

Board Chair Interview

KIP LYNCH '22
NEWS EDITOR



The *Tripod* interviews Board of Trustees Chair Cornelia Thornburgh about the College's campaign and finances. **Page 3.**

SGA Update

KAT NAMON '22
NEWS EDITOR

The *Tripod* reports on the Student Government Association (SGA) meeting, addressing the pandemic and the College's Title IX policy. **Page 5.**



Acapella In COVID

KATIE CERULLE '22
FEATURES EDITOR



Acapella may be a different experience this semester, but that doesn't mean that the music stops. **Page 8.**

NBA Bubble

FINN CAWLEY '22
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



In retrospect, lessons can be learned from the NBA's bubble during this historic season of play. **Page 12.**

To Our Readers: Next week, in lieu of a regular issue, the *Tripod* will release an issue dedicated exclusively to student opinions around the 2020 Presidential Election and electoral issues.

Regular news content will still be available on the *Tripod* website. We hope you grab a copy of our Election Day issue at this historic time.

Tripod Investigates Trinity's Relationship With Hartford HealthCare, Policies On Isolation

BRENDAN W. CLARK '21
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The *Tripod* examined Trinity's partnership with Hartford HealthCare as part of the Tripod's ongoing investigations into the College's management and mitigation efforts of the coronavirus pandemic. This investigation follows a recent outbreak at Trinity that infected more than sixty students and prompted the suspension of in-person classes for much of October.

The *Tripod* spoke with Senior Director of Infectious Disease Prevention Keith Grant about the partnership and Hartford HealthCare's involvement with Trinity's testing and isolation program. Grant indicated that the partnership "started long before COVID" and noted that Hartford HealthCare became involved when the College closed in the spring. The original partnership

involved "an assessment from an infrastructure perspective and considered the institution's testing, quarantine, and isolation protocols," he continued.

However, Grant noted that he was not aware of Trinity's decision in early October—in the midst of the significant outbreak on-campus—to place infected and non-infected students on the same floors in the Stowe and Clemens dormitories. Grant added that that decision was "probably not Plan A and more like Plan B or C for Trinity."

The "best case scenario," Grant added, would be to "have anyone infected in a completely separate area. Not just in a separate room, but in a separate dormitory." From a public health perspective, Grant noted that that scenario becomes "increasingly more challenging," adding that it is "very difficult to control viral spread when

students are isolated only in a room." The annexing of Stowe and Clemens by the College for isolation had previously drawn concern and ire from residents.

That, Grant continued, was "likely a decision that Martha [Burke O'Brien] made in consultation with her team." O'Brien is the Director of the Trinity Health Center and a registered nurse.

In an email to the community earlier this month, Dean of Campus Life and Vice President for Student Affairs Joe DiChristina indicated that the College's protocols had been developed "in close collaboration with the Health Center and our partnership with Hartford HealthCare." Chief of Staff to the President Jason Rojas previously told the *Tripod* that the College works "continuously with Hartford Healthcare to assess and inform our practices."

The other members of the College's team at Hartford HealthCare include Executive Director of the Hartford HealthCare Rehabilitation Network Eric Smullen and Dr. Ulysses Shawdee Wu, an infectious disease specialist.

It was not immediately clear if Smullen and Wu had been consulted about the College's overflow housing plans in early October, though Grant noted that the "team works closely and in collaboration" to support Trinity.

Trinity has previously declined to disclose the members of its advisory team at Hartford HealthCare, citing privacy and the fact that the team members are not college employees.

As for alternatives to locating students on the same floor, Grant added that he "didn't know if that was an option for Trinity" to have additional, separate

see HEALTHCARE on page 4

Title IX Working Group Seeks Feedback

JACK P. CARROLL '24
STAFF WRITER

On Monday, Oct. 26th, a Title IX working group comprised of Trinity students, faculty, staff, and senior administrators met via Zoom to review the college's updated Interim Sexual Harassment Policy that was sent out to the community in an email on August 14, 2020. In the meeting, the group considered a broad range of questions that were posed by students, faculty, and staff regarding its implementation and compliance with new federal guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Education on May 6, 2020.

The new regulations, which were spearheaded by President Donald Trump's appointed Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, increase the burden of proof for college students in the U.S. who report alleged in-

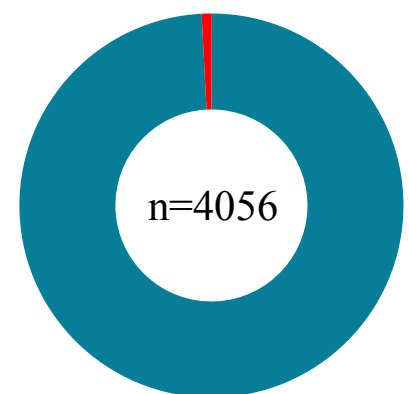
stances of sexual misconduct. Under the new mandates, colleges are to host live hearings in which the students' counsels are to cross-examine the parties and witnesses involved in the alleged incident. Also, the regulations indicate that colleges are not required to investigate student claims of sexual harassment that occur outside of the United States, such as in study abroad programs.

Other key components of the new regulations include a more narrow definition of sexual harassment, and the end of a "single investigator" model in which one official is responsible for "investigating, adjudicating, and issuing disciplinary sanctions against respondents." Furthermore, colleges are no longer required to respond to sexual harassment

see TITLE IX on page 3

COVID-19 Update: Positive Tests Decrease

Test Results: Week of Oct. 19



- 0.05% Positive
- 99.14% Negative
- 0.81% Invalid

DANIEL J. NESBITT '22
MANAGING EDITOR

Examining the data available on Trinity's COVID-19 Dashboard, the College has reported that a total of 4,056 COVID-19 PCR test results

have been received between Oct. 19 and Oct. 25, with a total of 2 positive test results. A breakdown of this past week's testing results is shown in the figure above.

see COVID on page 4

The Trinity Tripod

Established in 1904
"Now then-Trinity!"

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STAFF WRITER

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ALEX CHAMBERS '22

Tripod Editorial: On Validation

"Our response to other questions reflect [sic] our position that the administration has the capacity and authority to exercise judgment in decision making without having to validate to the *Tripod* every position we take."—Trinity College Administration.

Contrary to popular belief, the *Tripod* does not have as its singular aim and ambition to represent the College poorly, nor have we ever hoped or urged that the administration fail in its critical pursuit to better the College, safeguard its finances, and shepherd our beloved college through a pandemic.

Our role is to report the facts and rectify discrepancies so that the students, alumni, and faculty of this campus might be better informed of the developments and actions which materially impact their relationship to Trinity College, an institution which, administrators included, holds special resonance in our hearts.

Our questions and inquiries to Trinity—this one in particular concerned the removal of 15 students from campus last week—do not ask for some "validation" for the administration's position. They ask for an explanation to simple, direct questions. They seek answers to contradictions in statements made by administrators. They beg for transparency so students can feel comfortable existing on this

campus, confident in the safety protocols and practices that the College has pledged itself to uphold.

To not ask otherwise would be to betray the high ideals and values of the journalistic enterprise to which we are bound. We ask questions just the same as every respected newspaper has since time immemorial.

But even if we accept, for a moment, that our requests in some way seek validation, it would certainly not be due to the *Tripod*, some alleged malevolent entity, its authors detached from the life and vibrancy of the campus, lurking and ready to take aim at every administrative error.

We *Tripod* editors are students. The administration, in answering these inquiries, does not "validate" its answers to a singular newspaper or some inchoate body of individuals, but to the students of this campus. We, like every other member of this campus, live amidst a pandemic and expect a base level of accountability for the decisions that threaten and impact our continued welfare.

The *Tripod* is and remains the institutional record of this College. When history reflects on a time, they look to this tangible record of student thought and discourse for a window into Trinity in time and space. Nowhere is this clearer than in the historical works of Mssrs.

Weaver and Knapp, who—almost incessantly—rely on the *Tripod* and the preceding Tablet on questions of student reception and concern to the prerogatives of administrators of decades (and centuries) past.

Trinity might be wise to adjust its mantra—that it prepares "bold, independent thinkers who lead transformative lives"—for those same thinkers are, in this response, tossed asunder and dashed against the precipice.

We regret that the administration feels that our questions, based in legitimate, thoughtful reporting since the start of this pandemic, seek some sort of validation.

We humbly offer, in retort, that we seek only the truth with important questions that get to the heart of issues that concern each and every one of us.

As Seneca noted, the "liberal arts do not conduct the soul all the way to virtue, but merely set it going in that direction." If our mission offends the conscience of the President and her colleagues, then we can only surmise that the liberal arts and its aim are dead at the institution's doorstep.

As it goes, they wandered from the path which Seneca has charted and, so it seems, never made it all the way to the point of virtue...

—The Trinity Tripod

The *Trinity Tripod* has been published by the students of Trinity College since 1904. Its staff members are committed to the reporting and distribution of news and ideas that are relevant to the College community. The *Tripod* is published weekly on Tuesdays during the academic year. Student subscription is included in the Student Activities Fee (SAF). For non-students looking to subscribe, a one-semester subscription costs \$10.00 and a one-year subscription costs \$20.00. Please address all correspondence to:

300 Summit St. Box 702582
Hartford, CT 06106-3100
Phone: (860) 297-2584

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The *Trinity Tripod* is always looking for student contributions in photography, writing, and graphic design. Anyone interested in joining the *Tripod* can email tripod@trincoll.edu.

All requests for advertisement placement in the *Tripod* can be found by consulting the newspaper's business manager at tripodads@trincoll.edu. Additionally, our website holds information regarding standard rates for advertisements.

Trinity College

HARTFORD CONNECTICUT

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CORRECTIONS

Tripod Editorial: Vote!

As Nov. 3 approaches in a politically turbulent year, the *Tripod* encourages all of its readers—student, faculty, alumni, or otherwise—to get out and vote. Though 58 million Americans have already cast their vote via early voting or absentee ballot, young voters are sometimes portrayed in the media as less likely to participate in elections. In 2016, just 50% of people aged 18-29 voted in the pivotal Trump/Clinton election, according to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement at Tufts University.

With the threats of COVID-19 and growing unrest in the United States, Americans have the opportunity to cast their decision in one of the most contentious and crucial elections in recent history. The outcome this November will

be consequential and will have direct impact on all members of the community. Between two presidential debates, a vice presidential debate, various town halls, and plenty of Twitter-based vitriol, there is no doubt that the average member of the Trinity community is well-aware of this year's match-up between Trump and Biden. Opinions on the two candidates are made known over dinner at Mather, in classroom discussions, and in the pages of the *Tripod*. It is important to note, however, that the election has far-reaching consequences on both the national and local level.

Trinity students are permitted to vote just off-campus at the Learning Corridor, as residents of Hartford if they are registered. In addition to voting for Biden or Trump for president, those

that vote in Hartford also have the option to vote for three other local elections, as reported by Ballotpedia.org. As the election nears, the *Tripod* cannot stress enough the importance of learning about each candidate and participating in our nation's political process.

The next issue of the *Tripod* will be a special edition of the paper, where we will forego our traditional five sections (news, opinion, features, arts and entertainment, and sports) to only publish pieces regarding the election, offered by members throughout the community. The staff is hoping to collect as many opinions as possible, and submissions may be sent to tripod@trincoll.edu by this coming Wednesday for consideration in the print edition.

—The Trinity Tripod

NEWS

Title IX Group Receives Input

continued from page one

allegations within a set time frame; and they are free to determine whether they want to follow a “preponderance of evidence” or a “clear and convincing standard” as a burden of proof.

Trinity’s General Counsel, Dickens Mathieu, noted that the new regulations prohibit colleges from prejudging cases and that conclusions cannot be reached until there has been a hearing. Furthermore, Mathieu emphasized that it is not the responsibility of the Title IX coordinator to determine whether an allegation “constitutes a violation,” but instead, to decide whether an allegation, if it were proven to be true, would

violate the Title IX policy.

In regards to potential “double jeopardy” cases in which a student, after not receiving the desired decision under the Title IX process, were to pursue a claim of sexual harassment under a different college policy, Mathieu noted that this would be a matter that the “gatekeeping function” of the sexual harassment policy would resolve.

Regarding concerns about the costs of legal counsel for live hearings, Director of the Women and Gender Resource Action Center Laura Lockwood noted that the college has been in contact with the Victim Rights Center, which employs ten pro bono attorneys who have experience

representing complainants in sexual misconduct cases. Lockwood also noted the possibility of a partnership with Connecticut colleges and universities such as Yale, UConn, and Quinnipiac, which have access to law students via their law schools for legal assistance in live hearings.

Vice President for Student Success and Enrollment Management Joe DiChristina noted that the College administration has not made a decision as to whether students who cannot afford legal counsel will be financially compensated. He further noted that the College administration is looking into other options to address the costs of legal representation.

Paintball Incidents Continue at Trin

SHAWN OLSTEIN '22
NEWS EDITOR

On Saturday Oct. 24, at approximately 5:45 pm and 6:15 pm and Sunday, Oct. 25 at 1:10 am, three separate paintball incidents occurred. The first of these incidents occurred on Summit Street between Admissions and Vernon Street. The paintballs were reportedly shot from a white or silver SUV. The second incident occurred on Allen Place near Affleck Street, with the paintballs being shot by a black Mitsubishi Outlander. The third incident also occurred on Allen place, where paintballs were shot at two students from a silver Nissan Maxima or Altima (CT License Plate AV 88041) that was traveling eastbound on Allen Place. None of the students involved in these three incidents were injured, however one of the students in the 1:10 am shooting was struck by a paintball.

Earlier this week, on Tuesday, October 20, at approximately 4:30 pm on Summit Street near the start of Vernon Street a student reported to campus safety that they were chased by a passenger from a gray Mitsubishi SUV with Connecticut temporary license plate 88125N2. The student had been jogging on Summit Street when the SUV slowed near the student. The driver of the car then began to beep the car’s horn to get the attention of the student. A passenger of the vehicle proceeded to exit the SUV and run after the student. The chase lasted only a short distance. The passenger then returned to the vehicle at Summit and Allen Place. The vehicle drove past the student, honked again, and left. The student was uninjured. Director of Campus Safety

Brian Heavren told the *Tripod* that the case is “an active investigation” and that Campus safety is coordinating with the Hartford Police Department and “will share updates if new information developed and when it is safe to do so, without risk of compromising the investigation.” Heavren added that the “motive and intent of the people involved is unknown.” “Campus safety” Heavren continued, “has video footage” of the incident that they “will be providing to the Hartford Police Department. Campus Safety declined to indicate the gender of the student who was targeted.

In response to these reports the Campus Safety Department has adjusted the deployment of its officers and the contracted security officers to the areas where these incidents have occurred. In addition, the department has hired additional Hartford Police officers in the short-term to provide additional safety and protection in and around campus. Campus Safety advises students to call Campus Safety at (860) 297-2222 or dial 911 for Hartford Police, Fire, and EMS if they feel unsafe or threatened.

Furthermore, because the paintball incidents have traditionally occurred on the thru streets that surround campus, Campus Safety recommends that when possible people walk on the interior paths on campus and use Vernon street rather than Allen Place to avoid thru traffic and to reduce pedestrian density on these streets.

In addition, students should be mindful of vehicles that are traveling slowly or that slow as they approach people. If any student has information that may help in the investigations, they should contact campus safety.

Tripod Interviews Thornburgh

KIP LYNCH '22
NEWS EDITOR

With the Board of Trustees meeting to discuss the College’s \$1.3 million deficit among other issues on Oct. 16-17, the *Tripod* spoke with Chair of the Board Cornelia Thornburgh '80 about Trinity’s coronavirus response, the College’s endowment and comprehensive campaign, as well as the President’s Commission on the Future of Trinity.

On the \$1.3 million deficit, Thornburgh stated that “while the college never wants to face a deficit, these times were hardly foreseeable. We are fortunate that we did not have a bigger deficit than originally envisioned.” She stressed that “our endowment is not used to fill in the ‘deficit gaps’ during tough fiscal years. Endowments at all educational institutions are in place to provide consistent income streams in perpetuity. So, yearly draws typically do not exceed 5%.” Thornburgh detailed how the College’s endowment is “managed by Commonfund and is overseen by an investment committee of the board

whose membership includes trustees with deep financial experience. Our approach going forward is to continue to grow the endowment which is fortunately benefiting from robust market conditions in spite of the pandemic.”

Praising the President’s Commission on the “engaging and thought-provoking presentation,” Thornburgh commended the work of Chair-elect Lisa Bisaccia '78 and other commission members. However, she noted that “Their report is hardly the final word. What we have is a solid platform from which to engage the wider Trinity community about ways we may emerge from this pandemic to secure our sustainability and cement our educational mission. Next steps are to conduct a webinar this winter to summarize their observations and allow more of the community to participate.” Chief of Staff to the President Jason Rojas indicated to the *Tripod* Monday evening that the report of the President’s Commission would not be made available to students or faculty.

With regard to the current state of the College’s

Comprehensive Campaign, Thornburgh commented that “We are in the stages of refining our overall comprehensive campaign strategy and messaging in light of current events to appeal to the wide Trinity community. But I am pleased to announce that we are well over a third of the way to our working goal and remain optimistic about completing a comprehensive campaign of over \$400 million that we hope to announce during our bicentennial celebrations.” The *Tripod* previously confirmed that the College has raised \$182 million as of late September while the Campaign has remained in the “quiet phase.”

On the Board of Trustees’s role in overseeing the Trinity administration’s response to the coronavirus pandemic, Thornburgh pointed out that “the board is a governing body not a management entity. The administration is keeping us informed as appropriate as they continue to plan and execute to that plan.” However, Thornburgh did not indicate if the Board of Trustees would conduct any additional oversight.

College Campus Safety Report: Oct. 19-Oct. 26

Tuesday, Oct. 20

On Campus, Residence Hall

Sexual Offense - Rape

This case was referred to the Title IX Coordinator

Saturday, Oct. 24

128 Allen Place (Off-Campus)

Aggravated Assault.

This case remains open

Saturday, Oct. 24

Summit Street

Aggravated Assault

This case remains open.

Saturday, Oct. 24

129 Allen Place

Aggravated Assault

This case remains open.

Saturday, Oct. 24

New Britain Avenue

Aggravated Assault

This case remains open.

Hartford HealthCare

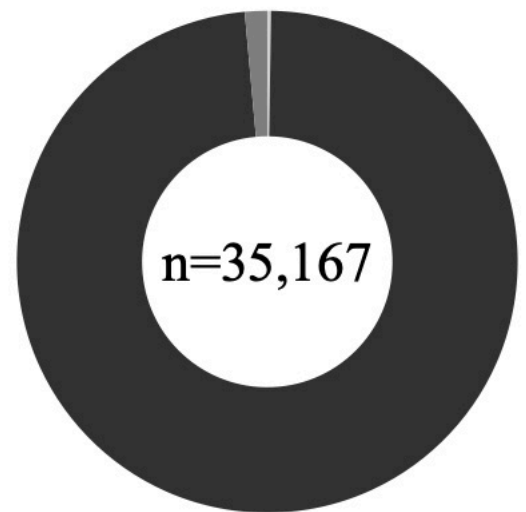
continued from page one HealthCare works with” dormitories and expressed that it would have been difficult to relocate students to off-campus properties as a result of “liability and logistical concerns.” Grant characterized the College’s testing protocols as “robust,” though acknowledged that they have seen “some non-compliance with policies.” Grant cited that “we have seen a few parties and get together that probably shouldn’t have happened.” Still, Grant did note that Trinity is “among the most successful of the programs that Hartford HealthCare works with” and added that the “level of compliance is generally high.” Grant also stressed that students “are not deviants” and that much of “the blame here should not be put upon students.” We are “not dealing with a precise science,” he noted, and added that Hartford HealthCare is committed to doing what it can to assist students with having a safe on-campus experience. The *Tripod* reached out to Rojas and Director of Media Relations Stacy Sneed for comment, which went unreturned at the time of publication.

COVID Update

continued from page one

A breakdown of the previous week’s testing conducted Oct. 12 to Oct. 18 is shown in the figure in the bottom left. This week’s positive test rate of just 0.24% is a significant decrease from the positive test rate of 0.28% for the week prior, which mirrors the recent drop in active cases, now at just 2 as of Monday, Oct. 26. The invalid test rate of 0.81% this week is more than half that of the previous week’s invalid test rate of 1.75%. To date, Trinity has conducted just over 35,000 PCR tests since testing began Aug. 17, with an overall positive test rate of 0.24%, including positive tests denoted as “prior” under the dashboard. In addition, there have been a total of 85 positive cases at Trinity, nearly double the positive case count of Tufts University which has had 44 positive tests to date. Of the 85 positive cases, 83 have been students while only two have been categorized as Employees & Affiliates. Though the positive test rate and cases has decreased since the recent spike, there is still enough time for another resurgence.

Cumulative Test Results



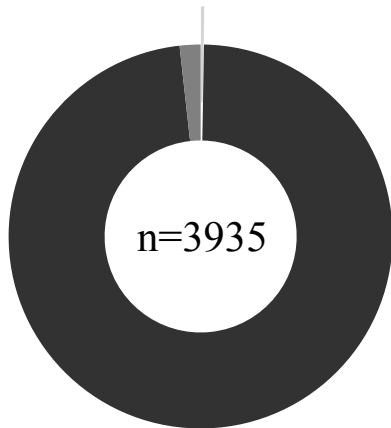
- 0.24% Positive
- 98.32% Negative
- 1.44% Invalid

Trinity’s cumulative positivity rate has been 0.24%, the result of a significant case total increase in October as the outbreak on-campus continued to swell. Trinity has since stepped back from the precipice, recording only two positive cases, with one student isolating on-campus and one student isolating off-campus as of Monday, Oct. 26.

The College has had only two employee cases since the pandemic began and both were tied to staff, not faculty of the College. Trinity administers its testing program through the Broad Institute, a joint program from Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

With only a few weeks remaining in the fall semester, Trinity continues to operate at a time when coronavirus cases increase across the state. The City of Hartford was identified as a hotspot earlier this month by the Governor and has seen an increasing number of cases as the outbreak continued across the state in recent days.

Test Results: Week of Oct. 12



- 0.28% Positive
- 97.97% Negative
- 1.75% Invalid

Intercollegiate Update: News on Nearby Campuses

Wesleyan University

On Oct. 22, *The Wesleyan Argus* reported the issue of a summary judgement by the Middlesex County Superior Court in the *Salamone v. Wesleyan University* case. As reported by *The Argus*, the case was filed on Sept. 17, 2020 by plaintiffs Craig Salamone and Doug Cartelli against the University, the Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA) of Northern Middlesex County, and former student and Residential Advisor Andrew Barer ’84 over Barer’s pattern of sexual abuse. The judge ruled in favor of the University, dismissing the only parts of the plaintiffs’ revised complaint that expressly addressed the University. The lawsuit, as described by *The Argus*, claims that Barer sexually abused minors in the University’s dormitories and basketball facilities between 1982 and 1984. While the alleged sexual abuse took place in the 1980s, a complaint was not filed until Sept. 2017. This falls within the statute of limitations for the prosecution of the sexual abuse of minors, which Connecticut General Statute § 54-193a (2012) deems is within 30 years from when the victim turns 18 or within five years of the date the crime is reported to any police officer. While a summary judgment has been issued, the case is still not over as it is now in the appeals stage following the trial court’s granting of judgment.

Middlebury College

Middlebury College recently announced their new “Middlebury Money” program, a community currency accepted at almost all businesses in the town of Middlebury. As reported by *The Middlebury Campus*, students will have the option to receive a traditional declining balance on their student IDs for on-campus purchases or receive a \$25 check that they can spend both in town and at many on-campus locations. The “Middlebury Money” provided to students through this new program is usable at nearly all restaurants near campus and many more within the town of Middlebury. Middlebury Money is withdrawn from a bank account at National Bank of Middlebury that is owned by the Better Middlebury Partnership in an effort to keep dollars within the local economy. The spring semester at Middlebury will function as a pilot period for the program, though students must opt in if they want to participate. The students who proposed this program hope it will serve the dual purposes of increasing accessibility for students to experience off-campus life by removing financial barriers and also help to stimulate the local economy. Similar programs have been used at other colleges and universities, however, widespread implementations of these programs are not common at most colleges.

University of Hartford

On Friday Oct. 16, the University of Hartford’s student newspaper, *The Informer*, reported a change in the University’s Official Guest Policy. This policy does not apply to all dorms at the University, however residents of affected buildings will be allowed to have one guest per room at one time, as long as that guest lives on the same floor. Jessica Nicklin, Associate Vice President for Student Success at the University of Hartford stated, “Roommates must agree ahead of time to allow a guest, each time there is a guest. Residents and their guests must wear masks and maintain social distance.” The change in the University’s guest policies represents the University’s success in reducing COVID-19 cases on campus. While the school has changed the guest policy for certain dorms, it still remains hesitant to enact further lifting of COVID restrictions. The University of Hartford currently has 18 active COVID cases on campus. The University has had a cumulative 59 positive cases, 56 of which were students and 3 of which were employees. The school hopes that it will continue to be able to combat the spread of the virus on campus despite its easing of COVID guest policy. The school plans to hold classes online for the winter but resume in-person classes in the spring.

NEWS

Faculty EPC Approves Eight New Tenure-Track Positions

KIP LYNCH '22
NEWS EDITOR

Published on Aug. 10 and recently obtained by the *Tripod*, the Dean's Education Policy Committee (EPC) Report for 2019-20 describes the various accepted and rejected proposals for tenure-track faculty positions at the College. The EPC is an elected faculty committee that recommends which positions to allocate to Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty Sonia Cardenas.

The EPC will separately hold a discussion with the faculty on Oct. 30 to discuss amending the process for increasing the size of the faculty in the Faculty Manual, which is presently governed by the Stewart Amendment. The Stewart Amendment, in part, prohibits increasing the number of faculty positions without it being put to a full vote by the faculty. The decision by the EPC to review the process for increasing the size of the faculty follows the College administration's outlined goal earlier this summer of apportioning new faculty seats for "Special Opportunity Hires."

Seventeen tenure-track positions were proposed to the Education Policy Committee and which eight were recommended for allocation. Cardenas, also Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Innovation and Professor of Political Science, approved the EPC's recommendations to allocate eight positions. Three of those positions were in the humanities, three in the social sciences, and two in STEM. These positions are Physical Chemistry (Chemistry), Behavioral/Evolutionary Economics (Economics), Dramatic Literature (English), Postcolonial Francophone Studies (Language and Culture Studies), Statistics (Mathematics), Non-Western Philosophy (Philosophy), U.S. Politics and Government-Congressional/Legislative Studies (Political Science), and Social Health Psychology (Psychology). Two additional positions in Biology and Physics will be allocated once its other open tenure-track positions are filled.

One rejected position was Environmental Policy/Sustainability, which is a proposed joint appointment in the Public Policy & Law Program and the Environmental

Science Department. Cardenas acknowledged the popularity of sustainability and stated that "an innovative position like this is feasible and a potential differentiator for the College." However, she stated that "the large number of concentrations (environmental policy is one of nine) detracts too much from the program's focus and distinctiveness. It is difficult to justify growth absent a more focused curricular strategy." Another position that was rejected was Asian Religions. Cardenas noted that "At a liberal arts college, we should not exclude the study of non-Western religions rooted in Asia. That said, given enrollment data on majors, Religious Studies should engage in conversations with other departments/programs about how this position might support broader offerings."

According to a *Tripod* report in early September, President of the College Joanne Berger-Sweeney acknowledged the demands of the Umoja Coalition and outlined a goal of allotting eighteen new faculty seats for special opportunity hires over three years in order to "increase our faculty diver-

sity" in an email sent to the Trinity Community in early July. Cardenas additionally stated to the *Tripod* in July that special opportunity hires "will be for diverse faculty members, including members of underrepresented groups."

The number of new hires may require a vote as stipulated by the Stewart Amendment according to Faculty Secretary and Associate Professor of Economics Mark Stater, "depending on if the number of hires available in a given year exceeds the number of Special Opportunity Hires." The Stewart Amendment requires a two-step approval process with the first vote of the faculty authorizing the EPC to begin a "formal inquiry" into the matter while the second vote would formally change the size of the faculty. However, Stater noted that the EPC could be "granted an exception" and have the "formal inquiry requirement waived."

A result of the College's controversial decision to get rid of the Education Department during the 1970s, the Stewart Amendment was passed with the intention of ensuring that any future decision made by the Col-

lege administration would be taken with faculty involvement and approval.

The Education Policy Committee will seek feedback from the faculty on a proposal on Oct. 30 to alter the process laid out by the Stewart Amendment for increasing the size of the faculty. According to Stater, "The proposal is being developed independently by EPC. There aren't specific plans I'm aware of to discuss it with [the Faculty] Conference, aside from the open forum, though I wouldn't necessarily rule that out." The process for decreasing the size of the faculty will remain unchanged according to EPC Chair Paula Russo, who indicated in an email to faculty that "The EPC is not considering any change to the process for potential decreases, and it will continue to bring decisions about potential decreases in the overall size of the faculty to the full faculty for a vote. Additionally, the Faculty Manual already calls for a vote of the entire faculty for the addition or elimination of academic departments and programs. This proposal would not change these processes."

SGA Discusses COVID Outbreak, Interim Title IX Policy

KAT NAMON '22
MANAGING EDITOR

Trinity's Student Government Association met for their weekly meeting this past Sunday evening, Oct. 25, to discuss topics that ranged from the current count of coronavirus cases on campus, to the interim Title IX policy that was crafted by members of the community this past summer. The meeting was led by SGA president Giovanni Jones '21, who was accompanied by Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Anita Davis, Dean of Students Joe DiChristina, Associate Dean of Students Rob Lukaskiewicz, and Assistant Dean of Students Jody Goodman.

The meeting continued with a discussion on potential ideas for socially distanced activities during which first-year students would have the opportunity to bond with and meet other members of their class. Jones stated that they had received multiple comments from parents of first-year students voicing concerns about the lack of interactions the students have had with each other. Gabrielle

Desrochers '24 spoke for her grade in adding that she could "attest to the fact that we've been feeling isolated..." She suggested that the first-years need "the feeling of having a network of other students," and proposed that the SGA organize a socially-distanced food-truck festival for an upcoming weekend. She also proposed the idea of an election day themed event, which Dean Goodman met with enthusiasm. On the subject of election day, she informed the students that she would be sending out a message to the community with further details on how the College will be addressing the election and what kinds of events will be taking place on campus.

DiChristina added that he also hopes to ensure that events such as these occur as we enter back into the green alert level, which allows for small outdoor gathers and even some gatherings indoors. He assured the first-years at the meeting that "we will pull something for this upcoming weekend... it would be helpful for our first years to have that sense of belonging here... it won't just be something that we are talking about."

Jones then transitioned

the subject of the meeting to the current situation regarding coronavirus cases, to which Goodman stated that "our numbers are way lower than they were last weekend around this time... hopefully we will keep that momentum going and can do some of these socially distanced in person programs." DiChristina added that although it has been a "long couple of weeks," he remains optimistic. Despite these low numbers at the College, DiChristina added that "clearly we all know that globally, nationally, the State of Connecticut is struggling with the numbers going up... it is fine for us to be here on campus... and allow people to interact in the appropriate way, but the whole idea of maintaining essential travel is what we want to pay attention to." DiChristina also addressed the recent removal of 15 first-year students from campus after violating orange alert level guidelines in stating that "thankfully the students were honest with us... [it was] not [an] easy decision to be made, but for the benefit of the community, was to have the students study from home..."

Lukaskiewicz noted that

the administration's goal is to continue to do in person learning." He added his thoughts on the current situation on campus, stating that "we seem to be in a good spot... I think if we do the right things in a good way we could have a pretty good next four weeks."

When asked about what will be done to prevent an outbreak from an off-campus source from occurring again, Lukaskiewicz noted that this past Wednesday evening, he had met with "well over 20 off-campus apartments and houses" to discuss the next four weeks and their "health and safety plans." He clarified that these houses are required to submit their health and safety plans to him to "account for some mistakes or things that have been overlooked in the past" and "raise the attention of all their housemates." To this point, Jack Stone '22 inquired about the protocol the administration is following to patrol off-campus locations. Lukaskiewicz stated that the administration hired a "security firm... to encourage people to disperse if people gather."

Jones then switched the topic of conversation to focus on the new, interim Title IX

policy and invited Interim Title IX Coordinator Rita Kelly and Davis to speak on what the task force had accomplished in rewriting the policy that we follow on campus.

DiChristina clarified that the previous regulations did not include "quid pro quo" sexual harassment, and the policy has now been altered to include this specific form of harassment. He also stated that the new policy covers domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

The focus then shifted to reviewing the formal complaint process, and Stone asked about the percentage of Title IX complaints that result in an informal resolution process. DiChristina stated that "over the last five years on average we have had 6 or 7 formal investigations." He added that "we are currently working on a letter to the community that will give a four-year update on all student code of conduct violations, and [the] outcomes, with a section that will speak to what was referred to as sexual misconduct policy violations." He stated that this report will likely be published in November, with the annual Clery Report.

OPINION

The Dangers of Societal Psychological Diagnoses

SKYLER SIMPKINS '23
OPINION EDITOR

Eating disorders affect approximately one million men and ten million women in the United States. The modern prevalence of these eating disorders has affected society's perception of the mental disorder. As they are occurring at a greater frequency, society has begun to project the diagnosis on individuals showing any sudden weight change or utilizing a different dietary regimen. Personally, I have experienced what this psychological projection can do to your mental state.

When I was in high school, I experienced an unexpected drop in weight. This made me a social target in an atmosphere of toxic femininity driving southern teenage culture. Students would constantly report me to my teachers.

Rumors swirled around the school referring to my mental instability and perceived feelings of inadequacy, and even my family threatened to send me to a psychologist if I did not confront my 'eating disorder' soon. (In Arkansas, it is often frowned upon to consult a mental health professional). I was pulled out of class and given a lecture on my intake frequency while many of my classmates could hear the discussion. I was completely confused and lost for words. I knew I was eating, I knew I was not purging, I knew I did not have an eating disorder, but my surrounding peers' perceptions of me made me question my own mental state. Society rushed to psychologically diagnose me and ridicule me for the psychological inner-torment I must have been suffering.

Even though I knew

I did not have an eating problem, I began to visualize what society saw when they looked at me. I was losing weight, I was dropping sizes rapidly but I saw no reason for this phenomenon. I wanted an explanation for my condition, so I began to partially accept the diagnosis given to me by society.

The next summer, when I was rushed to the emergency room, it was discovered that I actually had an auto-immune disorder causing my weight change. This entire time, I neglected the idea of any other problem just to settle society's pressure on me to confess my sin of having a psychological ailment. The pressure from society made me work on my self-image instead of contemplating the possibility of another cause to my weight loss. If society had not pressured me into conformation with their psychological diagnosis, I could have gotten help from a medical doctor for the condition that ails me today. This made me think of all the other medical emergencies avoidable if society would be less condemn-

ing of people to common psychological disorders or psychologists, as they have it ingrained deep

"We all suffer from social confirmation as we desire to be accepted, so more often than not we will accept the popular view of society. When mental illness becomes a part of these popular views, we sacrifice our own health and mental well-being for the acceptance of a tyrannical majority."

proliferated by our media.

Unfortunately, eating disorders are not the only psychological disorder that society diagnoses. I have seen many people informally diagnose or refer to someone else as anxious, depressed, bipolar, or sociopathic. As a society, we need to understand the devastating effects uneducated psychological diagnosis has on the one targeted. They will believe what society thinks of them and forgo any other possible solution to the problem they are suffering. This societal psychological diagnosis deters many away from professional doctors

within themselves that society's discretion is always correct. We all suffer from social conformation as we desire to be accepted, so more often than not we will accept the popular views of society. When mental illness becomes a part of these popular views, we sacrifice our own health and mental well-being for the acceptance of a tyrannical majority. I urge you all to receive adequate information from licensed professionals about your mental and physical well-being because I can assure you that taking society's word for it will lead to self-devastation.

"Society rushed to psychologically diagnose me and ridicule me for the psychological inner-torment I must have been suffering."

On the Importance of Individual Voter Determination

LUC BRYANT '22
STAFF WRITER

Since coverage of the 2020 election started to heat up, it seems the whole world has been overwhelmed with messages reminding you to vote: "This election is the

their numbers suffocating.

I fear that the constant inundation of the message, however, can eventually become harmful, and eventually depreciate the meaning of the message. As a result of all the platitudes and posts, eventually the saying "all votes

tance of the largest possible turnout is dangerous, if not at least entirely futile.

Ask any group of Americans and you are sure to receive several different understandings and ideas about why your vote matters. Some believe every vote regardless of position has the same weight to it, and thus no one vote should be discounted. Others think the actualization of democracy and the true will of the people can only be realized once every eligible voter sends in their ballot.

Do you remember that one thing your parents told you to do as a child, and that you constantly ignored because the more they said it, the more you questioned its importance? For me, it was homework. Though I would like to think society has grown beyond being hung up on basic developmental problems, every now and then I watch someone in the news force me to question this belief. Even though going against popular ideas is looked down upon, the princi-

ple of questioning societal standards has been fairly

a member of this country, your vote is important and

"Though I would like to think society has grown beyond being hung up on basic developmental problems, every now and then I watch someone in the news force me to question this belief."

beneficial in terms of our evolution. Where would we be if scholars had not questioned the teachings of religion and governance? How would history have unfolded if we were content as a species with the natural state of being? The greatest progress

critical. Let your definition be meaningful only to you, and not just the same recycled jingles pushed by social media companies and political groups. Know your importance as a citizen, as a subject of democracy, and as a member of the modern age in this

"I fear that the constant inundation of the message, however, can eventually become harmful, and eventually depreciate the meaning of the message."

most important of our lifetime!" "All votes count!" If you have a phone, or social media, or at least access to the internet, you have almost certainly come across a friend or colleague pushing the message urging all people, especially young people, to find a way for their vote to be counted. I know I have. These messages are by no means new, but every four years when the chief's job is up for grabs, the cries become almost deafening and

count" begins to sound a bit parodical. Once that inkling gestates into a full belief, it has the possibility to spread to multiple sources, and we all know how easily spread ideas are nowadays, popular or not. I fear most that I am not alone in this belief.

Now, if you are looking for a counterargument to having a near-one-hundred-percent voter turnout for any demographic, then you are in the wrong place. Fighting against the impor-

is made by taking risks.

Ultimately, it is important to know why, as

country. And never forget to do what you, as an individual, believe is best.

Hating Astrology is Outdated: The Value of the Stars to Provide Answers through Horoscopes

LIZ FOSTER '22
MANAGING EDITOR

Despite the criticisms generally aimed at astrology, the practice has skyrocketed to mainstream popularity with the rise of apps like *Co-Star* and *The Pattern*. Regardless of astrology's rising popularity, many still consider horoscopes, astrological analysis, and the general zodiac as tools for teenage girls to predict their love lives or a means for women in mid-life crises to explain their failures. The question of "what's your sign?" is often met with an eye-roll even in 2020, when several national polls estimate nearly a third of the United States believes in astrol-

ogy in some capacity. The feminization of astrology undoubtedly contributes to its being seen as a "joke." People love to invalidate and shame traditionally feminine practices and "obsessions" in the mainstream media. Consider Justin Bieber and One Direction, two staple acts of the mid-2000s that were senselessly bullied by the general population (particularly middle-aged men) and critics alike. Bieber's music video for "Baby" was the most disliked YouTube for multiple years and countless demeaning jabs were, and still are, thrown at the British band. However, a fanbase of teenage girls has kept singers-like Justin Bieber and One Direction--afloat and their pockets filled for years throughout the apexes of their respective careers. The same group of girls shamed by their peers and the media for their silly obsession revolutionized the music industry and created mega-stars. People often point to magazine horoscopes, such as those in *Cosmopolitan*, to justify their disbelief in the value of astrology. This frequent criticism, and one which is rightfully doubt-

"A belief in astrology can be a blanket of comfort. It can provide the answers in a time where no answers feel quite right."

ed, is based in the oversimplification of the practice. A journalist scribing a one page column assigning each of the twelve signs a particular toil and triumph for the week does so for consumption, not for accuracy. A deeper understanding of astrology shows us that one is much more than the Sun sign which is often seen as the end all be all of astrological identity. For this reason, apps like *Co-Star* have succeeded as they attempt to breakdown a user's personal "birth chart," the positioning of various planets and constellations at one's time and place of birth, to better understand their identity and predict their future. *Cosmopolitan* and *Co-Star*

serve similar purposes, and both operate with various levels of inaccuracies, but the latter more transparently attempts to showcase the multiplicity of astrology as more than just "being a Scorpio." We need to stop demon-

"We can no longer negate the value of the stars when they've caused us no harm. There are more dangerous battles to fight than finding faith in stardust."

izing another harmless practice that attempts to explain the altogether fascinating and devastating nature of the real world. We live in unprecedented times and sometimes, it's easier to pretend that society is falling apart because four planets are in retrograde, not because of humanity's own errors. If we can argue for the existence of an invisible God playing *The Sims* with our little mortal lives, there's room for conversation about the impact of planetary movement on our societal patterns. It is not revolutionary to invent new ways of intaking and processing

the historical events we live through. In fact, astrology has been predicting and justifying history since

"People love to invalidate and shame traditionally feminine practices and 'obsessions' in the mainstream media."

2,000 B.C. The popular astrology of today, however, is a Westernized daughter and mere shadow of its Eastern roots. Prior to its role as a faux means of psychoanalysis, astrology was used for predicting the most auspicious times to bear children, go to war, or other major decisions.

Astrology's particular value to me is in its current status as a pseudo-psychological science. Analyzing my birth chart is a cheaper means of therapy than the traditional prying into my soul with a psychologist. Specific planetary positions within my chart allow me to explain my strengths and weaknesses or fears and desires with ease. I can explain my identity to you more easily in a few bite sized pieces about stars than I can in attempting to piece together my entire life story in anecdotal evidence. My sun,

Mercury, and Venus all fall in Pisces, meaning that I'm incredibly emotional, sensitive, unrealistic, and cannot communicate to save my life. My moon, the planet which guides one's emotions, is in its ruling sign of Cancer which makes me all the more riddled with sensibility, nostalgia, and sentimentality. These watery placements also fuel my creativity and arguably could explain my very interest in astrology. My Taurus rising, the sign which you "present" to the average person, stabilizes me to some capacity, but this is immediately offset by my Mars in Aries. Mars,

also ruled by Aries, is the planet of passions and explains why I throw myself into details and fleeting

fits of interest in hobbies, humans, and the like, only to burn out almost immediately after. Simple explanations such as the degree of a planet when I was born telling me the way I'm able to handle interpersonal relationships gives me a sense of as-

urance provided by nothing else. The stars tell me whatever I need them to.

A belief in astrology can be a blanket of comfort. It can provide the answers in a time where no answers feel quite right. If we can allow our society to base its constitutional values in the idea of an invisible man pulling strings and assigning blame, we can accept that some people prefer to believe in the universe rather than an omnipotent and omnipresent force. We can not be a judgemental society. We can no longer negate the value of the stars when they've caused us no harm. There are more dangerous battles to fight than finding faith in stardust.

A Few Underrated Horror Films

MACIEJ PRADZIAD '23
A&E EDITOR

The Loved Ones
Dir. Sean Byrne

An extremely tense torture film with a captivating performance from Robin McLeavy as the villain, Lola "Princess" Stone.

Jennifer's Body
Dir. Karyn Kusama

An up and coming cult classic horror film dealing with LGBTQ+ and women's issues by witty screenwriter Diablo Cody.

Lake Mungo
Dir. Joel Anderson

A depressing mockumentary about a family in crisis as they uncover the secret double life of their dead daughter.

Under the Skin
Dir. Jonathan Glazer

A science fiction, horror film dealing with the meaning of "humanity" and issues such as feminism, lust, sexism.

Under the Shadow
Dir. Babak Anvari

A socially conscious psychological horror combining the supernatural with the terrors of the Iran-Iraq War.

FEATURES

Acapella Teams Adjust to COVID



MAURA THOMPSON '21

The Trinitones (pictured above) aren't able to sing in person this semester, but have found other ways to build community.

KATIE CERULLE '22
FEATURES EDITOR

Trinity College has four acapella groups on campus; one co-ed, two all-female, and one all-male. The Quirks and the Trinitones are the two all-female, the Pipes are co-ed (and the oldest collegiate co-ed acapella group formed in 1938), and The Accidentals are the all-male group. During a semester that has been significantly altered by the presence of COVID-19, all four of acapella groups are struggling to sing together when their meetings must be conducted virtually. Some groups, such as the Quirks, are using Zoom to try and replicate practicing in person and posting the recordings to Instagram. The *Tripod* sat down with Maya Anand '22 and Maura Thompson '21 to discuss the current state of their acapella group, the Trinitones.

Maya Anand has been a member of the Trinitones since her first-year fall back in 2018. Being one of her first commitments in college, she has been able to grow through her passion for singing. Not being able to sing with the group has been a difficult adjustment after practicing once a week last semester, but the group has been attempting to maintain some sense of normalcy through a medium many are familiar with: Zoom. Despite not being able to sing together, they use their Zooms to prepare arrangements for when they can come back together and to just remain in contact through these

difficult times. "It's been tough not having a singing outlet for sure," Maya stated, "and I cannot wait until we can rehearse again!"

Singing has been a part of Maura Thompson's life since she was a young girl and she would not have it any other way. She is also in the Trinitones and this year, being a senior, she has taken on the role of president. Her duties are unfortunately limited due to this abnormal semester, but she has been trying to maintain the same chemistry within the group by implementing weekly zooms and active group texts. The weekly Zoom meetings, that Maya also referenced, are used to prepare new music so that when they can rehearse again, the group will have a multitude of options to choose from. "This semester has given us a unique opportunity to take a step back and work on new projects that we would not normally have time for," she states. Her role as President has slightly shifted this semester from planning rehearsals and gigs to keeping spirits up and planning virtual events that are still beneficial to the success of the group.

Both Maya and Maura spoke upon the wonderful impact that being in Tones has had on their college experience. Being able to sing with a group and foster a community of dedicated and talented musicians has been wonderful for both of them. "I have made some of my best friends while being in Tones. I couldn't be more grateful for the community it has given me!"

Advice For Students Going Into the Final Weeks of Class

MAURA KEARY '22
FEATURES EDITOR

1. Remain focused. With less than one month left until students return home until spring semester, it is easy to fall out of focus. To close out the semester with the best grades as possible, you must remain engaged in classes whether it is online or in-person. Follow these tips and set goals for yourself and plan on reaching them by Nov. 21!

2. Stay organized. The best way to stay organized is to use a planner or calendar to keep track of all of your assignments. In the beginning of each week, try writing down your test, quiz and homework due dates for the coming days. The best part is crossing off those tasks once you have completed them!

3. Plan for your finals schedule. A great way to start preparing for finals is to check when your exam dates are. You can view this on the Registrar's Office page on the Trinity College website. With knowing when you have all your exams, you can then start studying according to your schedule. In addition, start studying ahead of time! Cramming is never a good idea, especially because the in-person semester has been shortened into a mere 10 weeks. You may seem stressed as exams are coming fast but use this time now to think ahead! Final exams for 10-week courses and 13-week courses are the weeks of Nov. 16 and Dec. 15, respectively.

4. Stay engaged with Zoom lectures. Although virtual classes may not be ideal, it is important to keep up with the lectures in the same manner as in-person classes, especially in the last few weeks. It helps to remain attentive in class if your camera is on and you are participating in class discussions! Create a workspace in your room that allows for you to gain as much information and knowledge as you would in a normal class setting.

5. Switch up study locations. You are most likely tired of being in your dorm all of the time, especially if you have more than one online course—so change it up a little! There are countless spots in the library to discover, whether it be a cubicle, a study room or just a different area than where you usually sit. You can also try difference spaces on campus, for example, a classroom that isn't being used or the study area in CCAN. A change of scenery can always help renew your focus.

6. Use professor office hours. Office hours are definitely something to take advantage of, especially at a small school such as Trinity. Often, you will even have the opportunity to have one-on-one discussions with your professors. Even if they are virtual, office hours are great to attend one or two sessions per week to ask questions or go over material before your final exam. In addition to this, utilize other resources as well such as

TA sessions, the Writing Center, or the Quantitative Center! Professors and other students are always there to help you succeed!

7. Stay active. With the current campus alert level back to green, most athletic facilities are open for use, as long as the correct health and safety measures are taken. Take an hour of your time and get some fresh air. Whether you go for a jog on the track, a walk around campus, or book a reservation in the Hazelton Fitness Center, exerting some energy before, during, or after studying is always a good idea.

8. Continue taking safety precautions. Wouldn't it be great to end the semester on a green campus alert level? If we, as a campus community, come together and follow all school guidelines to stay healthy, we can do just that. Through distancing, wearing masks, and practicing proper self-care, students will be able to close out the in-person semester with open athletic facilities, distanced outdoor gatherings and in-person classes. Let's enjoy the last few weeks we have as a community!

9. Read emails from administrators. It is important to read the emails in their entirety to remain aware of campus guidelines and case updates, as well as other school announcements. Stay educated and safe!

How Are You Voting on Nov. 3?

Trinity students registered in Hartford can vote at the Commons Building at Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy, found right off-campus at the corner of Broad and Vernon, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Or, voters can mail in an absentee ballot.

Who is on the Ballot?

United States President
Donald Trump & Mike Pence
(Incumbent, Republican)

or Joe Biden and Kamala Harris (Democrat)

State Senate (District One)
John Fonfara (Incumbent, Democrat)

or Barbara Ruhe (Republican)

US Congress (District One)
John Larson (Incumbent, Democrat)

or Mary Fay (Republican)

For the position of representative in the Connecticut House of Representatives, Minnie Gonzalez, the Democratic incumbent, is running unopposed.

Information found on ballotpedia.org.

Mental Health On Campus: Conversations with Students Malenfant '23 and Petrillo '22

OLIVIA PAPP '23
FEATURES EDITOR

Colleges across the United States this year have been confronted with a highly unpredictable environment, laced with anxiety and stress. From a global standpoint, it seems the presence of COVID-19 has impacted learning environments in negative ways. In addition to the regular academic stress, students and faculty alike may be experiencing anxiety caused by COVID-19. It generally seems that Trinity students are happy to be back on campus. However, as the semester has progressed, students have become less and less enthusiastic. Speaking with Sophia Malenfant '23, Julie Petrillo '22, and Emma McGraw '23, the three Trinity students offered insight into their mental health this year and explained how they have remained positive amidst this unsettling time.

Sophia Malenfant '23 has an interesting perspective on the matter, as this year she had to stay home for personal matters. A number of students in the Trinity community this semester have also decided to stay home and continue their Trinity education remotely. While the Trinity experience this year may be different for each of us, the community has gained a sense of comradery as we have endured the tumultuous year together.

Malenfant offered that she has "had to say home and commute to my one in-person class due to COVID-19. This has been a lot different from my freshman year experience."

Last year, Malenfant lived on campus where she resided in Wheaton Hall as a first-year student. She was ultimately disappointed about the substantial turn in events this year, as she was no longer able to see her friends daily. However, Malenfant stated that, "everyone has to make sacrifices this year for the greater good. Hopefully, by next year, I will be able to live on campus again."

Malenfant relayed that "living at home and

not being surrounded by my friends is something that has taken a toll on my mental health. After a long week of schoolwork, it is normal to want to hang out with friends. Being able to safely socialize, in accordance with CDC guidelines, as a reward for making it through another week of academics is something I miss a lot." Malenfant clarified that her situation is not ideal, in that "living at home has prevented me from being able to give myself an outlet that does not involve writing a paper, reading a book, or taking notes. The ongoing cycle, week after week, of not being able to see my friends or visit campus has affected my mental health negatively. I do not have a chance to remove myself from a studious and school-oriented environment and replace it with one that can offer fun and relaxation."

Malenfant mentioned that it is important to remain optimistic and grateful, and that what keeps her positive, "even as a day student, is that hopefully soon everything will return to normal. Hopefully, by next year there will be a vaccine, and things will start to relax more. Until then, I think it's important for the community who reside both on and off-campus to continue to make the necessary sacrifices to ensure the community's safety and health."

Jules Petrillo '22, offered her opinion on the matter, as well. This year, Petrillo is happy to be living in Jarvis with her friends.

"My mental health at Trinity has definitely been better. I think because things are so different, I find that it takes a toll on everyone's mental health. Online class can be difficult for everyone because it is such an unusual setting that no one has been in before," said Petrillo.

"Because of COVID, there's no more sitting in Mather with teammates and friends. Instead, I now find myself spending a lot of time in my room because that's what is necessary," remarked Petrillo.

Trinity is doing their

best to maintain our stay on campus and ensure students have as normal an experience as possible given the circumstances.

While it has been an anxious year for everyone, Petrillo recommends a few ways to improve mentalities. "It's so important to work out. Do anything you can. Workout, use weights, do some cardio. Try to make the best of the situation. Get outside every day and go for walks. This will not last forever. Everyone is in the same boat so check in with your friends and try to stay as active as possible!"

Emma McGraw '23 mentioned that it was difficult to adapt to Trinity's COVID-19 mandates at first, but overtime she was able to adjust well. Although no games are being held this fall, McGraw is happy to have the opportunity to practice volleyball with her teammates. After Trinity went back to alert level green, and she was able to go back to practicing, McGraw felt as though her mental health had greatly improved.

"I know, especially during this time, it is difficult to remain positive. But it is so important to find something you're passionate about and set time aside to do that. Whether it be painting, kicking around a soccer ball, or even sitting in the quad, make sure to find some time to do something you love."

McGraw had to fly into Hartford from San Diego, California a full 14 days before most of the other students arrived, in order to quarantine. Being alone for that long span of time made it difficult for McGraw to adapt to Trinity's COVID-19 mandates at first. However, when her roommates each moved in, McGraw was relieved to find she was not the only one overwhelmed by the new rules.

McGraw is also a member of the volleyball team at Trinity, and found it difficult to adjust with cancelled practices. Although no games are being held this fall, McGraw is nonetheless happy to have the opportunity to practice.

Peter B's: Still Trin's Resource for Coffee During COVID

BAILEY MCKEON '22
FEATURES EDITOR

Erin DeMarco '23 has been whipping up some delicious drinks at Peter B's this semester. As a new barista, DeMarco has been able to help carry on the Peter B's tradition of serving the Trinity community despite the pandemic. "I'm very thankful that we can still be open," DeMarco said. "I think we've been doing a good job of making the most out of grim circumstances."

DeMarco applied to work at Peter B's this past summer to fulfill her dream of becoming a barista. "When I toured Trinity, I knew I wanted to be a barista at Peter B's some day because I love coffee and tea," DeMarco said. "I wanted to learn how to make all different kinds of drinks that I normally wouldn't make or order myself. Plus, I'd get to know different people I wouldn't have normally met through class or sports."

Upon returning to Trinity, DeMarco and the other baristas were meet with some new rules and regulations in their place of work. Besides installing the large piece of glass that now rests above the counter to separate baristas from customers, Peter B's now requires baristas to wipe down all counters, handles, pieces of equipment, etc. every hour to reduce the possibility of spreading COVID-19 at the café. The baristas report this frequent cleaning in a log. Additionally, customers are no longer allowed to bring reusable cups or mugs to hold their drinks.

Despite these changes, DeMarco and her fellow baristas have been able to find some consistency in their work. "I love interacting with people and making all different kinds of drinks," DeMarco said. "Working at Peter B's gives me something to do other than homework, practice, and lifts, not to mention it's been great getting to know my co-workers, who have all been so welcoming and kind."

Unfortunately, during Trinity's switch to code orange, DeMarco, like the rest of us, were unable to enjoy the simple pleasures fostered by the café. Moreover, Peter B's has not been able to operate a flourishing business during these times of closure. "Obviously, closing the store at these times is for the best," DeMarco said, "but it's challenging economically to have to shut down completely for that long."

Yet even when Peter B's has been able to open, business has not been as usual. DeMarco attributes this to the lack of consistent movement around the campus, hypothesizing that more people may stop in for a coffee during their day if they are out and about more. "I think a lot of people are still coming to Peter B's, just not as frequently as they would prior to the pandemic because they probably don't feel like leaving their rooms to go grab a drink if all of their classes are online."

Another challenge the business has faced this semester is losing their partnership with First & Last Bakery. First & Last Bakery closed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As follows, Peter B's can no longer feature First & Last's pastries, muffins, and breakfast sandwiches. "Some customers still ask about the bakery items we received from First & Last and I always feel bad having to tell them that we currently don't sell them," DeMarco said. "Luckily, however, we still have our renown pumpkin and walnut breads, brownies, cookies, and rice krispie treats that our manager, René, makes. Check out @elle_and_q_bakers on Instagram to see some of these sweets!"

And yet, Peter B's ability to open amidst these struggles is worth celebrating. "The biggest success of the semester, in my opinion, is still being able to make and serve drinks to the Trinity community despite the numerous challenges and constraints COVID-19 has caused," DeMarco said.

Arts & Entertainment

Weekly Skylights: The *Tripod* Looks to the Clouds



October 20, 2020

This week features the first installment of a story in two parts: enjoy!

(Above) I ran through the woods taking no heed of my own safety. My face was wet and gross, and I choked down air between sobs and sniffles. Branches and thorns cut my hands and face. When I came to rest at the moss-covered rock, my little fortress, I was a mixture of sweat and blood, snot, tears, and shame. I was never going to talk to Lauren again. I promised myself that. I collapsed against the soft side of the rock, which was kind of like a couch when I was that age. I don't know if I'd even think it was big anymore. I clutched my head between my knees and held my neck with my hands and sat there for a long time. The wind rustled through me. "Hey," a voice said. I looked up. There was a man chained to one of the massive rock outcroppings only a few meters from where I sat. "Give me a hand, would you?" he said, and he gestured with his neck toward the massive iron links holding him in place. I stood up. I took a few steps toward him and then stopped, unsure of how to progress. **9.4/10.**



October 21, 2020

(Above) I was almost certain I had read something about what to do for these kinds of people. I didn't think I was supposed to get close. I took a step closer. And another. And then I walked all the way up to the man and sniffled involuntarily. I said, "What's wrong?" The man rolled his eyes, but at that age I did not know what that meant, so I carried on. "Do you need help?" I said. "Help would be nice," said the man, "as you can see, I'm a bit tied up at the moment. I would be earth-shatteringly grateful if you could get me out of this bind." I said, "I'll try to think of something," and then I sat down cross-legged on the grass across from him. For some reason, I trusted him completely. His voice was not very pleasant and neither was anything else about him for all that I could see. But I felt somewhere deep inside me that there was no danger to found from this man. I wonder if I would have felt the same thing today, if I came across that man. I don't know. **7.4/10.**



October 22, 2020

(Above) The man grumbled a little after I sat down. He shuffled into a more comfortable position as much as he could, and he asked me, with a hint of resignation in his voice, "thought of anything?" "No," I said. "But I'm thinking about it." "Uh huh," he said, "please, take your time. It's not as if I have anywhere to be." He stared at me for a few seconds. "I'm being sarcastic, of course," he said, "by my estimation, if I'm still swaddled up here ten minutes from now, I will die. That is not a joke. Really, if you could, hurry up a bit." It didn't seem like breaking the chains was going to be a possibility. Each link was thicker than my thumb. I also did not care for the way the man was rushing me, even if he was going to die in ten minutes, which was kind of a silly idea anyway. Part of me thought of saying, 'well, looks like in ten minutes I won't have to find a solution anymore,' but I didn't dare. I began to feel the crushing sadness again. I had forgot I had forgotten it, and now that it was coming back tears started gliding down my cheeks and I pulled myself into a ball. "Oh hell," said the man. "What's this about?" **7.6/10.**



October 23, 2020

(Above) I didn't respond. I couldn't stop thinking about Lauren, and I did not want the man to look at me while I was crying. "Is it me?" the man said. I shook my head. "Ah, I see. It's a girl then." I nodded. "Okay, kid. I'm going to make you an offer. Can you look at me? I need you to look at me." As low as I felt, there was a part of me, that was all of me, that was curious what kind of offer a strange man in chains in the middle of the woods could make. I sat up and wiped my face with my arm and rubbed my eyes. I looked at him, sniffing. He began, "look, I'm sure what you're going through is terrible, and you feel terrible, that makes sense. Who could blame you? That being said I'm really not in a position to help you right now given my situation. So, what I am proposing is a little exchange between us, of services, in which you release me from these bindings, and in exchange I will aide you in that task as much as I am able, and later, I will do something for you, a favor which will be decided at a time of your choosing. Do you accept my terms?" I stood there, thinking, and made my choice. **8.2/10.**

Stay tuned for this story's conclusion...

SPORTS

LA Dodgers Take on Tampa Bay Rays in 2020 Series

MATEO VAZQUEZ '21
SPORTS EDITOR

This past week has truly been nothing short of spectacular for baseball. The fans have been treated to some very high scoring games and that being said, some great competition out on the field. The opening game last Wednesday definitely set the tone for the series. Tampa Bay came out swinging strong with an early run on the board in the first inning. What followed can only be described as relentless defense from both sides until Tampa Bay was able to kick up the intensity again at the top of the 4th inning extending their lead to a 3-0 run on the LA Dodgers. While the Dodgers made an attempt at a comeback they were cut short by Tampa who just continued to amp up the intensity of the game and win game one of the series 6-4. However, do not worry if you are a Dodgers fan, as they definitely have bounced back in the series and are currently leading (3-2). However, if

there is one game in particular that anyone should look at, it would have to be game 4 of the series. The level of play was spectacular, throughout the entire game and Tampa Bay was just able to walk away with the win at the bottom of the ninth inning. Early on throughout game 4 there was a lot of back and forth action which was just an overall reminder that this series was far from over. From what I got to watch within the first 4 innings alone could be described as nothing short of frantic energy and attempts to keep the game low scoring early on. However, as the night wore on into the 6th inning, it was quite evident that the players were reaching exhaustion. Tampa Bay seized their opportunity and was able to place 3 runs on the board in the 6th inning alone leaving the Dodgers once again short handed for the win. They kept this momentum going into the 9th inning and sealed the game out by just one run. Tampa Bay rookie Randy Arozarena made his impact on

game four, and set the MLB postseason record with his ninth home run. The last players to hold the record of 8 postseason home runs are Barry Bonds (2002), Nelson Cruz (2011), and as of game 4 Corey Seager (2020) for the LA Dodgers. Arozarena has demonstrated his worth as a rookie as throughout this season he has con-

sistently made numerous developments on the team and shattered many rookie records.

There is still a lot left in this series and it is far from over with numerous records being set and risks being taken. Just within game 5 alone, the fans are seeing just how many risks athletes are

willing to take to secure the victory. During game 5 Manuel Margot made a very controversial decision to attempt to steal home plate and made an incredible effort but was cut short by just inches. Yet, there is plenty more this action that awaits fans and will surely be a memorable World Series.



NYPOST.COM

Manuel Margot attempting to steal home plate.

Following COVID Isolation, Florida Gators Return

MATEO VAZQUEZ '21
SPORTS EDITOR

Across the various college football conferences, COVID has no doubt affected many teams ability to play. The University of Florida Gators are now set to resume games after being in isolation for two weeks due to the virus spreading across the team.

On Oct. 13, two assistants and at least 26 players were identified as having contracted the virus and proceeded to have a team quarantine out of caution. After two weeks, head coach Dan Mullen has reported that his team will be ready to go and resume practice. He also stated that the team will have the minimum league requirement of 53 players for their upcoming game against seventh ranked Missouri. During a video conference with reporters, he affirmed that the symptoms were very mild and that he was not approaching this upcoming week of practice any different than if it were a regular week. An important note from the Gators incident was that the team

had not had any prior interaction with positive cases until traveling back from the Texas A&M game which lead some to question whether the traveling process for teams should be reconfigured to limit any possible outside interaction with the team, or even less staff to away games.

A big question that still remains is how all of this will affect the rankings, and the teams' overall ability to remain competitive within the SEC. Throughout this season the team has already shown a big gap on the defense as a lot of their focus has been shifted towards an offensive front. That being said, their competition for this week has had over two weeks to practice and a win against the Gators could mean a big shift in the rankings for Missouri. Simply because Florida has rostered players leaving quarantine, does not necessarily mean that the team has a roster that is ready to play football. Hence, the outcome of this upcoming week will speak a lot to the ability to contain the virus so that games

can continue to be played.

Despite all of these concerns with COVID and the effects on the Gators season and rankings, there is some good news that the team received this week. They were able to secure a four start DE Jeremiah Williams who has received numerous Power Five scholarships this year.

This places the Gators in the No. 8 overall recruiting class for 2021 and will surely help in the rankings. Williams is definitely a sign

of a shift in focus for the Gators to address their issues on defense and make more attempts to balance the team overall. Especially with COVID concerns and if some athletes will continue to play in the 2021 season, the shift in focus is very strategic in ensuring that the team is not at any more of a disadvantage for the upcoming season. When asked out of all the Power Five scholarships he received

why he committed to Florida, Williams focused on the team culture and the relationship that he built with the coaching staff, that he is hoping to share those same ambitions and change the outcome of their next season. So, while the team might be dealing with roster issues for this upcoming week against Missouri, they are nonetheless looking to the future and anxiously preparing for a solid 2021 season.



FLORIDA GATORS

The Florida Gators return to football after a COVID scare.

This Week in Sports At Trincoll...

Tripod Sports Explanations: Baseball for Rookies

ANNA BAUER '23
SPORTS EDITOR

With the World Series still in full swing, the *Tripod* brings you "Baseball for Rookies!"

The setup of the game is relatively simple; however, its execution is not. When on defense, a team will have nine players on the field, including the pitcher, catcher, first, second, and third baseman, shortstop, and three outfielders. The field is set up like a diamond and when a batter hits the ball he must run and touch each base before proceeding to the next one. It is the pitcher's job to try to throw off the batsman, preferably by striking him out, while it is the job of the remaining eight players to react to the ball if the batter hits it. This means they are trying to either catch the ball before it hits the ground and get them out, or pick up the

ground ball and throw it to the baseman he is running towards so he can try to tag the runner out. If the player makes it to the base, he is safe and another teammate of his comes to bat.

At the collegiate and professional level, the game is divided into nine innings. Innings do not have a time limit, but instead generally last until three outs are made by both sides. During the first half of each inning, the visiting team will bat and try to score as many runs, the baseball term for points, as possible before they get three outs; meanwhile, the home team will be in the field in their respective defensive positions trying to get these three outs. Once the defense has done this, the two teams will switch positions during the second half of the inning.

There are many ways to achieve these three outs.

One primary way is striking out. Think of the song, "for it's one, two, three strikes, you're out at the old ball game!" Essentially, a strike is when the pitcher throws the ball into the strike zone, but the batter doesn't hit it. If this happens three times, then like the song says, you're out and the next batter comes to the base. Another way to get an out is if the batter hits the ball, does not matter if it is foul territory or not, and the ball is caught by the defense. The other primary way to get an out is called a tag out which is when the ball is live and the runner is not on a base, therefore not safe; he is able to be tagged by the defense with the ball and this is an out. The tag out is why you may see baseball players with the bright red clay stains all over their uniform; they had to slide into the base to try to reach it before being tagged. The other ways to get an out are by

running outside the baseline, interference, or force out (when a player is unable to make it to the base before a defensive player).

While conventionally, baseball is thought to be played only by boys and softball only by girls, technically both can play the others' game; however, though there are no rules against it, in the professional leagues there are no current male or female

players in the opposite sport. Nevertheless, though the two games are quite similar, they have distinct differences including, the size of the field, the ball and bat size, the length of the game, and the style of pitch (overhand or underhand). For more, the *Tripod* urges you to go out and support both our baseball and softball teams, whenever they are next able to play, and test what you know!



NBCNEWS.COM

In Retrospect: The Relative Success of the NBA Bubble

FINN CAWLEY '22
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With the longest and most chaotic season in NBA history concluding on a storybook Lakers' victory earlier this week, it is clear that the 2019-2020 season will go down as the most memorable in league history.

From the level of elite play and parity on the court to the unfolding of unprecedented geopolitical events off the court, emotions and narratives ran high. The synthesis of the coronavirus, police brutality and racial inequality, and extreme political polarization with the impending presidential election led to perhaps the most uncertain year in the history of the Association, if not the 21st century United States. More narrowly, from a league perspective, the NBA lost notable representatives of the game, including former all-star Cliff Robinson, Hall of Fame coach Jerry Sloan, late, great league commissioner David Stern, and, perhaps most devastatingly, Lakers' legend and icon Kobe Bryant. In these times of doubts and uncer-

tainties, the NBA bubble provided what was needed most: a sense of stability.

From its inception in June through the conclusion of the playoffs this past Sunday, the NBA bubble provided normalcy, entertainment, and a much-needed escape through sports. Just as we reached our peak levels of boredom and stir-craziness going on three months of quarantine, commissioner Adam Silver and league officials made the decision to resume the season in a confined bubble at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, Florida's Disney World. This newfound and somewhat controversial concept proved to be successful on multiple fronts, providing not only an exciting product even without fans, but perhaps more impressively concluding with zero cases of COVID-19 for the entirety of the bubble's duration.

Given this success, critics point to a massive decrease in NBA ratings, with the Finals' ratings down 70%, reaching their lowest in league history.

After deeper analysis, however, these ratings hardly tell the entire story. With less people watching the games on cable television and an increasing population opting to illegally stream the games online through mediums like Reddit, it's only natural that there would be a decline in ratings. Moreover, while the NBA playoffs would traditionally only have to compete with regular season baseball and playoff hockey in the summer months, the pushback to fall has led to competition with playoff

baseball, playoff hockey, college football, and, most significantly, NFL football. Additionally, with the coverage of COVID-19 and the upcoming election, all major league sports ratings have suffered a hit while cable news ratings surge.

Even with the decline in ratings, the future of the league is arguably brighter than ever, what with a resurgence in competitiveness and parity, a higher level of talent than in previous years, budding young superstars, and the increased

internationalization of the game. As mentioned before, the Lakers winning their record-tying 17th championship and dedicating it to the memory of franchise legend Kobe Bryant seemed like the only fitting end, a cherry on top of this bizarre, whirlwind of a season. As the NFL currently struggles to mitigate the spread of coronavirus and adjust scheduling, perhaps commissioner Roger Goodell would do well to take notes on the NBA bubble's management and success.



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