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Reflections on 2021

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From the Editors' desk

You may notice the implementation of cover art and this paper's booklet style, a design that strays from our usual print format. Just as the past two years have been anything but traditional, so is this paper. For our last print paper of the semester, one scheduled to be released during finals season, we wanted to offer campus a more magazine-style form of entertainment. A paper created to be used as a distraction from library study sessions, a Mabee mealtime companion, or a way to pass the time and let your mind wander between exams.

The year 2021 has been anything but stress-free, and during one of the most hectic times of the semester for college students, we hope our writers' reflections aid in providing solace. Read about the true meaning of rest; about the benefits of finding creative outlets; about the history of holiday season sports.

You can also find Trinity community members' personal stories featured in the next 15 pages, shedding light onto the lives of those making change on campus and in the world. Because as much as 2021 has challenged us and our traditional understanding of "normal," it has also brought forth leaders in both thought and action that have guided us during and before the pandemic.

We wish you all a good, restful break, regardless of where it's spent. Maybe you'll even find yourself taking some inspiration from our staff on how to do that best.

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cover art by **GRACEN HOYLE**

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There's no place quite like home (away from home) for the holidays



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As you get older, it becomes harder and harder to recapture the same feeling of joy that you got from holidays when you were a kid. Kids get to enjoy free candy and presents while even young adults must stress about buying presents for family and friends and getting everything decorated and prepared. With age, the magic you once believed in starts to fade away as you realize how commercialized most of your favorite holidays really are.

College students are already in such a weird transition between youth and adulthood, and that feeling of transition is compounded around holidays. As we get our first real taste of independence, we are often away from our families for the time surrounding the holidays or even away for the holiday itself, and the stress of this gets compounded with stress from classes and finals. We have to find our own way to celebrate away from home that finds a balance between our newfound responsibilities and holding onto the youth we have left.

I've found that holding onto my holiday spirit has been an essential part of keeping me sane in the midst of all of my college stress. I grew up celebrating Christmas, and getting involved with all kinds of Christmas activities has always helped me to feel a bit happier, even as I've gotten older. I urge everyone to go all out for the holidays, which comes from the person who wrote their college essay on an elf-on-the-shelf.

Every year in high school, without fail, even as exams loomed over my head, I put my family's elf-on-the-shelf Marvin

somewhere new in the house each night and set up an elaborate situation to be in. One time for example, I put a Spider-Man mask on Marvin and hung him from the Christmas tree. There were no young kids in my house that still believed that elves-on-the-shelves moved by themselves, but I enjoyed doing it, and it made my family happy.

Embracing the holidays keeps us connected with our ever-fleeting childhood and lets us just have fun.

I'm not letting being in college stop me from celebrating like I did back home. I got to work decorating my room long before even Thanksgiving, and I have a new elf-on-the-shelf for my suite. The decorations in my room may even make me happier than they did at home, considering how well they break up what can be a monotonous college semester.

You can enjoy the holidays and spend time with people you love no matter where you are. You can decorate your dorm, seek out events on campus and force your friends to do cheesy holiday activities with you. There's a lot you can do to make finals season merry and bright.

That's what it's all about, really. It's not about putting more responsibilities on yourself, nor is it about engaging in debates over commercialism and "keeping Christ in Christmas." It's about doing what you can to make yourself and others happy, making time for the people you love and the things that make you happy and holding onto your curiosity and childlike wonder alive to keep exploring the question: "What does the season mean to me?"

Embracing the holidays keeps us connected with our ever-fleeting childhood and lets us just have fun. We get a few moments to stop worrying about all that comes next in our lives and enjoy what we have and the people we get to share it all with. So deck your room in lights, watch some cheesy Hallmark movies and make some hot chocolate.

Happy holidays, Trinity University, and a happy new semester.



Coping through creativity

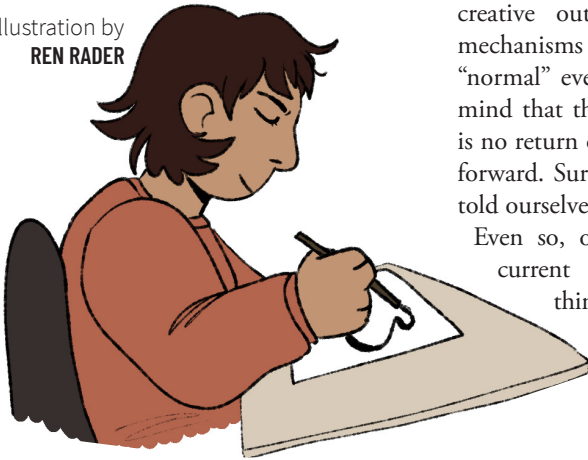
The use of creative outlets to help cope with the new normal



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As we near the end of our first full official semester back in person on-campus after the COVID-19 evacuation in March 2020, returning to “normal” has been different than envisioned. For some, returning to in-person classes and rebuilding a normal social life has brought a familiar sense of ease and perhaps relief; for others of us who enjoyed aspects of isolation brought on by the pandemic, returning to “normal” has posed new anxieties and challenges associated with reintegration into society.

illustration by
REN RADER



Either way, many of us have found or maintained certain creative outlets to turn to for a variety of multifaceted reasons. Someone might use a creative outlet for self-expression, relief, or to further inquire into an issue. It should be noted, however, that these reasons are fluid, not strictly defined and are not exhaustive of the reasons why a person might seek out a creative outlet.

Simply put, creative outlets can provide a glance into the subjective contemporary dispositions and attitudes we hold as 2021 is coming to a close.

Not to keep circling around the COVID-19 pandemic (I understand we are all tired of it at this point), but we must admit that it has changed us and perhaps our outlooks on life. Although creative outlets can serve as coping mechanisms for our reintegration into “normal” everyday life, we must keep in mind that this is our normal now; there is no return or backtrack, we can only go forward. Surely, we have both heard and told ourselves this repeatedly.

Even so, our acknowledgment of our current situation does not make things easier to grapple with.

Ideally speaking, perhaps art is the medium best-suited for grappling with looming issues — issues

that will, in reality, never go away. From the minuscule to the massive, art is a way to tackle things that we take issue with. Perhaps we can utilize creative outlets to worm our way through difficult times and ultimately come to terms with them.

Art does not have to be an active effort to solve problems; it can just serve as a means of being. Personally speaking, my work in photography has allowed me a space to concentrate on details like lighting, exposure time and subject matter, instead of focusing on literally anything else (as the Still Woozy lyric goes, “you wouldn’t last a day in my head,” which I am sure resonates with everyone). In this way, my creative outlet is a safe space that can almost distract me from looming issues, both personal and general.

Don’t think you have a creative outlet? It doesn’t have to be anything spectacular. Dancing, cooking, collaging, doodling in class, singing, making music and writing are all low-stake creative outlets that may prove to be beneficial — the list goes on and on. Although creative outlets can provide a healthy coping mechanism for some, I am not intending to suggest that creative outlets are the only viable coping methods, but that they are options for anyone open to trying to create or exploring new methods of relaxing.

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The bittersweet taste of “feel good” Hallmark holiday movies



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“Matchmaker Santa,” “Merry Matrimony,” “Window Wonderland,” “Once Upon a Holiday”: the list of Hallmark Christmas movies goes on and on. In fact, an IMDb page lists 133 such movies over the past 10 years. These movies have historically maintained a steady fan base, but the range of viewers seems to have grown. It’s not uncommon to hear your peers or friends talking about the Hallmark Christmas movie marathon they are looking forward to over the holiday break.

While Hallmark’s name is part of the genre, other entertainment companies also try to capitalize on the demand for feel-good holiday movies. Netflix has jumped into the feel-good romantic holiday movie pool with films like “A Prince for Christmas” and the series “The Princess Switch.” Cable television network Lifetime also releases their fair share of holiday movies, and they have historically included more diverse casting and storylines. But the basis of the stories are largely the same: family, traditions, romance, sweaters and remembering what is most important.

Often the objects of fair ridicule and criticism, these movies’ faults are part of the reason we embrace them. In his article for The Gospel Coalition, author and journalist Brett McCracken says Hallmark movies “are beautiful because they are formulaic in a good way and because they are simple and earnest in a chaotic, cynical world Simple and predictable isn’t always a bad thing.”

I would tend to agree with McCracken’s observations. Even though we can all probably recite the plot to at least one Hallmark Christmas movie — and

therefore the vast majority of them — they have become a part of our holiday routines. With this in mind, I want to add some thoughts about the ways Hallmark movies shape our ideas of the “good life” and consequently teach us what to want.

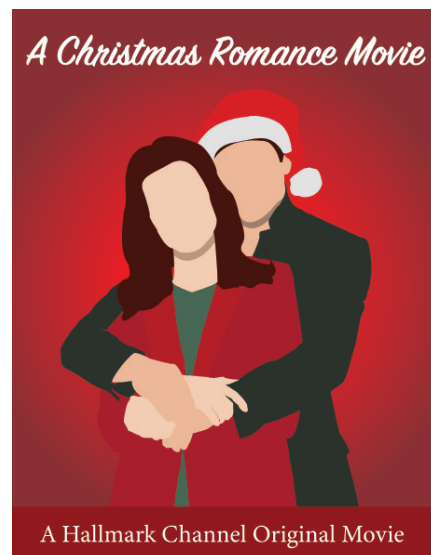
As I mentioned above, one of the threads running through these holiday movies is the call to remember what is most important. It is easy to overlook the ways our “telos,” what we most desire and strive towards, is influenced. Our ideas about what matters most vary throughout our individual lives — maybe oscillating between cliques and romantic relationships while in high school to future careers and building a better resume while in college.

In Hallmark Christmas movies, family usually falls under this category of the most important things. A good amount of the stories begin with a disillusioned parent who is unhappy at their job and lacking a love life, and over the course of the film they come to see the goodness in their life, young child and all. These movies fail to acknowledge that blood families can be difficult. Showing a holiday movie with more real family relationships probably wouldn’t create the same warm-fuzzies that idealized family dynamics do. I understand this privileging of the romantic and idealized over the real; humans have been interested in hearing grandiose and exciting stories since before 700 BCE through the likes of epic poems such as the “Epic of Gilgamesh” and “Atra-Hasis.” Nonetheless, the ideal versions of family and romance inevitably work their way into our hearts and heads, thereby conditioning what we strive towards.

In addition to teaching us to want perfect family and romantic relationships, Hallmark Christmas movies define the holiday season narrowly. They seem to claim if your holiday season does not involve perfect winter weather, a few meet-cutes that blossom into true love and being

surrounded by loving friends and family you are doing this holiday thing wrong. In our heads we know these things to be untrue and unfair characterizations, but this knowledge doesn’t stop the feelings of loneliness, sadness and numbness. The first Christmas after losing a family member or friend, being away from one’s blood or chosen family, or the memories of painful past holiday seasons inherently clash with these distinctions of a “good” or “right” holiday season. We have a deep-seated dislike of paradox where opposing ideas coexist, but the story told by Christians every year of Jesus of Nazareth’s birth unequivocally affirms paradox’s presence.

I enjoy watching Hallmark’s Christmas movies. But after the credits roll, I can’t easily shake the relationships and attitudes that the fanciful worlds teach me to desire. The movies serve as palate cleansers of sorts amid chaos and confusion; they can be breaths of fresh air. Still, no art is neutral when it comes to winning our desires, and it is always helpful to remember what is true outside of what idealized holiday romance movies portray as real.



Maybe we're missing the point: two novels that help us reframe rest



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We as Trinity students all know the feeling that creeps in throughout November and the first week of December: mounting panic as the list of things to do before winter break steadily grows longer and time is running out.

In the midst of this crunch time, a sense of rest feels immeasurably far away. I think rest seems unfeasible because we define rest incorrectly. We confuse escaping — sleeping, clicking the “Yes, I am still watching” button on Netflix, parties, social media, avoidance — with rest. Traditionally the idea of rest has aligned with the idea of stopping in the middle of whatever you’re doing and looking up and around you.

We equate rest with escaping because we equate our current surroundings with our exhaustion. Blaming our surroundings can lead us to constantly wish that things were different. If only school, friends, family, and life would slow down, then we could rest. These beliefs automatically limit the places where we allow ourselves to find rest, ultimately perpetuating the illusion (maybe even the lie) that resting is impossible where we are. Believing rest is impossible where we are further fuels our disillusionment that says nothing of value or anything worth our attention could happen around us. A persistent grabbing and reaching only fuels our exhaustion because the finish line is always just beyond our reach. Winter break ends and we start all over again in the spring. We graduate and we look for jobs. Life can feel like a Sisyphean curse we live everyday as the proverbial boulder we push up the mountainside sits

at the bottom with the start of each new day.

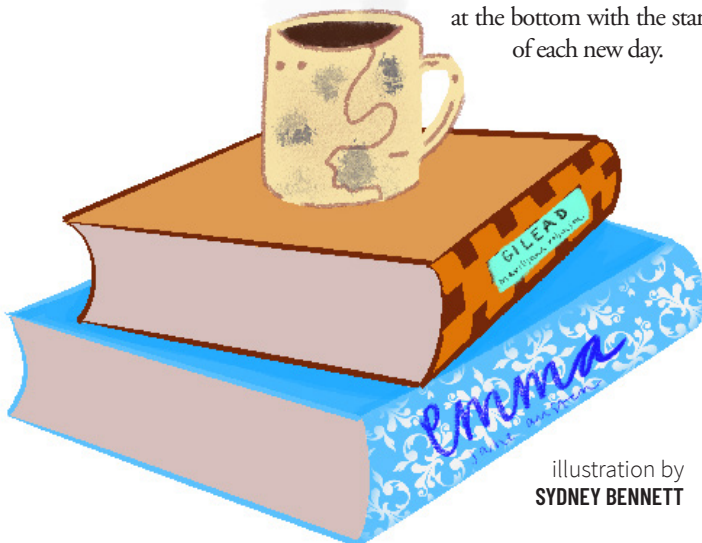


illustration by
SYDNEY BENNETT

I want to offer two novels, Marilynne Robinson’s “Gilead” and Jane Austen’s “Emma,” as signs telling us that extraordinary and beautiful things happen in our everyday. And I think recognizing the gifts that surround us everyday could be the beginning of rest.

Published in 2004, “Gilead” by Marilynne Robinson invites readers into the mind of the aging Reverend John Ames as he writes journal entries to his young son. Robinson’s fiction has long stood as a hallmark of the beauty and significance that can be imbued into the most quotidian experiences. We have been trained to celebrate only the big victories, the things that disrupt or significantly shift our lives, but Robinson tries to slowly shift our focus towards the ordinary by weaving together obviously significant events in Ames’ life and mundane ones. We hear Rev. Ames’ history, from living with his grandfather (also called Rev. John Ames) after he returned from the American Civil War having lost his right eye, to how he fell in love with his son’s mother/second wife. We also see Rev. Ames reflect on his son playing with bubbles and their cat, on a young couple walking in the rain to church on a Sunday. Rev. Ames is able to recognize the weightiness, maybe even the glory, of the everyday and consequently receives what he has been given with both sorrow and joy.

“Emma,” like Austen’s other novels, contains more than meets the eye. The longest of Austen’s novels, it often feels impossible to get through because characters just seem to do nothing but talk a lot, and arguably Emma is fairly unlikable. Emma’s feelings of imprisonment, boredom, and longing almost reach through the page and implant themselves in the reader, convincing us along with Emma that we simply have to carry those things which feel like burdens. Miss Bates bears the brunt of Emma’s annoyance, having to deal with her long-winded, meaningless speeches, but throughout the novel Miss Bates becomes an integral piece to the joys of ‘smallness.’ Emma tries to liven things up by playing matchmaker and creating stories in her head, but she learns the limits of her own imagination as she still inhabits the physical world. The novel sits between the benefits and the detriments of mundanity, and while it fails to wholly embrace one or the other, “Emma” highlights the pattern of discontent that is driven by an inability to see the goodness around us.

Rest is not synonymous with escape, with avoiding responsibilities or disengaging. The things that weigh on us do not disappear when we choose to ignore them. Despite our efforts, we know we have to deal with them eventually, and then we’re trapped in dread.

Quoting author J.R.R. Tolkien, talk show host and comedian Stephen Colbert said in a 2015 “GQ” interview, “What punishments of God are not gifts?” The pieces of Colbert’s life that he wishes did not happen are the same pieces that he points to as places of God’s counterintuitive grace that descends to meet us in our worst moments. Yet it is incredibly difficult to be grateful for those things that cause our greatest pains.

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Your professors' must-watch films

A peek at faculty members' favorites, from horror to the classics

PIERCE ROGERS | REPORTING INTERN

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Hearing professors talk about various movies can be a common occurrence among many students. Whether it is a reference that goes over the heads of many young people or a brief quote that sounds sort of familiar, the disconnect between students' and professors' movie knowledge is real. So, we at the Trinitonian have attempted to bridge that gap, compiling a list of must-see, professor recommended films that pack an influential punch.

Glenn Kroeger, geosciences professor, offered his five picks for must-watch films.

All but one of Kroeger's suggestions are black and white films. So, even though these films are a little older, Kroeger insists they are must-watches.

The top ranked film among Kroeger's list is "Citizen Kane," the 1941 film directed by Orson Welles.

"['Citizen Kane'] is part of the fabric of the culture," said Kroeger.

This fictionalization of the life of newspaper mogul William Randolph Hearst is full of commonly referenced and often quoted material.

1. "Citizen Kane" (Welles 1941)
2. "To Kill a Mockingbird" (Mulligan 1962)
3. "Harold and Maude" (Ashby 1971)
4. "A Night at the Opera" (Wood 1935)
5. "The Last Picture Show" (Bogdanovich 1971)

Katherine Troyer, assistant director for Programs for the Collaborative for Learning and Teaching, chose her top five horror films that she believes students should view. Each of these films represents a different type of horror movie. From horror-comedies to psychological thriller

films, Troyer's suggestions include a vast spectrum of scary topics.

One of the lesser known horror films, "One Cut of the Dead," is a Japanese student film released in 2017.

"I think it's important for students to see that not everything has to be big budget," said Dr. Troyer.

While this student-made zombie film starts slow, "One Cut of the Dead" is definitely worth a watch on your next movie night.

1. "Ginger Snaps" (Fawcett 2000)
2. "One Cut of the Dead" (Ueda 2017)
3. "Get Out" (Peele 2017)
4. "American Psycho" (Harron 2000)
5. "Shaun of the Dead" (Wright 2004)

Benjamin Stevens, a Classics professor, chose five influential films relating to the ancient world. These films span almost 50 years, covering vast topics ranging from a comedic interpretation of a classic adventure to contemporary examples of ancient stories.

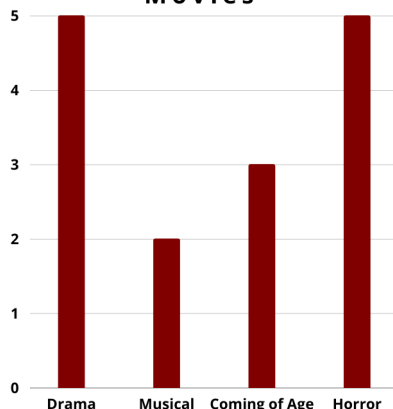
One of Stevens' movie choices, "O Brother Where Art Thou," is a comedic adaptation of Homer's Odyssey that takes place in 1930s America.

"['O Brother Where Art Thou'] is an interesting way of invoking the ancient world by pointing back to, loosely speaking, the ancient history of America," said Stevens.

One of the more lighthearted films on this list, "O Brother Where Art Thou" provides a comedic way of engaging with commonly referenced classical stories.

1. "Contempt" (Godard 1963)
2. "The Piano" (Jane Campion, 1993)
3. "The Virgin Suicides" (Coppola 1999)
4. "O Brother Where Art Thou" (Coens 2000)
5. "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" (Mitchell 2001)

**Genres of
Recommended
Movies**



graphic by **MARIE MUZYKA**

Learning to reframe rest

continued from **page 6**

Picking and choosing what we receive as good gifts ultimately fuels hopelessness because we begin to doubt that things will ever look different. But what if, as I think "Gilead" and "Emma" try to say, the places, the experiences, the classes, the responsibilities we most want to escape are the stages where beauty is unfolding most clearly? And we often miss the glory of that beauty because it's too ordinary.

Rest comes when we are fully known and fully loved, when we remember what is true regardless of whether we complete all our assignments or attend all of a club's meetings, whether we get the best internship or step away from school. Rest meets us where we are, even as we think it's a million miles away.

Richard Reams: reflections on musical theatre and community

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In 1994, Trinity's director of Counseling Services asked then-Vice President for Student Affairs Coleen Grissom a question: would it be alright to hire an out psychologist? The answer was yes, and Richard Reams became the first openly gay person in the division of Student Life.

Reams, the current director of Counseling Services, said he was proud to be the first, and since then, he's been met with acceptance and support from his colleagues at Trinity. 43 years ago, however, was a different time.

Sitting in a lounge chair in his office, he reminisced about his last semester of college. Not many people were out, nor was there an extensive LGBTQ+ community that existed with all the identities it supports today. It was 1978 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he had just come out and he was about to attend a gay dance held at the Newman Catholic Student Center.

"I was very nervous," Reams said. "It was a really positive experience, and it was so meaningful to me to go, 'Oh, we're pretty normal.' And I enjoyed myself. And I met people. Indeed, one person I met, who was the greeter at the door, became a lifelong friend."

Stuart, the lifelong friend, now works at Duke University, and the two see each other once or twice a year when Reams travels to North Carolina and they catch up over barbecue. At the time, Reams said Stuart's soft-spokenness and kindness at the door all those years ago made him feel safe, like there was a community where he could be himself.

In seminary, another friend ushered Reams into a new world that he would come to love: musical theatre. Claude played him "A Little Priest" from Stephen Sondheim's "Sweeney Todd," and to this



Director of Counseling Services **RICHARD REAMS** shares his love for musical theatre with a special interest in Stephen Sondheim musicals. Beyond his office, Reams has a library of over 200 musical theatre history books and over 1,000 CDs of original cast recordings.
photo by **SAMUEL DAMON**

day, it is still Reams' favorite musical. While he's seen almost every Stephen Sondheim musical at least once, he hasn't stopped there.

"I've got a library of over 200 books about musical theater history and performers and creators," he said, "and over 1,000 CDs of original cast recordings and personality recordings of people like Bernadette Peters and Kristen Chenoweth and the like. It just brings me great joy."

It's the creativity, the collaboration, the lyricism and the wordplay that Reams loves about theatre. He also enjoys other arts like dance and music performance, having sung with the Alamo City Men's Chorale, a gay men's chorus, for 15 years.

As for musicals, he's only been in one. When he was in his 20s, he played Jacob Marley's ghost in "A Christmas Carol" in Barnesville, Georgia while working on a church staff. Reams claims he isn't much of a soloist, so he tends to stay in the audience.

"For some Sondheim musicals, it's hard for me not to cry, and I tend to be a crier," Reams said. "But you know, I can see 'Sunday in the Park with George' or 'Into the Woods,' which I saw a few weeks ago in Austin, and some of it is just very moving. And sometimes it's just damn funny."

Before COVID, Reams saw live theatre at least once a month, often travelling to Austin or Houston to catch a show. Luckily, he said, his partner Francisco shares this passion of his, and he's hoping that one day soon that rhythm will return.

He just bought a ticket for "Tootsie" when it swings through San Antonio in the spring on its national tour, he said. In his office in the counseling center, a poster of Sondheim hangs framed on the wall — the magical world of musical theatre always beckoning across from his desk.

Alumnus Simran Jeet Singh '06, Ph.D is taking Trinity's legacy to new heights

GLORIA FARRIS | REPORTER

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Simran Jeet Singh '06, Ph.D's track record includes executive director of the Inclusive America Project at the Aspen Institute, acclaimed author, and frequent contributor to TIME Magazine, CNN.com and the Washington Post. With a Twitter following of over 80,000 and participating in talk shows like "The Daily Show with Trevor Noah," it's not a stretch to call him an influencer of sorts. However, before Singh was named one of TIME Magazine's sixteen people fighting for a more equal America, he was an undergraduate at Trinity, trying to find a place in this world.

Singh enrolled in Trinity as a freshman in 2002 and explained his experience as a self-described "turban-wearing, brown-skinned, beard-loving Sikh" growing up in San Antonio.

"It was right after 9/11 for me, so there were multiple encounters with racism and law enforcement and what my roommates did and what students at Trinity did and didn't do," he said. Singh shares more about these encounters in a post-9/11 America in his new book *The Light We Give: The Power of Sikh Wisdom to Transform Your Life*, which will be published summer of 2022, and hopes that fellow students will be able to find points of connection in it.

Despite these struggles, Singh was very active on campus, participating in the Trinity Multicultural Club (what is now Trinity's Interfaith-focused Spiritual Life group), the Trinity Multicultural Network (now Trinity Diversity Connection) and spent what he considered "way too much time playing sports" at Trinity. Singh notably started an intramural basketball team called The Ninjas with his hall as a freshman

that made history as the first team not affiliated with a Greek organization to win the men's IM overall championship in 2005. He also was a reporter on the Trinitonian and even ran his own humor column called "Sim's City," accessible in the Trinity archives, that featured his playfully self-deprecating wit.

"I've studied and taught at other places, at Ivy League institutions, and I've come to really appreciate that Trinity students tend to have a really nice balance in terms of the seriousness with which they take their work, but also their ability to enjoy life," Singh said.

Singh also explained how Trinity prepared him for life after graduation, receiving his BA in religion and religious studies.

"Trinity was the place where I came to feel I had a place in the world," Singh said. "You know, I loved life, even before I joined Trinity, but I didn't really feel like I had a purpose. I would just play soccer, watch basketball and hang out,

and life was fun, but I didn't see what my contribution to the world could be, if anything. I felt like I didn't have much to offer. Learning through trial at Trinity gave me the opportunities to explore different ideas that went beyond what we had been exposed to in school previously and also gave me opportunities to try different kinds of things. I think I switched majors maybe seven times at Trinity. I was involved in a bunch of clubs. Like, I volunteered in things and had different jobs. All of it helped me figure out what it was I enjoyed, what I could be good at and what I wanted to make of myself. Really, I think the spirit of giving beyond yourself is something that has always been instilled in me, but there's an ethos of that at Trinity that I really value. Learning what that could look like professionally is something that I started to understand while I was at Trinity."

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SIMRAN JEET SINGH, Ph.D has attended and taught at Ivy League institutions since graduating from Trinity in 2006, and served as an assistant professor of religion at Trinity in 2016. "Trinity was the place where I came to feel I had a place in this world," Singh said. photo provided by **KATIE STOREY**

A lighthouse in the COVID sea: Tess Coody-Anders

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You open your inbox and there it is: the weekly COVID update that Tess Coody-Anders writes, giving the numbers, the precautions, the updates.

In the turbulent world of the past year and a half, everyone has become accustomed to everything changing within a matter of days. From March 2020 to December 2021, colleges especially have found themselves forced to adapt in every situation. One of the leading forces on Trinity's campus is the vice president for Strategic Communications and Marketing, Tess Coody-Anders.

Coody-Anders is no stranger to change. She graduated from Trinity in 1993, majoring in communication. One of her favorite experiences from her time in college was working at the Trinitonian and the Mirage. Here, she was able to get involved on campus by meeting new people and covering current events. When she graduated, she fully expected to carry her love of journalism into her career. However, as time went on, she found herself in many different career fields, from writing to entrepreneurship to health care.

Out of college, Tess Coody-Anders started out as a print and radio journalist for a few years. From there, she started a public relations firm with two other Trinity alums. At this firm, she realized that she had a passion for healthcare. Through connections with clients, she was able to become the CEO of a healthcare delivery system. In all of these professions, Coody-Anders centered the clients and patients, trying to create more comfortable and equitable work environments.

Finally, in 2020, she returned to her roots at Trinity University. Replacing Coleen Grissom, she became the vice president for Strategic Communications and Marketing. This role covers a variety of

University necessities: supporting various departments, dealing with emergencies and communicating with people involved in the university at every level.

"I felt like it was an opportunity to come and give back to an institution that meant a lot to me," Coody-Anders said, responding to her changing career paths.

Soon after, however, the world was plunged into a world of Zoom calls, masks and social distancing.

"It's existential," Coody-Anders said. "We were entering a challenge that was existential, that was life-or-death to people I care about, not only at work but at home. For me, there's been no respite from COVID; it's my social circle, it's my work life, it potentially impacts my home life."

Through this anxiety-inducing time, Coody-Anders persisted. Along with much of Trinity's other faculty and staff, she led the campus into the virtual spring 2020. This was a complicated and multifaceted process. In her newly-appointed role, she helped create Trinity's Nerve Center, a group of Trinity faculty and staff working together to support health and safety with a focus on student life and learning.

"Now I look back and think, maybe the universe was leading me here, to be prepared to help in a time when I had a particular set of skills that would benefit the university," Coody-Anders said.

As the way we interact with the pandemic is ever-changing, so is Coody-Anders's role in Trinity's health team. During the fall 2021 semester, she and Vice President for Enrollment Management Eric Maloof led the Nerve Center. As the campus opens up more and more, their primary focus is keeping the university safe and informed.

Throughout all this change, Tess Coody-Anders has remained unwaveringly dedicated to Trinity.

"This entire community was willing to set aside titles, roles, responsibilities



TESS COODY-ANDERS, vice president of Strategic Communications and Marketing, brought her background in public relations and healthcare administration to Trinity, an unexpected benefit during the pandemic.
photo by **AMANI CANADA**

and just to be whomever and whatever the community needed them to be in order for us to persevere. That sort of humility and generosity has been very affirming and that's been my inspiration. While I think we're all exhausted, I hope we're coming away feeling proud of ... our community. Even when we disagreed, sometimes vehemently, about how to go forward, we made it through together without falling apart. That's special in this world today and that's uniquely Trinity."

In a time of incredible change, unwavering forces like Coody-Anders are what keeps Trinity University afloat.

Back in the bleachers once again

A reflection on 2021 Trinity athletics from the perspective of a fan

LUKE TERRY | REPORTER

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Sometimes you don't realize how good you have it until something is taken away from you.

This past spring, in one of my first pieces for the Trinitonian, I covered a storied baseball program that was aided substantially by a number of transfer players from a multitude of universities. For it, I had the opportunity to speak with Rafe Chaumette, at the time in his fifth year in the program and one of the most well respected players in the locker room.

He was warm and immensely helpful in my completion of that article, but as we talked, we trailed off to a new topic, and he took me back almost a full year earlier to the moment when the pandemic derailed the 2020 season.

Aware that he spent too much time on his phone, Chaumette viewed it as a distraction on game days. It wasn't part of his pregame routine. It was tucked away to allow him to focus on the task at hand. What was standard for him was early arrival to the locker room, and on March 11, 2020, he was the first player there. Alone, he waited for his teammates to trickle in slowly, but they didn't come, at least not at the rate he was accustomed to. He grew concerned until finally, another senior joined him.

It was Michael Goodrich, but his arrival didn't quell any concerns. Instead, as Chaumette recalled, upon seeing his teammate, it was confirmed to him that something was wrong. Goodrich broke the news: the coronavirus would bring all activities to a full stop. Their season would be cancelled.

There was a whirlwind of emotions that would follow. Chaumette recounted all of them, and I could feel the weight of that moment he had shared with his



Right-hand pitcher **MARK TINDALL** is one of many student athletes to return to the mound. photo provided by **TRINITY ATHLETICS**

teammate, who over their time together had grown and become so much more.

Would they ever play a baseball game together again?

2021 answered that question for them. It gave them baseball back, and it's given a great deal to the rest of us, as well, but the return of sports at Trinity wasn't just for the athletes. It's been a bright spot for me and many others, as fans, giving us something to cheer for.

Last spring, every team competed, whether it was a condensed season that had been delayed from the fall and winter, or a full length one with the normal end goal of an National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Championship.

Even though events were closed to fans, Tiger Network broadcasts allowed us to tune in from our couches. The work of Joshua Moczygamba, the Sports Marketing Coordinator and co-Producer of Tiger Network, and countless student assistants was a luxury that wasn't afforded to many at this level

of competition. The broadcasts are some of the best that can be found across all Division III institutions, but it wasn't until this fall that it became entirely clear what had been missing, what had been taken away from my experience as a fan.

The first event that I was back in the stands for was a volleyball match against Our Lady of the Lake University. The amazing thing about that night was the fact that it was a game that wasn't even played. Health and safety protocols forced the cancellation of the match while both teams were on the floor during warmups.

However, Trinity remained on the floor and played a one set, intrasquad scrimmage. For those in attendance it was more like a championship game. A packed student section, which filled, emptied, and refilled after the start time was delayed, was led by football players who show out consistently in support of other teams.

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Students showcase everyday fashion

The stories behind students' fashion favorites and interests

MIKAYLA MULLIN | REPORTER

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Our clothing says a lot about us. It tells people who we are and where we've been, so when you look around campus at all the different outfits and styles, you get to learn a little bit about all the different people that make up our campus.

While the clothes themselves tell their own story, you can get an even better picture of who the person is if you get to hear the story behind their clothing choice.

Since it was one of those just-starting-to-be-fall days, pants and a top were the norm, but everyone did something different with them. Sophomore Dana Sheehan paired her wide leg pants with an American Eagle top and a headscarf.

For first-year Grace Sundstrom, her pants were the statement piece in her outfit.

"I'm wearing a pair of crazy wide leg pants. They have a checkerboard print on them and they're brown, which is a color I've been loving for fall. I'm wearing my [Doc Martens], which are my go-to shoes, and a cardigan because it's kind of cold outside," Grace said.

For Trinity junior Sam Cole, on the other hand, the long sleeve black and red like diamond checkered sweater he was wearing made his grey cargo pants and white tennis shoes seem dressed up.

The three Trinity students got their stuff from all over. Dana recently got a wardrobe expansion from her grandma.

"So [my grandma] was like, 'I have my entire life's worth of clothing.' She's like, 'dig through it,' and so I literally grabbed a bunch of stuff and these pants are my favorite thing that I got from her," Dana said.

Sam, like other Trinity students, has been into thrifting recently.

"I started going to different [thrift] shops and you can find better stuff than the ones that I used to be going to," Sam said.

One staple throughout the outfits was that they all had some kind of sentimental accessory.

"This was like me and my older sister's headscarf. And we would always do dress up when we were kids, and it was this stupid scarf and we would just tie it on everything. We would try and make outfits out of it when it's really not big enough to make an outfit out of it," Dana said.

For the other two students, their sentimental pieces were special pieces of jewelry. Grace's piece was a gift from a family member.

"I wear this necklace every day. It's from my mom, and it has a calendar and then there's a little diamond on my birthday. I never take it off," Grace said.

Sam's pieces of jewelry, on the other hand, were strongly connected to his childhood.



Top left: GRACE SUNDSTROM paired statement pants with her mom's necklace. **Top right: SAM COLE** goes for "classic casual style" in his everyday looks. **Bottom right: DANA SHEEHAN'S** classic Doc Martens are her go-to shoes. photos by **ANDREW DUONG**

"I'm wearing a ring that I got when I was younger. It used to have piano keys [painted on]. I used to play piano and then like all the black keys scraped off, but I still wear it. Then I have a bracelet that I got from New Orleans because my family and I used to go there a lot when I was younger," Sam said.

Grace's original style has an emphasis on the eclectic.

"I really like funky patterns and kind of crazy pieces. Anything that kind of has fun patterns that is a little bit out there I really like," Grace said.

Sam is all about combining style and comfort.

"I like a classic casual style. I like to think that I wear nice clothes and stuff like that, but I don't always dress up. So [my outfit] will look dressy and nice, but still comfortable," Sam said.

Trinity's campus is full of students with diverse and interesting outfits that all have their own unique approaches to personal style. Students are a testament to the idea that anyone can participate in fashion, simply by leaning into wearing what you love.



Changemaker alumnus reflects on time at Trinity

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Picking and choosing what we receive as good gifts ultimately fAfter leaving Trinity, Singh went on to earn three master's degrees at Harvard and Columbia and his PhD at Columbia. He also returned to Trinity in 2016 as an assistant professor in the Department of Religion.

"I was aware that I wouldn't be the person I am today, personally or professionally, without my experiences at Trinity," Singh said. "The opportunity to go back and provide that for other students who came from places like where I grew up and who had experiences I had when I grew up felt really special to me."

Singh now lives in New York City with his wife and two daughters. At the Aspen Institute, he collaborates with thought leaders all around the world to help advance society.

"The best thing about the college experience is the opportunity to explore," Singh said. "It takes courage to do that. Don't be afraid to put yourself out there, try new things, see what you like. Don't be afraid to fail. I definitely did at Trinity quite a bit. Give yourself a chance to learn and grow and push your limits, and I think the more you do that, the more you'll gain out of that experience."



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A brief history of holiday football

Food, family and football at the end of year celebrations



CALEB REED
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We're at that time of year again, folks. The trees are shedding their leaves, the air is getting colder and that one cousin you only see once a year is back in town. The holiday season means a lot to almost everyone, whether for the family or the food. However, one more aspect of the holiday season is just as crucial as the pumpkin pie: football. For those who aren't fans of football, November through January is a dreaded time.

The Thanksgiving festivities would be simple if your family was anything like the stereotypical Norman Rockwell-style American household. Eat a turkey larger than a small child, watch an NFL football game, go outside to play in the family's annual Turkey Bowl, go back inside to watch another NFL game and then promptly pass out due to the stress of the day. The stereotype is in countless movies, TV shows and stories. One of my favorite examples of football fanaticism is in "The Blind Side," where the Touhy family is committing to eating, playing Madden and watching Ole Miss (at the same time).

But even if you lived in a family like mine, where no one is an athlete and not many care about football, your Thanksgiving probably wouldn't be football free. Eat a turkey larger than a small child, ignore the Lions game because they are constantly rebuilding, eat more dessert than is reasonable, watch the Cowboys suffer in front of a national audience and then promptly pass out due to the stress of the day. Either way, the tradition of football on Thanksgiving is essential to most families across the country.

The Thanksgiving holiday football tradition was started almost at the beginning of organized football itself. College football dates back to 1869. The first Thanksgiving football game took place just seven years later, with Yale defeating Princeton 2-0 in 1876. The logic behind the game was that since most people were off of work for that day, it would be watched by more people. Thanksgiving football eventually expanded to more schools, including the University of Michigan (who claims to have started the annual tradition). By the time that professional football became more mainstream, Thanksgiving football was an established event.

On a national level, multiple teams typically participated in Thanksgiving football

until World War II, when all games were put on hold. However, when football returned, the Detroit Lions were the sole holders of a Thanksgiving day football host slot.

In 1966, a small startup team from Dallas, Texas, joined the fray. The Cowboys decided to host Thanksgiving football since "there was nothing else to watch on that day," according to the article on the Dallas Cowboys website discussing the first Cowboys game. (The Lions have been irrelevant for the last 55 years, and this goes to prove it.)

However, the plan was also strategic for owner Tex Schramm. Besides higher attendance numbers (the '66 game had 82,260 people in attendance), the Thursday game would give opponents less time to game-plan. The league saw the immense success of the Thanksgiving Day games and granted Dallas a permanent host slot on the holiday from 1978.

The NFL added a third game to the Thanksgiving holiday schedule in 2006, and it has remained the same since then. The Detroit Lions play in the morning, Dallas Cowboys in the afternoon and a coin flip in the evening. The only year the three-game schedule hasn't happened was in 2020. The game was delayed between the Steelers and Ravens three times due to COVID and once, hilariously, due to a Christmas Tree Lighting (NBC had a contract to broadcast the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, so the game was moved to 3:45 p.m. EST on the Wednesday after Thanksgiving), but excluding that outlier, Thanksgiving has been a holiday of endless turkeys, talks and tackles.

Turkey Day traditions go on even at the high school level, with the playoffs in full swing for most states. Texas, in particular, has critical games for schools across the state, with the Regional Championship games taking place over the November holiday.

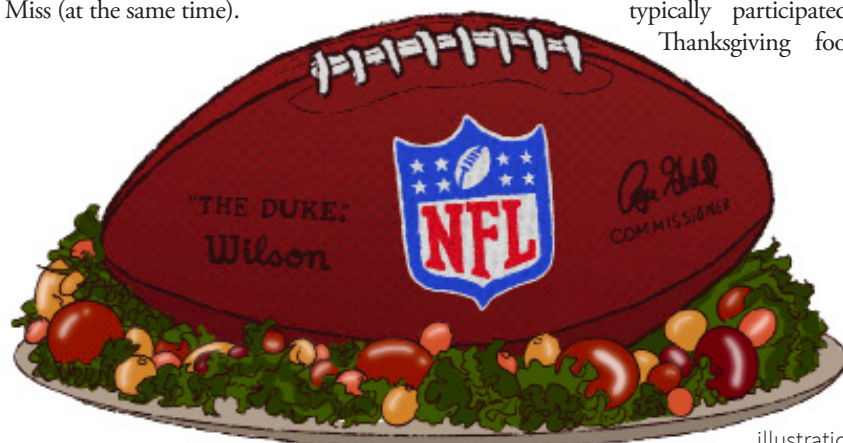


illustration by
GRACEN HOYLE

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Top: Mid-fielder **CASSIE BOWERS** weaves through defensive efforts. **Bottom:** **MARY KAFFEN** plays in a match against Southwestern University.
photos provided by **TRINITY ATHLETICS**

How 2021 proved sports' importance

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It served as a reminder that sports give us something to cheer for but further, that they bring us together. Literally.

This semester progressed, and I got the opportunity to see other teams in action as well. The atmospheres were consistently invigorating, whether they were in Calgaard Gym, at Paul McGinlay Field or in the recently renovated Trinity Stadium.

It's been a unique experience, being a fan at Trinity, but it's one that's been more meaningful to me than many other allegiances that I've held in the past. I think what it comes down to is the pride that I take, and I encourage others to carry as well, in knowing the athletes on a personal level.

No, there might not be 100,000 fans packed into our stadium on any given Saturday, and perhaps we won't have anyone continue their careers at the highest level once they finish here, but to do more than see student athletes in passing, rather to sit with them in class, to work and learn alongside them and most importantly to become their friends — these things mean more to me.

Sports and the American holiday tradition

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The next big holiday after Thanksgiving is Christmas, which has a much smaller history regarding football. The first NFL football game on Christmas came in 1971, and since then, there have been only 21 other Christmas Day games. Games are very rarely scheduled for the Christmas holiday, even on the years that Dec. 25 falls on a Sunday.

However, the end of December is a critical time for the NFL, with the playoffs just around the corner. The news will be filled with analysts talking over each other about how the final two weeks of the regular season will affect the seedings. The holiday is equally small for college football, with only

a few bowl games dotted throughout the sport's history on the special day. Football fans won't have to wait long, however, for the sport to reach a crescendo.

New Year's Day is notorious for the college football playoffs, with the New Year's Six taking over every major network on Jan. 1. The six major Bowl games pit the best schools in the U.S. against each other on a national stage. The bowl games are the final games of the season for teams that manage to make it to the postseason, and two of the New Year's Six Bowl games will decide who advances to the National Championship game. The Cotton (Dallas, TX), Orange (Miami, FL), Fiesta (Phoenix, AZ), Peach (Atlanta, GA), Rose

(Pasadena, CA) and Sugar (New Orleans, LA) Bowls bring in millions of viewers every year and are some of the most well-attended events in all of sports.

Overall, the holiday season is, to borrow a line from Andy Williams, the most wonderful time of the year. Whether it's your cousin Johnny throwing the game-winning pass in your family's annual Turkey Bowl or Tom Brady stepping onto Lambeau Field, this time is one that everyone looks forward to for one reason or another. No matter what form of football you may take part in this holiday season, however, make sure to raise a turkey leg to Princeton, Yale and a tradition that burns on 145 years later.

BINGO: Finals season edition

pull an all-nighter	spend time in the TLC	write a paper in one night	subsist on pure Starbucks	take an oddly-timed nap
consider dropping out	say or hear someone say "C's get degrees"	ask why reading days are called reading days	attend a holiday party	study by the Magic Stones
stay in the library until it closes	give someone a gift	FREE SPACE	go to Christmas on Oakmont	cram for an exam
go to office hours	cry	stare in disbelief at your calendar	cry pt. 2	decide that college is stupid anyway
have a dance party in your room instead of studying	go on a stress-relieving walk	study with a group of people	go ice skating in Travis Park	bake cookies for a study snack