

**ABOUT THE CENTER FOR
URBAN AND GLOBAL STUDIES
AT TRINITY COLLEGE**



Trinity College
HARTFORD CONNECTICUT

The Center for Urban and Global Studies

(CUGS) plays a central role in advancing Trinity College's strategic mission of integrated urban and global education on campus, in Hartford, and globally. The first center of its kind at a top liberal arts college in the United States, CUGS promotes curricular initiatives, research projects, and civic engagement with a broad urban and global focus by working closely with the departments and programs at Trinity, a variety of organizations in the city of Hartford, and international partners.



Dr. Xiangming Chen, Dean and Director of the Center for Urban and Global Studies and Paul E. Raether Distinguished Professor of Sociology and International Studies.



The center integrates urban and global studies and programs in a way that marks Trinity's distinctive identity as a leading urban liberal arts college with a global reach.

The center was inaugurated in October 2007 through a major grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and is supported by donors to the Trinity College Mellon Challenge for Urban and Global Studies. CUGS represents a forward-looking vision for educating Trinity students to understand and navigate the global and urban world of the 21st century, which is marked by the shifting fortunes of American and world cities, rising economic and spatial inequality, and growing environmental challenges. The center fosters educational opportunities for the Trinity Community through classroom study, with hands-on experience in the city of Hartford and in such dynamic world cities as Rome, Barcelona, and Shanghai.

CUGS administers a variety of student curricular and research grant programs, such as the Kathryn Wasserman Davis 100 Projects for Peace, the Technos College International Exchange Program, the Tanaka Student Research Fund, the Kenneth S. Grossman '78 Global Studies Fund, and the Steven D. Levy '72 Fund for Urban Curricular Programs, and the China Urban Studies Summer Program Endowment Fund. The center also promotes interdisciplinary faculty research by hosting curricular initiatives and projects, organizing and sponsoring events and conferences, publishing working papers and books, and co-sponsoring varied arts programming in collaboration with faculty, students, and some arts groups based in Hartford and beyond.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND LEARNING

In 1823, Hartford citizens outbid New Haven and Middletown to bring Trinity College to the city. Their pledges ensured that the fledgling institution was to be truly a community enterprise. The next 200 years have seen the flourishing of that early partnership, to the mutual benefit of the College and its home city.

The Office of Community Relations (OCR) works closely with city officials and agencies, neighborhood organizations, local businesses and corporations, and social-service providers to offer nearly 40 campus- and community-based opportunities for students to become involved with the city of Hartford. From volunteering at homeless shelters or working with the Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (ConnPIRG), to building houses for Habitat for Humanity or mentoring children through the Boys and Girls Club at Trinity College, students have the opportunity to connect with Hartford residents in a variety of meaningful ways.

The Community Learning Initiative (CLI) has at the core of its mission the idea that all knowledge is fundamentally community knowledge, and it encourages students to ask, “What is the meaning of my education in a larger social context?” CLI helps faculty members develop academic projects that link students with community partners outside the College. The richness of Hartford’s ethnic and neighborhood diversity offers opportunities to develop learning and outreach projects that not only benefit students and faculty members in the classroom but also carry policy and problem-solving implications for Hartford and cities around the world.

The Trinfo.Café is a neighborhood center that helps area residents and businesses develop their technical expertise. Run by dedicated student volunteers who serve as program developers, instructors, and ambassadors, the café offers free computer training, e-mail service and Web hosting, and free refurbished computers in Hartford.



THE CITY AS CLASSROOM

Trinity is not only located *in* the city of Hartford, it is an important part *of* the city. Located halfway between Boston and New York City, Hartford has geographic proximity to two world-class cities, a rich history and culture, an ethnically diverse population, and many opportunities for learning. Connecticut's capital and a business hub with strong global connections, Hartford not only faces many of the same social and economic challenges as cities across the nation and the world, but also confronts unique local issues as a deindustrialized and impoverished New England city. Through involvement in the programs below, Trinity students learn about the problems of urban areas like Hartford, while helping to find solutions to those problems.

The Cities Program is a selective, non-major curriculum for 25–30 talented and motivated students in each entering class. The program examines cities and urban issues, past and present, in the United States and throughout the world. In the first year, participating students take four courses (two each semester), expressly created for the program and not open to other students. As sophomores, students take a final required course and an exercise that integrates and reinforces their first-year course experience and stimulates their interest in more advanced urban studies. Building on the Cities Program and CLI and working with the faculty, CUGS facilitates the development of a rich, interdisciplinary, four-year urban curriculum for Trinity students.

Trinity Internship Program provides students with opportunities for self-directed learning through credit-earning internships at home and abroad. Through academic internships, students expand on classroom learning, share their talents with community partners, and gain practical work experience. With more than 200 established placements and the opportunity for students to design their own internships, it is easy to see why approximately 250 Trinity students complete academic internships each year. Internships are available in a wide array of government, business, educational, arts, and community organizations in Hartford and internationally at Trinity's Global Learning Sites and beyond.



GLOBAL PROGRAMS

From the ancient city of Rome to the rising global city of Shanghai, Trinity's Office of International Programs (OIP), part of the Center for Urban and Global Studies, offers 77 study-away programs, specifically targeting world cities.

Trinity College/Rome Campus

Founded in 1970, the Trinity College/Rome Campus features a broad and challenging liberal arts curriculum, stimulating field work in Rome, and academic excursions to Florence, Venice, and Naples/Pompeii/Capri. The program attracts students from colleges and universities all across the U.S. and operates each semester and in the summer.

Trinity's Global Learning Sites

Trinity's six Global Learning Sites are Trinity-directed, semester- or year-long programs of study with a core course highlighting the city, an affiliation with a local university, and internships, community service, field work, or other cultural exchanges. Students can choose from Global Learning Sites in Barcelona, Cape Town, Paris, Vienna, Trinidad, and Santiago.

In addition, Trinity offers affiliate programs in Perth, Australia; Shanghai, China; Copenhagen, Denmark; Baden Württemberg, Germany; Accra, Ghana; Istanbul, Turkey; Moscow, Russia; and London and Norwich, England, and approved programs that provide students with the opportunity to study in more than 30 countries throughout the world.

Summer Study

Trinity's summer programs provide an alternative opportunity for students to pursue a shorter, more intensive, study-abroad experience. As an example, "Connections: Boomtowns of the Yangtze River" is Trinity's newest study-away program that will start with a focus on Hartford and then travel to Chongqing, Wuhan, and Shanghai. This interdisciplinary program investigates the dramatic historical, social, and environmental transformations of these megacities and the challenges facing them in their connections to the Yangtze River.



RESEARCH, PUBLISHING, AND FELLOWSHIPS

The center strives to facilitate and sponsor high-quality research on urban and global topics involving Trinity faculty and students. The first collaborative research project sponsored by CUGS began as a seminar series in the spring of 2008 titled “The Transformation of Hartford: Local, Regional, and Global Perspectives.” In the fall of 2008, CUGS organized another conference, “Rethinking Cities and Communities,” which brought scholars from Harvard, Yale, MIT, Brown, and other academic institutions to Trinity. Also in fall 2008, the center began to host a Trinity faculty reading and research project on “Historical Media.” An important goal of the center is to produce research publications such as working papers and edited books based on selected conferences and workshops it sponsors.

In addition, CUGS hosts two visiting fellows. Funded by the Mellon Challenge for Urban and Global Studies, a postdoctoral teaching/research position brings a young scholar of urban issues to Trinity for one year to teach two courses and conduct research. Supported by the Scholar Rescue Fund of the International Institute of Education and the Scott M. Johnson Memorial Fund at Trinity College, another fellowship brings to Trinity a scholar whose life and work are threatened in his/her home country. This scholar will spend an academic year at Trinity teaching two courses and carrying out research.

For more information on the
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Cristina Wheeler Castillo '08 and Denisa Jashari '10 participate in Hispanic Studies 280, "Hispanic Hartford," which introduces students to Hartford's Spanish-speaking communities.



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