

Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement

Volume 1, Issue 2

Spring 2005

What is citizenship and why does it matter? by Joe Barber

Inside this issue:

Youth Programs	2-3
Elderly Programs	3
Human Rights & Activism	4-5
Housing	5
Environment	6
Intellectual Disabilities	6
Campus Groups	7-10
AIDS Programs	11
Greek Organizations	11-13
2005-2006 Events at a Glance	14

Most college and university mission statements contain declarations regarding the preparation of students to lead lives as responsible citizens. For example, the mission of Trinity College states, in part, that its "paramount purpose is to foster critical thinking, free the mind of parochialism and prejudice, and prepare students to lead examined lives that are personally satisfying, civically responsible, and socially useful."

Moreover, American higher education has deep roots in the concept of the importance of civic education, as many of American colleges were established for the purpose of general education, character building, and civic training. As Benjamin Franklin once wrote, the goal of the American college was to serve society by cultivating in young people "an Inclination join'd with an Ability to serve."

However, one often hears or is involved in debates as to whether or not American institutions of higher education take seriously the civic aspects of their missions. Many would argue that higher education has become increasingly and dangerously positioned as merely a place to prepare and credential young people for the marketplace. What the student will be able to do with his/her major or his/her degree in general, is a continual concern that one hears often within the realm of higher education.

While such a concern should not be dismissed, too much emphasis on it can result in a situation in which our institutions of higher education are placing narrowly focused, self-absorbed graduates into society. Such a circumstance is hazardous because the type of society that may eventually result is one that does not value

the pursuance of knowledge for the betterment of humanity, the conception of the public sphere and what it means to be a citizen, and the creation of individuals that possess a true sense of community.

All of this matters because our society is characterized as being "of the people, by the people, and for the people." This being the case, an involved national people—its citizens—are this society's most important component. True citizenship is a philosophy and a way of life—a combination of thought and action—described by citizen advocate and Connecticut native Ralph Nader as an "awareness of the ability of individuals to shape their culture [and] to have an impact on the economic and political institutions that influence their lives," in such a way that people know "how to influence city hall, how to relate to

continued to page 14

Contact Information for the Office of Community Service & Civic Engagement

Director:	Joe Barber	(860) 297-4256	jbarber@trincoll.edu
Graduate Assistant:	Sarah Hoyle	(860) 297-2383	sarah.hoyle@trincoll.edu
VAMP/Rising Stars Program Coordinator	Kathleen McLean	(860) 297-2160	kathlenn.mclean@trincoll.edu
ConnPIRG Organizer:	Louise Bhavnani	(860) 297-3510	louise@connpirgstudents.org
Dream Camp Program Coordinator:	Melissa Soroka	(860)- 987-6209	msoroka@esfcamps.com

Adolescent Mentoring Program (AMP) by Naralys Estevez

The spring semester was an exciting one for AMP. New mentor and mentee matches were made and the pairs worked hard together on academic math and reading lesson plans. With guidance from their Trinity mentors, mentees wrote their own poems, stories and interpretations of art work, and practiced reading comprehension. In addition, students enhanced their

math skills by working on percentage problems, fractions and scientific notation.

As a group, AMP took a tour of Trinity College and mentors showed mentees dorms and classrooms so they could get a feel for what it would be like to attend Trinity. At the end of April, the pairs attended the annual Fun-Fair sponsored by TCAC/ACES

and joined in on a variety of activities. Both mentees and mentors were sad to say goodbye at the end of the semester, but all are looking forward to another great semester in the fall.

For more information about AMP, please contact Naralys Estevez at naralys.estevez@trincoll.edu

Boys and Girls Club by Paula Guzman

This spring Trinity students continued to spend their time volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club on Broad Street. During the week, between 50-60 children came to the Boys & Girls Club from 3-6pm to do their homework and then participate in recreational activities like basketball, arts & crafts, dance.

One of the most successful activities was Powerhour, an hour long, homework intensive study period in which Trinity students helped local elementary school children with math, science, language arts, and writing. By the end of the hour, most of the kids had all of their homework assignments completed thanks to the help of our

student volunteers.

The Trinity students who participated were extremely committed to helping these children with their homework every week. There were 15 consistent Powerhour volunteers, and as a group, Trinity students logged a total of volunteer 138 hours at the Boys & Girls Club this semester alone! Volunteers ranged from freshmen to seniors and included members of organizations like AD, Ivy, and Psi U. Our most dedicated volunteers this past semester were Adrienne Lesser, Jennifer Moor and Dan Glickberg.

During the fall semester Powerhour will run the same as it did this year. We hope that our volunteers who

are underclassmen will continue to participate in the fall and that we can recruit even more students by holding an orientation session early in September.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Boys & Girls Club or would like more information, please contact Paula Guzman at paula.guzman@trincoll.edu



Big Brother/ Big Sister by Sara Glassman

During the spring semester the Nutmeg Big Brother/ Big Sister program continued to be held right on our campus. Trinity volunteers ("bigs") met their "littles" at the Life Sciences Center every Thursday afternoon and spent time together doing homework, playing board games, and participating in fun group activities. Once a month, the "Considering Cultures through Community Connections" theme hous-

ing students joined us and used fun, interactive activities to teach "littles" about different world cultures.

These mentor/ mentee relationships provide each "little" with a positive role-model who offers them guidance, encouragement, and friendship. Now that the program is held at Trinity, "bigs" are even better able to show their "littles" how amazing college life is and help them realize that if

they work hard, they can enroll in a college like Trinity. Big Brother/ Big Sister is a rewarding experience for everyone involved.

For more information about the program, please contact Sara Glassman at sara.glassman@trincoll.edu

Dr. Seuss Suite By Emily Hubert



The Dr. Seuss Theme Suite had a productive spring semester. Our after-school reading program at the Montessori School in the Learning Corridor continued and we shared many Dr. Seuss stories with the children. We also made our program even more interactive by following our read-

ings with group discussions and arts and crafts activities that were related to the story.

We had our own table at the annual TCAC/ACES Fun Fair and gave the children the chance to make tissue paper flowers, yarn and bead necklaces, or their own “wockets” (the creatures from Seuss’s book *There’s a Wocket in My Pocket*) out of styrofoam and pipe cleaners. The day proved to be a lot of fun and the kids came away with some very decorative creations!

The Seuss Suite is looking forward to continuing and taking on even more activities next semester.

If you are interested in the Dr. Seuss Suite and would like more information, please contact Emily Hubert at emily.hubert@trincoll.edu

Burns Elementary ESL Program by Alexandra Blair

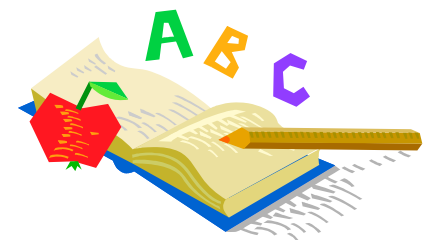
The 2004-2005 school year was a successful one for the new Youth ESL (English as a Second Language) Theme Housing Program. Initiated by Alexandra Blair, Anna Stevens, and Kristen Hayashi, Trinity students boarded a Datco shuttle bus every Monday and Wednesday and worked with children in the Dominick F. Burns Elementary School ESL (English as a Second Language) program.

One of the school’s primary goals is increased English proficiency. Working with 3rd to 6th graders, Trinity tutors worked to improve the youngsters’ English by playing educational games, telling stories, and engaging

them in conversation. The program held a strong attendance throughout the spring semester and the students exhibited significant growth in knowledge and comfort level in their speaking ability.

At the end of the semester, a field trip was arranged and the Burns students came to Trinity so that they could see where their tutors go to school. The children were amazed by the campus and several expressed their desire to attend Trinity some day. Hopefully, with the college students’ continued involvement with the youth of Hartford, this dream could one day become a reality.

For more information about the Youth ESL Program at Burns Elementary School, please feel free to contact Liz Hellman at elizabeth.hellman@trincoll.edu



Avery Heights by Miriam Zichlin

Volunteering at Avery Heights took a new direction this semester. A newly developed sorority on campus, Zeta Omega Eta, has and will continue to manage this project as their own. While volunteering at Avery Heights is not exclusive to Zeta members, our only volunteers this semester belonged to the sorority.

This spring we held two training sessions at Avery Heights with about 15-20 volunteers at each one. In total, we had about 35 steady volunteers who spent two hours a week visiting with Avery Heights’s elderly residents. This semester was a successful and enjoyable one at Avery Heights and we have many new activities

planned for the fall. If you are interested in volunteering at Avery Heights or would like more information, please contact Kara Carvalho at kara.carvalho@trincoll.edu

Voices Organized in Democracy (VOID) by Ben Schacht

VOID (Voices Organized in Democracy) is a student activist group that is committed to bringing social and political change and awareness not only to the Trinity College community, but also to the broader local, state, and national communities. VOID pursues a generally left-wing agenda, but encourages students of all opinions to come in for discussion and dialogue.

Last year, VOID opposed the occupation of Iraq and the abuses at Abu Gharib by staging a "die-in" outside of Mather Hall and a political satire called "Chain of Command" on the Long Walk.

As the election season came into full swing, VOID canvassed the campus with posters that outlined key issues in the presidential contest and

encouraged students to vote. VOID also collaborated with the Trinity College Republicans to present a presidential



debate in which two students represented John Kerry and George W. Bush. The event was extremely well attended and received.

At the beginning of the spring semester, VOID played an important role in the Chartwells contract negotiations. Members of VOID worked with many of the outstanding Chartwells employees who prepare our food every day to coordinate events to help preserve their health care and basic rights.

This is only a sample of what VOID has done and will continue to do in the future. With new members and new energy, VOID can accomplish even more. For more information about VOID please contact Ben Schacht at benjamin.schacht@trincoll.edu

Students to Unite Science & Humanitarian Interests (SUSHI) by Jessica Hart

This past year Students to Unite Science and Humanitarian Interests (SUSHI) aggressively continued to advocate for recognition of the AIDS pandemic. Among other things, we researched the successes of needle-exchange programs and learned about the arguments for and against this controversial program. We then wrote an editorial to the Hartford Courant in support of Hartford's needle-exchange program.

In addition, we participated in an AIDS Walk to raise money for AIDS Project Hartford, the non-profit organization that runs Hartford's needle-exchange program. We solicited individual donations and held a well-attended benefit concert in the Underground Coffee House that raised over \$1000 dollars for the cause.

On World AIDS Day, on December 1st, we created a visual that demonstrated the unequal distribution

of the disease's victims, blowing up balloons to represent a certain number of people, and each country had a distinctive color. This display emphasized that almost all of the world's AIDS cases reside in sub-Saharan Africa. To accompany this display, we petitioned our legislators (with hundreds of student signatures) to support more funding for AIDS research and care.

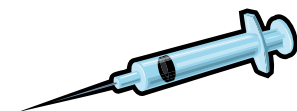
SUSHI was very active during Trinity AIDS Week. We held a week-long telethon in which we sat outside Mather Dining Hall during meal times and we presented students with the reasons to support President Bush's plan to give money to the Global AIDS Fund and then encouraged them to call their senators. We also "chalked" AIDS statistics throughout the campus and displayed AIDS-information posters around the campus. At the end of the week, we held an AIDS benefit concert with WRTC (Trinity's radio sta-

tion).

Finally, we invited Greg Rowe, an HIV+ poet/activist, to speak to the group. He inspired our club in many ways, and told us not only about his experiences as an HIV+ person, but he also about the most effective ways for us to advocate for the cause.

This year our club created positive waves on this college campus, uniting art and science, local issues and international issues. For more information about SUSHI, please feel free to contact Jessica Hart at

jessica.hart@trincoll.edu



Amnesty International (AI) by Mike Aryee

The ultimate goal of Amnesty International (AI) is to foster student activism in the area of human rights. Our emphasis is not only on the most grave and salient issues of our time, but also on those that interest students the most. Through our partnerships with organizations such as Oxfam International, we pursue a broad range of human rights issues and motivate the Trinity student body to take action.

AI's major programs for the semester included events organized around Oxfam's Fair-Trade Action Week in April. On April 7th, the anniversary of the start of the Sudan genocide, we joined MTV and numerous colleges and universities around the nation in a candlelight vigil to honor Darfur's dead. The event also included

an educational lecture by Chris Doucot of the Hartford Catholic Worker (who traveled to Sudan in mid-April to bring food, water, and soccer balls), performances by a Sudanese cultural group, and testimonials that highlighted the people and culture of Sudan.

The Sudanese vigil was followed by a fair-trade fashion show that took place on April 8th. The runway was graced with volunteer models from various Greek organizations, multicultural groups, and a capella groups all showing off fair-traded clothing from Katherine Hamnett and Bono's new Edun line, as well as donations from CK Bradley and Maax. The show was followed by a silent auction to benefit Oxfam's "make trade fair" campaign.

The aim of our chapter of Amnesty International is to debunk the perception of youth ignorance and apathy by building a student body that is socially conscious and powerfully driven around issues of human rights.

If you would like to become involved in AI or would like more information, please contact Mike Aryee at michael.aryee@trincoll.edu or Lindsey Moore at lindsey.moore@trincoll.edu



Habitat for Humanity by Patty Allen

The Trinity College Chapter of Habitat for Humanity encourages students, faculty, and staff to join in a movement that has created more than 100,000 houses for needy families in 60 countries since 1976. Over the years, Trinity volunteers have contributed to many of the 118 homes built in the greater Hartford area. Moreover, Trinity Habitat's scope reaches well beyond Connecticut, with its members having traveled as far as Albuquerque, NM ('02), Miami, FL ('03), and New Orleans, LA ('04) in past years as part of the Habitat's Spring Break Collegiate Challenge.

This past spring, Trinity Habitat volunteers opted once more to forgo the traditional spring break experience, venturing to Florida to provide adequate and affordable housing to families in Fort Myers, Florida.

Trinity Habitat also kept busy this spring by sponsoring its 4th annual Act! Speak! Build! Campaign (formerly known as "Habifest"), a student-initiated week of events designed to raise awareness about homelessness and advocate for affordable housing. The week included opportunities to learn about housing and poverty issues that are specific to Connecticut and attend lectures given by guest speakers like Kate Kelly of the Connecticut Partnership for Strong Communities.

In addition, Trinity Habitat co-sponsored a candlelight vigil with Amnesty International and hosted a nail guessing game, which



provided a grand prize of a \$50 gift certificate to Hot Tomatoes. Though Act! Speak! Build! Week is always an important item on the chapter's agenda, members strive to advocate and educate Trinity students year-round.

In addition to our many building and advocacy projects, Trinity Habitat members coordinate and help out with popular fundraising events like 50/50 sports raffles, Final Exam Kits, and the annual Trinity Habitrot fun run. The "Habitrot", which is usually held in the fall, is a 5k race that raises money to sponsor the construction of Habitat homes in Hartford. Over the course of the past two years, many organizations, like

Kappa Kappa Gamma, the Ultimate Frisbee team, and the men's and women's swim teams, and women's crew team, have banded together to make the run.

Fundraising is very important to Trinity Habitat. In the fall of 2004, we set the goal of raising \$50,000 by 2007 so that we can sponsor our second home in Hartford. All proceeds from fundraisers like the Habitrot go toward achieving the chapter's challenging fundraising goal.

For more information about the Trinity College Chapter of Habitat for Humanity or to learn how to get involved, contact Joe Barber (joseph.barber@trincoll.edu) in the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement or check out our website at <http://trinityhabitat.tripod.org>.

Green Campus by Vickie Kong

Green Campus worked hard during the 2005 spring semester to make the Trinity community more environmentally aware and responsible. Our main goal for the term was to reduce the amount of waste on our campus. One of the ways we did this was by launching Project Clean Plate. To encourage students to reduce food waste in Mather dining hall, we gave out a piece of candy or a ticket to enter the Clean Plate Raffle (to win prizes from the bookstore, local restaurants, or Best Buy) every time they brought a "clean plate" to the tray-take-away line. By the end of the semester, Green Cam-

pus was able to reduce the food waste in Mather by 43% per night.

During the month of April, we launched an initiative in which all of the campus coffeehouses gave a 25 cent discount on coffee to people who brought their own reusable mugs. For Earth Day, April 22, Green Campus hosted a variety of events, including the planting of the "2005 Earth Day Tree" behind the Williams Memorial Building, and the purchase of 90,000 kwh of pure renewable wind energy to offset Trinity's normal consump-

tion for the day. In addition, we hosted a Connecticut River clean-up event at Hurd State Park which was sponsored by Tom's of Maine.



Green Campus also coordinated some events with Chartwells, the school's food service provider. We worked with them to include organic vegetables in

Mather, biodegradable utensils and salad containers for the Cave and Bistro, Fair Trade coffee in the Cave, and the collection of food scraps throughout the day for a compost pile located behind the Life Sciences

Center.

At the end of the semester, we collected all of the reusable items that students threw away during move-out and donated them to local charities. We also sold t-shirts to raise money for renewable energy during the 2005 Trinity Commencement weekend.

Overall Green Campus wants to see Trinity a "greener" place.

If you would like to join Green Campus or would like more information please contact Sam Zivin at

samuel.zivin@trincoll.edu or Kat West at

kathryn.west@trincoll.edu

Graduation Pledge by Stacy Jankausas

The Graduation Pledge is a voluntary pledge that states, "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." With over 60% of the graduating seniors signing the Pledge, the Class of 2005 demonstrated the greatest amount of support for the Pledge of any Trinity class to date.

Throughout the semester,

Pledge signers received monthly emails about environmentally and socially responsible job listings. This information is also available on our website, <http://www.trincoll.edu/StudentLife/CommunityService/grad+pledge.htm>.

At the end of the semester, we hosted a dessert reception to honor all of the signers and give them their Pledge pins. Remarks were made by President James Jones and Trinity alumna Alicia Flynn '03, the education

and outreach coordinator at Foodshare, a major local food bank. On graduation day, over 300 Trinity seniors donned their green ribbons to show their support for the Pledge.

For more information about the Graduation Pledge, please contact Joe Barber in the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement at joseph.barber@trincoll.edu

Best Buddies by Naralys Estevez

Best Buddies is a program that pairs people with intellectual disabilities with college students in one-on-one friendships. As of the spring semester, Trinity's Best Buddies chapter included 8 pairs of friends. During the spring term, buddies participated in fun activities like going to dinner, watching movies, celebrating each other's birthdays, and even a trip to a casino.

The two main group activities for the semester included playing a rousing game of Taboo back in February and spending an afternoon together baking chocolate chip cookies and doing arts and crafts in May.

People with intellectual disabilities are often excluded from social opportunities that most people enjoy on a regular basis. Students who volun-

teer in this program not only gain a new friend, they also help expose their Buddy to a different and exciting new way of life.

For more information on the Trinity Best Buddies chapter, please feel free to contact Jennifer Kern at jennifer.kern@trincoll.edu

Annual Community Events Staff by Andrea Chivakos

This spring the Annual Community Events Staff (ACES) organized numerous events and received tremendous support from the Trinity community! We began the semester by running the Souper Bowl Canned Food Drive in conjunction with Zeta Omega Eta to collect items for the St. Elizabeth Shelter in Hartford. On the Saturday before the NFL's Super Bowl, the groups went to Stop and Shop stores in Wethersfield and West Hartford and asked for canned good donations from shoppers. People contributed generously, enabling us to give the shelter more than two carloads of food!

Later in the semester, we held our annual ACES Auction and directed our profits toward the campus-wide

effort to raise money for Oxfam International's tsunami relief efforts. ACES solicited Hartford businesses as well as Trinity College organizations and individuals for donations. The most popular items that were bid on by students and faculty were parking permits, a dinner for six with Dean Alford, theater tickets, and gift certificates. The auction proved to be our most successful one to date- we exceeded our goal by \$300 and were able to donate \$2800 to Oxfam!

We wrapped up our successful semester by working with TCAC to organize the Fun Fair carnival. Over 20 different on-campus groups participated in this event, running fun activities for local Hartford children. Despite a change in location due to dreary

weather, the event was a success and many kids merrily left the carnival with face paint, cotton candy, and goldfish. Thanks to everyone who participated!

Stay tuned for more events during the fall. We are always looking for new members to help us prepare for Do It Day, Halloween on Vernon Street, the Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive, and Sponsor a Snowman Holiday Gift Drive.

For more information about ACES, please contact Andrea Chivakos at andrea.chivakos@trincoll.edu

Praxis by Nivia Nieves

[Praxis](#) is a residence-based community service program that promotes and actively seeks to engage students in service activities both on campus and in the Hartford community. Members of Praxis participate in individual service projects for an average of three hours per week and, as a group, participate in all major campus service projects like Do It Day, Halloween on Vernon Street, and Knox Parks Foundation clean-ups.

During the spring semester, Praxis participated in several events that were beneficial to both Trinity and the Hartford communities. We helped organize events for the Foundation for Excellent Schools Youth Summit, which was held on our campus, and at which our members served as college role models for the high school leaders who attended.

As a new project, Praxis worked with Grow Hartford, a local

urban farm, planting strawberries and preparing compost piles for the non-profit organization. We hope to stay involved with and further strengthen our ties with Grow Hartford next year.

At the end of April, Praxis volunteered at the TCAC/ACES annual Fun Fair, running the "doughnut on a string" and football toss contests. The day was a success and our events turned out to be great fun for both the Hartford children and the Praxis members.

Finally, we continued our annual campus clothing drive, "GET NAKED WITH PRAXIS." In the end we were able to collect more than 700 articles of clothing and donate them to local organizations.

The Praxis recruitment campaign proved successful with a total of 26 Praxis members joining the 2005-2006 year. We look forward to having

such a large group and hope to expand our projects for the upcoming year. For more information please check out the website at <http://www.trincoll.edu/orgs/praxis/> or feel free to contact Beth Jones at elizabeth.jones@trincoll.edu or Juli Martha at julia.martha@trincoll.edu



American Medical Students' Association (AMSA) by Cristina Wheeler-Castillo

The American Medical Students Association is for anyone who is considering a career in medicine, dentistry, nursing, or interested in public health in general. As a group we select several causes a year to support and then focus on raising awareness, publicizing, and fundraising for these causes.

One of the highlights of the spring semester was our participation in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in Somers, Connecticut. Despite the fact that the event took place in May, after the end of the semester, 12 AMSA members took part and we raised over \$1,900 for cancer research, prevention, and education.

AMSA was also active on our

own campus and in the Hartford community. We hosted a dinner with a local



Hartford pediatric neurologist, sponsored a medical panel that was open to the entire campus, and brought in a Sudanese speaker to lecture on the implications of genocide in Sudan. On

the local community level, several AMSA students donated their time and services to the migrant farm workers in the area by hosting ESL classes and providing them with informational health pamphlets.

AMSA provides students with the opportunity to strengthen their passion for health care and health services while getting involved on campus and in the local community.

If you are interested in joining AMSA or would like more information, please contact Cristina Wheeler-Castillo at

cristina.wheelercastillo@trincoll.edu

Hillel by Julie Hirsh

Hillel is committed to making our house a safe space for all members of the Trinity community regardless of one's race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, or sexual orientation. This semester, we put forth a strong effort to make positive changes in the lives of people in other parts of the world as well as those who are right here in the Hartford area.

At the beginning of the term, we collaborated with Amnesty International to raise awareness of the Darfur genocide. As Jews, ethnic genocide is an issue about which we are mindful and sensitive, so the crisis in Darfur was a major focus of our programming this year. We sold bracelets to fund hunger relief for refugees and collected and sent signed letters to U.S. President Bush and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Anan urging tighter sanc-

tions in Darfur.

In addition, we conducted a bone-marrow drive, sponsored by the Gift of Life Foundation. This foundation is unique in that it regroups Ashkenazi Jews into a genetic network so that bloodlines severed by the Holocaust can be repaired and likelihood of stem cell or bone marrow match is increased. The drive brought many members of the Jewish community (one of whom was a leukemia survivor who found his match through the Gift of Life Foundation) to Trinity and we were able to register over 30 people.

Finally, we worked with other FACES groups to donate soup from Chartwells to the St. Elizabeth Shelter on a weekly basis. This proved to be a huge success and we hope that this will become a long-lasting program.

The spring semester proved to be a rewarding one for members of Hillel and we are looking forward to being even more active next year.

For more information about Hillel, please feel free to contact Julie Hirsh at julie.hirsh@trincoll.edu



Asian American Student Association (AASA) by Desiree Hernandez

The spring semester proved to be another busy and successful one for the Asian American Student Association (AASA). We began the new term by raising money for the Tsunami Relief Effort. We tabled outside of Mather Dining Hall to collect donations from students and faculty and placed cans at specific locations around campus to collect additional money. A couple of weeks later, we sponsored a speaker and held a candlelight vigil to honor the tsunami victims.

In addition, we held our first ever Asian Bazaar this semester. The event included Asian foods from different Hartford restaurants, jewelry and other items, and a variety of performers throughout the evening. We donated our \$1,400 profit to the Sri Lankan Medical Association of North

America. All in all, the bazaar was a success and we hope to make it an annual event.

Throughout the semester AASA joined forces with other organizations to sponsor events on campus. We worked with SUSHI to sponsor DNA (Dancing Nature's Art) Dance, an event in which trained Indian dancers integrate the scientific concepts of DNA and evolution into their performance. During the month of March we teamed up with the Human Rights Program to sponsor lecturer May Oo to speak about sex trafficking in Asia and then hosted a dinner with her at our house. At the end of April, we painted faces and passed out temporary tattoos and stickers to local children at the TCAC/ACES annual Fun Fair.

To finish up the semester, AASA, along with LVL and Imani, held a Cultural House Celebration in honor of the 5th anniversary of the AASA and LVL houses and the 35th anniversary of the Umoja house. Current house coordinators, alumnae, and Dean Spurlock-Evans were all on hand to inform us about the history of our respective houses. In honor of the event and our anniversary, AASA members created a decorative quilt made of pictures from the school year. Celebrating the houses was a nice finish to a great semester. We hope to continue with and expand on our success next year.

If you would like more information about AASA, please contact Desiree Hernandez at desiree.hernandez@trincoll.edu

Imani by Laquisha Grant

Imani, the first multicultural organization established at Trinity College, unites students of different backgrounds and actively seeks to promote diversity on campus. Since 1970, the Umoja House has served as the organization's headquarters for weekly meetings and been a place for students to connect socially and intellectually.

Imani always plays an active role on the Trinity campus and in the Hartford community. To celebrate "Black History Month", we held several events, including weekly lectures by

distinguished African-Americans like Naomi Tutu and Professor David Canton and a festive performance by the Soli Soma traditional drumming team. In addition, Imani collaborated with AASA and LVL throughout the year to sponsor events like the "Welcome Back" Block Party and the end of the year dedication to seniors known as "Senior Sip."

During the school year, members of Imani served as mentors to local children at the Hartford Magnet Middle School, at the Boys and Girls

Club, and also to those who participated in the Compass Program. In addition, Imani members all participated in the TCAC/ACES Annual "Fun Fair" and spent the day playing with and entertaining young children.

If you would like more information about Imani or the Umoja House, please feel free to contact Lindsay Diaz at lindsay.diaz@trincoll.edu or stop by the Umoja House located at 72 Vernon Street.

The Women's Center by Laura Lockwood

Throughout the year, the Women's Center sponsors a number of groups that provide assistance and service to community groups and non-profit organizations in the Hartford area. Two of the larger scale activities that were held during the spring semester were the PHAB (Promoting Healthy Awareness of the Body) clothing drive and a student-directed performance of "The Vagina Monologues" that was sponsored by SATF (Sexual

Assault Task Force).

For their "Skinny Jeans Drive", members of PHAB collected donations of various types of clothing such as jeans, shirts, coats and sweaters. These items were then donated to My Sister's Place, a women and family shelter in Hartford. SATF's "Vagina Monologues" raised \$680 for the Hartford Interval House, a local domestic violence shelter.

The Women's Center, PHAB, and SATF are all looking forward to another productive and successful semester in the fall. For more information about the Women's Center, PHAB, and/or SATF, please feel free to contact Hillary Bennett hillary.bennett@trincoll.edu or Abigail Garrity at abigail.garrity@trincoll.edu

Encouraging Respect of Sexualities (EROS) By Elsa Crowley

EROS stands for Encouraging Respect of Sexualities. We are people of all sexualities and that means yours too! Any Trinity student can become a member of EROS; we do 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 (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender) issues and an open mind. Meetings are held every other Sunday at 8:00 PM in the EROS house on Crescent Street.

This past year, EROS sponsored many events on campus. During the fall, to kick off Gay and Lesbian History month, we “chalked” all around

campus to help raise visibility of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals. In addition, we worked with CLEO Literary Society to sponsor the annual themed drag party known as the “Gender Bender.” The event included an appearance by a professional drag queen and a contest in which a Trinity drag queen and king were crowned.

During the spring semester, EROS sponsored a Day of Silence at Trinity. The Day of Silence is a project of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) and the United States Student Association (USSA) and a day on which students

take a day-long vow of silence to protest the prejudice experienced by GLBT students everywhere.

During the year EROS worked with the Connecticut Gay and Lesbian Film Festival and over the summer brought the 18th Annual CT Gay and Lesbian Film Festival to the Cinestudio. From June 3rd-11th audiences were treated to a wide variety of films with GLBT themes. The festival proved, yet again to be a success.

For more information about EROS please contact Ben Miller at benjamin.miller@trincoll.edu eros@trincoll.edu for information about meetings .

The Lions Club by Andrew Sivilasy

The Lions Club International, one of the largest community service organizations in the world, is dedicated to helping the sensory impaired. During the spring semester, the Trinity College chapter of the Lions Club worked especially hard, collecting donations and fundraising to help those in need.

Working with the Lions Club International Foundation, we held an eye-glasses drive and collected donations to benefit those living in the areas ravaged by the tsunami. In the end, we gathered over 100 pairs of

glasses and raised over \$300 for the tsunami victims.



On the local level, the Lions donated over \$500 to local area programs that benefit the blind or sight-

impaired. Some of the specific organizations that we supported include the Journey for Sight, the Low Vision Center, CRIS Radio (which reads newspapers to the blind), and the Fidelco Seeing Eye Dog Fund.

With the motto of “we serve,” the Lions Club hopes to contribute as much as possible to the Trinity community, as well as the local and international communities. For more information on the Lions Club, please feel free to contact Marta Laboy at marta.laboy@trincoll.edu

Agape by Jamie Tracey

Agape Christian Fellowship, formerly InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, is a non-denominational, student led group that encourages fellowship among Christians and growth in the love for God and his word.

Though we faced the challenge of having to restructure the group early in the school year, both semesters proved to be enjoyable and successful ones for Agape. Our highlight of the fall was organizing a Thanksgiving Dinner which was open to the Trinity

community at large. Approximately 55 people, other than those who prepared the food, attended the dinner.

During the spring, we hosted a dinner that was open to the entire Trinity Community on the second Thursday of every month. On the fourth Thursday of every month, we held a Fellowship night that allowed several small Bible study groups to get together. At the end of spring semester, we held our annual “Senior Send Off” night and thoroughly enjoyed

homemade brownie ice cream sundaes.

We look forward to kicking off the 2005-2006 school year by attending Summit Leadership training and by throwing a BBQ for interested first year students and upper-class students.

If you are interested in joining Agape or would like more information, please feel free to contact Jamie Tracey at jamie.tracey@trincoll.edu

Peter's Retreat by Marion-Anna Protano

Peter's Retreat is a local AIDS housing community that provides people who have HIV/AIDS with a safe living environment and supportive services. Throughout the school year, Trinity students have gone to Peter's Retreat biweekly on Fridays to help with maintenance projects like painting and yard work.

During the spring, we expanded our involvement with Peter's Retreat, and one Friday we had 20 volunteers (about half of whom were Pike brothers) who came and cooked dinner

for the residents in addition to doing our usual maintenance work. At the end of the day we sat down and had dinner with the residents and better got to know some of the people that live in the house.

On April 20, Kate Mortensen, Deepti Paturi, Ashley Tetu, Jason Gallant, Carrie Edwards, Jess Hart, Gwen Hopkins, and Marion Protano represented Trinity College at the Connecticut AIDS rally where we lobbied at the state Capitol for increased funding for programs such as Peter's Retreat and

the needle-exchange program. It is our hope that with more government support, AIDS programs like Peter's Retreat will be able to thrive and more people will be helped.

Peter's Retreat gives Trinity students a chance to interact with people living with AIDS as well as give back to the community. Even if you can only come once, your help is needed and appreciated. For more information about Peter's Retreat, please feel free to contact Dan Cosgrove at daniel.cosgrove@trincoll.edu

Alpha Chi Ro (Crow) by Ben Leong

As Alpha Chi Rho (or Crow) brothers, we participated in community service activities throughout the school year. During the first semester, over 75% of our members spent an afternoon helping clean Goodwin Park as part of ConnPIRG's effort to fight against hunger and homelessness. In addition, Crow joined with other Greek organizations on campus to organize a campus-wide vigil on the Main Quad against sexual assault.

A few weeks later, Crow brothers served as chaperones for Halloween on Vernon Street. Our brothers thoroughly enjoyed the experience and even took some time out to teach the kids some new games and introduce them to our pet bantam, "Little Jerry Seinfeld." We also went down to Yale

University to help out at the Henley Regatta, an event whose proceeds go toward breast cancer research. The 27 brothers who attended did everything from loading and unloading the boats



participating in the regatta to setting up the outdoor dining facility and assisting in the morning food service.

During the spring semester, several brothers participated in the Fair-Trade fashion show and showed

off their good looks and good nature, all for a good cause. Brothers Eli Terry and Omar Dittu seemed to be among crowd's favorites on the catwalk.

To end the semester, we participated in the annual TCAC/ACES Fun Fair, setting up a musical chairs booth on the stage of the Vernon Social Center. Over half of the brotherhood attended and helped organize and sometimes play round after round of musical chairs with the children. We supplied all of the winners and participants with prizes, and a good time was had by all.

Crow is looking forward to another year of community service. For more information about Crow, please feel free to contact Ben Leong at benjamin.leong@trincoll.edu

Alpha Delta Phi (AD) by Ed Sweeney

During the spring semester, the brothers of Alpha Delta Phi (AD) worked hard to maintain an upstanding reputation within the community

One of the first events that the brotherhood took part in was a co-sponsored affair with the ladies of the Ivy Society. Members from both organizations spent a Saturday afternoon cleaning and doing handy work at two local shelters.

The next thing on the agenda was the Amnesty International fair-trade fashion show that Brother Tim Fox helped coordinate. AD members helped set up the stage and lights and at night, nearly the entire fraternity showed up to support the event. The fashion show was a huge success for everyone involved.

Finally, the brotherhood participated in "Fifth Graders Come to

College Day", an event that allows local Hartford fifth graders to come to Trinity for a day to get a glimpse of what college is all about. AD brothers served as campus guides bringing the kids from one event to another and answering their questions about college life. A great time was had by all!

For more information about AD, please contact Will Moyet at wiliam.moyet@trincoll.edu

Kappa Kappa Gamma by Sara Glassman

The Zeta Theta Chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma is strongly committed to serving the local community and participating in campus-wide projects. Through individual and group efforts, Kappa sisters accumulated many hours of community service during the spring semester.

All year round, every member of our organization (who does not have an academic or other extra-curricular conflict) participates weekly in a program known as Connectikids, serving as a tutor for fourth and fifth grade students at M.D. Fox Elementary School. In addition to providing academic support, Kappas serve as role models and build lasting friendships with their mentees. Connectikids has been a rewarding experience for everyone involved and we are looking forward to getting involved again in the fall.

In addition to helping the local community, Kappa tried to support as

many on-campus events as possible and to participate in philanthropic projects sponsored by other organizations. In April, almost our entire sorority attended the "Take Back the Night" rally



and candlelight vigil against sexual assault and offered support to the victims who shared their stories. It was an emotional night for many, and we are looking to take a more active role in the event's planning next year.

Later in the term, several Kappas volunteered at the Amnesty International Fair-Trade Fashion Show helping out with makeup and other pre-show preparations, and even mod-

eling on the catwalk! Other Kappas supported the cause and their fellow sisters by forming one of the largest cheering sections in the Vernon Social Center!

We concluded our community service efforts for the year by participating in the annual TCAC/ACES Fun Fair. Kappa set up a friendship bracelet-making table and either showed children from the Hartford area how to make bracelets by themselves or we made the bracelets for them. A good time was had by all!

Kappa is always looking for new community service projects to get involved in. If your group is looking for volunteers, please let a member of our organization know or feel free to contact Sara Glassman at sara.glassman@trincoll.edu or Sandy Tichnor at sandra.tichnor@trincoll.edu

Pi Kappa Alpha (Pike) by Chris Giacalone

The brothers of the Epsilon Alpha chapter of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity (Pike) have participated extensively in a variety of community service activities during the Spring 2005 semester. As a brotherhood of 36, we have devoted over 430 hours towards community service this semester.

A group of 9 brothers represented Pike at Trinity College's annual Fun Fair, where we designed and operated carnival-style games and gave candy to the children who attended, and 15 brothers attended a site build for Habitat for Humanity on that same day. We also sent a group of 6 to volunteer at Peter's Retreat (a local AIDS hospice), where we did landscaping, helped to organize a pantry, and cooked dinner for a large group of residents.

Although we participated in

several large community service projects, many of our brothers are also extremely involved in the community



on their own. Several brothers volunteer as mentors and tutors at local schools, including Kinsella Elementary School, Hartford High School, and Maplewood Elementary School in Bridgeport. In addition, brothers are involved

in Project Clean Plate, Green Campus, and Habitat for Humanity.

This semester has been one of our most successful for community service. In the future, we are hoping to become involved with more large projects and activities so we can make a difference in the community through participating as a group. Next semester, we plan to continue participating in activities like Habitat for Humanity builds, Peter's Retreat events, Do It Day, and Halloween on Vernon Street. We also welcome any suggestions or advice for future events.

For more information about Pike, please feel free to contact Chris Giacalone at

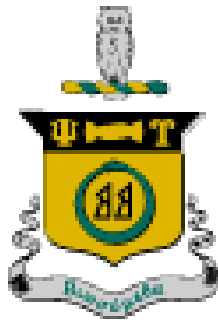
christopher.giacalone@trincoll.edu

Psi Upsilon by Ryan Sample

In early February, the Beta Beta Chapter of Psi Upsilon helped organize the semi-annual Blood Drive. Approximately 90 potential donors resulted in 50 productive units of blood. Because each unit can help save up to 3 lives, that is 150 patients who will be touched over the course of the next few months! The efforts to increase the number of potential donors (from 74 in the fall to 90 in the spring) were led by Chris Matteodo, Ryan Sample, Todd Morrison and Alex Knot. The Spring Blood Drive proved to be a success and the brothers of Psi Upsilon are looking forward to trying to gather even more donors in the fall.

In addition to the Blood Drive, Psi Upsilon participated in the TCAC/ACES sponsored Fun Fair on Saturday, April 23rd. Though the rain forced the event to be held inside, the

children of Hartford were not deterred and approximately 200 of them joined in on the festivities. The Psi U table, led by Todd Morrison, Ryan Sample,



and Andrew Rosenau, among others, gave kids the opportunity to win a goldfish by throwing a ping-pong ball into a fish tank. This activity proved to be extremely popular and at the end of the day, over 70 goldfish found new

homes!

On an individual level, Psi Upsilon was proud to see one of its brothers, Daniel Glickburg, win an award given by the Boys and Girls Club for Most Hours Served. Dan spent around 6 hours per week at the Boys and Girls Club helping children with their homework and organizing various activities like basketball and kickball games. We hope that in the coming semester more brothers follow Dan's lead.

For more information about Psi Upsilon, please feel free to contact Todd Morrison at todd.morrison@trincoll.edu or Patrick Cahill at patrick.cahill@trincoll.edu

Ivy by Taylor Stevens

During the spring semester, the Ivy Society continued its involvement in community service efforts. Sisters volunteered at the Trinity Boys & Girls Club at least once a week for one to two hours at a time to help local children with their homework, play games with them, and even do arts and crafts activities. We enjoyed spending time with the kids and found friends in many.

Throughout March and the beginning of April, Ivy helped to promote ConnPIRG's Campaign against Hunger and Homelessness by talking up the Hunger Clean-up to the rest of IGC. In doing so, we helped to raise turnout for the event to the 2nd highest in the country last year, and the best

in Trinity's history. Working with Trinity's ConnPIRG members and members of the greater Hartford community we helped contribute to the Hunger Clean-Up Serve-a-Thon by raising money through sponsorship donations from friends, family, and faculty. This money went towards the April 9th day of service in which over 75% of our members turned out to help others clean a local park

In addition, for the past two years Ivy has co-sponsored "Take Back the Night" with IGC, the Women's Center, SATF, and others. Held on the Cave Patio, this emotional event included sexual assault survivor stories shared by survivors and their friends and was followed by a candlelight vigil

and bonfire-side poetry reading. The presentation and procession call attention to the crime of sexual assault against both women and men. We plan on continuing to support this important event for years to come.

The spring semester was a rewarding one for Ivy and we are looking forward to taking an even more active role on campus next year. For more information about the Ivy Society, please feel free to contact Jenn Katz at jennifer.katz@trincoll.edu

What is citizenship and why does it matter? (cont.) by Joe Barber

continued from page 1

Congress, or how the tax system operates.”

Thus, being a citizen is an active, rather than a passive, existence transcending mere national identity. This active existence is dependent upon the possession of useful knowledge, but as a society we seem to assume that the citizen will acquire such knowledge by osmosis. It is odd when you think about it because this is not something we assume about any other area of inquiry or action. Just because we are born and raised in a free and democratic society does not mean that we know how to conduct ourselves in a way that serves to strengthen and advance our democracy.

At Trinity, the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement recognizes that a more holistic approach is necessary. The mission of

the Office is to build strong, sustainable partnerships with the Hartford community and to strengthen service, community commitment, and civic responsibility as central to Trinity’s institutional mission as well as to the experience of each member of the Trinity College community. The Office maintains that citizenship goes far beyond altruism or philanthropy believing that “service” means service to the democracy. Therefore, in addition to attempting to ameliorate various social ills, we believe that service is about reflecting upon one’s work, enlarging the public realm, encouraging all to find their voice and feel comfortable expressing themselves, and being able to understand the big picture while at the same time taking action locally.

We, at the Office, like to believe that one of the most important services we provide for the College is that we train future civic leaders be-

cause through our work, students not only perform traditional service, but also learn how to run programs, develop leadership skills, become knowledgeable about Hartford, build sustained relationships between students and the community, reflect upon and engage in discussions about a wide array of issues, and in general make a difference. We believe that higher education (at least at Trinity) should promote civic-related values and using what one has received to better society. In the end, we want students graduating from Trinity being able to say an integral and important part of their Trinity experience was receiving a great civic education!

For more information about the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement, please contact Joe Barber at jbarber@trincoll.edu or Sarah Hoyle at sarah.hoyle@trincoll.edu

2005-2006 Events at a Glance

August

- *Pre-Orientation Programs*: Community Service and Hartford Parks and Bike

September

- *Do It Day*: A half-day event that engages hundreds of students, faculty and staff in service projects throughout Hartford.

October

- *Red Cross Blood Drive*

- *Halloween on Vernon Street*: A half-day event that gives local children a fun and safe Halloween experience

November

- *Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive*: A turkey and all the trimmings are donated to 100 families of children who attend the M.D. Fox Elementary School.

- *The Great Pie Project*: Students bake hundreds of pies and donate them non-

profit organizations in Hartford.

December

- *Trinity AIDS Awareness Week*

- *Human Rights at Home Day*

- *Sponsor a Snowman*: A holiday gift drive for the children of the Hartford Interval House, a domestic violence shelter

January

- *Super Bowl Food Drive*: Food drive held at a local supermarket the day before the Super Bowl that benefits a local food pantry, soup kitchen, or homeless shelter.

February

- *Red Cross Blood Drive*

March

- *Annual Auction for Charity*

- *Alternative Spring Break with Habitat for Humanity*: Students spend their spring break building houses with

Habitat for Humanity affiliates around the country

April

- *Hunger Clean-Up*: A national day of service and fundraising to benefit anti-hunger causes

- *Fun Fair*: An annual carnival for local children

- *Act! Speak! Build! Week*: Students organize a “shantytown” outside of Mather Hall to advocate affordable housing

- *Fifth Graders go to College*

- *Trinity AIDS Awareness Week*

May

- *Get Naked with Praxis*: A campus-wide clothing drive

- *Graduation Pledge*: Graduating seniors pledge to be more “socially responsible” in their future careers.