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## Hiring process for DIO Director near completion

Committee of students, faculty, administrator conduct interviews, provide input for hiring decision

**NEHA KUMAR** | NEWS REPORTER  
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Since Alli Roman, former director of Diversity and Inclusion, announced her resignation in January of this year, a university search committee has been seeking qualified and passionate candidates to fill her role. Formed in the spring of 2020, the committee of Trinity administrators, faculty and student representatives evaluated candidates with the hope of hiring an individual to take on the role of Director of Student Diversity and Inclusion.

The committee is co-chaired by Esther Kim, assistant director of Student Programs, and Michael Soto, vice president of Academic Affairs. According to Kim, the role of Director of Student Diversity and Inclusion involves fostering relationships with students and organizing programs to promote diversity and inclusion on campus.

“The main focus of this director will be students. Student groups, student programs and supporting all our cultural groups and religious groups in partnership with our chapel. Thinking about how we provide relationships and collaborations with our city, since that is one of our main focuses as an institution as well,” said Kim.

Soto explained that candidates for the role participated in multiple rounds of interviews, as well as meetings with students, administrators and staff.

“We started with several dozen applications and we evaluated those applications using a rubric that is based on the job requirements. Some of those are educational — we require at least a Master’s degree in a field related to diversity, equity and inclusion work. It is partly based on experience, and partly based on their ability and track record to come in, hit the ground running, and be able to support students successfully. Using that rubric, we narrowed down the field to 10 semifinalists. The search committee interviewed each of the 10 semifinalists online using Zoom. From that field of 10 we narrowed it down to three finalists,” said Soto. “Just last week we concluded a series of interviews with each of those three finalists.”

Senior Jaalen Harris, who serves as president of Student Government Association and a member of the search committee, stated that he is looking for a candidate with a clear vision for Trinity’s future in terms of expanding diversity, equity and inclusion work.

“For me, it is definitely the experience in doing this work. It’s not easy and it can be sensitive. The qualities I’m looking for is definitely someone who will fight for student interests, who will empower students concerning issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. One of the main things is ensuring that they have a vision for our university and what milestones they would like to hit,” Harris said.

Student involvement played a key role in the hiring process, as all students were



**ESTHER KIM** and **MICHAEL SOTO** both serve as co-chairs on the hiring committee. The committee has narrowed the search down to three finalists, which have been presented to Sheryl Tynes for hiring. photos provided by **TRINITY UNIVERSITY**



given the opportunity to meet with the three finalists and view their prepared presentations. Afterward, students were able to give feedback on the candidates, as well as voice any concerns they may have had about the process.

“All students were invited to the campus presentation. That way we can get a sense from the current student perspective, what are some of the concerns? What are some things we are doing well or need to improve upon?” Kim said. “As part of the search committee, we have two student representatives: Jaalen Harris who is a senior and president of SGA, and Tomás Peña who is a junior, part of the Latinx leadership class and president of the TULA association. It is really important to us to have student voices

who have been on this campus for multiple years and seen the changes over time and are part of key leadership organizations on campus.”

Harris noted that he and fellow representative Peña took part in a meeting with students following the candidates’ presentations.

“We took more of a listening role — my main focus is knowing I’m just one of two students in that room, but I speak for many. I know that the work of the person that’s going to be in this role, they are going to be working beyond what I will see as a senior. So, I know it is important to have these younger voices to gather an accurate picture of what students want to see,” Harris said.

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## COVID-19 causes uncertainty in Study Abroad planning

Study Abroad office prepares for possibility of Summer 2021 international travel, issues student refunds

**BENJAMIN ADAMS** | NEWS REPORTER  
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With a plethora of study abroad programs, and boasting a large number of international students, Trinity prides itself on the depth of its international connections. But with international travel becoming a thing of the past due to COVID-19, the university’s study abroad office has had to adapt, charting new territory and planning ahead.

Following the cancellation of programming in April for Fall 2020, students are left unsure of when their next opportunity to study abroad will be.

“The big question is ‘Will they be able to go abroad in spring?’” said Andre Martinez, Assistant Director for Study Abroad. “The answer is that we hope so, but we don’t know if it is going to happen. ... We’re not sure what’s going to happen in the spring, but we’re looking at it and we’re working with various offices on campus to make that decision.”

The office is looking to announce their decision regarding study abroad for Spring 2021 by Oct. 15.

For many juniors and seniors who were planning to study abroad within the 2020-2021 academic year, plans have changed entirely due to cancellations and the uncertainty surrounding future international travel opportunities.



Following an uneventful summer, the office aims to have students abroad again by Summer 2021. photo by **KATE NUELLE**

“For the first-years and sophomores, time is on their side, but if you’re a junior or senior now, what do you do?” said Martinez. “That opportunity may be too late, so students are feeling really bad about it.”

Among those students is Lara Beth Case, senior business administration and marketing double-major, and one of several students who wished to study abroad later in their college career.

“I don’t have any plans to study abroad for 2021. I am graduating in May, so I don’t really want to go on the Shanghai trip after I’ve already graduated,” said Case. “I’m planning on going to graduate school and a couple of [the graduate school programs] start in the summer, so it’s also just not really an option.”

For students missing out on the experience of study abroad, Martinez and his team are

working on ways to bring similar experiences to campus. This summer, Martinez worked with five students to provide virtual online language programs with international schools, and one who had a remote internship with an international partner.

“We’re figuring out other ways to internationalize the campus without students actually having to go abroad,” said Martinez. “It doesn’t replace going abroad, but maybe it’s something else that we can do.”

In the meantime, the Study Abroad Office is looking ahead to Summer 2021 programming, hoping to take students to Germany, Japan and Costa Rica, among other sites. With this planning comes additional precautions due to COVID-19 health and safety measures.

“We’re looking at the social distancing on-site for each location, what are the different safety measures they’re taking at each site. As well as, for Madrid, home stays. Our students are not gonna be allowed at-home stays because they cannot guarantee that the visitors that are brought in have been abiding by COVID restrictions,” said Martinez. “As much as they will vet the home stays, it’s just not possible, so IES made the decision to put the students in dormitory residences I guess until a vaccine is found.”

continued on **PAGE 3**

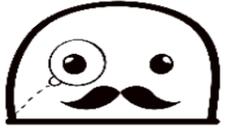
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# Previously, on SGA: Spring Housing Planning, Already?

This covers the meeting on Sept 2.

## CLIMATE CHECK

Sophomore senator Donya Ahmadi started off this week's climate check by mentioning that she witnessed a few students huddled into a corner in the library without masks. Junior Chief of Staff Noor Rahman responded to Senator Ahmadi's concern by mentioning the library's efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These efforts include an hourly announcement reminding students to wear a mask and do routine walkthroughs. Senior SGA President Jaelen Harris suggested that students hold their friends accountable.

Senator Ahmadi also brought up student concerns relating to professors ending Zoom classes 10 minutes later than the end of the class period. In response to Senator Ahmadi, President Harris suggested that students allow their professors a 'grace period' since they are still adjusting to technology and online teaching. Junior Vice President Oliver Chapin-Eiserloh suggested that if students notice their professors have lost track of time, to gently remind the professor by speaking up. President Harris agreed with Vice President Chapin-Eiserloh.

## SPRING HOUSING

Advisor David Tuttle asked for SGA's honest feedback on priority housing for the spring. He says nothing is determined yet, but their planning for the spring must begin early in order to prepare Residential Life. The consensus seemed to be that

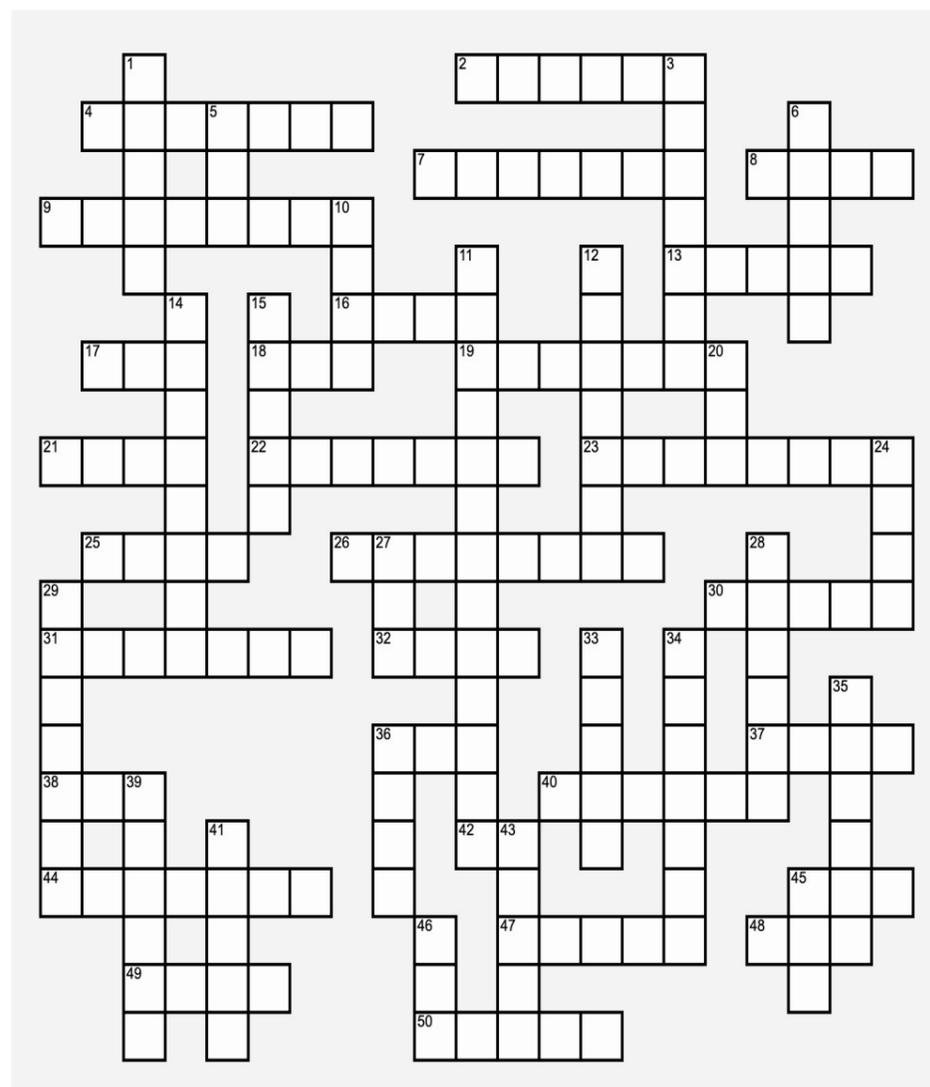
seniors and first-years should be priorities in the spring, but choosing one over the other seems to be harmful either way.

Junior Senator Nasim Salehitezangi said we should consider how seniors would feel not being allowed back on campus for their final year after committing so much time to the university. She added, however, that first-years should also be accommodated and considered as well. Sophomore Senator Sol Rivas-Lopes suggested that prioritizing first-years is important since they aren't receiving the traditional first-year experience, and therefore may feel underwhelmed. Senator Rivas-Lopes also emphasized the importance of prioritizing international students after in order to assure they aren't in danger of being deported.

## STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE

Advisor Tuttle started a discussion about whether students would prefer to see their student activity fee go to big or small outreach efforts. He said, for instance, if 500 students attend a concert that cost \$50,000 to put together, those who don't attend don't get to see their activity fee be put to use. Sophomore Senator Sarah Pita said that unless students are involved in smaller clubs that receive the fee, students aren't going to see those dollars at all. At least with large-scale events, she said, students are made aware that they have the option to attend events. Most SGA senators who spoke up agreed that the student activity fee should be spent on big events that allow all students the opportunity to attend.

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



## Down

- 1 Both a reptile and a shoe
- 3 No taste
- 5 The Green New Deal co-sponsor
- 6 Causes COVID-19
- 10 Too
- 11 The times we're living in
- 12 Highlighters and markers
- 14 Thought Collector
- 15 Local theatre
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- 35 The Mask's sometimes green protagonist "Stanley \_\_\_\_"
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- 45 Itchy plant
- 46 US Health Protection Agency, abbr.

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- 4 What Benedict Arnold committed
- 7 To seclude
- 8 Fruity ostrich cousin
- 9 Started as a temperance drink
- 13 "I guess" motion
- 16 Some roller coasters do this
- 17 Verbal disapproval
- 18 Full of creatures
- 19 Now typical class attire
- 21 Climbable
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- 23 Stackable chips
- 25 Dash
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- 30 Outcast's "So Fresh, So \_\_\_\_"
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- 32 Level or rank
- 36 Plastic
- 37 US Mail Agency, abbr.
- 38 A speck
- 40 Controller, synonym
- 42 Modern communication
- 44 Rapper Future's 2017 hit
- 45 Suffix denoting belief
- 47 Torus shaped bread
- 48 Consumer value stores
- 49 Breakfast staple
- 50 Grimeless

**Interactive version  
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Answer key will be released  
Sunday. Check back on out  
website.

# Weekly Crossword

# Party on Prassel rooftop

## 15-30 first-years caught breaking Health Pledge

**JAKE PERRY | NEWS REPORTER**  
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Only days into on-campus living, the unthinkable happened: there was a decent-sized first-year party at Prassel. It ended poorly, and the rumors have been flying ever since; first-years crowded on balconies and Prassel roof, drinks in hand and ejections from campus once Residential Life found out — but what really happened?

Somehow, the door to the Prassel roof was left unlocked. Students found the unlocked door, went onto the roof and started talking to other students on balconies. Word spread via the balconies, and potentially social media or messaging apps, attracting around 15-30 students to the roof. People came and went from the “party,” which lasted about an hour until Prassel resident assistants caught wind of the gathering and arrived at the scene. People dispersed, and of the roughly 15-30 partiers, only a few were conclusively identified.

What really happened at the party remains a mystery among students living on campus. For Claire Sammons, first-year and intended communications and anthropology double-major, what happened on Prassel roof has become more myth than fact.

“The Prassel party has been the one thing everyone has been talking about, and no one knows the truth on it,” Sammons said. “And if they do know the truth on it, they’re not going to talk about it.”

David Tuttle, dean of students, is perturbed by the party, but not necessarily unsurprised.

“We were disappointed that this happened, but you see [these] types of things happening on other campuses,” said Tuttle. “Regardless of somebody’s age, this could have dire consequences.”

Tuttle’s primary concern lies in the potential for COVID-19 to spread among faculty, staff and other students.

“We worry about the health and safety of employees on campus and employees off-campus,” Tuttle said. “A lot of people want to be here. Students are invested in making

this work because they don’t want to have to leave. ... If we shut down, people could lose their jobs.”

Rumors continue to fly about whether the students on the roof were wearing masks, if illegal substances were involved and whether or not attendees were ejected from campus. Because not every attendee of the party was identified, no one was sent home.

“Had we identified all the people on the roof, we certainly would have asked everyone to leave,” Tuttle said.

It was deemed unfair to send some people home while other equally-responsible people stayed. Tuttle said that he felt the administration was “measured in our response, but [did] what we said we would do.”

Given the university’s COVID-19 policies and lots of students’ strong feelings about them, an incident like this one was guaranteed to get attention.

“I think it got a lot of attention because some poor decision-making was put on display,” Tuttle said. “The students had just gotten here ... I think some people tested limits.”

Sammons observed that, initially, there was lots of confusion surrounding Trinity’s on-campus COVID-19 policies.

“Kids [were] getting in trouble for following the rules and [for] not following the rules,” Sammons said. “When we got here a lot of people were under the impression that you couldn’t sit next to anybody without a mask on. Kids would get violations for eating outside.”

Sammons is more concerned about the activities of upperclassmen as opposed to first-years.

“The school can kind of contain what we’re doing on campus,” Sammons said. Upperclassmen, many of whom are not on campus, do not have nearly the same level of supervision.

Sofia Biller, a sophomore neuroscience major and Thomas resident, disagrees.

“Since the start of school, I have noticed that almost all issues concerning safety and following the COVID-19 guidelines have been caused by freshmen,” said Biller. “I understand that they want to have a ‘college



While not surprised by recent events, **DAVID TUTTLE**, dean of students, emphasizes need for accountability photo provided by **TRINITY UNIVERSITY**

experience,’ and that many of these students have been socially starved for months, but these are unprecedented times and everyone has to make sacrifices.”

Trinity’s social sphere has, predictably, taken a hit from the pandemic. Many students living on campus are finding formerly everyday peer interactions to be few and far between.

“What’s really been hard is making friends,” Sammons said. “You don’t have social time in class, you can’t talk to people after class [because] it’s Zoom. You just have to walk up to people and say hi.”

While they may be new to campus, first-years are not the only students facing difficulties socializing due to social distancing practices.

“I can say I’m actually probably more isolated [on campus] than when I was living at home,” Biller said.

Despite what has happened, Tuttle remains optimistic for the semester.

“Most people are trying to be compliant because they understand it’s the right thing,” Tuttle said. “[Students] know we are serious, Student Government and the Conduct Panel are serious. People will comply to the best of their ability. I think people are doing the best they can with the situation, and we’re pretty pleased so far.”

The Prassel party incident was handled entirely by the administration, as the incident happened before the members of the Student Conduct Panel had arrived on campus. Future incidents of this nature will be sent before the panel.

## Study Abroad office looks forward

continued from **FRONT**

Along with planning for Summer 2021, the Study Abroad office is amid preparations for the annual study abroad fair, which will be taking place virtually this year over a two-week period beginning Sept. 21.

“We feel that there are a lot of first-year students that are here who are not gonna go abroad for one or two years, maybe even three years when they’re a rising senior, so I think by skipping the fair we’d be wasting an opportunity at informing students via outreach.”

With no students traveling this summer, Study Abroad staff took advantage of the break to redesign their website, extensively prepare for the fair and to aid students who were abruptly sent home in the spring.

“Program providers were not ready for COVID, I mean, I don’t think anybody was. ... I think it was the moment for a lot of the programming providers to take responsibility and shine and many of them did, but some failed gloriously, just big-time,” said Martinez.

While some students received refunds for emergency airfare and expenses, Martinez and the Study Abroad office have worked to ensure that those who did not get help from their programs are refunded by the

university. Of the 60 students who went abroad in Spring 2020, 33 were not refunded at all or enough by their programs and were instead refunded by Trinity.

“Program providers were not ready for COVID ... I think it was the moment for a lot of [them] to take responsibility and shine and many of them did, but some failed gloriously.”

**ANDRE MARTINEZ**  
VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDY ABROAD

“That was painful, but Trinity said, ‘Well, we’re going to do what’s right,’ and I’m very happy about that, the administration is helping with airfare and other expenses that students have had,” said Martinez. “It was wrong to not be able to help our students that went abroad, you know? So I’m happy that Trinity is stepping up.”

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# Tynes to hire new director

continued from FRONT

The focus on student involvement led the committee to modify the title of the role from ‘Director of Diversity and Inclusion’ to the ‘Director of Student Diversity and Inclusion.’ Kim noted that this change is one of many over the past few years.

“Previously this role was a courtier-level in our Office of Student Involvement,” Kim said. “Due to some significant changes within the institution, this position developed into the Director of Diversity and Inclusion, and developed a new physical space at the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.”

According to Soto, the search committee will present a report to Sheryl Tynes, vice president for Student Life, who will make the final hiring decision.

“Our report is not going to say ‘You should hire candidate A, B or C. Rather we are going to provide a report that says ‘these are the qualifications of A, B and C, these are the strengths and opportunities all three candidates would bring to campus, these are the concerns we would have about any one of these candidates performing certain aspects of the job.’ And with this information, Dr. Tynes will make her decision,” said Soto.

Soto went on to state that the search committee hopes the new director will begin as soon as possible, perhaps as early as next month.

“We told each of the finalists that we hope to get this person in our Diversity and Inclusion Office as quickly as possible,” Soto said. “I would love to see someone in the Diversity and Inclusion Office as early as next month.”

Harris stated that he, like many students, is concerned about the funding and resources allocated for diversity and inclusion work on campus.

“Looking at a director position, I do believe that they should be supported with a full staff around them to be able to function and do their jobs well. I am on the side of those students who say there should be more support behind this role.”

“Looking at a director position, I do believe that they should be supported with a full staff around them to be able to function and do their jobs well.”

**MICHAEL SOTO**  
VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Soto explained that these changes may take place in the near future as Danny Anderson, president of Trinity University, continues to review the recommendations laid out by the Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce, which were sent to his office last week.

“I think a major change lies partly outside of this role but will overlap directly with the work that is performed by the new director. And that involves the recommendations delivered to President Anderson last week by the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force. Now Dr. Anderson’s endorsement of those recommendations will directly impact the work that the new director performs,” Soto said.



## A Snapshot of Trinity University’s COVID-19 Report:

Updated 9/02/2020 at 12:00 p.m.

### OVERALL NUMBERS

Total # of Active Cases:	Total Positivity Rate:	Total # Tested:
1	0.5%	2,618
Total # in On-campus Quarantine/Isolation:	# Test Results to Date:	Total Positive (Cumulative):
1	2,540	12

### Student Numbers

Active On-Campus Cases:	# On-Campus tested	On-Campus Positive (Cumulative):	On-Campus Positivity Rate:
0	964	7	0.7%
Active Local Cases:	# Local Tested:	Local Positive (Cumulative):	Local Positivity Rate
1	837	3	0.4%

### Employee Numbers

Active Cases:	# Tested:	Employee Positive (Cumulative):	Positivity Rate:
0	744	2	0.3%

This information can be viewed at << <https://sites.google.com/trinity.edu/trinityuniversitycovid-19/health-hub/covid-19-report> >>

# Meet the Section Editors

## TWO TRUTHS & A LIE



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**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

IS A VEGETARIAN, IS A GOOD ILLUSTRATOR, LOVES RALPH WALDO EMERSON



*Genevieve Humphreys*

**MANAGING EDITOR**

ALL HER PETS ARE NAMED AFTER DISNEY CHARACTERS, HAS AN OLDER SISTER, TAP DANCES



*Dana Nichols*

**NEWS EDITOR**

OWNS OVER 50 HOUSEPLANTS, KNOWS ALL THE WORDS TO THE FIRST SCENE OF CARS (2006), NEVER BEEN OUTSIDE OF TEXAS



*Phoebe Murphy*

**OPINION EDITOR**

USED TO HAVE A PHOBIA OF BALLOONS, KNOWS ALL THE LYRICS TO RAP GOD, NEVER HAS PULLED AN ALL-NIGHTER



*Mackenzie Cook*

**PULSE EDITOR**

HAS NEVER BEEN STUNG BY A BEE, HAS TWO PET RATS, IS A HUGE HORROR MOVIE FAN



*Savannah Wahlgren*

**ARTS EDITOR**

HAS BROKEN EVERY LIMB EXCEPT ONE, PASSED OUT WHEN SHE GOT HER NOSE PIERCED, HAS A PET SNAIL NAMED VIRGIL



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**SPORTS EDITOR**

HAS INTERVIEWED MICHAEL PHELPS, SEEN ALL 30 NBA STADIUMS, PLAYED CATCH AT THE FIELD OF DREAMS



*Noelle Barrera*

**SPECIAL SECTIONS EDITOR**

BAKES BREAD, I LOVE ADOBE INDESIGN, LOVES TO ILLUSTRATE



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*Nesbitt*

**TRINITONIAN MASCOT**

IS AN ONLY CHILD, MET A SQUIRREL FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS AUGUST, CAN HIGH FIVE

## FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

### Who needs to Play Fair, anyway?

Oh, great. Is every editorial going to be about COVID-19 and how we all have to be strong for one another? We're still deciding. In the meantime, however, we understand how disconnected our community feels when we aren't even allowed to talk to each other in close proximity. What we may have taken for granted in the past, like having face-to-face conversations, is on hold until who knows when. Now we're left yearning for times that are no more, and probably won't be for a good while.

Our first-year orientation — our meaning the class of 2021 — included a little something called Play Fair. We had no idea what Play Fair really was, or what it would be like, but hall by hall, we were all led into the gym. We formed a line and were met by administrators excitedly pumping hand sanitizer into our hands. It was a little odd, frankly. What were we about to do? Why did we need to sanitize our hands not once, but twice?

Then we discovered for ourselves: Play Fair was a part of orientation that if held today, would ensure all of us got COVID and a trip to an already overcrowded

hospital. We shook hands, yelled at the top of our lungs, were within a few inches of each other, made secret handshakes with people we just met. Play Fair was a germophobe's worst nightmare, but play we did.

The Trinitonian is committed to ensuring that the students of Trinity are able to hold onto a sense of normalcy.

The current first-years, of course, and probably a few years of first-years to come, won't get to have this memory that is so ingrained in the minds of the class of 2021. Oh, sure, it's a gross and awkward memory, but it's one we hold onto nonetheless.

We understand that this year is different, but one thing is certain: The

Trinitonian is committed to ensuring that the students of Trinity are able to hold onto a sense of normalcy. We'll keep doing our job as we would were there not a pandemic keeping us physically apart. But as our new comic strip says, we are closer than ever. Upperclassmen are still here to guide you and answer your questions about love, toxic roommates or how to balance your schoolwork. So reach out, ask for help and make mistakes. It's all part of learning and being a first-year.

Too many students make the mistake of believing that you have to come into college with your life figured out. You know, like in the movies. But we're not in a movie; this is real life. In real life, people experience painfully awkward moments and learn from them, and though it may feel like the end of the world, it's not. Strike up a (safe and socially distanced) conversation with an upperclassman, and you'll find we have a lot of embarrassing stories to tell. So stay safe, stay encouraged and know that we at the Trinitonian will do everything in our power to give everyone a sense of normalcy.

### The COVID nightmare for the chronically ill



**VICTORIA STRINGER**  
COLUMNIST  
vstringe@trinity.edu

For such a large and vulnerable portion of our society, accounts of the experiences of immunodeficient/chronically ill during coronavirus are few and far between. This seems strange to me because the obstacles faced by a pandemic-stricken society are a microcosm of the obstacles that a chronically ill and/or immunologically vulnerable individual faces daily. I believe that much can be learned from those of us who not only know the ins and outs of the American healthcare system but who also now must cope with “the new normal” on top of our old one.

It has been a terrifying experience to be immunocompromised in the time of a pandemic. Struggling with your health daily is like lugging around a 30-pound weight with you everywhere you go. When coronavirus hit, it was as if I was suddenly being thrown yet another huge weight to carry as well. At the beginning of quarantine, I developed the unhealthy mindset of trying not to overburden an already-strained medical system with my own problems. This led me to a dark, ugly place from which I almost did not return, and I remember the trudging days of my declining mental and physical health starting to all blend together with the viscous confusion of a nightmare within a nightmare.

I felt as if I did not “deserve” to take up medical time and resources when so many others seemed to need it more, and the increased difficulty of obtaining access to medication and healthcare resources further muddied the waters. Even as media outlets touted the importance of protecting others, I still did not feel like a priority to society. It hurt me deeply (and still does) when people

near me would break quarantine or not follow safety guidelines because my life was less important to them than going to a party. It felt as if the world did not care about my life, and so I stopped caring too. I lost 10 pounds over the course of two months. By May, I was underweight, suicidal and on the verge of organ failure from my autoimmune disease. I did not fully complete my final work for the Spring 2020 semester because come finals, I could barely read or walk from such an exponential decline in my mental function.



illustration by REN RADER

I am happy to say that I am doing much better now after taking the summer to recover, but am in danger of being exposed often, as I have to get blood drawn, visit doctor's offices and go to physical therapy weekly. I am one of the lucky ones — my immunodeficiency is nowhere near as severe as, for example, an individual going through chemotherapy, although I would likely still sustain permanent organ damage if I survived COVID-19. The

immunocompromised do not always present as such, and people who do not look “sick enough” are often brushed aside/expected to be strong because we are “used to it.” But there is no glory in slowly losing to an invisible opponent you must fight alone.

Trinity University's standard operating policy is that being sick is not necessarily an excuse to miss class, but this has been temporarily suspended due to COVID. This standard policy is ableist, ignorant and completely disregards the existence of many students. The university has the privilege of choosing when to acknowledge us, but unfortunately we do not have the privilege of simply choosing when to acknowledge that we have an incurable disease.

Being sick should not be a roadblock to education, and an educational institution should certainly not be aiding and abetting said roadblock. Recording all lectures — not just during the pandemic — should become standard. A doctor's note should not be required as “proof of illness.” (Healthcare doesn't grow on trees!) The minimum number of excused absences should be increased on every syllabus, for everyone. Students should not be accused of “taking advantage of a professor's kindness” when asking for an extension or needing extra help. But most of all, professors should understand that as the stress of a semester increases, an immunocompromised student will almost always become sicker and sicker. Until such changes are made, Trinity University is not a good environment for the chronically ill. In the wake of COVID-19, the university owes it to its immunologically compromised students to treat us with the dignity and respect we deserve — and that we now know was capable of being given the whole time.

Victoria Stringer is a senior neuroscience 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.



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.

# “Useless” degrees: What is the value of a degree?



**JULIAN VALDEZ**  
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Certain degrees seem to be much more respected than others. This creates an imbalance with what students want to study in college. I remember in high school so many people wanting to go into STEM and business because they are straightforward. You graduate and either continue school or get a job with the degree you had studied for. The humanities are viewed as a waste of time because they do not follow this direct path. They are “useless” because they don’t help you get a job. I mean, what jobs can you get with a degree in philosophy?

I grew as a person at a much more rapid rate with philosophy compared to when I was studying STEM.

I learned the answer to this question when I switched from being a neuroscience major to a philosophy major. It was scary because I really didn’t know what I could do with my

new major; it never got much attention when discussing careers. No one told me to pursue it; in fact, I was kind of told by society never to consider it. I had always loved philosophy, though. It was a simple

degree? No matter my doubts, I knew studying STEM full time was going to just pull me down. It was becoming harder and harder to study.

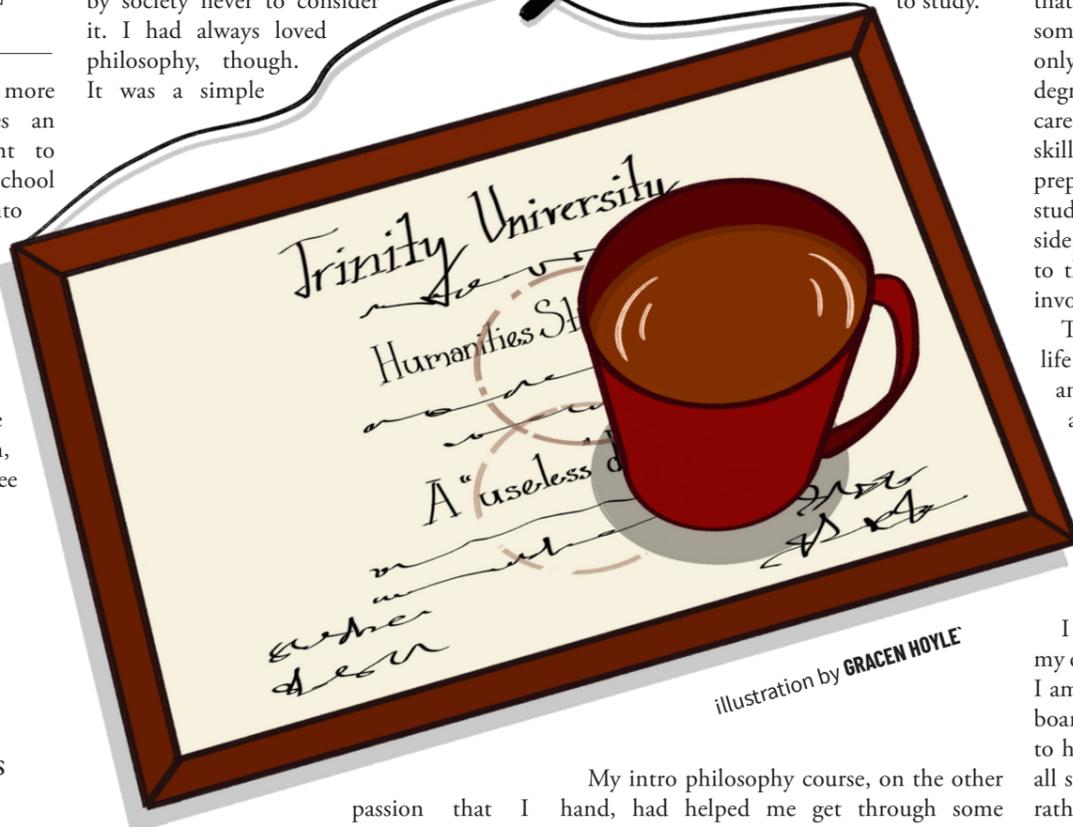


illustration by GRACEN HOYLE

passion that I pursued in my free time, but studying it intensely in a classroom seemed like a waste. I also could never get over the reactions people would have to my major if it was philosophy. What would my parents tell me? Would I be OK financially after school? Would I waste my time with this

My intro philosophy course, on the other hand, had helped me get through some hard times my fall semester sophomore year. I still studied and read for the class even when my depression was getting worse, and I even did outside research for fun. I never did that for my STEM courses, even when I was healthy mentally; this was my reason for switching majors.

I made the switch and met with Dr. Bowman, the advising coordinator here at Trinity. She talked me through the changes that a degree switch will bring and told me something I never considered. “A degree is only what you make of it.” My philosophy degree opened me to a wide range of possible careers because the degree is much more skill-based. STEM and business degrees prepare you to be experts in the fields you study with some career-specific skills on the side, but philosophy simply teaches you how to think and write. I can do anything that involves those two things.

These skills also transferred to my everyday life in ways I didn’t predict. I studied life and broke it down to its fundamentals, and I learned how to shuffle through my thoughts and communicate them well. I began to change certain viewpoints I held for the wrong reasons. I grew as a person at a much more rapid rate with philosophy compared to when I was studying STEM.

I eventually learned that I could even use my degree to pursue my passion for medicine. I am currently wanting to work on an ethics board at a hospital, and I find myself happy to have found this nice medium. I think we all should consider degrees based on passion rather than what society considers practical. The world would be dull with only STEM and business majors, so follow your passions and study the arts and humanities if you love them. You’ll be happier and you’ll appreciate yourself for making that decision in the long run.

Julian Valdez is a junior philosophy major.

# Kayla’s Kitchen: Arroz con leche



**KAYLA PADILLA**  
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Arroz con leche, a timeless classic in Mexican households everywhere, translates to “rice with milk.” Rice has a way of bringing people and cultures together. Arroz con leche is pretty cheap to make, and you only need a few ingredients. It can be eaten for breakfast, as an evening meal or even as a snack. There are no rules when it comes to consuming arroz con leche, and it can even be made vegan.

Choosing to be more thoughtful about what you consume isn’t a competition; it should always be about what’s best for everyone involved.

In fact, milk alternatives are becoming increasingly popular in American culture and often seem to enhance or leave unchanged the quality of a meal. Almond, soy and oat milk have become household favorites in recent years, often replacing traditional whole milk. My personal favorite is almond milk, but whatever you choose for this recipe is entirely up to you.

As I mentioned in my previous column, the ‘all or nothing’ approach is more harmful than helpful. Though I’m not vegan, I do try to cut back on dairy products, and dairy-free milk is a pretty easy switch. Of course,

you can’t divorce the cruel industry that mass kills non-human animals from dairy products; they are intimately tied together, so consuming dairy products isn’t somehow less harmful than eating animals, but not everyone can afford meat replacements and vegan cheese, so cutting back where you can, and when you’re ready, is totally up to you. Don’t let anyone tell you that you’re not contributing to the welfare of animals and the planet by occasionally cutting back on animal products. Choosing to be more thoughtful about what you consume isn’t a competition; it should always be about what’s best for everyone involved.

Arroz con leche is one of those meals that isn’t in-your-face vegetarian. It’s not like you could put pork or ground beef in it, anyway, but almost everyone who has tried arroz con leche grows to adore it, vegetarian or not. Usually when you tell people the meal you made has a meat substitute or vegan products, they get turned away. All of a sudden your meal doesn’t look as good to them. Meals like arroz con leche and fideo are accidentally vegetarian, but by making them, you’ll be sure to keep everyone happy, meat-eater or not.

Now of course, I’m not trying to cater to meat-eaters or downplay how delicious vegetarian food can be, but sometimes meat replacements can taste out of place if you don’t find the right kind. Some are very delicious, like Morning Star nuggets, but having eaten them far too many times, if I ever have to serve those in a meal again, I just might puke, so for now, my recipes will include ingredients that stray away from these substitutes that even vegetarians may dislike. I wholeheartedly support meat replacements and their growing place in our society, but after being vegetarian for so long, you get bored of them like you would any meal that you eat over and over again. Arroz con leche is refreshing and comforting. So how do you make it, and what goes into it?



Arroz con leche, which translates to “rice with milk,” only requires four ingredients to make. photo by KAYLA PADILLA

## INGREDIENTS FOR 3-4 SERVINGS:

- 2 cups of white rice (arroz)
- 1 cup of milk (leche)
- 2 tbsps of sugar
- 1 stick of cinnamon

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Boil the white rice in water for around 45 minutes or until fully cooked.
2. When the rice is nearly finished, start boiling your choice of milk in a separate pan.

3. Once the rice is ready, drain it.
4. Add 2 tbsps of sugar into your pot of milk.
5. Add a stick of cinnamon, though this is optional.
6. Pour the drained rice into the boiling milk mixture, and let sit until it cools down.
7. Serve once it cools down to your desired temperature.

Kayla Padilla is a senior anthropology and English major.

# Know the value of local news sources



**DANA NICHOLS**  
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It's not uncommon for me to hear someone, typically of my parents' generation, announce that they are committing themselves to only reading from a set list of news sources; that they're done with the fluff and only going to focus on the "real stuff," the "facts." Most of the time, this involves them cutting out any and all local newspapers from their reading list, making the announcement that they'll be logging out of their Facebook account, and shifting their focus only to major news outlets. However, to discredit or reject the reporting done by local newspapers is to do a huge disservice not just to those writers, but to yourself.

Due to their understanding of localized issues, our local papers are able to provide in-depth, investigative reporting. If you're one of the 2.3 million people that's watched Hasan Minaj's the Patriot Act episode "Why the News Industry is Dying," you know that small newspapers are responsible for uncovering many of the events that have sparked major headlines in recent years. A regional paper in Florida, the Miami Herald, published the investigative journalism piece that revealed the decades of sexual abuse of minors by Jeffrey Epstein; the Indianapolis Star is responsible for the groundbreaking reporting on U.S. Olympic gymnastics coach Larry Nassar and on "Subway Jared."

In every newsroom sits an executive staff that makes the decisions on what they want to cover that week. Whether that staff be made

up of one, two or 10, they ultimately decide what is "newsworthy." The executive staff from your local newspapers best understand the interests of your community and are best equipped to cover the most relevant stories which may be overlooked by larger news outlets.

For a long time, major newspapers refused to acknowledge the things going on even on their own block — literally.

When the AIDS crisis shook New York City's LGBTQ+ community, the New York Times infamously refused to acknowledge the severity of the crisis, much less the presence of NYC's gay community. Although they addressed the arising of the mystery disease in the early '80s, it would be another two years before they gave the crisis space on the front page.

By the time the AIDS crisis had made the front page of the Times — a small, bottom-of-the-page space at that — there had been 1,450 confirmed cases and 558 deaths. When they did cover AIDS in the time before then, rarely was its transmission via sexual activity discussed, and it was once referred to as a "new homosexual disorder" in headlines. The harm in that seems self-evident.

As for many social movements, the initial informative coverage on the AIDS crisis was conducted by local gay newspapers and zines in New York City and San Francisco. Rather than waiting for major news outlets to cover the story, they informed their communities themselves.

Had these localized sources of news and information not existed, much of what we know about the complex social issues and controversies surrounding AIDS today wouldn't have gone on-record — just because they weren't covered by the bigger papers.

This issue isn't unique to the AIDS crisis and can be said about various social movements throughout history and in the present. For instance, although most national news media coverage of this summer's Black Lives Matter protests dwindled as the months went on, they were still very much taking place in cities and towns across the country, documented mostly by local news sources and social media.

This is not to say that you cannot have a favorite news outlet or enjoy the content produced by major news outlets. But too often, we look over our local news sources and go straight to news from the big

names like CNN, New York Times, TIME or the Wall Street Journal. These sources are important and can provide insightful coverage of national and international events. But our local papers can do so much more for us.

We must still pay attention to what is happening in the world that is not declared "newsworthy" by large newspapers. Sometimes, to find reporting on what's important to you, you just need to look in your own backyard.

Dana Nichols is a junior sociology major.



TU SECULAR STUDENT ALLIANCE

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NEXT LEVEL STREET EATS

**ORDERUP** is a pizza delivery service. The image shows a pizza in a box with the text 'ORDERUP. NEXT LEVEL STREET EATS'.

## Student leaders talk outreach during COVID

Student orgs explore outreach methods amidst 'Zoom fatigue'

EMILY PLATT | PULSE REPORTER  
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As a result of the hybrid semester and optional on-campus housing, student organizations are responsible for making their outreach efforts more visible to everyone, on-campus or not.

For Gabriella Garriga, President of Trinity Diversity Connection (TDC) this challenge has allowed for more collaboration with other student organizations.

"[A part of what we do is] acting in solidarity, whether that's with student organizations or with larger movements, like the Black Lives Matter movement. We do that like with our statement that we put out this summer with Black Student Union and African Student Association," Garriga said.

Not only do organizations have to make their outreach efforts hybrid, but they must also manage their members and retain participation.

With classes being offered on Zoom, students are experiencing 'Zoom fatigue.'

"I think people get Zoom fatigue. It's so much harder to attend an event that you're not required to go to; even if you're super interested in it, it's just tiring," Garriga said.

Garriga suggested that a way to combat Zoom fatigue and increase student



engagement is to meet on other virtual platforms that aren't Zoom. The Black Student Union (BSU) created a GroupMe specifically for first-years and have been able to reach many incoming students and welcome them into their community.

Kirsten Iyare, president of BSU, wanted to focus on first-year outreach so that the new students could recognize upperclassmen around campus and begin building connections.

"[The goal is] making freshmen know they are important and do matter... to build a relationship for them before they come on campus," Iyare said.

The GroupMe created by BSU is for Black students and allies, including those

interested in learning about the Black community at Trinity.

"[It's for] any type of grievances they have and [to] create fellowship and community."

The GroupMe also allows BSU to advertise upcoming events, such as BSU's upcoming Labor Day Game Night.

While on-campus life has shifted due to the pandemic, the changes all haven't been negative. There seems to be a rise in student engagement, especially with activist causes and student organizations, according to student leaders.

"A lot of people have joined the community recently and [are trying] to figure out ways they can all come together as a unit to figure out change. In the midst of a pandemic with

people dispersed everywhere, we as students react and [try] to figure out how to be an activist in our own right as well as Trinity students," Iyare said.

A feature offered by Zoom is the ability to record meetings and events, which TDC has found provides more accessibility for students.

In a time where most of us are not in the same physical space, the online communities created by these activist spaces provide a new way for students to connect virtually and meet others with similar passions and goals.

Getting involved with student organizations in any way possible allows for more connection and community building, despite the physical barriers that are in place

## Shifting gears: Jamie Thompson to be new Assistant Dean

Former Student Involvement director takes on a new role within student life division

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Jamie Thompson, longstanding director of Student Involvement and Trinity alumna, has recently taken on an additional set of responsibilities under the title of Assistant Dean of Students. This will be her fourth role in the division of student life, with her career spanning eleven years.

"I get to fill a void in the student retention conversation on campus ensuring students have reasons to stay here, that they want to be here," Thompson said.

This altered position is closely linked to the Retention & Graduation Task Force (established in May of 2019).

"My work initially is going to be doing some research on campus: meeting with others, listening to faculty and staff, [and] understanding what they hear and see from students as it relates to retention," Thompson said.

The Retention & Graduation Task Force outlines three target areas for improvement: micro-level or individualized strategies, macro-level or institutional strategies and forward-looking institutional planning for retention purposes. In this new capacity, Thompson is able to focus on the long-term macro-level of student retention in tandem with forward-looking institutional planning.

"[I'll be] bridge-building between academic affairs, student life and alumni relations and development, so this allows me to reach and connect and partner with lots of different entities," Thompson said.



Longstanding director of student involvement and Trinity alumna, **JAMIE THOMPSON** is now taking on a new set of tasks as the Assistant Dean of Students.

photo by **NADIA CRAWFORD**

Thompson's dedication to Trinity student shows when discussing her new role and responsibilities.

"If students got to explore and think about their responses to 'who am I' and 'what's my place in this world,' that would be another way for me to think about macro-level: where are people having those conversations, how can we strengthen those, how do we need to build those out so that this is an intentional experience that students have at Trinity," Thompson said.

Even though it's quite early in the process, she already has a few long-term goals in mind.

"What we may find is that [there are] really great things happening in different corners of campus life, but maybe other folks don't know about it, or we haven't leveraged some of those pieces to make them stronger or to make them more accessible to larger groups of students. Another possible outcome might be the response to 'What makes Trinity unique?', 'Is there a signature program or experience?'" Thompson said.

According to co-chairs David Tuttle and Michael Soto of the Retention & Graduation Task Force, Thompson was seen as the ideal person for this new role because of her extensive experience and stellar reputation

with Trinity staff, faculty and students. She possesses all the skills necessary to see this project through and ample excitement to boot.

"The natural person to consider for [this role] was Jamie Thompson... She loves to look at big-picture programs and to see the possibilities of what can be. She's earned the right to take on more responsibilities because of the quality of her work and because of how respected she is as a leader and how hard she works and how invested she is in the university," said David Tuttle, Associate Vice President for Student Life, Dean of Students and co-chair of the Retention & Graduation Task Force.

"[Thompson] has credibility with professors and directors, they know that she knows what she's talking about; they know that she's a thoughtful person and a creative partner in creating opportunities for students and I think that's going to be important to make sure that there's buy-in across the board... She knows Trinity; Trinity is in her bones," said Dr. Michael Soto, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and co-chair of the Retention & Graduation Task Force.

This opportunity comes just in time to accompany her journey towards a Ph.D. in Organizational Change and Leadership.

Thompson intends to be the metaphorical glue forming bonds across systems and institutions while striving for a more cohesive and enjoyable Trinity experience.

# Professors Adapt to Online Learning

The new digital format is not one-size-fits all for interactive and discussion-based classes

**VICTORIA HENRETTY** | PULSE REPORTER  
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Students can attest to just how difficult the abrupt change to online learning was last semester.

Being a student can be already a difficult task and to add the pressure of online learning, a global pandemic, and economic crisis doing our job is incredibly difficult. Professors and students continue to face a similar struggle, adapting to this situation requires constant learning. Victoria Aarons, a professor in the department of English, explains that “nobody knows how this is going to be.”

Professors are experimenting with new teaching techniques and learning to engage students in a way they’ve never had to before.

For professors whose classes are not primarily lecture-based, they had to learn how to transition to the online platform.

Jennifer Mathews, department chair for the Sociology and Anthropology department, found innovative ways to adapt to online teaching. After spring break, Mathews’ Human Evolution class was set to begin their lab work to learn how to determine sex based on human bones. When campus moved all classes to Zoom, Mathews had to quickly adjust.

Mathews expressed that for teachers who are doing lab work, online classes present a huge challenge, but most are finding creative ways to help students.

In her online osteology lab, Mathews said she held up the bones to the camera and used items as a scale.

Although lab work was able to be moved online Mathews expressed that it was difficult and not ideal, and any professors who do need to conduct lab work are struggling with the transition.

Aarons has shared similar concerns about the online formatting not being suited to her typical class structures.

Aarons said that “one of the problems of remote teaching is that it is better for lecture than discussion.”

In an in-person class, professors can see who is itching to say something, who might have a question and who is spaced out, but in an online course it is more difficult to read the emotions of the students.

“That’s the biggest problem for me,” Aarons said, “this is what I’m really trying to navigate.”

Zoom also presents a practical problem for discussion-based classes. Even though there is a ‘raise hand’ feature, it’s hard for students to know when to talk, and for discussion classes, students are usually encouraged to just speak up when they are called to say something, not raise their hand.

Aarons explained that “you want [discussion] to be spontaneous.”

This can be difficult if you cannot tell when it is appropriate to speak up in an online discussion.

Mathews explained that although there are a lot of obstacles to facilitating class discussion Zoom does offer at least one positive, the chat option.

“Even the shy students can participate,” said Mathews.

Professors, now more than ever must address the unique challenges students face.

Mathews said that “so many students simply couldn’t attend class.”

Students are taking care of ill family members, facing job loss, eviction, or working jobs that prevent them from going to class.

Aarons reiterated that “There are some students whose parents all of a sudden their jobs were very insecure...I had several students who were taking care of family members who were ill.”

If all of this was happening in the spring when COVID rates were much lower than



In the English Department, **VICTORIA AARONS** is familiar with how a change in the format of a class can require a shift in methods and policy, as well as a compassion for students in complicated circumstances.  
photo by **KATE NUELLE**

they are now then students are surely still facing these challenges.

In response to student crises, the professors have increased their one on one meetings with students.

“Students and faculty need to see this as a real joint enterprise, as a group experience,” said Aarons.

Navigating this new mode of learning, for many, will take teamwork.

Mathews said “that students [need to] be proactive about reaching out to me. I can’t read their minds.”

Professors want to help their students and find solutions to the problems they are facing but they cannot do that when they do

not know students are struggling.

Students and faculty are all learning how to navigate our new way of living which requires adaptation, patience, and communication.

Aarons says “[professors] need to be more flexible and more experimental.”

The professor recalls a note she keeps on her desk that said “ask how things are going.”

This ideology works both ways for students and professors. An open ear and an open mind can take us a long way during times of struggle.

“Students have been so open and wanting this to work well,” said Aarons, “I am so appreciative of my students who are good-naturedly helping me.”

## Making Friends From Six (Or More) Feet Away

Forming meaningful relationships amidst a pandemic can be difficult, but it’s not impossible

**MIKAYLA MULLIN** | PULSE REPORTER  
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Relationships are a numbers game. If we meet enough people, chances are we’ll find someone that we click with. However, when we are not really supposed to be around others, it cuts down our odds of finding those people. Gone are the days of meeting people at parties, clubs or even in the seat next to us.

However, it does not matter what is going on in the world; we still need some level of social interaction. Therefore, we still want to maintain the relationships we have and attempt to form new ones. With the new restrictions, the way we do both will change, but much more will change when it comes to forming relationships.

Dr. Charles White, a psychology professor at Trinity, expressed his views on maintaining relationships online.

“It is easier to maintain a relationship online when you already know the person,” White said.

Forming relationships will be noticeably harder because we are not going to be in proximity to people as much as we are used to.

“The most important predictor of the people who you’ll be friends with is proximity,” White said.

We have all realized that feeling connected to people in Zoom classes is a lot harder than doing so in person, and there is a reason for that.

Dr. Lori Kinkler, a clinical psychologist that works with Trinity’s counseling center, expressed why she believes it’s harder to make connections online.



illustration by **REN RADER**

“I think it is harder to make new connections when we’re not in person because a lot of our interactions are body language, and a lot of times, what makes people feel close to each other is proximity,” Kinkler said.

Seeing each other in little boxes a couple of times a week unfortunately does not bring that necessary proximity.

There are three groups of Trinity students in this new world: the people living on campus, the people living off-campus in the San Antonio area and the people living and learning remotely. For the different groups of students, there are different ways to compensate for the lack of proximity. People living on campus can still engage in socially distanced activities.

“I’m seeing small groups of students who are wearing masks and more than six feet apart doing some sort of shared activity. I think that’s the

way to go because it’s a shared interest, making memories, but not engaging enough that you’re not talking,” Kinkler said.

Students living off-campus in San Antonio have an advantage when it comes to maintaining social relationships with peers.

“My sense is that people living in San Antonio have become a household with their roommates, and for a lot of people, that is enough,” Kinkler said.

People living and learning remotely face a similar situation.

“I’m hoping that the people living at home already have a social system worked out for them,” Kinkler said.

However, if any of these groups want to form new relationships, they will have to put in more effort than usual.

“Be more assertive in terms of reaching out to people,” White said.

No matter where we live, we all have classes together, and we can take that time to make the most of the collaborative learning experience we are intended to have in college.

Dr. Angela Breidenstein, chair of the Education Department, asserts the value social relationships have on our learning.

“I believe strongly that students are learning as much from each other as from professors, and that learning is a social activity,” Breidenstein said.

A big part of the connections we make comes from cooperative learning.

“We try to enact cooperative learning as much as possible,” Breidenstein said.

Some of these aspects can be met by professors in class.

“I am trying to use more breakout rooms and polling,” White said.

However, part of it will have to come from reaching out and forming study groups or working on homework together.

What has not changed with these restrictions is that everybody has different needs. Some people need relationships more than others, and some people will have to work harder at it than others. It should not be something we stress about.

“Everybody knows it’s going to be a little bit awkward, but they are willing to put in that effort because everybody wants connection,” Kinkler said.

# DEAN'S LIST

The Office of Academic Affairs, on behalf of Trinity faculty and Vice President Deneese L. Jones, extends our sincere congratulations to these Dean's List \* students:

\*Dean's List students completed 15 or more grade point carrying hours of credit in one semester and earned a 3.65 or above.

Benjamin Abikhaleh	Lara Case	Rei Esaka	Kristen Herink	Samuel Lair	John Mueller	Deral Robison	Zachary Taylor
Paul Abila	Paulina Castaneda	Madeline Etter	Jonathan Hernandez	Hannah Lane	Mikayla Mullin	Alexander Rodriguez	Colin Taylor-Adair
Lillian Adam	Garcia	Chet Fagerstrom	Elsa Hernandez	Abigail Laplante	Amelia Mundell	Pia Rodriguez	Arjun Thakar
Andrew Aertker	Erica Cater	Arsany Fahim	Jared Herrick	Chloe Larson	Jacob Munoz	Jose Rodriguez Daza	Haley Thames
Maya Alarcon	Erin Cha	Michael Fain	Omar Hinedi	Alyson Laskowski	Sofia Munoz	Diego Rojas	Millena Tiglao
Gabriel Alford	Austin Champagne	Kaitlyn Falke	William Hinson	Thomas Lauerman	Mark Murdock	Abigail Romig	Maysoon Tirhi
Ryan Alford	Lucilla Chavez	Christopher Fan	Mary Hippensteel	Brylee Lavoie	Steven Murff Drake	Estrella Rosales	Dylan Tompkins
Arisha Ali	Isabel Chiriboga	Lindsey Farley	Kaylee Ho	Elsie Layman	Phoebe Murphy	Molly Rosenblatt	Robert Torrance
Zachary Alkire	Victoria Chur Corleto	Evan Farrell	Theresa Ho	Hieu Le	Juliette Murphy	Emma Ross	Maria Torres Alatorre
Dominic Allegretti	Abrianna Citta	Maya Fassler	Diep Hoang	Aaron Lee	Marie Muzyka	Levi Ross	Cristina Trevino
Molly Allen	Dane Claessen	Ryan Fernandez	Thao Hoang	Victoria Lee	Kendall Nace	Jonathan Rotter	Ashley Truong
Martina Almeida	Alexander Clark	Ysabella Ferruzzi	Catherine Hoffman	Fan Lee	Clarisse Nakayama	Jenny Rudnicki	Sydney Tubbs
Shivani Alur	David Clark	Ryan Figert	Alivia Holbrook	Joshua Lee	Julia Nania	Samuel Rueter	William Turner
Marisa Amarino	Nia Clements	Ariana Fletcher-Bai	Keaton Holt	Dinda Lehrmann	Michelle Narciso	Kiyana Saidi-Nejad	Samuel Turner
Joshua Anaya	Andrew Clough	Megan Flores	Colin Holy	Kennice Leisk	Jasper Neath	Natalia Salas	Peyton Tvrdy
Meredith Anderson	Paola Cobos	Juliana Flores	Tucker Horn	Colin Lekki	Megha Neelala	Nasim Salehitezangi	Jaclyn Valdez
Nolan Anthony	Catherine Coe	Erin Ford	Madison Horn	Chrystelle Lesage	Juliana Neelley	Genaro Salinas Gonzalez	Carolina Vargas
Michael Antonelli	Anna Coker	Emily Forster	Hannah Hsu	Siwady	Kenneth Nelson	Jennifer Sample	Ruth Varner
Anna Anzilotti	Tomas Colazo	Diane Fournier	Richard Hu	Olivia Lewis	Wilfrid Nelson	Gabriela Sanchez San	Dovyda Vasiliauskas
Kathleen Arbogast	Aja Coleman	Madeline Freeman	Wentao Huang	Runyu Li	Son Nguyen	Miguel	Carlos Velasquez
Maeve Armand	Daniilo Collins	Hannah Friedrich	Jeyssel Huezco	Helen Liang	Ivy Nguyen	Saivone Sanchious	Victoria Veltri
Edward Armitage	Anabelle Conde	Ana Fuentes Hinojosa	Genevieve Humphreys	Blake Lieberman	Emily Nichols	Tyler Sanderson	Neil Verwillow
Peyton Ashley	Taylor Condron	Noah Fulcomer	Cal Hunter	Sonja Lisowski	Jacob Nicholson	Daniel Sandoval	Ava Viccinelli
Anna Avery	Kristen Coniglione	Gabrielle Fulk	Erik Huynh	Elizabeth Little	Amira Nickerson	Alexandra Saunders	Juan Vidales
Emily Averyt	Tessa Conrad	Hans Fulton	Raini Huynh	Shiyu Liu	Madison Nix	Aliya Sayani	Phillip Villalba
Christina Avila	Chad Conway	Hannah Funk	Garrett Isaacs	Kelly Liu	Shealsy Nolasco	Lindsay Schmitt	Samuel Vincent
Liana Avila	Nicole Cook	Emma Funk	Ilana Issula	Lauren Loewen	James Norris	Jackson Schmitt	Mai Vo
Phoebe Babineau	Noel Coppedge	Nabeel Gaber	Rayan Itani	Owen Logsdon	Caroline North	Erica Schoenberg	An Vu Nguyen Dieu
Elizabeth Bachman	Honora Corlett	Justin Gailey	Brandon Jaafar	David Loneragan	NatalieNorthcutt	SuzetteSchofield	Savannah Wahlgren
Thomas Baer	Alexandra Cortez	Gabriela Galan	Jad Jaafar	Diana Long	Sarah Nuelle	Rebekah Schwab	Andrew Walker
Zoe Baker	Caro Cortez	Maureen Gallington	Kelli Jackson	Rachel Lopez	Elena Nusloch	Bianca Scialabba	Anna Wallack
Zoe Baker	Sydney Counley	Fisher Galvin	Jack James	Marcos Lopez	Gabriel Odom	Chloe Scroggins	Alexandra Walsh
Joseph Baker	Olivia Cox	James Gammon	Danielle Jamison	Adriana Lopez-Boor	Camila Odom	Daniel Seabolt	Rain Wammack
Hannah Ballas	Madison Cox	Dylan Gardner	Jacob Jankowski	Alexander Love	Shauna Odum	Madison Semro	Chenyi Wang
William Ballengee	Caroline Crain	Matthew Garr	Benjamin Jeffers	Sarah Lovelace	Lucas Oldham	Ezra Serebrin	Kaitlyn Ward
Treasure Bammel	Cal Cranfill	Gabriella Garriga	Jessica Jennings	Taoye Lu	Grace O'leary	Ana Serrano	Lois Warden
Andrew Barber	Logan Crews	Gloria Gatchel	Jaelyn Jernit	Veronica Lukanga	Matheus Olmedo	Christian Settles	Emily Warkentin
Emily Barefield	Taylor Crow	Joshua Geer	Alexus Jimenez	Vetle Maasvaer Halle	Stephanie Opon	Joshua Sharpe	John Cole Warner
Robert Barner	Andrea Cruz	Ryan Gentry	Grace Johannes	Gretchen Maddock	Carly Oracion	Victoria Shirey	Jaylen Washington Gore
Rachel Barnett	Sabrina Cuauro Cuauro	Joshua George	Catherine John	Robert Magee	Elizabeth Ortiz	Jenna Shultz	Emma Watson
Gavin Barrera	Jillian Cuddy	Michael Gerick	Delaney Johns	Keller Maharrey	Jessica Oskam	Claire Siewert	Abigail Watson
Andrea Barrientos	Grace Culp	Kaylee Ghent	Alexandra Johnson	Brett Mahfood	Emi Otsuki	Juliet Sikorski	Rayna Webb
Marina Barron	Caitlin Culpepper	Abigail Ghorbani	Lauren Johnson	Sean Majors	Abigail Ottaway	Leacadia Silveira	Olivia Wehrung
Natalie Bartine	Catalina Cura Bullrich	Sophie Gifford	Camille Johnson	Katie Maloan	Krista Oyala	Mikaela Simmang	Amelia Weir
Matthew Barton	Hannah Currie	Emil Gillett	Thomas Johnson	Ian Mann	Acacia Oyler	Jacob Simon	Aaron Wells
Sarah Bastos	Linh Dang	Ellen Glaze	Connor Jones	Cristina Manning	Eleanor Palmer	Jenna Simon	Leah West
Madeleine Beale	Anoushka Dani	Jimmie Glorioso	Cameron Jones	Aislinn Marcee	Aubrey Parke	Shubhankar Singh	Madeleine West
Camryn Beall	Emily Daniel	Christopher Goldmann	Carli Jones	Tyler Marcheli	Zephyrine Parten	Lily Slemp	Johnneisha White
Cameron Beaver	John Danklef	Emily Goll Broyles	Shelby Jordan	Leah Marsh	Nerma Pasic	Ryan Smith	William Whitfield
Mitchell Beito	Nathan Darsch	Regina Gomez Del	Adam Jue	Isela Martin	Devon Patel	Ayden Smith	Samantha Whitman
Victoria Bell	Selena Davila	Campo	Gwendolyn Kaliszewski	Gabriel Martinez	Antonella Paternostro	Gemma Smith	Rebecca Wicker
Noah Benavides	Adam Davis	Elly Gonzales	Neha Kapur	Ryoma Matsuura	Scarlett Patino	Tristan Smith	Alana Wickham
Mariana Bernal	Eleanor Davis	Daniela Gonzalez	Dimitar Karagyozov	Despina Matzakos	Sophia Patterson	Jacob Smoorenburg	George Wiggam
CameronBibb	Jessica De Arman	Benjamin Gonzalez	Sandra Karic	Ryan Mayse	Catherine Patterson	Elinor Snyder	Colton Wilbur
Andja Bjeletich	Carlotta De Bellis	Natalia Gonzalez	Aamuktha Karla	Eleanor McArdle	Alexander Pemberton	Nathan Sokul	Brighton Williams
Tyler Blackerby	Donovan De Hoog	Sofia Gonzalez Gonzalez	Jenna Kash	Katherine McGarrity	Thomas Pena	Daniel Sokul	Maddee Williams Koeller
Abby Blackwood	Jacob Dean	Elizabeth Goode	Joanna Kass	Ellena McGrath	Thomas Petrowski	Ava Sommer	Austin Wilman
Mollie Blahuta	Benjamin Debauge	Sarah Gorban	Elaine Kaster	Katharine McGrath	Allison Pettijohn	Allen Song	Kincannon Wilson
Lindsey Bonin	Andrew Deering	Martin Gordon	Rachel Kaufman	Virginia McGrath	Jess Phillips	Evan Sonka	Aidan Wilson
Abigail Bowen	Nicolas Defazio	Ananya Govindan	Lauren Keith	Leah McIntyre	Bryce Pidgeon	Nathan Sood	Madeline Wilson
Cassie Bowers	Samantha Demmon	Kristen Graham	Joseph Kelly	Avery McKay	Nathaniel Pigott	Hannah Spencer	Brendan Winn
Olivia Bowness	Nicholas Demonteverde	David Gralla	Patrick Kelly	Casey McLeod	Sarah Pita	Meredith Spiller	John Wisniewski
Austin Bratton	Meghan Desai	Maxwell Granger	Christine Kendrick	Jordan McMurry	Amy Platter	Emerson Spradling	Kassidy Witt
Patrick Bray	Ian Dill	Valerie Gray	Grace Khan	Samuel McWhorter	Madison Poljan	Lila Steffan	Caroline Wolff
Ericka Brell	Bailey Dinh	Stephanie Gredell	Imran Khan	Matthew Mendiola	Ava Ponder	Scott Stegink	Curtis Wong
Rafaela-Seraphina	Madison D'orio	Mikayla Greiner	Julia Kiley	Eryka Mendoza	Emma Pool	Thorsteinn Steinarsson	David Woolley
Brenner	Michael Dixon	Samuel Grimsley	Kara Killinger	Maren Merwarth	Rachel Ann Poovathoor	Nicole Stephenson	Madeline Work
Giselle Britt	James Dodd	Kayla Griscom	Gabriel Killy	Grace Messec	Allison Powell	Lauren Stevens	Natasha Wright
Gavin Bronaugh	Ally Dollander	Zoe Grout	Joshua Kim	Bailey Meyer	Amelia Powell	Isla Stewart	Devon Wright
Nathaniel Bronson	Gabriel Dominguez	Jason Guenther	Lauren Kimberly	Brandon Michels	Isabela Propst	Madalyn Stoddard	Sally Wyma
Nathan Brown	John Doran	Brenda Guerra	Anna King	Robert Mielke	Ren Rader	Robert Stone Curl	Yian Xu
Evan Brown	Ashley Dorough	Brian Guerrero	Nicole King	David Migl	Luis Ramirez Vilchis	Sidney Strickland	Yukiko Yamazaki
Jordan Bruce	Jose Ricardo Dos	Benjamin Gustafson	Ziven Kirk	Nicholas Miliatis	Wren Ramos	Jocelyn Suarez	Victoria Ydens
Elise Brunk	Remedios	Makena Guthrie	Nathaniel Kleffner	Eric Miller	William Ramsey	Yasmin Subawalla	Jessica Young
Carlos Bucheli	Mylinh Du	Sarah Hadsell	Austin Klein	Emma Miller	Carter Raney	Stephen Sumrall-Orsak	Caden Young
Zoe Bullock	Brock Duckers	Claire Hale	Zackery Klotz	Jordan Minarelli	Joshua Rea	Megana Sundar	Marissa Young
Annie Burke	Bailey Dueitt	Alexander Hancock	Henry Kneidel	Mona Mirpour	Linda Ready	Raheed Sunesra	Zachary Young
Emory Burns	Zachery Dunne	Grace Hanshaw	Kathryn Knight	Wesley Mitchell	Hannah Reeves	Robert Swallow	Ju Young Yun
Fraser Burns	Maia Dykstra	Savannah Hardzog	Carson Koch	Mohamed Mnete	Kristina Reinis	Piper Swearingin	Brooke Yung
Eric Buzz	Nathan Eardley	Keiji Harper	Taylor Kotfas	Gina Monaco	Maria Reverte	Bradley Sykes	Karina Zapalac
Cody Campbell	Erin Eckert	Sarah Hash	Grant Kramer	Ethan Moore	Morgen Reyna	Riley Tacquard	Lucy Zhang
Nicholas Canjar	Tamara Ekstrand	Noa Hassidi	Matilda Krell	Rachel Morris	David Richards	Maria Tamez Villarreal	Sirui Zhang
Anjanette Carlisle	Broderick Ellingsworth	Layna Hayes	Cameron Krimbill	Quentin Morris	Christina Ridlen	Andrew Tao	Artur Zigman
Amber Carlson	Taku Charles-Noel Endo	Jacy Haynes	Garret Kundysek	Tim Mose	Vasti Sarai Rios Rios	Ashlynd Taylor	
Aidan Carr	Evan Engelhaupt	Sarah Heidt	Tara Kyaw	Elizabeth Motes	Sol Rivas Lopes	Tate Taylor	
Judit Casanova	Caden Erickson	Rebecca Heinz	Zoe Lacey	Chase Moye	Guadalupe Rivera	John Taylor	

# The show must go on: Fine Art departments go remote

Faculty plan virtual performances, creative expression and effective learning despite uncertainty.

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Following the spring 2020 shift to entirely remote learning, the music and theater departments within Trinity's fine arts program faced a drastic challenge. In addition to adjusting their purely academic courses to virtual learning, both departments were forced to cancel or postpone planned performances. However, for the fall 2020 semester, faculty and staff have worked diligently to ensure that performances will still go on.

The music department is anticipating an even distribution of on-campus and fully remote students across courses as well as among musical ensembles. For those in person, safety measures such as air purifiers, enforced social distancing and divided rehearsals would all be implemented to ensure students' safety. Dr. Joseph Kneer, assistant professor of music and director of the Trinity Symphony Orchestra (TSO), described these changes and how they'd affect his courses, private lessons and orchestra performances.

"Performing is a little different because when playing brass [instruments], you're expelling air more than you normally would compared to when you play string instruments," Kneer said. "Nothing's completely safe or without risks, so obviously, we have lots of measures."

During the fall, the department plans to hold in-person rehearsals in preparation for a live-streamed show available to those in the Trinity community; yet while performances will still be occurring during the fall semester, Kneer cited some a degree of apprehension that comes with



Student **JIMMY PHAN** practices for his piano class. Students are assigned a specific practice room and must use a weekly sign up form to indicate their reservations. Additionally, students are responsible for wiping down pianos after use and allowing the room to air out for fifteen minutes when they are finished practicing.

photo by **KATE NUELLE**

the uncertainty of the future amidst COVID-19. With regards to musical performance and teaching, Kneer described his anxiety towards being unable to demonstrate musical techniques or fully connect with students virtually.

"I believe very strongly in connecting in class with students. Whether it's an ensemble or in classrooms is so important to how you deliver the content," Kneer said.

Similarly, faculty within the theatre department at Trinity have been preparing for students to engage in both academic and performative courses and activities. Dr. Stacey Connelly, associate professor of theatre, teaches writing-intensive academic courses as well as performance-based acting courses at all levels. During the spring semester, she had anticipated

to direct an April performance, which student performers had auditioned for in January.

"We had only gotten in about six rehearsals before spring break happened and then, of course, we found out the news about the shutdown. We talked with the cast and with the rest of faculty, and we pretty much decided to postpone it until the next academic year," Connelly said.

In addition to the courses she is teaching during the fall, Connelly will be directing a Zoom production of the postponed performance.

"Through a company called Zoom Theatre, both technical tools and strategies are being provided to us to try and create the illusion of a normally-staged performance," Connelly said.

The student actors chosen during the spring semester have been preparing over the summer

with faculty to deliver the live show entirely over Zoom. Using newer technological tips and tricks, they've worked to emulate shifting stage scenes and costume changes all while remaining in character over camera.

"We're trying to adjust and find new ways through this. We're going to learn a lot of really cool stuff that we will continue to use, and that's the thing that makes this exciting, in an odd way," Connelly said.

Dr. Kyle Gillette, associate professor of theatre, is teaching all of his courses virtually. He distinguished that he is not optimistic or pessimistic about the upcoming semester but is instead very hopeful.

"Optimists and pessimists both have something in common: they think they know what's going to happen. Hope is seeing an opening while accepting that the future hasn't happened yet and depends on what happens now," Gillette said.

With the hope he holds, Gillette plans on using this unique time to rethink course content and the possibilities offered to students in acting from home.

The fine arts program at Trinity is incredibly focused on making this semester one where students can continue to explore creativity and performance from wherever they are.

"I'm hopeful that there's a possibility, an opening up, for rethinking a lot of things and assumptions about education, about theater, about the relationship between creating art and learning what it means to be human. I think that we're seeing a much richer opening up of possibilities," Gillette said.

## For the Record: "conversations with myself about you" by lovelytheband

Dance, cry and let it all out. This new album has arrived and hits you right in the feels...in the best way.

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illustration by **REN RADER**

For the record, I've probably been one of those annoying people who tell you how they basically 'discovered' an artist. For me, that's lovelytheband. I first saw lovelytheband in early December 2017 at a small venue in Austin, TX, where they opened for the headlining show. lovelytheband had only been formed the previous year and just released their debut EP, "everything i could never say..." a few months prior in September of 2017. Vocalist Mitchy Collins, guitarist Jordan Greenwald and drummer Sam Price make up the group, and they first gained traction when their single "broken" topped the US Alternative Rock charts and helped them win iHeartRadio's Best New Rock/Alternative Artist in 2019.

Since then, they have developed a steady fanbase and released 2 LPs, their most recent of which, "conversations with myself about

you," premiered on August 28 of this year. lovelytheband is a group I have enjoyed following, and I have anticipated this release since its announcement in the spring. To be honest, I was a little nervous; sophomore albums can be a daunting, slippery slope into the dreaded "sophomore slump." However, my first impressions of the album are almost all positive; the band more than succeeds in continuing to develop the sound that gained them success and simultaneously addresses a variety of topics surrounding love, loss and mental health.

"conversations with myself about you" opens with a unique and attention-grabbing prelude. The title track features a sound collage of audio bites spelling out the name of the album. The sounds allude to samples from radio or movie clips as the music beneath builds tension and creates a somber tone. The mood quickly changes however, with tracks "waste," "buzz cut" and "loneliness for love." Punchy pop melodies and catchy choruses have you wanting to dance and sing along. Despite the upbeat accent, the music is juxtaposed with heartbreaking lyrics about loneliness, depression and missing past relationships. "i hate myself," "idwtgty," "silly" and "emo" drive these themes home with brutally honest and vulnerable lyrics. "emo"'s opening lines, "Do you drink because you miss me? Or do you miss me 'cause you're drunk?" encompass the record's entire mood.

The second half of the album continues with subjects of lost love and reminiscing on failed relationships in "love somebody else" and "flowers on my grave." The songs don't sugarcoat much. The band's vulnerability is on full display if you pay attention under the seemingly happy melodies. Finally, lovelytheband closes with "your favorite one," a song about a potential love that you sadly find eventually crumbling in front

of you. Strings, synths and despondent drums accompany distorted vocals in the second half of the song, repeating the lyrics "conversations with myself about you," bringing the record full circle, ending with the click of a cassette tape.

It's been a full two years since lovelytheband's debut LP, "finding it hard to smile." Despite the time gap, the group left out no detail in crafting an intricate and emotionally powerful second project. Don't be turned off by the sad song names; the album's indie-alternative pop/rock sound is easy to jam to and sing along in the car, and when you need it, the record features slower

songs to break up and relax the fast-pace tempo.

While I've only had the chance to listen all the way through a few times, I'm confident these songs will have plenty of time in my music library in the near future. If you're in your feels and want to dance the sadness away, lovelytheband's "conversations with myself about you" might just be the album for you.

Favorite songs: love somebody else, emo, silly, your favorite one, flowers - on my grave

illustration by **GRACEN HOYLE**



# Trinity professor's feline theater production makes it big

Scott Neale's "Teatro Dei Gatti" demonstrates creativity during this past summer's quarantine.

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illustrations by KATE NUELLE

Evolution. Discovery. Expression. Having fun. Scott Neale, assistant professor of scenic design, used these words to describe what inspires him. These sources of inspiration appear evident in his recent New York Times feature, "Teatro Dei Gatti." The two feline performers, Ted and Rufus, boast their prowess in a homemade opera-house cat door stage. I virtually sat down with Neale to discuss "Teatro Dei Gatti," set design, creativity and theater.

**Tell us about your background.**

My background is in theater design. I have a Bachelor in Fine Arts and a Masters of Fine Arts in Scenic Design. My career is about 50% theater design and the other 50% is using those skills in areas such as architecture events, theme park design and museums. Scene design is ultimately about telling a story with the environment.

**How much of your style was incorporated into the set design for "Teatro dei Gatti"?**

I would say a lot of it. Part of being a set designer is to not have a particular style. You don't want people to say, "Oh, that's that design by that designer." When it comes to personal projects, I like to let my own style influence the project. It was my wife's idea to do the stage. I came up with the idea to do prints around the proscenium arch. Being me, I had to add functional footlights. I was thinking about using Frank Sinatra or Big Band Jazz, but my wife said, "You should do that song by Ween that we laugh at when it comes on." I think adding the screaming girls was the touch I'm most fond of.

**What makes a successful set design?**

One that doesn't draw focus away from the characters. It is going to serve the function of telling the story. You want the set to be part of the whole experience. That's what I strive to do as a professional and as a teacher, to throw the ego out the door. Sometimes the best set design is one that's intentionally designed to be ugly because it's serving that particular story.

**Do you think there's any misconceptions with how people approach theater?**

It bugs me when people call it entertainment because that's not the sole purpose of theater. It's to share our stories and to encourage people to think about something they're not familiar with. Just with all arts, theater encourages empathy. I do a lot of work with a theater company in Chicago that's a youth based ensemble, all from families of immigrants. Our work is based on their stories. It's all very artfully done. The stories are teaching empathy amongst people who

haven't lived that lifestyle. Students are learning to tell stories but also learning how to do theater.

**If you could condense your inspiration into a couple words, what would they be?**

In my class, I use the phrase "thinking with a pencil." To me, the most exciting part about design is the part between the beginning and the end when you have layers of ideas, and you let those ideas evolve. The evolution of ideas, allowing your ideas to develop because no one knows from their first guess how a creative activity is going to end. You always have an initial idea, but you discover things along the way. Discovery would be another one. Also expression. It's about reacting to a script or a narrative and then visually defining it. Evolution. Discovery. Expression. Design. Flexibility. Having fun.

**How have you evolved as an artist?**

When I was first starting out as a designer, it took me longer to do things because I would get in my own way. I would hold on to ideas, and I wouldn't learn until later on in the process that those ideas didn't work. Nowadays, I've done it enough where I can come up with a list of ideas and not be afraid to throw them out. It's about trying things and not latching on to things.

**How did quarantine affect you creatively?**

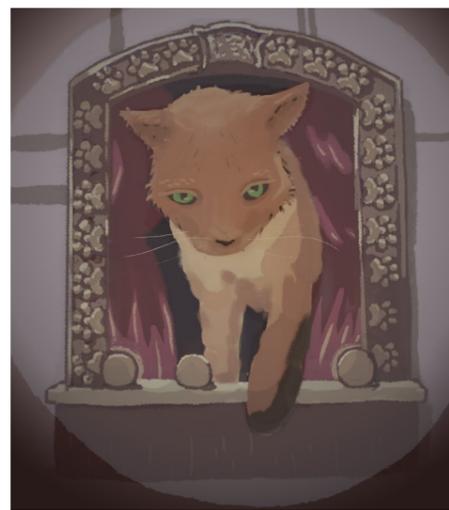
It was strange because I was on sabbatical. I was working on two projects that are still happening next summer, but I also had time to do my own things. It allowed me to focus and do personal projects. I started doing oil paint and watercolor. My wife got me an oil paint kit for my birthday. Creatively, there's no shortage of things to do. That's the part of

being creative; you can make something out of nothing just by thinking about it. Aside from the global pandemic, I enjoyed the time at home.

**What does theater teach you?**

Empathy, time management, out-of-the-box-thinking, interior design and creative thinking. There's technical skills like electronics, costuming, clothing construction, set building and welding. I teach a class called Experiential Design that teaches you how to design things using a theater background. We cover escape rooms, museums, themed restaurants and retail window design. It's all based on telling a story; you just have to figure out what that story is.

You can see Neale's work on his website, [www.scottcnealedesign.com](http://www.scottcnealedesign.com).



## VIDEO GAME CHARACTERS

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

- BAYONETTA
- BOWSER
- CHUNLI
- CONNOR
- CRASH
- CROFT
- DAXTER
- DOOMGUY
- DRAKE
- EZIO
- FENIX
- GORDON
- ISABELLE
- JAK
- LINK
- MARIO
- MARSTON
- MIMIR
- PALICO
- PAYNE
- PIKACHU
- ROBOTNIK
- SACKBOY
- SCORPIO
- SONIC
- SPYRO
- STRIFE
- SUBZERO
- VERCETTI
- YOSHI

# New Bell Center regulations aim to keep Tigers safe

Each floor of the athletic center features unique measures to combat COVID-19

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Like the rest of campus, the William H. Bell Athletic Center has undergone several changes to comply with COVID-19 safety measures.

Starting in May, Seth Asbury, Associate Director of Athletics for Facilities and Event Management, Quin Patterson, Head Athletic Equipment Manager, Daniel Martinez, Head Strength and Conditioning Coach, and Marc Powell, Head Athletic Trainer had weekly meetings over Zoom to discuss strategies and plans for a safe re-opening.

"We had a shared Google Sheet going around with re-opening plans within each of our respected areas and how we'd go about that. [Powell] and [Asbury] were on the Nerve Center, which was overseeing the entire university, so they came back with feedback and had a direct line of communication, so whenever we had an idea they could take it back to the Nerve Center and say, 'hey, this is what we are thinking,'" Patterson said.

When making plans, Asbury, Patterson, Martinez and Powell split the Bell Center up according to each floor and the facilities located there. Regulations such as wearing masks will be implemented throughout the building like any other campus facility, but each floor now has their own unique regulations.

## First Floor: Athletic training room, locker rooms and equipment/laundry room

This is going to be the most restricted floor



Plexiglass shields separate machines on the third floor of the Bell Athletic Center. Students must reserve a one hour block of time in order to workout in the fitness center during the day.  
photo by KATE NUELLE

because, currently, the demand for use is low. Student-athletes predominately use this floor, and since sports haven't started yet and locker rooms aren't being used, the department wants to keep access as limited as possible.

Signs indicating one-way walking directions cover the floors to limit foot-traffic and individuals crossing paths. Additionally, doors have been designated as enter and exit only. Classrooms have signs posted indicating the maximum number of persons allowed inside.

The training room is under new regulations as well to ensure safety. There are a limited

number of people allowed in the training room at all times.

"The trainers will be using extra locker rooms to spread out where athletes go to recover. Also, we are separating all athletes by their sports so that a football player won't recover in the same place as a cross country runner," said Olive Pertuit, a student-trainer.

According to Patterson, after conversations with Powell, the sports medicine group plans to transition to a schedule-based visitation system.

"If a player or coach needs something, there is no longer going to be a system of just dropping

by. Email and we can work out a time to [meet because] we can't just have people walking in and out constantly as we did before," Patterson said.

Patterson requires his student-workers to show him a daily green pass that symbolizes clearance to be on campus. Student-workers must also wear masks and gloves during the washing process in the equipment room and laundry room. Each team will have their own laundry hamper along with increased cleaning protocols such as using disposable wipes to clean the hampers and washing machine. Dryer panels will also be used.

## Second Floor: Sports Performance Center (SPC)

While the SPC has been mostly utilized by student-athletes, in the past, there were specific hours in which general-students could access it. However, according to Martinez, there are plans to temporarily reduce these hours.

"[There are] daytime hours which are largely inaccessible to students anyways because of class schedules. But we are going to maintain those daytime hours because there isn't an expected demand during that time, so we believe we can still maintain that aspect of it. The evening hours... [are] where we are planning to limit," Martinez said.

Ultimately, the SPC is trying to reserve as much time as possible for varsity sports teams. Still, Martinez is sympathetic to general-students who enjoy using the SPC.

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# First-year athletes discuss delayed collegiate debuts

With fall sports seasons canceled, newest Tigers seek to adjust to college life

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The cancellation of the fall sports season left many first-year athletes disappointed that their lifelong dreams of playing collegiate sports would have to wait even longer. Despite the unexpected delay, many are now looking at this as an opportunity to get adjusted to college academics and to bond with teammates before a potential spring season begins.

Santiago Bohlmann, a first-year on the football team, says that the team has been staying in shape while building camaraderie by working out in small groups and running. His first-year teammate, Joshua Jackson, confirms that many on the team are doing anything possible to stay prepared.

"For me, it is just a minor setback and I view it as just a longer offseason to get better. I have been lifting at gyms, as well as running and throwing on fields to make sure I am still in peak performance by the time the season comes around next semester," Jackson said.

According to Trey Lisauckis, first-year football player, it will be strange to not play this semester as it is many of the team's first fall semesters without a football season in a long time. However, he reiterates that the team will stay ready for whatever lies ahead.

"As of now, we haven't been able to do much organized practicing or workouts, but a lot of us have been getting together to try and stay in shape. We will definitely be ready for whenever we're called to be back on the field," Lisauckis said.

Some players say that this pause on athletics has been an opportunity to adjust to college life.

"Obviously, we're all really bummed out that we won't have our football season this

fall but it is a great chance for us [first-years] to get experience with the college weight room and playbook. This has given me time to transition into college and put school first, which has definitely helped me understand how college works," said Cole Monago, first-year football player.

Likewise, Carley Broekhuizen, first-year volleyball player, was able to find some positive aspects of a longer than expected off-season.

"I am trying to take this off-season as an opportunity to get fully adjusted to college classes and activities. I think many of my teammates and other athletes are encouraged to take more hours and spend extra time on their academics. My teammates and I have also been taking this time to get to know each other and bond before we go on the court together," said Broekhuizen. "We have been able to find extra time to spend together that we might

not have had with a fall season, which will make our connection even stronger..."

Maddie Fate, first-year volleyball player, explained that she was especially excited to join a team coming off a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) National Semifinal appearance.

"It's definitely a big disappointment especially after a great season last year and I was looking forward to being a part of a team that's making program history," said Fate.

Teams are scheduled to have modified practices this fall with smaller groups. Student-athletes are also hopeful for the possibility of playing their seasons in the spring, although no such announcement has been made by either the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) or the Southern Athletic Association (SAA), which are the two conferences in which the Tigers compete.

"At this point, I'm mostly just trying to stay positive and get myself ready for hopefully a spring season," said Joey Finley, first-year soccer player. "I've been able to get really close to the girls in my grade and they've all been super nice and especially with everything being online and what not having a few automatic friends was awesome."

With so much uncertainty, it's impossible for student-athletes to know exactly what's next. For creatures of habit that are used to ultra-specific schedules, this fall semester will be especially difficult, but according to Monago, there is still a sense of optimism among the Tigers.

"Overall, I'm just really excited to be a Tiger and can't wait for this upcoming season," Monago said.

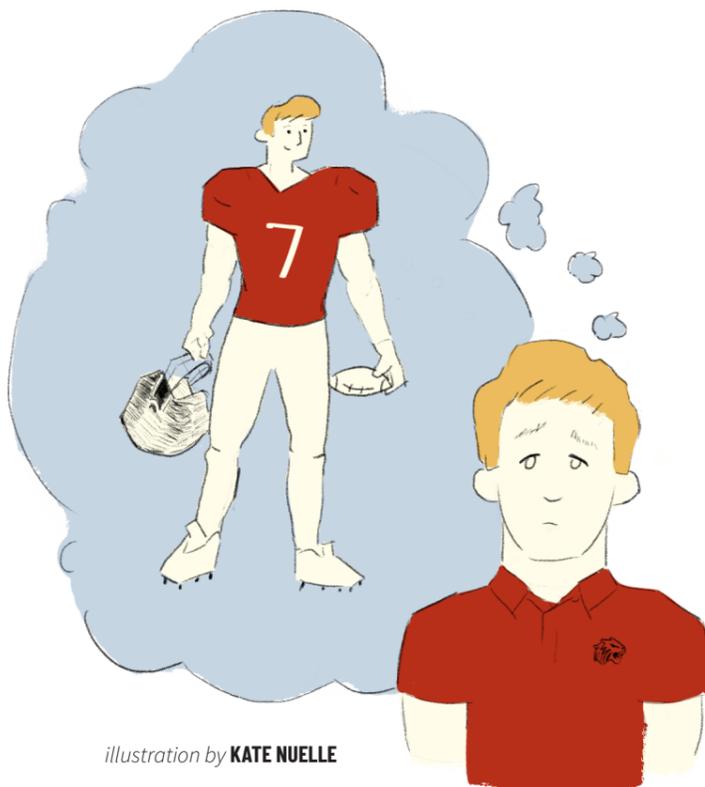


illustration by KATE NUELLE

# Students will see substantial changes to the Bell Center

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“For us, demonstrating that care means putting some boundaries in place and then slowly expanding those boundaries over time. ‘Slow’ being pretty loosely defined because I certainly don’t know what the speed is going to be to get back to day-to-day operations,” Martinez said.



Signs direct one-way traffic inside the fitness center. Only 25 people will be allowed in the fitness center at a time and student-workers will clean equipment between the one hour time blocks.  
photo by KATE NUELLE

## Third Floor: Fitness Center

This floor will be the least restricted; however, there are still many regulations meant to limit the spread of COVID-19. For the use of the fitness center, gym-goers will have to reserve a time slot for a maximum of one hour. During each hour block, there can only be 25 people in the facility. After each block, there will be 30 minutes set aside for student-workers to clean all equipment.

Users must enter through the main lobby door, show their Tiger Card, a health check green badge that all students on campus must possess and have a mask on, including throughout the workout. Once the workout is complete, users must exit the Fitness Center through the plaza door.

Users must also make reservations to use the basketball and volleyball courts in the gyms as well as individual pool lanes. There is also a one-hour block time limit, and only two people may use the volleyball courts at once.

“[We want to make] sure we have the right steps in place and that we are doing the most we can to protect ourselves and others.”

QUIN PATTERSON  
HEAD ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT MANAGER

The reasoning behind scanning Tiger Cards and scheduling a workout is not only to manage numbers and help enforce social distancing but also to help contact trace.

“The reservation system helps and is part of the puzzle,” Asbury said.

While there are many new regulations in place for all students and athletes to follow, everything has been done with the hopes of keeping campus at large safe.

“[We want to make] sure we have the right steps in place and that we are doing the most we can to protect ourselves and others,” Patterson said.

## Rundown of Bell Center Regulations

- Strict capacity limits in different rooms and workout areas
- Reservations needed for use of volleyball & basketball courts and pool
- One hour time blocks allowed in fitness center

# New bleachers bring upgrades to Football Stadium

Changes meet conference standards while upgrading game day experience

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Trinity’s campus looks very different this fall from last semester, and not just because of the pandemic. Construction of new home-side bleachers at the Trinity Football Stadium continued after the campus-wide closure in March and throughout the summer. The completed structure features Trinity’s iconic red brick and a number of other upgrades.

According to Jim Baker, Senior Director of Facilities Services who headed the stadium project along with Gordon Bohmfalk, University Architect, the new bleachers include a number of upgrades that will bring the stadium up to Southern Athletic Association (SAA) standards. These upgrades include a game operations booth—housing all the necessary personnel to run the game and operate the scoreboard and the clock—as well as two coach boxes.

The two coach boxes—one for Trinity, and the other for visiting teams—were necessary upgrades according to Jerheme Urban, head football coach, who explained that the old boxes posed potential safety issues and did not measure up to SAA standards.

“Our coaches, in the past, were outdoors [...] underneath a tarp on top of the press box. They had to go through this kind of old-school, kind of unsafe, vertical manhole and it wasn’t super ideal for them to climb up there, especially, you know, when you’re taking a fifty-pound equipment set with all your headsets,” Urban said.

The visiting team’s coaching box was also open air and under a tarp, but it also had the added disadvantage of a lower vantage point, which violated conference rules.

“So having the new home coaches box, having the equal position with the equal space for the visitors—again they’re elevated, we were able to bring the ground level up, so we could get a better view for all of our fans as well as the coaches—overall, it’s going to have a great impact because the coaches can do a better job,” Urban said.

The renovations also feature new spaces to accommodate press for both the home and away teams, in accordance with SAA standards. According to Baker, these press boxes are housed in subdivided portions of the coach boxes.

“[T]here are two coaching boxes, one for home and one for visitor, that’s to the left and right of the game operations box, and part of the coaching box will be subdivided. Our side will host Tiger Network, and the visiting team’s side will host their own network—some have video, some only have radio,” Baker said.

According to Urban, conference rules state that Trinity is required to provide broadcast space to the visiting team that is equivalent to the space of the home team. In the old setup, this meant that if the visiting team brought their own broadcast crew, they would have the same space at the Tiger Network in the working press box, leading to each broadcast picking up secondary voices and background noise.

The new media broadcast spaces will be an upgrade for the Tiger Network, whose game broadcasts are popular among alumni and parents, and oftentimes utilized by the visiting team. According to Joshua Moczygemba, the co-producer of Tiger Network, the new press boxes will create new opportunities for student staff members.

“Our section of the press box will not only be larger, but climate-controlled, making it possible to have a few announcers (or two socially distanced) work comfortably within the space. The press box levels are also ADA accessible, making it easier for everyone to be in the booth, or on the camera platforms,” Moczygemba said. “The covered camera platforms will shorten setup and breakdown times by having permanently installed connections close by the cameras, which will give us more access to different camera locations. These various locations allot us more viewpoints to cover the games as well as cover sports that we haven’t in the past, such as Track and Field.”



Workers put finishing touches on new bleachers at the Trinity Football Stadium. Upgrades include a new game operations booth, new coach boxes and increased seating on home side.  
photos by KATE NUELLE

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## New bleachers aim to improve gameday and student experience

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The new bleachers will also impact the overall experience for fans. While there will be increased seating on the home bleachers, the total capacity of the stadium remains the same, according to Urban.

“[You] have to look at how we can get this in, in a very economical manner, to get the best product possible with the funds we have, and that brought into account some city codes; so, we had to keep our total capacity where it was, and so in order to add seats in the home side, to have a students section, and to do some cool things that way, we had to remove it on the visitors’ side,” Urban said.

The changes made to the home seating — which include every seat having a seat back, deeper rows and increased capacity — were made with the fan experience in mind, according to Urban.

“Talking to students across campus, a lot of them have stated, ‘We would like to be at the games, but there’s not a lot of room for the students and there are parents,[so] can we have more space?’” Urban said. “They didn’t want to sit on the visitors’ side.”

The game operations, coach boxes, press spaces and seating all makeup phase one of the stadium project. The budget for this portion of the project was 2.5 million dollars provided by the University.

Phase two of the bleachers refers to the new entertainment suite and roof deck patio above the game operations booth. The entertainment suite was specifically

requested by the Board of Trustees during the approval process of phase one for the purpose of hosting special guests on game days, according to Baker.

“I think it’s more of a University function, so if you’re connected to the University — you know, Board of Trustees, Alumni — on select dates you will have access to that level to either watch the game from the patio or inside the entertainment suite,” Baker said.

“Talking to students across campus, a lot of them have stated, ‘We would like to be at the games, but there’s not a lot of room for students and there are parents, [so] can we have more space?’”

JERHEME URBAN  
HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

While no donors contributed to phase one, the money for phase two of the project came from gift money earmarked for the Athletic department from donors, alumni and Board of Trustees members.

After the SAA canceled their fall season, the Tiger football team will have to wait at least another few months to debut their new home bleachers.

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at virtual large group worship  
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