New Vernon Social Is Already a Popular New Gathering Spot

Following a $4.2 million renovation, Vernon Social opened on September 7 with more than seven hours of nonstop inaugural events. Open until 2:00 a.m. daily, Vernon Social offers students new places to meet friends, study, see a performance, enjoy the outdoor fire pits, meet with faculty at the new pub, or watch Sunday football on five new big-screen TVs. Other highlights include an in-house version of a local favorite, Goldberg’s, which features a coffee bar, breakfast food, pastries and deli sandwiches, as well as a new takeout-food and convenience store. The new design introduces shared spaces for student groups to co-host a range of activities and creates a vibrant new social center. The redesign was a recommendation of the Charter Committee for Building Community and was inspired by student calls for more informal gathering options on campus.

New Academic Programs in 2013-2014

Trinity started off the fall semester offering two excellent new programs: a new major in urban studies and a new five-year B.A./M.A. program in neuroscience that offers neuroscience students the opportunity to gain an additional year’s worth of research, capped by a master’s degree. And in January 2014, the College will offer a new “J-Term,” a three-year pilot program that allows students to enroll in two-week, 20-hour courses during the January break. Each course will be worth a half-credit, and students will receive a letter grade. This year, the term will run from January 6-17.

J-Term
JANUARY 6-17, 2014

Enroll in one of Trinity’s J-Term courses this winter break and earn .5 credit.

Working closely with a faculty member in a small class setting, students will be able to explore a broad range of topics:

- Delve into the culture, conflict, and competition of sports in the United States
  Robin Sheppard, Professor of Physical Education and Associate Director of Athletics

- Take a closer look at Hartford, visiting historical and cultural sites around the city, then develop photographic, video, and written presentations
  Robert Peltier, Principal Lecturer in the Allan K. Smith Center for Writing and Rhetoric

- Explore the complexities of reproductive justice in America, including a trip to a national advocacy organization in NYC
  Theresa Morris, Professor of Sociology

- Discover the rich kaleidoscope of music in the 1960s—including the Beatles, Motown, Bob Dylan, James Brown, Aretha Franklin, and music in protest movements
  Gail Woldu, Professor of Music

- Leading up to the summer World Cup in Brazil, explore the interplay of soccer with race and nationalism around the world
  Luis Figueroa, Associate Professor of History

- Take a closer look at Hartford, visiting historical and cultural sites around the city, then develop photographic, video, and written presentations
  Robert Peltier, Principal Lecturer in the Allan K. Smith Center for Writing and Rhetoric

- Studying in Nicaragua, undertake a comparison of health care access and inequalities in the Americas
  Sarah Raskin, Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience

- Enroll in a workshop where you can write creative nonfiction drawing on your experiences of place
  Irene Papoulis, Principal Lecturer in the Allan K. Smith Center for Writing and Rhetoric

- Explore the complexities of reproductive justice in America, including a trip to a national advocacy organization in NYC
  Theresa Morris, Professor of Sociology

- Participate in an experimental hybrid course, using The Godfather films to study “the art of hard choices”
  John Alcorn, Principal Lecturer in Language and Culture Studies

- Learn about the social, political, and racial context underlying the story retold in the hit musical Parade
  Gerald Moshell, Professor of Music

Courses meet at various times during the two-week January Term for a total of 20 hours. Students may enroll in only one course per term. Tuition is $1,500, including housing on campus; some courses have additional fees. Registration is November 11-26. Space is limited, so enroll early.

For more information, visit http://www.trincoll.edu/academics/jterm/, or contact one of the professors listed, the Registrar’s Office, or Dean Sonia Cardenas.

Above: an excerpt from a J-Term poster. For the full list of J-Term courses, visit trincoll.edu/academics and click the January Term link.
Ten New Pre-Orientation Programs Welcome Class of 2017

Trinity offered its 605 entering first-year students a greatly expanded selection of pre-orientation options, enabling them to meet classmates, faculty, and upper-level students while getting to know Hartford and Connecticut. Venture Trinity, a new leadership program for young women, and nine additional new pre-orientation programs represented a wide range of student interests, from “Amazing Race Hartford” to “Spirit of the City.” These programs enrolled between 15 and 30 students, and most included field trips or work in Hartford. New students had the opportunity to do something together of mutual interest, form natural friendships, and get to know at least one faculty or staff member. These programs supplemented the popular PRIDE program for international students and students of color, and Quest, the four- and nine-day wilderness adventure program on the Appalachian Trail.

Series Featuring Alumni in Scientific Fields Launches This Fall

How is science used for the greater good? How does science contribute to society? How are Trinity alumni active in this process? Science for the Greater Good, a new series of lectures featuring Trinity alumni, aims to answer these questions. The series kicked off in September with Christopher Hillyer ’80 (photo above), president and CEO of the New York Blood Center and professor in the Department of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College. Other alumni speakers included Dr. Peter Chupas ’99, group leader, Structural Science Group, X-ray Science Division at Argonne National Laboratory; Dr. John Robson ’70, associate director of the Brown Institute for Brain Science and administrative director of the Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute; Dr. Henry DePhillips III ’82, chief medical officer at Teledoc; and Dr. David Weinstein ’90, professor, associate program director of research, and director of the Glycogen Storage Disease Program at the University of Florida College of Medicine.

Career Development Center Launches Entrepreneurship Competition

The entrepreneurial spirit is valued across industries and professions and entails skills that are highly transferrable. To cultivate and celebrate these skills, the Career Development Center (CDC) has launched the first annual Entrepreneurship Competition. The competition will enable students interested in start-ups, venture capital, and other related careers to put their ideas into practice. Through a series of incubation sessions and training workshops, the CDC will provide students the tools they need to pitch their ideas and put their plan into motion. Panels of alumni and parent judges and mentors will provide feedback to participants throughout the competition, helping them hone and refine their products, business models, and financing plans. Finalist teams will receive $2,000 each in seed money to take their products to the next level, and the winning team will receive a $10,000 cash prize. Alumni or parents interested in becoming a team mentor should contact the CDC at (860) 297-2080 or careers@trincoll.edu.

New Dean of Faculty Comes Home to Trinity

After a short stint away from Trinity, Thomas Mitzel has been welcomed back to the campus—where he began his academic career—as Trinity’s new dean of faculty and vice president for academic affairs. Mitzel, who served at Trinity as an associate professor of chemistry and associate academic dean, returned to Trinity from St. Edward’s University in Austin, Texas, where he was dean and professor of chemistry in the School of Natural Sciences. As the College’s chief academic officer, Mitzel cites four elements that he will focus on as central to Trinity’s mission: an outstanding and diverse faculty; a rigorous curriculum; a talented, motivated, and diverse body of students; and an attractive, secure, and supportive campus. Additionally, he and the faculty have already embarked on the preparation of a long-range academic strategic plan, something that has never been done in the past. “Many reports have been written,” he says, “but we have never done a long-range plan around which everyone has come together.”
Trinity’s Terri Williams Awarded Three-Year NSF Grant

Among the list of recent faculty receiving grants is Research Associate Professor Terri Williams, who has been awarded a three-year, $488,877 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to investigate segmentation in arthropods. Williams’s research will be done in collaboration with professors Lisa Nagy at The University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona, and Ariel Chipman at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel, as well as Trinity Professor of Computer Science Ralph Morelli. Students will have the opportunity for international exchange between the schools’ labs and live exchanges of ideas through Web-based meetings.

The Search for Trinity’s 22nd President

The work of the presidential search committee is well under way. Composed of trustees, faculty, staff, students, and a member of the Board of Fellows, the search committee is headed by Cornelia (Cornie) Parsons Thornburgh ’80. The College has hired the executive search firm of Storbeck/Pimentel, with extensive experience in presidential searches for colleges and universities, to assist with the search. The search committee has spent the fall months soliciting the views of every key Trinity constituency and has met with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and parents. The committee also asked these same groups to complete an online survey to express their views. Individuals may contact the search committee by e-mail at presidentialsearch@trincoll.edu or may submit names of potential candidates to Storbeck/Pimentel at TrinityPresident@storbeckpimentel.com. The search committee’s goal is to have a new president in place by June 30, 2014.

Crescent Street Townhouses Are Now Home to 200 Students

This fall, 200 sophomores, juniors, and seniors became the first residents of the new Crescent Street Townhouses, marking the first time that townhouse-style suites are available as living quarters for students. The suites, which house eight or nine students each depending on the unit, come with fully equipped kitchens, washers and dryers, first-floor living and dining rooms, and a full bathroom on the second and third floors. Phase II of the Crescent Street project will be completed before the start of the spring 2014 semester and will house an additional 150 students. The new Crescent Street Townhouses provide an exciting new anchor to the southeast corner of campus. A further addition to this geographic area is the opening of a new Hartford Police substation, located at the corner of New Britain Avenue and Broad Street. The new facility serves both the Trinity campus and the broader neighborhood.

Coming Fall 2015: The House System

The entering first-year class in 2015 will be the first students to be part of the new House system, currently being designed by a group of faculty, staff, and students headed by Dean of Students Fred Alford. Formed of clusters of two to three residence halls, each House will be led by a House Dean and a Faculty Head of House, and their partnership—together with the involvement of resident area coordinators and upper-level students—will assure that the new Houses create an active sense of community for new students. President Jones recently announced the five faculty members who will serve as Faculty Heads of House: David Branning, associate professor of physics; Dario Del Puppo, professor of language and culture studies; Johannes Evelein, associate professor of language and culture studies; Lisa-Anne Foster, associate professor of biology; and Christoph Geiss, associate professor of physics and environmental science.
Trinity Football Extends Home Winning Streak to 51 Games at Homecoming

The Trinity College Bantams extended their winning streak on Jessee/Miller Field to 51 games with a 40-10 victory over the previously undefeated Wesleyan University Cardinals before a Homecoming crowd that packed the stands on November 9. The game was the New England Small College Athletics Conference (NESCAC) football season finale for both teams and provided senior captain Evan Bunker the opportunity to add 85 rushing yards to become the all-time leading rusher in NESCAC history with 3,828 career yards. The Bantams, ranked No. 7 in New England, finished the year at 6-2, their 12th consecutive season with a 6-2 record or better. The game was a high point in a Homecoming Weekend that welcomed hundreds of alumni and their families back to campus on a sunny, chilly November weekend that showcased the campus in all its fall beauty.

New Positions Guide Vernon Social, Greek-Letter Organizations

Trinity this fall welcomed two individuals who have already had a positive impact on campus life. Laura Rogalski took the reins of programming at the newly renovated Vernon Social as the new assistant director of student activities, and her presence was felt immediately. She is already developing a schedule of events and programs that utilize Vernon Social’s multifunctional spaces (outdoor patio with fire pits, fireplace lounge, bar area, dining area, stage and performance area, and meeting room) to maximize their appeal to students. In November, Timothy Dunn joined Trinity as associate director of student services for social houses. He will work with our Greek-letter organizations and other social houses in guiding their campus involvement, advocating for their needs, and advising them as they work to meet College requirements.

Social Organizations Rules More Flexible

Several committees worked over the spring and summer to refine proposals related to selective social organizations, including fraternities and sororities. They listened to student concerns and worked hard to make sure the grade point requirements were achievable, the evaluation process constructive, and the co-education time frames workable. Also, a review committee gathered in September to hear comments from students on changes that had been proposed and previously circulated. As a result, changes in rules governing social organizations took effect this fall. These include a gender parity goal that the number of male and female members of selective social organizations is reasonably close to equal, mirroring the Trinity student population, by 2016, and the creation of a Student Organization Review Committee composed of students, faculty, and staff to monitor the progress of selective social organizations and nonselective social organizations with a facility.

Improved Teaching and Learning Spaces

In addition to the new Vernon Social and Crescent Street Townhouses, students returned to renovated spaces in both the Jacobs Life Sciences Center (LSC) and Hallden Hall (also known as Gallows Hill). The Boyer Auditorium, a lecture hall in LSC, underwent a major renovation, and Hallden Hall now includes a new seminar room geared for art history, an informal student-faculty meeting space, and renovated space for the Center for Teaching and Learning.