



What's Inside



HOLIDAY CHEER

Celebrate the holiday season with the president and vice presidents of the university with Christmas on Oakmont. **Page 16**



PERSONAL PEGG

Viva features a personal interview with the British actor and zombie killer Simon Pegg. **Page 21**



FINISHING THE YEAR

After a dramatic season, the football team wraps up the year. **Page 24**

WEEKEND WEATHER

Friday			
High	69°	Low	61°
Saturday			
High	76°	Low	52°
Sunday			
High	47°	Low	40°

ON THE WEB

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Trinity remembers Alex



As the campus deals with the abrupt loss of Alex Reinis, friends celebrate his life

BY TOMMIE ETHINGTON
MANAGING EDITOR

There are a lot of recurring themes that defined Alex Reinis' life, but one stands out from the rest: the word "awesome."

"Awesome" was a staple of Alex's vocabulary. A poster, which hung in his Thomas

bedroom sophomore year, depicted a jet with the word "awesome" trailing behind it. A quote from one of his favorite television shows, "How I Met Your Mother," is posted in the "About Me" section of his Facebook and reads, "Whenever I get sad, I stop being sad and be awesome instead. True story." "Awesome" was also the first word suggested by his friends when asked to describe him.

Alexander John Andris Reinis was born on Feb. 12, 1991 to Kevin and Belinda Reinis in San Jose, California. He is the oldest of four children and grew up

primarily in Austin, Texas, where he attended the private Christian school, Regent's School of Austin. According to his friends, Alex chose Trinity for the sense of community.

As a first year, he lived on the ground floor of Miller Hall. Senior Katie Leonard was the resident mentor and remembered Alex was the first person to respond to her e-mail sent out during the summer.

"I wanted to know if they had any nicknames because I was making door signs," Leonard said. "It was Star Wars themed

See ALEX Page 8

Changing healthcare rules

Additions to the Trinity healthcare program hope to increase responsibility of patients, increase preventative care

BY ALECIA JARRETT

REPORTER

Last year, Trinity added a High Deductible Health Plan, also known as the 70 plan, along with a Health Savings Account to its insurance policies for employees. This year, White Glove, a nurse home-visit program, was added along with flat premiums for next year.

"We replaced the current 70 plan, from last year, and we created the 70 plan with higher deductible

so that it would be eligible for Health Savings Account," said Mark Detterick, vice president for Finance and Administration.

The 70 in the 70 plan refers to the percentage of the medical bill the university will cover once an employee reaches their deductible of \$3,000 for an individual and \$6,000 for the family plan.

"Because you have a higher deductible, in the 70 plan, versus last year, you're going to pay less upfront, so that it's more affordable," Detterick said.

Sankaran Venkateswar, chair of the Benefits Committee and associate professor in the department of business administration, believes employees will be more conscientious with

their spending if they are forced to pay the bills with their own money.

"The motivation behind the HDHP is for employees to take more responsibility for their Health Care," Venkateswar said. "Employees take more responsibility and more control. The reward is a lower premium."

According to Pamela Johnston, assistant vice president for Human Resources, the HSA goes "hand-in-hand" with the HDHP.

"Employees put money into the HSA and the university puts money into the HSA," Johnston said. "If something catastrophic happens, there is a nice sum of money in there."

See INSURANCE Page 5

VP search continues

After the abrupt departure of Tracy Christeson earlier this year, TU continues to search for a new VP

BY KELLIE BENN

REPORTER

With the end of the semester in sight, the position of vice president for External Affairs at Trinity remains vacant.

After the sudden resignation of the former vice president for External Affairs Tracy Christeson at the beginning of the semester, the university hired an outside firm to conduct a national search for her replacement.

However, according to university president Dennis Ahlburg, the firm is so backlogged, they will not be able to begin the search until the new year.

"We thought we could just get rolling, but we looked at four different firms and we chose this one... who's got a fantastic reputation [and] is working with two other universities that are like us and they're both looking for VPs for advancement, as well," Ahlburg said.

National searches like these take time because the firm goes through potential candidates from all over the country to find someone who will be a good fit for the university. Instead of putting an ad in the newspaper or online and waiting for applicants, the firm finds people who match the criteria for the job and the university approaches them about the position.

"The fact that [the firm] is so busy implies that there's a hell of a lot more people searching than there are people wanting to be searched for so it's going to be challenging," Ahlburg said.

According to the Trinity website, "the vice president for External Affairs directs Trinity University's programs in development (fund raising), alumni relations and Laurie Auditorium."

As far as what Ahlburg is looking for in potential candidates, in addition to getting along well with him, he stresses the importance of being able to raise money, work with alumni and lead an internal team. The university put together an advisory board of faculty and staff to screen candidates and make recommendations based on their strengths and weaknesses.

See SEARCH Page 4

Alex Reinis will be remembered as “awesome”

■ continued from Page 1

and I ended up making Alex Luke Skywalker. It turned out to be quite accurate.”

Soon after arriving on campus, Alex made friends with his hallmates and joined a group that was later referred to as “The Miller Boys.”

“We’d all hang out in one room,” said Joe Moore, junior and Alex’s roommate sophomore year. “Some of my best memories are of us huddled around one laptop watching ‘Archer’ or ‘The League’ or ‘How I Met Your Mother.’ Those were some of Alex’s favorites.”

Alex’s love of television also caught the attention of Samantha Grubbs, Alex’s eventual girlfriend.

“He wooed her with their love of ‘How I Met Your Mother,’” said Matt Prendergast, junior and longtime friend of Alex. “They met during the summer on Facebook through one of those Trinity groups and they just hit it off. That first night at school they stayed up all night talking and watching episodes of the show.”

Kindred spirits from the beginning, the couple displayed a sense of ease with one another that impressed their friends.

“He really respected her and he took his time to get to know her before they actually started dating. She was his first girlfriend and they never had

to hide who they were when they were around each other,” Prendergast said. “They were both endearingly eccentric. They complimented each other very well.”

“He was the kind of person who asked you how you were doing and genuinely wanted to know. It was never small talk with him.”

RICHARD GIBBS
Junior

Family and his hometown roots were also big priorities in Alex’s life.

“He had a Whataburger placard decorated with little sayings and pictures that his sister made him in our room,” Moore said. “He was protective of his Mom and his siblings and I know he also really respected and looked up to his Dad. I remember thinking it was cool

that they played video games together.”

Back at Trinity, Alex was involved in the service fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega, and was a star on his intramural soccer team. He also participated in InterVarsity and was studying marketing and finance as a business major. Alex decided to study abroad in London for the fall of 2011, due to strong family ties with the country and his love for the Liverpool soccer team.

Richard Gibbs, Alex’s friend, said he talked with Alex almost every week while he was away.

“We would Skype until our batteries on our laptop ran out. He was having such a great time and meeting so many people. He just loved it there,” Gibbs said, before commenting on the nature of their conversations. “It was hard to ask him questions because he was always asking questions about you. He was the kind of person who asked you how you were doing and genuinely wanted to know. It was never small talk with him.”

Gibbs and Alex were scheduled to talk on Wednesday, Nov. 23, but they never got the chance.

According to an e-mail sent by Kevin Reines, Alex’s father, to David Tuttle, associate vice president for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Alex told his London flat mate that he was

feeling under the weather on the night of Nov. 22 and decided he would “sleep it off.”

On Wednesday morning, Alex woke his roommate and explained that his condition had worsened. Emergency responders were called and they began administering care. After approximately 90 minutes, Alex Reines was pronounced dead.

A later autopsy report listed meningococcal septicaemia as the cause of Alex’s death. This infection, while associated with the same kind of bacteria that causes meningitis, is not actually meningitis.

According to Janna Wilder, university physician for more than twenty years, meningococcal septicaemia attacks the adrenal glands, whereas meningitis attacks the brain.

Wilder said this variation of the meningococcal disease is aggressive and fast acting, yet rare.

“One in 100,000 people contract some form of the meningococcal bacteria,” Wilder said. “It’s not common, but it is deadly.”

According to Wilder, immunization may not have prevented Alex’s death.

“A vaccination is never a 100 percent guarantee,” Wilder said.

According to a report released within the last year by a Center for Disease Control group, the Advisory Committee

for Immunization Practices, vaccinations against the meningococcal disease should be renewed every five years.

“We know that Alex received the vaccination six years ago, but it might not have mattered if he had gotten [the shot] just six months ago because this bacteria was extremely virulent and aggressive,” Wilder said. “Your adrenal glands are the worst place to get it because it controls your blood pressure and your circulation.”

According to Wilder and Tuttle, Alex is the second Trinity student in the past 30 years to have died of the disease and the first student to have died while studying abroad.

But for those who knew him and were touched by his presence on campus, the details of his death are but a footnote in the story of his “awesome” life.

Over the past week, friends have commemorated Alex through a KRTU Indie Overnight show hosted by Prendergast and Lauren Wilks, in which the duo played Alex’s favorite songs. A memorial to Alex, which will most likely be installed on the lawn in front of Miller Hall, is also in the works and slated for completion this spring. “A celebration of Alex’s life” is to be held Saturday, Dec. 3, at Hope in the City Church in Austin. A reception will immediately follow the services.

2011 SIS

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is pleased to invite you to our information sessions,
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Trinity Eco-Box

As part of the Eco-Box series, the Trinitonian has compiled data concerning Trinity University’s utilities use and recycled products of the school year up to date. The largest product recycled is cardboard, with 21.7 tons having been recycled since June.

In terms of utilities use, the university has used 18,953,952 kilowatt hours since June. As a means of comparison, last year the university used a total of 37,949,298 kilowatt hours for the entire 2010-2011 school year.

compiled by Sam Bos, News editor

RECYCLING
Fiscal Year 2011-2012 (to date)

Tin	1.41 tons
Aluminum	.03 tons
Plastics	5.17 tons
Cardboard	21.7 tons
Paper	17.7 tons

UTILITY
Fiscal Year 2011-2012 (to date)

Recycled Water	4,899,600 ccf
Potable Water	8,362,300 ccf
Natural Gas	152,910 ccf
Electricity	18,953,952 Kwh

graphics by Katie Browne