

# PRESIDENT'S CONVOCATION



THURSDAY, THE TWENTY-NINTH OF AUGUST

TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN



Beginnings are critically important for schools of all kinds, and most especially for small, interconnected college communities such as ours. To that end, we come together today to mark the official beginning of the college's 196th academic year. We gather, too, to welcome the Class of 2023 into the Trinity community. During this ceremony, parents, faculty, staff, and student leaders will be seated on four sides of the first-year class, forming a multifaceted, symbolic matrix of support as the class begins its Trinity years.

# THE CONVOCATION CEREMONY

## CARILLON PRELUDE

## PROCESSIONAL

Quiet City Brass Quintet

## INVOCATION

The Reverend Allison Read, College Chaplain

## WELCOME

Mark E. Stater, Secretary of the Faculty  
and Associate Professor of Economics

Trinna T. Larsen '20, President of the Student  
Government Association

## TRINITY TRADITIONS

Trinna T. Larsen '20

## PRESENTATION OF THE CLASS OF 2023

Angel B. Pérez,  
Vice President for Enrollment and Student Success

## ADDRESS

Joanne Berger-Sweeney, President  
and Trinity College Professor of Neuroscience

## TOAST TO TRINITY AND THE CLASS OF 2023

President Berger-Sweeney

Trinna T. Larsen '20  
Joyce Ann Krinitsky '73

## THE DECLARATION

Sonia Cardenas, Interim Dean of the Faculty

## ALMA MATER

“Neath the Elms”  
The Trinity College Chapel Singers

## RECESSIONAL

*The audience is requested to rise as the academic procession reaches the assemblage  
and to remain standing until the platform party is seated.*

*The audience also is requested to remain standing during the recessional.*

# ORDER OF PROCESSION

## FLAG BEARERS

Eve G. Pollack '20  
Darius J. Borges '20

## MARSHAL

Christoph E. Geiss

## ASSISTANT MARSHALS

Alison J. Draper,  
Jonathan R. Gourley, Tamsin Jones,  
Daniel J. Mrozowski, Tennyson O'Donnell

Members of the Class of 2023

Student Leaders

Members of the Class of 1973

Academic Administrators

Faculty

Officers of the Administration

Trinna T. Larsen '20  
President of the Student Government Association

Angel B. Pérez, Vice President for Enrollment  
and Student Success

The Reverend Allison Read, College Chaplain

Mark E. Stater, Secretary of the Faculty

Sonia Cardenas, Interim Dean of the Faculty

Joe J. DiChristina, Mace Bearer

Joanne Berger-Sweeney, President

# TRINITY TRADITIONS

## THE BANTAM

Trinity's familiar mascot, the Bantam, owes its origin to the Honorable Joseph Buffington, Class of 1875, a distinguished federal judge and trustee of the college. He was noted as an exceptional after-dinner speaker, and his reply to the toast for Trinity at the spring 1899 annual dinner in Pittsburgh of the Princeton Alumni Association of Western Pennsylvania was a historic moment for the college.

“They tell me that Trinity is in great company to-night [sic],” he noted. “That old John Harvard with the self-satisfied serenity which he generally carries in his clothes, is here; that old Eli Yale with his equal serenity of self-satisfaction has for this evening, at least, stopped telling everyone where he hails from . . . and is going to spend a real modest evening; that the big tiger [is] good humored now that he is feasted [:] all unite to form an awe-inspiring collegiate trio. In the presence of these mighty chanticleers of the collegiate barnyard, I presume the Trinity bantam should feel outclassed. . . . But I tell you, my fellow chanticleers, that the Trinity bantam has been brought up . . . on different principles, and the most marked outcome of his collegiate training is the fostering of a habit which leads him to size things from his own standpoint and not have somebody else size them for him. The Trinity bantam ever feels that whatever company is fit for him to be at, he is entirely fit to be there . . .”

Word of the Bantam spread to the campus and among Trinity alumni, and Judge Buffington arranged to have his address printed for wider circulation. Within a short time, newspapers were referring to Trinity athletic teams as the Bantams, and the idea of the Bantam as the college's mascot caught on.

## THE COLLEGE COLORS: BLUE AND GOLD

In the wake of the Civil War, the increasing popularity of intercollegiate athletic competition, especially in baseball, led Trinity's student body to select college colors that would appear on uniforms. In 1868, the students adopted the combination of dark green and white, colors that had been used as early as the late 1830s on the uniforms of a popular undergraduate marching organization, the "Archers." As time went on, sentiment grew strong for different colors, suitable for the "new Trinity." In October 1883, *The Trinity Tablet* announced that the colors of dark blue and gold that the undergraduate body had just adopted were worn for the first time by Trinity athletes at an intercollegiate tennis tournament, tennis having recently become a popular sport. "The effect was very good," the *Tablet* noted. "The colors go well together, and the caps and jerseys of alternate stripes of blue and gold were very becoming."

## THE LUTHER-ROOSEVELT LONG WALK INSCRIPTION

The inscription on the pavement in front of Northam Towers commemorates the visit in June 1918 of former president of the United States Theodore Roosevelt, who delivered an address the night before Commencement, where he received an honorary degree. Since its placement in 1919, members of the Trinity community and visitors have generally avoided stepping on the inscription. The legend is that students who step on it may not graduate. The Commencement procession passes over this spot every year, and graduating seniors make a point of deliberately stepping on it.

Taking the theme of his address from Old Testament scripture, Roosevelt commented on the emptiness of boasting and its prejudicial effect on the conduct of World War I. He cited a passage from First Kings, Chapter 20, Verse 11, in which the King of Israel responds to a boasting warrior: "Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off." Roosevelt indicated that, in his estimation, thoughtless exaggeration of Americans' might had reinforced the German will to pursue the war. He reminded his audience, estimated to have exceeded 5,000, that much work remained to be done and that the country had to gear itself up for the supreme effort. Less than a month later, Roosevelt's youngest son, Quentin, was shot down in aerial combat in France.

## THE LEMON SQUEEZER

Introduced in 1857, the lemon squeezer remains one of the college's most unusual traditions. The Class of 1857 instituted the custom of handing down, from class to class, a large wooden lemon squeezer during Class Day ceremonies. The inspiration came from the squeezer used by the college's first custodian, "Professor Jim," to prepare the Class Day punch. According to a contemporary description, the class entrusted with the squeezer's care was to present it to a rising class "whose aggregate excellence in scholarship, moral character and the qualities requisite to popularity was the highest." The first recipients, the Class of 1859, passed the squeezer to the Class of 1861, which in turn passed it to the Class of 1863. Members of the honored class secreted the squeezer so that it would be safely preserved while it was in their care. In time, the passing of the squeezer became eagerly anticipated as Class Day neared and led to the introduction of a "Lemon Squeezer Oration."

Many escapades have occurred in the course of its transmission from class to class during the period from the end of the Civil War through the 1950s. There have been many incidents in which a rival class has seized the squeezer on Class Day and spirited it away before it could be entrusted to the desired recipients. In some cases, it was several years before the squeezer was returned, giving rise to the introduction of substitute squeezers.

## MATRICULATION AND BOOK-SIGNING CEREMONY

Matriculation, the symbolic act of enrolling at the college, is the oldest continuously observed tradition at Trinity.

The ceremony has multiple elements:

### *The Books*

The Matriculation ceremony focuses on two books. The first book is a leather-bound volume written by Bishop Brownell, Trinity's first president. The president presents the Book to the secretary of the faculty, thereby entrusting the faculty with the care of the undergraduates for the academic year. The Book has been touched, since the first Commencement in 1827, by every



person who has been graduated from Trinity College. The Book will be returned to the president at Commencement so that she may place it in the hands of each graduating student. The second book is the Matriculation Book. A long series of volumes are preserved in the college's archives since the founding of our college. All new students who are admitted as degree candidates are required to subscribe to the Oath of Matriculation by signing their names in this book.

### *Student Integrity Contract*

The Student Integrity Contract, which was written by and is administered by students, is introduced during the Matriculation ceremony. The Student Integrity Contract is a promise that students make to one another to assume responsibility for upholding the standards of academic integrity and social conduct articulated in the contract. By signing this document, each matriculated student commits to act with honor and integrity at Trinity College.

### *Oath of Matriculation*

At the culmination of the Matriculation ceremony, the dean of the faculty introduces the undergraduates as candidates in arts and sciences worthy of admission to all of the rights and privileges of Trinity College. The president in turn presents the candidates to the secretary of the faculty, who administers the Matriculation Oath, in accordance with the Student Integrity Contract. New students are requested to stand when they take the Oath of Matriculation, which reads as follows:

*"I promise to observe the statutes of Trinity College, to obey all its rules and regulations, and to discharge faithfully all scholastic duties required of me. I further promise to maintain and defend all of the rights, privileges, and immunities of the College, according to my station and degree in the same."*

---

To learn about other college traditions, visit the Trinity website at [www.trincoll.edu/AboutTrinity/Pages/Traditions.aspx](http://www.trincoll.edu/AboutTrinity/Pages/Traditions.aspx).

## THE BANTAM NETWORK

This is the fifth year of Trinity's Bantam Network, which will support first-year students through a unique network of individuals and experiences. Designed *by* students *for* students, the Bantam Network will help first-years get to know each other and also faculty, staff, and upper-year mentors by merging the first-year seminar, residential life, and engagement outside the classroom to foster a sense of belonging at Trinity and in Hartford. Even if students belong to other groups, teams, or organizations, being part of a nest will be an additional source of camaraderie and Bantam pride, and many nest connections developed in the first year will stay with members of the Class of 2023 during the rest of their time at Trinity and beyond. It incorporates traditions as old as the college itself and starts new ones.

*Book Nest:* This nest is named for the two books that serve as markers of the beginning and ending of your time on campus. The first is the Matriculation Book, which symbolizes the formal act of enrolling at the college. Every incoming first-year student has signed it since 1826. The second book tradition began a year later when, in the middle of the college's first Commencement, Bishop Brownell suddenly realized that no one had brought a Bible for seniors to touch before receiving their diplomas. He swiftly substituted a small, leather-bound notebook that contained the script of the ceremony and his own carefully considered notes. Every year since then, graduating seniors have touched the bishop's little leather-bound book at Commencement.

*Brownell Nest:* Trinity's principal founder and first president was the Right Reverend Thomas Brownell, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut. The bishop continues to preside over campus to this day in the form of an impressive statue situated in the center of the college's Main Quad.

*Elms Nest:* Trinity's campus is famous for its elm trees, and you'll often hear the term "neath the elms" during your lifetime as a Bantam. This phrase is the title of the college's alma mater, often sung by Trinity's a cappella groups at campus events. The elm trees are planted in the shape of a "T" on the Main Quad.

*Cannon Nest:* Positioned on the Main Quad, directly behind the statue of Trinity's first president, Bishop Brownell, reside two cannons. These Civil War relics are from the steam-powered USS *Hartford*. The cannons were presented to the college as a gift from the city and are a memorial to the more than 100 Trinity men who served in the Union and Confederate forces.

*Lemon Nest:* During Class Day in 1857, a senior named William Niles presented a wooden lemon squeezer to the Class of 1859 as recognition of the sophomores' "aggregate excellence in scholarship" and "moral character." From that day forward, every Class Day included a ceremonial passing down of the lemon squeezer to the rising class that proved the most popular.

*Lockwood Nest:* This nest is named for President Theodore Davidge Lockwood '48, H'81, who led the college from 1968–81 and was instrumental in Trinity's admittance of women and minorities.

*Minty Nest:* Paying homage to President Joanne Berger-Sweeney for having come up with the concept of a student mentoring network in her first year as president, 2014–15, this nest is named for the Berger-Sweeney family's beloved golden Labrador, Minty.

*Olmsted Nest:* Trinity's iconic Main Quad was designed by famed landscape architect and journalist Frederick Law Olmsted, who also designed Central Park and Prospect Park in New York City.

*Roosevelt Nest:* The stone set into the Long Walk in front of the Fuller Arch is inscribed with an Old Testament verse, "Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off," which was the centerpiece of an address delivered at Trinity in 1918 by former President Theodore Roosevelt. Soon after, Trinity students began the tradition of never walking on the stone before their Commencement day.

*Washington Nest:* When Trinity was founded in the spring of 1823, its original name was Washington College. The school's name was changed in 1845 when it moved from the site where the Connecticut State Capitol now sits to its current location on Summit Street.

## ALMA MATER

### “’Neath the Elms”

’Neath the elms of our old Trinity,  
’Neath the elms of our dear old  
Trinity,  
No more shall we meet,  
Our classmates to greet,  
’Neath the elms of our old Trinity.

’Neath the elms of our old Trinity.  
’Neath the elms of our dear old  
Trinity  
Oh it’s seldom we’ll meet,  
In the moonlight so sweet,  
’Neath the elms of our old Trinity.

On the hills of our old Trinity,  
In the halls of our dear old Trinity,  
There is bright merry cheer,  
There are friends true and dear,  
In the halls of our old Trinity.

College days are from care and  
sorrow free.  
And oft will we seek in memory  
Those days that are past,  
Far too joyous to last,  
’Neath the elms of our old Trinity.

Then we’ll sing to our old Trinity,  
To our dear old Alma Mater,  
Trinity;  
We’re together today,  
And tomorrow away,  
Far away from our old Trinity.

---

The words to “’Neath the Elms” were written in 1882 by Augustus P. Burgwin, a senior that year. The college had just begun to plant elm trees on the Main Quad, and the nostalgic verses of “’Neath the Elms” immediately became popular among undergraduates and alumni alike. The alma mater soon was sung at college events and at alumni gatherings. The current rendition of “’Neath the Elms” was arranged by Christopher E. Houlihan ’09.

Christopher Houlihan ’09, John Rose College Organist-and-Directorship Distinguished Chair of Chapel Music and Adjunct Professor of Music, ex officio

Ellen Dickinson, College Carillonneur