Students Raised $9,142 for Haiti Relief Efforts

Almost immediately after the magnitude 7.0 earthquake, Trinity students leapt into action, selling bracelets and sponsoring a variety of activities to generate money for humanitarian aid. Altogether, $9,142 was raised, which was evenly divided between the Haitian Ministries for the Diocese of Norwich and Partners in Health. The check to the Haitian Ministries was presented July 8.

In addition to the money raised, a weeklong Water for Haiti drive resulted in more than 60 cases of badly needed drinking water being shipped to the devastated Caribbean nation.

"Although the student body may have been disconnected geographically, it did not take much time to see the emerging movement of compassion and effort that was forming to respond with action for the people of Haiti," said Lindsey Eichler, assistant director of the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement. "Email chains ensued and many ideas were tossed around, all attempting to answer the same question: ‘what can we do?’"

Under the leadership of Leslie James ’11, vice president for Multicultural Affairs for the Student Government Association (SGA), a contingent of students kicked off Trinity’s Haiti Relief Month (which, in reality, stretched over six weeks), starting with the first weekend of the spring semester.

Trinity’s Best Buddies Chapter, Stronger than Ever

Joseph Laws ‘12

Best Buddies facilitates friendships between Trinity students and people in the Hartford area with intellectual disabilities. This semester, we formed almost a dozen friendships and participated in three monthly group events both on and off campus.

We started the semester running with our Valentines Day party in February. Hosted at Trinity College, we made Valentines Day cards, had pizza, and sang karaoke. It was a nice event to get reacquainted with one another after the long winter break.

Our March activity was to go see the Trinity College Baseball team play at the University of Hartford, but the game was rained out. So instead, we later attended a Trinity home baseball game against Bates at the beginning of April. Continued on page 4

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Spring 2010 Selected Highlights

January
30
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.

February
16
Red Cross Blood Drive Sponsored by Psi Upsilon

25
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
11
ACES Annual Auction for Charity: Raised over $3,000! 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.

13
Best Buddies @ UHart Baseball Opener: Trinity College buddies bring their Hartford buddies to see group members play at University of Hartford

21-27
Alternative Spring Break with Habitat for Humanity: 29 Trinity students spent their spring break building houses with Habitat for Humanity affiliates in Miami, FL.

April
21
Lions Club Wine & Cheese: Annual fundraiser brought together Lions from around the state for an evening in Hamlin Hall.

21-25
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.

30-1
Relay for Life: More than 600 students participated in the overnight event that raised more than $63,000 to support the American Cancer Society.

May
5
Volunteer Appreciation Dinner: Over 100 student volunteers were honored at a formal dinner in the Washington Room.

8
Fun Fair: Student groups set up booths on the Mather quad and hosted carnival for local children.

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

June
8
Graduation Pledge: Graduation seniors pledge to be more “socially responsible” in their future careers.

Contact Information for the Community Service Office

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ConnPIRG Organizer: Dana Leeper (860) 297-3510 dana@connpirgstudents.org
Dream Camp Program Coordinator: Mary Franco (860) 987-6209 mfranco@esfcamps.com
Fall 2010 Upcoming Events

September
1-4
FACES/Praxis Training: Student community service leaders return to campus early to begin planning for the new academic year
6
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
2
Praxis Graffiti Clean-up with Knox Parks Foundation

November
7
Green Homecoming: Green Campus and SGA pair up to distribute biodegradable cups for tailgates and purchase wind energy to offset Trinity’s energy use for that weekend

December
ACES Sponsor a Snowman Drive: 100 holiday gifts are collected for the children of the Hartford Interval House

A FACES Coordinator Conversation (Friends Active in Civic Engagement and Service)
Monica Au-Yeung ’12 & Benjamin Gascoigne ’10

Monica: So I think FACES had a great semester this past Spring! With over 30 (?) community service clubs and organizations collaborating on some great ideas and events, I feel like we’ve opened up so many avenues of communication between among the various service groups on campus this semester!

Ben: Yes, indeedy! We had a unique start to this semester, promoting a "Hope for Haiti" theme. Different groups in FACES came together to organize a day-long Tag Sale. We collected and sold old clothes, books, toys, and lots of trinkets. Baked goods and build-a-bears with "Hope for Haiti" t-shirts (so cute!) were also sold. The joint effort raised over $1600 which became part of our larger campus-wide fundraising effort that ultimately brought in over $9,000 that was donated to two charities, one local—Haitian Ministries of the Diocese of Norwich, Connecticut—and one international, Partners in Health.

Monica: Wait! You forgot about the FACES "Water for Haiti" initiative! Since we know that Trinity students always have so many meals left after the week and they have nothing to spend it on, we decided to ask them to purchase bottles of water with their remaining meals to send to Haiti. It was so successful! Toby Chenette and his crew from Chartwells helped us transport over 60 cases of water!

Ben: Wow, if I do the math, that is 1,440 bottles! FACES is awesome. And to facilitate continued awesomeness, a handful of the members participated in the Community Engagement Conference at Central Connecticut State University in early February. We learned so many things that day because there were several different breakout sessions and we divided and conquered!

Monica: We sure did! And word on the street is that some of our student groups are looking to serve as presenters at the next conference. We had quite a successful second half of the year, didn’t we Ben?
VAMP & Rising Stars
Romulus Ferrer-Perez

Dedication with a capital D!
This past Spring Semester saw our third cohort of mentees from the Hartford Magnet Middle School (HMMS) – located across the street from campus, on Vernon & Broad Streets – complete their final year in our Rising Stars or Vision Academic Mentoring Program (V.A.M.P.). Their three-year participation in one of those two tutoring/mentoring programs complemented the fruits of our labors.

In a special way, we are a community outreach program whose inception in 2001 has led to increased participation and efforts, which are still going strong in 2010. Thus far, those nine solid years reflect the staunch commitment that hundreds of Trinity students have given to serve the students at HMMS, while simultaneously carrying a full-time academic load themselves. We have had the privilege of knowing mentors who have indeed dedicated three uninterrupted years of service to either program. And a handful of mentors were actually involved during all four of their academic years in either Rising Stars or V.A.M.P. Talk about Dedication with a capital D!

How far-reaching is the service we provide? In many ways, we are big brothers and sisters to our middle school charges, endeavoring always to provide useful guidance and direction. Academically, we tutor them in each of the five subjects or courses they carry (mathematics, reading, science, civics or social studies, and an international language).

Socially, we strive to set a good example both in and out of the classroom setting by “modeling the way” about proper decorum and behavior. Personally, we continuously reinforce their strengths, abilities, and full potential with healthy dosages of encouragement and tenacity. Acting as their “older siblings” is a way for each of us to be right and responsible role models to our very impressionable younger sibs. There are numerous cases now whereby contact between mentor and mentee continues well after both parties graduate, and those are ties that bind.

But not everything is just work, work, work – no! Time spent with our mentees is tempered with engaging and enjoyable enrichment activities drummed up by each and every mentor. Working for the benefit of one-and-all makes what we do truly hands-on. Additionally, occasional Saturday field trips that consist of fun outings like bowling, laser-tag, rollerblading, and ice-skating truly reinforce the bonds between mentor and mentee. Both of our academic mentoring programs are ideal ways for Trinity students to dedicate themselves to a substantive way to engage with the Hartford community. In fact, ours are only two of a number of programs on campus that allow any student to do just that.

We are proud of our track record of helping our mentees along the way, academically and otherwise. This past semester alone, 3 of our mentees made “high honors” with the distinction of maintaining a cumulative grade point average of A- or higher, and 13 made “honors” or the equivalent of a B to B+ range. It is safe to say that improved grades lead to higher self-esteem and self-confidence amongst mentees and mentors alike.

So if you hanker to touch the heart of the community in positive ways, consider being an academic mentor in one of our two programs. While Rising Stars bears a flexible weekly commitment on Mondays, Wednesdays, or both (hours are from 2:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.), V.A.M.P. carries hours from 2:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is a mandatory two-day per week commitment. We walk just across campus to HMMS to show our Dedication to some very enthusiastic kids. By the way, that’s “Dedication” with a capital D!

For more information, please contact program coordinator Romulus Ferrer-Perez at romulus.perez@trincoll.edu, or by phoning him at x2160.

Best Buddies, cont.

We got to see our college buddies, Andy and Angus, deliver a whopping 6-0 victory.

The last event of the year was to attend Relay For Life at Trinity College. As a team we raised over $560 for the event, and our buddies had a blast. We enjoyed walking around the ice hockey rink, the musical group performances, eating great food, and decorating birthday hats.

In addition to group events on campus, we had thriving individual relationships. For example, Nate and Bill, who spent time organizing Bill’s picture collection. Or Joe and Robin, who spent time decorating for Easter. Or Shana and Albert, who went out for ice cream.

We would like to thank all of our buddies and college buddies for helping us have such an amazing year. We look forward to building on our success next year with our new College Buddy Director, Tommy Kilgore.

For questions about getting involved in Best Buddies, please email trinitybestbuddies@gmail.com. We also want to wish our departing seniors, Shana Conroy and Emily Cote, our heartfelt thanks for all of their dedicated years of service to the program!
Trinity’s Haiti Relief Effort, cont.

Another key organizer was Gerald Antoine ’11, who was born and raised in Jeremie, Haiti. Although Antoine immigrated to the United States in 1997, he still has family and friends in his native country.

In order to attend any of the events, students were required to purchase a “Trinity for Haiti” wristband for $5 apiece. The red and black bracelet was fashioned after the Lance Armstrong Foundation’s LIVESTRONG wristband. Faculty and staff also purchased bracelets.

The inaugural event was a Friday evening vigil in the Chapel, organized by the Individualized Degree Program (IDP) and the Trinity College Gospel Choir. The Gospel Choir and the Dischords (an a cappella group) performed, and Leslie Desmangles, Charles A. Dana Research Professor of Religion and International Studies, shared stories about his family in Haiti and his thoughts on the tragedy.

The microphone was made available to anyone who wanted to speak, and many students shared stories about how they were personally affected by the earthquake. Following the vigil, a benefit concert was organized by the Temple of Hip Hop and held at The Mill. The following evening, the Caribbean Students Association and La Voz Latina held a successful dance. The final event of the first weekend took place on Sunday night with an improvisational comedy show headlined by Trinity’s Moveable Joints and featuring an a cappella concert.

With the support of the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Office of Campus Life, the weekend was a rousing success, raising roughly $4,500 from the sale of the wristbands and attendance at the events.

The Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement and Friends Active in Civic Engagement and Service (ACES) -- the umbrella organization for Trinity’s service organizations as well as Greek, multicultural, and faith-based organizations -- organized the first-ever Bantam Bazaar, held February 23 in the Washington Room in Mather Hall. The bazaar was a full-day tag and bake sale, with all of the goods and merchandise donated by members of the Trinity community.

The baked goods were made and donated by each of the FACES organizations and Trinity’s food service provider, Chartwells. In addition, Chartwells closed its dessert station on the day of the Bantam Bazaar and posted a sign informing people that they could have their dessert that day by supporting Trinity’s Haiti relief efforts. The Bantam Bazaar raised more than $1,600.

The final push involved the Annual Community Events Staff (ACES) auction. In its 17th year, the auction was held in Mather’s dining hall and featured auctioneer Ryan Haney ’10. The auction has a long history of success of aiding community organizations, but with the beneficiary this year being Trinity’s Haiti relief efforts, students dug deep into their pockets. More than $2,700 was raised, bringing the grand total of the six-week long
As I meandered through my first year at Trinity, I questioned the involvement of my peers and the lack of enthusiasm there was for volunteering and community outreach. When the topic of community service came up in conversation, the default answers would be “Well... I did a lot of volunteering in high school” or “I just haven't found a program that has interested me yet.” I was afraid that these responses would become the status quo. However, I am proud, pumped, and most of all reenergized that in the past year these standard answers have transformed into a committed and active student body. One program in particular, M.D. Fox Mentoring, has had a major role in this turnaround.

The M.D. Fox Program pairs each Trinity student with an M.D. Fox Elementary School student and each pair meets once a week at M.D. Fox during the mentee's lunch period. This one-on-one relationship has proven to be fun and successful. Each mentee has their own Trinity student to hang out with, talk to, play sports, make art projects, beat at board games, and run around. However, most significantly this program provides a positive role model that is present every week—something that is absent in many of these children’s lives. It may be only an hour a week, but it makes a big difference.

Trinity students have jumped mentoring program can boast the largest active membership of any group on campus, pure size is no way to measure success. We have backed up our quantity with quality events, new initiatives and our first executive board.

Twice, we brought the M.D. Fox kids to Trinity’s campus—a Winter Wonderland party in Vernon Social Center in December and a Spring Fling party in the Field House in April. As one mentor stated, the parties “were beautiful chaos, with the mentees having a blast and not wanting to leave.” Next year we plan to have more parties at Trinity with music and a possible talent show.

Finally, during the spring semester, the M.D. Fox program added an afterschool program three days a week for Trinity students who could not mentor in the morning and for kids who wanted or needed to stay after school. The afterschool program has allowed us to add an educational component to our program where mentors help their mentees with their schoolwork before getting to play outside. Both the mentees and mentors ended the year with rave reviews, and we are looking to expand afterschool program membership along with more structured programs.

M.D. Fox Mentoring provides Trinity students with a variety of opportunities to be involved, and Trinity is listening and acting. If you want to be a volunteer once a week, that is wonderful. If you want to do more, we have an executive board that deserves the credit for making our program run so smoothly and successfully. In the end, rather than saying, “Well... I did a lot of volunteering in high school,” you can answer it proudly and say, “I make a difference now.” We look forward to having you join us. If you would like to get involved in the program, please contact us at mdfoxmentoring@gmail.com.
Book Buddies
Elizabeth Preysner ‘13

Book Buddies is a new program that started this year at Hartford Magnet Middle School. The goal of the program is to foster a love of reading among elementary school students as well as to help those who struggle with reading to improve. Many of the students in the program are not native English speakers, and some have only lived in the United States for a few months.

Each Monday and Friday morning, Trinity students walk to the middle school to meet with their student partner, or “buddy.” Although the program starts at 8:15 in the morning, a small group of dedicated students actively participated in the first two months of the program (which were the last two months of the semester). Each student has an individual partner and works with them to read a pleasure-reading book. This can take the form of partner reading or having one partner read aloud to the other. Some of the students do not feel comfortable reading aloud, while others are always willing to make the effort.

The staff at Hartford Magnet Middle School appreciates the efforts that Trinity students have put forth thus far to make Book Buddies a success. As the program continues in its second year, they would love to have more Trinity students participate. If you are interested in learning more about Book Buddies, please contact Elizabeth Preysner at elizabeth.preysner@trincoll.edu. We are always looking for more students willing to share their love of reading!

ESL at the Jubilee House
Sarah Kacevich ‘13

A small group of students began volunteering as teachers of English as a Second Language (ESL) at Jubilee House, an adult education center on Clifford Street, this spring semester. The Trinity students, who volunteered their own time or taught as part of a Community Learning Initiative course, taught ESL one-on-one with an adult student once a week. The adult ESL students represented a diverse group of immigrants and refugees with varying first languages and experience in the United States. No prior teaching experience or competency in languages other than English was required of the student teachers, who were quickly exposed to the daily life of an immigrant living in Hartford.

Run by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Jubilee House serves south Hartford with several ESL classes, an adult education center, and a refugee assistance center. Looking around Jubilee House, one can find adult students of all ages and home nations, including Burma, Peru, Bosnia, and Eritrea. Volunteering at the center, which is a short 10-minute walk from campus via Broad Street, was truly an opportunity for the Trinity students to get “outside the bubble” of campus on a weekly basis. The teachers developed close personal relationships with their adult students, engaging in casual conversations while teaching about anything from their students’ immigration experience to their family and work life. The Trinity students benefited just as much from volunteering as did their students—besides receiving a hands-on and realistic experience outside the borders of campus, the volunteers’ own language skills improved. For example, one volunteer frequently used her Spanish background to communicate with her student, who was a native speaker of Portuguese. Volunteering was a true give-and-take of mutual benefit, and the Trinity students hope to continue to build a larger coalition of volunteers next semester so that our positive relationship with Jubilee House continues to flourish.
March, AI hosted a movie night in The Underground Coffee House on, ironically, the coffee trade. *Black Gold*, which highlights the importance of fair trade initiatives, was shown and drew the biggest crowd yet for Amnesty’s monthly Human Rights Film Series!

Cont. on next page

It just keeps getting better for Amnesty! The group has grown this year and now has a small but solid membership that is working to make AI more of a name on campus.

Early in the semester, AI participated in the efforts to raise money as part of Trinity’s Haiti relief efforts and published a newsletter on the ongoing struggle in Haiti to bring greater awareness of the persistent and larger challenges plaguing that country.

See . . . not so hard at all. So if this sounds of interest to you, keep an eye out for our meeting times. If you would like more information, please feel free to contact Allie Siraco at alessandra.siraco@trincolle...
Activists for Southeast Asia
Elizabeth O’Connell ‘10

Activists for Southeast Asia is a relatively new group on campus, only three years old. This spring, we were thrown a curveball in that there was less of a need for tutoring in the Burmese community we have been helping out with for the past two years. Due to an growth in the size of the community, and also to the increase in their English competency and mobility around the city, they have turned to more large scale ESL programs based at the Hartford Public Library to meet their needs.

As a group, we initially felt bummed that we could not contribute to the everyday lives of our Burmese friends, but we have come to celebrate this change, as it was one of our initial goals years back: that refugees from conflict-ridden areas in Southeast Asia could live comfortably and happily in our city.

Worry we did not, as we quickly switched gears in planning for our annual Boogie for Burma event, this year held at The Mill. With an outdoor barbecue, music, and an indoor gallery featuring photos from the Burma Borders Project, we managed to raise awareness regarding the present day issues that the Burmese people are facing, as well as raise money for our continued partnership with Dr. Cynthia’s Clinic on the Thai-Burma Border.

If anyone would like to participate in future events please contact Ali Wood at ali.wood@trincoll.edu.
Stop the Raids
Sandra Gonzalez ‘11

Stop the Raids is a student organization which aims at engaging students on the current immigration policies and laws affecting the lives of millions of undocumented people in our country. This year, Stop the Raids joined many immigrant rights organizations across the country to discuss alternative immigration reforms other than those which have been presented these past few months by Representative Luis Gutierrez and Senator Charles E. Schumer. Both of these proposals aimed at a legalization process which aimed to delay the process for undocumented residents to gain a legal status. Therefore, Stop the Raids decided to discuss the new wave of immigrant rights movement which intends to create a reform with a fair and offers an immediate path to legalization.

During the Spring 2010 Semester, Stop the Raids invited two immigrant rights activists, Cristobal Cavazos CT from Chicago and David Silva Villalobos from Los Angeles as well as Mariano Cardoso’s family from New Britain, to present their personal testimony on their apprehensions by Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers. The event took place April 20, 2010 and it was a great success. Students asked questions or doubts on the process of creating an immigration reform which protected undocumented people. The significance of this event was to give students at Trinity a scope of how other undocumented students face barriers which prevent them from becoming successful individuals with professional careers giving them the opportunity to join the workforce. We wanted to bring real life testimonies on how not only parents are arrested but also students who attend school and have never had a criminal record are also in danger of being deported to their home countries.

As a student organization we also decided to join The Grassroots Immigrant Justice Network a group of activists who have created an alternative immigration reform to the current anti-immigrant proposals. Throughout the year The Grassroots Immigrant Justice Network group and Stop the Raids participated in weekly phone conferences which helped organize the March 21, 2010 march to Washington. The objective of the march was to make President Obama address the issue of immigration and present a reform soon. These weekly phone conferences have been held for the past few months and they will continue to be held, the goal is to have many different organizations from across the country to join a massive organization and help enforce the need for an immigration reform.

Lastly Stop the Raids is also interested in raising awareness regarding the new Arizona law Governor Jan Brewer signed into the Senate Bill 1070, which makes it a state crime to be in the country illegally and requires police to check the immigration status of anyone they have reasonable suspicion of being in the country illegally. This bill goes into effect July 29. As a student organization we would like to continue raising awareness of anti-immigrant legislation which is affecting the lives of millions of people who just come to this country in search of a better future. This upcoming fall semester we will continue to discuss and defend Mariano’s case, we will participate in marches or protests regarding immigration laws such as those against Senate Bill 1070 and we will continue informing our students and community about immigration matters that affect our community. Thank you for your time and if you would like to participate in our group we meet every Monday at 8 p.m. in Gallows Hill.
Peter’s Retreat
Dillard Taylor ’12

Peter’s Retreat is a housing program for individuals living with HIV or AIDS who would otherwise be homeless. The residents of the house are provided with a place to live, food, and support services. Every other week, volunteers from Trinity College go to Peter’s Retreat to assist in whatever way we can, including helping to cook meals, doing yard work, decorating the house for holidays, or preparing rooms for new residents.

One of my most personal memories that I’ve held deeply from this past year was an experience while doing yard work with one of the residents. We were chatting while working, and he told me a story of an incident he had with some of his family members. He went over to one of his siblings’ houses for dinner, and while dinner was being served, he was given a plastic plate instead of a normal dinner plate. He realized his siblings and family were afraid that he would spread HIV through his dinner plate or by some other means, and they were also keeping their distance from him and speaking to him in a patronizing manner. He told me that their actions had deeply hurt him, and it was a reminder that there is still an incredible amount of ignorance about HIV/AIDS. Worse yet, many with HIV/AIDS are still treated as less than human or that they do not matter, even among family members.

Ultimately, this is why we volunteer our time and energy to a place like Peter’s Retreat—to affirm the humanity of the residents. It is a worthwhile experience that draws our volunteers back time after time.

This year, we say goodbye to Greg Amarra ’10 and Shah Momin ’10 both of whom volunteered at Peter’s Retreat for the full four years of their time at Trinity. Their ongoing dedication to, and leadership of, this project has served as a positive example to us younger volunteers. We hope to follow their example and build upon the good work of Greg and Shah. Thanks guys, and best wishes in whatever comes next (rumor has it Greg is at Google). We’ll miss you.

American Medical Students Association (AMSA)
Ashley Meilleur ’11

This year AMSA (American Medical Students Association) took an active role in helping to better our surrounding community as well as those overseas. This semester we were able to create an ongoing health and sex education program for the Ayi Owen International School in Ghana. The Ayi Owen International School is sponsored by For One World, founded over 10 years ago in part by Trinity alumnus, James Mattison ’98, to help children in Ghana, West Africa get a basic education. AMSA members corresponded with a teacher from Ayi Owen to find out what they were looking for and, based on their needs, created a lesson plan using PowerPoint that the school will be able access regularly. Looking forward to 2010-2011 school year, we plan to strengthen our partnership with Ayi Owen International School by raising money to support at least one student.

In addition to helping Ayi Owen, AMSA members also took part in the Trinity’s 5th annual Relay for Life. By forming a team, raising money, and participating as a group in the overnight event, AMSA members felt great satisfaction in the part we had in raising approximately $50,000 for cancer research. And at the end of the semester, we placed boxes outside of the bookstore and library for a Better Worlds Books book drive (www.betterworldbooks.com), with the books collected donated to the Prison Book Program (www.prisonbookprogram.org).

If you would like to learn more about AMSA, contact Ashley Meilleur at ashley.meilleur@trincoll.edu.
Lions Club
Nay Oo Shein ‘11

Lions Club International is the world’s largest service organization. The Lions Club chapter at Trinity College (the first college chapter in New England) is an extension of an international network of 1.3 million men and women in 205 countries who are known for working to end preventable blindness. Lions participate in a variety of projects important to their communities that range from cleaning up local parks to providing supplies to victims of natural disasters. Beginning in 1917, the association of Lions clubs has provided millions of people with the opportunity to give something back to their communities.

During the spring semester, the Lions at Trinity College were very productive. We celebrated our 10th Anniversary Wine & Cheese event in April at which we also inducted two new members. Wine & Cheese is our club’s biggest fundraising event, to which members from other Lions Clubs in the Hartford area are invited. We allocate money raised from this event and others to various charities at the end of each year. In addition, this semester, Trinity Lions formed a team for Trinity’s 5th annual Relay For Life team, an all night walkathon that raises money for cancer research. In addition to team members getting individual pledges for the effort, the chapter also sold chocolate bunnies before Easter a fundraiser for the cause.

With increased membership and successful fundraisers, the Lions Club looks forward to a promising new year. If you are interested in becoming a part of the Trinity chapter of Lions Club International, or if you would just like more information, feel free to contact Sophie Starchman at sophie.starchman@trincoll.edu.

Annual Community Event Staff (ACES)
Mary Morr ‘12

The Annual Community Event Staff (ACES) had another great semester. We began the semester with Souper Bowl, our canned food drive, held the day before the Super Bowl. After just four hours at two grocery stores, we had several cars full of non-perishable goods, which we delivered to the Hartford Catholic Worker to be distributed to the children and families that participate in their after-school program.

We then began soliciting donations for our Annual Auction, the proceeds of which went to Trinity’s Haiti relief effort this year. We collected donations from more than forty local businesses and had a lively auction with auctioneer Ryan Haney, of the Moveable Joints. The event was a great success, raising over $2,700.00.

Then, we teamed up with Zeta Omega Eta to collect prom dresses and accessories for Princess and the Prom, an organization that helps provide prom attire for girls who would otherwise be unable to afford it. We wrapped up the semester with Fun Fair/SambaFest. During this event, more than twenty campus organizations ran events and activities for children and their families while enjoying SambaFest’s musical performances. We really enjoyed getting to know our enthusiastic new members and seeing the results of all their and our veteran members combined efforts. All our events ran smoothly and were successful through everyone’s help!

This year, ACES bid farewell to Margot Gianinis ‘10. For the past three years, Margot has been the backbone of the organization. In addition to serving as co-chair of ACES for the past two years, Margot has worked for the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement as the ACES support staff for the past three years. She knew what was needed to make every ACES project succeed and went about her work efficiently, effectively, quietly, and with great kindness and compassion. Margot was also one of Trinity’s best students and received well-deserved accolades in a whole range of areas. We are very proud of Margot and feel quite fortunate that amongst all her other commitments, she found the space to get involved and ultimately lead Trinity’s oldest existing community service organization. Thank you Margot. You will be

Lions Club Induction Ceremony

Lions Club Induction Ceremony
Green Campus
Giuliani Lopez ‘11

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.

Trinity continues its participation in Recyclemania, a competition with other colleges to maximize recycling. We had a few weeks of increased recycling that put us in the top 100 schools for colleges our size in the nation. Throughout the semester we have continued vigilante recycling. We pulled recyclables out of the trash cans in dorms throughout the campus with several volunteers! These were displayed on the Cave patio the following day to show students how much potential we have for increased recycling.

We had speaker Harvey Zendt, a 1972 Trinity graduate and former Manhattan Project member, speak on behalf of the Mayors for Peace Project and The Hiroshima Peace Foundation on anti-nuclear activism. His goal is to increase awareness on the moral, strategic, economic and environmental reasons that nonproliferation is critically timely.

The Treehouse, located at 125 Allen Place, has hosted several events throughout the semester, providing a green alternative on campus. We had Lantern Energy conduct an energy audit of the house. This served to educate house members on how we could make our home more efficient. Also, with the help of the Sustainability Task Force (STF) we were able to enter a contract with Lantern Energy to conduct audits for the 30 residential/cultural houses owned by Trinity.

Earth Week was as exciting as ever. We began with a neighborhood clean-up of Frog Hollow on Saturday, April 17. On Monday, April 19, we had speaker Bob Filbin talk about the psychology of environmentalism. On Wednesday, April 21, we screened Taking Root at the Treehouse. This film showed how those in a poor economy can take back their rights and land through environmental activism. On Earth Day, we planted a raised bed garden in our backyard in which we are growing vegetables and herbs that we will eat ourselves!

As incredible 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 recycling-geared game that taught students the new rules set for by the CRRA that started on May 1st that allow us to recycle plastics #1–#7.

To keep up with our messaging encouraging campus sustainability, we helped the Office of Campus Life plan the annual Block Party. Instead of energy wasting attractions, we had a petting zoo (complete with a donkey, llamas, and sheep), oxygen bar, and a giveaway of organic soaps, reusable bags, and biodegradable mugs.

Even after the semester has ended, we are 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. 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. With the help of the Office of Campus Life we will have a sustainability-themed dorm on campus to increase our green culture.
ConnPIRG
Jess Cote ‘12

This spring Trinity’s chapter of the Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (ConnPIRG) concentrated its efforts on four separate campaigns: Hunger and Homelessness, Go Solar CT, Public Transit, and Ener-gy Efficiency. Each group worked to raise awareness about pressing social issues, to improve campus relations, and to co-sponsor events with other student organizations.

The Hunger and Homelessness campaign worked on a variety of events throughout the semester. The group continued its weekly work with Community Cooking and the Hartford Rescue Mission. This semester marked the beginning of a new tradition with Community Cooking; instead of being solely a ConnPIRG undertaking, the project is now co-sponsored with Chartwells and the SGA and is funded through meals donated by students each week. Throughout the course of the semester, meals were prepared for over 225 people, and all meals were donated to the Hartford Rescue Mission. A separate project called “ConnPIRG Connecting Food to the Hungry” was also initiated this semester, which involved two students picking up food from local restaurants each Tuesday and delivering it to the Hartford Rescue Mission. In addition to these ongoing projects, Trinity’s ConnPIRG chapter organized a statewide event for the annual national Hunger Clean-Up Service Day. On April 10, over 40 college students from Trinity and UConn volunteered at Grow Hartford, Elizabeth Park and Greater Joy Mission Church. Fundraising from days leading up to the event raised $2,500 to benefit the Hartford Rescue Mission, the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness, and other international hunger relief efforts.

The Go Solar campaign collected 109 petition signatures to support the state solar bill and had students place 35 calls to Senator Lieberman to pass the national bill fighting global warming. On May 5, 2010, Connecticut lawmakers passed a solar energy bill, which calls for 300 megawatts of electricity to come from solar power in the next decade, enough to power more than 100,000 homes. Unfortunately, this bill was vetoed by the Governor, but the fact the bill made it to the Governor’s desk is a testament to the hard work of the many individuals and organizations, including students at Trinity. On campus, Trinity’s ConnPIRG chapter held its second ever Dorm Wars Energy Competition for two weeks in April. The event promoted reduction of individual energy consumption and advocacy for alternative energy. The top two dorms, Doonesbury and Goodwin, had an average daily energy reduction of 24% and 21% respectively. There was also an overall campus-wide reduction in energy use during the event. The second event held by Go Solar was Solar Jam, which took place during Earth Week. The event featured a local solar company along with other campus groups and promoted solar energy use with information and entertainment.

The Public Transit campaign focused its efforts on one large, extremely successful event for the semester: a statewide bike trek in support of high speed rail. Over 20 students from across the state traveled through Stamford, New Haven, Wallingford, Kensington, Berlin, and Hartford. Along the way, students met with a number of elected officials, including Speaker of the House Christopher Donovan, State Representative David McCluskey, Mayor John DeStefano of New Haven, State Representative Mary Mushinsky, State Senator Thomas Gaffney and Mayor Michael Rodhe of Meriden. The three-day event culminated in a press conference at the State Capitol.

The Energy Efficiency Corps, Trinity’s newest ConnPIRG campaign, has been working this past semester to get its feet off the ground and running. Energy efficiency trainings and audits were offered throughout the semester for dorm rooms, especially during Dorm Wars, and an official energy audit was hosted at the TREEhouse in April. This group will continue to expand its impact on campus next fall with the recent purchase of equipment for more effective audits.

The Trinity chapter of ConnPIRG looks forward to working on new projects next semester with Campus Organizer Dana Leeper, whose leadership made all of this year’s projects possible.

Graduation Pledge
Stephen Kendall ‘10

The Graduation Pledge Alliance is a nationwide effort to create awareness about social and environmental responsibility in the workplace. Since 2001, graduating seniors at Trinity have been pledging to, “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.”

Our efforts this year focused on trying to provide resources based on the mission of the pledge. Each week we posted jobs related to social or environmental responsibility on our facebook page. This allowed us to assist seniors in their job searches. These job listings were also sent to Career Services who posted them on the Trinity Exchange. This allowed for a more diverse range of visible job opportunities and also allowed for a space to display local employment openings in and around Hartford.

We were also able to partner with Career Services for an event with Mike Havard ’84 who is Vice President for Marketing at Newman’s Own. Mr. Havard’s talk focused on opportunities for social entrepreneurship in more corporate settings. His advice helped show that efforts of social and environmental justice can happen in venues outside of the nonprofit world.

This year, 340 seniors signed the pledge. Keep an eye out for the green ribbons and earth pins on robes to signify those who have pledged to support these critical efforts.
The Fred Pfeil Community Project
Sean Zimmer ‘11

During the spring 2010 semester, the Fred Pfeil Community Project continued its *Friday Nights at the Fred* series with a mix of classic traditions and fresh ideas. We began the semester with a “Paint for Haiti” night—essentially a big painting party resulting in a banner that was hung over the Cave patio to raise awareness of and support for Trinity’s Haiti relief efforts.

We put on two coffeehouses, both chock full of poetry, music, and coffee, and started what will undoubtedly become a serial event with *This Collegiate Life*—a themed storytelling event in the style of a certain public radio show. We also held our Third Annual YouTube Film Festival, a night devoted to the best (or worst) finds on the internet. New events sprung up throughout the semester, from “Make It Work”—an event based loosely on *Project Runway*—to a Geography Bee. Many more new ideas wait to be explored next semester...

We also worked with some other organizations to put on events. “Kindergarten Night” was a collaboration with School Supplies For Little Guys, and “East Meets West” was co-sponsored with Activists for Southeast Asia. The Fred and the Mill also put together a karaoke event at the Mill to raise money for Relay for Life. The Fred is open to working with any organization or group, and also has its common room available for use by campus organizations.

The Fred Pfeil Community Project, housed in Summit East, is dedicated to creating an alternative and inclusive social scene on campus, one in which social, cultural, and intellectual interests are united. Among other things, we put on events every Friday, host groups throughout the year, and provide a common space for the entire campus’ use. We encourage anyone to drop by or attend an event for a firsthand experience. Please contact Kayla Lawson (Kayla.Lawson@trincoll.edu) and/or Luc Rioual (Luc.Rioual@trincoll.edu) if you have any questions or wish to find out more.

JELLO
Nichola Clark ‘12

JELLO (January Experience of Living & Learning Outreach) began its work prior to the start of the Spring 2010 semester, as we embarked on our first winter break service trip outside of Hartford to Washington D.C. In D.C., we worked through YSOP (Youth Services Opportunities Project). We cooked and served a dinner for the homeless, worked with a soup kitchen (DC Central Kitchen) as well as with a homelessness prevention program (Elder Buddies). On the advocacy front, we talked to activists and community leaders and wrote letters to encourage tax policies that would benefit low-income people.

After the trip—during the semester proper—JELLO sold cookies at the Underground Coffeehouse to raise money, and worked with ConnPIRG Hunger & Homelessness campaign’s participation in the national Hunger Clean-up (a day of service and fundraising to support causes dedicated to ending hunger). We are currently planning for next year, and are still working out the details for our next trip. Keep an eye out for JELLO meetings—everyone is invited. If you have questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact Nichola Clark at nichola.clark@trincoll.edu.
Habitat for Humanity

The Trinity Chapter of Habitat for Humanity has been an organization full of students who dedicate themselves to the elimination of sub-standard housing. This semester has been a semester of transition. As experienced seniors spent their last semester devoting their skills to the advancement of the chapter, younger members began to fill the void that would soon be left. This dynamic created a semester filled with “last hurrahs” and growth, which inspired innovation and dedication in all our work.

The highlight of this semester, like all the spring semesters, was the chapter’s spring break trip. This year, thirty Trinity students traveled south to work with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami with our efforts focused primarily in Homestead Florida. Although people may not realize it, the poverty rate of Miami-Dade County is 20%, which ranks Miami-Dade as the 16th poorest amongst large counties. The city of Miami itself has the highest poverty rate for a city of its size in the US with nearly a third of the population living in poverty. In addition, Miami-Dade suffers from a severe shortage of affordable house, and one of every three apartment buildings repeatedly fails to meet safety standards. (For more information about housing issues in Miami-Dade County and the efforts of Habitat of Humanity of Greater Miami, go to its website at www.miamihabitat.org.)

This Habitat trip was the third in the past fifteen years to build in Homestead, Florida, and through our efforts, we feel very fortunate to have played a small role in the construction of over 60 houses in this community. Our students worked hard every day, and the trip inspired many to become more involved with our campus chapter. We look forward to these newly inspired students to strengthen the chapter even further.

Our fundraising chairs continued to inspire and organize events that have been very successful. These events have ranged from final exam care packages to the Valentine’s Day goldfish sale, both of which have grown into campus traditions. The newly appointed advocacy chairs created a bit more awareness on campus about housing issues by encouraging chapter members to come up with creative ideas to educate about housing issues. Resulting advocacy efforts and activities ranged from creating banners to giving out candy with facts on substandard housing attached. In addition to raising awareness, these activities provided more opportunities for members to be more involved in the work of the chapter.

We are fortunate this year to have assembled a dedicated executive board comprised of experienced veterans and eager newcomers. This would not have been possible without the leadership of the numerous members from the Class of 2010. The chapter members—Greg Amarra, Sarah Blanks, Shana Conroy, Gina Filloramo, Jeannie Guzman, Tiffany Ruiz, Dorian Rojas, Denice Ruperto—as a group were the best leadership team in the chapter’s history. They were a vital part of the success and growth the Trinity chapter of Habitat for Humanity. They also worked hard and consistently to pass on their experience and knowledge to the younger members of the chapter. They will be missed, but we look forward to building upon and continuing their legacy.

In closing, we would like to remind everyone that all Trinity students are welcome to join Trinity’s Habitat chapter. Our meetings are held on Sundays at 7:30 p.m. in the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement (Mather basement, next to the bookstore). If you would like more information, feel free to contact us at trinityhabitat@gmail.com.
Kathleen Boelhouwer. Elly’s sister even formed a team and raised $2,000 on her own.

The grand total this year was over $50,000 and we hope that next year’s event is even more successful.

The 5th Annual Relay For Life was held this year at a new location, the Koeppel Community Center on New Britain Avenue. Its location on the far side of campus did not deter students or community members from coming, as we had the highest turnout we’ve had yet. An overnight event, Relay For Life’s mission is to raise money for the American Cancer Society, encouraging participants to walk throughout the night “because cancer never sleeps.” The Relay For Life planning committee works tirelessly to plan activities, movies, contests, and provide food throughout the event. The theme this year was “celebrating more birthdays” and the hickory rink was decked out in balloons, streamers, and other birthday party accessories, helping the survivors, caregivers, and general participants to feel the spirit of the celebration.

The speaker at the Ceremony of Hope, a special moment in every year’s Relay, was Lisa Kassow of Hillel, a recent cancer survivor. It was moving for everyone to hear her story for the first time and we appreciated her bravery and enthusiasm. Also special about this year was the Relay For Life had the privilege to honor two very special members who lost their battle to cancer, Elly Jacobson and Kathleen Boelhouwer. Elly’s sister even formed a team and raised $2,000 on her own.

The grand total this year was over $50,000 and we hope that next year’s event is even more successful.

Relay For Life, Celebrating a World with More Birthdays
2010 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. **Recipient:** Margot Gianis ’10

2. **Civil Rights and Civil Liberties** - for a student who has worked with dedication in civil rights, civil liberties or race relations. **Recipient:** Denisa Jashari ’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:** Tiffany Ruiz ’10, Jacob Prosnit ’12

**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:** Benjamin Gascoigne ’10 (Psi Upsilon)

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This year, Relay For Life was a huge success! We raised over $50,000, honored over 25 survivors on and off campus in the Hartford community, and had a turnout of over 500 participants day of!!! Please look out for information about next year’s Relay in the Fall. If you would like to get involved, write to Logan (left) and Jackie at tcelay2011@gmail.com or visit us online at: www.relayforlife.org/trinityct and help us celebrate a world with more birthdays!