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 The Office of
 Community Service &
 Civic Engagement
 Activities Fair
 Wednesday
 January 26th
 12-2pm
 In Mather Basement

Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement

Volume 1, Issue 1

Fall 2004

Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement

Friends Active in Civic Engagement and Service (FACES) By Tara Acton

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The Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement has formed a new group on campus called Friends Active in Civic Engagement and Service or FACES.

FACES is comprised of representatives from all groups on campus who participate in some sort of community service or civic engagement work.

The purpose of FACES is to provide student groups committed to service a place to meet and collaborate with other groups interested in the same things.

FACES Representatives meet the first Tuesday of every month to discuss upcoming events for the month and receive suggestions, feedback, and assistance with their programs

from other groups.

This past summer FACES members returned to school early to participate in a leadership training. This week long session focused on learning essential leadership and teambuilding skills as well as learning about Hartford area restaurants and historic places.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the training for students was the Capital Quest Treasure Hunt in which teams of students competed against each other trying to find and answer clues about the city of Hartford in the quickest amount of time.

Through this hunt students were able to learn, visit and explore places in downtown Hartford they normally would not take the

time to do or see themselves.

In addition FACES will be opening a lounge area in the old SLRC office which will include not only information about service projects but will also hold a Hartford Happenings corner which will run as a satellite site for the Hartford Welcome Center.

We in the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement believe the FACES group is a wonderful asset to the Trinity College community and are looking forward to watching it grow.

If you have questions about FACES or about the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement please stop by. We are located in the basement of Mather next to the bookstore.



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Adolescent Mentoring Program (AMP) By Naralys Estevez

AMP or the Adolescent Mentoring Program is a student run community service organization. In association with Career Beginnings, a college career preparation program for Hartford high school students and sponsored by the Hartford Consortium for Higher Education, we mentor middle and high school aged students at the Trinity Boys and Girls Club on Saturday mornings. During this time mentors and students eat breakfast, discuss

important issues, work on academics, and have recreational time together. This semester we've worked to build a stronger bond with the Bulkeley High School students through ice breaking games, sports, and other activities. We've had a series of small group discussions ranging from the drugs to race to the current situation in the Middle East. Next semester we intend to continue to strengthen the bond we've worked to build this se-

mester through more group discussions, recreation time, field trips to colleges and universities as well as a Uconn basketball game. Finally, we plan to implement a new part of the program - a math and language arts academic curriculum- that was developed during the Fall 2004 semester with the assistance of the Bulkeley High School guidance counselors.

Boys and Girls Club By Paula Guzman

During the past semester, Trinity students have been volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club, located at 1500 Broad Street in a program call Power Hour, an hour long homework intensive study period for Hartford elementary school kids. Children ages 5 to 13 come from 3:00pm to 4:00pm to work on their homework assignments alongside Trinity students, who help them with math, science, language arts and writing. By the end of the hour period, most of the children have all of their homework assignments completed with the help of a Trinity student.

Around 50-60 children come to the

Boys & Girls Club from 3:00pm to 6:00pm to do their homework during Power Hour and later participate in other recreational activities (basketball, arts & crafts, dance). There are currently 12 Trinity students who consistently volunteer week after week to help these kids during Powerhour. Most students who come to volunteer are freshmen, but there are a few upperclassmen and an exchange student from Russia. These students have been extremely committed to coming each week at least one hour to help these kids with their homework and their help is greatly appreciated.

For next semester, at the Boys & Girls, Power Hour will be running the same as this year. We hope to recruit more students for next term by holding another orientation session early on in the Spring 2005 Semester and getting students to continue from the fall semester to the spring.



Big Brother Big Sister By Sandy Tichnor

As of the Fall 2004 Semester, the Nutmeg Big Brother/Big Sister mentoring program takes place right on Trinity's campus! With the program on campus we now have a strong base of enthusiastic, committed volunteers from the Trinity community. This program allows Trinity students and children from Hartford to learn and grow from a one-on-one mentor/mentee relationship. The Trinity students, known as

"Bigs," act as consistent, positive role-models, and offer guidance, moral support and friendship to their "Littles." Every Thursday afternoon Trinity students and children from the Hartford community meet in LSC to do homework, play quiet games and participate in group activities. This past semester we hosted an acapella concert and monthly cultural presentations from the "Considering Cul-

tures through Community Connections" Summit Suite among other unique events. We welcome other student clubs and organizations to sponsor activities for our program. It is a fun-filled, rewarding experience for both the "Bigs" and the "Littles." Just spending one afternoon a week with a "Little" makes a huge difference in the life of that child!

Dr. Seuss Suite By Bao Pham

The Dr. Seuss Summit Suite focused on promoting interaction between the Trinity College community and children at the Montessori Magnet School through the work of Dr. Seuss. The Seuss Suite aims to develop improved literacy, patience, interac-



tive abilities, and other skill sets. At each visit, we read to the children followed by a fun-filled Seuss activity. For example, our most recent visit involved reading *A Great Day for Up* and having the children make their own kites. After the kites were made, the children eagerly went outside and ran around to make their kites fly. Our biggest event of the semester occurred in December in which we held a craft fair at the Montessori School. The children were led by Trinity buddies around various tables set up with

different craft projects.

If this sounds interesting to you and you would like to be more involved, we hold "Spectacular Seuss Shindigs" through out the semester to inform people more about the program and to brainstorm ideas about how we can enhance our programs. In the spring, we hope to continue to improve and expand the program by recruiting more Trinity students and faculty.

Annual Community Events Staff (ACES) By Andrea Leverant

The Annual Community Events Staff is more successful than ever! While our events benefit the Hartford community, they allow Trinity students to be involved at the same time. Our first event, Do It Day, kicked off the academic year with a day of service benefiting local organizations. With 320 students participating at 40 work-sites, it was a tremendous way to start off the 2004 school year.

Halloween on Vernon Street, the most widely recognized community service event on campus, welcomed over 500 children to trick or treat at various locations: Greek organizations, cultural houses, dormitories, Dean Alford's house, and WRTC. More than 30 students were involved in creating a safe environment to celebrate Halloween.

ACES also successfully ran Trinity's most ambitious annual Thanksgiving

food basket drive, which provided a turkey and all the fixing for families of the M.D. Fox Elementary School. The most families previously served by this project was 60, but this year



we helped 100 families. The Thanksgiving baskets, filled with the essentials such as turkey, stuffing and pie, allow everyone in the Trinity community to help including the generous donation of all 100 turkeys from Chartwells.

Finally we closed the Fall 2004 semester with our 9th annual Sponsor a Snowman Holiday Gift Drive. Members of the Trinity community are encouraged to buy new unwrapped gifts for children at the Hartford Interval House. ACES was given requests from 180 children, a 125% increase over any prior Sponsor-A-Snowman event. However, ACES was up to the task and recruited students, faculty and staff to help us meet our challenge. We give special thanks to Seuss Suite, Prof. Peltier's first year seminar, IDP students and the sophomore class all of which played a huge role in assisting us in exceeding our goal.

Look for more monthly events to come in 2005! Here is a preview: Soup-per Bowl Canned Food Drive, Auction for Charity and Fun Fair.

Avery Heights By Miriam Zichlin

For two hours each week, students leave campus to converse and mingle with residents of a nearby elderly home—Avery Heights—on New Britain Avenue. Avery Heights provides innovative programs from long-term resi-

dential care to day care programs. Students often listen to stories, participate in arts and crafts, hold sing along sessions, or serve tea and coffee during snack time. This program has been on and off for about 3 years, but

finally has a steady flow of students involved. This semester, five students visit Avery regularly and we look forward to more student membership in the new semester.

Peter's Retreat By Marion Protano

Peter's Retreat is a supportive AIDS housing community that is within walking distance of Trinity College. Although one or two students might have volunteered from time to time at Peter's Retreat, this is the first year the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement has been able to organize students to go there as a group. Peter's Retreat gives homeless people or people living in unsafe conditions who have HIV/AIDS a safe living environment as well as supportive services.

Every other Friday, volunteers from Trinity are seen raking leaves, mowing the lawn, or organizing and cleaning indoors. Our work has helped Ray

Long, the man in charge of all maintenance at Peter's Retreat. Volunteers also went to Peter's Retreat for First



Year community service pre-orientation and Do-It Day.

The volunteers' work has been greatly appreciated, especially that of Jona-

than Goins and Will Roble, who have been the most dedicated during the Fall 2004 semester.

We will be continuing our visits next semester, so if you are interested in coming, please contact Marion Protano at marionanna.protano@trincoll.edu. We meet at the Bistro at 2:45 p.m. and return around 5:00 p.m. The people who work and live at Peter's Retreat are welcoming and very appreciative of any and all assistance. Also, if you're interested in doing something else at Peter's Retreat, such as cooking or working more directly with the residents, we most likely will be able to arrange anything for you. We look forward to having you join us.

Mercy Housing Soup Kitchen By Alex Blair



This past semester a new soup kitchen program at Mercy Housing and Shelter was started. Visiting two

times a month, three or four students volunteer on Wednesdays from 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm. Transportation is provided. Upon arrival, the volunteers prepare the multi-course meal. Joe, the head cook, instructs on who should do what, involving each person in all steps of the cooking. At 5:00 p.m. the meal is served to the residents. Usually 30 to 40 people are

served. While some volunteers are serving, others are cleaning up the kitchen. By 6:00 p.m., all have eaten and it is time to leave. The shelter houses both men and women. This is a fabulous opportunity to get out into the community of Hartford and make a difference. The commitment is minimal, but the impact is great.

Mercy Housing Computer Program By Brian Lee

The goal of the Mercy Housing Computer program is to educate residents in basic computer skills in order to assist them in adapting to this increasingly digital world. Every Thursday, a group of Trinity students go to Mercy Housing and Shelter and teach residents computer skills such as using a mouse, word processing and email. It is hoped that with these new skills, the residents will have a greater

chance of getting a better job, communicating through the Internet and just living more educated lives.

Mercy Housing and Shelter has upgraded its computer facility with many new computers and therefore we have the opportunity to bring more volunteers into the program. We meet Thursdays at 7:00 pm and work with the residents for about an hour. If in-

terested, please contact Brian Lee at Brian.lee@trincoll.edu



Praxis By Nivia Nieves



Praxis is a residence-based community service program established by and for students with the purpose of creating an environment

that actively promotes and engages students in community involvement and building with the residence hall, on campus and with the Hartford

community. This year Praxis has teamed up with Professor Fred Pfeil's first year seminar *Resistance Today*.

Praxis members volunteer in individual community service projects averaging about 3 hours a week. As a group we participated in the all campus service project DO IT DAY, Halloween on Vernon Street (by transforming our building into a Haunted House for neighborhood children) and a nature area cleanup of Mary Hooker

elementary school with the Knox Parks Foundation. The first year seminar students have teamed up with Praxis on both Do It Day and Halloween on Vernon Street activities. In November Praxis held its annual GREAT PIE PROJECT, baking and delivering an estimated 450 pies to 11 local Hartford shelters for Thanksgiving Day. And in December Praxis organized a fundraiser to sponsor a local Hartford family in need of holiday gifts and dinner.

Graduation Pledge By Stacy Jankauskas

The Graduation Pledge was started in 1987 at Humboldt State University in California and now exists at over 100 other schools across the nation such as University of Wisconsin and Princeton. Joe Barber introduced the Pledge here at Trinity in 2001. The Pledge reads,

"I pledge to explore and take into account the social and environmental consequences of any job I consider and will try to improve these aspects of any organizations

for which I work."

This year, the Graduation Pledge Committee is trying to involve the entire campus in Pledge efforts so that the pledge becomes a long-lasting tradition at Trinity. Graduating seniors can sign the Pledge at a variety of events throughout the year or can stop by the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement at any time to sign the pledge. The committee is planning events for the spring such as a non-profit career fair and discus-

sions with past alumni/ae who have signed the Pledge.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the Graduation Pledge or have any questions about it, feel free to contact Stacy Jankauskas at stacy.jankauskas@trincoll.edu or come to committee meetings on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. in the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement (Mather Basement, next to the bookstore).

Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (ConnPIRG) By Mark Lemon

The Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (ConnPIRG) is a student and citizen activist group dedicated to serving the public interest. ConnPIRG has a 30 year track record of being a public watchdog group, advocating on a wide variety of consumer rights and environmental protection issues.

Next semester at Trinity College,

ConnPIRG will be working to ensure that 30 years of environmental protection laws are not rolled back at the federal level by illustrating public support for the issue; work to ensure that affordable higher education is available to students in Connecticut by conducting research on education and textbook prices and finding effective

ways to keep down costs; and working on grassroots volunteer efforts to fight hunger and homelessness here in Hartford.

ConnPIRG can be reached at Trinity College by phone at 297-3510 or by email at mlemon@connpirg.org.

Habitat For Humanity By Mia Wilkin



Trinity College's campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity is supporting the building of affordable houses in the Hartford area in many diverse ways. So far our group has raised money through such events as the sale of Collegiate Welcome Kits final exam care packages, as well as 50/50 raffles at football games and our 2nd annual Habitrot fun run. We are looking to hosting numerous fun events during the Spring 2005 Semester, which will allow us to raise funds to sponsor a house and support the work of Habitat for Humanity International.

The Second Annual Habitrot 5K Charity Fun Run, which took place Saturday, November 13th, unfortunately had a smaller turn-out than the prior year due in large part to the snow storm the night before the race. However on the positive side, the day ran much more smoothly. Several

Trinity organizations participated, namely Swimming and Diving, Women's Crew, and Alpha Chi Rho. Next year, to improve our strategy, we are hoping to publicize more at an earlier date.

Habitat for Humanity has several new projects underway. Our chapter's new large scale goal is to raise \$75,000 within the next two years to sponsor a complete house in Hartford. Dozens of other H.F.H. campus chapters around the country have also taken on this goal, including Central Connecticut State University and University of Hartford. Habitat for Humanity International has been quite gracious as to send one of our fundraising co-chairs to a couple of capacity-building conferences this past summer and fall to teach her how to go about this very ambitious goal. Small fundraisers, while they increase awareness of Habitat's presence on campus, are not very lucrative. For this reason, Habitat is looking to make major asks in the local Hartford community soon.

In addition to traditional fundraisers and our twice monthly local building, the Trinity community can look forward to several new events this year such as a "Who Can Hammer a Nail the Fastest?" competition, a talent show, a faculty cocktail party this spring and *Act! Speak! Build! Week*, formally Habifest, a weeklong nationwide student initiated week of advocating for affordable housing that has speakers and demonstrations, will take place this year April 3rd through 9th. Finally our campus chapter is planning its alternative spring break trip to Fort Myers site-build in Florida.

Hopefully our chapter will eventually soon start tithing our apportion of fundraising revenues to Habitat for Humanity International to help building affordable housing on a global scale.

If any of this sounds interesting to you, you are invited to our meetings at 9:00 pm on Monday in the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement.

Best Buddies By Lis Pennington

Best Buddies Colleges pair people with intellectual disabilities in one-to-one friendships with college students. A division of Best Buddies International, the Colleges program is active on over 360 campuses worldwide. The Trinity Best Buddies Chapter has matched 8 students in one-to-one friendships with people in the Hartford community with intellectual disabilities. Individuals with intellectual disabilities have often been excluded from many of the social opportunities that most people enjoy. By becoming

a volunteer, you are giving your Buddy the chance to explore a new way of life and you are gaining a great friend in the process!

College Buddies are committed to contacting their Buddy once a week by phone, e-mail or mail and going on 2 outings a month. So far this year, our Buddies have been to dinner, the movies, and attended a "Buddy Match" Party at Trinity. Our annual Thanksgiving Feast was held November 18th at the LVL house. Marty Laboy, Naralys Estevez, Haley Kim-

met, and Lis Pennington cooked a delicious Thanksgiving dinner for our 8 Buddy pairs and their friends and family! Along with their individual outings, Trinity Best Buddies plans an event once a month. We are looking forward to a Valentine's Day dinner in February, and the state-wide College gathering in March.

Hillel By Julie Hirsh

The mission of Hillel is to create a vibrant Jewish community that promotes positive identification to Judaism through Shabbat and Jewish holiday observances and an ongoing exploration of Jewish culture, history, the arts, Tikkun Olam (social justice) and our connection to Israel. The Hillel House, located on Vernon Street behind Campus Safety, is always open to all Trinity students and faculty members. Recent community service events include: Healing the world one stitch at a time knitting group, Sushi

at the Sukkah with Hillel and AASA (Asian-American Students Association), at which we made gift baskets for women's shelter, and our Channukah Book Drive for children. We are always doing new and exciting events.

This past semester, Hillel also had a film series, focusing on the plight of Jews during the Holocaust and the post-war era, often including Professor Pennybacker's post World War II class. The house also featured singers, artists, and filmmakers from around

the world to teach and inform about world-Jewish culture. Hillel provides students with services and festivities on Jewish holidays, and students are encouraged to participate in these events and contribute ideas and help. The house and community of Hillel is a second home to its members, serving as a warm and enriching environment. It is with a dedicated student board that Hillel succeeds in its goal of Tikkun Olam, repairing the world.

Amnesty International By Mary Lynch

Amnesty International (AI) is a worldwide, voluntary movement of people who campaign for human rights. Our vision is of a world in which every person enjoys all the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international standards. Our mission is to undertake research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of the rights to physical and mental integrity, freedom of conscience and expression and freedom from discrimination, within the context of our work to promote all human rights. As a campus chapter, we advocate for an increase of awareness and action against human rights abuses.

Our major project this semester has been developing a Youth Human Rights Curriculum. We have three committees: International Women's Issues, Domestic Issues/ Violence, and Basic Human Rights Foundations. We

worked all fall semester sharing ideas and doing research outside of meetings to prepare for this. Each committee developed introductory lessons and several games to play with the youth. The club planned a two part project with 8th graders at Hartford Magnet Middle School (HMMS) including a 50 minute lesson at the HMMS at the end of the semester. In the long term, we hope to train mentors to extend our lesson after school hours.

Our other big area of focus was on capital punishment. Along with SUSHI and VOID, A.I. sponsored speaker Robert Nave, the State Death Penalty Abolition Coordinator for Amnesty International here in Connecticut. He is spearheading the fight to abolish the death penalty in Connecticut and spoke at Trinity College on December 7th. Connecticut presently has several inmates on death row and one of them, Michael Ross, is sched-

uled to be executed early in 2005. Significantly, most of those awaiting the death penalty were prosecuted by a single zealous attorney in Waterbury. Mr. Nave spoke about death penalty issues in Connecticut and the importance of avoiding this precedent. On Friday, December 10, we participated in the state-wide anti-death penalty protest, which was followed by a march to the Capitol.

If you are interested in being involved with Trinity's Amnesty International chapter please contact

Michael.Aryee@trincoll.edu



The Lions Club By Anne Kim

Lions Club International is dedicated to helping the sensory impaired. As part of the largest international community service organization, the Trinity College Chapter (the first college chapter in New England) has been working hard to contribute to their mission. In the fall semester, we recruited new prospective Lions to help out at the annual charity fund-raiser at the Berlin Fair. Together we sold an unprecedented number of mums. Also, we sponsored a Peace Poster, working

with students from the Hartford Magnet Middle School, in hopes of winning the international contest.

The spring semester holds many opportunities for us. In addition to planning for our annual Wine and Cheese event, we are expecting to help out with a variety of charities and to some more fundraising. The Trinity College Lions Club hopes to be able to induct more active members so that we are a better able to contribute to our goal of

helping the sensory impaired. With the motto of, "we serve," the Lions Club hopes to contribute as much as possible to the Trinity community, local and the international communities.



American Medical Students Association (AMSA) By Marion Protano

The American Medical Students' Association (AMSA), a group for any Trinity student interested in a profession in health or learning more about health issues, has become more active in the community this year thanks to new leadership, including president Erealda Prendaj, and larger membership, especially with the Class of 2008.

This year we have already accomplished a great deal. We participated and helped organize Team Trinity for the 2004 AIDS Walk for AIDS Project Hartford, organized in part by Mark Silva. AMSA raised more than \$900 from individual fundraising and 50/50

raffles at the football games. AMSA helped SUSHI (Students to Unite Science and Humanitarian Interests) to set up the AIDS Benefit Concert in the Underground with Ryan Brodeur, the Whalers, and the Family, which raised \$550. Team Trinity in total raised over \$2,100, falling second only to Starbucks. This is more than triple of AMSA and SUSHI's fundraising efforts last year. In addition, Zeta and Office of Residential Life's Area 3 walked with us and we had over sixty walkers in total. The AIDS Walk was on October 23 at the MDC Reservoir. The money raised helps to provide free services to those in the Hartford area with HIV/AIDS.

AMSA is currently selling key chains and pens made by a family in Guatemala. The parents of the children died in a car accident so the only income the family has are the key chains and pens they make. The key chains are beaded animals, such as fishes and parrots, and are selling for \$3; the pens are \$2 and say peace or Guatemala on them. If you are interested in

buying them, please contact Angela McLaughlin, who has been leading this project.

AMSA's next large project for next semester is Relay for Life, an overnight team event to raise funds for cancer research. The walk is not until May, so we will be fundraising all of the Spring 2005 semester, including selling 50/50 raffles at the basketball games. If you are interested in walking or helping with fundraising efforts, please contact Amber Smith at x2661 or via e-mail at amber.smith@trincoll.edu.

AMSA is anticipating another exciting semester, filled with volunteer events as detailed above, and hosting health related speakers and dinner, as well as offering mentoring services to the younger classes. If you are interested in joining AMSA, contact Erealda Prendaj at x2675 or via e-mail at erealda.prendaj@trincoll.edu, or stop by at one of our meetings, held every Monday night at 8pm in the Science Commons Room in Clements.



Students to Unite Science and Humanitarian Interests (SUSHI) By Bao Pham

S.U.S.H.I. is a student run community service/human rights group that aims to link the fields of humanities and sciences and to help students to become strong leaders. One of our major projects during the Fall 2004 semester was an on campus HIV/AIDS advocacy and education initiative. In October we teamed up with other organizations, including AMSA, Zeta and the Office of Residential Life, to raise money and to organize a Team Trinity for the 2004 AIDS Walk. That same month, S.U.S.H.I. collected over 100 signatures for our open Editorial to the Hartford Courant in support of the Needle Exchange Program. In November S.U.S.H.I. organized World AIDS

Day on campus by creating a large visual display in front of Mather to show the number of children in the world who died from AIDS in 2003. The display was made up of 500 balloons, with each balloon representing 978 children.

S.U.S.H.I. also hosted Dr. John Inglis, Executive Director of the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, who spoke about the HIV/AIDS education project that he and his colleagues initiated in South Africa and, more generally, about how science and scientists can find an approach to education that differs from and complement other community-based efforts.

Besides our advocacy work this Fall, S.U.S.H.I. initiated Advocacy 101, in which we allotted time at the beginning of each meeting for our members to discuss and share tips on how to become strong leaders and run effective advocacy projects. In addition to continuing our AIDS/HIV advocacy work next semester, S.U.S.H.I. will also be working on environmental justice issues in the Hartford area and hope to get involved in more community outreach projects. We are always looking for new members so if you are interested in our mission and our projects please contact us at sushi@trincoll.edu

Voices Organized in Democracy (VOID) By Mark Witt

What has VOID been up to this year? Well, our focus in pursuing justice against the ills of corporate globalization took a turn back to the center to participate in the struggle against George Bush. With heartbreak and sorrow, I write this update, for the forces of good did not triumph November 2. We have four more years of injustice, outrage, denial, and lies. On the bright side, a new movement has begun and those who worked against Bush during the election will not stop. We will never surrender. Following is a brief description of the work VOID did to get Bush out of office and stimulate thought on campus.

We coordinated a series of anti-war demonstrations, including a Mather die-in and a very "well-received" piece

of political street theatre entitled "Chain of Command." We organized a student debate in collaboration with the College Republicans. Isaac Goldstein represented John Kerry and Mike Lanza, George Bush. The event was overflowing with registered student voters to the point of standing room only. In the weeks leading up to the election we all challenged our peers to really think about the significance of each individual vote. Then, for the 5 days leading up to the election VOID sent a contingent of 5 students to get out the vote in the crucial swing state of Ohio. We were in the Republican-leaning area of Cincinnati, but we managed to work with ACT and MoveOn to swing the numbers in that area. The energy and

drive of the movement was amazing to be a part of and with great perseverance and a little luck that hope will continue.

Sadly, our efforts were not enough. Bush triumphed. We responded to the "W Still the President" theme with a flurry of flyers along the same theme but amended with the devastating economic, social, and environmental travesties we can expect over the next four years.

Solidarity! Keep up the struggle! The arc of justice is long!

Green Campus By Vickie Kong

Green Campus wants to see Trinity a “greener” place. We have worked mainly on three ongoing projects to reduce the environmental impact of waste on campus. We have strengthened the recycling system by making more receptacles available and installing additional recycling centers in some of the dorms. Our second project has been to get more renewable energy for Trinity’s electricity needs by purchasing energy for big College events, such as Homecoming and Commence-

ment, with one of our major successes this year was “Green Homecoming.” With the help of faculty, staff and other student organizations, we were able to raise enough money to purchase green energy certificates to offset the energy use on campus for the weekend. Along with this project, we also worked with the fraternities and sororities to provide extra recycling bins around Vernon Street, as well as using biodegradable cups throughout the weekend.

Our third project is “Project Clean Plate,” an on-going effort to reduce food waste on campus. When Green Campus’s effort in Spring 2004 made an impact, our food service provider, Chartwells, donated to local charities and homeless shelters.

We look forward to building on this work during Spring 2005. If you would like to join us or just want more information, please contact Vickie Kong at Victoria.kong@trincoll.edu

Encouraging Respect of Sexuality (EROS) By Elsa Crowley

EROS stands for Encouraging Respect Of Sexualities and is also known as the Gay-Straight Alliance on campus. We are students of all sexualities. That means yours too! Any Trinity student can become a member of EROS, and we encourage every student to do so! EROS does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, physical handicap, or sexual orientation. All you need is an interest in GLBT issues and an open mind.

EROS sponsors many events throughout the year. Our first event this year was a chalking, the goal of which was to raise awareness of

GLBT issues. On October 13, 2004, EROS sponsored the Rally Against Hate, supporting the Trinity community by standing up against all forms of hate and hate-crimes. Early this Fall EROS and CLEO worked together to put on the “Gender Bender” party. It was a great success! On November 2, 2004, some EROS members worked with “Love Makes a Family” to inform voters at the polls. Also, Wednesday, November 17 through Sunday, November 21 was the EROS Film Festival at Cinestudio.

EROS is always looking for service opportunities. So feel free to contact us if you need our help!

EROS can also be reached at eros@trincoll.edu. All emails will be treated with the utmost confidentiality (anonymous emails are welcome) and be responded to as soon as possible. Our phone number is (860)987-6273. Messages are checked on a regular basis while school is in session (for summer email is best).

Meetings are held twice a month on Sundays at 8:00 PM. These meetings take place at the EROS House on 114 Crescent Street. For precise information regarding meetings subscribe to the EROS emailing list by emailing eros@trincoll.edu.

Asian American Students Association (AASA) By Priya Kalyan-Masih

The Asian American Students Association (AASA) is a multicultural group that promotes Asian cultural awareness on campus and in the Hartford community. We meet every Sunday at 7:00 p.m. at the AASA House located at 65 Vernon Street. Our meetings have consisted of events and formal discussions. We have social events such as Diwali and Ramadan which bring Asian religious

awareness to our Trinity community. We also have events with other organizations such as Hillel where we celebrated the religious season of Sukkot and made baskets to give to the Interval House. This past November we had our annual dance party which was a big success.

The pro-active focus of this semester has been on the issue of women’s rights in Asia, specifically sex-

trafficking. We had a discussion about this at our meeting and have taken it on as a year-long goal to promote awareness. Next semester we plan to have an Asian Bazaar where we will be selling foods and goods from across Asia. We plan to donate these funds to Dr. Cynthia’s Clinic. We will also be having a speaker next semester which will focus on women’s sex trafficking in Asia.

The Women Center By Laura Lockwood

The Women's Center sponsored groups do a number of projects which provide assistance and service to community groups and non-profits in Frog Hollow and other Hartford neighborhoods.

The Sexual Assault Task Force and SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) sponsor a production of the Vagina Monologues each February, and donate proceeds to the Interval House, a domestic violence shelter. Promoting Healthy Awareness of the Body (PHAB) conducts an annual

"Skinny Jeans" drive to help students appreciate their bodies and learn to have a healthy body image. Clothes are donated to My Sister's Place, a shelter and transitional housing program for women and children located on Pliny Street, Hartford.

The Trinity Women's Organization (TWO) has conducted a drive for items needed by women recently released from prison, in coordination with the Resettlement Program in Hartford.

The Women's Center helps guide interested students to volunteer at the Family Resource Center at the Learning Corridor, and Jubilee House, near the College, to help Frog Hollow residents practice and learn English. The Women's Center also provides space to the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival committee which sponsors the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival at Cinestudio each June. In addition, all Women's Center educational programs are open to the public.

Alpha Delta Phi (AD) By William Denniston

Fall Habitat for Humanity House Building Project

Alpha Delta Phi has been working in a joint effort with Habitat for Humanity for several years now. One Saturday per semester all of the AD brothers get together at a job site to build houses with the local Habitat affiliate. During the Spring 2004 Semester we worked with Hillel House to get more people at the same job on the same day and to spend time with another organization while giving back to the community. It was a good bonding experience both among the brothers and with those in the Hillel House.

Halloween on Vernon Street

Organized by ACES, this event is a tradition among the Greek organizations at Trinity. Each organization sets up carnival type games and decorates their houses in a festive manner. Trinity volunteers bring kids from house to house to play the games and win candy. It gives the children a chance to trick-or-treat in this part of Hartford in a safe, secure environment.

Fifth Graders go to College

Every spring the AD brothers get into contact, through Joe Barber, with a Fifth grade class from a local school. The students arrive around ten when they are split into two groups and led on a tour of the campus by volunteers, including members of AD. There are a few professors that work with us in setting up "exhibits" for the fifth graders, such as the robotic lab. Following their tour the two groups are rejoined in the gymnasium where a massive basketball game is held. Typically all the students like to join together and challenge the brothers; they always win. To conclude their day they are taken to Mather Hall for an informative late lunch where they are able to ask the brothers questions about college and how to get there. Following their lunch they return to the bus and resume their schooling, hopefully driven to go to college.

Plans for the Future

Over the course of the past few semesters, we have been looking for a specific organi-

zation for AD to develop a lasting relationship with. Though we have been active in the community in the past, it has been in a series of projects for various groups. Over the past few months, through the efforts of various members of AD, in conjunction with Joe Barber, we have finally found such an organization. The West End Community Center, located on Farmington Avenue, has set-up various programs to cater to the needs of the people living in the west end of Hartford. One of their programs is an after school program for local children. Five days a week from 3:00pm to 5:00pm the Center provides supervised study and play. We have joined in this effort and, beginning next semester, members of AD will be helping to run this program. In addition we are undertaking various upkeep and repair projects around the center. We have high hopes for this program, as well as all of the others that we at AD continue to participate in.

Kappa Kappa Gamma By Sandra Tichnor

Our Chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma is a strong group of women on campus who demonstrate active commitment to community service and campus-wide projects. We urge community service organizations to come to us for support! We host an on-going book drive and have been involved with Connectikids, a mentoring program, in order to promote literacy. Among other community service projects such as the AIDS Walk, HungerClean-up, and various ACES projects, we annually co-sponsor the campus-wide philanthropy project, Halloween on Vernon Street, and participate in the Breast Cancer Walk which takes place outside the State Capitol each fall.

Book Drive: Recently our interna-

tional organization adopted Reading Is Fundamental [RIF] as its Fraternity-wide philanthropy. We host an on-going a book drive to promote literacy, especially to our nation's under-served children, and to encourage youth to read regularly. We welcome donations from the Trinity community at large to support this cause.

Connectikids: All members of our organization (who do not have academic conflict or participate in another mentoring program) tutor fourth and fifth grade students at Fox Elementary school on Thursday afternoons from 3:30-4:45. It is a great opportunity to service and reach out to the Hartford community.

Breast Cancer Walk: Every October during Breast Cancer Awareness month our chapter participates in the annual Breast Cancer Walk in Hartford. Each member collects a minimum of \$30 in pledges and this year we raised over \$2,100 to support the cause. As a strong, female-dominated organization on campus we annually carry on this tradition and urge all Trinity College students to join us.

Halloween on Vernon Street: We annually support ACES Halloween on Vernon street project. We co-sponsor Halloween on Vernon Street with Psi Upsilon and work to create a fun, safe Halloween environment for Hartford children.

Pi Kappa Epsilon (PIKE), Epsilon Alpha Chapter By Christopher Giacalone

The brothers of the Epsilon Alpha chapter of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity have been active participants in a variety of community service projects this semester. With twenty brothers currently on campus, we have thus far totaled 188 hours.

As a brotherhood, we typically participate in several large community service projects each semester. This semester, there have been three such events: fourteen brothers partook in Do-It Day, helping with the landscaping of the Knox Parks Community garden and surrounding grounds; twelve members volunteered their time to attend a full-day Habitat for Humanity build in Hartford; and six were present at Halloween on Vernon Street playing card games and giving out candy to the hundreds of local

children who attended.

Outside of these three events, brothers also independently pursue community service opportunities. Several brothers helped recycle at the Hart-



ford Marathon, and two brothers played at the Underground Coffee House AIDS Benefit Concert, donating their earnings of 300 dollars to the Hartford AIDS Walk. One brother

has been volunteering at Peter's Retreat, a Hartford AIDS residence organization, every other week, another helps out with a local middle school youth group and another helped with the Connecticut Public Television Wine Auction to raise money for broadcasting.

For the up coming semester, Pike will actively pursue more community service opportunities and strive to partake in as many volunteer projects as possible. We already are planning to have a murder mystery fundraising party in conjunction with the Trinity Forensics Club and we plan to help with the annual Fun Fair in April. The brotherhood is also open to any suggestions and advice regarding upcoming community service endeavors that we could contribute to.

Alpha Chi Rho By Carlos Baz

In the spring of '04 the brothers of Alpha Chi Rho participated, along with several other Greek organizations, in the Goodwin Park Cleanup event. This was part of the ConnPIRG Hunger Clean Up effort to fight hunger and homelessness. 75% attendance was easily attained as we spent nearly 3 hours picking up trash throughout the park and golf course.

At different times throughout the fall 04' semester AXP ("Crow") has participated in three different community service ventures, each benefiting different aspects of the Hartford community.

On October 24th of this year Crow participated, along with many other Trinity Greeks, in Halloween on Vernon Street (HOVS). HOVS is an event which benefits the immediate community surrounding our campus. The goal of HOVS is to provide a safe and entertaining Halloween experience for local children. During the event, a number of members volunteered to chaperone groups of the chil-

dren around Vernon Street to the various places where they could do some trick-or-treating and enjoy delightfully decorated haunted houses. In addition to our members that were busy chaperoning, we also had a half dozen members inside the Party Barn running a game of "Three Card Monty" in which the children that visited the booth were able to play, and receive candy for winning. Needless to say, none of the children left our booth empty handed. We also offered the children an opportunity to meet and greet our pet bantam, Little Jerry Seinfeld.

The following Sunday 27 members of our organization participated in the Regatta for Breast Cancer Research sponsored by Yale University. The Regatta was held in Essex, Connecticut at the Essex Yacht Club. Among the duties that we performed while volunteering at the Regatta were loading and unloading boats participating in the Regatta, setting up the outdoor

dining facility, and assisting in the morning food service at the event. One of our members even raced in the Regatta, taking fifth place in the 420 division. While this event did not directly benefit the Hartford community, it did allow us to participate in a most worthwhile cause, and allowed us to positively represent Trinity College to both the Essex community, and members of Yale University.

Finally, our organization has been involved in a semester long community service project called CrowWalk. On Thursday and Saturday nights our organization provides Trinity students who feel unsafe or students that are unable to get home on their own a safe and sober escort to wherever they need to go. A number of students have made use of our service, but for those who were unaware of the service all that they need to do is come by our house which is located at 156 Allen Place, or call the CrowWalk hotline, 860-369-8645.

Psi Upsilon By Keith Clark

The Trinity's Beta Beta Chapter was recently recognized by Psi Upsilon International with the "Clasped Hands Award" for Philanthropy and Service for our efforts in the Spring of 2004.

Over 74 potential donors joined the brothers of Psi Upsilon on October 26th for the Trinity Fall Blood Drive. That resulted in 50 productive units of blood. Since each unit can help save 3 lives ...that's 150 patient lives that will be touched over the next few months. Our donor show rate increased from 50% to 75%. Will Strong, Josh Feldman, Andrew Taubman, Ian Hopping and Kevin O'Regan, among others, led the efforts in the weeks leading up to the event. This was the most successful Blood Drive so far for Psi U and we look for-

ward to the Drive in the Spring.

In addition to the Blood Drive, Psi U participated in Halloween on Vernon Street on Sunday, October 24th. It is an event held each fall where houses open up for trick or treating to the kids from around the area. Psi U's first floor was decoratively spooked out and turned into a haunted house. According to a student teacher, the big yellow house was the buzz for the elementary students in the area. Todd Morrison was instrumental in organizing the event, among many other brothers who enjoyed the days festivities with the children of Hartford.

For the spring, in addition to the Blood Drive, we look forward to the Hunger Clean Up. During the Hunger Clean Up last year, all available brothers took part in the event and

spent their Saturday at the YMCA downtown and a community church. In the weeks leading up to it, Keith Clark raised over \$850 for the cause. This money was donated by faculty, administrators and local young professionals in Hartford. Keith was recognized at the Honors Day Ceremony in May with the St. Anthony Hall Community Service Award (recognizing excellent community service done by a member of a fraternity or sorority). A \$1,000 donation was made to the Red Cross in recognition of his efforts.

So, keep a look out for these events and more coming up in the Spring. We need more donors for the Blood Drive and hope other students will join us in events like the Hunger Clean-Up.

IVY By Katherine Gage

The Ivy Society is a women's Greek organization founded on principles of leadership and involvement within the community. We have 42 members total, and 30 present this past fall. Over the past year the Ivy Society has participated in many community services including annually held activities that have become important traditions for our organization.

For one of our annual activities, Ivy joins Alpha Delta Phi in hosting Halloween on Vernon Street. On the Sunday before Halloween we welcome children from the local community to go "trick or treating" around the house playing fun games, winning candy and getting their faces painted by our members.

Another annual tradition we took part in this year was the ACES Thanksgiving Basket program. For two days (the Saturday and Sunday before Thanksgiving), sisters packed and delivered food baskets for 100 families of children at the M.D. Fox Elementary

School. These baskets included all the fixings for a customary Thanksgiving dinner as well as a turkey donated by Chartwells.

Ivy has participated in numerous small-scale events over the past year such as "Green Homecoming" where we purchased easily recyclable cups through Green Campus and collected recyclable garbage in bins distributed by the school in order to help reduce waste throughout the weekend. Ivy sisters also volunteered to participate in Psi Upsilon's annual Blood Drive in October as well as the ACES Sponsor-A-Snowman this December where each member buys a child the present they requested for the holidays.

Last April, Ivy's entire membership spent a Saturday cleaning up a local park in Hartford for ConnPIRG's 20th annual Hunger Cleanup. The Ivy Society's involvement in the Hunger Clean-up, contributed to Trinity's turnout for the event being 2nd highest in the country this year, and the best

in Trinity's history. Together with other Greek organizations at Trinity, Ivy also helped raise money to help fight the rising problems of hunger and homelessness through sponsorships and donations.

This spring the Ivy Society is organizing weekly volunteering programs through the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement. All sisters will dedicate at least two hours each week to either volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club or participating in neighborhood beautification projects around Hartford.

As a small but strong group of Trinity women, the members of the Ivy Society will continue to lead and take part in activities to help the greater Hartford community. While our community service program is a fundamental component of our organization, Ivy has also taken an active role within the campus to help educate students about the many issues facing members of the Trinity community.

Sigma Nu By Ned Lipes

Sigma Nu has been and will continue to be very successful in our involvement with the local community. We have participated in numerous school sponsored activities over the past year and we are planning some of our own community service activities for next semester.

Earlier this semester Sigma Nu participated in the school sponsored "Do it Day". On Do it Day, our fraternity gave back to the community by painting a fence that surrounded the South Congregational Church of Hartford. The church was very appreciative of the job that we did. Later in the semester, Sigma Nu participated in Halloween on Vernon Street. We set up a game in Vernon Social Center that allowed older and younger chil-

dren to enjoy themselves and win candy. Our brothers acted as chaperones for the children from the local community and helped them enjoy their time by accompanying them to the different activities that were offered in many places on Vernon Street. Recently, Sigma Nu participated in the Thanksgiving Food Basket drive. We provided three cars and used them to deliver numerous turkeys and boxes of food to families who needed them for their Thanksgiving celebration.

In the spring semester, Sigma Nu has plans to give back to the community outside of participating in The Boys & Girls Club Power Hour, where volunteers come down to their center to tutor and spend time with children

for an hour. We plan to have one hundred percent participation in this activity, for we believe it would be extremely beneficial to the children of our local community. Sigma Nu is also planning on participating in a joint effort with Green Campus to raise awareness of the benefits of recycling. One of our brothers lives in a recycling dorm as a part of theme housing, and we plan on using this advantage in creating our program.

Sigma Nu has very motivated brothers who are intent on helping the community as much as we can. We hope to do everything we can to make our surrounding area a better place to live.