

# The Trinity Tripod

ESTABLISHED 1904

Now then-Trinity!

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Volume CXXII  
Number I

## Class of 2027 Numbers

IQRA ATHAR '26  
NEWS EDITOR

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## Britain and the Queen

SARAH DAJANI '26  
OPINION EDITOR

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## Summer Love Story

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CECE HAMPTON '24  
SPORTS EDITOR

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## St. Anthony Hall Chapter Suspended for Three Years Following Hazing Investigation

CAITLIN DOHERTY '26  
NEWS EDITOR

Vice President for Student Success and Enrollment Management Joe DiChristina announced a three-year suspension of the Epsilon Chapter of St. Anthony Hall, a co-educational fraternity on campus, known among Trinity students as "the Hall," on Aug. 17. A college investigation revealed that the chapter had engaged in hazing practices against potential and new members. In line with a Connecticut statute that outlaws hazing practices, Trinity's Student Handbook explicitly prohibits hazing within any student organization. The suspension began on July 13, 2023, and will



ST. ANTHONY HALL CHAPTER BUILDING (PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. ANTHONY TRUST OF HARTFORD WEBSITE)

see "St. Anthony's Hall Chapter Suspended, Continued" on page 4

be in place until June 30, 2026. This timeline ensures that any Trinity student who was a member of St. Anthony Hall will graduate before the chapter is allowed to reactivate in 2026. All students who

were associated with St. Anthony Hall during the 2022-2023 school year are banned from taking part in any Greek Life activities, whether official events or off-campus parties, for the duration of the suspension.

The fraternity occupied two buildings: Ogil-

by Hall, a dormitory on Trinity's campus reserved specifically for members of the chapter, and the St. Anthony Hall Epsilon Chapter Building, a chapel-like structure built between 1877 and 1878, which has been included on the National Register of Histo-

## Trinity Pays Tribute to Late Vice President for Advancement Michael Casey

FAITH MONAHAN '24  
NEWS EDITOR

Vice President for Advancement Michael Casey passed away on Aug. 22 after sustaining serious injuries in a bicycle accident early in August. Casey had led the Bicentennial Campaign for the college as a key initiative to prepare students at Trinity to go boldly into the next era of the College.

College President Joanne Berger-Sweeney released an email to the College on Aug. 18 expressing support for Michael and his family and encouraging acts of kindness upon the news of Casey's accident. Michael came to Trinity College in 2017 and led advancement throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and the Bicentennial campaign. Upon the news of his passing, President Berger-Sweeney expressed in a statement that Casey, "was a dear colleague whom I will remember fondly, with a deep sense of gratitude

for having known him."

His work at the College included Trinity's Alumni Bicentennial Celebration in the summer. His fundraising expertise received attention from the Hartford Business Journal. The Bicentennial campaign has been the largest capital campaign in the College's history. Casey had assisted with leading initiatives at colleges including Franklin & Marshall College, Wesleyan University, and Skidmore College prior to his work at Trinity. Casey's fundraising and career of supporting the advancement of liberal arts colleges has contributed to funding for departments, facilities, financial aid programs and more.

In an interview with the Trinity Reporter Casey reflected on his career as he embarked on his work at Trinity: "I firmly believe in the kind of education we offer and its ability to transform students and prepare them to make an impact as alumni. I'm a first-genera-



THE LATE MICHAEL CASEY (PHOTO COURTESY OF TRINITY REPORTER)

tion college graduate, and I was able to go to college because someone—someone I never knew!—thought it was important to provide scholarships to give students like me the opportunity to pursue their dreams. In a personal sense, then, the work I do and the reason I have stayed in it so long is to pay that debt forward."

Casey had earned a ba-

chelor's degree in Irish history and literature from Harvard University. Skidmore also released a statement expressing condolences for Casey's family describing his commitment to the Saratoga Spring's community.

Casey is survived by his wife, Janet, and his two children, Liam and Fiona. Services to honor his life are yet to be announced.



# The Trinity Tripod

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"Now then-Trinity!"

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This year, the *Tripod* is revamping our letter to the editor program. While we welcome contributions to our Opinion section, the letter to the editor program promotes continued conversation around ongoing topics published in the paper, and allows a direct response to a certain article. To submit, please email your 500-word signed letter to tripod@trincoll.edu. Typically these will be published on our website.

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:

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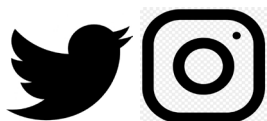
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The *Trinity Tripod* is always looking for student contributions in photography, writing, and graphic design. Anyone interested in joining the *Tripod* can email tripod@trincoll.edu.

All requests for advertisement placement in the *Tripod* can be found by consulting the Editors-in-Chief at tripod@trincoll.edu. Additionally, our website holds information regarding standard rates for advertisements.

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**CORRECTIONS**

## Letter From the Editor

### EICs' Goals for the New Year

It is 85 degrees out, the humidity is exhausting and the green grass out on the quad, showered in sunlight, reminds us all that it is still summer. For those of you without air conditioning in your dorms, our thoughts are with you. Despite the conditions outside, here we all are, back at Camp Trin just as it has been for 200 years – except with some more construction and a few new faces (and women) (and people of color) (and people who went to public schools).

As we reflect on our past, it is obvious that the Trinity we all attend today is a far different Trinity than our alums attended. A far more diverse body of students and staff made up of women, LGBTQ+ individuals, people of color and citizens of the world roam the Long Walk and fill our classrooms. When decades of Bantams return for Homecoming and Bicentennial Weekend in October, we hope they can feel a different kind of energy from this community – one that is supportive, committed to success, and is a place our alums leave feeling optimistic for the future of not only our college, but the world. The November symposium will host a variety of conversations about the College's history, including this paper's history of journalistic pursuits. In these discussions, we hope to discover even more areas that we can all improve in as a community. One day when the 2,200 of us here now return to campus, may it be even more diverse, accepting and fruitful than when we left it.

This year, our Bicentennial year, is all about connecting our past with our future through the present moment. That will happen in a lot of places: in conversations between alum and student during Bicentennial weekend, on the stage during the fall symposium, and, if we reach our goals, here in the pages of the *Tripod*. Our goal at the *Tripod* is

to continue reminding our greater Trinity community throughout the Bicentennial that, as a college, we are still far from perfect. Our student population is still very homogenous and students of color do not feel nearly as ingrained into the community as white students. A class divide is, on some level, always present when some students cannot access the same opportunities as others. LGBTQ+ students do not feel as safe in social settings and as welcomed in this community as they should be. Women are in several ways still second class citizens – our recent Title IX investigation reminded us all that women's sports are not considered equal – and countless female identifying students feel unsafe in social settings. The "Red Zone," this period of the academic year we are currently in, is when 50% of sexual assault attacks occur. How are we still plagued by these epidemics?

There is also undeniable good that has come out of the College's history. To the version of Trinity that existed 200 years ago (or even about 50), two women leading the student newspaper – and with a staff that is a majority of women – would be impossible, ridiculous and utterly stupid. Even though *The Trinity Tripod* was not established until 1904, we doubt that the founding members and first attendees of this institution in 1823 envisioned this for their future. However, this does not mean that we should discount our College's past and where we came from. Instead, we believe that we should use our history to reexamine our present and shape our future; as corny as that sounds, it is important. We are excited to celebrate our new position as co-Editors-in-Chief. For the second year in a row, and hopefully next year, a third, the *Tripod* will be led by female EICs.

In this role, we hope to amplify the voices of all writers, but especially those underserved and underrepresented. We want to tackle tough issues and tricky conversations, even if we are met with backlash or even sometimes bigotry, like the comments received in response to last year's Pride special edition. We once again want to publish content that makes you think critically and might even make you uncomfortable. It is easier said than done to achieve these major goals, so we hope you will hold us accountable as we work towards them through these specific following changes to the paper: a more democratic editor selection process; opening up our meetings to staff writers; improved communication between writers, editors, the executive board and the community; tangible efforts to get to know each other on a personal level, not just professional; retaining staff writers through each semester; and resuming our letter to the editor program. We want to lead the *Tripod* unafraid and unembarrassed, and to be able to look back in 50 years and hold these papers as a real and honest representation of our lives at

Camp Trin in 2023.

Most importantly, we want to hear from all of you. This is not only our paper, but Trinity's. Each and every one of you Bantams has a place in these pages, a story worth telling, and a voice that should be heard. Be brave, send us an email, get on that weekly budget email list. Take a stab at it, become a staff writer, or never write again. We are here to help you, to amplify you.

We hope you have a wonderful year and that the summer treated you well. Take chances, reach outside your comfort zone, and speak up for what you believe in.

-Sammi Bray &  
Olivia Silvey

## Want to Join the *Tripod* Staff?

We are always looking for new staff to join our team this year. If you are interested in writing or contributing, please contact either Sammi Bray or Olivia Silvey through email, which can be found on our website, or the general email, tripod@trincoll.edu!



# NEWS

## Trinity College Welcomes Diverse and Dynamic Class of 2027 with a Selective Admission Rate of 33%

**IQRA ATHAR '26**  
NEWS EDITOR

Trinity College marked the beginning of its 200th academic year by welcoming the Class of 2027. During the Convocation and Matriculation Ceremony, which took place on Aug. 27, President Joanne Berger-Sweeney urged the new students to seize the opportunities that their Trinity journeys offer, emphasizing the profound impact of a liberal arts education.

"I ask that each of you make one commitment to the future that has two elements: a hope for a better tomorrow and an action you will take," said President Berger-Sweeney during the ceremony as she welcomed the new class. This ceremony marked the commencement of the journey for 592 students selected from a pool of 6,510 applications.

In a recent conversation with Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Matthew S. Hyde, the *Tripod* gained valuable insights into the enrollment statistics and demographics of Trinity College's Class of 2027. This incoming class experienced a significant surge in applications, showcasing its diverse backgrounds and dynamic abilities.

Hyde shared that Trinity College received an impressive 6,510 first-year applications, marking a five-year high. The overall acceptance rate for the Class of 2027 stood at 33%, underscoring the College's statements on unwavering commitment to selectivity and academic excellence. Out of this remarkable applicant pool, 592 students successfully matriculated as Bantams in the College's

Bicentennial Class. Furthermore, Hyde revealed that 274 students secured admission through Early Decision (ED1 & ED2) applications.

Among domestic students, 23% identify as students of color, contributing to an overall rate of 33% at the College. Thirteen percent of the class is comprised of foreign nationals hailing from 46 different countries, showcasing Trinity's international reach. Moreover, 16% of the students are first-generation college attendees, supporting the College's claims of dedication to accessibility and inclusivity. Students from 36 U.S. states are joining Trinity College, with 273 students calling New England home.

Trinity College implemented several initiatives and strategies to ensure an inclusive and diverse new class. These efforts included increased investments in diversity-focused recruitment and yield events, the College's active participation in the Global Student Haven Initiative (a consortium of peer institutions dedicated to more deliberately recruiting, admitting, enrolling and supporting students from displaced populations), and a more strategic and intentional approach to creating orientation groups that promote diversity and enrich student experiences.

In a commitment to make Trinity College accessible to all, the Enrollment Team allocated over \$20 million in financial aid resources benefiting just over 60% of the Class of 2027. The majority of these aid dollars were awarded as need-based financial aid packages with a notable reduction and even elimination

of loans for families with annual incomes below \$100,000.

Trinity College's test-optional policy remains unchanged, providing prospective students with flexibility in the admissions process. The academic interests and intended majors of the incoming Class of 2027 remain consistent with previous classes, reflecting a diverse range of academic pursuits.

Hyde noted that Trinity's Class of 2027 still maintains a diverse international presence with 13% of the class being international students. This marks a decrease in the number of international students compared to the previous year, which had the largest proportion of international students in Trinity's history.

Hyde also discussed changes in the national college admissions landscape — specifically increased com-

petition as more students apply to multiple institutions resulting in crowded applicant pools. This heightened competition has led to more uncertainty for prospective students seeking admission to selective colleges and universities. On the flip side, less-resourced and less-selective colleges in smaller and often rural markets are facing notable enrollment challenges. This sentiment is widely shared by colleges as noted by IvyWise, a global educational consulting company, which reports on the influx of applicants and how it could result in more students being placed on waitlists as colleges grapple with the challenge of managing their enrollment numbers effectively.

Overall, Hyde expressed high hopes for the Class of 2027, emphasizing the importance of meaningful engage-

ment and learning among the students. He aspires for them to take full advantage of Trinity's offerings and to be inclusive and action-oriented in their endeavors. Hyde expressed that he "hope[s] Trinity '27 roots itself at the College over the next few months with a collective energy to engage meaningfully with one another and recognize how much they have to learn when they do — certainly when/where commonalities and interests align, but also when/where differences exist."

As Trinity College embarks on its 200th academic year, the Class of 2027 brings promise, diversity and a shared commitment to the values of a liberal arts education. The College eagerly anticipates witnessing their journey and contributions to the Trinity community in the years to come.



CLASS OF 2027 CHECK-IN (PHOTO COURTESY OF TRINITY COLLEGE WEBSITE)

## Intercollegiate Updates: Middlebury, Tufts

**SAVANNAH BROOKS '26**  
MANAGING EDITOR

### Middlebury College

In late July, Middlebury opened a program that would give \$10,000 to the first 30 students who applied to take a leave of absence in the fall. Middlebury, like several other universities across the world, has seen a higher rate of enrollment and numerous students who have delayed their graduation from taking semesters off. The program was only available for rising juniors and seniors and received 63 applications before the application closed on August 3, only four days after it opened. Middlebury is expected to see 2,800 students living on campus in the fall of 2023.

Some Middlebury professors have criticized Middlebury's response to their housing crisis, claiming that the college could have put the money towards fair compensation for faculty and staff. Middlebury has a \$1.5 billion endowment, about \$700 million more than Trinity. Middlebury's SGA claims that they were not informed of this plan before it was unveiled and have spoken out about the lack of communication between administration and the SGA, claiming that students should have been given "more flexibility and time to thoroughly assess their options."

### Tufts University

In a push for fair compensation, Tufts Resident Assistants went on strike starting at 7:30 a.m. during freshman move-in day on Aug. 29. The RAs, armed with signs that had slogans such as "no pay no RA," chanted and marched to form a picket line while freshmen were actively moving in. Tufts RAs currently receive free housing on campus for their work, but argue that they should also receive a stipend.

Negotiations are still ongoing between Tufts and the United Labor of Tufts Resident Assistants (ULTRA). ULTRA and Tufts met for a bargaining session on Friday, Sept. 8, but neither party has released information about the status of the agreement. RAs returned to work after move-in day but have made it clear that they are prepared to strike again if their demands aren't met.

Trinity RAs are not currently officially unionized and are paid anywhere from \$4,900 to \$5,750 a year in the form of a stipend plus \$100 in laundry swipes depending on how many years they've worked and whether they serve first-year or upperclassman communities. A standard room at Trinity costs \$5,390 per semester, more than double what the average RA is paid per semester.



# St. Anthony's Hall Chapter Suspended, Continued

continued from page one

ric Places since 1985. The Chapter Building, located on the northwest corner of Trinity's campus, is owned and managed by the St. Anthony Trust of Hartford. According to Dean DiChristina's email, "St. Anthony Hall National and the fraternity's local alumni board, St. Anthony Trust of Hartford (SATH), following their own disciplinary investigations, have imposed their own sanctions against the Epsilon Chapter, which support the College's sanctions, including banning the undergraduate members from acting in connection with or under any

aegis of St. Anthony Hall." The Chapter Building will be closed to all members throughout the three-year suspension. Hall members who planned to live in Ogilby Hall for the 2023-2024 school year have been placed in alternate housing.

Although it was not mentioned in Dean DiChristina's email, news of the suspension comes less than a year after three swastikas were found carved into a student's door in Ogilby Hall, the dormitory reserved for members of St. Anthony's Hall. The outside investigator hired by Trinity's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion was unable

to find the person responsible; "However, the College did take appropriate action to address other issues brought forth as part of this investigation," according to an email sent on March 1, 2023 from Anita Davis, Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and Dean DiChristina. Any other actions by the College that were taken at that time have not been shared with the student body.

The most recent long-term suspension of a fraternity was in January of 2020. After a physical altercation in November of 2019 between a group of students from Alpha Delta Phi and St. Antho-

ny's Hall, the Hall was censured for one semester, and beginning 2020, Alpha Delta Phi was allegedly suspended for four semesters. However, it is still unclear how this suspension was carried out and whether it was enforced for the entire time period through January 2022.

Twenty years earlier, in 2002, the Hartford Courant reported that Trinity had decided to shut down Alpha Delta Phi for two years following a hazing incident in which a student was treated for severe leg burns, calling the suspension "the school's most serious disciplinary action against a fraternity in more than

20 years." Based on these past incidents, the current three-year suspension of the Hall seems to be the most severe in recent college history.

In his message to the community, Dean DiChristina urged any students who experience or witness hazing to be in contact with the Office of Student and Community Life. "The College is committed to protecting students from any activity that intentionally endangers a student's health and welfare, and it will take decisive action against other students engaged in such activities, as clearly articulated in the Student Handbook."

# Faculty Member Killed in On-Campus Shooting at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

FAITH MONAHAN '24  
NEWS EDITOR

Associate professor Zijie Yan of applied physics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) was killed on Aug. 28 in a shooting on campus. One of his graduate students, Tailai Qi, has been arrested and charged with first degree murder and possession of a firearm on educational property. The incident is still under investigation.

A 911 caller had reported shots fired inside of the Caudill Chemistry Building at 1:03 p.m. Qi had been reported quickly leaving the building following the shooting. Campus security sent an Alert Carolina message to the college community to shelter in place. Students, faculty and staff locked down in classrooms, libraries, dorms and other facilities as the police searched for the shooter. Police arrested and later released a different individual not involved with the shooting on Monday afternoon. The university police released a photo of Qi as a suspect of interest at 2:35 p.m. Qi was located by police at 2:31 p.m. near the UNC campus and placed into custody.

Qi was one of Yan's three Ph.D. students who were members of a research group studying photonics and material

sciences. A motive for the shooting has not been publicly announced by police.

Qi had made various posts on Twitter describing his experiences while in the UNC graduate program prior to the shooting. His social media accounts have since been shut down. Last fall, his posts often included vague descriptions of conflicts involving his fellow graduate students and principal investigator (PI). In October of 2022, Qi posted that "Both the group of people to say I am lazy and that to prove me

working hard instead of telling me that they are trying to consume my privacy." Some posts in June of this year included references to women including "gender quota is not to protect women but to enhance discrimination" and "when this kind of girl shows her 'best' to beg others to 'help' me, all people then look down on me... kind of angelic b\*\*\*\*." A series of Qi's posts were deleted. On July 31, Qi posted that he "would like to make some new friends."

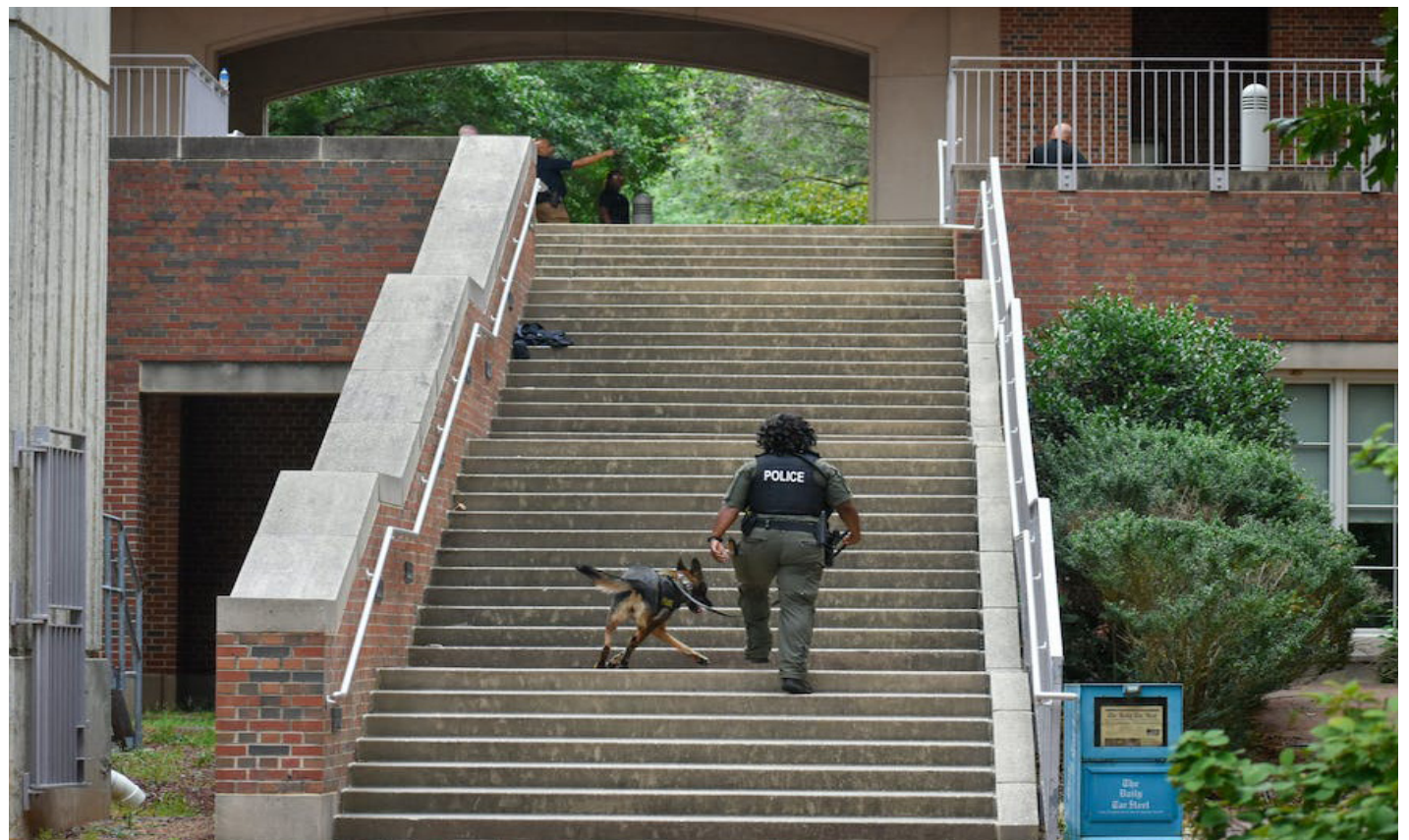
A judge ruled that the

accused shooter will be held in jail without bail. The death penalty will not be sought by the prosecution. The suspect could be facing life in prison for the first-degree murder charge.

The gun used in the shooting was a 9 mm pistol. Officials have stated that the gun has not been recovered from the incident. UNC Police Chief Brian James announced at press conference that police could not announce how many shots were fired in the incident.

It is unclear how gun was obtained. In March of

this year, the NC general assembly overrode the Governor's veto of a law repealing required permits and background checks from local sheriffs for handguns. Law enforcement officials have stated that the suspect has not applied for a firearm permit prior to the veto. North Carolina has seen an increase in stolen guns; however, there is no penalty for lawful gunowners that do not store guns securely. There is also no requirement in North Carolina for gun thefts to be reported to law enforcement.



UNC CHAPEL HILL CAMPUS (PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DAILY TAR HEEL)



# OPINION

## Perspectives on Bicentennial Weekend from a Student

OLIVIA SILVEY '25  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

My job for the Bicentennial Weekend was to come up to Hartford and get a story. Until the very moment that I wrote this, which was late on that Saturday night while many Trinity alumni were still tearing up that dance floor, I thought the story would focus on a speaker event or special dinner. I thought I would go, take my notes, and write up the 5 Ws (and H) of a basic news story. Don't get me wrong, the events and dinners and speakers were all fantastic, but that was not the story of this weekend. Instead, the story I want to tell — feel called to tell — is how I see Trinity now; how the ways I talk and think and walk about the place have utterly changed, thanks to those two days in early June.

My attitude towards my school has fluctuated a lot in the last two years. Recently, to be honest, it has only been going downwards. I see a lot of darkness in this institution, and it has been difficult to find the light switch. Regardless of if I love or hate Trinity, since the beginning, it has not felt like “My Place” or “My Home.” Freshman year was an exciting adventure, full of chance encounters and taking pictures of everything and hearing the birds start chirping at 5am. It was a wild place. But I

did not feel the belonging I expected or yearned for. It was more like a really long vacation from my previous nineteen years in St. Louis, Missouri, and occasions like Thanksgiving or winter break were still “Coming Home.” And then, when those breaks would end, that meant “Going Back.” Kirkwood was my home, no matter how many items of clothing stayed in my Hartford storage unit over the summer.

Then sophomore year happened and a place that I thought would finally feel like my home became even less so. I feel a lump in my throat thinking about how difficult this year's obstacles were and I know there are people out there who feel the same way. The sophomore slump is real. That's okay, because (I hope) there will be a moment like the one I felt that Saturday night that changes everything.

I was sitting at a table in the back of the big tent, watching the thumping mass on the dance floor wave their arms and sing their hearts out to Aloe Blacc. This is when I realized why I had been feeling strange the whole weekend. After I had dragged myself to the finish line of sophomore year, packed up my bags and got the hell out of there, I returned for the Bicentennial and realized Hartford feels like home to me. I know this place. *This is my place.*



FROM TRINITY COLLEGE ALUMNI FLICKR

Looking at the hundreds of people around me, I realized this is their place too — what a wild thought! I guess, I told myself, this means *these are my people* as well. Whether or not we have ever exchanged conversation or have any similar characteristics, we all have the same thing in common. I am forever bound to all of these individuals. I looked around, saw the grass under my feet, and saw that it really was mine. I could feel it.

This was a lot to take in, because it also meant that in forty-eight hours I would not be “Going Home,” but rather I would be going back to my house in Kirkwood. I am now growing out of that home and growing into this new one. That does not erase the hardships of this year, nor the giddiness of freshman year, nor the struggles that lie ahead. I think, may-

be, it just means that you must experience both good and bad in order to understand a place, and to understand it is to be able to call it home. I did not get that until that Saturday night.

It was evident that the people around me that weekend understood it, though. The moment in the tent — wow, I wish you could have been there. Aloe Blacc's pure voice willing you to sing along to Superstition by Stevie Wonder, couples holding hands and waists, rows of bankers and lawyers and managers swaying with arms interlocked around each other's shoulders. You could look a bit more to your left and see children chasing the cutest tiny white dog you have ever seen, while the staff belt out the lyrics as they graciously pick up empty beer cans. The hum of the hundreds of conversations behind you, a

mother and daughter sharing a moment, and waves upon waves upon waves of laughter. It was perfect, it was mine and it was ours.

I encourage you to read a rundown of the weekend on the Bicentennial website; if you attended, to remember this unique experience, and if you didn't, to wish you had, and to prepare for the reunion weekends that await us down the road. But to me, those words do not capture the true essence of this Bicentennial; nothing ever could. Whether you love Trinity, or hate it, or (most likely) are somewhere in the middle, I encourage you to (re)consider your relationship with this institution. Does it feel like “yours”? Why do you think that is? After 200 years of life, I think we owe it to the College, and to ourselves, to spend some time with that question.

## The Republican Presidential Primary is Trump's to Lose

KASH JAIN '24  
OPINION EDITOR

With just over four months left until the 2024 Iowa Republican presidential caucuses, the contest to decide who will face President Joe Biden next November doesn't seem particularly competitive.

Despite a primary crowded with big names, one towers above all: former President Donald Trump, attempting a comeback bid. Trump has sat at or above 50% in national polling for the entire duration of the primary. His decision not to appear among his fellow candidates at the first debate has hardly impaired his chances; he remains a clear favorite among potential primary voters and, thus, a clear favorite for the nomination. At present, he appears to be headed for a commanding victory, a far wider margin than his 2016 plurality win.

The former president's primary opposition comes from Florida Governor Ron

DeSantis, who once appeared to be a formidable opponent. For a moment, it seemed as though DeSantis could sell himself as an alternative to Trump: far-right, but without the brash rhetoric. Whether the portrait of DeSantis painted by Republican electeds and operatives was ever truly accurate is questionable; regardless, the hopes of his candidacy have fallen with his polling. Vivek Ramaswamy, a businessman with bold policy stances, has gained some ground and significant attention from voters and the media, but he's struggled to break even 10% in the polls.

Outside of DeSantis, the only current office-holders are South Carolina Senator Tim Scott, who lacks a single notable policy difference from Trump, and North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum, a name that elicits little more than “who?” The rest of the field consists of has-beens, people whose titles are delivered with “former” before

them. These are names that may still carry weight, but not enough to propel one to victory at the national level.

This isn't to say that a candidate who doesn't currently hold an elected office is necessarily a poor one — Trump, of course, is a former president, and Biden ran in 2020 as a former vice president. However, most of the “formers” of today are too distant from the modern GOP to be seriously considered by its voters. They've been left behind by an increasingly-extreme party governed by activists eager to weaponize political power.

Beyond his position as token opposition, there's no demand for a “common-sense” candidate like former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie. There's no appetite for a foreign-policy focused candidate like former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley. This is a party whose voters have moved beyond them and aren't interested in looking back.

The remaining serious alternatives all share Trump's far-right stances or have even moved beyond him, like DeSantis and Ramaswamy. Their stances are relevant enough for voters to seriously consider them — but, they both fall to one question: why are they a better candidate than Trump? It's difficult to find a response, especially given how Trump is perceived by voters. He won nationally in 2016, and many Republican voters still erroneously believe that the 2020 election was stolen from him. Even with the declining support for his brand among the general electorate, Republicans regard him as someone who can win, and they're still entertained by him.

The series of indictments against the former president may make him appear worse to many voters, but they only bolster his credibility among Republicans. There is a distinct perception, one that Trump has effectively latched

onto: that he is under attack. He is viewed as a political opponent who is being persecuted, someone who is being unfairly targeted and hasn't done anything wrong. Seventy seven percent of likely GOP primary voters believe that the indictment in Georgia is politically motivated, and said indictment was followed by a 25% growth in Trump's margin over DeSantis. The indictments have created a rally around the flag, as conservatives turn from potential alternatives to support someone they perceive as being under attack.

While things can always change, Trump's dominance over the field seems unlikely to fade — if anything, as his legal troubles continue, Republican voters will likely coalesce around him even more. There's no appetite for a serious, moderate alternative, and even more right-wing ones will struggle to sell themselves over the nationally-tested former President.



# Free Speech Protection Does Not Enable Online Abuse

AVA CAUDLE '25  
OPINION EDITOR

"I've had tapped phone lines before. What do you fear?"

This DM was sent by Billy Raymond Counterman, a man who fixated on a local musician (referred to as C.W.) and continuously sent disturbing messages to her via Facebook. The Supreme Court heard his case this year, igniting worries about its significant meaning for the future of online speech. He refused to stop his rampage of attempts to get a response from C.W., even after being blocked time after time. The increasingly concerning messages implied that he was watching her and expressed a desire to harm her (from "Was that you in the white Jeep?" to "I'm currently unsupervised. I know, it freaks me out too, but the possibilities are endless."). Counterman was reported to the authorities and arrested. He faced charges of stalking

(with serious emotional distress) and harassment, but his counsel argued that the messages were protected by the First Amendment and thus could not be considered "true threats." The Colorado Court of Appeals upheld his conviction, bringing his case to the national level.

*Counterman's* issue revolves around true threats and the extent of the First Amendment's protection towards concerning language. His messages "upended (C.W.'s) daily existence" as she self-isolated and was even driven to leave the state, but the Supreme Court decided in June that Billy Counterman's charges were unconstitutional. The Court determined that no matter how objectively disturbing his DMs were, his speech was protected because Counterman claimed he did not personally intend to threaten her.

On the first page of her introduction for the majority, Justice Kagan wrote, "The State must show that

the defendant consciously disregarded a substantial risk that his communications would be viewed as threatening violence." It is baffling, then, that she did not view Mr. Counterman's actions as a conscious disregard for the law or C.W.'s safety. There is no more explicit form of communi-

not an instance of well-intentioned speech gone awry; it is the tale of an unstable man's feelings of entitlement to the attention of a woman in danger. His words manifested a life of their own far beyond the Facebook chat screen and impacted her to the point of distress, a fact that the

take a firm stand against the excess of dangerous speech online. An opportunity for clarity became a decision that infantilized and reduced accountability from abusers. The American foundation entails an exercise of rights—accompanied by responsibility. The First Amendment is meant to expand our knowledge and expose Americans to a diverse array of ideas contributing to public dialogue (even ideas one may not enjoy hearing). But what purpose does constitutional protection serve when applied to speech that serves no real purpose beyond terrorizing the subject, thus infringing on their safety or well-being? This right is more than an intangible concept. Its real-life ramifications for people like C.W. make it imperative that the Supreme Court draw boundaries for the sake of combatting destructive vitriol and uplifting more genuine, constructive exchange.

*"An opportunity for clarity became a decision that infantilized and reduced accountability from abusers."*

cating discomfort online than continuous blocking, which C.W. implemented and Counterman ignored by creating new accounts and repeatedly messaging her. In doing so, he demonstrated a lack of boundaries and an unhealthy attachment toward a stranger, which he perpetuated by persisting in his contact. This is a problem for a mental health treatment center to address, not the Court. Counterman's case is

Supreme Court has essentially deemed insignificant through its assertion that Counterman just didn't "mean" what he sent to her. By dismissing C.W.'s fear instead of holding the internet harasser accountable for his increasingly concerning messages, the bench is minimizing the impact of these incidents on victims across the nation.

With the emergence of the *Counterman* case, this Court had the chance to

# God Bless the Genocidal Queen: Britain Honors the First Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's Death

SARAH DAJANI '26  
OPINION EDITOR

Queen Elizabeth II's death brought to the world's attention "unfinished colonial business." As the face of a brutal, barbaric, barbarous colonial rule, the death of the queen should bring upon reflection, rather than mourning. For many in Africa, Asia, the Pacific and the Americas this is exactly what her majesty's death has done.

Since its colonial reign, Britain has legislated laws that prevent the return of stolen artifacts, like the Greek Parthenon marbles; the Nigerian Benin Bronzes of Oba of Benin, and the Egyptian Rosetta Stone. The British government still gives justifications that reflect a feeling of a burden of a civilizing mission, and of course, ingrained white supremacy. Pretexts like 'returning the artifacts could endanger their state,' still identifies the nations - whose jewels are on the majesty's crown and art and history is within the 'global cultural hubs' in Britain and throughout imperial Europe as savage, unsophisticated and in need of European enlightenment. Ironically, the British National Museum recently announced the theft of 2,000 artifacts

from the safe haven, i.e., Britain. Many view this as an opportunity for Britain to sympathize with other victims of theft and finally return its stolen artifact.

To this day, there is no institutionalized understanding of the significance of reparations and the importance of decolonization in achieving freedom and stability. The effects of European imperialism are constantly undermined and avoided. Demanding reparations is not just for Britain to hold accountability for civil wars, African diaspora in the Caribbean and global wealth inequality. Reparations free the oppressed from their own sense of inferiority and

pressed 'regret' regarding the abuses that 'took place' in the concentration camps of the Mau Mau people of Kenya. Although the British government settled a lawsuit by three elderly Kenyan torture victims with a package worth of £19.9 million in compensation for colonial era torture. Despite these achievements, the language Britain still uses deflects accountability of what happened and still aims to seem as a beacon of culture and civilization. Meanwhile, the communities being 'compensated', like the Mau people, insist that the importance of these reparations is to acknowledge that they were never savages, but Freedom

ing the return of their relatives' skulls. About 7,700 skulls were held by Berlin's Charité hospital until 2011 for racist and discredited science on white racial superiority. In Sub Saharan Africa, France continues to meddle with the politics and control the economics of its former colonists, preventing economic sovereignty from flourishing. The pride in the historical achievements of these former colonies cannot be separated from their crimes in their colonies. Europe and its settler colonies still place themselves on an ivory tower of high morality; whether by accepting refugees and exploiting them, or interfering in West Asia and stealing its resources, reparations are only one part of decolonization.

Although this piece righteously centers decolonization as it relates to the oppressed, decolonization is of equal relevance for the oppressors. As the global majority complains about inflated prices and wealth inequality, it would be almost tangible to bring up the 'compromise' that helped secure the abolition of slavery. In the 19th century, Britain was not so reluctant to reparations, even taking loans to fund compensation of slave owners, in a convenient, yet

expensive 'mistake, instead of the slaves themselves. The Bank of England took out a loan to finance the £20 million compensation (£300 million in today's money) to slave owners, a loan that was only paid off in 2015. The Bank of England clearly states "the strong links between financial institutions in the City of London, the capital generated through the transatlantic slavery economy, and the compensation process during the 1830s." Yet, there has barely been demanders and protesters objecting to the taxes that are poured into the wealthy for their crimes against humanity. The British system is in gratitude for the ignorance of its people about the crimes of Britain, to rebel against wealth inequality in Britain. Without institutionalizing the crimes of colonial powers in schools and education, we will never recover from the crimes of colonialism.

Here in the U.S., attempts to educate the citizens of the history of its history are heavily fought. Works like the 1619 project and critical race theory are seen as radical and corrupting instead of essential and redeeming. And this is where our role as privileged students lie in advocating for the denied rights of the silenced.

*"Europe and its settler colonies still place themselves on an ivory tower of high morality."*

the conscious European from their own feeling of guilt. Unfortunately, reparations require a fight and navigating a bureaucratic and, often, unfamiliar system made up by the colonists.

This past week, Britain returned more than 174 objects to the indigenous Anindilyakwa community in Australia. Back in 2013, The British government ex-

fighters; thereby exposing Britain's barbaric qualities.

The focus on Britain heightened and felt more relevant with her majesty's anniversary and the news about the stolen artifacts, but nations are demanding reparations from all the different colonial and settler colonial powers. In Tanzania, Rwanda and Namibia, people are demand-



# FEATURES

## The Historic Cinestudio at Trinity College: Where Classic Films Thrive in a Classic Theatre

JULIA PECORA '25  
FEATURES EDITOR

On the verdant campus of Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, Cinestudio stands as a testament to the enduring power of cinema. Founded in 1970 by a group of passionate students, this beloved theater has been captivating audiences for over five decades with its diverse programming, top-notch projection, and impeccable sound quality.

Once the theater opened in 1970, Cinestudio quickly became a haven for cinephiles seeking diverse and innovative programming. What was once a crumbling old lecture hall was transformed by a group of students whose imaginations benefitted the lives of Trinity College students for decades. Implementing state of the art acoustics into and design inspiration modeling a beautiful 1930s film house within just two years.

With the assistance of Ralph Mauro from National Theater Supply and Lonny Jennings at Dolby, Cinestudio

tackled its initial sound issues. They threw open their doors to the public on February 16, 1970, for a grand opening that was completely sold out. The double feature of "Alice's Restaurant" and "The Beatles' Yellow Submarine" set the stage for Cinestudio's enduring legacy.

As the years rolled on, Cinestudio continued to push the boundaries of cinema, screening controversial and avant-garde films that challenged conventional norms. They introduced audiences to the works of Swedish director Ingmar Bergman, debuted eventual cult classics like "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," and thrilled moviegoers with Stanley Kubrick's "2001: A Space Odyssey" on their 70mm projectors. From sold-out showings of "Harold and Maude" to mind-bending experiences with "Eraserhead," Cinestudio has always been a place where cinephiles unite to celebrate the art of cinema.

Today, Cinestudio stands as a testament to the enduring love for film. It not only provides a platform for

the screening of epic veteran films but also embraces new creative masterpieces. What sets Cinestudio apart is its commitment to education, offering young people the opportunity to learn how to operate a fully professional movie theater with the highest technical standards. This cooperative venture, led by dedicated volunteers, has thrived under the steady hands of two founding members, James Hanley and Peter McMorris, who manage its day-to-day operations, including nightly projections. With a staff of approximately 50 student and community volunteers, Cinestudio continues to light up screens seven days a week, ensuring the legacy of cinema lives on.

From now until September 12, Cinestudio is inviting moviegoers to embark on a cinematic journey with a true classic – "The Godfather." This iconic masterpiece, directed by the legendary Francis Ford Coppola, tells the story of the Corleone family and their intricate web of power, loyalty, and betrayal. As you settle into the plush

seats of Cinestudio's historic theater, you'll be transported to the world of Don Vito Corleone, played by the incomparable Marlon Brando.

With legendary projection and superb sound quality, Cinestudio ensures that every nuance of this cinematic gem is experienced in its full glory. So, whether you're a die-hard fan or experiencing "The Godfather" for the first time, don't miss this opportunity to witness cinema history unfold on the big screen.

The cinematic offerings at Cinestudio don't end with the Corleone family saga. On September 22, the theater will welcome a different kind of classic – "Barbie." This beloved doll, who has captured the hearts of generations, is making her way to the silver screen in a delightful and heartwarming adventure.

"Barbie" promises a beautiful, eye-opening experience that will enchant audiences of all ages. It's the perfect opportunity to bring the kids, or the young at heart, for a cinematic escape filled with inspiring messages about gender equality.

Cinestudio's commitment to making the magic of cinema accessible to everyone is exemplified by its incredibly reasonable ticket prices. General admission tickets are available for a mere \$10, while students with a valid Trinity Student ID can secure their tickets for just \$8. Friends of Cinestudio enjoy an exclusive rate of \$7, and seniors aged 62 and up can relish the cinematic experience for a mere \$8. With prices this affordable, there's no excuse to miss out on the cinematic joy that Cinestudio offers.

In conclusion, we implore you to seize the opportunity to experience the enchantment of Cinestudio. Whether you're immersing yourself in the iconic world of "The Godfather" or sharing a delightful evening with "Barbie," Cinestudio promises an unforgettable cinematic experience.

Let's remember that great films are meant to be seen on the big screen, where the magic truly comes alive. Cinestudio's historic theater make it the perfect destination for your next movie night.

## Riverfront Recapture: A Lesser Known Hartford Attraction

ABBEY O'LEARY '24  
FEATURES EDITOR

As residents of Hartford during the school year, we all know that it is a diverse and vibrant city that has worked hard in recent years to establish itself as a lively urban center in New England. Over the past few years, the city has made efforts in development and has structured its downtown center to become a much more user-friendly and active district. With plenty of activities to choose from, including Yard Goats games at Dunkin Donuts Park in the spring and fall, checking out some of the many restaurants surrounding downtown Hartford, or catching a UConn basketball game in the winter, there are plenty of fun attractions right down the street from Trinity's campus. Perhaps a lesser-known attraction, but one worth noting, is Hartford's Riverfront Park. Right in the center of the city, this park is a beautiful space that offers a great way to get outside and enjoy both the city and nature year-round.

Established in 1981, the Riverfront Recapture project entered Hartford with the hope of connecting people with the Connecticut River

and the surrounding environment in general by providing clean and safe outdoor spaces. The Riverfront Recapture project now runs and maintains four different waterfront parks as well as their surrounding trails. After the first few years gained traction, the project was approved by the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund in 1983, granting Hartford and East Hartford the means to construct a joint park. After years of construction and development, Charter Oak Landing was officially opened in 1989. Finally, in 2003, the downtown Hartford park was launched and opened to the public for use. Even after launching the park in the city, Riverfront Recapture has continued to implement improvement programs and continues to acquire more land and space to revitalize both the Connecticut River and the city of Hartford, making it a safe place for residents and visitors to go and relax, exercise, and enjoy nature.

The Riverfront Park in Hartford is connected by an extended river walk that runs from East Hartford to Mortensen Plaza in downtown Hartford. Beyond just an open outdoor space, Riv-

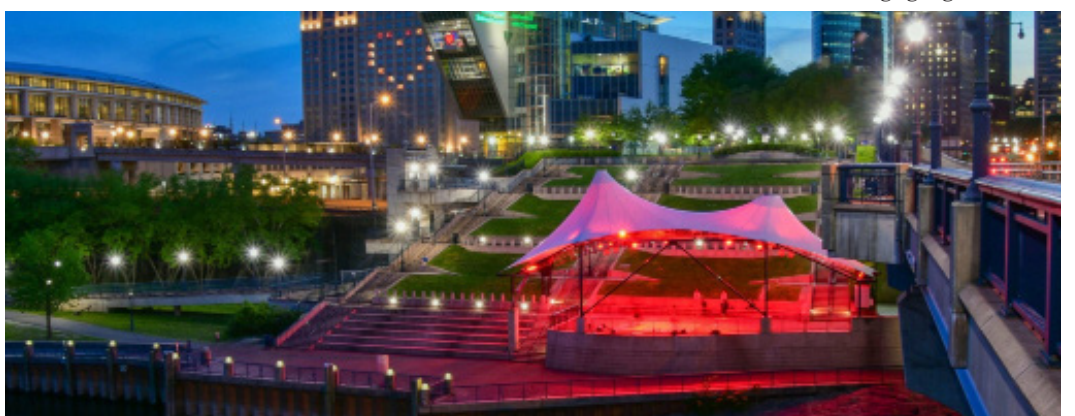
erfront Recapture attracts guests to the park regularly with community events, resources, and activities. On one end of the river walk, the Greater Hartford Jaycees Community Boathouse is home to a bay of boats and a boat launch which houses a large community rowing program. From summer training camps to both youth and adult competitive teams, the Riverfront Boathouse is an active part of the local community. Additionally, the Boathouse hosts an annual regatta in the fall, Head of the Riverfront, where a number of different crew teams traveling from all over New England and surrounding states come to race. However, the Riverfront Boathouse does not require skill to use the water. Options for free community rowing and kayaking are avail-

able to the public as well.

Aside from rowing, Riverfront Recapture also hosts many different community events as well. For instance, the park has a few upcoming music and athletic attractions this fall. On September 15th, "Changes in Latitudes" will be hosted at seven o'clock pm, a musical tribute to the late Jimmy Buffet, at which a tribute band will commemorate some of Buffet's most celebrated songs. The festivities continue on to the next day, September 16th, when a Gospel Festival will take place at the park at five o'clock pm. This festival will be full of energy and excitement, celebrating faith and unity through music and community engagement. Continuing on to the next weekend, the Riverfront Dance Fest will be

held on September 21st at six o'clock pm, in which local student and professional dance groups will be highlighted. And, on September 23rd, the Hartford Healthcare Community 5K will be held for the first time. The run will kick off at Mortensen Park and will trail along the riverside and through the parks and trails. Finally, the above-mentioned Head of the Riverfront regatta will take place on October 1st at eight o'clock a.m.

The Riverfront Recapture project has transformed downtown Hartford and has fostered the growth of a community that comes together to share in and celebrate the city and surrounding areas. Just down the road from Trinity, the Riverfront parks offer a great space to escape campus and join in some fun and engaging events.



COURTESY OF RIVERFRONT RECAPTURE



# The New Dining Experience at Trinity College: Mather Dining Hall and Student Meal Plan Reimagined

JORGE ESPINOZA-GONZALEZ '26  
FEATURES EDITOR

Nestled within the hallowed precincts of Trinity College, Mather Hall stands as a historic edifice, its origins dating back to the venerable year of 1927. Over the span of nearly a century, this architectural relic has served as a bastion of tradition and an emblem of academic excellence. It has functioned as the nucleus of campus life, offering sustenance through dining facilities, spaces for meetings, and a crucible of social interaction. The classical architecture and rich historical tapestry enveloping Mather Hall have bestowed upon it a status as an iconic representation of the institution's storied past. Nevertheless, the inexorable march of time necessitated recognition of the evolving requisites of its academic community and the imperative of furnishing contemporary amenities. In response, Trinity College undertook the formidable task of renovating Mather Hall's dining room during the summer months.

This renovation endeavor was conducted with meticulous attention to preserving the building's original charm and historical relevance, even as its interior under-

went a profound transformation. The physical configuration of the dining spaces underwent a substantial redesign, especially with the tearing and construction of walls—all to manifest a modern and inviting ambiance. In its present form, Mather Hall boasts spacious, well-lit dining areas, presenting students with a congenial environment in which to partake in their meals. Furthermore, the introduction of contemporary furnishings and décor was a calculated move intended to elevate the overall dining experience, fostering a semblance of community and relaxation. The symbiosis between conservation and modernization encapsulates Trinity College's unwavering commitment to honoring its heritage even as it looks towards the future.

A notable addition among the renovations is the introduction of an unlimited swipes dining pass as well as extended hours. The hall is to be open, Monday to Friday, from 7:30 am to 8:00 pm. On weekends, from 10:30 am to 7:00 pm. The extended hours and the new dining pass hope to allow students the freedom and flexibility to dine at Mather without limitations.

Another of the new ad-



COURTESY OF TRINITY COLLEGE

ditions to Mather is the development of new recipes and culinary innovations. The dining team has promised to create a greater diverse menu that caters to a wider range of tastes and dietary preferences. In response to the growing demand for healthier dining choices, Trinity College's dining services have made strides in offering nutritious and sustainable options and displaying the nutrients of the food available on screens.

The college aimed to create a contemporary dining experience that not only accommodates a diverse range of culinary preferences and dietary restrictions but also

aligns with principles of sustainability. Composting and waste reduction, although here before the remodeling, have been seamlessly intensified into the dining experience. This transformation not only enhances the quality of life for students but also reflects Trinity College's commitment to environmental responsibility. In addition, Mather Hall now boasts energy-efficient lighting, which has been approved by the Green Restaurant Association, reducing its environmental footprint while ensuring a comfortable environment for its occupants. The dining hall now also offers a mix of plastic and steel for its bowls, cups, plates, and silverware.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of this renovation is its direct impact on the student experience. The renovated Mather Hall is meant as a space where students can not only nourish their bodies but also engage in meaningful interactions, fostering personal growth, leadership skills, and a sense of belonging. Mather Hall has been reimagined as a space for collaboration and intellectual growth through the extended hours. These flexible hours encourage students to utilize the hall in other ways apart from dining, including meeting up with friends and other rendezvous.

Toby Chenette, district manager for Chartwells, when asked about the plans to make Mather Hall more than a dining place, said: "We want to change the vibe for students who are busy... I'd love to see [Mather Hall] used in ways it hasn't before. I hope it becomes more of a hangout [spot]."

Perhaps it will become so. But not without a cost. There is the actual cost of the reno-

vation, discretized at the time of this article. To students, it is an extra \$400 per semester. Many popular sections of the hall, such as the pasta bar and the extensive dessert bar, have become relics of the past. Students are also not to wait in line for their turn to order, rather they scan a QR code and order online. Yet, although convenient, this way to order is swiftly becoming tedious confusing. More confusing however, is the details of the meal plan. According to an email sent to students in June, students have five meal plan trades a week for 'retail.' Before, we could do so on Thursdays and exchange the meal plans, however many it was that we had left, for snacks and beverages. But now, even the fridges are gone. So where do students exchange those swipes? Additionally, students are to have \$175 to use at Peter B's, the Underground and the Bistro. Are they still valid? Mather Hall is also claimed to have increased seating by 36%. However, students continue to struggle to find somewhere to sit.

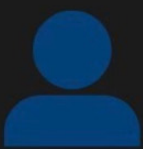
The transformation of Mather Hall isn't merely a short-term endeavor. It symbolizes Trinity College's strategic vision for the future. Through investing in its infrastructure and creating spaces that cater to the evolving needs of students, Trinity positions itself as an institution preparing to meet the challenges and opportunities of higher education in the decades to come. However, this renovation has met mixed reviews from students, which may discourage future renovations—especially those essential to the student experience. Of course, the extensive renovation of Mather Hall is historic, but the necessity of it is still to be proven.

## VOLLEY FOR A CAUSE

22  
SEP

GATES QUAD

AT 6:00PM



6-10 players



\$ 5/ Player

Benefits ConnectiKids

Presented by Trinity College Inter-Greek Council





# Arts & Entertainment

## Say Goodbye to Summer: Five Songs I Had on Repeat

LINNEA MAYO '26  
A&E EDITOR

This summer I found myself wandering around Trinity's deserted college campus for 10 weeks, and often relied on music as an escape from this reality. Music always finds a way to articulate exactly what I am experiencing and feeling, and through constantly exploring new artists and albums, I learned a lot about my personal music taste this summer. Nothing brings me more joy than carefully creating playlists, so I figured I would share 5 songs from my summer 2023 playlist, titled "Summer in 3 states" that I could not stop listening to.

### "Honey" by Samia

*Honey* is the title track of Samia's third album, and despite its repetitive lyrics makes me feel nostalgic every time I listen to it. The lyric, "I got my girls and a hopeful heart," is a sentiment I resonated with throughout the summer and reminds me how simple life feels when I'm with friends. This song is a warm hearted description of the simplicity of girlhood and all things summer.

### "Highlands" by Middle Kids

I listened to this song on repeat during the short time this summer I returned to my hometown. Right off the bat the song describes a fading town and yearning to leave. For me this desire for change often comes from feeling like I'm not doing enough, especially in the summer. The repeating line of "Out of the dark, into the highlands/ Give me your heart, I wanna hide it / And I can't keep waiting for things to change" seems to describe coming to a point where you realize it's okay to break away and move on. The entire song paints a picture of running towards a sense of freedom.

### "There's a Light that Never Goes Out" by The Smiths

I had listened to some of the Smiths prior to this summer, but after playing this song on repeat in my friends car throughout June, I couldn't help but add it to almost all of my playlists. It's perfect for driving around with no final destination in mind with people that you love. Morrissey talks about not being afraid of death if the last moments are with the people you care about, and his lyrics describe feeling alive while you're still young. Hearing the lyric, "Because I want to see people / And I want to see lights," after the loneliness of the campus all summer made me yearn for this feeling to return and to soon be reunited with friends and family.

### "The Water" by Indigo de Souza

One thing I learned this summer is how reliant I am on water, especially in the summer. Having grown up near Lake Michigan, almost all my summer days were spent at the beach. You could imagine my despair within the first week of being on campus over the summer - landlocked and constantly burning in the sun.

By my last week, I was itching to go in a body of water, and it wasn't until my friends and I roadtripped to Burlington, Vermont and I listened to this song for the first time that it finally began feeling like summer. Indigo de Souza (quite literally) encapsulates the feeling of excitement and peace that the water has always brought me. This song is perfect for driving to the beach and the anticipation of a long summer's day ahead.

*If you like "The Water" by Indigo de Souza, check out these songs: "Life Goes By" by almost monday; "The Beach" by WolfAlice; "Girl!" by Terror Pigeon; "Gotta Get Away" by Vista Kicks; "Sunny Jones" by West 22nd.*

### "Free"

#### by Florence and the Machine

Florence describes that this song is about the push and pull of her anxiety, and how music and dancing helps her gain control over it, even if just for a moment. Throughout the summer it was hard not to get caught up with worries and overthinking the future.

This song freed me from the constant worry and stress of life, and helped me recognize that it's okay to take a break and focus on things that bring you peace and security. This song also served as a reminder that although I'm growing up, I'm still young and am allowed to not have everything figured out.

*If you like "Free" by Florence and the Machine, check out these songs: "Anybody Out There" by Young Mister; "The King" by Sarah Kinsley; "Your Light" by The Big Moon; "This is the Life" by Amy Macdonald; "Heat Above" by Greta Van Fleet; "Woodland" by The Paper Kites.*

## AAC Announces Fall Productions: "Joy!" & "Machinal"

LINNEA MAYO '26  
A&E EDITOR

This upcoming fall, The Austin Arts Center returns with two productions, "Joy!" and "Machinal." From Oct. 13 to Oct. 14 2023, "Joy!" is kicking off their 2023-24 season. Tailored to Trinity's new bicentennial celebrations and Fall Weekend, "Joy!" will be directed by Tandy Beal, a choreographer and performer who has performed solo and in an ensemble across four continents. The show will consist of an ensemble of dancers, acrobats and circus performers, who will be performing alongside live music from a cappella group SoVoSó. SoVoSó sings an array of jazz, gospel and R&B, and these performances will surely bring music, dance, and fun to Trinity. This production will include students, faculty and professionals from Trinity and Hartford,

and all performances will be staged in the Austin Arts Center's Goodwin Theater.

Nov. 30 to Dec. 2, Austin Art's will stage "Machinal," a 1928 play that is based on the real life case of Ruth Snyder, young woman convicted of murdering her husband and thus executed in the electric chair. Sophie Treadwell's story will be directed by Trinity alum Teri Incampo '12, and assistant directed by Lily McMahon '24. This production will be held in the Austin Arts Center's Goodwin Theater. This production was produced and directed by Arthur Hopkins, and opened on Broadway at the Plymouth Theatre from September to November of 1928.

Be sure to enjoy these shows and if you are interested in visiting or getting involved with the Austin Arts Center, visit <https://www.trincoll.edu/austin-arts-center/>.



AUSTIN ARTS CENTER (PHOTO COURTESY OF FOURSQUARE)



# Stages of a Summer Love Story in Four Songs

HANNAH LORENZO '24  
A&E EDITOR

During the lazy days of summer, I found myself daydreaming a summer love story. In a musical sense, at least. It might have stemmed from the plethora of lovey-dovey OSTs from K-dramas, coupled with my habit to match romance songs to novels that I binge-read this summer. All the while, I pretend I am these main characters, humming along to the songs which turn the ideals of love into journeys of self-understanding and freeing imagination.

The music behind the love stories is my favorite part, from its melodies that capture the ever-changing moods of romance to the lyrics that make corny one-liners sound much better. So, I turned up my Spotify playlist filled with songs representing all stages of such a love story. Here is a mini playlist that creates just one of the summer romance daydreams right from the first lyric, voiced by a diverse set of artists who implement cinematic-worthy soundtracks to the silly crush interactions, vulnerable moments of trust and the moving-ons.

## Stage 1: "From The Start" by Laufey

Laufey is an Icelandic-Chinese artist known for her smooth vocals and songs that take you back to Ella Fitzgerald's jazz era. Many of her songs echo the timeless jazz vibes that are perfect for cozying up on the couch with a romance novel in hand. "From The Start" starts this love story with a confession to a new love, despite them not feeling the same way. This song feels timid yet bold, as one may feel by shyly expressing their held-back feelings for the first time and accepting the possibility of love's rejection. The lyric, "Don't you notice how I get quiet when there's no one else around?" visualizes those little tells of a crush as well as the frustrations of being unseen by someone who takes up your inner mirror. Hopefully, your significant other gets the hint and truly sees you.

## Stage 2: "Someday" by Max Drazen

Max Drazen takes us to stage 2 if the confession succeeds and the feelings are reciprocated. His rise as a pop singer is supported by his steady vocals and ability to depict relatable love stories through his powerful song collection. "Someday" represents both the rush of youthful love and pause of self-reflection. It's the subtle shifts of the eyes toward each other and the constant smiling. It is the feeling of connecting to your kindred spirit, bonding on this plane of timelessness and hope. Drazen sings, "I wanna be who you need me, how you perceive me," which tests the balanced scales of love for oneself and your significant other. This stage determines the leap of trust for acceptance and devotion within the relationship.

## Stage 3: "Forever Right Now" by Conor Matthews

"Forever Right Now" exemplifies Conor Matthews's impressive harmonies and melodies that are perfect to listen to while driving underneath the starlit sky. This song is the epitome of a romance movie soundtrack, especially when played during the montage scene of a couple walking through the park, lying on the grass, and contemplating their future together. "I wish I could freeze this moment right here next to you" is my favorite lyric in the song, which symbolizes the valuable peace of being in each other's presence and the shared role of being the main characters of their shared life story.

## Stage 4: "Not Me It's You" by Grace Kinstler

Ending on a lower note, Grace Kinstler's "Not Me It's You" demonstrates her clear runs and the break-up stage. Though this song is more on the lines of breaking up with a friend, I relate this to the eventual transition from partner, ex-partner, friend, to ex-friend. The lyric, "How you gonna lean on my shoulder? But when I'm fallin', you don't show up," resonates with the issue of a disappointing relationship, when the cheesy one-liners go stale and the clock breaks the timeless feeling. Some of these imagined love stories are quick to rise and fall, but teach us about the challenging reality of love. This, of course, is not the very last stage of love for the main character. So, I bask in the lovey-dovey, cringe-worthy, and thought-provoking scenes playing in my head and rearrange my playlist that sings of an unfinished love story. After all, love stories are boring without a complex plot and a good soundtrack.

# Bridging South Asian and Western Media: Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani Movie Review

RAJSI RANA '26  
STAFF WRITER

Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani, or Rocky and Rani's Love Story, is a new Bollywood movie that I would highly recommend watching, especially to all the Barbie lovers out there. The movie starts off unexpectedly — Rani, a TV news anchor meets Rocky, the son of a family with a famous sweets business. Slowly but surely Rani, whose family is progressive and academically oriented, begins to fall for Rocky, who comes from a family with more traditional perspectives. Rani's mother is an English professor, and her father is a Kathak dance teacher. In their household, they speak in English often and have intellectually stimulating and open conversation. In comparison, Rocky's family members hold more old-fashioned roles, with his mother serving as a housewife, while his father runs their family business.

Seemingly, Rani and Rocky could not be more different from one another, growing up with completely

different family structures, values, and perspectives. Still, they fall for each other. In India, it is common that after marriage, the woman moves into the man's house and lives alongside his family. Due to Rani's progressive values, she decides they should both move into each other's houses, in order to see if both families would permit their marriage, and so that they both get the chance to know each other's families.

Rani's family appears to be kind, and treat Rocky well. However, their bias is shown when they don't introduce Rocky to their friends, implying that he is not bright enough for their circle because he doesn't speak English. However, they warm up to him as he learns Kathak from Rani's dad, and they begin to understand that they're behaving pretentiously.

Rocky's family, on the other hand, greets Rani coldly. They do not make her feel welcome in her home, a rather oppressive environment. She quickly learns that she is expected to pray often, serve the family, and remain

quiet, though she does not succumb to these expectations. She quickly becomes friends with Rocky's sister and mother, pushing past their initial quieter persona's. They discover that his sister is a fountain of knowledge about investment banking, and his mother is a talented singer. She influences them to take charge of their lives, rather than allowing the male figures in their lives to hold so much power.

Rocky aur Rani is a story about two people with families with seemingly no commonalities. It is a story about love, but also about the effects of the patriarchy, the ideas of what a masculine man is supposed to be and how that is upheld through generations, and the harm of looking down at people due to a difference in language or education.

This movie, within the first few minutes of watching, quickly became a favorite. On top of having all of the classics of a Bollywood movie — beautiful traditional clothing, contemporary versions of old Hindi songs, and memorable cine-

matography, it also reminded me that the world, with social media and increased connectivity throughout all countries, is more on the same page than ever before. This movie discussed topics such as cancel culture,

which have only recently become a world-wide topic. This movie also started to build the bridge between South Asian and Western media by discussing topics that would be relatable to people of all backgrounds.



COURTESY OF DHARMA PRODUCTIONS



# SPORTS

## Detroit Lions Achieve Stunning Victory Over Kansas City Chiefs in First Game of the 2023 NFL Season

CECE HAMPTON '24  
SPORTS EDITOR

Last Thursday night, the 2023 NFL season officially began, with the reigning Super Bowl champions the Kansas City Chiefs taking on the Detroit Lions at home in Arrowhead Stadium. In a stunning turn of events, the Lions defeated the Chiefs 21 - 20, earning Detroit its first 1-0 start since the 2017 season. Lions running back David Montgomery scored an 8-yard touchdown with just over 7 minutes left in the game, putting the Lions in the lead for the remainder of the match up. This was the Chiefs' first loss in a season opener since 2014, to a team that did not even make the playoffs of last season's game play. The Lions' rookie class came up strong against the Chiefs, proving their readiness for the big leagues.

With just under three minutes remaining in the first quarter of the game, Lions wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown scored the game's first touchdown after receiving a 9-yard catch from quarterback Jared Goff. By

his fourth catch of the game, St. Brown became the first player in Lions history to achieve 200 receptions within his first three seasons in the NFL. Goff and St. Brown have been a dynamic duo on the field together since 2021, when St. Brown joined the Lions. Goff currently holds the third-longest streak of consecutive passes without an interception in the NFL, after extending his total to 359 on Thursday. Goff worked well with new skill guys like tight end Sam LaPorta, running back Jahmyr Gibbs, and wideout Marvin Jones Jr.

After intercepting Chiefs' quarterback Patrick Mahomes for a pick-six, rookie defensive back Brian Branch became the first Lions player to score a defensive touchdown in a first career game since Louis Delmas in 2009. Just 21 years old and hailing from Alabama, previous coaches and teammates share glowing praise of Branch. As the 46th pick in the second draft round, Branch has demonstrated his preparedness for NFL action by performing the big play of the game Thurs-

day, and will be an interesting player to keep an eye on over the coming weeks.

Lion's Coach Campbell said that while the rookies have a lot of things to work on, they were crucial to winning against the Chiefs, and they are bound to keep improving through games two and three.

The Chiefs struggled offensively without tight end Travis Kelce, who still has several days to recover from a knee injury before the next

game. Mahomes made some crucial plays, but struggled without having Kelce there to receive. Overall, the Chiefs faced difficulties in their rushing game, and will be counting on Kelce's return for improvements next time. Mahomes reminded his teammates that despite their incredible record and victory in the Super Bowl last season, they begin this season with a clean slate. He stressed the idea that in order to win the

game, you have to play well. You cannot simply expect to walk in and win. Mahomes hopes to extend his five-year AFC championship streak to six this year. Moving forward this season, Mahomes is encouraging his teammates to forget about last season's successes if they hope to achieve more this season. Next up, the Chiefs will play the Jacksonville Jaguars on September 17th, and the Lions will take on the Seattle Seahawks.



DETROIT LIONS V KANSAS CITY, GETTYIMAGES

## Trinity Men's Soccer Teams Wins First Game of the 2023 Season at Framingham State University

CECE HAMPTON '24  
SPORTS EDITOR

Last Tuesday, September 5th, the Bantam's won the first game of their season on the road against the Framingham State University Rams. Sophomore Kieran McCabe (Natick, Mass.), netted the game-winning goal with only four minutes of regulation time left on the clock. McCabe was assisted by junior Jacob Loor (Houston, Texas). Both Bantam offense and defense remained strong throughout the game, with twenty shots attempted before McCabe's goal, most of which were made by senior captain James Donaldson (Kirkland, Quebec), and senior forward Michael Traynor. Senior goalkeeper Bernardo Simoes (Lisbon, Portugal), achieved six total saves during the game.

This season marks Head Coach Methembe Ndlovu's second year here at Trinity, and welcomes Assistant Coach Austin Farewell to his first year.

A handful of veteran players return this season, including fifth-year defender Matt Moran (Grosse Pointe Park, Mich.). The squad received four first-years this season and hopes to develop these incoming players into key components for the legacy of winning and success that the team is working towards.

In the 2022 season, the Bantams finished with a final record of 0-9-1 in the NESCAC conference, and 1-11-3 overall, only managing to beat Castleton University. Last October the Bantams lost to the FSU Rams 3-4, so this first win of their season against the Rams is a positive indicator of the Bantams' incredible potential this fall. Coach Ndlovu is counting on his veteran players to enter this season strongly, focusing on increasing the team's competitiveness in an already fierce league. With returning defenders like senior Dante Merlin (South Windsor, Conn.) and Brenner Morton (Do-

ver, Mass.), the team has a powerful line of defense. Both junior midfielder Nick Bellack (Amherst, Mass.) and senior midfielder Quinn Ackman (Evanston, Illinois), who has recovered from an injury last season, will be key players in this year's lineup, playing multiple different roles on

the field. All of the returning upperclassmen players bring strong leadership and high spirits to the field.

Overall, the Bantams are heading into this upcoming season on a positive and hopeful note. Under the guidance of head Coach Ndlovu, and with the fresh addition of assistant Coach

Farewell to the team, the Bantams have a plethora of new and exciting opportunities to further develop their play, and motivation to build upon last season's losses and lessons. This first out of conference victory against the FSU Rams is just the beginning. Roll Bantams!



PHOTO COURTESY OF BANTAM SPORTS



*This Week in Sports At Trincoll...*

## The Bantams are All In: A Remodeling of Trinity Game Days and the Bantam Cup

ANNIKA DYCZKOWSKI '25  
SPORTS EDITOR

As fall sports get into full swing, the Athletics Department has instated two new initiatives to encourage competition and team spirit within all sports teams- "All In" Games and the Bantam Cup.

Each sports team on campus has been assigned one All In game during their regular season, where all other sports teams out of season are encouraged to attend and cheer on their peers. The Athletics Department is also pushing for teams to post their attendance on Instagram at All In games and tag @Bantam\_Sports and @Bantam\_SA. The first All In game of the fall season was women's

soccer vs. MIT last Tuesday, and the high turnout was reflective of the new department initiative. Attendance largely outnumbered seats in the stands, so sports teams posed for pictures in the stands and overflowed on all sides of the field. Women's soccer senior Tori Simas finds All In games to be a positive change, "It was a lot more fun to play with so many people watching, it felt like an NCAA playoff game." Left wingback Sofia Quijada '25 felt that the high student energy was reflected on the field, expressing how "most people would find it pressure-evoking, but I thought it made (the game) that more fun."

The Bantam Cup is a conglomeration of athletic, academic, and communi-

ty-oriented dedication on campus that is rewarded via a points system developed by the athletics department. The Bantam Cup is largely reflective of sports teams' attendance to All In games as well as other community efforts. Athletically speaking, for instance, teams with a winning season, national ranking appearances, or 1st Team All-NESCAC players will be awarded points that are worth 35% of their total score. Teams with a fall GPA that outweigh last spring's team GPA, 4.0 GPA team members, and the highest team GPA on campus will be awarded points that cumulate 25% of their total score. Community based achievements are worth 40% of a team's score, and can be earned

via All In game attendance, non-athletic based event attendance (such as concerts or presentations), or career building event attendance.

The weighted importance of community and career-oriented participation as compared to athletic success communicates effort from the Athletic Department to bridge the ever-present gap between student athletes and non-student athletes at Trinity. There is a heightened curiosity for whether we will observe high student-athlete presence at on-campus events like concerts, plays, and festivals to accrue points towards the newborn Bantam Cup.

Women's soccer and volleyball saw great turnouts this past week because of

this new initiative, and we can expect that this excitement will extend through the rest of the semester and with spring sports. The only sports team this week with an All In game is football; the Saturday game is the team's home opener and kickoff is scheduled for 1:30pm. The culmination of campus excitement for the beginning of football season with high student-athlete attendance should produce an electric weekend for Bantam football. Student athlete or non-student athlete, high attendance for our home sports games is a positive reflection of a strong campus community. Be in attendance this Saturday and future All In games to continue a tradition of Bantams supporting Bantams!

## Field Hockey's Big Changes Ramp Up for a Big Season

ANNIKA DYCZKOWSKI '25  
SPORTS EDITOR

A top ten preseason national ranking, players named to the National Field Hockey Coaches Association Watchlist, and an iconic retiring head coach- the Bantam Field Hockey players and fans have a highly anticipated 2023 season on the clock.

Trinity's field hockey team began the 2023 season last Thursday with a shutout win away at the Smith Pioneers. Last season's starting goalie Olivia McMichael '24 incurred minimal action in the striking circle, defending her team against two Pioneer shots compared to twenty shots by the Bantams overwhelming offense. Goal scorers for the Bantams include forward/midfielder Katrina Winfield '24 and forward Ashley Zigler '25 for a final score of 2-0.

Prior to the start of their season, the field hockey team attained a No. 9 national

ranking in the NFHCA DIII Preseason Coaches Poll. USA Field Hockey also named the Bantams as a top five team to watch this season. In addition to collective accomplishments, the team has a pair of players named to the NFHCA Watch List. Midfielder Jackie Frank '24 was nominated, having been named All-NESCAC Second Team and tallied 13 total points for the 2022 season. Olivia McMichael is also a player of interest this season, having fell just short of 100 saves and earning All-American First-Team and All-NESCAC First-Team titles last season.

This is the group's first season without Anne Parmenter, 22-year head coach of Bantam field hockey. Parmenter has left an iconic mark on the Trinity field hockey team, yielding an overall winning record in her 22 years at Trinity. Parmenter broke a top 25 ranking among active NCAA field hockey coaches

and 12th among active DIII field hockey coaches in wins. Parmenter also has an endless list of impressive accolades that extend past field hockey, like climbing Mount Everest twice and running the Hartford Marathon.

Replacing Parmenter as a head coach is Jessica Bergen, hired last winter. Bergen previously coached at Westfield State University in the Little East Conference. She is deemed a top 50 goal scorer of all-time at her alma mater, Skidmore College. Senior Captain Molly King agrees that the coaching change is significant, but positive. "Anne was the backbone of NESCAC field hockey, but everyone loves our new coaching staff", she affirms. "We're all excited to see how we do this season."

In the past, the team has voiced its concerns on Title IX inequities concerning field and stadium renovations. In response, President Berg-

er-Sweeney issued "A Message About Trinity College Facilities" in fall 2021 on issues of gender equity displayed throughout our athletic facilities. In addition to other facility upgrades, she delineated that renovations would "permanently increase bleacher height and capacity" on Robin L. Sheppard Field, a field shared by the field hockey and women's lacrosse team. This season, the field has seen some drastic improvements. New bleachers have been installed, which are up to par with what the team was expecting previous renovations to accom-

plish. The field additionally received a new press box. King also gives a shoutout to Dean Joe DiChristina, Trinity's Vice President for Student Success and Enrollment Management. "He was the biggest advocate for renovations." King echoes her team's satisfaction with the remodel, "it's been a long time coming, but it looks great."

Field hockey's next game is this evening at 7pm against Worcester Polytechnic Institute; their first home game is this Saturday at 11am vs. Colby College. Be at Robin L. Sheppard on Saturday to support the Bantams!



Coming Up  
Saturday

Women's Field Hockey vs. Colby College  
@ 11:00 a.m.

Football vs. Tufts  
@ 1:30 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BANTAM SPORTS