close contact with while indoors and not wear- ing a mask. This informs contact tracers of who the positive individuals had put at a medium-to-high risk but does not inform them of those that they en- countered outdoors or in classes and other activites where masks were worn.

Those with possible ex- posure are advised to quar- antine in their dormitories and are “contacted by the College's State of Connecti- cut Department of Pub- lic Health trained contact tracers based on reports of direct exposure, assess- ments for mask-use and social distancing, among other factors, to determine who is at risk,” according to Rojas. Individuals who are not in contact with a known case “are not con- tacted because they are not at risk from the known pos- itive case,” Rojas continued.

Examining the Quarantine and Isolation Experience for Positive Cases at Trinity:

The Tripod spoke with students who are in iso- lation, who have indicat- ed that meals have been small in size in comparison to those for non-isolated students, with deliveries occurring at 11 a.m. and in the early evening. Stu- dents have also identified concerns with support in quarantine and supervision of the Doonesbury facility. DiChristina commented that the College ensured that “people were isolated, AC units [were] put in each room, the kitchen was ready as a place for us to bring food, and we set plans for clean- ing the area each day.” He clarified that all these pre- cautions were taken “within the guidelines of CDC” (sic) and were “fully approved by the FBI and staff for cleaning.”

Doonesbury is able to house as many as 31 students but, according to Rojas, the College has “se- cured additional facilities if needed.” As of Sept. 21, at least 13 students were in isolation in Doonesbury.

Individuals who are re- siding in Doonesbury for a ten-day isolation period receive meals “twice daily…between 12:30 and 1:00 p.m. and from 5:45- 6:15 p.m.” Breakfast is de- livered with the evening meal. In an email, Residential Learning Co- ordinator Joel Copperthite cautioned students to only take their designated bags, as otherwise they will be “depriving another resident of their meal.” DiChristi- na did add that the College can “certainly can let one of the student staff live know of any concerns” relative to dissatisfaction with the College’s policies. Students are quaran- tined across three sin- gles, which are connect- ed by two different doors. Groups of three infected students share the same bathroom, according to accounts from students who have tested positive.

The College appears to permit infected students to engage food delivery services such as UberEats and DoorDash. Students who test positive, according to a Sept. 21 email from Copperthite, are asked to “let us know if you intend on ordering food or not prior to the days’ deliveries” to avoid waste in the delivery of College meals. That same email encouraged students “to be sure to order contact-free delivery only.” It did not appear that the College was utilizing Campus Safe- ty or any other individuals to monitor or enforce that contactless requirement.

The Tripod reached out to Copperthite for a comment and has not received a re- sponse at the time of pub- lication but will update ac- cordingly if one is received. Students also expressed that “testing is taking place daily” and that “Campus Safe- ty can access the nurse at all hours to coordinate any responses needed.” Howev- er, while nurses are avail- able, students have been encouraged to contact emer- gency services in the case of a medical emergency. DiChristina told the Tripod that he and Dean of Student Life Jody Good- man are aware that “this is a stressful situation for our students,” adding that “they want to be attentive to their needs” as much as possible.

College Campus Safety Report: Sept. 4 - Sept. 19

Saturday, Sept. 12
Hansen Hall
Liquor Law Violation. Four students received disciplinary referrals.

Sunday, Sept. 13
Wheaton Hall
Vandalism - Property. This case remains open.

Sunday, Sept. 13
Wheaton Hall
Liquor Law Violation. 12 students received disciplinary referrals.

Monday, Sept. 15
Non-Campus
Aggravated Assault. Referred to Title IX Co-ordinator.

Wednesday, Sept. 16
On Campus
Stalking and Harass- ment. Referred to Title IX Co-ordinator.

Wednesday, Sept. 16
Mather Hall
Larceny - Theft from Nonresidential Building. This case remains open.

Friday, Sept. 18
High Rise
Drug Use and Liquor Law Violation. Two students received disciplinary referrals.

Friday, Sept. 18
Elton Hall
Liquor Law Violation. Five students received disciplinary referrals.

Saturday, Sept. 19
Jackson Hall
Drug Use and Liquor Law Violation. Three students received disciplinary referrals.
Trinity Moves to 44th in U.S. News & World Report Rankings

predicted six-year graduation rate, accounted for 8% of the overall ranking. Similarly, social mobility as measured by the graduation rates of Pell Grant students accounted for 5% of the overall ranking. Alumni giving, measured as the “average percentage of living alumni with bachelor’s degrees who gave to their school” between 2017 and 2019, accounted for only 3% of the 2021 overall ranking, a decrease from 5% for the 2020 rankings. It remains unclear to what extent Trinity’s improvement in alumni giving, as described by Casey, is responsible for Trinity’s increased ranking given the lower importance of alumni giving in this year’s methodology. Finally, financial resources, measured as the average per-student, spending on “instruction, research, student services and related educational expenditures in the 2018 and 2019 fiscal years,” accounted for 10% of the 2021 overall ranking. When compared to the rest of the NESCAC, Trinity has the second-lowest ranking among the NESCAC schools; only Connecticut College’s ranking is significantly lower than the rest of the NESCAC. The only exception to the rule. Connecticut College being

Trinity Endures Extensive Cyberattack

Trinity College began experiencing numerous issues with its servers and network services on Saturday, Sept. 12. Vice President for Information Services and Chief Information Officer Suzanne Aiber first informed the student body that “our IT team is currently working with two cybersecurity companies and that “significant progress was made today in ensuring that the qualitative data we gather is in place to allow us to start bringing services online to our campus.” Changing priorities and delays resulted in the network being restored two days later. Although no specific cybersecurity company was mentioned, Trinity College has highlighted its relationship with alumnus Matthew Prince ’96, CEO and Co-founder of Cloudflare, and previously hosted a Zoom meeting between him and President of the College Joanne Berger-Sweeney on May 27, 2020. Founded in 2009, Cloudflare is notable for mitigating some of the largest ever recorded DDoS cyberattacks as well as its pro-free speech stance. According to the Cyber Alert brief, obtained by the Tripod through an anonymous data source, “the affected different school systems in the State of Connecticut were targeted with DDoS attacks.”

The brief further stated that “It is common to see a rise in DDoS attacks being carried out against schools at the commencement of a school year, or after an extend- ed break.” Additionally, the implementation of remote learning environments has made school systems more vulnerable to DDoS attacks, but also created an environment where successful attacks are even more disruptive.” It is not immediately known whether Trinity is included in the tally of school systems targeted by DDoS attacks.

The Tripod also examined the change in U.S. News rankings among NESCAC schools

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>2001-2021</td>
<td>(20-year change)</td>
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Change in U.S. News Rankings among NESCAC Schools

The Tripod also examined the change in U.S. News rankings over time among NESCAC schools using a historical dataset available online at andyreiter.com. The 1-year, 10-year, and 20-year change in U.S. News rankings is shown in the figure below. Trinity, along with Hamilton, was one of only two schools in the NESCAC to improve in ranking from 2020 to 2021. Over the past ten years, however, Trinity’s U.S. News ranking has decreased by eight, tied with Wesleyan for the second largest decrease in the same time period for NESCAC schools: only Connecticut College’s ranking decreased more in the same time period. Both Colby and Hamilton increased in ranking by eight and nine respectively over the same time period. Over ten years the rankings for Amherst, Bates, Bowdoin, and Williams have remained consistent, while Middlebury’s ranking has slightly decreased.

Over the past twenty years, Trinity’s U.S. News ranking has decreased by 21, the second-largest decrease behind only Connecticut College whose ranking has decreased by 24 in the same time period. Wesleyan’s ranking has suffered a decrease of ten over the time period, while no other NESCAC school ranking has decreased by more than three in the twenty-year period. As shown in the figure below, the rankings of Hamilton and Colby increased by twelve and four respectively over the same period, while Williams has risen by a total of two spots from #3 to #1. Tufts was excluded from analysis due to its separate classification within the “National Universities” Category.

The Wall Street Journal Times Higher Education (WSJ/THE) College Rankings for 2021 were also recently released on Thursday, September 17, with Trinity ranked #92, a decrease of five from last year’s #87. Compared to the rest of the NESCAC, Trinity has the second-lowest ranking, ahead of only Connecticut College ranked #106. Amherst and Williams ranked highest among NESCAC schools, tied for #21. Unlike the U.S. News & World Report rankings, the WSJ/THE rankings do not split the rankings into “National Liberal Arts Colleges” and “National Universities,” which could explain for the generally lower absolute rankings among the NESCAC schools.

The U.S. News and WSJ/THE rankings each have unique methodologies for determining school rankings. The former considers 17 different metrics while the latter considers 15 metrics, and though some of the metrics are similar, many are also weighted differently across the two methodologies. With respect to COVID-19’s potential impact on rankings, U.S. News made clear that “the data used in those rankings pertain to fall 2019 and earlier,” meaning the disruption caused by COVID-19 on higher education “could not impact the data schools submitted to U.S. News.” Additionally, the WSJ/THE rankings clarified that the regular survey related to student engagement “had to be canceled for this year,” so the rankings used the student engagement scores “obtained by institutions last year.” The Tripod reached out to Thursday on Jojas and Director of Media Relations Stacy Staunton for comment prior to the publication of this article. Rojas acknowledged receipt of the questions, but indicated that the College would likely be unable to respond to questions by the print date of Sept. 22.
Hey, it’s me. I’m quarantined, remember? Yeah, so here we are. As I enter into my second week of sitting in my bedroom for the entire day, I’ve noticed a few flaws in the system that’s supposed to keep me and my peers safe and healthy.

The appointment was made by the therapist had for canceling my second week of sitting in my bedroom for the entire day, I was starving until my living in a suite inaccuracy on the health care system that’s supposed to prevent the spread of coronavirus. But what about health care professionals who have a much greater moral standing in society.

Legally a privately owned American business has the right to discriminate on the basis of infectious disease precaution. As stated above, I wholeheartedly agree with this right as it protects the community from those potentially exposed to the virus. If this doctor sees a patient in need, they should treat them as if they were a healthy person. Also, many of us would agree that this discrimination is better for the world since it is helping prevent the spread of coronavirus. What about healthcare institutions like the one mentioned in my example above? Should private healthcare institutions be allowed to discriminate based on covi

I understand physicians are conducting tests—deny patients their perceived higher moral standing in society. These physicians that neglect the individual are no more of an upstanding citizen than the lay people as they care only for themselves when anxiety is high. If we allow healthcare workers in privatized businesses to neglect their ethical obligations, we permit the societal abandonment of the most needy.

"If we allow healthcare workers in privatized businesses to neglect their ethical obligations, we permit the societal abandonment of the most needy."
The Republicans Cannot Repeat Hypocrisy in 2020

MIMI MILLIGAN ‘24 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The United States truly suffered a devastating loss of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg over the weekend. Even the notoriously uncouth President Trump offered a sincere and complimentary comment on the trailblazing Justice of the Supreme Court. In what seemed like nearly the same breath, however, Trump also announced his intention to move forward with the process of nominating a replacement justice to the court. It is difficult to not draw comparisons to President Obama’s nomination of Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court in 2016 after the passing of Justice Scalia. This nomination from Obama, in his final year in office, was immediately thrown out by Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) and the Republican-led Senate, who argued that it would be inappropriate to nominate a new justice before a presidential election.

There are some key differences in the 2016 case to our current situation. President Obama was in his eighth year of presidency, meaning he could not stand for reelection, in comparison to Trump, who may still be in office for another four years. While Obama nominated Merrick Garland, who was introduced to the American people as something of a moderate, Trump has his sights on a starkly ideologically opposed candidate to Garland. Amy Coney Barrett has emerged as one of Trump’s potential selections and she is known for her staunch, anti-abortion opinion rooted in conservative ideology. To confirm Barrett or another nominee through the Senate, a majority of senators would need to confirm Trump’s choice in a particularly speedy process before an election year cannot nominate a justice to the Supreme Court.

Inauguration in January: I am hardly the first writer to point out the blatant hypocrisy of the Republican party in the current moment, however, the GOP’s divergent political policies to fill both the seats of Justice Scalia and Justice Ginsburg appear to be truly astounding. When Obama was tasked with filling the conservative Scalia’s seat, Senator Marco Rubio (R-Florida) said, “I don’t think we should be moving on a nominee in the last year of this president to stand behind the Republican president 100%.

This absurd hypocrisy from Republican leaders is not just a thing that can become an Instagram meme or a joke on late comedy—it seems to be a grave indicator of the crumbling of the democratic process under Trump and an increasingly divided America. The made-up rule (described by Slate magazine as a “bogus precedent”) that a president in an election year cannot nominate a justice to the Supreme Court is another example of political expediency.

The President, Despite Objections, Can Fill the Seat

KIP LYNCH ’22 NEWS EDITOR

Although you will rarely hear a Republican praise Ruth Bader Ginsburg and her decision to become an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, she rightly deserves praise for her determination to overcome the sexist barriers of the late 20th century and serve as a litigator and champion for equal rights for women. According to her granddaughter Clara Spencer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg stated that Garland receive a vote that were nothing more than political posturing given that they knew full well that votes are not required and that he wouldn’t receive a confirmation.

Joe Biden, as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, once said that he would not consider any Supreme Court nomination by George H.W. Bush during the presidential election year of 1992. Then, in 2016, he castigated McConnell for refusing to hold a vote for Garland. McConnell was similarly hypocritical when he stated that he would move forward with President Trump’s nomination this year while stating in 2016 that the American people “should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court justice.” Senator Chuck Schumer, for all his valid criticisms of McConnell, is foolish when he states that Republicans have “no right” to fill the Supreme Court vacancy.

His threats to pack the court and reduce it no more than a political instrument are no better than Trump listing sitting legislators as potential Supreme Court picks.

“In this sea of hypocrisy, one must look to the law. The Constitution clearly states that the President has the power to nominate a person to fill a seat on the Supreme Court.”

“My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed.” Despite her achievements, Republicans are under no obligation to fulfill her dying wish. In response, Democrats frequently raise the issue of Barack Obama’s nomination of Merrick Garland in an attempt to illustrate Republican hypocrisy, and perhaps rightly so. Nevertheless, while I disagreed with Senator Mitch McConnell’s decision to not hold any hearings, his decision was perfectly legal. The Democrats’ demands have the power to nominate a person to fill a seat on the Supreme Court. The Constitution clearly states that the President has the power to nominate a person to fill a seat on the Supreme Court. In each case, the president made nominations. It is true, however, that said nominations have rarely been confirmed. Republicans only aligned themselves to the imaginary “Biden rule” of waiting until after the presidential election so long as it was feasible in 2016. They have obviously now abandoned it. Any Republican president 100%.

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Inside the Umoja Coalition: BIPOC Students Fight For Their Rights on the Trinity College Campus

KATIE CERULLE '22 FEATURES EDITOR

The brutal murder of George Floyd this past May sparked protests across the United States, calling attention to the many systemic issues within our society that are coded with underlying racism. These practices within racist institutions are unfortunately nothing new, but are often concealed by both the mainstream media and several American politicians. Trinity College is no exception to these inherently racist policies. In response to the college’s various policies and procedures, a combination of Black organizations titled the Umoja Coalition presented a list of demands to the College seeking to improve the experience of Black students on campus.

The Umoja Coalition is a working group composed of seven Black organizations within the Multicultural Affairs Council (MAC) that are fighting for the rights of Black students on Trinity College’s campus. The coalition is built on infrastructure that has been a part of this campus for upwards of 40 years. “This is all very cyclical, these are problems that persist” states Jederick Estrella ’22, a member of the coalition. Estrella also mentioned that the coalition creates a platform for these Black organizations to come together and speak as a singular, unified voice. On a budgetary level, creating more organizations puts more money into Black organizations and presents more opportunity to throw events. These events, such as the Carribean Student Association’s fashion show or the Hip Hop festival, are attended by hundreds of people and are vital in changing the narrative of and within the Trinity community.

This summer, the Coalition assembled a list of demands for the College in order to identify the specific changes that must be implemented in order to make our community more equitable. Estrella explains that the list is split into six articles that address different departmental categories of Trinity, separating out the Administration and the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees and the Administration handles the financials of the institution, making it vital to hold them individually responsible. “The business model of Trinity College needs to be restructured to take into account the Black students that go here” states Estrella. However, all of the departments that have been addressed are held to a similar list of demands as the Board of Trustees and the Administration, because the activities and operations of campus activities go hand in hand, Estrella explained. Also on the list of demands to the faculty is an increase in Black professorship on campus. The lack of representation in some of the most popular majors on campus remains evident, and not having these mentors for BIPOC students create barriers unbeknownst to legacy college students.

After the list of demands was sent, the College released an email that stated their commitment to changing the structure of internal organizations in order to coincide with the demands. They specified their actions in line with the document, separating it into sections and providing a concrete action plan. Estrella explains he is most excited to work with Career Development as they are restructuring the way they operate with BIPOC students in order to be more equitable.

Right now, the Coalition is in the process of electing representation from each of the seven organizations. As the group solidifies their structure as an organization, they will open positions and meetings to the general public. Their operation strategy will run similarly to SGA in the sense that their meetings will encourage community participation. Assuming that COVID eventually ceases and in-person meetings return, showing support for the coalition can be as simple as showing up.

National Voter Registration Day: Register to Vote on Campus with the New Voters Project Campaign

OLIVIA PAPP ’23 FEATURES EDITOR

With the ceaseless bustle of activity on college campuses across the United States, the act of voting is not often at the forefront of students minds or priorities. The process of registering to vote seems a daunting, time consuming activity which leaves students setting the mundane task aside until it is too late.

There are several different initiatives through ConnPIRG Students at Trinity which aim to solve social issues. One of the initiatives this non-partisan organization has taken on is the New Voters Project Campaign. Maddy White ’22, the New Voters Project Campaign Coordinator, has helped students navigate the process in registering to vote at Trinity.

The goal of this project is to not only educate students about voting, but also to register as many as possible to vote. Voter Registration Day, happening this Tuesday, September 22, is crucial for the upcoming election in November. ConnPIRG Students extol the importance of voting through virtual events being held this Tuesday, in collaboration with Trinity’s TwinVotes initiative.

According to White, voting is key for students. “Students need to know how to vote, how to register to vote. It’s our job to make sure students have everything they need to vote,” said White. In prior years, volunteers would often spend hours going door-to-door to register students. This year, volunteers will be spreading the word via Instagram. “With the plethora of virtual voter registration events this year, we will hopefully encourage students to be more mindful about the importance of registering to vote this autumn.”

On Tuesday, each event will be virtual. First, there is a panel event from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. featuring many knowledgeable sources. Participants featured on Tuesday’s panel include: Denise Merrill, the Connecticut Secretary of State; Angela Barney, the Assistant Director of the Program in Community Action at the Hollee Granger Center at Connecticut College; Jordan Lewis, the Vice President of Communications for the Student Government Association at Trinity College; and Abigail Williamson, Charles A. Dana Research Associate Professor of Political Science and Public Policy at Trinity College. Following that event, there will be a social media call to action held from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., called “Remem-
ALEX CHAMBERS '22 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Fall 2020 may not appear as the most ideal semester to join the faculty of Trinity College. However, Professor Austin Reid, the now visiting professor of the physics department, has been inspired by the challenges of the unprecedented remote for Physics 141. To this point Reid said, “It’s really exciting to be able to engage with students and to actually get this level of direct interaction that normally isn’t possible.” While Reid is new to Trinity, he is far from new to physics. After completing an undergraduate physics degree at Davidson College, Reid worked as an engineer in North Carolina, Reid worked as an engineer. However, he soon realized that he wanted to shift his focus away from engineering: “It’s fun to build racecars, but how do I make this go around a corner faster?” is not what I wanted my legacy to be… Get fun questions about the universe came to be… these are big questions that I was excited to build a career around.” So, after adjusting his focus from engineering, Reid began a PhD program in physics at North Carolina State University, and, following that, started postdoctoral research in experimental nuclear physics in 2018 at Indiana University. His postdoctoral fellowship was expected to be two to three years, and since his fourth year left of his fellowship, Reid was very selective in the schools he applied to: “I only applied to really good, selective liberal arts schools. Trinity easily” made the cut. “Having studied physics at a liberal arts school, Reid re-7  layered the value he places on a STEM education in saying, “It’s a technical skill to write and communicate well, and it’s not something that science students are encouraged to do. The real benefit of a liberal arts education is becoming a better communicator and a better writer. Coming in you have a writing seminar. That means that after your first year, professors in every class can expect students to be competent writers. That’s not something that is guaran- teed at other institutions.”

Concerned about what this semester looks like and what we’ll be able to do in the spring.” Reid articulated his points towards the fall term:

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Acting Dean Sonia Cardenas Addresses 2020 Academic Goals

This past Tuesday, the faculty assembled to hear the annual address on the state of academics, given by the Acting Dean of the Faculty Sonia Cardenas. In the address, Cardenas shared her thoughts about the year ahead, a year which she believes to be a genuine opportunity for reflection and growth. Cardenas emphasized how crucial it is that the faculty move forward together this year, despite the pandemic, so that they, and Trinity, may emerge from this time stronger and more prepared for the future. Cardenas presented an outline of six goals that serve to shape the faculty’s work in academic affairs this new year.

She credited and emphasized that she is “ex- cited to be here and [has] been really impressed by the students [she has] met with and worked with so far.” She is “look- ing forward to seeing what this semester looks like and what we’ll be able to do in the spring.” Outside of the class- room, Reid has lifelong ex- perience as a change engineer and has had training as a science communicator, or someone who is versed in explaining fundamental topics and reducing the gap between the public and scientific knowledge.

At one point, Reid de- veloped his own “domo” strain table entitled “Look Closer: Seeing Part of the Particle Zoo.” He has also contributed his expertise in physics at NCSU’s “Packapalooza,” a University wide an- nual block party that serves as one of the top festivals in the City of Raleigh, North Carolina. Reid has also partici- pated in Indiana Uni- versity’s online event, another setting in which he has contributed his love for and knowledge of the subject of physics.

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New Faculty Spotlight: Physics Dept.’s Prof. Austin Reid

FALL 2020 Online Involvement Fair

This Friday, Sept. 25, S.A.I.L. will host the annual involvement fair from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. However, this year’s involve- ment fair will be hosted virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions. After reviewing a variety of methods and platforms on which to host the involvement fair, S.A.I.L. has decided to host the fair on Airmeet. Unlike other video con- ferencing platforms such as zoom, Airmeet best replicates the traditional set up of the involvement fair. Students will be able to access the platform via their Trinity emails, which will authenticate them into the site, and they will be prompt- ed to create an account.

Upon entry, students will see organizations as- signed to tables that they can connect with over a video conference feature at each table. Each table, current members of that organization can “take a seat,” at the table, since the organization issues “take a seat,” at the table, since the organization then can only be heard at that table. The conver- sation can only be heard by those at the table, so it doesn’t distract from oth- er calls happening at other tables. It also allows organi- zation members to share their screen for content and to really connect face- to-face with those inter- ested in joining. There will also be a few tables called the Social Lounge, that students can utilize to connect with their peers. S.A.I.L. has sent out a sign-up link to clubs and organizations across campus, hoping to get a full table at the fair. Requests closed Monday at noon, and over the next few days leading up to the fair, S.A.I.L. will be organiz- ing and assigning tables for the fair. Typically, or- ganizations are assigned based on categories (Academ- ic, Performance, Club Sports, etc.) to make it easier for attendees to navigate to various groups at the event. So far, S.A.I.L is anticipat- ing on having at least 75 groups in attendance. Despite going online, S.A.I.L encourages stu- dents to attend the event and get involved in campus. Assistant Director of S.A.I.L. Sarah Lucas told the Trooped “we are marketing the event to the students, and they are aware of the upcoming event and what they can expect from this virtual experience.”
The Nice Guys: A Criminally Underrated Film

Shane Black’s The Nice Guys is an action-comedy film set in the 1970s, featuring two of the biggest names in Hollywood acting. The screenplay by Black and his partner, Shane Black, has a unique tone and style that is both reminiscent of the era and forward-thinking. The film is a blend of humor, action, and a touch of nostalgia, making it a unique film that stands out in the crowded landscape of Hollywood releases.

The storyline of the film is about a down-on-his-luck private investigator named Holland March (Ryan Gosling) and a former cop named Dick Daley (Russell Crowe). They team up to solve a pharmaceutical murder case that leads them down a winding path of illegal activity, corruption, and danger. The film is a mix of dark humor, action sequences, and dramatic moments, making it a must-watch for fans of the action-comedy genre.

The performances of Ryan Gosling and Russell Crowe are particularly noteworthy, with both actors delivering career-defining performances. Gosling, in particular, displays a range of emotions throughout the film, from humor to intensity, making him a standout performer. Crowe, on the other hand, brings a sense of gravitas to his role, adding depth to his character.

The film is also notable for its effective use of humor, which is often the most challenging aspect of an action-comedy. The Nice Guys manages to balance humor and action, making it a film that is enjoyable for audiences of all ages.

The Nice Guys is a film that is worth revisiting, as it offers a fresh take on the genre and a compelling storyline that keeps you engaged from start to finish. It is a film that is sure to leave a lasting impression on audiences, and it is a testament to the talent of its creators.
Weekly Skylights: The *Tripod* Looks to the Clouds

**JOEY CIFELLI ’23**
A&E EDITOR

(Left) A little bird flies in the open air, surrounded by nothing, a little gray speck in an ocean of blue. Through the howling winds and freezing rain the little bird flies, through hail bigger than its own feathered body it goes. A little bird picking up twigs along the way in the endless blue, clutched in its talons and beak. On the sunny days, the few of them, it flutters down and perches on a branch for a while, sleepy and content. In the storms, the many of them, the little bird is buffeted wildly and falls from view more than once. It has dropped more twigs than it can remember, and still it gathers more. And one day, when the sky is speckled with clouds, and there isn’t so much wind, and the air is warm and comfy, the little bird glides down to a little crook in a strong, towering tree, builds itself a little nest and settles into it, and after sitting there for a time with drooping eyelids and slowing breath, drifts into sleep for a long, long time. *8.8/10*

(Right) What’s behind the static on your television? A blank screen, perhaps? If you could pull it back, suck it up with a vacuum cleaner maybe, or push your fingers into the fuzzy, prickly snow and split it open, what would you find looking back at you, trying so hard to hide itself from view? Your reflection— as shocked as you are. A distorted cloud, shedding static like a cat in spring. All the channels that aren’t in your package, or anyone else’s. Maybe there’s nothing there at all, not even a screen, and you crawl inside and tumble down into the black plastic darkness until eventually you reach the bottom, the wall covered in the same hissing static, and you pull it apart to find yourself staring back at you, the reflection on the other side of the screen. *6.4/10*

(Right) Another abyss today. Another endless gaze into the void. I’m not saying I don’t appreciate these cloudless days, but there’s only so much you can say about them before you start to go numb in the brain. I feel similarly about minimalism as a general principle. It’s refreshing to see once or twice, every so often, but once everyone starts doing it something gets lost in the excitement. Or lack thereof, I should say. So, today, instead of spinning up a tale or a poem or something or other, I think I’ll leave you with a little saying: a blank abyss is dismal bliss, and no one wants that feeling, better to paint and miss then reminisce, and feel your soul start healing. *7.2/10*

(Left) Not to shock anyone, but you may have noticed that clouds have different textures. Common adjectives to describe these may be wispy, and that’s all I can think of right now. The very long cloud taking up the bottom portion of the photograph has a particular texture that to me must be like a dense, chewy power bar. The kind that you can bite into and pull a few feet away from your mouth and some strands of peanut butter or nougat still connect the pieces. And that makes me wonder what a cloud tastes like. I won’t be so cliché and say marshmallow, that’s overdone and frankly not very interesting. I’m saying something with the texture of popcorn with no kernel, and it’s probably rich and buttery, with a hint of vanilla. Good hot or cold. *7.6/10*

To view this week’s photos in full color, check out the digital edition of the *Tripod* at www.trinitytripod.com
The NHL’s Stanley Cup Battles Continue This Week: Dallas Takes on Las Vegas; Tampa Takes on Islanders

ANNA BAUER ’23
SPORTS EDITOR

Devout hockey fans have probably kept up with the Stanley Cup Playoffs, but if Trini- ty’s WiFi struggles have made doing just that dif-
ficult, here’s your recap for the past two weeks. Taking place in the Western Conference Final, the Dallas Stars faced the Ve-
gas Golden Knights three times. The first game was played the week prior and the Stars had defeated the Knights by only one goal, so the teams appeared to be quite evenly matched. In the second game of the Western Conference Final, the two teams entered the second period tied 0-0. Not even the Dallas Stars could keep a one-point lead. Less than a minute later, William Karlsson scored on a pow-
er-play and gave the Stars a 2-0 lead just before the clock ran out. Scoring a power-play goal, Shea Theodore brought the game back to a tie of 1-1.

Following this, the Stars’ player Jamie Benn scored and then the Knights’ Alex									Tuch did too. The teams were tied again, 2-2, and went into overtime where Alexander Radulov won a race to the net and beat the goal-

id shot, giving the Stars a 2-1 lead in the series.

When the teams played each other for a fourth time, the reason they won was quite evident: Anton Khudobin. Blocking 32 of the 33 shots the Stars put on net, Khudobin had successful-
									ly shut down the Golden Knights’ offense and only let one goal through. The Stars won this game 2-1.

At this point, the Stars had won three out of the four games played and now stood 3-1, so the fifth to go to the Stanley Cup Final. If you’re a Dal-

las fan, you’re going to be happy with the results as the Stars won overtime against the Golden Knights!

Entering the third pe-
riod, Vegas had a 2-0 lead, but that clearly didn’t shake the Stars’ spirits as captain Jamie Benn scored, cutting the Stars’ lead 1-0. Just 27 seconds later, the Knights’ Alex									Krivtanzhen then scored on a power-play and sent the game into overtime.

With Denis Girianzo’s score in overtime, the Dallas Stars were deemed the winners of the Western Confer-
ence and, for the first time in 20 years, have reached the Stanley Cup Final! While the Western Con-
ference needed five games for the Dallas Stars to win the round, the Eastern Confer-
ence needed six to de-
termine their victor. By the fifth game, the Tampa Bay Lightning was in the same position as the Dal-
las Stars with a 3-1 lead on the New York Islanders. Their fifth game was going to determine if the Light-
ning could go the Stanley Cup Finals without play-
ning another game against the Islanders. However, New York had other plans.

Shooting on a power-
play in the first period with just over four minutes left on the clock, the New York Islanders took the lead 1-0. Then, early in the second, Victor Hedman tied the game at 1 for the Stars. The Islanders almost scored again, but the referees called off sides, keeping the score 1-1. No shots were scored in the third period, so the game went into over-
time. Again, however, no shots were scored so they went into double overtime where Jordan Eberle, as-
sisted by Anders Lee, scored for the Islanders, and won the game 2-1.

Entering the sixth game, the stakes were still very high for New York as Tampa Bay only needed to win one more game to move into the Stanley Cup Final! With-
in the first five minutes of the period, Devon Toews scored for the Islanders, but this lead was not long-lasting as Victor Hedman tied the game roughly three minutes later. No shots were made in either the second or third period, so the game went into overtime. With just under seven min-
tutes left, Anthony Cirelli scored, and the Tampa Bay Lightning were going to the Stanley Cup Final. On Sept. 19 at 8 p.m., the Dallas Stars faced the Tampa Bay Lightning in the first game of the Stan-
ley Cup Final. 5-4 into the first period, Dallas’ defense-
man Joel Hanley scored. From there, Yanni Gourde tied the game at 1 after a series of bounces. Moving into the second period, Ja-
min Oleksiak, one of Dal-
las’ big defenders, broke the tie 2-1. Just 27 seconds later in the second and Joel Krivtanzhen shut the puck, it was deflected by Lightning goalie Andrei Vasilevskiy, and then Krivtanzhen, in a perfect move, collected his own rebound and scored!

Entering the third pe-
riod, the Stars were still up by two and Khudobin wasn’t letting anything through as he saved 35 out of the 36 shots fired. With just a minute left, Jason Dickinson scored on an empty net from halfway up the ice, solidifying the first win of the final and bringing the score to 4-1. The Tampa Bay Light-
ing will play the Dal-
las Stars for their sec-
ond game in the Stanley Cup Final in an exciting match in Edmonton, Can-
ada on Sept. 21 at 8 p.m. Tune in next week to check out the Tri-

daf the Trini-ty pod sports page to see how the game turned out and see what’s up next!

CARDCARDIACMED.CH

MATEO VAZQUEZ ’21
SPORTS EDITOR

As Covid-19 still causes chaos across the globe, an interesting element that was yet to be explored is the long term health effects that this has on ath-
letes that are in the recov-
ery phase. Trinity is taking steps towards approaching this study as the College explores the effects of Covid on athletes that have al-
ready made a full recovery and/or have tested positive for the antibodies. In order to be cleared for any athlet-
ic activity, an athlete must first receive a negative ECG scan from their trainer and go through an ECG heart scan as well as additional steps during their team session to en-
sure that there would be no risk if the student were to partake in athletic activity.

The difficulty when making policy sur-
rounding Covid is that there are very few research studies that have explored the effects of Covid. One concerning study that has recently come out as a result of the effects of Covid concerns the cardiovascular system of an athlete, which could show signs of permanent interrup-
teration or injury, especially if an athlete recently recovered from the virus. While the severe-
injury varies from person to person, it is still a concern that is worth looking into. After contact-
ing the College’s athletic trainers, the Tripod was informed that the NCAA worked with the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine and the Ameri-

can College of Cardiology to develop recommenda-
tions for returning athletes to sport. Trinity adapted those guidelines in helping athletes return to the field.

The process includes an initial screening of athletes for history of past positive Covid tests or symp-
toms related to the virus. Student athletes must then go through an ECG test and pass this screening. However, if there are any abnormal results that come back for the test, ath-
letes must see a sports car-
diologist for consultation. It is very common for athletes to experience changes in ECG scans and the trainers expect athletes needing a cardiol-
ogist to be cleared and changes to be considered benign. The Trinity Ath-
letes department pointed to the Hartford Healthcare partnership as effective in streamlining the process for athletes that must be cleared. The College’s ath-
letic trainers have direct contact with the Hartford cardiol-
ogy department at Hart-
ford Hospital and allow for a large number of athletes to be screened and cleared as efficiently as possible.

Trinity College Student Athletes Undergo ECG Testing

At the moment, the push for all of this re-
search is the lack of cur-
rent knowledge that ex-
sists surrounding Covid as well as the unknown risk of myocarditis and cardiac concerns. These factors have been driv-
ing reasons behind can-
celing the Big 10 and Pac 12 Division 1 athlet-
ic competitions this fall. As data from ECG scans are used alongside other guidelines, the role of Covid in college athletics will be further un-
derstood. Until then, it is bet-
ter to be safe than sorry and take as many precau-
tions as possible to ensure athletes can properly re-
turn to the field of play.
Senior Spotlight: Rowing’s Andrew Frankini ’21

MATEO VAZQUEZ ’21
SPORTS EDITOR

Andrew Frankini ’21 is a current senior and the subject of this issue of the Tripod's athlete spotlight. A four-year starter on the varsity men's crew team, Andrew hails from Long Island. While an incred-ibly accomplished rower, his success cannot merely be defined by his achievements on the water.

On campus, Andrew is a neuroscience major holding a 3.5 GPA. He is currently writing his se- nior thesis, researching the effects of nutrition-al supplements on in- sect muscle growth and their electrophysiologic properties. Andrew is the vice president of Tri-Beta (Trinity College’s Biology honor society), a USRowing certificated level 2 coach, and is also a lab teaching assistant for PSYC 261, Human and Behavior. His on-the-water ac- complishments are just as impressive. As a high schooler, he rowed at the Oak Neck Rowing Acad- emy, one of the best high school rowing programs in the country. He decid-ed to take his talents to the shores of the Con- necticut River thanks to the support shown by Trinity rowing alum- ni from his hometown.

At Trinity, he has shown his dedication and commitment to ex- celledence, serving as the stroke seat, the rowing po- sition viewed as the most technically proficient on the boat. Andrew has served as stroke seat for every boat he has aced in. He competed at the Head of the Charles Regatta for three consecutive years—a monumental accomplish- ment for any rower. Now, in the waning months of his collegiate rowing career, Andrew is happy with his previous success, but is itching for more.

However, his path to success has not always been so easy: in fact, it is his ability to overcome ob- stacles that he values as his greatest asset. Being a STEM major and a row- er is not an easy feat. For Andrew, this was made even harder by the fact that he suffered a criti- cal head injury coming into his first year at Trin- ity. Despite this setback, he was able to muster the strength, motivation, and perseverance to succeed.

Assistant Rowing Coach Jake Filby told the Tripod that “[Andrew] Frankini is one of the best team- mates on the squad, and his commitment to bet- tering the team energizes us every morning. His im- pact cannot be overstated.”

But this determined attitude is reflected in ev- erything he does, not just rowing. Andrew’s career as a Trinity College rower may be coming to a close, but he knows that these four years spent here will remain within him for a lifetime. He has already left an indelible mark on Trinity rowing: everyone involved during his tenure knows him as a hardwork-ing and compassionate leader who is always will- ing to put his team first.

When asked about what he wants his legacy to be at the College, he stated sim- ply that he not only wants, “the fundamental and core values of rowing to remain long after I’ve gone, but also for every oarsman on the team to know that we all have each other’s backs when it comes to balancing academics and rowing.” Andrew is current-ly seeking a profession in the sciences and plans on pursuing a graduate degree after his time at Trinity comes to a close. If he were to give all under- classmen, upperclassmen, and incoming students a word of advice, it would be this: seek help when it comes to balancing your activities at Trinity. “None of us are in this alone.”

Tripod Sports Explanations: Ice Hockey for Rookies

ANNA BAUER ’23
SPORTS EDITOR

Attention everyone who has ever wanted to know how the game of ice hockey works! For whatever rea- son you are reading this, maybe to impress someone or because the game just seems like a lot of fun, wel- come to the first “Sports for Rookies” segment!

The object of the game is pretty straight for- ward: score more than your opposing team. The rest is just details.

There are six players on the ice at a time. This six is composed of a goal- tender, three forwards and two defencemen. Each game is divid-ed into three 20-minute periods. During regular season play, the third peri- od ends and the score is tied, the teams will play with three skaters for one five-minute overtime pe- riod: the first team that scores wins. If it is still tied at the end of this, the game will go into a shootout. In the Stanley Cup playoffs, howev- er, there is no shootout and the overtime period is instead 20 minutes with five skaters per team—it’s sudden-death.

The Stanley Cup is the Holy Grail for ice hockey players. Most dream of winning it. The Isobel Cup is the equivalent for women.

The big difference between how men play the game versus how women play is checking. Women are not allowed to make a direct body check, while men defi- nitely are—the blood and gush is part of the fun. In case you don’t know, a body check is a charge, and you definitely want to know the basic dos and don’ts, so here they are:

Each play begins with a faceoff and ends either when an official blows his whis- tle or a goal is made. The most basic rule of the faceoff is that only two players are allowed in the circle and each faces their opponent’s end of the rink. Once the officials drop the puck, the players battle for it and try to knock it out to their team-mates to run it down the ice.

Only a goalie can catch the puck, so if another player accidentally catches it, they must immediately knock it back down to the ice. A vio- lation of this could result in a two minute minor penalty. Penalties are divided into three categories: minor, major and misconduct. Minor penalties result in a player sitting out for two minutes in the penalty box while their team plays one-man down. Major penalties re-quire five minutes in the penalty box, and misconduct penalties vary. When this happens, the other team has a great advantage and tries to score while playing five on four. If a shot is made, this is called scoring on a power-play.

The two other big things you should know are icing and offside. Icing can be confusing, but essentially it is just when a player hits the puck from their team’s side of the red center line, and it crosses the red goal line at any point that isn’t the goal itself. Since it is not allowed, when it hap- pens the referees return the puck to the other side of the ice and instigate a faceoff. Now, offside is just when any member of the attacking team cross- es the defending team’s blueline before the puck. Now, there is so much more to hockey than just this. So, if you’re intrigued, the Tripod encourages you to check out our own amaz- ing hockey teams this win- ter—fingers crossed they’ll be playing—to further your hockey knowledge!

Inside Sports: Week One of the NFL and Athletes Partake in ECG Testing