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University holding virtual graduation

Virtual commencement will be the second ever

JAKE PERRY | NEWS REPORTER
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Every semester, fall or spring, Trinity's graduating seniors receive their long awaited degrees in a commencement ceremony rife with reflective speeches and triumphant music. But this December, for the second semester in a row, the speeches will be pre-recorded, and the music will come through laptop speakers.

Madeleine Heliste, senior neuroscience major, was one of those seniors informed by email that the graduation ceremony this semester would be entirely virtual.

"Although expected, it was sad to receive the email," Heliste said. "A small part of me was praying that, since December graduation is much smaller, we could do it in Laurie or the football field. However, it would be quite dangerous for families to travel and for everyone to gather safely, so I knew my hopes were probably too optimistic."

The Commencement and Convocation Committee, co-chaired by Duane Coltharp, associate vice president for Academic Affairs, Dennis Ugolini, professor of physics and astronomy, and Bruce Bravo, senior director of conferences and auxiliary services, made an official recommendation to Danny Anderson, university president, last week to hold the December commencement ceremony virtually.

"We fundamentally have to focus on health and safety," said Tess Coody-Anders, vice president for Strategic Communication and Marketing and acting Nerve Center head. "But we absolutely need and want to give people the opportunity to experience that moment where you feel yourself feted and graduated. I know we'll work hard to try to achieve both those goals."

The December commencement ceremony is going to be the same as the virtual graduation ceremony held for class of 2020 graduates in the spring.

"The students, degree candidates, families, faculty, they did appreciate that we had something" Coltharp said. "The [ceremony] itself is going to be almost identical."

Like all graduations, the Virtual Conferral of Degrees — as the Commencement and Convocation Committee calls it — will begin with shorter, pre-recorded speeches reflecting on the achievements of the graduates. Following will be a virtual parade of the graduating students, with each student having a few seconds to be recognized.

Graduates have the opportunity to attach a photo or video alongside their names in the slideshow.

"One would have liked to be in person, but if that's not going to be possible this was a pretty good substitute," said Coltharp. The May commencement ceremony was originally considered a placeholder until an in-person ceremony could be arranged in August. The summer's COVID-19 spike, however, prompted Trinity to cancel the proposed ceremony.

"We have no idea when things are going to get back to normal, so we're just not going to predict," said Coltharp. "We hope that we're able at some point to welcome back in-person and to do something, but that's going to have to stay up in the air until we have some sense of when this all is going to be over."

continued on **PAGE 3**

Search for dean of students begins

Committee aims to make final recommendations by March

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Following the announcement of David Tuttle's retirement on Sept. 29, the university organized its search committee for the next dean of students and associate vice president for Student Life. Announced on Oct. 22 by Sheryl Tynes, vice president for Student Life, the new committee is co-chaired by Alex Serna-Wallender, university chaplain, and Michael Soto, vice president for Academic Affairs and professor of English.

The committee held its first virtual meeting in late October and aims to conduct campus interviews with finalists in mid-to-late February. Ideally, recommendations will be presented to Tynes in March, who will make the ultimate hiring decision in consultation with Danny Anderson, university president.

Due to the student-centered nature of the role, the committee's search for Trinity's next dean of students includes numerous opportunities for student input.

"So much of this can sometimes happen in an opaque way that students might sometimes feel left out of the process. I hope that's not the case this time around. In the next few days, Dr. Tynes is going to be sharing an announcement about the search process. And that's going to include a survey that will allow respondents to share what they think is most important for the committee to consider as it evaluates candidates for the job," said Soto. "When we boil the process down to a handful of finalists, to the last three or four people under consideration,



The search committee is co-chaired by **ALEX SERNA-WALLENDER**, university chaplain, and Michael Soto, associate vice president for Academic Affairs and professor of English. Final recommendations will be made by March. photo by **GENEVIEVE HUMPHREYS**

we're going to make very sure that the finalists are in front of as many students as possible. At an early point next spring, so students will have ample opportunity to interact with the finalists and to share their thoughts about each of the candidates."

To ensure the inclusion of student voices throughout the entire search process, the committee includes three student leaders alongside the faculty and staff members.

"I think it's really important because having that student perspective when hiring for a position that is so student-centered, I think

it's really important, because a lot of what the dean of students does is interact with students," said Oliver Chapin-Eiserloh, junior business and political science double-major and student leader of the search committee. "I know that they were wanting to have a group of students on the committee who are kind of representative of different student groups and initiatives across campus, and so they really want to kind of have that broad perspective when considering for that student-centered role."

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Professors adapt to the new normal for spring

Few courses attempt a return to traditional methods of learning

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The COVID-19 pandemic is now entering the third semester at Trinity, with very little changes in cases and handling. Nonetheless, classes must continue, and professors, as well as students, are still faced with difficult decisions when it comes to deciding classes.

As registration opens, students find that more classes are being offered through Tigerflex, which means that the class is offered both in-person and online. As well, certain labs have become hands-on only, meaning that it is a requirement to be there in person.

Both students and professors of all disciplines are working to accommodate and create an inclusive and worthwhile environment for all, including professor of biology, Dr. Kelly Lyons.

"We have a high-quality education to maintain, so I try to bend over backwards to accommodate them," Lyons said.

However, despite the attempts to make a functioning environment for every student, it has become more challenging as more students begin to opt to in-person learning and attempt to return to campus. Despite these incoming changes to campus, there have still been many factors of students' lives, such as the pandemic, that have yet to change. Sahan Suggala, first-year, is facing the pressures of balancing his education with his concerns about the pandemic.

"I might have to come to campus next semester even if COVID persists because as we go to higher-level courses, there are less spots



Students in one of **KELLY LYONS'** classes at Brackenridge Park collecting algae and Cyanobacteria in October. photo provided by **KELLY LYONS**

and good times available for my off-campus needs," Suggala said.

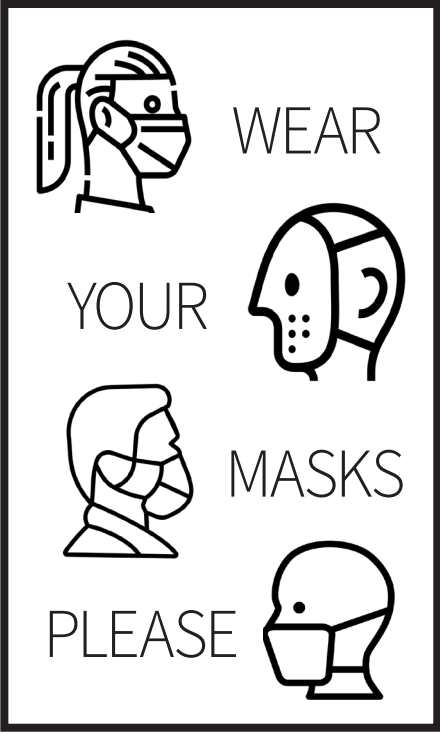
Although the pandemic continues, students and faculty are attempting to return to the traditional styles of learning, which includes maintaining the academic policies that are used in regular years.

"I think we are doing students a disservice by allowing too much of [pass/fail], because the rest of the world didn't get a pass/fail," said Lyons. "We all need a few pass/fail days for sure, but for students who have things that have settled out and are

practicing safe distancing, I feel that it's our job to maintain expectations as would be maintained in the workplace, where they'll go in the future."

Many students share this same attitude towards changes in academic policy, as they have planned their futures very tightly with grad school and beyond in mind. Although it comes through on a case by case basis, most students would agree that they can't afford to sacrifice points to their GPA or graduation requirements.

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Previously, on SGA: Cause for Alarm in Calvert Hall

This covers the meeting on Nov. 11.

CLIMATE CHECK

Judicial Chair Mia Quintanilla expressed concern over a recent COVID-19 test she had. According to Judicial Chair Quintanilla, her swab for the test was about the size of her pinky, leading her to question whether these new tests were as efficient and accurate as the PCR COVID tests. She suggested that SGA obtain testing numbers for before and after switching from PCR tests, in order to see if there is a significant difference in results between the two.
Vice President Oliver Chapin-Eiserloh responded to Judicial Chair Quintanilla’s concerns by saying that the current test has same levels of accuracy as the PCR test. He suggested, however, that J.C. Quintanilla reach out to the COVID Clinic.

CALVERT CREEPS

First-year Senator Steven Cox shared his concerns over an incident that happened at **midnight** the night

prior. According to Senator Cox, he is in a Class of 2024 GroupMe that shared some concerning messages overnight. According to Senator Cox, several girls in Calvert Hall reported knocking on their doors in the middle of the night. Two men reportedly knocked on every girl’s door in Calvert, presumably looking to get into their rooms.
The incident was reported to TUPD, and is being investigated further. For now, the girls of Calvert Hall were told to be aware of their surroundings.

PRESENCE... FOR THE PRESENT?

Esther Kim, Assistant Director for Orientation Programs, and Shannon Twumasi, Coordinator for Student Programs, had a budget funding request for their continued use of “Presence,” a platform where student organizations can update members, remove members, and create invitations for events. The total funding request was \$2,310 in order to give all student organizations access to Presence. SGA approved this request in its full amount.

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 11/04/2020

OVERALL NUMBERS
Test Results to Date: **3,979**

Total # Active Cases: **6**
Cumulative Tested Positive: **20**

DISTRIBUTION

PRINT
Oct. 30: 661
Oct. 22: 669
Oct. 2: 416
Sept. 25: 705
Sept. 18: 632
Sept. 10: 639
Sept. 4: 601

WEB
7,101 page
views this week

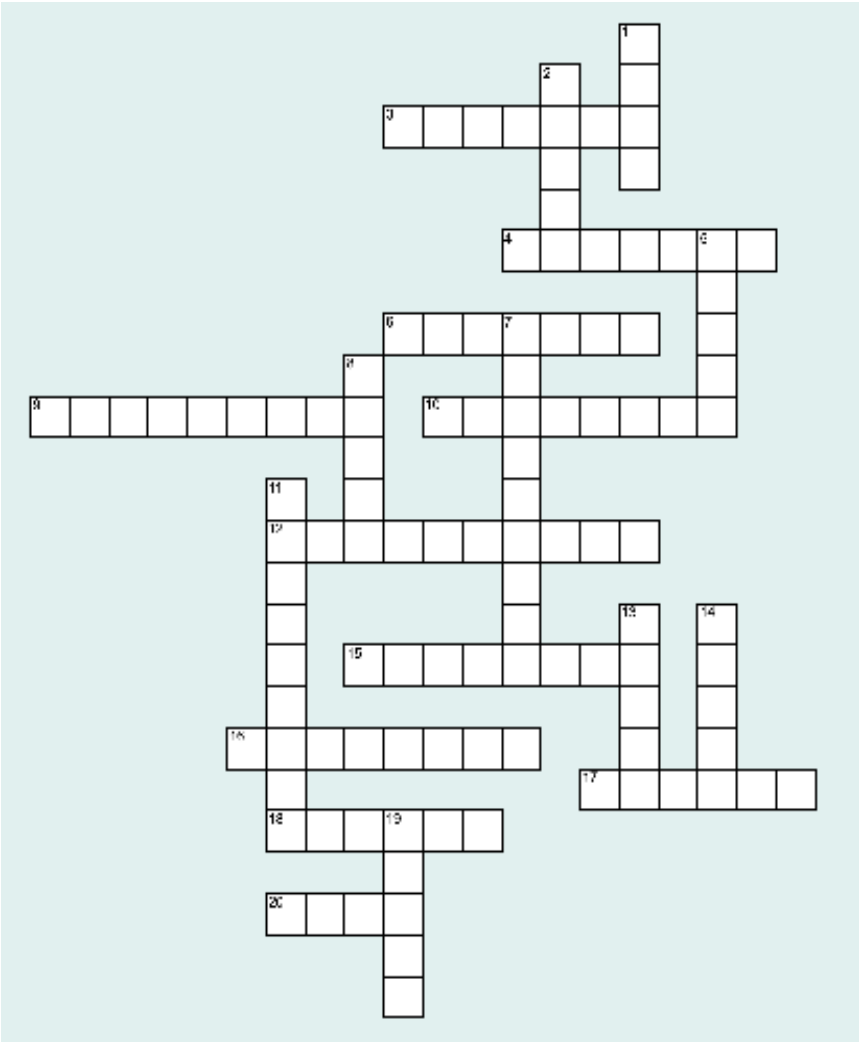
CLASSIFIEDS

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

CORRECTIONS

Spot a mistake? Let us know!
trinitonian@trinity.edu

Trinitonian November Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS**
- 3. Handy digits
 - 4. Popped maize
 - 6. Instrument that rhymes with monsoon
 - 9. Smallest continent
 - 10. Property trading board game
 - 12. Beats, Bose, and Sony makes these
 - 15. Acorn lovin rodents
 - 16. Normalized stimulant
 - 17. Pizza, nachos, and macaroni and have this
 - 18. Mistake-erasing rubber
 - 20. This bird is a symbol of peace
- DOWN**
- 1. A source of inspiration, also an English band
 - 2. Jiggle sweet, rhymes with yellow
 - 5. Mordecai and ____
 - 7. Tall, golden flower
 - 8. Cosmo and ____
 - 11. Hershey’s, Reese’s, Mars
 - 13. Five cards of the same suit
 - 14. Default Minecraft character
 - 19. Night activity

Interactive version available at Trinitonian.com
Answer key can be found through the interactive puzzle link.

Faculty, staff avoid health pledge violations

University employees face same repercussions as students, but fewer have broken policies

SARAH FISHER | NEWS INTERN
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Prior to the start of the semester, students, faculty, and staff were required to sign the ProtecTU Health Pledge, a commitment to practicing COVID-19 safety measures such as social distancing and wearing face coverings. Students who have violated the health pledge have been facing repercussions — faculty and staff are no different.

The process of handling health pledge violations among faculty and staff is not dissimilar to the process for students. Because faculty and staff are university employees with supervisors and access to Human Resources, they have different avenues for reporting instances of pledge violations; however, the anonymous reporting form made available to campus is not limited to reporting student misconduct.

“Anyone on campus could use the anonymous reporting form that the dean’s office has made available. That could be used not only for student-to-student concerns but if you have a concern about a faculty or staff member and a violation,” said Tess Coody-Anders, vice president for Strategic Communications and Marketing.

Just like with students, the consequences for violations vary based on the severity of the violation and conversations with the supervisor.

“A supervisor would talk to that individual about the violation, just as we do with students to try to understand, you know, do [they] understand the guidance, no. 1? And no. 2, is there a reason why [they] have trouble meeting the criteria? And once those are resolved, making sure everybody understands why it’s important that you do that,” said Coody-Anders.

Any difference in the processes between students and university employees is due to the nature of the individuals’ relationships with the university.



TESS COODY-ANDERS, vice president for Strategic Communications and Marketing, explained the protocol for faculty and staff ProtecTU Health Pledge violations. Students, faculty and staff signed the pledge prior to the fall semester. photo by OLIVER CHAPIN-EISERLOH

“The nature of the relationship with the university is different for employees and staff,” said Coody-Anders. “It’s an employee-employer relationship, which is guided and governed by laws, Department of Labor laws and rules.”

Throughout the semester, health pledge violations by faculty and staff have not been a big concern. They have been doing a good job of staying in line with the health pledge, with no major incidents of violation. Any concerns brought up have been taken very seriously.

“You know, it is my understanding and perception that they have been. Faculty, in particular, are taking extraordinary steps to protect their students by and large because of the prolonged contact that they have with students where they are conducting in-person

classes,” said Coody-Anders. “I saw staff from the facilities team, who were wearing their masks even while they were outside doing individual work on campus. So, I was really impressed by that.”

On the rare occasion that the guidelines of the pledge have been breached, the university has been quick to address the issue.

“We had a staff member raise a concern about a contractor ... a contractor group that was working on campus and concerned that they weren’t wearing masks,” said Coody-Anders. “When that was brought to the attention of the appropriate supervising department, the department that engaged that contractor, they took it very seriously, acted the same day and followed up to let the Nerve Center and the individual who had concerns know that they’d taken care of

it.” Orrin Shindell, professor of physics and astronomy, has been teaching on-campus this semester and agrees that most people have had no issues abiding by the health pledge.

“For one thing, there’s actually not very many people around. So the campus is pretty empty,” Shindell said. “The people I do see, everybody’s wearing masks, everybody misses each other and hallways. I think everybody’s been pretty conscientious, both faculty, staff and the students who are around.”

Although the unusual semester has introduced a number of complications, Shindell has found that following the health pledge has not proven to be much of a challenge.

“For the most part, it’s been fine,” said Shindell. “There’s been a couple times, especially in the lab class, where I felt that students were getting too close to each other. Everybody wears masks, so that’s not a question. So when that happens, I try to remind them,” said Shindell. “Everybody’s pretty conscientious about it, so I think it’s just a matter of it not being usual for people.”

Ultimately, the success of the health pledge comes down to trusting members of the Trinity community.

“I think it helps protect us individually, through maintaining our distance from others and understanding that we shouldn’t be in large gatherings. But then also, collectively, it will help our community. If you’re wearing your mask, you’re not allowing your germs to be spreading to those around you,” said Marcy Youngdahl, university physician. “We really are all dependent on each other to adhere to that in order to maintain our own personal safety. But it really relies upon trusting your neighbor, trusting your community to help protect you.”

Graduating seniors prepare for online commencement

continued from FRONT

Special commencements, such as the De Colores ceremony that celebrates Latinx achievement, usually hold their ceremonies for all relevant graduates from the year in May and are on standby to make plans. Graduating students are usually allowed to invite as many people as they want to the ceremony, and with dozens of graduating students signing up each year, De Colores usually attracts 500-600 attendees.

“I look forward to planning De Colores this upcoming May and trying to reimagine what it will look like under the circumstances we are in,” Thomas Peña, junior business analytics & technology and finance double-major and Trinity University Latino Association president, said. “All Winter graduates have received their stoles and are excited to wear them with their families and friends at home. Because [of] COVID-19, we are trying to reimagine how to have De Colores to honor and celebrate the hard work of Latinx graduates.”

Though all parties involved admit that the virtual graduation ceremony is not ideal, not much more can be done given the circumstances.

“This is a tough time for everybody — the pandemic has been extraordinarily disruptive in all kinds of ways,” said Coltharp. “I think the university has figured out how to replicate or at least approximate the normal functions of a university. We can teach, we can learn, we can do ceremonies

virtually, [but] what we can’t do is provide a true substitute at an emotional level for in-person interactions.”

Echoing Coltharp, seniors like Heliste are disappointed by the circumstances but still manage to find some measure of positivity in what’s going on.

“We can teach, we can learn, we can do ceremonies virtually, [but] what we can’t do is provide a true substitute at an emotional level for in-person interactions.”

DUANE COLTHARP
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

“I wish Trinity could be the full and vibrant campus I was able to be a part of my first two and a half years,” said Heliste. “These last two semesters have been a new type of challenge, but I am grateful for my experiences before COVID and for how I have grown as a person and a student during these times.”

“Plus our dog can join in on the celebration now,” said Heliste.

Search committee looks for next dean of students

continued from FRONT

As with the dean of students, multiple members of the search committee hold positions at the university with a focus on student wellbeing. Lori Kinkler, university psychologist, acknowledges that the person filling Tuttle’s shoes will need to provide that support to students as well.

“My aim is to find someone who is ridiculously committed to our students. I’m a confidential resource on campus, so while I have a strong commitment to our students, my commitment stays quietly behind closed doors,” said Kinkler. “I appreciate that I can refer folks to the dean of students when they need a more outspoken advocate who can bring together several campus resources to get their needs met.”

Reflecting on his close working relationship with Tuttle, Soto recognizes that the student-centered nature of their work together will need to be furthered by the next dean of students.

“I’ve worked very closely with Dean Tuttle in a number of ways over the last three and a half years that I’ve been in my current administrative role. He and I have collaborated in a number of areas, we co-chair our retention and graduation task force, and I’m part of the student success team that he leads. There are a number of other ad hoc projects that we work together on. In a way, our strengths complement each other, I think, but we both share a kind of overriding belief

that the institution’s mission has students at its very center, and supporting that mission without compromises is very important to the both of us,” Soto said. “If you take a look at the job description that’s on the Trinity website for the next dean of students, you’ll see that student centeredness is really at the heart of the job requirements, and that is one thing that I’m sure no one on the search committee will compromise on.”

Serna-Wallender echoed that student voices are not just valuable in the search, but vital.

“As with most searches at Trinity, but especially this one, student voices and input are crucial. Not only are there more students on this committee than most, but there will be times throughout the process for the larger student body to give their input, especially in meeting with and providing feedback on the finalists,” wrote Serna-Wallender in an email interview. “On previous search committees, I have noticed that student leader input is central to the conversation, and I expect that will continue to be the case in this search.”

“In order for this search to be successful, students will need to feel like they are gaining a true advocate for their needs,” Kinkler said.

As with other recent university search committees, committee members are undergoing anti-bias training to address any issues of prejudice or partiality. Following the announcement of university diversity and inclusion task force recommendations and given the student-centered position of the dean of students, the issue of prejudice is especially important.

continued on TRINITONIAN.COM

FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

The American voting system must change

Around this time, pre-pandemic, students would normally be in the midst of preparations for final exams, papers and presentations. This semester, everyone will instead be heading home to complete the semester online. The 2:30 a.m. study sessions with friends will take place over Zoom rather than in the hallways of CSI, and late-night cravings will be satisfied by a trip to your pantry rather than a walk to the P.O.D. or a quick call to Pizza Classics.

At a time in the semester when support from friends and peers is most crucial due to the stressors of finals and heightened coursework, we will be spread across the globe. Some friends may be nearby, while others may be oceans away. For some of us, this means being closer to loved ones and support networks; for others, this means being pulled away from the second families formed on Trinity's campus and going back to an unfavorable living situation. And of course, some of us will continue living in our off-campus apartments or at home as we have all semester.

Although many of us will be distant from our friends and second families, these support networks will remain invaluable to our personal and academic success. Things that we may have taken for granted before, like the ability to see your friend for a study break in the room next to yours or access to the dead-silent study spaces of the library, will no longer be of easy access.

If you haven't been doing so already, now is the time to practice being kind to yourself.

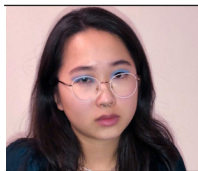
This transition to our new living environments for finals and winter break doesn't have to equate to social isolation. Now more than ever, we need to be in

contact with our friends, checking in on how they are doing and talking about the things you're dealing with — the good and the bad. Staying in contact with our friends will not only serve as a means of socialization, but as a means of self-care and self-betterment while we brace ourselves for the challenges of our new learning environments.

If you haven't been doing so already, now is the time to practice being kind to yourself. We are all already stressed by the impending doom that is finals week and, for the about 900 of us moving out of resident halls, the challenge of packing up our belongings. The last thing we need is added pressure from ourselves to outperform our pre-pandemic selves or to transition effortlessly into a new mode of working, studying and living.

Later this November, as you settle into your new living space to study for finals or start your papers, start with a deep breath. Unexpected circumstances do not call for unexpectedly extraordinary performance. Rather, they call for special attention to your personal needs, whether mental, physical or social.

Online learning cuts students off from valuable campus resources that boost their academics



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One of the selling points of Trinity is that class sizes are small, allowing for more involved and personal learning with the low professor-student ratio. However, talking to peers, it is apparent that the small cap sizes prohibit many people from taking necessary classes to graduate on time. Although I don't exactly know for what reason students need to take extra semesters to graduate, the number of peers that are worried about being fifth-years or having to take summer classes seems like a lot. The intensity of your degree path depends on major/minor requirements, ability to pass classes and credit hours, but also your ability to plan out or strategize your class schedule for the next few years. Although registration week is always stressful, planning out classes during COVID is especially hard because of uncertainties about living situations and how long we will continue remote learning. Like Dana Nichols said in her piece last week, we are all struggling academically and mentally and shouldn't be expected to function at pre-pandemic levels. By we, that includes teachers and administration, who are undoubtedly as overwhelmed as we are with the uncertainties surrounding COVID. However, there is a common conversation among students over the stress of registration and the feeling that we are left alone to figure out our class schedules and simply hope for the best.

I hear increasingly from peers that they "just want to graduate fast," as the pandemic has stolen much from the college experience of learning in-person and living with other students safely. Because Trinity is a small school, the pressure for students to perform well academically and navigate the

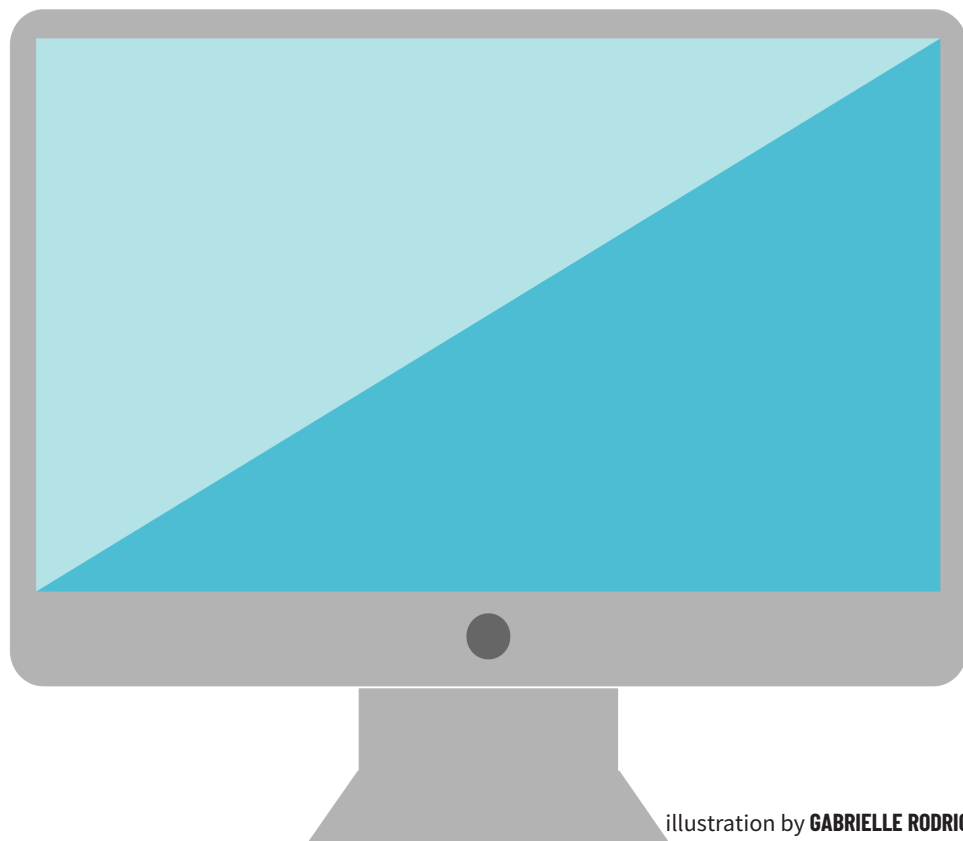


illustration by **GABRIELLE RODRIGUEZ**

registration process without mishap is a lot greater than other schools. Even as a junior with good credit hour standing, all upper-division classes in my major that I needed were closed on day two of registration. The same went for last semester, where everyone scrambled to get into their required classes, being promised by professors that their chances will be better the next semester. While knowing that professors are having to rapidly adjust their teaching styles and facing over-enrollment, from the student perspective, the inability to get into classes is truly stressful, especially as communication with professors is more difficult online. Because of COVID, the much-needed interaction and building of student-professor relationships is creating a new set of challenges. Having access to and fully utilizing the school's resources —

including staff and administrative help — is more distant during the pandemic.

Often times it is on the individual student to take full advantage of the school's resources. While on campus, I had daily access to study spaces, the gym and Dicke Smith art studios, all of which I miss visiting. It was also quite easy to talk to and seek guidance from administration by visiting their physical offices. Being able to drop into offices and having on-campus interactions is something I took for granted, but it is part of what Trinity students are paying for. The pandemic is teaching many of us the importance of in-person interaction and the need to support our peers while we collectively experience difficult and uncertain times.

Yukiko Yamazaki is a junior anthropology major.

**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.

Biden Defeats Trump — So What’s Next For Democrats?



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On Saturday morning, America’s never-ending election finally came to a close. Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. has pulled off the rare triumph of unseating an incumbent president. President-Elect Biden will receive 306 electors and the most votes in history. Biden garnered the same ‘massive landslide’

victory as Trump did in 2016 when he lost the popular vote by over 2 million. Even so, the election was far from a wave election. Yes, President-Elect Biden did “beat him [Trump] like a drum,” but down-ballot Democrats struggled in their respective races. Despite what expectations and polls predicted, Texas did not go blue. Democrats failed to flip the state legislature. We lost seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and are still shy of capturing control of the U.S. Senate. Many in the Democratic party have blamed progressives, pollsters and party elders.

To be clear, we all should rejoice that we set in motion the removal of Donald Trump. Yet, we would be remiss to not realize that our party should have performed better. The electoral map may be impressive, but by county, you see that very little has changed since 2016. ‘Blue America’ got bluer and red America’ got redder. This year we received millions more votes than Trump. Why then did we lose seven house seats and netted only one senate seat? Most think it is a matter of whether the party has gone too far left or not far left enough. The debate gets very wonky with both sides bogged down in the trenches over the minutiae of Democratic policy.

2020 proves that all politics is national, not local anymore. Democrats like Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX), who barely won re-election, and Xochitl Torres Small (D-NM), who lost, had a hard time escaping the national party brand. This is because our base has become narrower and narrower in recent years. We continue to pander to a specific demographic of voters in big cities and suburbs. Andrew Yang characterized it best when he said “the Democratic Party, unfortunately, has taken on this role of the coastal urban elites.” I’ve written on this before and warned Democrats that we must learn the lessons of the Trump era if we are to succeed as a party. We cannot, nor should we want to run on a platform that resonates only with metro areas and the college-educated.

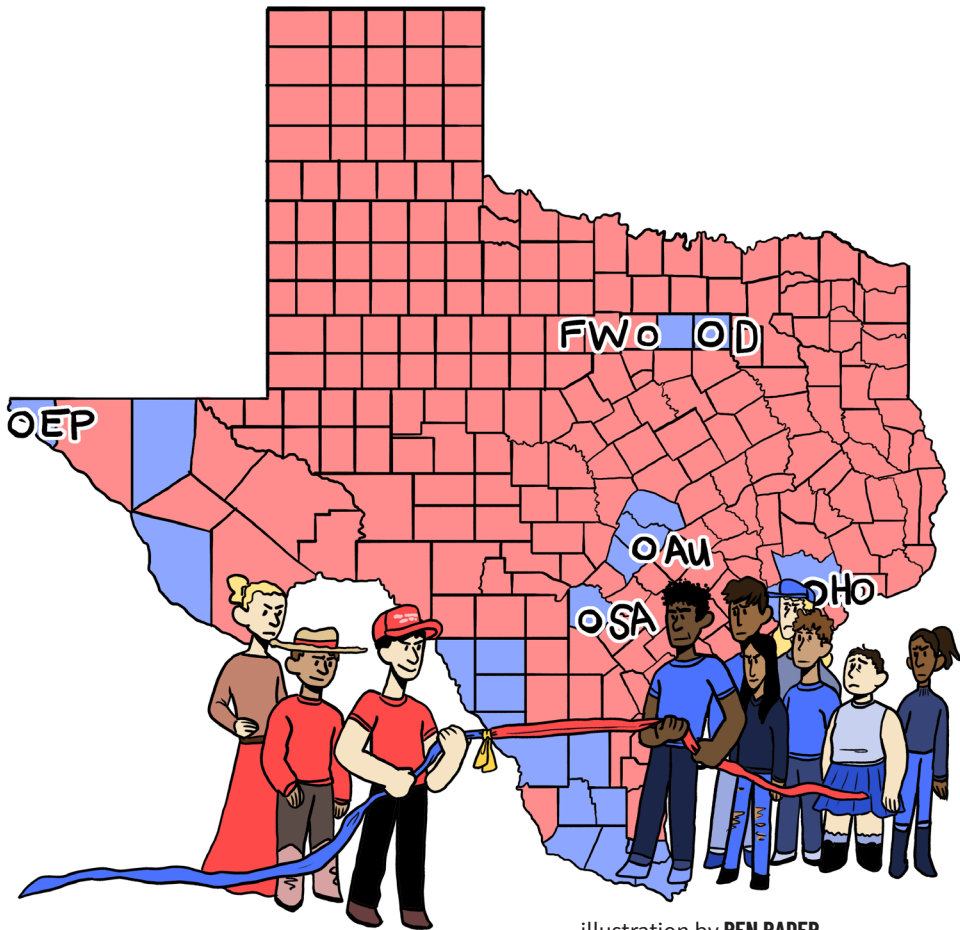
You might think that because only 14% of people live in rural America we can afford to write them off, but you’re wrong. American politics and our political institutions are beautifully crafted to prevent this. As they should. Moreover, rural America is not just white America. There are hundreds of thousands if not millions of people of color, women, queer folk and working-class Americans that need a strong Democratic party to advocate for them. Unfortunately, we ignore them and, if anything, run candidates that don’t fit their districts.

I suggest we de-centralize our brand and extend a national platform to moderate (35%) and conservative (17%) Democrats who make up 52% of our party. Doing so will be a great first step to localizing our politics again so that down-ballot Democrats can have the freedom to succeed on their own merits again. The Democratic party and President-Elect Biden are uniquely placed to restore our politics, but to do so we have to get our own house in order first.

Ben Falcon is a junior political science and history double major.

There are hundreds of thousands if not millions of people of color, women, queer folk and working-class Americans that need a strong Democratic party to advocate for them.

Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) recently blamed our losses on “the extreme leftward lurch of the Democrat Party.” While I am a critic of the Democratic party’s trend toward more liberal and progressive policies, she is wrong to only blame the left. The party’s problem isn’t ideological per se, but geographical and with our branding. One big thing that Republicans are much better at doing than Democrats is understanding what drives our politics — feelings and brand perception. Too often we forget that elections are popularity contests and not final exams. We can’t just win on detailed plans alone.



The New American Expat Gen: At the Bottom of My Suitcase



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When it comes to the term “expatriate,” many people differ on the definition. For me, it was the simple idea of not missing out on my chance to live life as fully as possible and as fairly as possible. Expats usually choose to leave their native country for a career boost or to fulfill a personal dream or goal, rather than as a result of dire economic necessity. This idea of choosing to relocate in the name of a dream resonates highly with millennial expats. While expats of all ages will share tangible reasons for relocating abroad, today’s millennials are being swayed by two surprising new factors: politics and wanderlust.

Nobody owns all the privilege in the world, although some people without a doubt feel entitled to a much larger portion than is fair.

Most millennials are balancing the need for a job with intense wanderlust. Wanderlust is a German term that has become a pop

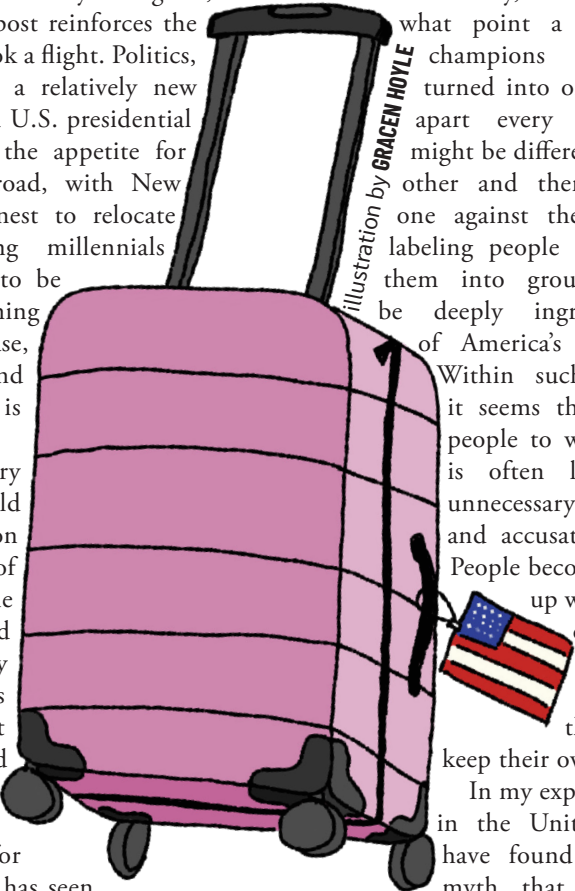
culture identifier for anyone who considers themselves an avid traveler. With the rise of social media, the notion of wanderlust has spread like wildfire as every Instagram, Twitter and Facebook post reinforces the desire amongst us to book a flight. Politics, on the other hand, is a relatively new factor. The controversial U.S. presidential election has increased the appetite for Americans moving abroad, with New Yorkers being the keenest to relocate overseas. And sending millennials — a new voter force to be reckoned with — running for the hills; in this case, the hills of England and Canada where language is not an obstacle. However, every country and person in the world should have the education and understanding of privilege, as well as the ability to question and discuss it as thoroughly as some Americans do. It is a lens that has successfully pushed forward social change, fueling some of the most impressive movements for social justice the world has seen, from women’s liberation to civil rights to LGBTQ+ pride. Everyone should be well-versed on the ins and outs of deconstructing privilege. However, America is not perfect in its deconstruction — at least not anymore. There is something markedly vicious about the hostility with which privilege is currently often discussed in the United

States. An accusatory tone stews division between people where consensus might have otherwise been attained. To this day, I am unsure at what point a society that champions individuality turned into one that picks apart every way people might be different from each other and then pits them one against the other. But labeling people and dividing them into groups seem to be deeply ingrained parts of America’s “I” culture. Within such a culture, it seems the ability for people to work together is often lost through unnecessary aggression and accusatory rhetoric. People become so caught up with obsessing over the trespasses of others that they forget to keep their own in check. In my experience living in the United States, I have found a recurring myth that privilege is zero-sum; and a tendency to forget that privilege is always relative. I believe both of these inform themselves of notions of individuality. Taking a more holistic approach to understanding society as a whole helps deconstruct it. But privilege is not a zero-sum game! Nobody owns all the privilege in the world, although some

people without a doubt feel entitled to a much larger portion than is fair. That being said, it is important to understand we all hold privileged and unprivileged positions in different aspects of our own life. And the wonderful thing is realizing this not only helps us relate to each other’s vulnerabilities but also allows us to understand that bringing together our differences can make us all stronger. We might be surprised to find a broad range of unlikely allies who can share in the superordinate goal of improving everyone’s life. Privilege is also relative. When talking about development communication, people tend to look at the deficit side of developing nations while forgetting a surplus view of things. Even the most underprivileged citizen living freely in a first-world society is much more privileged than their counterparts in autocratic nations, developing nations or warring nations across the world. Poverty can mean job insecurity in one nation and food insecurity in another. No matter how privileged or underprivileged one might be, there is always so much one has to be thankful for. With privilege should come accountability, and we should all spend much more time looking down toward helping those below us as we do looking up with spite. There will always be someone above and someone below, and in some bizarre way, it is all interconnected.

Be it politics, wanderlust or career goals, millennials seem to have found the key to happiness: it’s at the bottom of the suitcase. And that’s where I found mine.

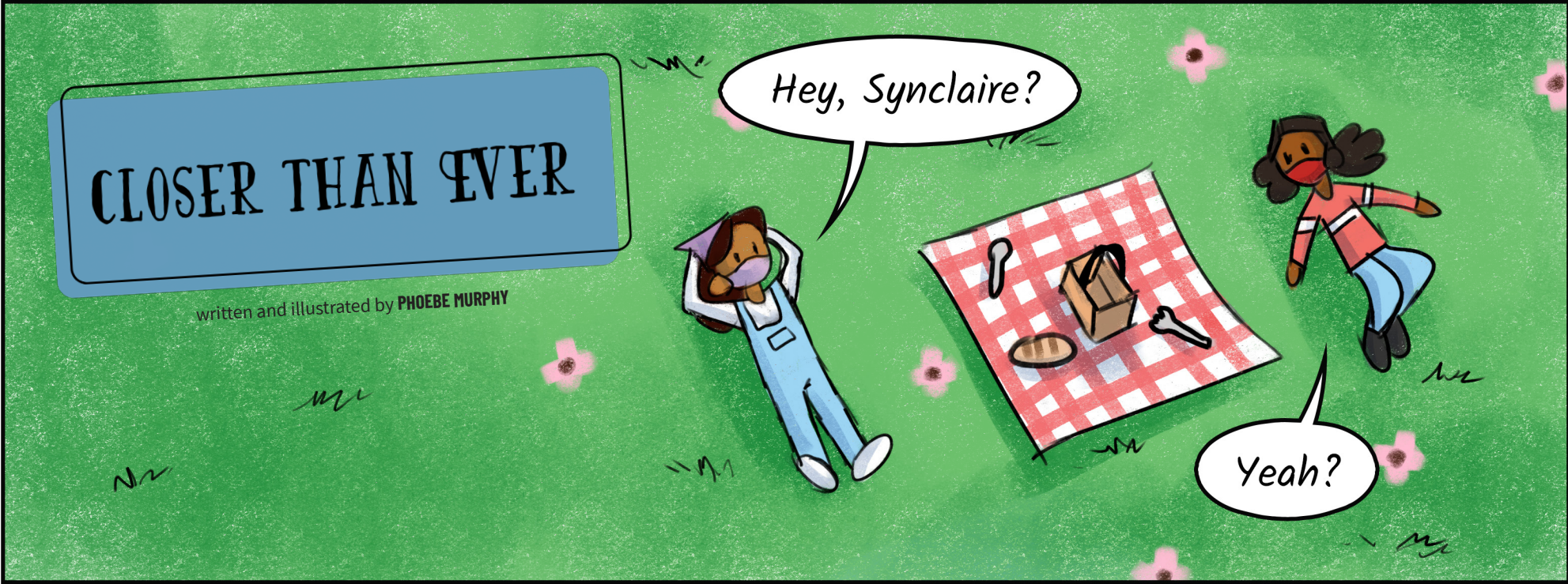
Mai Vo is a junior piano performance and communication double major.



Famous Landmarks

B Q Z V E R S A I L L E S I J
C M O U N T F U J I Z T C C N
I L A C R O P O L I S P T I B
I O Y I I I E P M O P X A X Y
E C R A H S Z I A O M T J U U
G H U G W P C O B S N A M A H
N N B M R D O M V U D L A C C
E E E M U E S S O L O C H S C
H S V C W L U F A A O A A A I
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S H T A W R O K G N A O T W A
B I G B E N A C C E M N L O M

- ACROPOLIS
- ALCATRAZ
- ANGKORWAT
- AVEBURY
- BIGBEN
- COLOSSEUM
- HAGIASOPHIA
- LASCAUX
- LOCHNESS
- LOUVRE
- MACHUPICCHU
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FYEs wrap up early due to COVID-19

First-years have experienced a completely different FYE due to pandemic precautions

MIKAYLA MULLIN | PULSE REPORTER
mmullin@trinity.edu

What does it mean to prepare students for the college experience? Every Trinity student takes an FYE dedicated to this purpose, but how is Trinity preparing first-years? And more importantly, what does that look like, especially now?

According to Dr. Kimberly Bauser McBrien, HUMA professor, preparing Trinity students for the college experience means accomplishing two goals.

“The first goal is to be first-year students’ introduction to college-level thinking, writing, and reading. [This introduction] happens through courses meant to ask big questions that require interdisciplinary thinking,” said Bauser McBrien.

The second goal is social.

“It’s the same group of students meeting every day of the week. [The] goal is to start a social network and build social inclusion in the first-year class,” said Bauser McBrien.

After one semester, it seems that FYEs are having problems similar to every other class.

While Trinity hoped to give first-years the in-person experience, the online reality is not what professors and students wanted.

There are some FYE classes that are all online, and for the ones that have an in-person component, it is limited. All FYEs have at least some online classes, and even when there are in-person classes, there are still some students who have to be completely online.

Sarah Theuret is one of the first-years who has been able to attend both in-person and online classes, so she sees how those class experiences differ.

“There is nowhere near the discussion in the Zoom class. I think a mixture of the temptation to zone out and the awkwardness of having to use the raise hand tool, unmuting to talk, etc.,” said Theuret.

The students are not the only ones feeling the disconnect Zoom can create.

“It’s as weird to faculty as it is for students to talk into the void of the computer screen. It takes a different kind of energy. And for the social side, it is harder to get to know students. I miss the casual interaction with students,” said Bauser McBrien.

continued on PAGE 8



Students from section 17 of the Creative Genius FYE participate in a TigerFlex class in which they are given the option to work in person or remotely. In-person students wear masks and separate their desks. photo by **CLAIRE SAMMONS**

TUSSA provides community for secular students

Trinity University Student Secular Alliance fosters meaningful student connections

ISABEL CHAVEZ | PULSE REPORTER
ichavez@trinity.edu

The Trinity University Secular Student Alliance (TUSSA) was formed in 2018 to provide community for secular students, including atheists, agnostics, non-believers and questioning students alike.

Maya Fassler, senior business administration major and president of TUSSA, has been a part of the club since its inception at Trinity. After seeing a Facebook post by Alex Bradley ‘18 asking if he was the only secular student on campus, Fassler reached out to let him know he wasn’t alone— today, the club has an estimated 60+ members in Trinity’s chapter of the national organization.

“I think at the root of it, a big misconception of the Secular Student Alliance is that we constantly just sit in a circle and talk about how much we hate religion or how stupid it is, but it really is not that at all. It’s just a supportive group of people and a way to build community for people that can’t really go to the different religious organizations on campus because you don’t believe in their fundamental values,” Fassler said.

Walking around the Student Involvement fair her freshman year, Sophie Feller, senior economics major and treasurer for TUSSA, noticed many religious organizations, but not one for secular students.

“I felt like I was the only atheist on campus. I was nervous to even tell some of my religious friends that I was an atheist. So a couple of years ago when I heard that an SSA chapter was being started on campus, I knew I wanted to be a part of it,” Feller said.

A key area of TUSSA’s programming consists of promoting science education, even celebrating Charles Darwin’s birthday. The club also recently held their annual event, the “Graveyard of the Gods,” which occurs around Halloween.

“We recognize different gods overtime that are considered dead, so Greek gods or the Roman gods who no one really believes in anymore, just to kind of show the impermanence of deities,” explained Fassler.

Though “Graveyard of the gods” normally occurs as an on campus demonstration where students decorate gravestones, the event happened over social media this year to raise awareness. Service projects are among other events TUSSA has had to change due to the influence of COVID-19 on campus life.

Last year, the club began planning a succulent sale fundraiser for their chosen philanthropy, Doctors Without Borders, but it was ultimately canceled due to the switch to remote learning.

“Service is a really big part of our organization because it’s something that a lot of us are passionate about,” explained Fassler. “Also, a lot of people in the world think that people who don’t believe in god don’t have morals so I think it’s kind of a way to be like ‘hey, we do.’”

Along with Doctors Without Borders, TUSSA regularly works with other non-religiously affiliated organizations like San Antonio Pets Alive by walking dogs. Though event-planning has become substantially different in the wake of COVID, the officer team is currently brainstorming ways to remain committed to fostering community in the greater San Antonio area.

For Feller, TUSSA has provided an environment where she feels completely welcome.

“It’s amazing to have a safe, judgement-free place to discuss what it means to be secular,” Feller said. “Most of my friends outside of SSA are religious, so it’s been great to meet other secular people on campus. We have a pretty tight knit group of people who regularly attend our meetings, and they come from all different backgrounds.”

Though Fassler initially intended to join TUSSA as a way to build connections with secular students, one of her most unexpected connections has been with Chaplain Alex Serna-Wallender.

Chaplain Serna-Wallender, who regularly meets with TUSSA leadership, seeks to support students on all ends of what he calls “worldview groups.”

“Recognizing that our worldviews shape how we see, understand, and engage



Senior and TUSSA treasurer **SOPHIE FELLER** knew she wanted to be a part of the TU Student Secular Alliance, as she had felt in the past like her atheism isolated her from her more religious friends. photo provided by **SOPHIE FELLER**

with the world around us,” explains Serna-Wallender. “[TUSSA] represents an important part of our Worldview/Spiritual Life group representation and making sure our secular students are included and supported in their journeys of growth and understanding and connections with others who care about worldview/spiritual exploration is essential.” Both with support from Serna-Wallender and independently, TUSSA has intentionally tried forming connections with other worldview organizations on campus to combat the stereotype that secular people lack morals.

“I feel like it’s very taboo sometimes, like ‘she doesn’t believe in god, she doesn’t have morals,’ but we really want to decrease that stigma through uplifting events with other groups,” said Fassler.

While TUSSA has reached out to various religious organizations, they have collaborated the most with Hillel, Trinity’s Jewish Students Association. From hosting joint meetings, to organizing members to attend Hillel’s Purim party, TUSSA has worked to ensure that members are actively involved with learning more about each other’s pers.

“[Members of Hillel] have been really nice and supportive and welcoming of me into their spiritual community, which is great,” said Fassler. TUSSA hopes that other religious organizations are also open to collaborating in the future.

Students hoping to connect with the Trinity Secular Student Alliance can join biweekly meetings by emailing tussa@trinity.edu or connecting with [@tusecularstudents](https://www.instagram.com/tusecularstudents) on Instagram.

FYEs to wrap up early this semester

continued from PAGE 8

Professors are trying their best to adapt to these new challenges. Katherine Troyer, professor for the Monsters FYE, spoke about the steps she is taking to encourage class engagement.

“We have a shared Google Drive. I started doing this in spring, and I’m going to do it forevermore. I’m using the chat feature a lot more. My students team teach with me for a day. They lead the class with an activity, thesis, and all of that for 20 to 30 minutes,” said Troyer.

Professors have also found new teaching opportunities in this largely online format.

“One thing a lot of people have been taking advantage of is that we don’t have to pay as much for guest speakers and it’s a lot easier for them,” said Troyer.

Another unique byproduct of this semester is the early end to FYEs. The FYEs will be wrapping up right before Thanksgiving break.

The administrators ultimately decided to end the FYEs early, but the professors can give their takes on the reasoning.

“I think the idea is that [first-years] could have the whole FYE in-person experience and be done before the transition to online,” said Bauser McBrien.

From the students’ perspective, this decision has benefits and drawbacks. What college student does not enjoy having something taken off their plate? “I’m glad it



Education professor **DAVID HELLER** teaches a Tiger-Flex class of remote and in-person FYE students. This teaching method has its pros and its drawbacks, and many professors face a difficult decision when coming to decide whether they want to include an in-person element to their course. photo by **CLAIRE SAMMONS**

adds time to the break and I won’t have to study during Thanksgiving,” said Theuret.

On the other hand, what college student does not want more time to work on an assignment? “Looking back, I had time to finish everything, but a couple more weeks

would have made the process much easier,” said Theuret.

FYEs are meant to challenge first-years, but more than ever before, this semester challenged their resilience.

“FYE students are some of the most

earnest, hardworking students that Trinity has. Despite the very hard semester and feeling overwhelmed, [teaching Monsters] is one of the few beacons for me, and I hope it is for the students,” said Troyer.

INSTA-POSIUM

How are you feeling about the election results?

@antonella.ella
Hopeful

@gabriel_ odom
It’s not a win for either side, but I’m happy Joe has a chance to fix things.

@alexmegmoriarty
As long as the current president leaves when told to, I’m thrilled.

@untitled_dork
Really good. Granted, I’m not a Biden supporter, but hopefully this will lead the way for better leaders.

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ARTS

Kobe Patterson releases “We Were Never Meant to Get Here”

Trinity student and local musician releases album that talks about finding himself

KAYLA PADILLA | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
kpadilla@trinity.edu



KOBE PATTERSON both sings and plays guitar during a live performance in front of a full audience. photo provided by **KOBE PATTERSON**

Kobe Patterson, local artist and Trinity student, recently released his new album, “We Were Never Meant to Get Here.” I sat down with Patterson to discuss his music journey and most recent project.

How many albums/songs have you released in your music career, and can you give us background on your music journey and how you got to where you are?

So I’ve released a couple of EPs and a few singles before this project. It’s all really fun stuff that I enjoyed and learned a lot in the process of making, but listening to those songs now feels like looking at old pictures of yourself. so they might have to get taken off of streaming at some point in the future.

I’d say my musical journey started when I was a kid strapped into a car seat in my mom’s old Ford Explorer; I used to be just absolutely obsessed with pretty much whatever she’d put on the radio. My dad put me on to The Eagles when I was 9 or 10, and once I heard the guitar solo at the end of “Hotel California,” I was dead set on becoming a guitar player. I’m so blessed to have super supportive parents that caved under my consistent nagging for a guitar, so around the same time they bought me a little starter guitar and (this makes me feel old) I’ve been playing for over a decade now. I taught myself how to play guitar and a few other instruments over time

and once I got to high school I had discovered Garageband on my dad’s old Macbook and began making beats for some of my rapper buddies in school. Senior year, I met an artist/musician that I now consider to be a friend/mentor, and he convinced me to kind of put all my skills together and try to write my own music. That was a real turning point for me. I started writing, producing, and recording all of my stuff in my bedroom and in dorm rooms at Trinity, and here we are with an album under the belt!

What inspired this album?

This ones easy... being big sad in Thomas 668 my sophomore year here at Trinity. I was 100% on the struggle bus that year, to the point where I considered giving up music because I was so

overwhelmed by a lot of other stuff going on in my life. PS I tried for like a day and quickly realized giving up on music just simply can’t happen. The album is called We Were Never Meant to Get Here and even though I didn’t realize I was doing so while writing it, it is definitely an album all about location. It’s inspired by all the different places you can find yourself in, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. That sounds corny but it’s ok, the album is definitely a reflection on where I found myself at that time in my life.”

What inspired your passion for music, and when did you know this is what you wanted to do?

I really want to say the passion has always been there. Or maybe I just can’t remember the

exact moment it really developed. I remember one time when I was like 6 or 7, I got in trouble for running up on stage at church, snatching the mic and proceeding to sing “Brick House” by The Commodores. Probably not the best song to sing in church; my mother did not appreciate my performance at all. In all seriousness though, this has been at times an unhealthy life long obsession for me, so I think I always knew deep down this is what I wanted to do for the rest of my life, even though I didn’t know exactly how that would look or how I would get there.

What would you say to other up and coming musical artists?

This is going to sound cliché but in all honesty I’ll repeat the good ol’ 10,000 hours bit. I’m talking about actually putting in 10,000 hours though, not just talking about it as a motivational phrase like dudes do at the gym. Just practice your craft whatever it may be, even when you don’t feel the motivation to get up and do it you have to clock in and put in the hours. Also I’d stress the importance of networking. I’ve noticed a lot of creatives have really big egos or are just very protective of their brand so sometimes they present themselves as unapproachable. I’d advise against that one. Meet as many people as you can, work with as many people as you can, do stuff for other people (yes, even if it’s for free) because you never know what might come from an opportunity. It takes a team to really do the music thing at a high level, so make sure you’re making moves to surround yourself with that team of people.

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The beauty of sampling sounds and songs within music

Sampling pieces from existing songs for a track has impacted hip-hop music in many meaningful ways

CARMINE VILLAREAL | ARTS REPORTER
cvillarr@trinity.edu

After Daft Punk's "Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger" has stuck with millions, it is a perfect example of how impacting sampling can be. For the longest time, I was under the impression that the beat and melody were originally created by Daft Punk. However, after a binging slew of many "Did you know this song sampled THIS song?" videos, I realized the song's hook was built off a really obscure and hypnotizing sample. Edwin Birdsong's 1979 jazz-funk song, "Cola Bottle Baby" is responsible for the infectious bassline found in "Harder." I highly recommend listening to this song and comparing them side-by-side for a good example of one form of sampling. On top of that, Kanye West samples Daft Punk's "Harder" in his hit-track "Stronger." Both of these songs are absolutely amazing in their own right, and seeing them so intertwined makes me respect each other's ear for composition more.

Sampling-the act of taking pieces from an existing song, recording, or sound and recreating it in your own track-in music, especially hip-hop, has changed the way many listen to and make music. Although many contend that such a direct imitation of someone else's work is stealing, the ear and finesse needed to transform a sample requires a control mastery rarer than one might expect. The limits of what sampling allows you to do are overwhelmingly boundless: from taking something as small as a drum break or an otherwise overlooked sound to taking the vocals and chord and chopping it around, sampling allows one to take full

advantage of preexisting songs.

After realizing the frequency to which musicians sample other artists, I have found myself overly aware of a song's composition whenever I listen to music in an attempt to detect a sample. It is common practice for me to stop whatever new song my friends are playing, obsess over a certain aspect of a song because it sounds like something I have heard before, and then waste too much mental energy trying to pinpoint the exact song or sound that was being used. I even have a Spotify playlist dedicated to cataloguing samples I detect. It is always a memorable experience because it makes me realize how often sampling is employed and how often it goes overlooked due to its subtlety.

To elaborate on the versatility of sampling, I will delve into some of my favorite uses of it.

Gangsta's Paradise by Coolio

An undeniably monumental and beautiful composed track, Coolio's "Gangsta's Paradise" heavily samples "Pastime Paradise" by Stevie Wonder. This one was striking to realize, just because of how direct the sampling was and how Coolio still managed to transform it into his own meaningful anthem.

Crazy by Gnarls Barkley

What is one of the most instantly recognizable songs, "Crazy" by Danger Mouse and Cee-lo Green samples the song, melody, and chord structure of "Last Men Standing" by Gianfranco and Gian Piero Reverberi.

Workin Out by JID

A melodic and calm song, JID beautifully



samples "Don't Explain" by Helen Merrill for the chords, beat, keys, and occasional vocals.

The Next Episode by Dr. Dre

"The Next Episode" samples "The Edge" by David McCallum for the famous introduction. "The Next Episode" has been sampled in over 80 songs.

No More Parties in LA by Kanye West

This classic is rich with samples, the most noticeable and direct one being "Suzie Thundertussy" by Junie Morrison. Also, Kanye West is credited with usage over 2490 samples throughout his discography.

Check out whosampled.com to see if any of your favorite songs have used a sample. More than likely, they have.

Trinity University's dance group the Prowlers keep practicing

The Prowlers transition to socially distant and Zoom practices, providing an outlet to express themselves

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If not for COVID-19, clubs, teams, and classes would be in full swing. Due to organizations having to adapt to new guidelines and make adjustments accordingly, many organizations have been split in two. Those who are learning in person, and those who opt for a remote option. This has been no different for the Prowlers as they have made the transition into the 'new normal.'

"Practices have been different but good," Rachel Peters, senior and Prowlers co-captain said. "It's just great to get to dance in a group setting again even if it's over Zoom."

The Prowlers have made safety an important priority for their meetings. They have been hosting their in-person practices since early October and their virtual practices have been happening since September. For the dancers who are on campus, they are, of course, held accountable for following the university's health guidelines in order to continue meeting.

"Once we received approval from the school, we started doing in person practices," first-year Sophia Hedley said. "Before practice we have to complete the TU health screening and present our green badge. Everyone dances six feet apart. We also have to practice with our masks on, which can be quite uncomfortable, but is worth it for the sake of health and safety. After practice we disinfect the studio, and we repeat the process every week."

For the remote members, their option to connect through Zoom is very similar to what practicing in person would have in store for them. But like so many of us,



Prowler **SOPHIA HEDLEY** is a first-year. **RACHEL PETERS** is a senior and captain of the Prowlers dance team. photos by **KATE NUELLE**



Zoom has been able to garner a few concerns from the team.

"Zoom is pretty much the same as practicing in person," senior Tiki Selvan said. "It's a little different to where you could experience connectivity issues sometimes. At the same time, you get to see your friends. Of course it's different seeing them in person. Sometimes I dance here in my room, but I have no space. And in typical dance practices there is a lot more people there, so you feel a lot more anxious because you're by yourself."

Along with the technicalities that come with making the in-person to Zoom transition, there is also emotional aspects that arise as well. The majority of clubs and teams can say that there is a bond between the members that is familial in a sense. But with the team divided by social

distancing and computer screens, the morale could fluctuate.

"Dancing in a dorm room is not the easiest, but doable," first-year Emma Turner said, "I would say the most difficult part for me is just getting to know the other members. As for the team, being my first year, I'm not entirely sure what normal really means, so I can't say exactly how this transition has been challenging."

Though the new normal for The Prowlers isn't exactly ideal, their current method of practicing seems to be supported by the notion that dance is something that can bring people together in and of itself.

"It's definitely been hard to feel that bond we have between our members since we are not practicing as much and we're spread apart," Peters said. "But, we've had a few social events like Netflix Party nights and we

will be having a virtual secret Santa party to celebrate and bond as a team."

Members attribute the art of dance to be therapeutic in a sense. Though COVID-19 may impact the format in which they are able to dance, the fact that they are able to dance as a team remains constant, even if they are not physically together.

"I think that it's a really great outlet for having some sense of normalcy," junior Beth Bachman said. "I spend most days sitting in front of my computer, as many people are. Especially on the days where we are meeting in person, even though we are social distancing and wearing masks, it's still really nice to be in a room with other people and just moving your body. You know, sometimes you just have to run across a room and do a bunch of leaps. And just having that as an outlet has been really helpful for my health."

Just like other forms of art, dance allows for expressionist and interpretive flair. Just like an artist placing emotion into each stroke of a paintbrush, dance allows for members of the Prowlers to convey their emotion while doing something that they all enjoy, whether it be on the floor of the Bell Center or on the floor of their homes.

"Dance is different for every person," Bachman said. "I'd say for me personally, it's about beauty, and finding that beauty in yourself, in your body, and finding that connection between your body, your mind, and your soul. Oftentimes we can feel just stuck in one place or not really living life. But when I'm dancing, it's like an expression of whatever emotions I'm feeling and get it out. It's a lot of things for different people."

At long last, sports on the verge of returning to Trinity

Schedules for spring seasons are currently being finalized by SCAC, SAA

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As the end of the year draws to a close and the spring semester moves ever closer, the prospect of sports returning to Trinity is looking more and more real. Both the Southern Athletic Association (SAA) and the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) have approved tentative schedules for play to resume in the spring, which are currently in the process of being finalized.

The tentative schedule approved by the SAA's Council of Presidents for football is a season that would take place in February. Because the schedule has only been approved on a tentative basis, it is still subject to change based on what restrictions will be in place closer to February and how many schools in the conference choose to commit to the schedule on Dec. 1st.

Some earmarks of the modified schedule would be a shorter-than-normal season, in which teams would play four games against regional teams designated by an East-West split. The top two teams from each region would then play each other for the conference championship. Justin Parker, the Associate Director of Athletics and Sports Information Director, explained the logic behind this choice.

"With the SAA being so spread out geographically, a lot of times it would be harder on our teams to get on a plane right now with all the COVID restrictions. Whether it be

Trinity or the CDC, or whatever it is — San Antonio even—it's hard to say whether or not we can get on a plane and come back without being quarantined, and so they tried to come up with a schedule that was as regional as they could get it for such a geographically diverse conference," Parker explained. "And so you know, you end up playing Austin College a couple times in this proposal. You play Hendrix in Arkansas, and you play I believe Millsaps in Mississippi, which even though

they aren't super close, they are the closest ones in the conference for football. And so they're able to do those on bus trips, instead of, you know, flying to Georgia to play Berry or flying to Kentucky to play Centre, you kind of have eliminated some of that. And so it made it a little more feasible for the schools to be able to play that kind of a schedule."

The tentative schedule in question proposed to the SAA President's Council and selected by the conference was developed by

Trinity, according to Head Football Coach, Jerheme Urban.

"We actually put together a schedule here. And we presented it to the conference. And the conference actually selected the Trinity schedule, to be the model that we would go off of conference wide. So you know, we kind of put together the East-West split, talked about where we would meet for your fifth game, kind of conference championship weekend type of a deal," said Urban.

The SAA schedule does not apply to Trinity's other 17 sports, which are all a part of SCAC. Similarly to SAA, SCAC is in the process of putting together schedules for all of their sports, including the winter and fall sports that did not get to play this semester. The prospect of putting together a schedule for Spring 2021 presents some unique challenges. The first, according to Parker, is NCAA requirements which can vary depending on whether a sport is categorized as high risk, medium risk, or low risk.

The second is an attempt to minimize contact between teams for safety. According to Parker, the latest proposal as of Nov. 6th would have teams playing each other multiple times in a row. Where a normal season of volleyball or basketball would have the Trinity team play opponents from one school on a Friday and a different team on Saturday, the proposed schedule would have Trinity playing the same team on both Friday and Saturday.



Players on the Trinity football team workout in the Sports Performance Center (SPC). The Tigers are attempting to play a shortened spring season after their games in the fall were canceled. photo by KATE NUELLE

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Thanksgiving and NFL unite yet again in 2020

Opinion: Turkey and football have made for a perfect pair since 1869



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For many families, watching football on Thanksgiving has become just as much of a tradition as the meal itself. Football brings families together in late November to cheer on their favorite team while stuffing themselves with delicious food.

Thanksgiving football was actually once a tradition in high schools and colleges across the United States. President Abraham Lincoln named Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863, and the first Thanksgiving Day game was actually played in Philadelphia in 1869 between Rutgers University and Princeton University.

Thanksgiving Day Football in the National Football League actually started in 1934 after George Richard had purchased the Portsmouth Spartans and moved them to Detroit, where they became the Detroit Lions. Richard realized that the city was not as excited about football as they were about baseball, so he started the Thanksgiving Day Football Matchup. The Lions played the Chicago Bears, and after that, Thanksgiving football became a tradition in Detroit and in cities across the United States. The Lions have played on every Thanksgiving since then with the exception of World War II.

In 1966, the Dallas Cowboys hosted their first Thanksgiving Day game as a way

to build their fanbase. That game broke attendance records with over 80,000 fans in the stadium. The Cowboys have played on all but two Thanksgivings. In 2006, the NFL added a third game to the lineup, which is not fixed to any specific team.

In 1989, the NFL introduced the Turkey Leg Award. The award was first given by John Madden to Eagles defensive end Reggie White. Today, the Turkey Leg Award is presented to the MVP or MVPs of the Thanksgiving Day primetime matchup. After the game, you can often see players eating their turkey leg on TV, highlighting the holiday spirit after a competitive game.

Historically, there have been some exciting matchups on Thanksgiving. In 2005, the Denver Broncos and the Dallas Cowboys played and were tied 21-21 before overtime. After the Broncos won the coin toss, on the second play of overtime, backup running back, Ron Dayne, had a 55-yard run, which allowed the Broncos to win the game with a field goal on the next play.

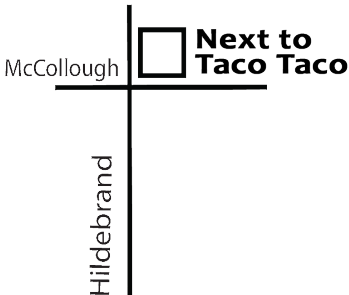
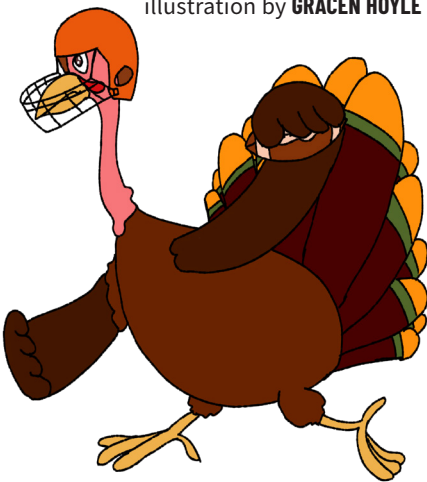
In 1998, the Detroit Lions and the Pittsburgh Steelers had a close game in overtime. During the overtime coin toss, Jerome Bettis, one of the Steelers' captains, mumbled heads/trails during the coin toss, and the referee didn't hear what he actually said, so the Lions got the ball first, which allowed the Lions to win.

Lastly, the Dallas Cowboys and the Green Bay Packers played in 1994 on Thanksgiving. With the first and second string quarterback injured, Jason Garrett was able to lead the Cowboys to victory, throwing more yards than Brett Favre with

fewer passes. Garrett threw 311 yards on 15 completions, whereas Favre threw for 247 yards on 27 completions. Garrett went onto become the Cowboys head coach in 2010, but he made a little history well before then.

This Thanksgiving, the Houston Texans will play the Detroit Lions, the Washington Football Team will play the Dallas Cowboys and the Baltimore Ravens will play the Pittsburgh Steelers. There are plenty of games, so take some time between rounds of food to enjoy a little football.

illustration by GRACEN HOYLE



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Trinity sports anticipate a return in spring of 2021

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According to Parker, the logic behind this choice is that on any given weekend, those two teams are the only ones in contact with one another, so that if a problem occurs it won't impact all the teams in that sport.

An added difficulty is that — best case scenario — we will see all 18 sports played at the same time. As of now, spring sports have not been canceled or affected by the pandemic, so they will have a regular season alongside the shorter seasons of fall and winter sports.

The obvious conflict that comes to mind are sports like basketball and volleyball, which use the same facilities, and will require extra consideration when putting schedules together.

The other conflict is a scarcity of resources. Parker anticipates that due to budget cuts schools are less likely to send additional personnel to away games, so Trinity staff may have to juggle in order to cover all the games at once. The game day experience may look different in the spring, with toned down broadcast coverage and minimal announcing because teams will have to share resources.

With these challenges, a realistic time frame to expect sports schedules to be released is by Thanksgiving, according to Parker.

"I think what we're trying, what we're shooting for, is kind of before Thanksgiving, because that's kind of the endpoint for you know, everybody's supposed to go home at that point. And I think we want to send everyone off with the knowledge of like,

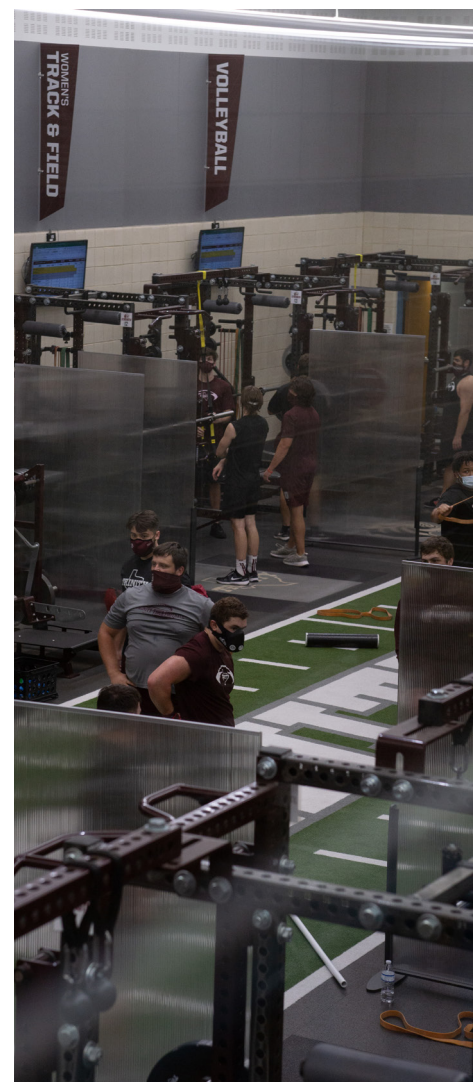


Several Trinity football players listen to directions from an assistant coach during a workout. The SAA and SCAC are both currently finalizing plans for spring schedules across sports. photo by **KATE NUELLE**

here's when the games are going to be, here's when we're going to start," Parker stated.

Even with these challenges, the prospect of sports returning is exciting for the staff at the Department of Athletics and for the student-athletes.

"I am extremely excited to be playing football again even though it's in the spring and a shorter season. [...] Regardless of when the season occurs or the length, I'm just happy to be out on the field with my brothers enjoying the game I love," said Caleb Crawford, sophomore wide receiver.



Players on the Trinity football team work out in the Sports Performance Center (SPC) at safe distances from one another. Dividers between machines went up across the Bell Center this fall. photo by **KATE NUELLE**

Baseball hopes to have uninterrupted spring season

After COVID-19 halted play last March, Tigers are eager to be back on the field practicing

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When the country came to a screeching halt in March, the Trinity baseball team saw their 2020 season end abruptly just as conference play was set to start. Nearly nine months later, they are finally back on the field and are hopeful for a spring season in 2021.

While baseball is technically a spring sport, it's typical to see them practicing during the fall. Baseball usually begins their fall off-season training when school starts in August. They then transition to captain-led practices throughout September and finally head into official coach-led practices in late October through Thanksgiving break.

"COVID has thrown a wrench in pretty much everything we do. We have been able to start practicing in mid-October and have certainly made the most out of those," said senior pitcher Matt Thomas.

According to senior pitcher Carter Fronk, while field practices began in mid-October, the team had been able to start lifting in September.

"We were split up into two main groups, with multiple 'pods' of four or less within the two main groups to stay under the capacity set in the Sports Performance Center (SPC)," said Fronk.

Once they were cleared to begin field activities, they started working in groups of 10-12 doing more specialized drills. Most of this semester has been focused on conditioning and individual skills work. The team is currently lifting three times a week and practicing three times a week as well.

"We have just been moved into phase three, which means our practice sessions can go a bit longer, and we are able to run a full scrimmage atmosphere, with pitchers

throwing live to hitters. These scrimmages have only been going on for the last week, but it has been great to face live pitchers again," said senior infielder Jack Wisniewski.

The team typically closes out their fall season with a Fall World Series. Thomas elaborates on what this entailed pre-pandemic.

"It is normally over four days. We play five games against each other in teams that are split up. It is usually a very competitive and fun time out there. Lots of parents come out and support the team, thus making it normally a great environment. As far as I know, this year, it will be November 12-15," said Thomas.

With the way the team has progressed through Trinity's phased plan, they will still be able to hold the World Series. They might have to make some COVID-19 adjustments, such as the removal of fans.

"We are hoping to get [the World Series] in right before we leave for Thanksgiving break. It will be good to be able to play what feels like a real game for the first time since spring. Our team will break into two sides, and we will likely play five full games against each other. This is the typical structure for our Fall World Series. I have heard that the plan is to record the games so that our friends and family can watch the live stream," said Wisniewski.

COVID-19 has required that everyone make adjustments in all aspects of life, but Fronk believes the team has stepped up to meet the challenges presented.

"I think everyone has handled the situation very well. Before we could meet as a team, guys were trusted to get their work done on their own, and I believe everyone did so. Now that we've started practices again, though, everyone is excited just to have the opportunity to go out and compete. We're just focused on controlling

what we can control and putting in the work this fall so that we can be ready to go with whatever cards we are dealt for the spring season," said Fronk.

As the spring season approaches, things are still very much up in the air about what that will actually look like. The Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) released a report with a spring 2021 schedule for fall sports such as volleyball and men's and women's soccer. This involves a smaller conference-only schedule without an NCAA championship. The report explains

that this still depends on the COVID-19 situation, but the SCAC is hopeful that they will be able to safely move forward with these schedules.

With so much uncertainty, it is impossible for anyone to know what the spring will look like. Baseball has no answers, but they are hopeful and want the chance to get to play their regular season.

"For now, we are working hard to follow the guidelines, stay healthy, and keep practicing so we are ready whenever we are able to start games," said Wisniewski.



Head baseball coach **TIM SCANNELL** looks on as assistant head coach **ANDREW WATERS** throws batting practice during a workout. The Tigers hope to complete their annual Fall World Series and play this spring. photo by **KATE NUELLE**