

Five-hundred twenty-five thousand six-hundred minutes  
Five-hundred twenty-five thousand moments so dear  
Five-hundred twenty-five thousand six-hundred minutes  
How do you measure, measure a year?

What a year it has been for you, your families, for our entire college community, for the country, and for our world.

We measure it in events that have changed the world:

- The Brexit vote
- The Paris Global Climate Agreement
- Unexpected election outcomes in the U.S. and France
- Increasing instability or crises in Nigeria, North Korea, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen
- Worldwide solidarity in Women's and Science Marches

We measure it in events that have mattered on campus:

- Convocation and the matriculation of the visionary Class of 2020
- The opening of the Center for Caribbean Studies
- The devastating porch collapse and, in its aftermath, the coming together of our community
- National and international awards and honors bestowed upon students and faculty
- Retirements of beloved faculty and staff and the welcoming of new scholars, teachers, and mentors
- Annual events such as the Hip-Hop Festival, SambaFest, and, yes, Spring Weekend
- The sweet 16<sup>th</sup> national title for men's squash
- NESCAC championships for men's and women's squash, men's ice hockey, and football
- And today, this momentous occasion: the completion of your journeys as Trinity students and the start of your lives as Trinity alumni.

It isn't just about those events and moments shared by many. How do you measure your own year?

How many cups of coffee at Peter B's or the Underground?

How many laughs with your best friend?

How many trivia nights at Vernon Social?

How many challenges and triumphs—in the classroom and on the playing fields?

How many hours studying in the library?

How many strolls along the beautiful Long Walk and afternoons spent on the quad?

How many minutes did you spend learning?

How many minutes did you spend helping?

How many minutes did you spend growing?

How do you measure your year?

As the song reminds us, measure your year in love. [And don't worry, I won't sing again!]

Measure it in the love you developed for the academic discipline you studied, for the art you created, for the research you advanced.

Measure it in the love of friends whose bonds grew stronger with each passing day – the strong sisterhoods and brotherhoods that you created and will continue.

Measure it in the love of Trinity and of Hartford that deepened the more time you spent helping to make these communities better.

I will measure my year in many ways, including the difference that you and your class have made here. I'll share two of the countless stories of difference—the ways that your presence, your energy, your creativity, and your resolve have mattered.

I want to share with you a tale of two "Mollies" who have left a lasting impression on our dear Trinity.

One is about Molly Thoms.... As many of you know, Molly was the driving force behind the design team for the Bantam Network. She was an active member of the Campaign for Community, and the president of the Charleston House. Molly, your energy, your commitment, and your passion for our community -- you have made a difference here.

The other is Malibongwe Thwala.... This Mali is also a leader. He initiated the African Choir; he was very involved in the Mill. He truly created a space on campus for musicians and artists, and importantly, he is kind. Someone said to me, "Remember that button on campus after the U.S. presidential election that said 'Be Kind?' It could have just said 'Be Mali.'" Mali, your warmth, your leadership by example -- you have made a difference here.

Now before I finish, you know that I have to tell you about the books that I've read this semester. Not as many as usual, it's been quite a busy semester! But I did read two novels about Barcelona because in July I'll travel to Barcelona to celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Trinity program there. I've read *Cathedral of the Sea*, set in the 14<sup>th</sup> century during the height of the Inquisition, and *The Prisoner of Heaven*, the sequel to *The Shadow of the Wind*, taking me back to the city in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, during the Spanish Civil War and its aftermath. I chose those two books to understand something about the city's history and its wounds.

I've learned much about Trinity's history—its wounds, yes, but also its joys—and I have grown much in our three years together. I arrived just as you were starting your sophomore year, and I am grateful for the warm welcome you gave me.

I've celebrated with you your victories and accomplishments and agonized along with you through individual struggles and difficult moments for our campus. We have gotten to know each other and have evolved as individuals and as a community, and I will miss you deeply.

As you begin the next chapter of your very bright futures, do so with the confidence that Trinity has prepared you well for whatever comes and for whatever difference you seek to make. All of us who have chosen to make this our life's work — and, most importantly, to do this work at Trinity — are here because we want YOU to change the world.

We wanted you to change us and to move this place forward, too. You were invited here four years ago to do just that. Now, I hope you can see how much good you've done for Trinity, and how much better we are for your having been here.

Let that knowledge propel you no matter what paths you forge. This education you've received isn't just for you, after all. It's for everyone. College is a *public* good — an opportunity provided to individuals so that all of society can advance. But more often it's considered a private good—a benefit granted to the people who purchase it, a prize coveted for its ability to move one ahead of others.

That's not what we believe. It never has been. Your education is not only good for you, it is for the good of society. My charge to you, in turn, is not only to use your good Trinity education, but to go out and show the world what it means to do — and to be — *Trinity Good*.