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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Our Center underscores one of Trinity's most important initiatives in the last decade. With funds first provided by a three million dollar challenge grant from the Mellon Foundation, Trinity donors stepped forward with an additional fifteen million dollars endowment to support the Center's activities, ably led by Dean Xiangming Chen. I know from first-hand conversations that our students are enthusiastic about the many learning experiences the Center offers, and we will applaud the first book-length publication that will appear based upon a conference that attracted a number of intellectual urbanologists to Trinity's historic campus. This newsletter will be published twice a year to provide information on the myriad activities the Center sponsors for faculty, students, staff, and guests to our College. I commend the newsletter to each of you interested in our Center's various programs and events.

**James F. Jones, Jr.,
President and Trinity College
Professor in the Humanities**

CUGS TURNS THREE and Marks an Important Milestone!



The Center for Urban and Global Studies (CUGS) at Trinity College will be officially three years old on October 19, 2010. Inaugurated on October 19, 2007 through a major grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Center has also been generously supported by donors to the Trinity College Mellon Challenge for Urban and Global Studies. The Center was conceived through the Cornerstone Initiatives under President James F. Jones Jr., and the extensive discussion, planning, and self-studies among Trinity's board of trustees, senior leadership, faculty committees, and students, and has benefited from the leadership of Dean Rena Fraden. Constituting a strategic priority for Trinity and reflecting a broad consensus for achieving an integrated urban-global studies mission, the Center strives to play a crucial role in linking and advancing the college's academic programs on campus, experiential learning in the city of Hartford, and extended educational opportunities in the world. Through the voices of two students, one faculty member, three staff members, and one former visiting fellow, as well as a few highlighted initiatives, programs, and events, this inaugural issue of the Newsletter *The Urban Planet* reports on some of Trinity's Urban and Global initiatives and the early development and accomplishments of the Center to the campus community and beyond. This Newsletter will continue to appear twice a year and carry a variety of features about Trinity's urban and global initiatives and the Centers continued growth.

**Xiangming Chen, Dean and Director
Center for Urban and Global Studies**



Like us on Facebook
and never miss an
urban beat!!



COMING TOGETHER, CREATING SYNERGY

By Xiangming Chen

The Center for Urban and Global Studies brought several offices or programs of Trinity College, which existed separately and cooperated relatively little with one another until 2007, under a broad umbrella: these include Office of Community Relations (OCR), Office of International Programs (OIP), the Community Learning Initiative (CLI), the Cities Program, Office of Graduate Fellowships, Office of International Student Advising, the Internship Program (now with Career Services), and Trinfo.Café, the College's community technology center. The Center also has instituted two visiting fellow programs. All these offices and programs are now consolidated within the Center's two contiguous buildings (located at 66 and 70 Vernon Street, respectively), with the exception of Trinfo.Café, which is located in the surrounding neighborhood (1300 Broad Street). Through this integrated organizational structure and support, increasing synergy and collaboration has developed among these offices and programs, linked together in cyberspace through the Center's website at www.trincoll.edu/UG, which provides a dynamic and linked portal of electronic information for students, faculty, and community organizations interested in urban and global studies and engagement.

Research, Conferences and Publications

The Center for Urban and Global Studies functions as a main intellectual catalyst and home for faculty research and curricular endeavors. Working with departments and programs, the Center sponsors or cosponsors, academic conferences, workshops, lecture series, and reading groups that bring Trinity faculty and outside scholars together to discuss and debate a variety of urban and global topics. From spring 2008 through spring 2009, we organized a series of panel discussions on the multiple facets of the transformation of Hartford. This seminar has involved a broad group of Trinity and non-Trinity faculty with policy analysts, community representatives, and students. The Center is currently producing an edited book, titled *Urban Legacy and Global Imprint: The Transformation of Hartford and Other New England Cities*, for publication by Lexington Books. In November 2008, the Center organized a conference titled "Rethinking Cities and Communities," which brought to campus a number of senior and young scholars from institutions like Harvard, Yale, MIT, and others in New England. The Center is completing an edited book titled *Rethinking Global Cities: Insights from Secondary Urban Centers* consisting of selected conference and invited papers for publication by Routledge. The Center is sponsoring a new conference/workshop "Texts and Places" to be held on October 9-10, 2010 (see the announcement in this Newsletter). Besides faculty research, the Center is supporting student research at Trinity through several small endowed urban and global funds (see announcement in this Newsletter).

Urban Curricular Development

Developing a strong interdisciplinary urban curriculum has been a high priority for the Center since its founding. Having inherited CLI and the Cities Program, with a limited number of existing urban courses beyond these two curricular setups, the Center has taken a multi-pronged, sequential approach to strengthening the existing programs and developing new courses. The Center has given nine grants to faculty to develop new CLI courses. A new, synthesizing course has been added to the Cities Program to extend it into the second year, providing more depth to its coverage. In addition, the Center has facilitated the development and refurbishing of about 20 new or existing urban courses, some of which have been offered by the new Trinity faculty and three Raether Postdoctoral Fellows at Trinity over the past three years (see the experience of one fellow elsewhere in this Newsletter). Some of the new courses have been added at the Trinity-run international programs and through new summer programs. In fall 2010, the Center launched a new grant for faculty to develop new urban courses and, working with faculty and the Curriculum Committee, began to introduce an Urban Studies minor. These initiatives have lent a clearer and more coordinated focus to Trinity's growing urban curriculum.

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

By Lisa Sapolis

The Office of International Programs (OIP), as part of the Center, administers Study Away as a critical component of Trinity's urban and global mission and the College encourages all students to have at least one international study experience before graduation. We expect to send approximately 300 students on semester/academic year programs in 2010-11, which is one of the highest numbers on record. In addition, Trinity sent a record number of students on Trinity-run summer programs in Cambodia, China, Israel, Italy, and Spain in 2010. Trinity has distinguished itself among our peer institutions as a leading

liberal arts college in study abroad, offering seven of our own semester/full year study away programs in Barcelona, Buenos Aires (new!), Cape Town, Paris, Rome, Trinidad, and Vienna. Each Trinity program has one or more classes about the city, utilizes the city as a classroom, and offers internships, community service, or other experiential learning opportunities. Trinity was recognized by the Princeton Review as having the 9th most popular Study Abroad Program in the country this year, and Trinity is ranked as the 10th leading undergraduate college in the country for students studying abroad for a long-term duration (full year), and the 12th leading undergraduate college for students studying abroad for a mid-term duration (semester) in the 2009 Open Doors Report on International

TRINFO.CAFE: BRIDGING TWO COMMUNITIES

By Carlos Espinosa

The Trinfo.Cafe, the College's community computer center, celebrates 10 years this November. Looking backwards, Trinfo, with over 7000 registered users, has successfully assisted over 135 community organizations with their technology needs, provided computer literacy training to nearly 3000 residents and staff members of community groups, and donated approximately 800 refurbished computers to Hartford's families. Now under the Center for Urban and Global Studies (CUGS), Trinfo is providing a bridge for faculty and students to engage the Hartford community while creating reciprocal pathways for those in the community to access College resources.

Collaborations with faculty in Hispanic Studies, Psychology, English, Educational Studies, and Sociology demonstrate Trinfo's flexibility, offering a unique blend of technological and community resources to help faculty interested in engaging Hartford and its history. The class Hispanic Hartford illustrates Trinfo's ability to provide not just technical support with building and maintaining the class's website (www.hispanichartford.org) and training students on video production for their final projects, but also assist faculty with lectures and overall course development.

In addition, CUGS provides an organizational framework which has helped Trinfo make greater inroads on campus. Trinfo is actively working with Community Learning Initiative faculty and staff, Community Relations, and the Office of International Programs to find opportunities for greater intellectual growth through community engagement.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

By Jason Rojas

The Office of Community Relations (OCR), functioning as a critical part of the Center, continues to meet its mission by improving upon existing strategic relationships while facilitating new ones in the city and region. Trinity College is a preeminent institution in Hartford and takes seriously its responsibility of being a resource to the neighborhood, its residents and the many organizations that work around our campus. OCR utilizes college resources to benefit the people who live, work and play in the south end and we strive to maintain an active presence in and around the city resulting in new and exciting collaborations. OCR previously functioned largely in a strictly external capacity limiting opportunities to serve as a resource to faculty and students. OCR's affiliation with the Center has resulted in increased partnerships and collaboration that are academically focused and which have mutually beneficial outcomes for our campus community as well as our host city. Our physical space at 70 Vernon Street has become a focal point for community/campus connections allowing us to provide space for a host of community groups who need space to hold meetings, retreats, and trainings. The space serves as a tutoring site for elementary school students and has also hosted a teen leadership program. OCR will continue to adapt as the needs of the college and community demand it but it will remain focused on nurturing mutually beneficial outcomes that benefit our students, our staff and Hartford.

Fellowships and Grants Deadlines

January

1	Via CUGS: The Davis Projects for Peace
15	Senior Year Nomination: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

February

1	Junior Year Nomination: Harry S. Truman Scholarship
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March

1	Junior Year Nomination: Beinecke Scholarship
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April

Check Trinity Today	Via CUGS: Grossman Fund for Global Studies Grant and Senior Thesis Prize
	Via CUGS: Levy Fund for Urban Studies Grant and Senior Thesis Prize
	Via CUGS: Tanaka Student Research Grant
	Via CUGS: Technos Japan Tour

October

1	Senior Year Nomination: Marshall (UK) Scholarship
	Senior Year Nomination: Mitchell (Ireland) Scholarship
	Senior Year Nomination: Rhodes Scholarship
15	Senior Year Nomination: Fulbright U.S. Student Scholarship Program
	Senior Year Nomination: Gates Cambridge Scholarship

For information on **Fellowships**, contact Anne Lundberg, Director of Urban Programs & Fellowships, x4242

For information on **Graduate Fellowships** in the sciences, contact Alison Draper, Director, Center for Interdisciplinary Science, x5189

For information on **CUGS Grants and Prizes**, visit the Center's website at:

<http://www.trincoll.edu/UrbanGlobal/CUGS/students/Research/Pages/>

LINKS OF INTEREST

Urban Population Growth – An interactive map showing urban population and city growth from 1955-2015:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/world/06/urbanisation/html/urbanisation.stm>

CUGS on Flickr: Photos from the “Megacities of the Yangtze River” China Summer Program in 2009 and 2010:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/42084527@N04/sets/72157624962438418/>

Urban Age: An international investigation into the future of cities through a series of conferences in world cities based at London School of Economics: www.urban-age.net



Joan Morrison
Professor of Biology and Environmental Science

As a faculty member in the natural sciences, I have been involved with the Center for Urban and Global Studies (CUGS) since its inception in 2007. CUGS has brought a strong presence and focus to urban and global studies at the College, particularly to the interdisciplinary nature of these studies, by encouraging collaboration among faculty and students in the social and natural sciences and the humanities. Over the past three years, I have participated on the Center's advisory committee, and currently I am a member of the search committee seeking to hire an urbanist, who will teach and conduct research in close association within the Center. Through my involvement with the Center, I have sought to raise awareness about environmental issues within the context of urban and global studies particularly as we continue discussions about Trinity's urban curriculum.

Since CUGS was formally launched in October 2007, it has been highly successful in developing an intellectual identity that encompasses both academic study and links to Hartford's local communities. While overseeing a variety of programs, the Center serves as a focal point for interdisciplinary scholarship and research, much of which incorporates student work. For example, the Center has sponsored symposia and lecture series, conferences, a postdoctoral program (three fellows so far), a rescue scholar program (two fellows so far), and two forthcoming scholarly books. Under the Center, the Office of International Programs, which oversees study abroad at the College, has blossomed in its management of the College's global sites and study abroad programs. The Cities Program, which had existed elsewhere and now incorporated into the Center, is growing in enrollment and becoming a central locus for Trinity students who wish to pursue studies with an urban focus. The Center has stimulated a growing number of students in self-designing an Urban Studies major. Of great help to these students has been the compiling of courses that include an urban and global component. Overall, the activities and profile of the Center to date have helped focus attention on the development of a campus-wide curriculum that is appropriate and accessible to students interested in urban and global studies.

After the Center's second year, I participated, along with Dean Chen and Professor Michael Lestz of the History Department, in a summer abroad program for Trinity students to travel to China. The interdisciplinary nature of this program that integrates history, sociology, and environmental science has attracted an impressive diversity of students in both years. While in China and through our examination of four megacities along the Yangtze River, students got to experience firsthand the enormous social and environmental consequences of China's rapid urban growth. The 40 Trinity students who have participated over the past two summers highlighted the in-country experiences as most valuable and life-changing, and their final paper topics ranged from China's energy future to issues of health and welfare of migrant workers moving to these megacities. From my perspective as an environmental scientist, this interdisciplinary program has provided excellent exposure for students who might not otherwise take classes in the natural sciences, to the complexities of human interactions with and impacts upon their environment.

Professor Morrison teaching water sampling by the Yangtze River in the city of Chongqing during the 2010 "Megacities of the Yangtze River" summer program in China.



*Ahmed Kanna,
Assistant Professor of
Anthropology,
University of the
Pacific, was the first
Trinity College Paul
E. Raether
Postdoctoral Fellow*



The Paul E. Raether Postdoctoral Fellowship of the Center for Urban and Global Studies (CUGS), which Trinity College generously granted me for the 2008-2009 academic year, was an immensely helpful professional opportunity. Most importantly, the fellowship enabled me to connect and collaborate with the Center and with faculty from other departments. The interaction and intellectual atmosphere that prevailed both at the Center, and in the College more widely, greatly expanded my horizons. When I left the College in the Summer of 2009 to become Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of the Pacific, I was far more knowledgeable of the field of urban studies. More specifically, during my year at Trinity, I participated in the November 2008 conference, “Rethinking Cities and Communities,” sponsored by the Center, presenting a panel paper. This conference enabled me to connect with young and distinguished urban scholars from around the country. Moreover, I am staying connected to the Center by co-editing a volume of essays based upon this conference, and we have recently secured a publication contract with Routledge. During my affiliation with the Center, I taught two urban courses for Trinity students related to my research interests in critical urban theory and modern Dubai, which in turn facilitated the final stage of completing my book titled *Dubai, The City as Corporation* (University of Minnesota Press, 2011). Along with the excellent environment at the Center, Trinity College was a milieu in which I met so many intellectually engaging and wonderful colleagues, with whom I am still in touch

*Michael
Magdelinskas, '11*



My involvement with the Center for Urban and Global Studies (CUGS) began early in my Trinity career when I was fortunate enough to participate in the Cities program, a gateway program dedicated to urban studies. The program's wide-scope and interdisciplinary approach embody what studying the liberal arts is about. After taking another class “From Hartford to World Cities” in my sophomore year, I applied for and was accepted to participate in the Center's inaugural summer program to China, “Boomtowns of the Yangtze River,” and thanks to scholarship support and the Grossman Research Grant, I was able to attend. Upon returning from this extraordinary trip, I realized that my interest in urban studies had grown so I set out to develop a self-designed major in the field. During the spring of my junior year, I studied abroad in Paris where the program directors allowed me to maximize my interest in the urban studies. Upon returning for senior year, I find myself more involved with the Center than ever, serving as a Global Ambassador for the Trinity-in-Paris program and working as one of the Center's research assistants. Yet, what I am looking forward to most is working on my senior thesis – a rewarding capstone to the incredible experiences CUGS has afforded me.

Curtis Stone, IDP, '10



I did not know too much about CUGS when I first came to Trinity, but after traveling with the China Urban Studies program during the summer in 2009, I learned a lot about the Center and the important role it is playing in Trinity's overall global strategy. The next semester I began working at the Center as a research assistant. This experience proved to be very helpful in many ways. First of all, it allowed me to better understand the vital role that cities play both regionally and internationally. As a political science major I often look at the role CUGS has helped me to see that cities too have their own interests which must be met. The Center also greatly helped me further refine my own research interests. This proved to be very useful for an independent project I did for my senior thesis, and for my current and ongoing research I am doing right now in China. Thus, CUGS not only allowed me to better understand my own academic interests, but also gave me an opportunity to explore and access the world around me. I am currently working in Beijing, China.

TEXTS AND PLACES: A WORKSHOP

Sponsored by the Center for Urban and Global Studies
Trinity College
October 9-10, 2010

The inventions of writing and printing turned texts into objects that could travel as far as people, and, like people, texts talk about where they're from. This workshop explores texts' creative relationships with places--places where texts are made, places that texts imagine or bring into being, places that texts connect to and locate in the world.

Co-Organized by:

Jonathan Elukin, Associate Professor of History
Christopher Hager, Assistant Professor of English
Seth Sanders, Assistant Professor of Religion
Register at: www.trincoll.edu/ug/events

Image courtesy of the Watkinson Library,
Trinity College

CUGS URBAN COURSE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS FOR TRINITY FACULTY

Course development grants are available to support the development of new/revised courses with an urban content and focus to be taught in the 2011-12 academic year. Please view our website for additional information.

<http://www.trincoll.edu/UG/faculty/grants/Course+Development.htm>



The United Way Campaign is currently underway! Please Donate Today!
For additional information, contact Marilyn Murphy at the Office of Community Relations, Center for Urban and Global Studies, Trinity College.
Email: Marilyn.murphy@trincoll.edu

Vantage Point Needs You!

<http://internet2.trincoll.edu/TrinExchange/Default.aspx?tabindex=1&tabid=2&aid=12148>

Answer to Trivia

Believe it or not, the answer to all of these questions is Hartford, the capital of Connecticut. In 1822, Frederick Law Olmsted was born in the city, where he grew up and attended schools in Hartford and East Hartford. At the same time that Olmsted was working on Manhattan's Central Park, Horace Bushnell (the young Olmsted's pastor) masterminded Bushnell Park, one of the first urban renewal projects in the country. Bushnell and Olmsted inspired a legacy of urban planning in the city which led it to create one of the nation's largest public park systems, and later on to pioneer America's first city planning commission. What made this all possible was the city's bustling economy and surplus revenue. Hartford was an early center for the 'FIRE' sector (Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate), and to manufacturing. Hartford eventually became known as the 'Insurance Capital of the World,' while its strong industrial base made it a center for machine tools, and various products (e.g. typewriters, and the *Colt* revolver).

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We would like to express our sincerest appreciation to everyone who contributed to this issue.

Trinity College

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