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# David Tuttle announces retirement

Tuttle will continue to serve as vice president of Student Life and Dean of Students until May

**DANA NICHOLS** | NEWS EDITOR  
 dnichols@trinity.edu

For David Tuttle, vice president of Student Life and Dean of Students, his time at Trinity has always felt like much more than just a job.

“This is the most meaningful relationship I have had in my life besides my family. I have learned a lot, grown a lot, and feel like I will always define myself by my time here,” wrote Tuttle in an email interview. “I am always proud when I tell people where I work and what I do for my job. I have raised my family here since we have always lived on campus. People have asked me if it is hard to live where I work and I have never felt that way. It is who I am.”

Trinity students, faculty and staff received an email from Danny Anderson, university president, announcing Tuttle’s retirement on the morning of Sept. 29. Although announced this week, Tuttle will continue working for the remainder of the 2020-2021 academic year.

“I wanted this to be announced now so the university could openly plan and conduct an appropriate search for my successor. So, it is still fresh and sinking in,” Tuttle wrote. “I have lots of feelings, certainly some sadness — I will miss this place, and [feel] some excited anticipation for the future.”

Tuttle’s retirement comes after 32 years with Trinity, where he started off working as Area Coordinator for Residential Life in 1987. Since then, he has held numerous positions within the offices of Residential Life and Student Life including director of Residential Life, Senior Student Affairs Officer and, on numerous occasions, Interim Vice President. He has held his current position as Dean of Students since 1999.

“I love Trinity University and want everyone connected to it to feel the same way. I feel like it represents learning, caring, and excellence, and that even if people see different paths forward, everyone here is pulling in the same direction. I will miss being part of the discussions as to how things unfold here, but am so excited to see this place continue to reach even greater heights.”

Having been a community member deeply involved across campus over the past three decades, Tuttle’s absence will be felt by many.

“Obviously, this is a bittersweet moment for our division. Trust me, on the ‘bitter’ side of bittersweet, we will miss having him as our advisor and his ability to be a futuristic/strategizing thought partner. He does a great deal of work with other parts of Trinity, and those colleagues are sure to feel a gap with his retirement,” wrote Sheryl Tynes, vice president for Student Life, in an



**DAVID TUTTLE**, vice president of Student Life and Dean of Students, trains alongside members of the 2017 Half-Marathon Challenge. Started in 2008, the challenge is in conjunction with the Kayla Mire Food Drive. photo by **STEPHEN SUMRALL-ORSAK**

email interview. “Finally, his unique sense of humor means that meetings with him are never boring! On the ‘sweet’ side, we are super happy for him that he is choosing to retire after a long and fruitful career at this special place.”

One of Tuttle’s roles on campus in recent years has been serving as an adviser to the Student Government Association (SGA) alongside Jamie Thompson, co-adviser, Assistant Dean of Students and director of Student Involvement.

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## Responses to COVID-19 vary among San Antonio schools

Comparing the health and safety measures taken at Incarnate Word, St. Mary’s and Trinity

**NEHA KUMAR** | NEWS REPORTER  
 nkumar2@trinity.edu

As some college campuses are experiencing spikes in COVID-19 cases or have already sent students home, Trinity stands out for its low positivity rate. Other private universities in the San Antonio area are doing relatively well too, UIW having reported 29 total cases to-date and St. Mary’s just 26; Trinity has reported 13.

According to Eric Maloof, vice president of Enrollment Management, the planning process for bringing students back to campus was flexible and took into account the changing health conditions over the summer.

“It was fluid. I think people now know that when we make a decision, that decision is still fluid, and that decision could still change if the conditions around us change because things are so uncertain. The most important thing is we provided our students and our community comprehensive information as quickly as possible. At the beginning of the summer, the health conditions in San Antonio were very different than they were toward the end of the summer, so we sent a survey and found that most students wanted to live on campus,” said Maloof. “What happened was the health conditions in San Antonio changed drastically over the summer and the number of hospitalizations spiked, and we felt like we had to downgrade our scenario back to having a limited number of students back on campus.”

The medical team at The University of the Incarnate Word (UIW) noted that the planning process at their university



The University of Incarnate Word’s medical team reviewed its Infectious Disease Response Plans in March to guide its COVID-19 response. They also used input from university and Bexar County health professionals. photo by **KATE NUELLE**

began early. Much like at Trinity, task force groups were formed to address different areas of concern and community health experts were consulted.

“At UIW, we began reviewing our Infectious Disease Response Plans back in March of 2020 when cases of COVID-19 began increasing internationally. Shortly after, we activated our Incident Command structure and University classes went remote across the country. We then immediately began planning for the safest way to have students return to campus. UIW created committees that focused on specific areas like academics, housing,

meals, health services, safety, international students, athletics and communications that are essential to the university,” wrote the UIW medical team in an email statement. “Input was gathered from all members of the UIW community as well as specialists within the Bexar County community. UIW is fortunate to have experts in the medical, nursing, engineering, epidemiology, communications, risk and safety areas that were all active participants in the plan. We created a phased in approach to re-socializing the campus and provided education on COVID-19 through multiple platforms.”

Sneha Suresh, a sophomore biology major attending St. Mary’s University, described the various precautions taken to curb the spread of COVID-19 on campus.

“The social distancing is a little difficult because you study with people and you go to the library and whatnot. The cafeteria, you try to socially distance there, as well. But for the most part, people just take the food because it is packaged for you, and most students choose to eat outside rather than inside like how it normally would have been or they just head back to their dorm. Plus, there’s not a lot of people living on-campus anyway, so it’s not like you are around people 24/7, so it does help with social distancing,” said Suresh.

In order to minimize contact between students, Trinity opted to have certain groups study remotely this semester. Maloof emphasized that while this decision was difficult in some respects, the situation remains fluid, and may change in spring 2021.

“Unfortunately, [COVID-19] put us in a position where we could not house every student on campus that raised their hand and said they wanted to be on campus. We made the difficult decision to prioritize based on a number of factors, knowing that we would re-prioritize at the beginning of the spring semester. We have occupancy for 2,097 and our original plan was to have approximately 16-to-1700 students and we downgraded that to 1000, and currently, we have 961 students on campus ... 751 of them in the residents halls and 210 of them in City Vista. We have 948 [students] in San Antonio, living somewhere in Bexar County, and 776 students living beyond San Antonio.”

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## STAFF

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**GENEVIEVE HUMPHREYS** managing editor  
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Daisy Castillo, Katy Browne, Nadia Crawford, Ashley Allen, Daphne Tett

### VISUAL CONTRIBUTORS

Gabrielle Rodriguez, Ren Rader, Gracen Hoyle

### SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

Ethan Jones

### SOCIAL MEDIA STAFF

Ethan Jones, Audrey Davis

### BUSINESS STAFF

Jordan Juran, Jordan Bruce, Wilson Hamilton, Duncan James, Sarah Buss

### ADVERTISING STAFF

Jessie De Arman, Wilson Hamilton, Paulina Garcia, Sara Tagarot, Gabrielle Rodriguez

## CONTACT US

### EDITORIAL

email: trinitonian@trinity.edu  
 phone: 210-999-8557

### ADVERTISING

email: trinitonian-adv@trinity.edu  
 phone: 210-999-8555  
 fax: 210-999-7034

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# Previously, on SGA: Self-Care and Tigers Against Aramark

This covers the meeting on Sept. 30

### CLIMATE CHECK

Sophomore senator Rivas Lopes started off this week's climate check by mentioning once again that students weren't wearing their masks in the library. She suggested that SGA come up with a better plan of action, to which President Jaelen Harris agreed. President Harris emphasized the importance of positive-messaging as a way of combatting these instances in the library.

### FIRST-YEAR TIGERS AGAINST ARAMARK REPORT

President Harris asked the members of SGA for their comment on the Tigers Against Aramark report which included demands that Trinity remove Aramark from their dining services. He also asked if SGA as an association should sign the petition made by Tigers Against Aramark. Senator Rivas Lopes mentioned that though the report was compelling, she did have a few concerns. According to Rivas

Lopes, a section of the report mentioned that the employees who are currently working for Aramark should be retained and kept as employees at Trinity. She mentioned that they should figure out how that could be feasible. Senator Rivas Lopes also mentioned it'd be worth looking at other dining services and see if Aramark was worse or better in comparison.

Sophomore Senator Sarah Pita mentioned that since SGA is looking to be more anti-racist, taking the concerns of Tigers Against Aramark seriously would be meaningful to their anti-racist cause.

### SELF-CARE

President Harris sent out a survey to the student body regarding Student Programming Board's virtual event Google form. SPB is collecting responses about what students would like to see from their programming. There were 100 responses as of Monday. A "self-care package" was commonly mentioned according to President Harris.

Meetings are held every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom.  
 Additional coverage can be found online at trinitonian.com, coverage by **KAYLA PADILLA**

## COVID Snapshot:

Updated 9/28/2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Overall Numbers	
Total # Active Cases: <b>1</b>	Total # Tested: <b>3,006</b>
# Test Results to Date: <b>2,994</b>	Total Positivity Rate: <b>0.4%</b>
Total # in On-Campus Isolation: <b>3</b>	Cumulative Tested Positive: <b>13</b>

## DISTRIBUTION

**PRINT**  
 Sept. 25: 705  
 Sept. 18: 632  
 Sept. 11: 639  
 Sept. 4: 601

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Spot a mistake? Let us know!  
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## CLASSIFIEDS

### Job Opening

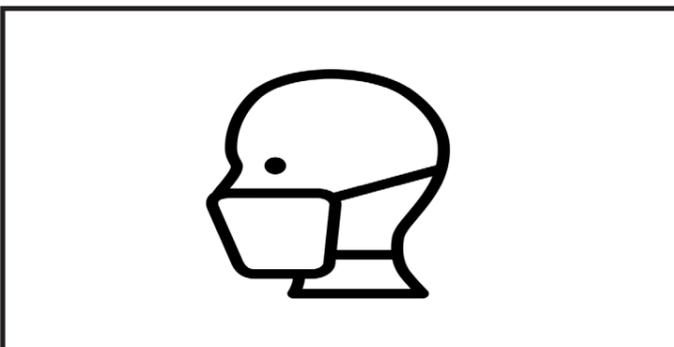
The Board of Campus Publications is accepting student applications for the Advertising Director position. For information about the job and application instructions, contact Katharine Martin ([kmartin1@trinity.edu](mailto:kmartin1@trinity.edu)). Deadline to apply is Friday, Oct. 9.

### Student Worker Wanted

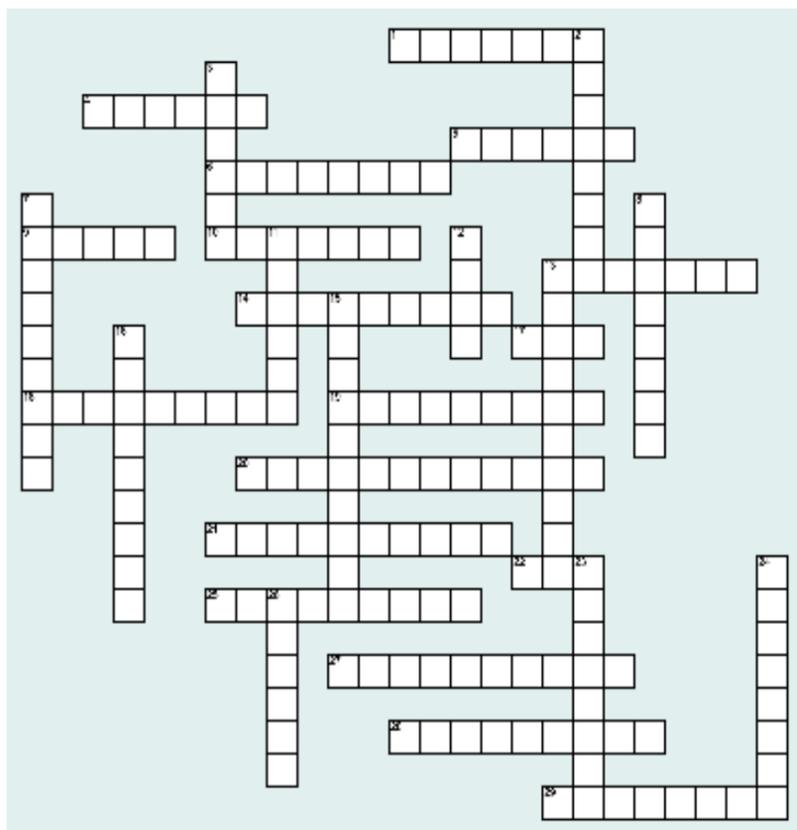
The Campus Publications Archivist will manage digital files for Campus Publications, as well as the newspaper and yearbook physical archives. Position is open to all students. Flexible hrs; 2 hrs/week; some in-person, mostly remote. Contact: [kmartin1@trinity.edu](mailto:kmartin1@trinity.edu).

### WANT TO TAKE OUT AN AD?

Classified ads are free for Trinity students. For non-students, each ad is \$25 for 25 words. Send your ads to [trinitonian-adv@trinity.edu](mailto:trinitonian-adv@trinity.edu)



## Voting Themed Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

1. Inhabitant
4. "Build Back Better" is this
5. Democratic symbol
6. Based in DC
9. Most corrupt politicians fear this inspection
10. Grant
13. Election where each party chooses a candidate
14. Getting most votes, but not more than half
17. RNC group, abbr.
18. Holding office
19. Presidential college
20. Most important day during primaries
21. Green and Libertarian
22. Lockheed Martin, NRA, and Capital One are this
25. Type of money given directly to a candidate
27. Home grown
28. Substitute in office
29. Republican symbol

### DOWN

2. Election month
3. Political party meeting
7. Huge election win
8. Run for office
11. Voting ticket
12. Doing this is a civil duty
13. Fake news
15. National vote
16. Catchy and brief news clip
23. A popular candidate impacts the popularity of another candidate in the same party
24. Voting district
26. Tie breaker

**Interactive version available at [Trinitonian.com](http://Trinitonian.com)**  
 Answer key can be found through the interactive puzzle link.

## Tuttle to retire

continued from **FRONT**

“The news of Dean Tuttle’s retirement this coming May was shocking news to read, but I think moving on is an important and earned step in life after so many years of service to students,” wrote Jaelen Harris, SGA president and senior political science major, in an email interview. “On behalf of SGA, I would like to thank Dean Tuttle for the decades worth of guidance and advice that he has given SGA in his time with our organization, and we wish him the very best moving forward.”

Once retired, Tuttle plans to spend time with his family and find a new place to call home, having lived and raised his kids on-campus throughout his career at Trinity.

“I am almost 61, and we have never owned a home. So that is the first step. The second step is to try to pamper my wife, Donna, if she will let me. She is my rock and works so hard, and I owe her so much. She thinks the pampering will last two weeks, but she will eat well for those two weeks! I want to spend time with my grown kids in new and different ways, where I can be more focused on them,” Tuttle wrote. “So I will take some time, and then look at ways that I can find new adventures and opportunities. ... I kind of like not knowing. You spend your whole life going to school and working. So not having to do anything Monday mornings will feel awesome — for a while.”

The early announcement of Tuttle’s plan to retire provides the university with ample time to begin the search and hiring process for his successor. In his email, Anderson noted that the qualities the hiring committee will be searching for would not stray from those held by Tuttle.

“As I have noted multiple times in recent weeks, the deep partnership between Academic Affairs and Student Life shapes the holistic student experience at Trinity,” wrote Anderson. “The next Dean of Students will continue this commitment to fostering the deep collaboration that supports Trinity students in the classroom and beyond.”

“In ways that few can fully understand or witness, Dean Tuttle deals with difficult and complex problems in an entirely student-centered way. He juggles this difficult work—dealing with all forms of student conduct, being on call 24/7, engaging in constant communication with parents and families (on both the macro- and micro-level)—and then somehow finds time to push us to be better (e.g., his tireless work on the Retention and Graduation Task Force). Dean Tuttle has done this work at Trinity for 32 years, and that is a long career in our field,” Tynes wrote.

## Comparing the COVID-19 health protocol at local universities

continued from **FRONT**

Suresh explained she is taking the majority of her classes remotely, with her one in-person class being a socially-distanced lab.

“Most classes are virtual [and] there are a few in-person classes. I have a lab that’s in-person, but there’s only five or six people allowed at each time and you have to sit at a table by yourself,” said Suresh.

The UIW medical team emphasized that surveillance testing, contact tracing and quarantine regulations have been instituted to protect and provide care for students on campus.

“UIW’s testing plan consists of testing all symptomatic individuals, baseline testing and surveillance testing for students, employees, and vendors throughout the year. All members of UIW Health Services and Sports Medicine have completed the John Hopkins Contact Tracing course. We work directly with San Antonio Metropolitan Health District to provide timely contact tracing for all UIW community members who have had at risk contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. Students, employees, and vendors report their COVID-19 diagnosis or COVID-19 like symptoms on the UIW COVID-19 Illness Reporting Form. UIW Health Services receives an immediate alert on all positive reports. UIW initiates contact tracing as soon as a positive case is identified. Students living in the Residence Halls are offered housing in the designated isolation

## Academic advisers guide first-years

Unlike former faculty advisers, advisers are trained in all majors’ requirements

**NEHA KUMAR** | NEWS REPORTER  
nkumar2@trinity.edu

The 2020 academic year has brought forth an onslaught of change, and the academic advising system is no exception. This year’s incoming first-years are the first class to have been provided with professional academic advisers, with whom they discuss class schedules and explore fields of study virtually.

Historically, incoming first-years have been advised by faculty advisers who specialized in the students’ academic field of interest.

According to Soliel Gaffner, academic adviser and class of ‘19 alum, advisers help students by providing guidance as students schedule classes and explore majors.

“Professional academic advisers are here to guide students in their academic journey. Everything from helping them have the right track for any particular major they might be curious about. We don’t want them to declare a major right off the bat by any means; Trinity has definitely not wanted students to jump in without flexibility. We really do value helping students intentionally explore using Pathways. So what we are here to do is to help students ensure that their classes are going where they need to go, and if they have any questions about transfer credits, summer classes, we will be here to provide all the answers for that. Just helping students along their academic journey, being one more resource for them, so they don’t need to question who they need to go to,” said Gaffner.

The change in the advising model occurred in response to recommendations made by the Graduation and Retention Task Force assembled by Danny Anderson, university president, early last year.

“In January of 2019, a consultant from Ruffalo Noel Levitz was brought onto campus by Dr. Anderson to assess Trinity. In reviewing data from the last 10 years, the consultant provided a comprehensive review and report about what Trinity was doing well on and what we could modify so as to best meet the needs of our students. As a result of this report, a Retention and Graduation

space with daily medical checks. Students living off campus and on campus will have access to medical care, counseling, academic support and mission and ministry services,” wrote the UIW medical team.

Like at Trinity, Suresh noted that the St. Mary’s students input their daily symptoms in a health portal, where they are notified if they should be tested. If a student tests positive, they are asked to isolate in order to keep themselves and the campus community safe from the virus.

“Students aren’t really tested on a monthly or weekly basis or anything like that. But on our health portal, we input if we start to feel any symptoms, if we feel perfectly healthy, or if we are exhibiting any side effects of COVID. You are allowed to request testing if you want to see if you have COVID. If you do test positive for COVID, for students that are within a 200-mile radius, they have to go back home to quarantine for two weeks. If you live farther than that, you can stay on campus, and they have a residence hall designated for students that need to quarantine,” said Suresh.

UIW has also put in place a rigorous quarantine and isolation procedure to ensure that students receive quality care and support.

“UIW students who are required to quarantine after an at-risk contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 are called by a UIW Health Services representative and informed about their contact risk, while maintaining the privacy of the individual who tested positive



Left: **SOLEIL GAFFNER**, academic adviser and class of ‘19 alum, serves as one of four advisers to first-year students. Right: **LAPETRA BOWMAN**, advising coordinator, works in collaboration with the Retention and Graduation task force to ensure that first-years receive comprehensive holistic and developmental advising. photos provided by **SOLEIL GAFFNER** and **LAPETRA BOWMAN**

Task Force was created, and the result of this task force were several initiatives which manifested, including a shift from a Faculty Advising Model to a Total Intake Advising Model (where academic advisers work with first-year students through to major declaration and then subsequently assigned to a faculty adviser in their area). Our goal is to provide students with comprehensive holistic and developmental advising. The new advisers work with first-year students (starting this fall 2020) and future first-year student cohorts,” wrote Lapetra Bowman, advising coordinator, in an email interview.

Juan Contreras, first-year and intended business analytics and technology major, explained that first-years registered for their classes virtually over the summer.

“It was really easy because we had our admissions adviser, and she walked us through everything. We had a really long meeting with her, and she walked us through the whole process on Zoom. She gave us all the resources to know which classes to take, so it was really easy to register because we knew everything. It was more of just waking up and going through the process of what we already went through,”

said Contreras.

Through meetings with his adviser, Contreras was able to choose classes and further explore the path towards a business analytics and technology major.

“My academic adviser is Jennifer Reese, and so far, it has been amazing to have her as my adviser. We have had two Zoom calls so far, and in the first call, she was like, ‘What do you plan on majoring in? What are you interested in?’ and once I told her she gave me an Excel sheet [and said] ‘Here’s a list for you to put classes you think you are going to do based on the requirements you need,’” said Contreras. “After I told her what I was interested in as a career, she said ‘I think you should do the Business Analytics and Technology major,’ and she had a whole Excel sheet that told me what classes I need to take for the major, the latest and earliest years I could take them [and] what grades I needed to get in them, so it was very easy to know what classes I should take.”

Advisers are assigned to roughly one-third of the first-year class and are trained in all fields and majors.

continued on **TRINITONIAN.COM**

for COVID-19. Students are then asked about how they feel. Students who live in the residence halls are offered housing in the designated quarantine space on campus. Students are given instructions on how to quarantine safely for 14-days and keep their friends and family well. We allow time for students to ask questions as the need to quarantine is often unexpected. UIW Health Services then emails the student with an educational handout on quarantine and what to do if they develop symptoms of COVID-19. Students are given information for support services on campus, which include Health Services, Behavioral Health, Mission of Ministry, Residence Life and Academic Support,” wrote the UIW medical team.

Trinity’s low positivity rate in comparison to other universities can largely be attributed to thoughtful planning and student responsibility, according to Maloof.

“Some schools have had positivity rates that are just unbelievably high numbers, in the thousands. Whereas you see other institutions where they are lower, but they still have cases. I think we would be fooling ourselves to think we are going to have a zero positivity rate. We now know a lot more about it [COVID-19] than we did 6 months ago. We are listening to health officials, and we are taking their advice extraordinarily seriously. Number two, people are following the rules, by and large. That’s the reason we are in this position,” said Maloof.

Trinity has been investing in tracing, testing, and isolation efforts so each student can feel safe and productive during their time on campus

“We truly are investing: It’s not just bringing you back, it’s creating an environment that you safe and you feel like you can be productive. That costs money, and to-date we have spent approximately \$1600 per student at the institution standing that stuff up. That number will continue to grow as we learn more about what it takes to create an environment that is both safe and enjoyable,” continued Maloof.

According to Maloof, Trinity’s measured approach to reopening campus allowed for students to make their own choices concerning their studies while still following COVID-19 safety guidelines.

“I think it’s different in some ways to two groups of institutions. We have seen some institutions have no students on campus, where they basically shut down their campus and everybody is learning remotely and living remotely. And we’re different from that group. We are also different from a group of schools that have gone back full force. Everybody is back. Some institutions have taken significant precautions, even though they have everybody back, some have carried on as though this [COVID-19] doesn’t exist. I think we are different in that we have taken a cautious and phased approach that we believe is reasonable and takes into the health and safety of not only our students, but all Trinity community members,” said Maloof.

## FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

### Get registered and get voting

This week is our 2020 Presidential Election Special Section. We recognize that a lot is happening in the world at the moment, and there's a lot happening in your individual lives too. Voting, however, is a fundamental aspect of our democracy. As you'll see later in the paper, people have mixed feelings about voting in the 2020 presidential election. Some feel that we must vote, others feel that voting fails to address systemic issues.

If you watched the debate on Tuesday night, you're probably still recovering. It was painful no matter which side you were on. If you are not on a "side," but were hoping for some clarity to help guide your decision, maybe you feel more stuck now. While following political updates is exhausting, we encourage you to keep following the news and debates leading up to the election. Many people feel inclined to avoid any more coverage after the previous night's dumpster fire of a performance, but do not feel discouraged. It's still important to exercise your right to participate in the democratic process and vote for the ideas and policies you most identify with.

Additionally, there will be no issue for October 9th. You could take that time that you would have spent reading the paper or scrolling through the columns to further educate yourself on the campaign policies behind each candidate. You could also read our voter guide on page 11. In the voter guide, we provide a synopsis of each candidate's stances on different issues. We absolutely encourage you to do your part, while recognizing that this is beyond daunting, particularly for young voters.

What if you don't want to vote? Maybe you're dissatisfied with both candidates, or you don't know how to mail in a ballot. Maybe you're afraid to go vote in-person due to COVID-19 and its threat to all of us. These are all perfectly valid reasons to be hesitant to vote, but keep in mind that these issues are also being addressed by those passionate about getting people to participate in this election. Between online guides and Twitter threads to social distancing, election clerks and other voting optimists are willing to work with you to make sure you get

your ballot in. So don't be afraid to reach out and ask for help. These are uncomfortable, scary times. We all need to rely on the people who are helpers.

If you've felt unhappy with the current state of the nation, or haven't, be sure to let your voice be heard. Of course, voting won't address all systemic issues; they'll still be there. Voting someone into office doesn't automatically eliminate racism or misogyny in the workplace. These are deeply embedded into the way our society functions. Instead, voting offers us an opportunity to see our beliefs represented.

Nonetheless, people are doing legitimate groundwork that addresses systemic issues. This groundwork cannot be diminished by who is or isn't in office. Their purpose is to serve the people in the community directly. So if come November your desired candidate doesn't win, don't feel entirely hopeless. Get involved in local efforts that align with what you believe in. They've been doing the work. Now you can too.

WANT TO  
SUBMIT A  
COLUMN?  
here's what you  
should know.

### letters to the editor

Share your quick reactions to Trinitonian coverage and opinion columns. Send 300 words or fewer to the head editors and Phoebe Murphy, opinion editor, at pmurphy@trinity.edu. She or Kayla Padilla, editor-in-chief, will be in touch as soon as they can.

### guest columns

Can't keep it to a few hundred words? Pen a guest column and let your views be known. Please keep it between 500 and 700 words, and give us time to prepare. If possible, submit by Sunday at noon to be in the Friday edition of the paper. Email it to opinion editor Phoebe Murphy at pmurphy@trinity.edu.

### please note!

The Opinion section editor and the Trinitonian copy editors will fact-check your work and edit for clarity, legal concerns, grammar and style, but we will not alter your argument. Also, please include your graduating year and major or your position at the university.

## FORUM

When you see this "forum" stamp, know that you're reading community voices. The Trinitonian is a public forum for Trinity students, faculty and staff. All guest columns are unpaid and do not represent the views of the Trinitonian. Want to join the forum? Here's how to start a dialogue and have your voice heard in print and online.

### A sophomore's perspective on being at home



LOGAN CREWS  
COLUMNIST  
lcrews@trinity.edu

It's been months, and I still feel lonely. I still feel cheated out of what everyone told me would be the best years of my life. I still feel confused, tired and frustrated.

I've felt this way since the day I got back to St. Louis with all the belongings I went to Trinity with, all packed the same way but with significantly less hope. I'm lucky to have a home to return to where I can exist comfortably as a queer child and sibling. My family has respected the boundaries I've set to make it feel like I'm still somewhat independent. But still, like everything the past few months, this just sucks.

Right now, so much attention is on first-years at Trinity, and rightfully so. College is already a difficult adjustment to make coming out of high school. Add on a pandemic that takes away normal social interaction and fun aspects of going to college, and it's even more difficult. I'm a sophomore, and I've been repeatedly told that this is the best year to be remote. The thing is, sophomores didn't get a normal first year either. The way the class of 2024 might feel lonely right now is how we felt when we got sent home after we had just begun making valuable connections. There are friends that I was on the cusp of getting closer to that I lost when I had to go back home. As soon as we got our feet under us during the second semester, the prime window for starting fresh at college was abruptly shut.

So I sit at my desk each day taking in comments about how good of a position sophomores are in while wondering if it's ever not hard to be 900 miles away from my friends and a campus I was just beginning to know.

Getting emails about major declarations did nothing to ease my stress about missing campus. While talking to friends about their plans, I realized how many of us feel like we're floundering. This year, the year that we're supposed to decide what exactly we want



Illustration by GRACEN HOYLE

to do, isn't providing us the same opportunities to figure it all out. I can hardly think about a decision as small as which essay prompt to choose when I'm able to shut my laptop and pretend school doesn't exist. Being able to simply turn college off and go back to sleep in my childhood bedroom is not the kind of environment I wanted to take classes in, nonetheless declare a major.

I won't pretend that sophomores have it the hardest. I can only imagine the grief of seniors realizing their last year of college is nothing short of abnormal and uncomfortable. Juniors don't have the same chance to learn how to be better students and better leaders as they near their own last year, and, of course, first-years are getting such a lacking impression of what college is actually like. While we can debate who is suffering the most, we can all agree that it isn't easy for anyone.

Being at home has brought its blessings. I never thought I would spend so much time with my best friends from high school since we graduated, and I certainly didn't think I'd be with my family for this long, but now, most of my friends have left, my siblings have also resumed school, and I again feel trapped. I spent so much time my senior year of high school dreaming about leaving St. Louis. Now, I'm back in the same room where those dreams began, dreaming them all over again.

Whether you're a friend, family member or a professor of a student who is far from campus right now, all I ask is that you keep us in mind. The student that you think has it easier than others still feels tired. Confused. Lonely. And they just need to know it's okay to feel this way.

Logan Crews is an undeclared sophomore.

# Putting the Barrett nomination in perspective



**DAVID CROCKETT**  
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR  
dcrocket@trinity.edu

The nomination of circuit court of appeals judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court has brought us once again to the silly season in American politics. To be fair, we have been in a silly season for quite some time, but the hyperventilating over this nomination has made it sillier than usual. Barrett has already been through a confirmation process for her current position, a process that saw her religious views come under the microscope, despite the Constitution's Article VI prohibition on religious tests for office. In the run-up to this new nomination, several pundits have linked her religious affiliation to *The Handmaid's Tale* and her adoption practices to the Nazis.

Let me try to interject some perspective — historical and constitutional.

People accuse Republicans of being hypocritical since they denied Obama pick Merrick Garland a hearing in the last election year. I'll paraphrase Claude Rains' character from *Casablanca*: I'm SHOCKED, SHOCKED, to find that politicians are hypocritical! When it comes to court nominations and the use of the filibuster and

even the dynamics of impeachment, there is enough hypocrisy on both sides to last a lifetime.

There may be political reasons why a president can't get his way, but he is as much a president in the final months of his term as he is in the initial months of his term.

Some people seem very concerned that the Barrett pick could alter the balance of the Court. Welcome to Earth. The Court's balance has been altering since day one. Poor Franklin Roosevelt didn't get one nomination in his first term. Then he strung together eight in a row over the next eight years, making him the biggest influence on the Court since George Washington. If a Biden presidency leads to three straight Democratic presidential terms, the Court balance will likely shift right back.

Some are arguing that this is an "illegitimate process." There is certainly nothing unconstitutional about the nomination. A president's status as a constitutional officer does not wax and wane with the political season. There may be political reasons why a president can't get his way, but he is as much a president in the final months of his term as he is in the initial months of his term. In fact, the office was designed to be at least partially immunized from popular pressures. Making a court nomination is not an impeachable offense.

There is also nothing sacred about the length of a confirmation process. Since Barrett has already gone through this once, we should expect the process to be somewhat shorter. It may interest readers to know that Harry Truman made four nominations during his presidency, and the average length of those confirmation processes was 12 days. One of his picks was confirmed on voice vote the day the nomination was made. Our confirmation process is certainly longer now, but that may just indicate something wrong with how we do modern confirmations.

There is also nothing unprecedented about having a nomination process in an election year. All of this has happened before — and all of this will happen again. Very early in our history, a president who LOST his



reelection bid made a Supreme Court nomination after his election defeat and before the inauguration of his successor. That man was John Adams, and his pick was John Marshall, generally recognized to be the nation's greatest Supreme Court justice.

This is all happening because of the confluence of mortality and institutional control. For over 30 years, a process that was once focused primarily on questions of competence and fitness for office has become a ping-pong game centered on ideology, with abortion the principal concern. That is one of the perverted legacies of *Roe v. Wade*. As for the vitriol seemingly endemic to the process, the origin point was 1987, when Democrats engaged in the character assassination of Reagan nominee Robert Bork. The man who presided over that process — then-chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee — was none other than Joe Biden.

David Crockett is a professor in the department of political science.

# Blaseball: The only valid fantasy sport?



**NOELLE BARRERA**  
COLUMNIST  
nbarrera@trinity.edu

I've never really been interested in athletics at all — one of my many accomplishments is not being able to get a basketball through a net (ever!), which I blame on being extremely short instead of having terrible hand-eye coordination. So I was surprised a few weeks ago when I began to care about the Charleston Shoe Thieves and wonder whether Jessica Telephone, a batter who had spontaneously emerged from a payphone and exists as a holographic projection, would be released from a giant peanut shell to participate in Blaseball season 7.

If you're confused, absolutely none of this is based on real life. The Internet Blaseball League is a parody of fantasy baseball, with similar rules (users can bet in-game currency on 20 teams from different regions of the U.S., and get online updates every week) but a surreal design, as indicated from the website's intro: "Blaseball is baseball at your mercy. Baseball perfected. Our players are inhuman. They play day and night. Rain or shine. They never grow sick. They never tire." The teams have names like the New York Millennials and the Kansas City Breath Mints, and in addition to the standard rules of baseball the equally-

absurdly-named players must contend with threats like spontaneous incineration, the Blaseball Gods, and the whims of a giant peanut icon which announces in-game progression (and occasionally, its thirst for players' blood).

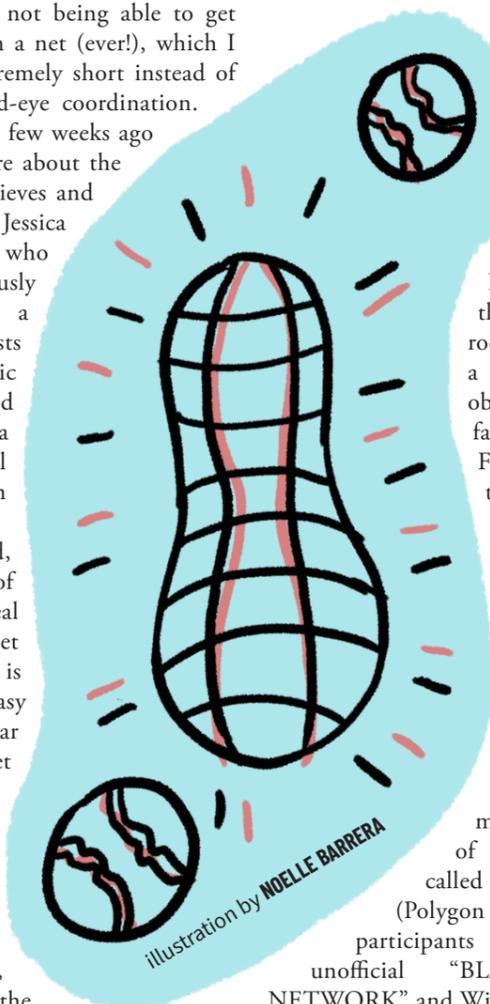
I'm still new to the world of "Blaseball," but part of the appeal seems to come from the collaborative worldbuilding between the players, as emphasized by many video game reviews. As the game unfolds in virtual reality, fans are able to rally behind teams like The Baltimore Crabs and the Philly Pies, and root for them through a series of bizarre obstacles — "when fans voted to open the Forbidden Book at the end of season 1, a tab was added to the site that featured a heavily redacted book of Blaseball rules, but at the same time, a swarm of rogue umpires descended upon the land, incinerating players left and right, marking the beginning of something the game called "the Discipline era" (Polygon 2020). Blaseball participants have created an unofficial "BLASEBALL NEWS NETWORK" and Wikipedia, and there are fan-made Twitters for many of the teams.

The strangest thing about Blaseball may be that it's not the only dystopic future sport game I've played — I've been really excited about Jon Bois' sequel to "17776: What Football Will Look Like In The Future," which is perhaps even better than Blaseball in ways that I don't want to spoil, in case

anyone reads these columns and wants to play. Why do people online love this genre so much? I think it might be because we're in an era where the future of real-life sports is increasingly tenuous: the first presidential debate, which I was unlucky enough to watch on Tuesday, featured Donald Trump bragging that he had "brought back the Top Ten" in football, despite the fact that COVID cases are going up in more than half of the states in the U.S. I've written before this semester about the need to find creative

distractions to deal with quarantine anxiety, and I'm happy to spend winter break after midterms catching up on internet lore and hopefully debating with friends whether Jaylen Hotdogfingers, pitcher of the Seattle Garages and former mayor of both Seattle and Dark-Seattle, can pay off his karmic debt to the Blaseball Gods. The surprising post-apocalyptic worlds of games like "Blaseball" and "17776" give me hope for the future of art and of sports that can actually be fun.

Noelle Barrera is a senior anthropology major.



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**Questions?** [melloninitiative@trinity.edu](mailto:melloninitiative@trinity.edu)

# OREC provides an outdoor experience

Despite the pandemic, OREC offers opportunities for students to explore the outdoors

**MIKAYLA MULLIN** | PULSE REPORTER  
mmullin@trinity.edu

OREC is a student organization that provides opportunities to experience the outdoors with groups of Trinity students.

Trinity students lead these outdoor excursions. One of these group leaders is senior Jackson Braley. He described what OREC does for Trinity students. “[OREC] allows Trinity students to access outdoor experiences for a discounted price,” said Braley.

Providing outdoor experiences is what OREC does for Trinity students on paper, but what OREC actually does for Trinity students is much more than that. For one, it reminds students that there is an outside world.

Participating in OREC is one of the easiest ways students can discover and explore outdoor spaces. “[OREC] allows Trinity students to escape the Trinity bubble and everyday tasks. We take them into outdoor spaces where they can relax, explore, adventure, and enjoy an intimate relationship with nature,” Braley said.

Trinity students can also become more involved in the Trinity community through OREC. Gemma Smith, an OREC group leader, spoke about what OREC does for students’ relationships with each other. “It provides a way to go with a group and meet new people,” said Smith.

OREC is even more necessary now. With online classes and social distancing, it is even easier than it was to never go outside, and it is even harder than it was to meet new people.

Ryanna Chouman, an OREC group leader, spoke about why OREC is especially



Students make paper cranes at an outdoor OREC event, wearing masks and socially distanced for safety. These events allow students to interact with each other outside of the Zoom classroom. photo acquired by **NADIA CRAWFORD**

important in this environment. “One of the best ways to hang out with new people is going outside,” said Chouman.

Unfortunately, while COVID-19 has made OREC more necessary, it also has made it much harder for OREC to execute their events. Mostly, COVID-19 restrictions have changed what events they could plan. “[OREC] would lead trips out of state before COVID-19, or we would go to different cities. Now trips can’t be led greater than 15 minutes away. All of our trips are walking distance,” Braley said.

However, OREC is not letting the COVID-19 restrictions stop them from

providing outdoor experiences for Trinity students. “[COVID-19 restrictions] cut out a lot of the types of outdoor experiences, but we have programmed a semester where we can get outside every weekend and keep accordance with COVID-19 policies,” Braley said.

Smith spoke about some of the events they will have for the rest of the semester. “[We have] biking trips lined up, a climbing trip at some point this semester, botanical gardens, canoeing and kayaking in the River Walk,” Smith said.

If Trinity students want to attend any OREC events, they will have to follow COVID-19 protocols because OREC is

strictly enforcing them. “OREC is following Nerve center guidelines, [like] health check, mask, social distancing, only going places where social distancing is possible, and not providing any food or beverages,” Smith said.

OREC also has a major event lined up. OREC has partnered with TDC, Trinity Diversity and Connection, to bring in Black Outside Inc. and Latina Outdoors, who aim at getting underrepresented populations into the outdoors, want to explore how outdoor spaces aren’t really diverse and diversify the outdoors. [We are] putting on a lecture Friday, and Saturday morning we’re doing three simultaneous experiences, hiking, kayaking, and an event in Brackenridge Park,” Braley said.

To attend OREC events, Trinity students must sign up, so it is important to join their mailing list. “Website and email list is the main way people know about events, and the link to sign up for the email list is on the website,” Smith said.

For the Trinity students not on campus, OREC has some advice for how they can get outside. “Putting time and energy into local parks is one of the best ways to contribute to our society. You should set yourself little challenges with time for nature but also time for you,” Chouman said.

No matter where Trinity students are, it is important for them to get outdoor recreation. “There are proven health benefits to regularly getting outside. Taking time to appreciate what exists in nature and appreciate that environment mentally and physically gives a greater appreciation for the world you live in,” Chouman said.

# Disabled students adjust to COVID hardships

Online learning provides positive and negative consequences for disabled students



The image above shows some of the accommodations disabled students may access that have been altered to ensure social distancing and limit COVID spread. image provided by **STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES**

**VICTORIA HENRETTY** | PULSE REPORTER  
vhenrett@trinity.edu

Social distancing and quarantining are tough on most people. We are unable to see those we love most in person or old hobbies have to be put on hold, which can be detrimental to our mental health. For those who are at risk for COVID or immunocompromised these issues are heightened. For those who are able-bodied the risk to break CDC guidelines seems to have fewer consequences but many disabled people cannot take these risks. The struggles able-bodied people like not seeing friends, using Zoom, or missing going out are struggles disabled people face, but the issues are even more complex because disabled people face added stresses.

“Online learning has been tough in terms of staying focused and zoom fatigue. But I think one aspect of it is pretty heavily ignored by most people- the fact that it can be beneficial for students with disabilities. Not having to physically walk to class can be helpful for students who have a hard time getting out of bed or have physical symptoms that require a lot of rest,” says Martina Ashby and junior Human Communications major. Using zoom for online classes has its pros and cons. On the one hand, online classes allows people to revisit lectures, but it can also amplify feelings of isolation. Junior Elena Buffington explains “the major aspect of online classes working for me is being able to attend class at times my disability would have made it difficult for me to attend in-person.” Professors recording

Zoom sessions and putting them online can make it much easier for people to access them at a later date and fully absorb the information. This advantage, though, is reliant on professors understanding that Zoom recordings aren’t a way to skip class, it is a way for students to watch the lecture when their health allows them to fully pay attention. Junior sociology major Melina Raab explains that online classes are difficult with ADHD, but ultimately they work because she doesn’t have to miss class.

“Every couple of weeks I get infusions, it’s six hours for two days. And so like, on one hand, that really sucks because it’s boring. But since it’s online classes, I don’t necessarily have to miss my classes,” says Melina Raab.

Universities, as they adapt to online learning, are finding new ways to help disabled students, and hopefully, these techniques will continue to benefit students, even when classrooms are completely open again. Zoom classes can also increase feelings of isolation. The personal attention students receive in small classes, which Trinity prides itself on, is hindered. It is difficult for professors to split their attention between zoom and the classroom.

COVID-19 is taking a large emotional toll on students. “I think like everyone, I’ve been really isolated. But I also didn’t really have the chance or the freedom to live off-campus, or go back to San Antonio and live with friends,” says Emma Melina Raab. While many people decided to live off-campus in San Antonio this fall, this was not a safe option for many people. Even for those

who are not seeing friends and not making non-essential errands; people still have to go to work, which inadvertently exposes people and their roommates to COVID-19. For Melina Raab, staying home where her siblings and mother are learning and working from home was the safest option.

Even for those who were able to come back to San Antonio, it is difficult to adjust to this new way of living. Ashby says, “I think one of the most pressing things for me right now is that a pandemic is isolating. It isolates you from friends, teachers, and significant others. It forces you to stay away from everyone but your core circle.” Maintaining relationships, even with the use of social media, can be difficult, especially for those experiencing mental health issues.

Professors and students can play a major part in helping disabled students. Melina Raab says, “just like being understanding that, you know, not only are they dealing with the anxiety and the stress that an able-bodied student is dealing with, but also like, the stress that comes with being disabled, both mentally and physically.” In discussions about equity, disabled people are often forgotten, but COVID is highlighting where our misunderstanding are surrounding ability. Buffington says, “peers can help disabled students affected by COVID by being understanding and empathetic to how COVID may be impacting their disabilities. This could just be making an effort to reach out and check-in on their peers/friends with disabilities.”

# Professors weigh in on COVID policies

VICTORIA HENRETTY | PULSE REPORTER  
vhenrett@trinity.edu

## Dr. Bruce Holl, Chair of Modern Languages and Literature

### How has COVID impacted you?

"I'm near the age by the end of this start next semester will be on the age over 65. I miss seeing the students and I've had to adapt my pedagogy teaching techniques to the circumstances."

### How do you feel about social distancing? How are you following it?

"Yes, I have not been to campus since March 17. In my personal life, I rarely go out on social distance; I always wear a mask."

### How do you feel about Trinity's response to COVID-19?

"I feel that Trinity has made a strong response. The administration faces many decisions, and do not have a good solution for it. They

certainly have consulted with people throughout. I mean, I've had a lot of input as the chair of the largest department

### Do you feel supported by the university?

"I do. Again, I'm fortunate. I'm department chair, and every step of the way, you have a little bit more access. I hope individually faculty members feel that way."

### How do you feel our safety measures compare to other universities?

"I think because we're smaller, we've done a better job of enforcing, for lack of a better word, the policies, or, you know, staying on top of the policies of social distancing."

## Dr. Richard Reed Professor of Anthropology and Sociology

### How has COVID impacted you?

"It's kicked me out of the classroom and forced me off campus, which has been really difficult. Because it's, you know, it is interactions with students that drives the kind of college experience that we have at Trinity."

### How do you feel about social distancing? How are you following it?

"And I'm sitting on a farm in northern Wisconsin. We've got our garden, our bread, and we've got a freezer full of meat, and we only go off-farm once in a while..."

### How do you feel about Trinity's response to COVID-19?

"I think all around, I've been really impressed at their flexibility. And their ability to be like on their feet in terms of making plans and changing plans. It's been an

extremely difficult process because no one can predict from week to week, what's going to happen."

### Do you feel supported by the university?

"I feel like they've done a good job of keeping me informed, keeping me safe, and allowing my own decisions in terms of how I wanted to go about engaging with students and other faculty."

### How do you feel our safety measures compare to other universities?

"Trinity is really working hard to build a culture of safety around COVID. It's, there are a whole range of issues. There's faculty salaries, there's their new hires, and there's departmental budgets. All three have been cut. And my concern is that the university will, will try to maintain those cuts in the post."

## Dr. Erwin Cook Professor of Classical Studies

### How has COVID impacted you?

"I came in last March from Costa Rica, about two days before the lockdown started. And I've left the house maybe half a dozen times since."

### How do you feel about Trinity's response to COVID-19?

"I'm really proud about how we've all handled this. I mean, the administration down to the staff, the faculty, and especially the students."

### Do you feel supported by the university?

"They've gone out of their way to allow us to have classes on campus if we want to teach remotely, if we need to. And if I can just jump back

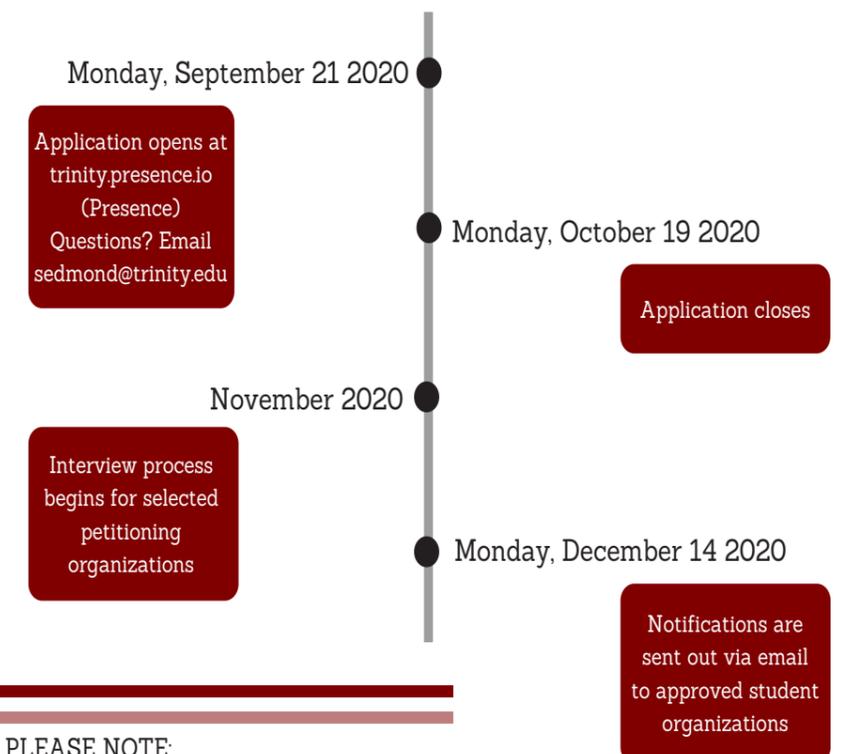
on students again, and they have been so understanding."

### How do you feel our safety measures compare to other universities?

"Lord, I've got some friends at Madison, I just my heart goes out to them, they had to shut down for two weeks, then they're now they're feuding with local government over whether they should just shut the whole shebang down and send everybody home. I think Trinity should be extremely proud of themselves that we've been able to manage and not have to ask even addressing these questions. So yeah, no, I think we need to give ourselves a gold star."

## FALL 2020

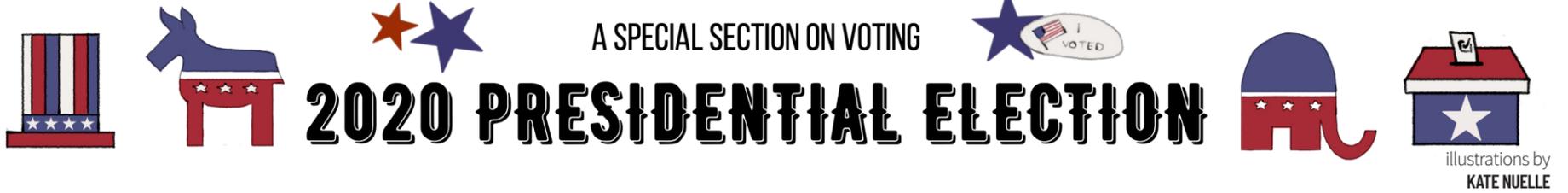
# NEW STUDENT ORGANIZATION PETITIONING PROCESS



### PLEASE NOTE:

- All student groups will be expected to upload a constitution. Please email Shannon Twumasi (sedmond@trinity.edu) to obtain the template.
- Student groups will have to submit the names of at least 10 Trinity students who would be members of the organization.
- Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.
- Interviews are contingent on completed application materials and will be offered by the Coordinator for Student Programs.





# Memorializing RBG through intersectional feminism

Trinity's Women and Gender Studies explores Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's impact



**KATHRYN SANTOS**  
GUEST COLUMNIST  
ksantos@trinity.edu



**SARAH ERICKSON**  
GUEST COLUMNIST  
serickso@trinity.edu

knowledge as a site of liberation and equity. Feminism has, at times, been a site of exclusion and division. For many years and in many ways, dominant understandings of the women's rights movement focused on the lived experiences and struggles of white women, particularly white women of a certain socio-economic class. While these issues and failures are certainly not yet resolved, the current moment demands that we imagine feminism in the most expansive, inclusive, and radical ways possible.

The conversations about Justice Ginsburg's legacy serve as a model for an intersectional, inclusive, and critical approach to feminism that we hope to cultivate in our interdisciplinary program. As several people have noted, Ginsburg was incredibly creative in her approach to demonstrating the harm caused by laws that made distinctions on the basis of gender. Rather than arguing on behalf of women who faced discrimination, she took on cases where she could clearly show that men were being denied equal treatment under the law. In doing so, she not only successfully changed such laws but also highlighted the fundamental animating principle of feminism: the belief in the social, political, and economic equality of all genders.

Although Ginsburg's record was complicated when it came to issues of race and criminal justice in this country,

she clearly understood that gender was not the only axis of inequality and made several important decisions that reflect her intersectional approach to feminism. Even in her early cases for the ACLU, she cited Black lawyers, advocated for the reproductive rights of women of color,

Recently, in the Introduction to Gender Studies course —taught by Dr. Santos — students reflected on Justice Ginsburg's impact on feminism and society more broadly. After watching a video about her long career and contributions to the fight for equity in this country, many students found themselves both moved by the magnitude of her legacy and wondering what they could do to carry it forward and to build upon it. After all, one of the first things they learned in this class is that the work of feminism is ongoing, and it requires a commitment to activism and action beyond the classroom.

As the November election rapidly approaches, it is increasingly clear that one of the most immediate ways to do the ongoing work of feminism is to vote. But voting is simply not enough in and of itself. It is incumbent upon all of us to commit to educating ourselves about how our government works — and, in many cases, does not work — and to sharing that information with others. In order to achieve the world envisioned by feminism as we define it, we must continue the work done by those who came before us and actively fight for an end to systemic oppression and for the liberation of all people.

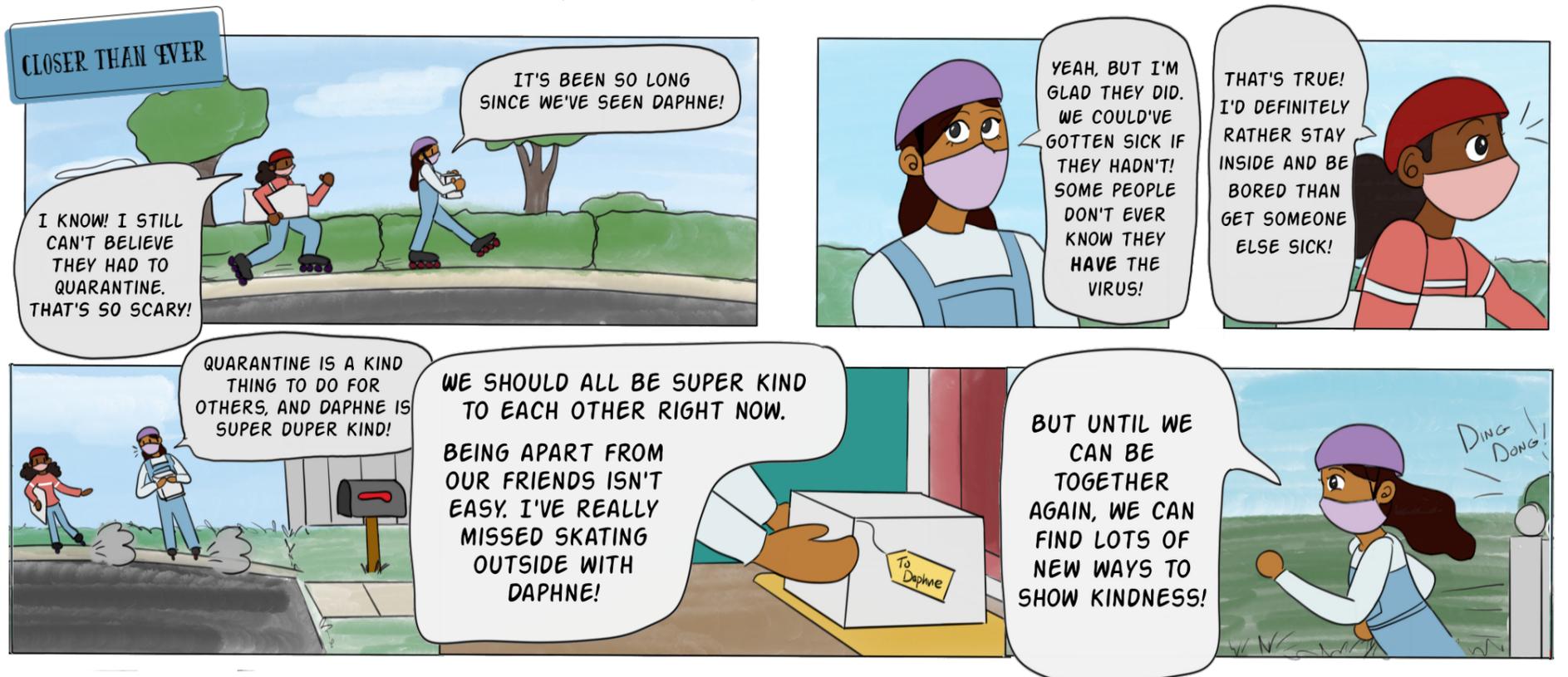


illustration by KATE NUELLE

and pointed out crucial instances where laws that discriminated against women were also used to discriminate on the basis of race. She opposed changes to the Voting Rights Act, which removed oversight from states with a history of voter suppression. She was a consistent supporter of LGBTQ rights, most recently in the *Bostock v. Clayton County* ruling, which defined anti-LGBTQ discrimination as a form of sex discrimination.

**Kathryn Santos** is an assistant professor of English and affiliated with the WAGS department.

**Sarah Erickson** is an assistant professor of Communication and also a WAGS Co-director.



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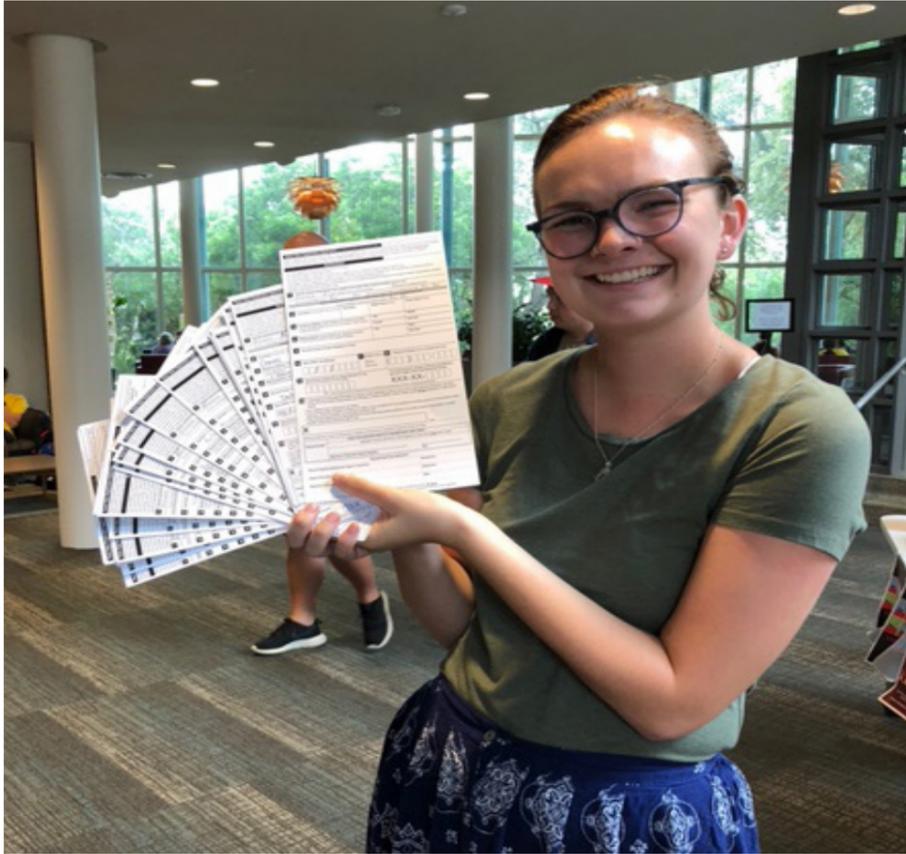
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# Get deputized and help us save our democracy

With older election clerks taking the season off due to COVID, the youth must take charge



In the fall of 2018, then sophomore **CARSON BOLDING** is pictured holding voter registration forms. She registered many Trinity students for local elections in 2018. Now, she is encouraging others to get deputized for the presidential election in order to help others get registered to vote during COVID-19. photo provided by **CARSON BOLDING**



**CARSON BOLDING**  
GUEST COLUMNIST  
cbolding@trinity.edu

Are you registered to vote? Can you name more candidates than the two white men at the top of your ballot? Have you made sure your grandma is planning to vote by mail so she doesn't have to risk her life at the polls or get ill? If you're still feeling an itch to go above and beyond this election season, I've got you covered.

With just over a month left until the 2020 presidential election, one additional way you can participate is by working as an election worker. The only requirements to become an election clerk are to be 18 years old and a registered voter in the county you plan to work in. If you have yet to register in Bexar County, you have until October 5th to do so. In order to apply, just head to the Bexar County Elections Department website. There, you'll find a one-page application that you can fill out and mail to the department.

If you've been beaten down by internship rejections in the past, don't stress! Because of COVID-19, the usual election workers — most of whom are older, retired individuals — won't be working this season. That means you'll be able to sail to the top of the applicant pool. Bexar County needs your help to ensure that this strange election year goes as smoothly as possible. Because of the high need for election workers, the county is likely to be flexible with working around your class schedule, so you don't miss that 3-hour Zoom lecture you look forward to every week.

As an election worker, you'll get to wear a variety of hats. Throughout early voting and on Election Day, your main job will be to help check IDs and show people how to use the voting machines.

However, election workers also help to set up and break down voting sites, transport ballots and other equipment, and answer questions for voters.

Not sold by the massive amounts of self-gratification you'll receive from going above and beyond your civic duty? You'll also get paid! As an election clerk in Bexar County, you can expect to earn \$15 an hour.

Is that not convincing enough for you? Maybe you're looking for ways to practice civic engagement year-round. While voter registration season is dying down due to Texas' October 5th registration deadline, you might consider becoming a Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR). When Texans register to vote, they either need to print out a form, fill it out by hand, and mail it to their local elections department, or be registered by a VDR.

To become a VDR, or get deputized, you must be 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen. You aren't, however, required to be registered to vote in the county you get deputized in. After attending a short training with the Elections Department, you'll be handed a stack of voter registration forms and sent into the world to expand the electorate at your leisure. Note: you can only register people to vote if they reside in the county you were deputized in. That means if you'd like to register voters state-wide, you'd have to be deputized in all of Texas' 254 counties. Sheesh!

While you won't get paid to be a VDR, who doesn't love the kid in class who whips out the voter registration forms at the faintest whisper of "I don't think I'm registered to vote at my Trinity address?"

All this isn't to say that voting will solve all our problems. To start, our voting system actively suppresses the voices of BIPOC and people of low-income backgrounds. But for those of us who have the privilege of being able to cast our ballots this election season, we also have a responsibility to take action. If only to ensure that tomorrow is better than today, so we can pave the way for a better future. Going above and beyond this election year is the least we can do to ensure a free and fair election.

**Carson Bolding** is a senior economics and Communication double-major.



## Coping with Stress during the COVID-19 Outbreak



Talking to people you trust can help. Stay connected to your friends and family.



Maintain a healthy lifestyle - including a proper diet, sleep, and exercise.



Limit worry by lessening the time you spend watching or listening to negative media coverage.



Create a daily routine to establish a sense of control.

[gotu.us/covid19](https://gotu.us/covid19)

[gotu.us/counseling](https://gotu.us/counseling)   [tuchaplain.youcanbook.me](https://tuchaplain.youcanbook.me)

## Join T-Prog for a Virtual Meet & Greet with Gina Ortiz Jones & Wendy Davis



Come meet Gina Ortiz Jones, the Democratic Candidate for the 23rd Congressional District of TX, over Zoom on Monday, October 12 at 7:30!

Come meet Wendy Davis, the Democratic Candidate for the 21st Congressional District of TX, over Zoom on Wednesday, October 14 at 7:30!



Contact [byancels@trinity.edu](mailto:byancels@trinity.edu) if you have any questions!



# Voting fails to acknowledge deeper systemic issues

Presidential elections aren't a "catch-all" for injustices in the United States



**VICTORIA HENRETTY**  
COLUMNIST  
vhenrett@trinity.edu

The pressure to vote is on. When Joe Biden won the primary election for the Democrats, people were quick to say "vote blue no matter who." After Hillary Clinton lost the presidential election in 2016, Democrats are racing to avoid repeating the past.

Unfortunately, instead of fundamentally changing the party or how they conduct their campaign strategy, the party decided to do a 2.0 2016 election, nominating a candidate who is barely left of center and has a dirty track record. Marginalized groups are yet again being told to vote for their oppressor with the idea that there is a "lesser of two evils."

College students and other young adults are feeling the pressure to vote in this election. Trinity, social media ads and our peers are continuously telling us to vote when the inevitable end is that if Biden does not win, the youth will be scapegoated. In reality, it is the fault of the system that

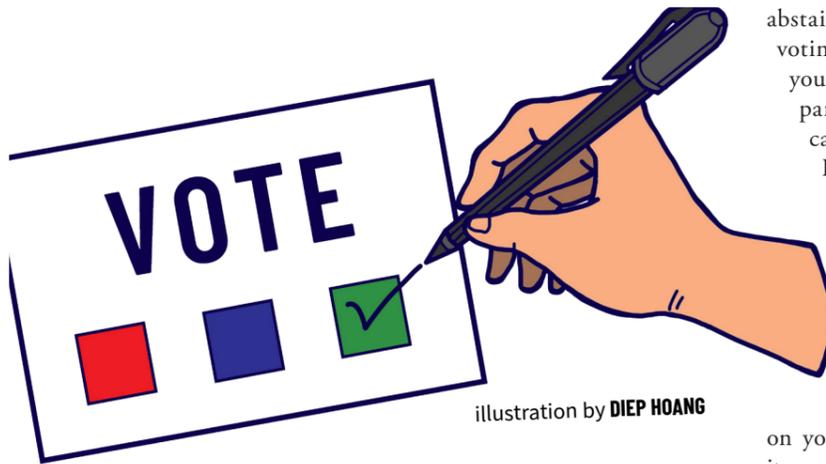


illustration by DIEP HOANG

allowed this to happen.

Abstaining your vote this fall is not the vilest thing you can do. The most harmful thing you can do this fall is to continue to ignore how our governmental system is built on white supremacy and heteronormative patriarchy.

Under this system, the individual is blamed for their failure to not elect Biden much like the individual is blamed for climate change or the spread of COVID-19. Our government and groups like the DNC have the power to make changes that would stop global warming, stop the spread of disease, and get people excited to vote, but they do not do

those things.

Why should we vote for a moderate democrat and prove to the DNC they can continue to nominate horrible candidates? In the hopes that Texas becomes a swing state in 2020? Well, unfortunately systems like gerrymandering, the inability for people to vote who have been convicted of a felony, and the electoral college, are the reasons why Texas will not elect Biden. Rather than channeling your anger and frustration at your peers who will not vote this fall, channel your energy towards organizing and becoming involved.

If you're not comfortable

abstaining from voting nor voting for Biden, I encourage you to consider voting third party. Voting third party can be a tool to show the DNC that the party is not satisfactory and there must be changes made to who they push for elections. If you're registered to vote somewhere in Bexar county it's more than likely you have many Green Party candidates on your ballot. Ultimately, when it comes to being politically engaged, voting is only one tiny aspect. If you think voting is the only action you can take to improve our society, you are horribly mistaken.

Figure out who is organizing in your city and join their projects. In San Antonio, there are a plethora of groups: Democratic Socialists of America, The Brown Berets, Black Futures Collective, the Party for Socialism and Liberation, and many more. There are always small actions that these groups are asking people to do—like calling the city council or redistributing money to those in need. We should stop wasting our breath on asking people to vote

and start getting people to help movements in our city.

On the lesser of two evils, let's consider what happened during the Obama administration: he dropped tens of thousands of bombs in the Middle East, deported millions, separated migrant children from their families, supported the illegal occupation of Palestine, among other atrocious acts. Yes, Biden actually believes in climate change but there is nothing in his policies that will prevent us from hitting the irreversible CO2 limits by 2030. If we are hoping we can make Biden more progressive once he is elected, my hopes are low.

Obama grew increasingly conservative during his two terms and ultimately, a politician will always prioritize the bottom line. Oil company's profits will always come before the people and the planet, unless something drastically changes. Furthermore, Biden supports additional funding to police, more than Trump. He plans to increase support for police and target protestors. To quote a peer, "Why should I vote for someone trying to out-fascist Trump?"

Victoria Henretty is a junior anthropology and Russian double-major.

# Voting in presidential elections still matters

It may not be the answer to every issue, but it can be still helpful



**BENJAMIN ADAMS**  
COLUMNIST  
badams1@trinity.edu

Before I begin, I want to make it clear that I not only understand the opposing viewpoint here, but I deeply sympathize with it. I honestly do not want to vote; no sense of civic pride is welling up inside of me, no great sense of hope or optimism. Instead, I feel a great apathy resting in my bones, as I struggle to find a way to prove that my vote will count.

When the election is brought up in the circles I am a part of, it is always accompanied by a sigh of exasperation, or a stillness which is only attributable to the sound of all the air being sucked out of the room. Few are excited by either candidate. When the argument is made for voting, it is always on the premise that you must "vote for the lesser of two evils."

But that's nothing new, is it?

Every election, we Americans are given the choice between two parties that do not serve popular interests. The Democratic party, once the champion of labor, has abandoned its former working-class base in favor of serving what economist Robert Reich called "symbolic analysts," that horde of former yuppies who voted for the third-way politics of Clinton in the '90s. The Republican Party, meanwhile, has begun to rely on blood-and-soil nationalism to rally a group of disenfranchised white voters into thinking that the color of their skin makes up

for the relative squalor they are living in; that, somehow, it is immigrants' fault, as if the source of that immigration were not linked to the "free trade" policies of Republican politicians from the Reagan government onward.

With both political parties embracing the concepts of free-market fundamentalism, and with economic disparities growing worse day by day, it's hard to want to vote in favor of either party. After all, to vote for a candidate who is bound to enact a policy that you don't agree with on moral grounds seems to feel like you are cosigning every act of repression that they author. What's more, there seems to be a growing recognition that the state itself, with its power to kill with total impunity, is problematic, as shown by the aggressive uses of force placed on the civilian population in the last few months, as well as the lack of justice given to agents of the law who misuse their force.

And yet, fully knowing both the problematic nature of the state and the failure of partisan politics to promote actual representative change, I still wholeheartedly and aggressively support and recommend voting. Why?

Because the act of voting draws you into the social and political realms — realms which are not as distinct as many realize. For many, their first time thinking critically about their social and political surroundings comes when they choose to vote for the first time. When you commit to voting, you commit to the act of investigation into your surroundings. You set

yourself on a mission to try to influence your social world, and in the process, come to learn more about that world. In many ways, voting entails a sort of learn-as-you-go process, getting a feel for the game and its rules only by getting out there and playing it.

The biggest barrier to effective political action, whether through formal electoral mechanisms or through non-statist, popular measures, is a lack of understanding as to what your real interests are as both an individual and as a community. Voting means that you must begin to reflect on what those interests are, where the course of your individual biography merges with that greater arc of our collective history. It means talking to other people about your shared dreams, desires, and fears, and coming to understand what you hold in common. In sum, it means growing a sense of community, as well as growing critical thinking abilities.

This reflexive ability, this knowledge of where you fit into the social world, is often lacking in many of the people who need it most: the downtrodden, the marginalized. Those who hold in their hands the levers of power do

not hold this weakness; instead, they hire financial planners and lobbyists to promote their interests on a constant basis. Voting is a first step, a gateway drug, for promoting a sense of reflexivity and solidarity. Perhaps it is necessary for people to exhaust all means of legitimate

in the hometown community that people can know the issues that require immediate addressing. It is at the local level that you can meet your representatives face-to-face — after all, it is very unlikely that I will ever meet either Donald Trump or Joe Biden



illustration by BEN RADER

governmental action before they realize that it is more effective to fix their problems themselves.

As I end, I would like to point out that, as with all things, this model of voting-as-consciousness is much more effective and politically viable in smaller, local races. It is

personally, and I thank God for that. And it is in your hometown that you can begin to know your neighbors, your community, and your common interests.

Benjamin Adams is a junior sociology major.

# A voter's guide to 2020's presidential candidates

Here's what you need to know about Democrat Joe Biden and Republican Donald Trump



Fulfill our obligation to workers and communities who powered our industrial revolution and subsequent decades of economic growth.” For more of Joe Biden’s perspective on environmental issues, visit [joebiden.com/climate-plan/](https://joebiden.com/climate-plan/)

## ECONOMY

Joe Biden’s campaign website list the following four pillars of his Build Back Better economic plan:

“Mobilize American manufacturing and innovation to ensure that the future is made in America, and in all of America.

Mobilize American ingenuity to build a modern infrastructure and an equitable, clean energy future.

Mobilize American talent and heart to build a 21st-century caregiving and education workforce, which will help ease the burden of care for working parents, especially women.

Mobilize across the board to advance racial equity in America. We’ve seen again this year the tragic costs of systemic racism.”

## EDUCATION

Joe Biden’s campaign website lists the following five goals: “Support our educators by giving them the pay and dignity they deserve. es for high school students to take practical classes that lead to credentials.

President Biden will invest in resources for our schools so, students grow into physically and emotionally healthy adults, and educators can focus on teaching.

President Biden will ensure that no child’s future is determined by their zip code, parents’ income, race, or disability.

President Biden will provide every middle and high school student a path to a successful career.

President Biden will start investing in our children at birth.”

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Joe Biden’s campaign website lists the following as his criminal justice plans:

Create a new \$20 billion competitive grant program to spur states to shift from incarceration to prevention.

Invest in educational opportunity for all.

Expand federal funding for mental health and substance use disorder services and research.

Get people who should be supported with social services – instead of in our prisons – connected to the help they need.

Expand and use the power of the U.S. Justice Department to address systemic misconduct in police departments and prosecutors’ offices.

## ABORTION

Joe Biden’s campaign website says, “As president, Biden will work to codify Roe v. Wade, and his Justice Department will do everything in its power to stop the rash of state laws that so blatantly violate the constitutional right to an abortion, such as so-called TRAP laws, parental notification requirements, mandatory waiting periods, and ultrasound requirements. Biden will reissue guidance specifying that states cannot refuse Medicaid funding for Planned Parenthood and other providers that refer for abortions or provide related information and reverse the Trump Administration’s rule preventing Planned Parenthood and certain other family planning programs from obtaining Title X funds. Biden will rescind the Mexico City Policy (also referred to as the global gag rule) that President Trump reinstated and expanded.”

## IMMIGRATION

Joe Biden’s campaign website says he will end President Trump’s asylum policies that attempts to “prevent victims of gang and domestic violence from receiving asylum; systematically prosecuting adult asylum seekers for misdemeanor illegal entry; and severely limiting the ability of members of the LGBTQ community.”

According to his website, he also has plans to send resources to the Mexican-American border, and invest in a case management program to end prolonged detention. His website also states that he will rescind the travel and refugee bans, also referred to as the “Muslim bans.” He plans to hold the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) accountable for inhumane treatment of those detained.

Biden’s website states that he will “convene a regional meeting of leaders, including from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Canada to address the factors driving migration and to propose a regional resettlement solution.” These are a few of Biden’s stances, according to his website. For more on his views on immigration issues, visit [joebiden.com/immigration/](https://joebiden.com/immigration/).

## HEALTHCARE

Joe Biden doesn’t endorse Medicare for all, but his website suggests that they will build on the Affordable Care Act. He plans to increase “the value of tax credits to lower premiums and extend coverage to more working Americans.” Premium tax credits will be “calculated to help more families afford better coverage and lower deductibles.”

Biden also proposes that he’ll be repealing the “outrageous exception allowing drug corporations to avoid negotiating with Medicare over drug prices.” For more on Joe Biden’s healthcare plans, visit [joebiden.com/healthcare/](https://joebiden.com/healthcare/).

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Joe Biden’s campaign website says the “Biden Plan” will:

“Ensure the U.S. achieves a 100% clean energy economy and reaches net-zero emissions no later than 2050.

Stand up to the abuse of power by polluters who disproportionately harm communities of color and low-income communities.

U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth has soared under President Trump, topping 3% in 4 quarters under his administration.

President Trump is unleashing economic growth and jobs. Since his election, the Trump administration’s pro-growth policies have generated 6 million new jobs, the unemployment rate has fallen to its lowest point in 50 years, and wages have grown at more than 3% for 10 months in a row.” For more information on Trump’s plans for the economy, visit <https://www.promiseskept.com/achievement/overview/economy-and-jobs/>.

## EDUCATION

Trump’s campaign website states that “The President’s FY2018 Budget Request included \$1 billion in funding to Furthering Options of Children to Unlock Success Grants for public school choice and \$250 million to promote private school choice through the Education Innovation and Research Program.

In his FY2019 budget President Trump proposed a \$5 billion federal tax credit on donations that fund scholarships to private and vocational schools, apprenticeships programs and other educational opportunities.

The Trump Administration implemented the year-round distribution of Pell grants, instead of limiting these grants to the spring and fall semesters.

The Trump Administration reformed the student loan servicing process to improve customer experience and lower costs.” <https://www.promiseskept.com/achievement/overview/education/>

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

President Trump’s campaign website says that The Department of Justice announced more than \$98 million in grant funding through the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services COPS Hiring Program to allow 802 additional full-time law enforcement officers.

President Trump signed Executive Order 13809 to restore state and local law enforcement’s access to surplus equipment from the Defense Department, such as armored vehicles.

The Department of Justice announced the creation of the new National Public Safety Partnership, a cooperative initiative with cities to reduce violent crimes.

The Trump Administration expanded Project Safe Neighborhoods to encourage U.S. Attorney’s to work with communities to develop customized crime reduction strategies.

The Department of Justice returned to their longstanding charging policy for federal prosecutors, trusting them once again to charge the most serious, readily provable offense.

Prosecutors were directed by the Department of Justice to focus on taking illegal guns off our streets.

## ABORTION

Trump intends to tighten restrictions on abortion. With the exception of cases of rape, incest, or concern for the mother, he has expressed support for banning abortion overall.

Note that President Trump’s campaign website does not highlight his particular stance on this issue and what he intends to do if he were re-elected for another term.

According to the “Promises Kept” page of his website, his mission to “[recognize] the precious gift of life and protect the sanctity of life at all stages” is expressed, followed by four points of action he took.

## IMMIGRATION

President Trump’s website states that, “Upon entering office, President Trump called on Congress to fully fund a wall along the Southern border, to close legal loopholes that enable illegal immigration, to end chain migration, and to eliminate the visa lottery program.

President Trump pulled the United States out of negotiations for a “Global Compact on Migration,” a plan for global governance of immigration and a refugee policy that may have compromised U.S. sovereignty.

Under President Trump’s leadership, the Department of Homeland Security took action to wind down the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in an orderly fashion, following the assessment of the Department of Justice (DOJ) that DACA lacks legal authorization.”

## HEALTHCARE

According to President Trump’s campaign webpage, he has worked towards accessible healthcare. This includes:

President Trump signed a six-year extension of CHIP to fund healthcare for 9 million.

President Trump has mobilized his entire administration to address drug addiction and opioid abuse by declaring the opioid crisis a nationwide public health emergency.

Under President Trump, the FDA has approved the largest number of generic drugs in history.” For more information on Trump’s stances on healthcare, visit <https://www.promiseskept.com/achievement/overview/healthcare/>.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Though President Trump doesn’t seem to have a page dedicated to addressing his stance on environmental issues, he does have a page on Land and Agriculture. The website states, “On June 6, 2019, President Trump signed the disaster relief bill that provided \$19 billion in assistance to states and territories hit by flooding, hurricanes, wildfires and other natural disasters, including farmers hit by a delayed planting season.

President Trump signed the 2018 Farm Bill, which legalized the production of industrial Hemp.” For more information on President Trump’s stance on Land and Agriculture, visit <https://www.promiseskept.com/achievement/overview/land-and-agriculture/>.

## ECONOMY

President Trump’s website states that under his leadership,

“Under President Trump’s leadership, Congress passed historic tax cuts and relief for hard-working Americans.

# Trinity's choirs incorporate technology into rehearsals

Students and faculty merge computer science with music to prepare programs with a social message.

**CARMINE VILLARREAL** | ARTS REPORTER  
cvillarr@trinity.edu

Trinity University's choir program has implemented many changes to abide by health protocols. From rehearsing outside with a 15-foot distance to creating a software that minimizes audio lagging, the choir program has drastically shifted their approach to music and rehearsals.

This fall semester, Gary Seighman, associate professor of music and director of choral activities, has been tasked with finding new ways to make rehearsals and performances as smooth as possible, such as alternating between Zoom and outdoor rehearsals.

"I have had an opportunity to be comfortable in thinking outside my comfort zone. This is my twelfth year at the university, and, in some ways, it feels like it's my first again," Seighman said.

The choir rehearses Tuesdays and Fridays and alternates between Zoom and a couple in-person, outdoor rehearsals. Despite these setbacks, the choir's passion and determination rings through. First-year Maggie Webb, a member of the First-Year Choir, views this new change optimistically.

"The whole department has proved how strong and adaptable it is. We are able to rehearse socially distanced or online. Choir is strong, and we will get through this as a team and appreciate what it means to go back to normal," Webb said.

Junior Emily Warkentin, a member of the Chamber Singers, provides insight on the technical drawbacks of rehearsing.

"Dr. Seighman directs us through a microphone and has a keyboard hooked up to a speaker, and remote students connect with us



Professor **GARY SEIGHMAN** directs the freshman choir in front of the chapel as students remain distanced. photo by **KATE NUELLE**

through Zoom," Warkentin said. "The biggest challenge is being able to hear both Dr. Seighman and each other. Because of Zoom's lag, we usually mute ourselves, and when we're outside, it can be pretty noisy. It's all a learning process as we continue to figure out what set-ups allow us to replicate some aspects of rehearsing together. No one is expecting perfection, but what keeps us going is that everyone has been so open to try different things and that Dr. Seighman is tirelessly working to bring us together for rehearsals."

To address the audio lag when rehearsing through Zoom, senior Parker Lacy, a member of the Chamber Singers, created a program that allows for smoother rehearsals.

"Dr. Seighman reached out to me and a couple of the other CS majors in Chamber Singers in late July with questions regarding a software we could use to handle audio better than Zoom. The fact that Zoom only lets one or two people talk at the same time, plus the delay it uses to make sure low connections still work, makes it terrible for a group to sing together. I ended up having some time to do research and Dr. Seighman asked me to 'officially' handle it," Lacy said.

For around three dollars, Lacy used an open-source software called Jamulus, which serves as an audio-only chatroom, and set up a server that starts once remote connections are detected. Lacy hopes that this will help rehearsals in the future

"We're slowly phasing in using Jamulus for the people who are not able to come to campus for in-person rehearsals in outdoor spaces on campus as well as planning sectionals and full rehearsals on some combination of Jamulus and Zoom in the future," Lacy said.

Due to these roadblocks, Seighman is emphasizing the quality of music rehearsed rather than the quantity of music rehearsed and is exploring emotionally, politically and historically significant pieces.

"In light of George Floyd's death, we're doing a program that's featuring all music by African-American composers and doing a program about half an hour-long based on a children's book by Cosby Cabrera," Seighman said.

The upcoming program, "My Hair is a Garden," is going to be tackling racial issues through collaborations with artists and groups.

"We're aligning with the Black Student Union here on campus and having guest artists from around the country. Going back to business, as usual, doesn't seem right right now. As musicians, we can do more to speak to the pain that our country is going through," Seighman said.

"Art tends to reflect things that are happening in the world, so it's not really a surprise that our music will look a little different than it has in past years. Instead of just getting through, we're trying to make something with a purpose, something that does what we always want our music to do: connect to people and connect people with one another," Warkentin said.

"My Hair is a Garden" will be released on during Thanksgiving weekend on their YouTube: "Trinity University Choirs."

# Exploring the afterlife of San Antonio's local music scene

San Antonio musicians practice creativity, community building and self-discovery while in quarantine.

**JOSH ANAYA** | ARTS REPORTER  
janaya@trinity.edu

For musicians here in San Antonio, the COVID-19 outbreak has opened up an uncharted territory of uncertainty towards what the local music scene will look like in the future. As venues close their doors and tours cancel, local musicians have found ways to get their creativity flowing towards new music in addition to initiatives that allow them to give back to local marginalized communities.

For D'Vonna Miller—also known as ultraviolet boy—the pandemic has created an entirely new circumstance by which their work has grown from. Performing live since they were twelve, Miller has had the opportunity to immerse themselves in music for several years. As they explored the San Antonio local music scene, they noted that it seemed very individualistic.

"There was a lot of accountability that wasn't taking place. Venues were taking advantage of artists, and I wasn't seeing any support for anyone who didn't have money, those who were creative and those who truly wanted a community," Miller said.

In contrast, Miller reflected upon the importance of uplifting marginalized voices during the era of COVID-19.

"Currently, my inspiration is the idea that community is so important; I feel like humans were created to be in community with each other," Miller said.

This struck them at the beginning of the pandemic, during which Miller found themselves homeless. It wasn't until they had asked for support from their Twitter followers that they were able to secure stable housing. Community, they emphasized, pushes Miller to continue towards uplifting Black trans musicians.



Paper Tiger, a popular San Antonio music venue, prepares to reopen its doors and welcome back local musicians. photo by **KATE NUELLE**

"I reached out to my community, and they reached back," Miller said. "Funding people's housing and food situations is so important now."

Currently, they work with 222 DIY, a promotional company they started with a focus on providing local musicians with a safe space.

Natássia Casas — singer in local group Mírame — has performed locally for about two years. Coming from a family that prized music, she began singing through her school's theater and choir programs. It wasn't until college that she met her Mírame bandmates.

"We instantly clicked. I've grown with the band to see that it was never a thought of mine to be in a band or be a performer until I was in one," Casas said.

Since starting, they've created and performed music with love. Before the pandemic, they were performing live shows nearly every weekend.

"Every show I performed in, I felt a sense of community, family and friendship," Casas said. "We are a Black and Brown band, and we want to let ourselves have the chance to speak up."

When COVID-19 hit, it was back to the drawing board. Live shows were canceled as was their expected performance at South by Southwest. Casas, currently quarantining in California, has had little time to focus on music.

"Since we're not all together, we're not actively working on new stuff. A lot of us are working and going to school, you know," Casas said.

However, Casas has taken time to practice songwriting and to come up with ideas to help members of the San Antonio community that currently need support.

"We're trying to use our platform to give out resources for Black Lives Matter and other mutual aid groups," Casas said.

While not creating new music, Casas expects to visit San Antonio soon and create visuals with her bandmates.

In a recent Vox article, local DIY artist Matthew San Martin recounts graduating from college into the "bleakest economy in decades." After earning a bachelor's degree in communications, San Martin felt stuck after having to shift his entire course of action.

"I was really depressed. You go from having two jobs and being on top of things and reset back," San Martin said.

San Martin has been performing in San Antonio since 2015. Through his music, San Martin champions his Chicano identity to uplift Latinx and Chicanx peoples.

"It's always been a driving force in everything I do, and I hope to take that with me as far and beyond into content that will benefit Chicax and Latinx people in San Antonio and Central Texas who can find comfort in their identity through the stuff that I make," San Martin said.

Currently, San Martin continues to use his platform towards projects that benefit the San Antonio community. Nearly two years ago, San Martin came up with the idea for SA Covers For A Cause, a compilation album of eighteen young San Antonio musicians covering other San Antonio musicians — a project that Miller and Casas both participated in. All proceeds from the album were donated to the San Antonio Food Bank. This, in addition to his work with Other You Media, has characterized his work towards a new generation of local music. San Martin is also on track to pursue a master's degree in journalism innovation at Syracuse University.

The ongoing work of these three artists alongside other local musicians goes to show how important community-building is during a time where it may seem lost.

# Acting with your body: how theatre classes adapt to face masks

New safety requirements push students taking in-person theatre classes to act with more than just their face

SAVANNAH WAHLGREN | ARTS EDITOR  
swahlgre@trinity.edu

All classes at Trinity have had to undergo changes to adapt to the new safety requirements put in place due to COVID-19. For many, this resulted in switching to an online curriculum with remote lectures and digital assignments. For the classes that were still offered in person, safety measures such as social distancing and wearing face masks have been put in place, yet these solutions still present a variety of other problems when it comes to the arts, specifically to acting. How do you learn how to convey an emotion to an audience when half of your face is covered? How do you act along with a fellow student to create a compelling scene when you are required to remain six feet apart? Theatre professors Stacey Connelly and Nathan Stith have had to ask themselves these questions among many others to find a way to teach their Introduction to Acting courses, and they feel that they've come up with pretty good solutions.

"We made the decision that acting class doesn't really work online," Stith said. "And we are committed to covering the same things pedagogically that we always do but in a safe fashion face to face."

Though they might have been committed early on to teaching the acting course in person and began to plan early on, many challenges only became apparent once the semester started. Little things like passing out papers or props became exercises in problem solving as the professors had to think of ways around such close interactions.

"One of the ways we've sort of taken care of issues having to do with warm-ups is by instead of doing a whole lot of theatre games where we're doing a lot of touching, we do yoga on these mats that are sort of like [the students'] home base," Connelly said. "It's a lot more silent than it used to be."

Despite the challenges of restructuring the class, this has given the professors the opportunity to focus on aspects of acting that they normally would not have had the chance to. One of the biggest changes has been acting with face masks, but students are now tasked with focusing more on their bodies and how their body language can convey a sense of who their character is to viewers.

"We will be spending a lot of time on, for the rest of the semester, how you can use your body

to inform the character," Stith said. "The way you hold yourself, the kind of tension you hold, we'll focus on things like that which can all be very expressive and helpful in helping the audience understand what's happening emotionally or psychologically for the character."

The new focus on one's body when acting is something that Connelly sees as a positive, especially as students are forced to sit in front of a computer for most of the day.

"I feel like it's very easy in an academic setting, because of the intense emphasis on study and classroom work, to live in your head, and, most of the day, you forget you have a body attached to it," Connelly said. "[Acting] helps you think about your body and, we often take it for granted, how incredibly skilled your body is."

Students in the Introduction to Acting courses seem to have risen to the many new challenges and embraced the opportunity to adapt and try new things.

"We've had a couple activities where we're supposed to just pantomime, but you can't see our mouths or our expressions, so it's been hard in that sense," said Ifeyinwa Mbanefo, junior.

"Of course, the masks make it so much more difficult," said Megan McGuire, sophomore. "But I think it will make us better actors in the long run because when you're wearing a mask, you really have to try to have good diction, and you have to enunciate so people can understand you."

McGuire also expressed her joy of simply being able to attend a theatre class and have some semblance of normalcy in a time with so many changes. According to McGuire, her acting class has become something that she can look forward to throughout her week.

"I think the normalcy of walking into Ruth Taylor Theatre Building is just so nice," McGuire said. "That building is so comforting and feels so much like home that it's nice to just be back even if it is strange and modified."

Stith and Connelly are looking forward to the rest of the semester and the future projects that the students create. They are thankful for the opportunity to connect with and provide a space for students through art, which seems to be more important now than ever as students have had to adjust to so many changes already.

"This is what we call sacrificing for our art, that old phrase that now we're living," Connelly said.



Top: ANNABELLA HICK, JULIANA MARTINEZ and JORDAN FREDERICK practice a scene together while in class. Bottom: JOSH REA and JULIANA MARTINEZ listen to Professor NATHAN STITH as he teaches the students. photos by CLAIRE SAMMONS



JOSH REA and JORDAN FREDERICK rehearse a scene for classmates in their introduction to acting class. photo by CLAIRE SAMMONS





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Contact [emembren@trinity.edu](mailto:emembren@trinity.edu) for more information

# Student-athletes share thoughts on protests in sports

Professionals' outspokenness on social issues causes mixed reactions among Tigers

**GAIL HODGES GRADY** | SPORTS REPORTER  
ggrady@trinity.edu

This year, there has been a rise in protests in sports after the recent shootings of Black Americans. Whether politics and protests belong in sports has long been a touchy subject, with some admiring athletes who speak out, while others wish athletes would just stick to what they're paid to do.

College students are some of the most-reached people when professional athletes speak out, so student-athletes at Trinity shared their reactions to the protests happening in professional sports.

Trey Lisauckis, a first-year on the football team, believes athletes encouraging others to vote could be beneficial for the country. However, Lisauckis wants athletes to avoid shaming other people.

"I think everyone should be able to express their own views in whichever way they feel necessary, in compliance with the law of course. However, I don't think they should demonize others in making their statements. Advocating for the citizens to vote is great, and I'm sure we will see an influx in votes because of the mass propaganda," said Lisauckis. "Ultimately, I don't think anyone has the right to tell the athletes to stop speaking their mind (i.e. the 'shut up and play' movement). But, in accordance with my previous point, they should not be trying to alienate and discriminate against a group."

Seve Rodriguez, a senior on the track team, emphasized the influence that professional athletes can play in terms of spreading messages of fighting social injustices.

"I think that it is incredibly important that professional athletes use their platforms to speak out against social injustice and encourage participation in our democracy. Athletes have an incredible 'under the radar' position of power in our society, and I think that it is great that they can spread messages without the political slant and jargon that comes from news anchors," said Rodriguez. "They are playing the game they love and promoting democracy at the same time, without shouting at you in the face like some news cycles have turned into."

According to Harris Good, a junior on the football team, there is great importance in athletes bringing attention to issues in order to create change.

"I think it's essential that athletes are using their platform to bring attention to the issues that need a change, and you can see, by how the fans are reacting, that change is really needed," said Good.

Delaney Kelley, a senior on the golf team, shared a similar sentiment to Good.

"I think that professional athletes know their influence on society and that people will listen to what they have to say. I think that athletes speaking up about things as important as voting and social justice is important because it brings a perspective that can inspire a completely different

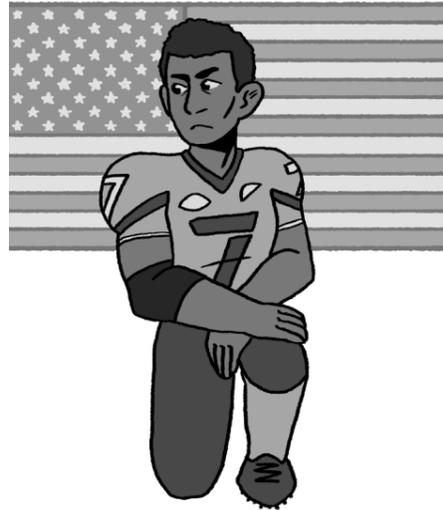


illustration by **REN RADER**

group of people to participate in these issues," said Kelley.

According to Mary Doyle, a junior on the swimming & diving team, professional athletes can especially influence young athletes who look up to them as role models.

"I just think it's easy for them to advocate because they have a social platform from being professional athletes. And along with that they have a lot of people, especially young people, that really look up to them," said Doyle.

While many student-athletes at Trinity see athletes playing a big role in more than just their sports, not everyone agrees that they should be speaking out on politics. Andre Gebhardt, a first-year on the football team, believes football players should just play football.

"I think protesting has no place in sports. I watch football to see men battle each other, not protest for BLM," said Gebhardt.

If everyone agreed in the country, there would not be the need for protests. There are certainly a lot of people who watch sports as an escape, and they don't want the difficult realities of politics to seep into their favorite games.

Lexie Acevedo, a junior on the volleyball team, combats the idea that athletes should not talk about social issues by explaining that athletes are humans before they are athletes.

"I think professional athletes in the NBA, NFL, WNBA, and NHL [and other sports] are regular humans before they are professional athletes and viewers sometimes lose sight of that," said Acevedo. "Discussing social justice issues is the freedom of speech in action, they just have a larger platform to utilize than most, and I am happy they are using it. Whether they are directly impacted currently or not, they understand the repercussions of social injustices beyond themselves and I think that's admirable."

## Fun activities in San Antonio that are COVID-19 safe

From the Pearl to the San Antonio Zoo, there is plenty to do in Alamo City



**PAIGE WALLACE**  
SPORTS REPORTER  
pwallace@trinity.edu

2020 has been one hell of a year, and it's safe to say everyone's stress levels are pretty high right now. While everyone's first priority should be COVID-19 safety for themselves and others, this doesn't necessarily mean we have to stay locked up inside. The weather is starting to change, so let's get outside and get those endorphin levels up! Here's a rundown of seven outdoor COVID-19 safe activities to do in San Antonio.

### 1. Pearl Farmers Market

The Pearl Farmers Market is open every Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The vendors wear masks and gloves, provide hand sanitizer stations at their tent and handle all the products themselves. Guests are supposed to point at what they want, rather than touch. Guests must wear masks and are encouraged to stay 6 feet apart, much like any other grocery store. If you are worried about the crowds, I recommend going earlier, which is also nice because it will be cooler! The farmers market is a great way to get outside, walk around a bit and support local SA food vendors.

### 2. JoyRide virtual class

JoyRide is a fitness studio that offers cycling, pilates, barre and high-intensity strength classes. Because of COVID-19, JoyRide has begun offering virtual classes. They have two services that require subscriptions, but JoyRide provides codes

that give you the first 30 days free. "FORTÉ" provides you with JoyRide cycling classes. You can use the bikes in the Fitness Center, but make sure to bring a mask and make a reservation for the time slot you want! The second platform, "JETSWEAT," gives you access to pilates, sculpt and circuit classes. Grab a friend and a yoga mat if you have it, and do the workouts on the Intramural field!

### 3. Rooftop Cinema Club Drive-in Theater

After a long week, sometimes you need to relax and enjoy a movie. The Rooftop Drive-In Movie theater is about 20 minutes away from Trinity — near Six-Flags Fiesta Texas — and they show movies every day from Sept. 25th to Oct. 18th. As October nears, the

movies get spookier. Rooftop is taking safety very seriously, so all ticket purchases are online. Every service is contactless, and they make sure cars are spaced out appropriately and require that whenever someone leaves their vehicle, they must have a mask on. Additionally, they have Community Screening nights where tickets are only \$5, and all the proceeds go to the San Antonio Food Bank and Black Lives Matter.

### 4. Hikes

On the weekend when the weather is nice, go for a hike! Hikes are a great way to switch up your routine and get some good exercise. It doesn't seem like SA would have very many hike routes, but there are a lot of

trails available in the area, from Eisenhower Park to the Lost Maples State Natural Area. Just remember to bring your good shoes, water, snacks, sunscreen and a hat if it's sunny. And of course, don't forget to bring a mask and some friends!

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Crowds gather in a socially distant manner at the Pearl. Just north of downtown San Antonio, the Pearl offers something for everyone including a farmers market on Saturdays and Sundays from 9a.m. - 1p.m. Vendors and guests alike are required to wear masks, and the open air helps safety as well.



# After sudden shutdown, esports are back on(line)

## TU Gaming is gearing up to get their players back in action remotely

ALEJANDRA GERLACH | SPORTS REPORTER  
agerlach@trinity.edu

In April of 2019, the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) held its first official Division III esports competition, but just a year later, the SCAC had to cancel their second-ever esports season due to COVID-19. Now, to avoid future complications caused by the pandemic, SCAC is moving all sports competition online for the upcoming season.

Esports involve online competitions through virtual games, but often players meet to play against one another in the same room. The sudden shutdown last spring meant that esports athletes were left without the chance to compete in-person, just like their physical sports counterparts, according to Christopher Dailey, junior and TU Gaming (TUG) president.

"Last semester, it was very unfortunate because everyone was shutting down so quickly, SCAC just had to completely shut itself off and we just lost [the season]. We had done a season up until that point and then it just cut off," said Dailey.

According to Chad Conway, junior and TUG VP of Events and *Super Smash Bros. Ultimate* (Smash Ultimate) Captain, the nature of esports makes creating a synchronous schedule the biggest challenge.

"Even if things are looking better come March when the actual competition is, they still have just decided to do it online to be safe. With some of the games, it doesn't have much of an effect; many of them incorporate online play into the games already, so it's more just finding a time for everyone to get on and play at the same time with people in Texas and schools in Colorado, stuff like that," said Conway.

Another change the SCAC will potentially make in the upcoming esports season is offering more games for athletes to compete in. Originally, schools would send teams of three to six people to compete in *Smash Ultimate*, *League of Legends*, *Rocket League* and *Overwatch*. However, this year, the SCAC announced a list of over ten potential games — including single-player games like *Mario Kart*, *Magic the Gathering* and *Hearthstone* — that will be added to the championship roster if enough participants show interest.

"If enough people are willing to participate in [team games, like *Valorant* and *League of Legends*], there will be a season for those [...], where it's like the people that win the most get byes and at the actual tournament, everyone else has to play each other based on how many games they won in the season," said Dailey. "[For single-player games] that's just essentially one person goes to SCAC and just plays that specific game."

Every individual school will respond to the SCAC survey to indicate player interest in each of the potential sports to determine which games will be represented in the March competition. In the meantime, Trinity esports athletes will have the opportunity to compete in *League of Legends*, *Rocket League*, *Smash Ultimate*, *Valorant* and *Fortnite*—assuming one more person joins the team—in the Collegiate Star League (CStar), according to junior Jackson Meyer, TUG VP of Esports and Captain of *Rocket League* and *League of Legends*.

"SCAC for us is a little bit later in the Spring semester; however, as of right now, I'm trying to get a bunch of teams to participate in what's called CStar. CStar is a national collegiate organization that deals with Esports and multiple different video games," said Meyer.

In addition to CStar, TUG hopes to participate in a *Smash Ultimate* tournament on Jan. 24th, 2021 at San Antonio's LFG Cyber Cafe, according to Meyer.

"LFG Cybercafe is a big tournament here and they're going to help host it, and it's going to be [teams] from [Texas A&M] San Antonio, UIW, UTSA, UT, University of Houston, Trinity and a few others ... [We're] going to have a pretty big prize pool for that as well, and they're going to host it, so we should be getting some jerseys from them, custom Trinity masks as well, and it'll be a nice kind of different pace, especially for the Smash team to actually have an in-person event, instead of all the online ones we've planned for them," said Meyer.



"jdown66" and "Fraijet" square off in a game of *Super Smash Bros. Ultimate*. TU Gaming has shifted all of its events virtually since last spring. image captured by KATE NUELLE

According to Dailey, TU Gaming is not only about competitive esports, as the club also aims to provide a balance of casual and competitive events.

"We've been trying to kind of separate [TUG from TU Esports] a little bit because there is both a casual and competitive side to most video games, and not everybody enjoys the competitive side especially," said Dailey. "Especially this semester because we can't do tournaments as easily, we're trying to be a bit more casual with some of our events."

With Student Involvement allowing clubs to book a limited number of rooms to host in-person club activities, TUG hopes to start hosting in-person events like their traditional Horror Night and popular *Smash Ultimate* tournaments, according to Conway.

"The goal is definitely to get *Smash Ultimate* up and running because we've had a lot of interest in that especially lately, but that being said—also yes with the Horror Night that is one of our staples—we're still going to have in-person events, along with our online events. Obviously we don't want to exclude anyone who can't be on campus," said Conway. "Our plans are possibly even having simultaneously an in-person *Smash* event while also having an online one, so whatever your situation, you can participate in whatever bracket fits your needs. In-person we know that obviously, it's going to be a lot different, having to social distance, wear a mask, you're not going to be able to share controllers or anything like that, but I think we've got some ideas on how to make it work."

## Safe activities in SA

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### 5. SA Botanical Garden

To enjoy nature and some gorgeous plants, head to the San Antonio Botanical Gardens. The garden is selling tickets online now to minimize social contact. If you bring your student ID, the cost for students is \$13. It's open from March to Oct. from 9 am to 7 pm Monday-Friday and 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday and Sunday. You can sign up for a guided tour or walk around yourself. There are various attractions, from the conservatory to a trail with three distinct Texas ecological regions. Make sure to check their event calendar; sometimes they host morning yoga sessions, cooking classes and even cocktail scavenger hunts.

### 6. San Antonio Zoo

Take a trip to the zoo! It's right by campus, so you can walk there easily. You can purchase tickets online, and they are \$22 for adults. The zoo is open from 10 am to 4 pm every day, but on Saturday they stay open until 7 pm. Also, they are offering a drive-thru experience on Fridays from 5 pm to 8 pm.

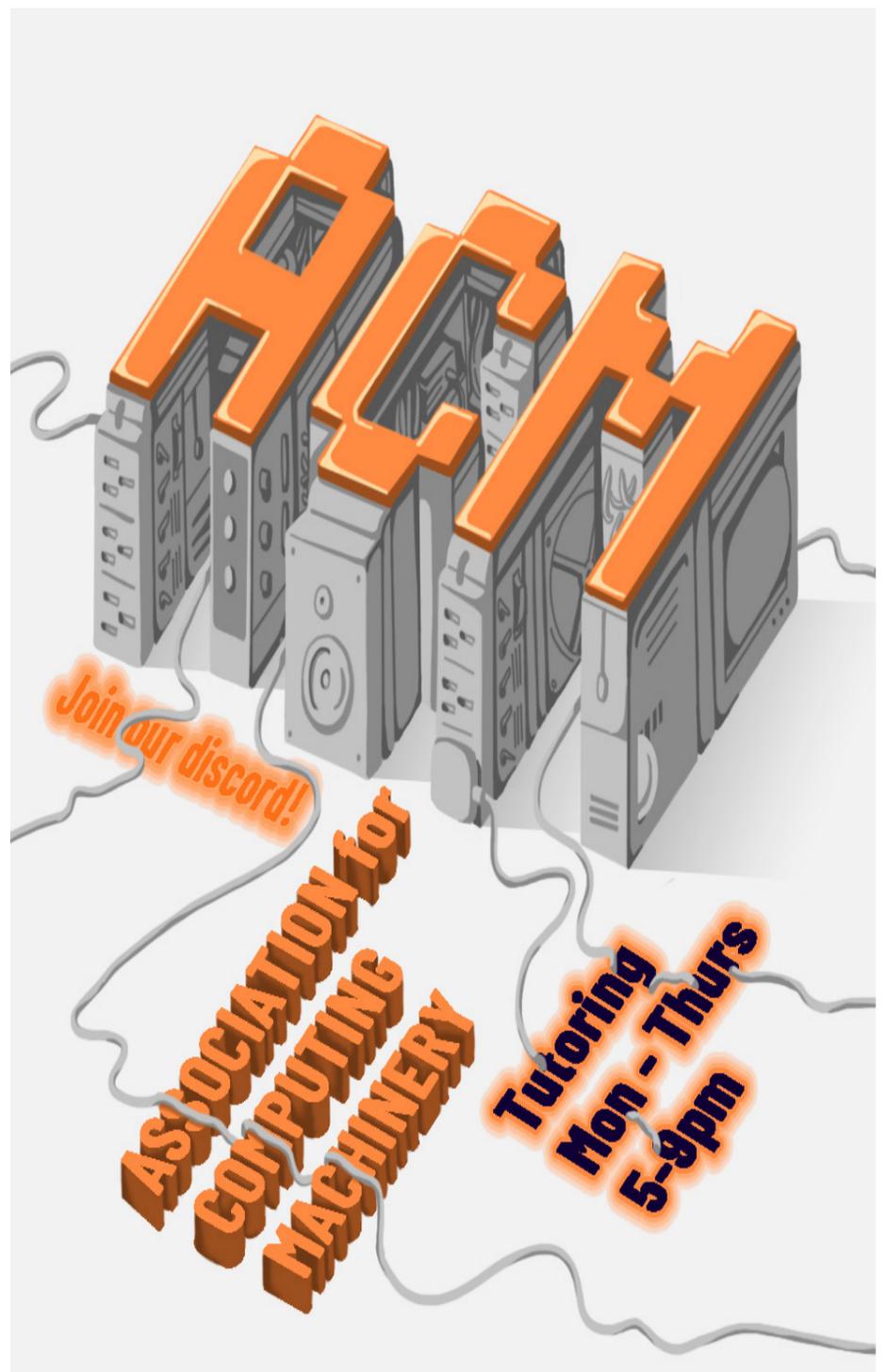


The San Antonio Zoo sits empty on a sunny afternoon. The zoo is just across the street from Trinity's campus, and students can attend for just \$22. On Fridays, a drive-thru experience is also available. photo by KATE NUELLE

### 7. Day Trip to Austin

Okay, so this isn't in San Antonio, but it is still a good idea! Austin is so close at just an hour and a half drive away, and there are so many outdoor activities to do. You can look up hikes or go on Lady Bird Lake to paddle-board or kayak. You could also bring some blankets, get lunch to-go at a local Austin place — I recommend Kerbey Lane Cafe — and have a picnic at Zilker Park. You can bring a volleyball and play on the courts or bring a frisbee or Spikeball if you have it. If you're looking for a more chill day, grab a speaker and listen to music or read a book while you're there. Zilker is also dog friendly, so if you have a pupper at home, feel free to give them a fun day too!

Times are really tough right now, and to stay sane, we need to try to make time to do fun, and most importantly, safe activities! Getting outside, especially since it's starting to cool down, and being active, is a great way to boost your energy level and raise endorphins. I hope you give some of these suggestions a try!



# Connection in the Time of Covid

## A Support Group to Cope with a Pandemic

A virtual (Zoom)  
drop-in group

Offered by  
Counseling Services



Wednesday evenings  
at 9pm

Email  
lkinkler@trinity.edu  
for more info

**\*Must be located in Texas to participate\***



TRINITY DIVERSITY CONNECTION PRESENTS

# DISEASE IS PROFOUNDLY SOCIAL.

Please join us in an engaging panel-led discussion about how COVID19 has affected and is still affecting predominantly BIPOC communities and their often silenced voices. This discussion will provide a nuanced understanding of how those such as the unhoused, in the prison industrial complex, essential workers, Black and Native communities are disproportionately affected by the burdens of inequality, further stratified and evidenced by this pandemic.

**Date & Time:**

October 6th, from 5-6:30 pm

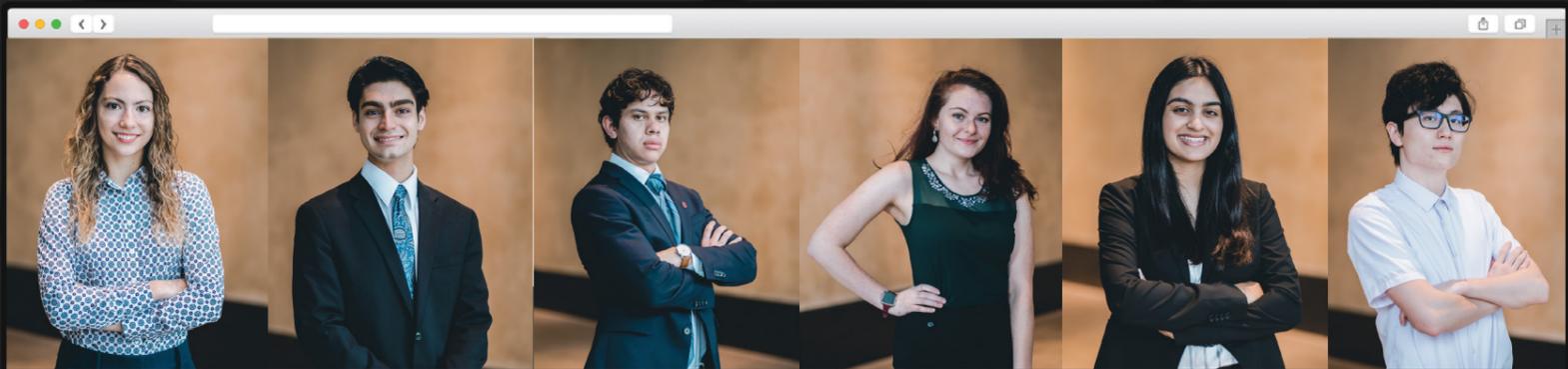
**Location:**

Zoom Webinar (Scan QR code)

*Scan Here!*



# Which startup will win the \$25,000 grand prize?



**Louis H. Stumberg**  
Venture  
Competition

**FINAL ROUND**  
OCT 8, 2020  
6:00PM



**#TUSTUMBERG**

