Trinity Relay For Life passes the quarter-million mark

The 4th Annual American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Trinity College took place on Saturday, April 25 through Sunday, April 26 at Jeseo/Miller Field. Students, faculty, staff, friends and family gathered at the field for this 18-hour event to raise money to fight cancer. Trinity reached a milestone this year as its total funds raised to date crossed the quarter-million dollar threshold.

Teams raised money prior to and during Relay to help in the fight against cancer. Relay teams came from various clubs, Greek organizations, athletic teams, religious groups, residence halls, and groups of friends. Many teams set up campsites that served as a home base during the event, decorating them for the “Around the World” theme.

Cindy Butos, cancer survivor and English professor, kicked off the event, speaking about her experience as a survivor in the Trinity Community. Music professor Eric Galm and his Samba Ensemble infused life into the opening ceremonies by leading a group of cancer survivors and caregivers around the track for the first lap, who were then joined by the rest of the participants.

Night fell, and with it came the Luminaria Ceremony of Hope. Luminaria bags are purchased for $5 each in honor or in memory of loved ones who have had or had cancer. Each bag has a candle inside that is lit during the ceremony and stays lit for walkers throughout the night. This year’s ceremony featured cancer survivor Dean Ann Reuman, who took the audience’s breath away with her inspirational story, strength, and eloquence. A slideshow, complete with names, pictures, and messages to loved ones, proved to be a special way to celebrate and remember loved ones lost to cancer.

Teams raised money prior to and during Relay to help in the fight against cancer.

Special points of interest:

- **School Supplies for Little Guys~ The Inside Scoop**
- **Habitat for Humanity’s Alternative Spring Break in Fort Lauderdale**
- **“Kids Can Build Robots,” Mariissa Powers on T-READY**
- **Adopt-a-Platoon concludes its first full year**

5 Habitat Homes Dedicated on Enfield Street

June 27th marked a special day for Trinity’s Habitat for Humanity Chapter and even more special for the five families celebrating the completion of their homes on Enfield Street in north Hartford. Joe Barber, Gina Filloramo ’10, and Tiffany Ruiz ’10, proudly accepted recognition for the co-sponsorship of all the homes as warm gazes from all looked on.

What seemed to be one of the only sunny days of the month of June saw Mayor Eddie Perez come by to take part in this momentous occasion.

Many of the students who were able to attend the dedication ceremony also had the opportunity to work on the very homes being dedicated that day. This was certainly an unforgettable moment for everyone.

More about Trinity Habitat inside...
Spring 2009 Selected Highlights

**January**

28  
Community Service Fair: Representatives from more than 30 community service organizations on campus set up stations in the basement of Mather and spent the afternoon recruiting new members.

31  
Soup-er Bowl Food Drive: Food drive held at a local supermarket the day before the Super Bowl that benefited the Hartford Catholic Worker. Several carloads of goods were collected!

**March**

5  
ACES Annual Auction for Charity: Raised over $5,000! Proceeds were split between our sponsorship of Ciara, a local teen battling multiple sclerosis and Lean On Me, Inc., a rebuilding organization in New Orleans, LA.

16-22  
Alternative Spring Break with Habitat for Humanity: 29 Trinity students spent their spring break building houses with Habitat for Humanity affiliates in New Orleans, LA.

**April**

11  
Lions Club Wine & Cheese: Annual fundraiser brought together Lions from around the state for an evening in Hamlin Hall.

20-24  
Earth Week: With the support of several academic departments, Green Campus and ConnPIRG host a lectures, movie screenings, and a variety of activities to raise environmental consciousness on campus.

25-26  
Relay for Life: More than 600 students participated in the overnight event that raised more than $63,000 to support the American Cancer Society.

29  
Volunteer Appreciation Dinner: Over 100 student volunteers were honored at a formal dinner in the Washington Room.

**May**

2  
Fun Fair: Student groups set up booths on the Mather quad and hosted carnival for local children.

5/10-5/22  
Dump & Run: A campus-wide clothing and reusable item drive coordinated by Green Campus. Thousands of items were collected and donated to local shelters.

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

Contact Information for the Community Service Office

Director:  
Graduate Assistant:  
VAMP/Rising Stars Program Coordinator:  
ConnPIRG Organizer:  
Dream Camp Program Coordinator:

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**September**

2-5  
ACES/Praxis Training: Student community service leaders return to campus early to begin planning for the new academic year.

7  
Activities Fair: Representatives from more than 30 community service organizations on campus spend the afternoon recruiting new members.

11  
11th Annual Do It Day: A half-day event that engages students, faculty and staff members in service projects at different sites around Hartford.

**October**

3  
Park River Clean Up: Green Campus takes part in the “Source to Sound” Connecticut River watershed clean-up.

**November**

13-15  
Park River Clean Up: Green Campus takes part in the “Source to Sound” Connecticut River watershed clean-up.

**December**

ACES Sponsor a Snowman Drive: 100 holiday gifts are collected for the children of the Hartford Interval House, a domestic violence shelter.

Fall 2010 Upcoming Events

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VAMP & Rising Stars

...and the beat goes on as Fall Semester 2009 marks the 7th year anniversary for the Rising Stars Academic Mentoring Program, and the 8th one for the Vision Academic Mentoring Program (also known as V.A.M.P.). As such, the latest cohort of Hartford Magnet Middle School (HMMS) students, who came on board with us two years ago, will now be in the 8th grade. Time does fly when you're having fun... tutoring and mentoring! Those two tasks are exactly what one would be doing as a participant in either program.

All that hankering of yours to reach out to the Hartford community – and achieving it in one of the most positive ways – is a goal that is well within striking distance. How does walking down Vernon Street, out the Trinity gates, and crossing Broad Street sound? Why, it's a virtual hop, skip, and a jump from campus, for that's exactly how easy it is to get there! Both our programs are conducted in reserved classrooms at HMMS, where we meet as a dedicated group representing Trinity College. Of course mentoring has its challenges, but what’s that saying about when the going gets tough…?

Exactly how do we work? Each mentor in Rising Stars is paired with one mentee, while each in V.A.M.P. is responsible for two mentees simultaneously. Each session is a mix of tutoring and mentoring. A limit of five subject areas (Natural Science, Civics or Social Studies, Spanish or Italian, and a concentration on Language Arts (Reading/Writing) and Mathematics) are addressed during the first half of each session, with the second half being an enrichment activity portion. All in all, your ideas and creativity will be utilized to make the coming year even better than before.

The Rising Stars and Vision Academic Mentoring Programs are ever in search of mentors, who not only yearn to give of their time and talents to our community’s youths, but who have an inherent drive to do so. More than ever before, emphasis this year is placed on the partnership aspect between mentors and the programs’ coordinator, with the common goal of positively influencing youth by our very actions. In other words, demonstrating exceptional attendance (100% or very close to it), steadfastness, and team spirit, are vital in shaping our charges into decent, responsible individuals themselves.

Again, we are in search of mentors who don’t just feel like doing something, but are committed to dedicating themselves to the tasks at hand. So if you are one who completes the adage When the going gets tough... then contact program coordinator Romulus Ferrer-Perez at x2160, or via email at romulus.perez@trincoll.edu.

Newman Club/Hartford Catholic Worker

This spring semester the Trinity College Newman Club continued its weekly visits to the Hartford Catholic Worker House in north Hartford to act as mentors and tutors during the House’s after-school program for local children.

Due to frequently uncooperative weather, we spent a lot of time inside playing games like Rummy and working on puzzles with the kids at the Catholic Worker’s Green House. Playing with Legos, reading, and baking during the end of winter were also some favorite activities. When the weather was nice, we spent time outside getting our butts kicked by the kids in basketball games and watching the garden grow in the backyard.

We had a great semester and are looking forward to seeing our friends again next fall. We would like to thank Chris, Jackie, Sarah, and of course, the kids, for welcoming us into their lives. We’d also like to thank our Roman Catholic Lay Campus Minister, John Campbell, for his generosity in driving us to north Hartford every week.

Lastly, we extend an invitation to all of Trinity to join us in our afternoons at the Catholic Worker House. If you are interested, please e-mail Rachel Rienteau, class of 2012.
English as a Second Language/Jubilee House by Sarah Jenkins

This past school year Trinity students had a very exciting opportunity to make a direct impact on the lives of immigrants in the Hartford area. Originally, this group began when I discovered that Jubilee House (a non-profit immigrant services organization a mere 10 minute walk away from campus) offered English tutoring in the mornings. With my student’s schedule, this naturally excluded me from participation, not to mention many immigrants interested in learning English who also have day jobs. I thought that this would prove a fruitful opportunity for Trinity students, the Jubilee House, and Hartford area immigrants. With the help of Mary Corbett at the Jubilee House, we found potential English students looking for afternoon and evening classes. She gathered contact information, which was then passed on to interested Trinity students with similar schedule openings. The Jubilee House also provided the teachers with textbooks and workbooks so that we could plan our lessons in advance. Our weekly meetings helped us to remain in contact, and to consult amongst ourselves regarding potential teaching difficulties.

While the program remained fairly small (approximately seven Trinity students each semester), we felt that this had an enormous impact on our students. All of the Trinity students were extremely responsible, meeting with their student for two hours a week without fail, regardless of their social or work schedules. This consistency allowed the teachers and the students to develop a strong bond which enhanced their learning and teachings opportunities. While this program meant a great deal to the Trinity students who decided to give up their time, it meant so much more to our students. For an immigrant in Hartford, learning English can enable them to get a better paying job, or send more money back to their families. For example, I taught English to a young woman from Honduras four hours a week. Other than these four hours, she spent seven days a week at work, often up to 12 hours a day, so that she could send money home to her parents in Honduras. Learning English was so important to her that she spent these precious non-working hours with me instead of relaxing at home with her husband. This is just one example of how eager our students were to learn, and how wonderful it is that Trinity students take the time to provide this opportunity to members of the Hartford community.

While our English as a Second Language program began as a small group of Trinity students, we hope that in the upcoming year it will continue to expand and grow.

ConnectiKids by Margot Gianis ‘10

This spring, ConnectiKids had another great semester. We continued running the program two days a week and had about fifty Trinity students matched with 4th and 5th graders from M.D. Fox Elementary. Students and tutors continued reading together, working on improving literacy and writing, as well as completing weekly lesson plans geared to match the student’s school curriculums. The program ended for the semester with pizza, cookies, and an opportunity to give the kids a chance to see and explore Trinity’s campus. We look forward to another great year with the students of M.D. Fox hoping to continue to earn the coordinator’s title as “the feather in ConnectiKids’ cap”!

If you would like to join ConnectiKids as a tutor, please contact Sheila Fisher at Sheila.Fisher@trincoll.edu.
T-READY By Marissa Powers ‘09

Kids can build robots. From mechanical design, to construction, to programming, students as young as seven are capable of taking part in the complex engineering design process required to build a functioning bot. This basic idea has fueled the development of the newest innovation in educational robotics—the Lego NXT. The NXT robot kit consists of a full set of user friendly Lego pieces, a “brick,” or programmable brain for the bot, and an easy to learn icon-based programming language. And with this incredible tool, second grade students with nominally average IQs can design, build, and—most importantly—play with robots. Stop by Trinfo Café any given Thursday afternoon and head down to the basement, and you will find slightly older kids doing just that. T-READY (Trinity Robotics, Engineering, and Autonomous Design for Youth) is an afterschool program for Hartford middle school students founded by Marissa Powers ‘09 and Orko Momín ‘10 in October 2007. Currently going into its third year, the program gives Hartford middle schoolers the opportunity to work hands on with Trinity students, building robots after school once a week and competing with other programs on a state-wide level.

T-READY was initially funded by an Urban Being Grant, which provided laptops, robot kits, and refinishing costs for the Trinfo space. The first season was in the spring of 2008, and saw 11 students from Belizzi and Hartford Magnet Middle Schools working together to build a robot for the Trinity College International Firefighting Robot Competition. This past fall a number of those same students spent time putting together a robot to compete in a local robotics tournament. And this spring seven new students from HMMS were introduced to robotics and learned the basics of engineering design through the program.

T-READY has allowed close to twenty Hartford middle school students the chance to work in a team setting, on long term design projects incorporating creative design, problem solving, and technical skill set development. The program is entering its third year, and hopes to become a long term asset to the Hartford community, and to the College’s commitment to civic engagement. Students interested in getting involved should contact Nathan Swaim (nathan.swaim@trincoll.edu) for more information.

MD Fox Mentoring Program by Lindsey Eichler

The spring semester marked the second semester of Trinity’s participation in the mentoring program at MD Fox Elementary. After what seemed to be an unbeatable start, the program continued to grow, thanks mostly to the passion of the first wave of mentors. They returned to campus in January not only anxious and eager to reconnect with their mentees, but also having spread the word of their hard—and rewarding—work to many of their friends. Our group of mentors nearly doubled in size two weeks into the semester!

The mentors at Fox work for an hour a week with students anywhere from 3rd to 6th grade. Each relationship is unique as our mentors are committed to providing opportunities for their mentees to truly take a break from the classroom and dive into things they love. The mentors have been building skills in a very impressive way, having to deal with anything from in-school suspensions or mentees whose parents are incarcerated. Based on the selection of Kathy Bedula, the social worker at Fox who is integral in the existence of the program, our mentors work with some of the most at-risk children in Hartford.

This year is an even more promising one under the leadership of rising sophomores Jake Prosnit and Courtney Duffy. Both have been with the program since its inception and couldn’t be more excited for its expansion. The program already has upcoming partnerships with the Women’s Volleyball team and the Women and Gender Resource Action Center, yielding just about 30 more mentors. If you are interested in participating please contact Jake Prosnit (jacob.prosnit@trincoll.edu) or Courtney Duffy (courtney.duffy@trincoll.edu).
School Supplies for Little Guys by Courtney Duffy ‘12

The fall of 2008 marked many beginnings for Trinity’s Class of 2012—new friendships, first time living away from home, the first few meals at Mather. Amanda Sweat and Courtney Duffy decided to take advantage of their first-year fall by starting a program called School Supplies For Little Guys (SS4LG) to help underprivileged elementary school children in the Hartford community. And what a whirlwind it has been.

When the project was just an idea swimming in the heads of Sweat and Duffy, they were pointed in the direction of Trinity College’s Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement and proceeded to connect with Joe Barber and Lindsey Eichler, whose positive attitudes and realistic yet inspiring ideas about the project helped keep it moving.

Duffy had begun mentoring once a week at Michael D. Fox Elementary School, a struggling institution that is a two-minute drive away from Trinity. While Duffy noticed the great job done by M.D. Fox’s faculty and staff, she sensed that the school would be a perfect first recipient of any and all donations SS4LG could amass. With Barber, Eichler, and Sweat on board, the planning began.

With no immediate access to money for any sort of fundraising event, the SS4LG crew set out to advertise the program. The plan was to collect school supplies of all kinds, from pencils and notebooks to dictionaries and calculators, as well as monetary contributions, and donate them all to M.D. Fox by Valentine’s Day 2009. It seemed like the time of year when school supply levels might be running low, and yet there was still plenty of time to put the supplies to good use before summer vacation.

Duffy, Sweat, Eichler and Barber did their best to spread the word of SS4LG and were overjoyed by the overwhelming response from the Trinity community. Many members of the faculty, staff, and student body alike provided donations of all types in preparation for the February donation.

A few exceptional cases of goodwill became apparent, as well. Kara Guy, who works in Trinity’s Accounting Office, contacted SS4LG with the idea that her young daughter Brooke could request that all birthday gifts be school supplies to benefit the children of M.D. Fox. Approximately three boxes filled to the brim with supplies was donated through SS4LG as a result of the kindness of Ms. Guy and her daughter.

Debra Murphy, who works in Trinity’s Career Services Office, became a trusty liaison between SS4LG and Highcrest Elementary in Wethersfield, where her child attends. Through the school’s motivated student council, Highcrest Elementary was able to connect with Trinity by collecting five to six full boxes of supplies for M.D. Fox.

“The entire FACES lounge was covered with boxes and boxes of supplies packed up and ready to be sent off to children who needed them desperately.”

Duffy

Highcrest students learned a lesson or two about helping their neighbors in the process; the less fortunate children at M.D. Fox live just a few minutes away and are surely still benefiting from the Wethersfield support.

By this time, School Supplies For Little Guys was lucky enough to have attracted two more devoted leaders, Jim Armillay and Amy Kivela, both members of the Class of 2012. The first-year foursome of Sweat, Armillay, Kivela, and Duffy went full-force into organizing, counting, and buying supplies.

The results of the collection surpassed everyone’s expectations. Some of the most exciting victories included twenty-one backpacks, over ninety glue sticks, twenty dictionaries, more than one hundred reading books, and over $275 of monetary donations spent as pragmatically as possible. The entire F.A.C.E.S. lounge was covered with boxes and boxes of supplies packed up and ready to be sent off to children who need them.

Looking forward, there is a bright future indeed for School Supplies For Little Guys. The four rising sophomores plan on making SS4LG an organization that is officially recognized by Trinity. The club will grow not only in membership, but also in amount of supplies collected. With a budget from the SGA, SS4LG looks to plan events to raise even more money and awareness so that the group of children receiving supplies can expand, as well. If you have any questions, or would like to become a School Supplies For Little Guys club member, do not hesitate to contact Courtney Duffy, Amanda Sweat, Jim Armillay, Amy Kivela, or Lindsey Eichler by email. See you in the fall!
Best Buddies by Shana Conroy ‘10

Trinity College’s Best Buddies chapter works hard at upholding its mission to enhance the lives of some adults residing in Hartford who have intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one to one friendship and integrated employment.

Although this semester has not been busy with many group activities, many of the buddy pairs continue to grow in friendship through their individual activities. Shana Conroy ’10 and Albert Lognin still enjoy going out to dinner off campus and talk on the phone weekly. Recently, Albert introduced Shana to another restaurant location of Plan B, now her favorite burger joint in the Hartford area, which is located a little farther away but has more seating and still serves delicious burgers and French fries! Joseph Laws ’12 and Robin have gotten together multiple times throughout the semester and still talk on the phone at least once a week, if not more. This year, Joseph drove to Robin’s house in order to prepare and eat an early Easter meal and has played tennis numerous times with Robin throughout the semester. Furthermore, Joe went to see Robin bowl with Special Olympics and they went bowling together at Bowl-O-Rama. In their downtime, they enjoyed watching movies together. Some of their favorites were “Beverly Hill Chihuahua” and “Top Gun”. Tommy Kilgore ‘11 and his buddy Bill Lewis also had an amazing semester together. They learned a great deal about each other and became very close by the year’s end. Some of their favorite activities were going to the local mall and shopping for athletic gear and electronics. Bill loves cameras, so they would spend hours at Best Buy learning all about the different types. By the time he finally bought the right camera, Tommy says that he “felt like a camera expert myself”. They went all over Hartford taking a variety of pictures. As a big sports fan, Bill enjoys collecting NFL gear from all NFL teams, especially the NY Giants. One afternoon, in particular, Bill said there was a sale at Bob’s Clothing Store, so they traveled down there and loaded up on Patriots folding chairs, Brett Favre shirts and NY Giants inflatable couches.

The entire group was able to get together one time, in February, to celebrate St. Valentine’s Day. All of the buddies helped to make Valentine’s Day cards for each other and ate lots of Valentine’s Day candy. We all had a great time!

The Best Buddies at Trinity College are looking forward to numerous fall semester. We plan on celebrating Thanksgiving together with a Thanksgiving Day meal as well as watching holiday movies with hot chocolate when it gets colder. Hopefully, we will be able to recruit more college buddies next fall so that we are able to have more people involved in our group activities. The Best Buddies team in the fall is looking to new leadership as Bianca Sims, our college buddy director (CBD) for this year graduates. We are going to miss having her around at her activities! Fortunately, she is working in the area, so we hope that she comes and visits.

The new college buddy director (CBD) for the fall will be Shana Conroy ’10 and the new Activities Coordinator and Membership Coordinator will be Thomas Kilgore ’11 and Joseph Laws ’12, respectively. It is going to be a new and exciting year, and we all can’t wait for it to begin! Please contact Shana at shana.conroy@trincoll.edu if you are interested in joining the chapter this year!

Darfur Coalition by Cara Pavlak ‘09

This spring semester was a period of transition for the Trinity College Darfur Coalition as we saw two major historical events occur both in the U.S. and abroad. First, the semester began with the inauguration of President Obama and his new administration. President Obama’s selection of Hilary Clinton as of State and Susan Rice as Ambassador to the United Nations created optimism amongst activists for Sudan as these choices showed a commitment to the use of diplomacy.

As part of a national movement, the Darfur Coalition collected signatures for postcards to send to President Obama, asking him to follow through on his campaign promise to act on Darfur during the first one hundred days of his tenure as president.

Secondly, we saw the incredible historical precedent set by the International Criminal Court (ICC) as it issued an arrest warrant for President Omar al-Bashir of Sudan, the first arrest warrant for a sitting head of state. Providing unique commentary on the ICC’s warrant, the SaveDarfur movement, and the issue of Darfur as a whole, Mahmood Mamdani gave a thought provoking lecture on campus. Mr. Mamdani spurred new discussion on Darfur to his captive audience in a full McCook auditorium.

Looking to the future, the Trinity College Darfur Coalition hopes to continue its mission of spreading knowledge about the conflict in Darfur with a holistic perspective on Sudan, as well as reaching out to local Darfur organizations and the Sudanese population in Hartford.
Stop the Raids by Sandra Gonzalez ‘11

Stop the Raids is a student organization established to defend immigrant rights and to educate and organize the Trinity Community around immigrant and border issues in the U.S. This past semester, Stop the Raids organized an amazing forum with two fantastic guest speakers, Jorge Mujica and Felipe Muñoz (an ex-Bracero—an approved guest worker program during World War II). Mujica discussed different proposals for an effective immigration reform as well as previous guest worker programs attempted by the United States. Munoz spoke about his personal experience as a guest worker during the Bracero era. The objective was to compare the outcomes of previous guest worker programs and those presented today and see the flaws or needs in order to create a successful guest worker program for many immigrants today.

In preparation for the forum, Stop the Raids did a great deal of successful outreach in order to get neighborhood residents, students from other colleges and universities, and the Spanish language media in attendance. The discussion was illuminating and had many of us at Stop the Raids realizing that despite our work over the past few years, many of us are uninformed about a number of immigration issues, including harsh immigration reforms in border states. As an active community, we would like to continue informing our members of Trinity College regarding immigration issues.

We hope students interested in activism will join Stop the Raids and help us plan a lot of events for next semester regarding immigration issues. In the past we have organized marches and demonstrations in different cities in Connecticut to support immigrant rights. This upcoming year we would like to bring more guest speakers who can discuss issues regarding border crossings, human rights and current day immigration reform proposals. Perhaps we may even show an interesting movie which talks about the history of Mexico and the United States to further explain why there are so many immigrants in one large sector of our country. If you are interested, Stop the Raids meets on Monday nights at 9pm in Gallows, so bring your ideas and be ready to be active all year round! We look forward to having you join us.

Amnesty International by Mary Morr ‘12

The Amnesty International chapter on campus has been working on several different projects this year. We distributed a biweekly newsletter written by several student members, focusing on issues such as the assassination of Guinea-Bissau President, UN vs. Congo rebels, and the talks between North Korea and South Korea.

Also, the chapter conducted a healthcare canvassing campaign in conjunction with the Caring Families Coalition. The Caring Families Coalition is working on changing the health care system in Connecticut with an aim of providing quality, affordable health care for every citizen. For several hours, members went door-to-door providing information on Sustinet, healthcare4every1’s current proposal, and asking residents to write to their legislators asking to support a new healthcare system. We also screened Sicko in the Underground Coffeehouse as part of this campaign. If you’d like to join our efforts please contact Mary at Mary.Morr@trincoll.edu.
ASEA had a great spring semester, continuing its English tutoring program, while also making strides in raising awareness and holding a fundraiser. The direction of ASEA took a slightly different turn, as the Burmese refugees we worked with this year were primarily adults, as opposed to children in past semesters. ASEA volunteers would conduct weekly English lessons at the refugees’ apartments, and also held the 2nd annual Boogie for Burma.

The Boogie for Burma was a great success, hosting American Buddhist songstress Ravenna Michalsen, as well as Trinity’s own Zebra Cobra. One ASEA member, Emily Forsyth, with the help of Khine Wai, made an amazing documentary movie on the situation of Burmese refugees in Hartford, while also exploring the troubles of minority repression in Burma. Money raised at Boogie for Burma went towards the Burma Borders Project.

The Hartford Courant also took note of the situation of the Burmese in Hartford, giving attention to their situation in a front page article. Also of note, we held a beach day for some of the Burmese, taking them to a beach in southern Connecticut, which was a blast.

ConnPIRG

ConnPIRG had another successful year. During the fall, efforts were focused on the New Voters project where we registered 281 new Trinity voters! We spent many afternoons and evenings tabling, dorm storming, and using other techniques to try and reach every student on campus as part of our get out the vote efforts. In addition to all our work with voter registration, Trinity’s ConnPIRG chapter co-sponsored presidential and vice presidential debate watching parties for the entire student body. On Election Day, members of the New Voters project helped escort students to the Learning Corridor, the polling location for Trinity registered voters.

Campus Climate Challenge held two large events this year—Solar Jam and the Squash Global Warming squash tournament. Although it wasn’t so sunny for solar jam, festivities continued inside and the event was a smashing success. The first annual Squash Global Warming squash tournament was great fun. Students played an afternoon of squash, watched celebrity exhibition matches played by members of the squash team, listened to music, and learned interesting facts about global warming.

Hunger and Homelessness held their annual hunger and homelessness awareness week, where they screened documentaries, had a guest speaker, and conducted a food drive. In April, the chapter participated in the Hunger Cleanup, a national day of service. Students went to various locations around Hartford and helped at shelters or food pantries. H&H also sponsored weekly service trips to My Sister’s Place and Grace Episcopal, where we played with young children so that their mothers could attend classes. And four times each semester we had Community Cooking, where we partnered with a Chartwells chef to make a meal that was donated to a local soup kitchen.

A big thank you to Jamie, our campus organizer, for a wonderful year. We couldn’t have done it without you.

Activists for Southeast Asia by Gabriel Ellis-Ferrara ’09
Habitat for Humanity by Gina Filloramo ’10

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit housing ministry that seeks to eliminate poverty housing around the world. Volunteers of all different backgrounds, religions and races are united under the common goal to construct houses for families in need. The Trinity College Habitat for Humanity Chapter serves the Greater Hartford area. The Hartford Habitat Chapter has been active for over sixteen years and has completed over 100 homes.

In the beginning of the semester, Trinity’s Habitat chapter had the opportunity to present Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity with a $15,000 check to co-sponsor a local Habitat house. This was the third house the Trinity chapter has been able to co-sponsor in the past 5 years. We are very proud of our students for their efforts in making this possible.

This semester, students participated in four local builds. Depending on the worksite, 6-12 Trinity students had the chance to assist Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity with tasks from painting to roofing! Habitat’s fundraising activities for the semester included the first annual Valentine’s Goldfish Sale. Students, faculty and staff had the opportunity to purchase a pet fish in a festive bowl for their sweethearts and friends. This turned out to be a huge success! We are looking forward to continuing the project next year.

Also, each year, parents and guardians have the opportunity to send care packages to their students. All profit from the care packages goes to Habitat to help pay for the house Trinity is sponsoring in Hartford or to offset the cost of Alternative Spring Break. Selling the packages was very successful. We hope students enjoyed their sweet treats!

Builds in Hartford helped to prepare the thirty Trinity students who opted to participate in Habitat’s Alternative Spring Break trip to Fort Lauderdale, Florida. After a long twenty-eight hour drive, students were eager to soak up some sun while building houses in Broward County. The students stayed at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, a nature reserve with many native plants and animals, walking trails, biking trails and even a freshwater lagoon for canoeing. Students were lodged in cabins with students from schools such as Fordham Law and Clarkson. It was fun to meet new people as well as local volunteers and future homeowners of Habitat houses. Finishing work later in the afternoon, students had early evenings and nights off to explore the state park, head to the beach and enjoy the city’s sites. The volunteers would like to thank Chartwells who graciously donated breakfast foods, snacks and drinks that kept us energized and hydrated during the workweek! By the end of the week, all thirty students were expert painters, hammers, and shinglers. The trip was a huge success and we are looking forward to next year’s trip! If you are interested in participating in Alternative Spring Break 2010, contact Lindsey Eichler at Lindsey.Eichler@trincoll.edu.

The entire group for Broward County’s Collegiate Challenge 2009

Sunrise on-site in Broward County

Hazel Han ’11
“Shingle Lady”
Habitat, cont.

Habitat would like to thank all of its members who worked so hard this semester! Good luck to our graduating seniors and those going abroad! We are looking forward to the return of our members who have been studying away the past few months. Get ready for a fun fall as the Fall Semester will be here before we know it!

Fall’s activities include the annual Habitrot 5k Walk/Run, ACES Halloween on Vernon, and local Hartford builds. Habitat is always looking for new members! If you are interested in joining Trinity’s Habitat team, please contact Sophie Starchman ’11 at Sophie.Starchman@trincoll.edu or Tiffany Ruiz ’10 at Tiffany.Ruiz@trincoll.edu.

ACES (Annual Community Events Staff) by Meredith Wilson ’09

After returning from winter break, ACES jumped right into its event–Souperbowl. We collected donations of non-perishable goods outside of local supermarkets the day before the Superbowl. The project was a huge success this year, and we collected more donations than we have in past years. The food was donated to the Hartford Catholic Worker.

In March we held our 17th annual Charity Auction. Donations for the auction came from the Trinity community as well as organizations throughout the Hartford area. Donations ranged from dinner with faculty and staff members to gift certificates from restaurants and stores within the Hartford community. The auction raised $2,670, and the proceeds from this year’s auction were donated to the Interval House, a local women’s shelter in Hartford.

This year ACES members also volunteered at Princess Prom, a service project run by a local group of mothers and daughters. The program collects used prom dresses and accessories to give away to girls of need in the Hartford area who couldn’t otherwise afford them.

Our last event of the semester was Fun Fair. ACES worked in conjunction with Samba Fest to put together this carnival-like event for children from the Hartford community. The event featured musical guests Ray Gonzalez, Hartford Steel Band, the Trinity Samba Ensemble, and The Trinitones. Other campus organizations had tables at Fun Fair with activities for all of the visiting children. The event had a larger turnout than last year, and was a big success!

ACES has enjoyed serving the Hartford and Trinity communities this semester, and looks forward to more projects in the Fall. If you have any questions about ACES please email Margot Gianis at trinaces@gmail.com.

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Adopt-a-Platoon by Allie Siraco ‘11

Adopt a Platoon has just finished its first year at Trinity. We write letters to soldiers currently serving overseas.

This semester we received letters back from a few different soldiers, and have started to correspond with them. It’s always interesting to find out what they’re up to and how they live, and to send them stories about our days.

Whether through e-mail, letters, or even Facebook, this semester we’ve been in contact with various soldiers who have told us stories about their time serving. They range in age, job, location, and hometown, so it’s nice to get to know soldiers who have different experiences and, hopefully, make their days a little bit more fun as well. We hope to continue Adopt a Platoon next year and we look forward to having you join us! For more information please contact Allie Siraco at alessandra.siraco@trincoll.edu.

The Fred Pfeil Community Project by Sean Zimmer ‘11

The Fred Pfeil Community Project offers a unique living experience for its 60 members. Housed in the Summit East dormitory, the focus of the Fred is community—both within the context of the dorm and with Trinity as a whole. The Fred contributes to the social fabric of Trinity by providing an outlet for students from all walks of life. Members of the Fred participate in a group effort to create a meaningful, decidedly personal college experience.

Part of what makes the Fred unique is its common space. The first floor of the building is a common space open to the entire campus community. Every Friday, the Fred hosts an event for the enjoyment of the student body. Concerts, coffeehouses, and comedy performances are all standard fare for these events. Other events, such as a cappella shows and poetry readings, are held throughout the weekend. The common space is also open to student groups to hold meetings or events, as well as for professors who wish to lead discussion groups or screen films.

In addition to holding weekly events, the Fred offers student-driven special interest groups. These groups represent a wide array of interests on campus, and in many cases encourage student involvement in and around Hartford. The English as a Second Language (ESL) program gives students the opportunity to reach out the greater Hartford community. CSI: Hartford is a small group dedicated to exploring Hartford history and culture. Reading groups range from the academic, such as the Feminist Reading Group, to the recreational, such as Excelsior, the comic book reading group. The independent nature of these groups promotes student engagement with each other and their campus. For more about The Fred contact Ryan Haney at ryan.haney@trincoll.edu or Sean Zimmer at sean.zimmer@trincoll.edu.
Praxis by Will Cyphers '09

Praxis is Trinity’s only residentially based community service program. Its mission is to create an environment that not only actively engages students to get involved in community related projects on campus and in Hartford, but also to foster a sense of community among its members. All Praxis members reside in Doonesbury on Vernon Street. As part of our commitment to Praxis, we each devote an average of three hours a week to community service programs such as ConnPIRG, Connecticut Kids, Habitat, Dream Camp, V.A.M.P. Rising Stars, Green Campus, ACES, EROS, Darfur Coalition, Stop the Raids, Sexual Assault Task Force and the Relay for Life. In addition, we participate as a group in at least one project per month. The spring was filled with many memorable events and experiences shared by the group.

In January, Praxis welcomed four new members; Malcolm Brown, Natasha Mandel, and Loretta Cremmins, and Lydia Damon, who were all excellent additions to the group. While everyone continued their involvement with their individual service projects, we spent much of the semester recruiting students for next year as well as fundraising for our Relay for Life team. The group also saw the rewards of cultivating the garden in the fall to a beautiful display of plants and wildlife (pink flamingos) a great addition to the beautification of the dorm.

In April, Praxis took its members to the nearby Children’s Museum in West Hartford for the Hunger Clean-Up. The group was able to help assist in some much needed yard work for the museum, which the staff and kids greatly appreciated. Praxis sponsored a team at the fourth annual Relay for Life. Team Praxis’ fifteen members raised over $6,200 for the American Cancer Society. Praxis finished first as the top fundraising team for the Relay. Additionally, a number of Praxis members held key leadership positions on the Relay Planning Committee and/or participated with other teams at the fundraising event. Praxis reached this goal not only by its individual fundraisers but also through its most popular event this spring, PRAXIS SNAXIS. Students set up a grilling station on the front lawn and sold late night snacks to the Trinity population at large. The fundraiser rose over $240, and will be a staple fundraiser in Praxis’ future.

Praxis concluded the spring semester with a few smaller projects. At Fun Fair, we ran a booth where kids decorated bookmarks while they listened to the beats of the Samba players on the Mather Quad. We ended the year by collaborating with Green Campus’ Dump and Run to collect clothes and furniture no longer wanted by students. Praxis also held an end of the pizza party where new and old members were able to get together and meet. Praxis had a record twenty-two new members for the ‘09-‘10 academic year and we are really excited to see what they can do for the community!

Unfortunately, as the 2008-2009 academic year drew to a close, Praxis lost 10 Seniors: Will Cyphers, Kelsey Correia, Whitney Connelly, Katie Fielding, Danae Goldberg, Becca Snyder, Dan Hoyle, Samantha Moorin, Harrison Tsopelas, and Molly Rose. These seniors have been very active members, many of whom have been members since their Sophomore year. All have made a truly significant impact on campus. Praxis certainly has seen an end of an era with this group as we really appreciate all of their hard work and will definitely miss them! However, under the leadership of next year’s coordinator (the small but mighty) Gina Filloramo ‘10, Praxis appears to be in great shape to continue making a difference on campus and in Hartford. For more information about Praxis, please contact Gina Filloramo at trinpraxis@gmail.com.
Green Campus by Elisabeth Cianciola

Green Campus is a student-run organization that focuses on environmental issues at Trinity. We promote recycling, renewable energy, food waste reduction, and raising students’ awareness of their impact on the environment. With a dedicated crew, Green Campus in partnership with administrators, faculty, staff, and SGA, has set out to tackle these issues, this spring semester.

Our Recycling Task Force ran Trinity’s first-ever Recyclemania to compete with other colleges to maximize recycling. Competing against 292 other schools, we placed 64th in the per capita competition. We more than doubled our recycling rate, but there’s still room for improvement, considering how low our baseline was. Our annual vigilante recycling took place on March 29. We pulled recyclables out of the trash in 16 of the 25 dorms on campus with only 6 volunteers! These were displayed on the Cave patio the following day to show students how much potential we have for increased recycling. Our annual vigilante recycling took place on March 29.

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The Treehouse, located at 125 Allen Place, is finally starting to feel like a functional space. We have had second-hand furniture delivered, installed efficient appliances, and decorated with items handmade by Trinity students and donated by Trinity faculty. We hosted the first Earthopoly tournament on Thursday, April 23. All who attended fell in love with the game on their first rolls! We also had a very successful open house with yard games, free items, and catering from Alchemy Juice Bar during the Block Party on April 29.

Earth Week was bigger than ever this year. We began with a neighborhood clean-up of the South Park River trail on Saturday, April 18 during Spring Weekend. On Monday, April 20, we had our annual tree-planting. This year we chose to plant a species native to Connecticut, the sugar maple, along the walkway to Hillel. It should have gorgeous autumn foliage. On Tuesday, April 21, we screened King Corn in McCook Auditorium. This film was an excellent way to show students an inside perspective of the American farming industry and many of the products we commonly consume. On Earth Day, we gave away homemade vegan cupcakes in Mather. And on April 24th we cosponsored a talk in the McCook Auditorium with the Biology Club featuring Mr. Paul Riendo of New England Water Works. He gave a fun and timely lecture on the differences between bottled water and tap water.

As successful as Earth Week was, we were still hard at work at the end of the semester. In conjunction with Earth Week, we conducted a publicity campaign for the wind energy we purchased from Sterling Planet so that Spring Weekend, Earth Day, and Commencement would all be powered with energy from a renewable source. At Fun Fair, we had a bubble table to make bubbles using environmentally-friendly soap with the children of Hartford. Even after the semester ended, we were still working with the RA’s on Dump and Run, a project to collect unwanted items students leave behind at the end of the year and donate them to charity. This year the recipients were Immaculate Conception Shelter, Tabor House, Independence Unlimited, and Hartford Catholic Worker. Special thanks to all our dedicated volunteers for the time and effort they contributed to our ambitious agenda and we look forward to seeing the progress of the projects we have started this semester when we return in the fall.
Ivy Society by Mia Balsom ‘10

Over the spring semester, The Ivy Society continued our strong tradition of serving both Trinity and the Hartford community. We kicked off the semester with another spring-cleaning. Again, we were able to make several donations to local Salvation Armies.

The Ivy Society also co-sponsored “Take Back the Night,” an event to promote awareness about sexual assault and violence on college campuses across the country. As a group of active young women, we believe that this event is one of the most important offered at Trinity. “Take Back the Night” encourages all students, not just women, to educate themselves about sexual violence and to be aware of instances of sexual assault on this campus.

The Ivy Society had been preparing for the 4th Annual Trinity College Relay for Life since mid-fall, and we saw the culmination of our hard work this April. It was a great opportunity for both The Ivy Society and the Trinity community to come together for an important cause. We raised more money for the American Cancer Society this year than we ever have before. We also had one of the highest participation rates of all Greek organizations with over 35 sisters donating or participating in Trinity’s Relay, and multiple sisters walked through the night. We would like to congratulate our own Cornelia van der Geest ‘11, since she was one of the top 5 individual fundraisers in the entire Relay. Additionally, our “Ivy Sophomores” team was in the top 5 for their fundraising efforts out of the almost 70 Relay teams. This event exceeded our expectations this year and we are looking forward to next year’s Relay.

To wrap up the school year, The Ivy Society participated in the Greater Hartford Walk for Arthritis for our second time. This debilitating disease had touched many members of the sisterhood, and it was nice to continue our relationship with the Arthritis Foundation. On the same day that we did the Walk for Arthritis, we also participated in ACES Fun Fair for the first time. We got pounds of candy and enjoyed the music that Samba Fest offered while doing the limbo with about 50 children from the surrounding area. We are looking forward to limbo-ing in the Fun Fair again next year!

It has once again been a successful semester of community service for The Ivy Society. We are looking forward to and have begun planning events for the fall semester! For more information about The Ivy Society, please contact Mia Balsom at Mia.Balsom@trincoll.edu.

Ivy Society’s Arthritis Team Picture

Congratulations to Trinity’s Teach For America 2009 Corps!

Teach For America (TFA) is a national teacher corps of recent college graduates who commit to teaching and effectuating change in low income urban and rural public schools around the country. It is a highly competitive program that recruits the nation’s brightest and most engaging student leaders from America’s top colleges and universities. This year, the Office of Community Service & Civic Engagement is extremely proud to report that Trinity College bids farewell to 8 Trinity students and future teachers as they enter into a rigorous summer training!

Caitlin Farrell: Las Vegas corps, Early childhood elementary
Morgan Bowling: Baltimore corps, Elementary
Sara Fiorillo: Charlotte corps, Elementary
Melissa Katz: New York City corps, Bilingual
Rebecca Snyder: Bay Area corps, Bilingual
Lisa Esposito: Hawai’I, Math
Hannah Shapiro: Bay Area corps, Special education
Kaye Wickman: Southern Louisiana corps, Early childhood elementary
Relay baton is passed--in good shape and in good hands (from Page 1)

and still fighting cancer.

A unique addition to the entertainment schedule this year was the Lip Sync competition. Eleven groups competed for the grand prize of $700, performing in front of over 400 people. Throughout the night, entertainment continued and many games and activities were made possible partly in thanks to the brilliant weather.

A group of dedicated students make up the event planning committee, and they began their hard work way back in September. Beginning the moment they arrived back on campus, the Senior tri-chairs Kelsey Correia, Urey Chow, and Molly Rose set the tone with their discipline and creativity as they embarked on this huge project.

This year, the committee made a year long effort to keep Relay in everyone’s mind, hosting events throughout the school year. They hosted a team rally in November, a survivor social in December and a day long kickoff at the beginning of the spring semester. During the kickoff, committee members tabled in Mather Hall, helped people register for the event, held a common hour team planning lunch and hosted a mini luminaria ceremony in the evening. Committee members and team captains even painted the campus purple, the official color of Relay, with posters, stickers and bows. This was the first ever day-long relay and over 100 participants signed up. Expect to see this kind of event again in the future!

The hard work and organization paid off not only in their fundraising, but also in their winning of the “Best Organization of the Year” award presented by the Office of Campus Life.

Relay For Life achieved greater visibility on campus this year, which was reflected in the numbers of registered teams and participants. Relay had 432 registered participants before the event and over 100 who signed up the day of! The number of teams this year was a record-breaking 67, the largest number Trinity has ever seen. Raising almost $63,000, this was a special end to a knock-out four years as the seniors who saw the first Relay at Trinity are now all graduating. We hope they are the first to form their Alumni team next year!

With a strong freshman class and some seasoned members of the planning committee, next year’s Relay is destined for success. For more information email Tiffany Ruiz at tiffany.ruiz@trincoll.edu or visit www.relayforlife.org/trinityct. There are many, many ways to get involved. Join us for this event to celebrate, remember, and fight back against cancer!

2009 Honors’ Day Awards Recipients

The Samuel Fishzohn Awards for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and Community Service was established in 1966 in memory of Samuel S. Fishzohn, Class of 1925, a prominent figure in social work and welfare. These awards are given each year to two students in each of the two categories:

1. Community Service--for a student who has demonstrated initiative and creativity in community service related to important social issues. **Recipients:** Courtney Duffy ’12, Marissa Powers ’09, & Amanda Sweat ’12

2. Civil Rights and Civil Liberties--for a student who has worked with dedication in civil rights, civil liberties or race relations. **Recipients:** Zee Santiago ’09, Ibrahim Diallo ’10

Alexander Goldfarb Award for Community Service is awarded jointly by the City of Hartford and Trinity College to the Trinity student who, through community service, has done the most during this current year to benefit the City of Hartford and its citizens.

**Recipients:** Greg Amarra ’10, Sarah Blanks ’10, & Gina Filloramo ’10

The St. Anthony Hall Community Service Award was established by the St. Anthony Hall Foundation. It is awarded annually to a Trinity College fraternity or sorority member who has demonstrated initiative, creativity, and commitment in the areas of service, activism, and/or civic engagement during the academic year. In conjunction with this award, a financial contribution will be made in the recipient’s name to support a nonprofit organization or community programming initiative of his or her choosing.

**Recipient:** Alicia Ramadei ’09 (Zeta Omega Eta)