Parents and Family Members,

Over the last several years we have done a significant amount of assessment and tinkering with our Parent and Family Program. Many of you have completed more than one survey and we did a comprehensive program review with a committee that included an alumni parent, a faculty member parent, and a parent program colleague from a local campus and several staff members. Included in this newsletter is a report on our review and the changes we made as a result (you can view the report by clicking here). The follow-up surveys this fall generally reinforced that the changes we have made since 2017 have been well received. I share this mostly so you can see the intentionality of our program and responsiveness to feedback. Your opinions matter. There will be more changes in the future, including another webpage update. Stay tuned!
Parent Giving and Engagement Programs

Happy fall! We have finally gotten a cool front here and are hoping it will stay for a while. For those of you who attended Fall Family Weekend, Thank You, and we hope to see you for Spring Family Showcase (March 27-29, 2020).

As parents of college students, many of us have our own learning curve regarding knowing how to support our student without undermining them. So, as parents, let’s talk about jobs!

Making Connections- The Parent Event has become a popular way for parents to connect with our Career Services office to learn about a variety of topics related to our students.

For those of you in the San Antonio area, we hope you will join us for a special event just for parents. Please join Dr. Scott Brown and members of out Parent Council for a business casual evening to meet members of the University community and to learn about how your student should navigate the Center for Experiential Learning and Career Success (CELCS) on Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019 from 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m. Light appetizers will be served. Kindly RSVP here.

The Parent Council invites our TU parents in the Houston, Dallas, and Austin areas to join us for a chance to meet other parents for an interactive discussion regarding, “What Employers Seek when Recruiting College Hires.” But, this works both ways, and your Trinity student will soon be notified of Making Connections, a special alumni/student networking opportunity, in 11 cities around the US. Making Connections- The Parent Event is now in its forth year, and we hope that you will look for an emailed invitation with dates, times, and locations in December. Details will be posted on the TU Parents Facebook page as well.
Parents on our Parent Council Career Services Committee play an important role within the university. Aside from helping moderate the Making Connections panel, parents use their expertise and connections to enhance our Center for Experiential Learning and Career Success (CELCS). Chairs Wendy and Rupert Dominguez work closely with Katie Ramirez, Career Services director, to provide a direct link between the university and parents. To share job and internship information, please do so through CELCS online system, Handshake.

We encourage you to join us as a committee member and invite you to contact me for more information.

Aliza Holzman-Cantu
Director of Parent Giving and Engagement
aholzman@trinity.edu

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**Office of Admissions**

Parents,

We know that many of you are in the midst of another college search for your other children still in high school. I would love the opportunity to work with your family and share more about Trinity through a new lens for your high school senior. As a reminder, our November 1 Early Decision and Early Action application deadline is fast approaching. You can learn more about the [application process](#), schedule a [visit](#) or register for our next [Trinity In Focus open house](#), taking place Saturday, November 16, 2019.

Please reach out directly to me with any questions regarding admissions!

#TigerPride

Nicole Fratto
Senior Assistant Director of Admissions
nfratto@trinity.edu

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**Enrollment Management**

*Announcement sent to students on October 23, 2019 from Enrollment Management*

I would like to share some information about a policy change in financial aid that we believe will positively impact students’ ability to succeed at Trinity.

Effective immediately, Trinity has reduced the GPA requirement for renewal of merit scholarships from 2.5 cumulative GPA to a 2.0 cumulative GPA. Students must continue to complete at least 75 percent of attempted credit hours, which are the hours that a student is enrolled in at the end of the add/drop period. This is a cumulative measure, evaluated...
annually at the end of the spring semester. Meeting these standards means students achieve Satisfactory Academic Progress, or SAP, and ensures that merit scholarship and most other financial aid will be renewed. Two exceptions to this new policy include students who are recipients of either the Trinity Tower Scholarship and Semmes Distinguished Scholarship in Science, which require a 3.0 cumulative GPA.

In addition to the policy change regarding merit scholarship, I also want to clear up some confusion about students’ ability to drop their FYE and the implication to student financial aid.

Trinity students are expected to complete the First-Year Experience during their first semester at the university. But things don’t always go as planned, and students struggling to satisfactorily complete the course with a C or better may choose to withdraw from FYE to avoid damaging their GPA. Dropping a six-hour FYE in the fall does not impact your eligibility for renewing merit scholarships or need-based financial aid. However, students who drop FYE in the fall semester must retake the class in spring 2020 (course topic and faculty are yet to be determined). Students considering such a withdrawal must discuss their plans with an academic adviser to ensure they meet the SAP requirement of completing 75 percent of attempted credit hours as measured annually at the end of the Spring Semester.

Lastly, there are two areas of exceptions: student athletes are required to maintain full-time enrollment throughout the semester per NCAA regulations, and international students need to work with International Students and Scholar Services to ensure that visa requirements are maintained.

We hope this policy change and clarification regarding FYE enrollment provides you with more tools needed to be successful at Trinity. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Student Financial Services, and/or talk to your adviser.

Eric Maloof
Vice President for Enrollment Management
Undergraduate Spring Commencement

For many years students, parents, faculty, and staff have expressed concerns that Trinity’s undergraduate commencement ceremony is too long, and that access to the ceremony is too limited by the four-ticket allotment. As Trinity continues to grow, so too will these challenges. After much consideration and review, President Anderson has received and approved recommendations from the Commencement and Convocation Ceremony Committee that will enhance the spirit of celebration, communion, and inclusion that is at the heart of this important time in our students’ lives. Beginning in May 2020, Trinity University will implement the following changes:

1. There will be two Spring Undergraduate Commencement Ceremonies. The first at 10.30 am will focus on students receiving a Bachelors of Arts or Bachelor of Music Degree. The second ceremony at 2.30 pm will focus on students receiving a Bachelor of Science degree. This allows for shorter ceremonies and the allocation of eight tickets (as opposed to four in the past) to students and their families. (All Commencement Ceremonies are live streamed allowing those who are unable to attend in person to experience the celebrations.)

2. A reception for all graduating students and their families will take place the prior evening from 6:00-8:00 p.m. so that the entire class can gather to celebrate their achievements (this replaces the reception that has historically taken place following the one morning ceremony).

3. Changes intended to shorten the overall length of the event include briefer remarks from all speakers, rather than full-length speeches, as well as minor processional changes.

4. The Graduate ceremony will take place at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 16, 2020.

Special consideration will be given to ensuring the new approach continues to accommodate scheduling for several related celebratory ceremonies prior to commencement, including:
- Baccalaureate Service (Friday, May 15, 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the Chapel)
- Phi Beta Kappa Induction Ceremony (Friday, May 15, 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the Chapel)
- Kente Ceremony (for graduating seniors who identify as Black, African, and/or African American) (Friday, May 15, 3:00-4:00 a.m. in the Ruth Taylor Recital Hall)
- De Colores Ceremony (for graduating seniors who identify as Latinx) (Friday, May 15, 1:00-2:30 a.m. in the Chapel)
- Lavender Ceremony (for graduating seniors who identify as LGBTQ+) (Wednesday, May 13, 5:30-7:30 in the Skyline)

We recognize this new approach is not a perfect solution, but are confident this addresses our students' primary concerns and objectives, while honoring the significance of these celebrations for all involved.

While the decision has been made to proceed with these changes for Spring 2020, we welcome faculty, staff and student thoughts and reactions. We will also seek feedback from participants immediately after the Spring 2020 ceremonies and will use these feedback to contemplate any future adjustments.

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**Academic Success**

Finals are fast approaching, and your students are quickly getting bogged down with papers. It's a stressful time for everyone, but students don't have to deal with everything on their own. Here at the Writing Center, we offer free writing tutoring at all stages of the writing process. Whether a student is stressed about coming up with that great paper idea or putting on the finishing touches on that almost-perfect paper, we are here to help! Best of all, we're open 6 days a week and require no prior appointments! We look forward to helping students and hope to see yours soon!
Walk in hours:
Mon - Thurs: 11 AM - 10 PM
Fri: 11 AM - 1 PM
Sun: 3 PM - 10 PM

Written by writing center tutor: Tiffany Nguyen

Betty Curry
Director for Academic Support
bcurry@trinity.edu

Office of the Registrar

Course Withdrawals
The deadline to withdraw from undergraduate courses this semester is Thursday, October 31. Course withdrawals appear on the transcript with a grade of W, with no effect on the GPA. However, financial aid could be affected by course withdrawals, so students should contact Student Financial Services with any questions. Others who need to maintain full-time status, such as student-athletes, international students on a visa, etc. may also be affected by course withdrawals. Students must always consult with both their instructor and advisor before withdrawing from any course. Signatures from each are required on the course WD form, which is available in the Registrar's Office (NH 118).

Preregistration
Preregistration for Spring 2020 classes is November 4-19. All continuing students are expected to preregister by November 19. Students should check TigerPaws to obtain their registration start time and also to make sure they don’t have holds that would block registration. Any holds should be cleared well in advance of their registration time. Students must schedule an appointment with their advisor prior to registering (at least one week in advance is recommended).

Questions? Please contact roffice@trinity.edu.
Academic Advising

With registration around the corner, your students will begin to plan for their Spring 2020 advising sessions with their Trinity Faculty Advisors. This will also mean that they will have a renewed focus in their tentative academic areas and their tentative majors of interest. With this renewed focus on schedule planning will come the inevitable question "But what do I want to do with my life?" or of course the familiar, "I have no idea what I want to do with the rest of my life!", both of which bring great stress and anxiety, and both of which will seem veritably insurmountable. Additionally, the 'not knowing' often times makes it difficult for students to select courses for up-coming semesters and they will too often remain frozen in ambiguity. So what should your student do should they be struggling with course schedule preparations for Spring 2020?

In addition to reviewing the Courses of Study Bulletin and Pathways requirements, students should:

- Consult with their faculty advisor to discuss their tentative academic interests and which courses might be appropriate to their exploration and for the next semester
- Visit with Career Services to discuss career planning and how it relates to course selection and major/minor declaration
- Review the “What Can I Do with This Major?” handouts on the Advising Resources TLearn Page for students. This is a great resource to demystify certain majors and to help students begin to see how every major translates into a professional space. Every major is credible, valid, and valuable.
- Volunteer doing work in the community directly related to possible academic interests. Many students remain wholly untested in the world outside of academia and will not truly discover their potential until they see how their academics connect to a professional setting – that is, how the theoretical translates into the actual.

In addition to the aforementioned, I am also available to students who are truly struggling with understanding how they may best serve the world. Academic Advising in the Office of Academic Affairs is committed to helping your student gain a deeper understanding of who they are, how it directly relates to their academic trajectory, and how they may live their
best lives. Should I ever be of assistance, please don't hesitate to have your student reach out to me.

Dr. Lapétra Bowman, Advising Coordinator
The Office of Academic Affairs
lbowman@trinity.edu, 210-999-7145

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**Center for Experiential Learning and Career Success**

**Encouragement for the Next Stretch**

November is almost here and your student is moving into the next stretch of the semester leading to finals and the winter break. As much as they are relieved about finishing up with midterms, they may be pondering next steps. First years should be focusing on grades and ending this semester strong. Sophomores and Juniors can begin thinking about summer possibilities: Will it be an internship? Summer Research? Study Abroad? Job? Seniors are inevitably thinking about either work possibilities or continuing on to graduate school. Regardless of the opportunities that your student is pondering, please encourage them to come our way! We can help with career exploration, job/internship search plans as well as graduate school application preparations.

For those interested in research for the summer, our Fall 2019 Experiential Learning Fair will be held on November 12th from 4 - 5:30pm and includes a panel with internship employers from NASA, The Nature Conservancy and the Esperanza Peace & Justice Center. Your student can learn more about this event on Handshake. In fact, remind them that they can find resources, job and internship postings as well as make appointments with staff through Handshake. We want them to give us a try!

Questions? Call the Center for Experiential Learning and Career Success at 210-999-8321.
Residential Life

Residential Life was excited to see many sophomores turn out for Major Mixers on October 22nd - 24th. Sophomore students were invited to mix and mingle with faculty members to explore different majors in preparation for the major declaration process. We hope students will also mark their calendars for the Game of Life Wednesday, October 30th. This fun and interactive financial literacy program will help students learn what one month of bills will look like once they are out on their own.

Gary Logan, Vice President for Finance and Administration, announced to the campus community this week that a major repair project is about to begin on an underground water pipe on lower campus. The main impacts for students will be limited parking on lower campus, disruption of sidewalk access, and significant noise and dust during the day. Students should watch their University emails for further project updates as the repair gets underway. Please contact Jim Baker, Senior Director of Facilities Services, directly with any questions at j baker5@trinity.edu or (210) 999-8076.

Should you have any questions, please email us at reslife@trinity.edu, or call our office at 210-999-7219.

Announcements & Important Dates

Student Financial Services
As a reminder, aid recipients—students receiving scholarships, grants, federal work-study, or loans—must maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP) to continue to be eligible for
this assistance. SAP is evaluated annually at the end of the spring semester. To be in good SAP standing students must maintain a 2.0* cumulative GPA and successfully complete at least 75% of all attempted coursework. Attempted hours include the courses a student is enrolled in at the close of the add/drop period each semester. Any course(s) a student withdraws from after this point will count as attempted but not completed hours when SAP is evaluated in May.

*Due to a recent policy change, merit scholarship renewal is based on a student maintaining SAP. This effectively adjusts the required cumulative GPA to a 2.0, versus the previous requirement of a 2.5 GPA. There are two exceptions, the Semmes Scholarship and Trinity Tower Scholarship which require a cumulative 3.0 GPA for renewal.

Health Services
Does your student need a flu shot this year? Health Services can help your student stay healthy this fall. Flu Shots are available at Health Services, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The cost is $25, and can be paid using Tiger Bucks, billed to student account or personal check.
Contact Health Services at 210-999-8111, or email healthservices@trinity.edu if you have questions.

CAMPUS TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS
Zipcar is a vehicle rental service, and Trinity has two Zipcars available for rental on campus. Students can apply and receive a Zipcard, which allows them to reserve a car and explore San Antonio. Learn more by clicking here.

San Antonio SWell Cycle is a bike sharing program that spans more than 55 stations across downtown San Antonio. Trinity has it's own station on campus near McLean Hall. For a reasonable membership fee, students can use this service to get around San Antonio. Learn more by clicking here.

ELERTS
Encourage your student to download the free phone app ELERTS. This app enables students to discreetly report security issues directly to TUPD’s 24hr
Dispatch Center. Students can also feel safer walking around campus as they are connected to TUPD's Dispatch via their phone.

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