Welcome to the Trinity University family!

Undoubtedly you are feeling some excitement (probably with a bit of anxiety) as you start to prepare to send us your beloved in August. As this newsletter hopefully indicates, you will not be alone—and neither will your student. Know that your son or daughter will find helpful resources through advisers, professors, residential life staff, coaches, counselors, the Chaplain, and many others. Aaron Delwiche, associate professor of communication, and Jennifer Henderson, associate professor and chair of communication, will be the class marshals for the Class of 2018 and Leni Kirkman will serve as the alumni sponsor. These people have made a four-year volunteer commitment to help provide context and guidance to the class as a whole. You will meet them at orientation.

We talk a lot about student success here. I thought I would share the qualities I see in those students who get the most out of their Trinity experiences. Those students take care of academics, no matter how busy they are. They go to class and do their homework. They are often deeply engaged in a couple of organizations or activities—eventually serving in leadership roles. They participate in campus events. They have faculty mentors with whom they have developed strong connections. They are intentional about their success but they are focused on others, usually through service to the community or the campus. They are nice and happy here. They don’t smoke pot (as far as we know). They may drink a little, but not a lot, or too often. They usually have an exercise routine. They rarely spend time on video games, Facebook, or watching YouTube videos. They enjoy meals in the dining hall with others or with their books. They are clever and fun and they don’t disturb others. They are developing an action plan for their future.

We should all live so well! And notice that anyone can follow these guidelines, whether outgoing, or shy, or career-focused, or uncertain about the future. We prefer to communicate and deal directly with students as much as possible. This allows students to learn to manage their own problems and affairs as they transition from adolescence to adulthood. Parents are encouraged to help students think critically and formulate plans of action, but students should take action on those issues.

We hope to work with parents as partners in helping students succeed at Trinity University. Though students are expected to manage their own issues, sometimes parents have concerns that need to be checked out with a professional staff member. We will be a sounding board and resource, helping with issues such as family emergencies, sudden lack of contact, student anxiety, and more. Staff will not routinely contact parents about things such as conduct, grades, class attendance, or health and psychological crises unless there are elevated concerns about issues affecting a student’s well-being or opportunity for success.

We strive to communicate in broad ways with parents of our students. In addition to the parent orientation session and reception in August, family weekends are offered during both the fall and spring. All parents are encouraged to subscribe to the TrinitE Parent electronic newsletter and the interactive parent-to-parent listserv ParentTalk. All Trinity parents also receive the summer newsletter for parents of new students.

Sincerely,

David M. Tuttle,
Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

Understanding the relationship between parents of students and Trinity University

We are student-centered. We are student-centered. While parents play an integral role in the lives of their children, our mission is the education of our students in and out of the classroom. We prefer to communicate and deal directly with students as much as possible. This allows students to learn to manage their own problems and affairs as they transition from adolescence to adulthood. Parents are encouraged to help students think critically and formulate plans of action, but students should take action on those issues.

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David M. Tuttle,
Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
Getting Started

This special edition of the Trinity Parent and Family newsletter is for families of new Trinity University students. This edition contains information we hope will prove helpful as you prepare to send your son or daughter to Trinity University in August. We intentionally describe situations that can lead to problems for our students and offer advice for parents to consider. Please understand that this approach isn’t meant to scare you. Its purpose is to inform you and help you partner with us in ensuring the success of our students.

In case you missed it…

Click here to see information that was sent to all deposited first year students (a different version was sent to transfer students).

Beware… For those of you staying at a hotel on Wednesday night before check-in on Thursday, please consider taking any priceless items (photos and keepsakes), electronics, jewelry, and other valuables into your hotel room rather than leaving them in a fully loaded vehicle. Each year we learn of one or two students who have had their vehicle burglarized, and we want you to play it safe.

What to Expect on Move-In Day

August 21, 2014

The staff suggests that you let your son or daughter be in charge of the day, asking your student in advance how he or she wants the day to unfold. Follow his or her lead once you get here and let your student make decisions about what happens next and how to set up their room.

This can be an emotional day. Consider discussing the most important issues with your student in the summer rather than having a big speech planned for before you leave. Saying goodbye may be difficult, and that speech may not hit the intended notes.

Upon receipt of room assignments, new students should check the New Student Orientation or Residential Life Web page to see what time they can pick up their keys and check into their specific residence hall. The “Move-In Day 2014” page contains downloadable maps and directions. To ensure a smooth process, students will not be permitted to pick up keys in advance of their scheduled times. There will be student, alumni, staff, and faculty volunteers available to help unload vehicles.

Once students are moved in, they must complete check-in at the Bell Center before 1 p.m. They will have photos taken for the yearbook and their Tiger Cards (identification/meal plan/building access cards), and pick up parking stickers.
This summer’s Reading TUgether selection is *Anatomy of Injustice: A Murder Case Gone Wrong* by Pulitzer-Prize winning author Raymond Bonner. It tells the gripping story of a grievously mishandled murder case that put a twenty-three-year-old man on death row.

In January 1982, an elderly white widow was found brutally murdered in the small town of Greenwood, South Carolina. Police immediately arrested Edward Lee Elmore, a semi-literate, mentally retarded black man with no previous felony record. His only connection to the victim was having cleaned her gutters and windows, but barely ninety days after the victim’s body was found, he was tried, convicted, and sentenced to death. Elmore had been on death row for eleven years when Diana Holt, a young attorney from Houston, Texas, first learned of his case.

With the exemplary moral commitment that has distinguished his reporting career, Bonner follows Holt’s battle to save Elmore’s life. According to the *New York Times*, *Anatomy of Injustice* is Holt’s book more than Elmore’s; it chronicles her journey through the prosecution’s omissions, manipulations and deceits to uncover the truth, and, in the process, turns a sad story into an engrossing true-crime tale.

The Reading TUgether keynote lecture will be delivered by Diana Holt, LLC Attorney, with special guest Edward Lee Elmore, on Wednesday, August 27, 2014, at 7 p.m. in Laurie Auditorium. It is free and open to the public.

New students are also required to complete an annotated bibliography on topics related to *Anatomy of Injustice: A Murder Case Gone Wrong* over the summer in order to enhance the reading and learn valuable information literacy skills. Details regarding the assignment can be found at the NSO website and will be e-mailed to students at their Trinity e-mail address.

New Student Orientation

New Student Orientation (NSO) begins Thursday, August 21, 2014 with the move-in day experience. Following move-in, NSO continues with a formal welcome session at 2 p.m. in Laurie Auditorium. All new students must attend this session, while families are highly encouraged to attend. Following the kick-off session, students will meet with their advising groups. Family members should remain in Laurie Auditorium for Parent and Family Orientation from 3 to 5 p.m.

At the conclusion of Parent & Family Orientation, students and their families have a break to grab dinner and/or run errands. Families are welcome to eat with their students on-campus or enjoy a meal off-campus. Families are invited to a special reception on campus at the home of President Ahlburg at 7:30 p.m. while students attend residence hall meetings. After a long day, spend time with fellow parents and members of the staff from Student Affairs, Admissions, and other departments. Light refreshments will be served.

The next morning from 8 to 10 a.m., we hope you will be able to join your student for a Parent and Family Breakfast as well as a session called Academics 101, where you’ll hear from faculty members about classroom expectations and our curriculum. Parents attending the brunch must pay the standard entry fee into Mabee Dining Hall. Unless travel plans have required an earlier departure, this is the time designated for formal goodbyes as the NSO experience will hit high gear for students following this break.
Every summer the Residential Life staff fields questions from parents in the summer before their sons or daughters move to campus. We receive many questions about room dimensions and configurations, the length of the clothes bars in the closet and more. Planning and setting up a room is fun. Helping one’s child prepare is an important ritual in sending a child off to college. Nevertheless, there is some other preparation that is even more pressing.

It doesn’t take long before most students’ rooms are in disarray. (At check-out in May, parents often ask “what is all of this stuff?”) Plans for clean rooms and organizational systems are quickly forgotten amid papers, pizza boxes, and piles of laundry.

In the meantime, students will struggle with homesickness, poor time management, sexual freedom, opportunities for alcohol consumption and other substance use, and poor grades. In this newsletter we are including a list of conversation starters for you and your student. I urge you to sit down with your son or daughter and talk about these important things before August.

Send your child to Trinity, not only with stackable bins from the Container Store, but with thoughts about the independence he or she will face and how to deal with the freedom he or she will experience.

“Talk-About” List

**Safety** Will they lock their room doors when they aren’t there? Will they sleep with their doors locked? Will they drink and drive? Will they get in a car with a drunk driver? Will they leave parties alone or with friends? Do they know they may call Trinity University Police Department for on-campus escorts?

**Health issues** Can they survive on pizza and soda alone? Will they be able to develop a regular sleep pattern? Will they take advantage of excellent recreational facilities and the intramural program on campus? Will they take their medications?

**Alcohol** Will they drink alcohol? What will they do to take care of themselves or a friend? Will they ride with a designated sober driver or just the person who is least drunk? Do they know the consequences of alcohol violations on campus? Do they know the alcohol policy?

**Sex** Do they know that Trinity has a sexual misconduct policy? Do they know how to protect themselves? What do they think about “hooking up”?

**Roommate issues** Will they be assertive? Will they be respectful of a roommate’s reasonable habits and requests? How will they ask for that respect in return? Will they stand up to a roommate who brings in a guest and tries to kick them out of the room? Will they ever treat their roommate this way?

**Parent-child relationship** How often will you communicate and by what means? How often will you visit one another? What will the house rules be on holiday breaks?

**Finances** Which bills will they be responsible for paying? How often will you send money or add funds to their Tiger Bucks account? What is your philosophy on credit cards? Should they look for a part-time job to offset costs?

**Academics** What are their academic strengths? How will they get to know professors? What questions will they ask the faculty adviser? In terms of study habits, what will they do differently than in high school? What are the important dates on the academic calendar, and what kind of support do they like to receive from you?

**Campus involvement** What clubs or organizations are they interested in joining? How will they make new friends?

**Game systems, video games, instant messaging** Will they take their game systems with them? How much will they play each day in relation to doing homework? Will they use the systems to break the ice and have fun with others? Will they play so much that they don’t get involved on campus? Will they text during class? Will they live on social media such as Snapchat and Twitter and neglect studies?

**Responsible citizenship** Will they work to make the campus a better place? Will they take time to understand campus rules? Will they treat campus neighbors respectfully? Will they pre-judge people because they are different? Will they care for the University facilities they are using?

**Career exploration** Will they meet with Career Services and their professors to relate their interests to different majors and careers? Will they investigate job shadowing, internships, volunteering, research, or other career-building endeavors, beginning as early as their first year?
Imagine your son or daughter—in all their uniqueness—times 600 other students from all over the planet. Imagine professors who truly appreciate these young people—their sparkle, their enthusiasm, their good questions, and their sense of self. The faculty is privileged to play a crucial part in the intellectual growth of these young people. We have inspiring, smart, engaged students at Trinity, and our office is here to help them succeed in all they do—especially in their scholarly work.

The highest academic hurdle for many of our first-year students is time management. Without you around to structure their time, they tend to feel like they have tons of “free time,” but the faculty expects them to study three to six hours for each hour spent in class. No one will monitor their study habits, but their end-of-semester grades will surely tell what kind of stewards they are of their 24-hour days.

Speaking of grades—and unlike high school—Trinity does not share grades directly with parents. Please review our Web page regarding the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). This federal law allows students (18 and over) to delineate who has access to their educational records. As a parent myself, FERPA baffled me when I first heard of it. My reaction was, “But who’s paying the bill?” However, I now understand the rationale behind FERPA. Without going into too much detail, we have Trinity students who support themselves 100% financially. We have students whose parents are divorced, with one parent not allowed access. The bottom line is that this federal law treats 18-year-olds as legal adults. Unless your son or daughter has signed the downloadable form from our website and designated a particular individual, we cannot discuss his or her academic record with others. **If you want to know their academic status, your options are:** (1) 100% honest, open, and ongoing dialogue about academics and grades (e.g., regarding mid-term grade reports for deficient grades of “D” or “F,” which are sent to students and their advisers one week before the withdrawal deadlines); (2) having them sign FERPA and designate names so that if you call me, their adviser, or the Registrar’s Office, we will be able to discuss their records with you; (3) discuss with your student how you can have access to their online records. **If your son or daughter is struggling in any academic area, encourage them to talk with the professor of the class as soon as they receive a low grade.** Talking with the individual professor shows us that the student cares about the subject matter and his or her performance in the class. We are flattered by their interest in improving and their initiative in following up to seek our help. Students may also speak with their academic adviser, chairs of the department involved, and/or me, but starting with the professor of the class is ideal.

Finally, encourage your student to think intentionally and explore his or her options for their entire four years in college (e.g., research with faculty, study abroad, independent studies, and internships in the community). Students should be dreaming about what their ideal four years will include. One final note: part of a smart four-year plan might be relatively light academic loads their first and last semesters here (e.g., 12-13 credits).

Words of Wisdom

Sheryl Tynes, associate vice president for Academic Affairs and professor of sociology

Fall Family Weekend

September 26-28, 2014

Before you know it, six weeks will have passed since move-in day. Soon it will be time to attend Fall Family Weekend, where you can meet the adult your student is becoming. The schedule of events is intentionally light during Fall Family Weekend in order to provide plenty of opportunity for you to spend individual time with your student. Program highlights include: Friday afternoon tea at the President’s home, Saturday morning coffee with the Dean of Students, a University update, and a reception with the faculty.

[Click here](#) for more information and a full schedule of events.
Alcohol and Today’s Students

Across the nation, campuses are fighting the perception that college fun requires alcohol use. Some of our students often adopt a credo that they “work hard and play hard,” with “playing hard” meaning drinking to intoxication. Indeed, binge drinking and irresponsible and dangerous use of alcohol by college students leads to injuries, assaults, social and academic problems, problems with campus neighbors, suspensions, and even death. (Please note that about two-thirds of our students drink little or not at all. Not everyone is doing it.)

The University is not against alcohol. However, Trinity does enforce an alcohol policy that reflects the law and urges students to be safe in their use of alcohol. In an effort to emphasize student safety, the University has a program called the Optimal Buzz that teaches students strategies to avoid the diminishing returns of excessive drinking. In fact, if students are caught violating policy and are within a certain blood alcohol level (as measured, voluntarily, with a breathalyzer test), they simply get a pre-warning.

In addition, our own students have created a video for new students that we will distribute this summer. In it, they stress our “responsible friend” policy that offers amnesty for all involved when anyone calls a helping professional because someone may have had too much alcohol.

Learn more about the Trinity philosophy on alcohol, our policies, and available resources on the Trinity University and Alcohol Web page.
Getting Around

About half of Trinity students bring vehicles to campus. Usually these students volunteer to drive others and help them get around. For those without vehicles, there are several options, some of which are described here.

The Hertz on Demand program is perfect for anyone with a driver’s license (domestic or international) and who is 18 or older. Pre-register and rent the vehicle by the hour at a rate of around $10 per hour. Reservations are made online.

A weekend shopping shuttle is offered through the International Programs and Residential Life departments. This is open to all students, not just international students. Only about half of the users are from abroad.

The members of the Chi Delta Tau fraternity have teamed with the Dean of Students office and the Dean of Students office and Tau fraternity have teamed with

Yellow Cab to provide debit cards to students for cab rides. Yellow Cab has a large fleet of cabs and the cards can be used anytime. Most importantly, the money on the card can only be used for rides. Students don’t have to make decisions about holding on to their discretionary funds. If they have been drinking or need to get out of an unsafe situation, they have an out that they don’t need to think about. Increments of $25 are suggested. Students will be selling cards at the Bell Center on move-in day and at various other times on campus. Consider the Hail a Cab San Antonio app for your son or daughter as well.

The nearby YMCA (walking distance) is a member of the B-cycle bike sharing program. For transportation or recreation, these bicycles can provide a nice transportation alternative to students (and family members when they visit!).

As a large city, San Antonio has an expansive bus system, with stops on campus (Stadium Drive) and nearby, on McCullough. Students often eschew the bus because they can find rides with others for shopping and social events. But, for regular work commitments, internships, or volunteer work, the bus system provides a convenient alternative.

Rent by the hour.
At any hour.

With Hertz On Demand 24/7, you can enjoy the convenience of 24/7 access to a wide variety of vehicles with no annual fees. Every Hertz On Demand 24/7 rental includes fuel, insurance, 24 hour roadside assistance, In-car customer care and more.

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YOU CAN TEACH YOUR CHILD

Ensure that your child has 24/7 access to a taxi whenever the need arises
Accepted as a form of payment in every San Antonio Yellow Cab!
Purchase online at www.taxicard.net/Trinity
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Residential Life:
It’s all down hill…

Literally, the residence halls at Trinity are located on lower campus, down the hill from academic buildings. Nevertheless, the Residential Life mission is to create a blended educational experience for students. Students are invited to participate in academic experiences that include classes on homelessness, entrepreneurship, social awareness, and classical education. In addition, through the REAL LIFE program for first-year students, residents attend sessions designed specifically for them by their resident mentor about the kinds of issues they most often face in their transitions to college: time management, roommate relationships, responsible citizenship, and educational success, to name a few.

The residential program at Trinity is focused on the development and education of students outside the classroom. In the sophomore year, residents are housed together with a focus on class unity and community. Programs in the award winning “Sophomore College” target issues such as declaring majors and planning for studying abroad. Students live in the upperclass area in their junior and senior years. In those areas they are offered programs related to graduate school preparation, career development, financial literacy, and transitioning out of college or off campus.

Students are assisted with their transition into college during the first year, are able to exercise greater autonomy in the second year, and are encouraged to live more independently as upperclass students.

Dealing with Roommates

Many of our students have never shared rooms before coming to Trinity. To suddenly be away at college and find a stranger sleeping in the same room can be awkward, to say the least. In a short period of time, though, it will be comforting.

The residential life staff works to prevent roommate problems from the start by pairing roommates and suitemates who have similar habits, while ensuring that suites are still diverse. Students are asked to talk on the first day about how they will manage their living experience. When problems arise, as they inevitably do, the staff encourages residents to talk immediately. The first person to hear about a roommate conflict should be the roommate. Generally, things can be worked out if they are addressed in a timely manner.

If problems persist, students are encouraged to work with their resident mentors or their supervisors, the residential life coordinators. The staff wants students to learn skills of compromise and negotiation and to be respectful as well as assertive. These are useful life skills that are part of the outside the classroom learning that occurs here. Staff will do what they can to help students resolve any issues that should arise.

What is a …

Resident Mentor?

All new students have resident mentors living on their residence hall floors. There is usually one resident mentor for about every 18 residents. This sophomore, junior, or senior student will sponsor activities and programs to help students meet one another, become acclimated to college life, and adjust to the many transitions occurring in their lives. In addition, the resident mentor will help during the advising and registration process and be there to answer questions and help with any problems residents may have. The resident mentor will be one of your student’s best resources, both during New Student Orientation and throughout the year.

Residential Life Coordinator?

The student resident mentors are supervised by full-time professional staff members who live in residence hall apartments. These residential life coordinators work in the Witt Center, supervise student staff, handle student issues, and are on call for emergencies. Since our student staff members are undergraduate students, we ask that you not contact them with questions or concerns about your student, but rather call the Residential Life coordinators for assistance at 210-999-7219. Please simply identify the hall in which your student resides to be directed to the appropriate staff member. Residential Life coordinators live and work closely with students in the residence halls in order to get to know them personally to better serve their needs.
The mission of Career Services is to empower Trinity students and alumni with career resources, connections, and coaching in preparation for successfully launching into a personalized career path. And our vision is to be a dynamic, innovative center recognized as a place where students are equipped to actively explore, strategically plan, and successfully launch into their career journey. Our Four-Year Career Plan highlights the career planning process and possible activities to move the process forward.

Career Services offers advising services that include resume review, interview preparation and assessment testing. Throughout the year a variety of workshops and programs (internship search, networking, etc.) are offered. Our website offers a variety of in-depth pages with information about internships, careers, networking, and more.

Over the four years that Trinity students are on-campus there are multiple opportunities for them to engage in on-campus recruitment including career fairs, on-campus interviews, information sessions, and career panels. In addition, TigerJobs is an online database that lists a variety of employment opportunities including full-time and part-time jobs and internships. Those planning on graduate school can take advantage of resources to assist in researching graduate and professional schools, take practice entrance exams, and participate in graduate school workshops.

It is not uncommon for first-year students to be unsure about career direction. An important first step in career preparation is for your student to find a subject area that really interests him or her, one that cultivates his or her passions and interests. Be ready—majors will probably change (maybe once, maybe three times). While majors are important, career decisions are based on a combination of identifying personal abilities, interests, and values. Be patient—career exploration is a process that takes time and experience. Encourage your student to visit Career Services so they can prepare to make the connection between major and career.

One of the most valuable opportunities at Trinity University is getting involved.

Campus & Community Involvement (CCI) is the hub of campus involvement. CCI enhances the overall educational experience at Trinity University by facilitating a comprehensive range of programs, initiatives, and activities that reflect the interests of our student population through experiential learning. CCI programs and services include Alternative Spring Break trips to domestic and international locations, fall and spring parent/family weekends, fraternity and sorority life, campus publications (weekly newspaper and yearbook), Martin Luther King, Jr. March and Lecture, New Student Orientation, student involvement fairs, leadership programs, and Welcome Week programming.

Several University Sponsored organizations are located within CCI, including Student Government Association (SGA), Greek Council, Student Programming Board (SPB), Trinity Diversity Connection (TDC), Trinity University Student Ambassadors, and Trinity University Volunteer Action Committee (TUVAC). These organizations are commissioned by the institution to serve unique purposes and to serve relatively large numbers of students. Collectively, these groups provide thousands of hours of activities, programs, leadership, and volunteer opportunities for our students. Notable student organization events include Taste of Diversity, Trinity Idol and Spotlight which showcase talented students, Chocolate Festival, and TigerFest gala during Homecoming weekend.

We encourage first-year students to attend a wide range of activities and explore opportunities to get involved on campus. Student Involvement Fairs are hosted each fall and spring for students to meet-and-greet with members of campus organizations. Co-curricular involvement provides students an opportunity to discover their passion and interests, and build skill sets that will become valuable tools upon graduation.
Our three licensed psychologists provide free, confidential, short-term counseling to about 15 percent of students each year whose most common presenting issues are depression, anxiety, stress, relationship concerns, and academic performance concerns. The first one or two meetings will sometimes reveal that a student needs longer term or more specialized care than we can provide. If so, the psychologist will provide referrals to off-campus counseling professionals. Psychiatric medications are not prescribed on campus, so our psychologists also provide referrals to off-campus psychiatrists when medication might be a beneficial adjunct to counseling.

If your son or daughter has a history of mental health concerns, please be aware that the stresses of adjustment to a new and challenging environment can precipitate renewed or exacerbated problems. Speak to him or her about seeking support from us and others as needed, and advocate that he or she engage in consistent self care (e.g., adequate sleep, avoidance of recreational drugs or excessive alcohol consumption).

Some students who have taken psychiatric medications during high school decide to stop their medication before entering college. Given the stresses of the first year of college, it is not a good time to stop effective medication. Discuss plans for ongoing treatment with your son or daughter and the prescribing physician, including a plan for refills and follow-up appointments, which is more challenging for students whose physician is not in Texas. For some students, occasional appointments with the physician during academic breaks will suffice. For others, having a San Antonio psychiatrist will be advisable, especially if medications or dosages are in flux or if ongoing monitoring is needed.

All client contacts with Counseling Services are confidential for students who are 18 years old or older. The psychologists are pleased to consult with parents after receiving the student’s consent. They can also consult with parents who seek guidance because of concern about their son or daughter. More information about Counseling Services is available on our website.

Disability Services for Students

If your son or daughter has a disability and will need accommodations while attending Trinity, she/he will need to register with Disability Services for Students (DSS) by providing the DSS application and appropriate documentation.

The DSS application and documentation guidelines can be found on the DSS website. Once these materials have been submitted, students should meet with the DSS coordinator to discuss services available at Trinity. Students are encouraged to start the application process as soon as possible before the beginning of the fall semester to ensure a smooth transition. If your son or daughter requires accommodations which will require advanced planning, such as housing accommodations, you are especially encouraged to contact the coordinator as soon as possible to assist DSS in providing these accommodations. If you will be on campus this summer, feel free to arrange an appointment to meet with the coordinator. If you have questions about DSS, please contact Catherine Morell-Nickle, coordinator of Disability Services for Students, at 210-999-7411.

YMCA for Students

On move-in day there will be a table staffed by the YMCA at the Bell Center. The YMCA, in walking distance from the campus, has attracted hundreds of students and employees for the past four years. Trinity has tremendous facilities, but the YMCA offers a full slate of exercise classes seven days a week and a larger selection of cardio equipment. Student rates for nine months (mid-August to mid-May) are $21 per month, for an incredible rate of $189 per year. Please give serious consideration to enrolling your first-year student at that time.
HEALTH SERVICES

Getting Access to Healthcare

Health Services is here to assist our students when they get sick or injured and need a little help in managing their illness so they can get back to the business of being a student. We are located on campus in Myrtle McFarlin Residence Hall and provide outpatient nursing and medical care to Trinity students. Registered nurses are available six days a week for nursing assessment, first aid, and assistance with minor illnesses at no cost to the student. Students requiring medical treatment may see the part-time University physician, by appointment, for a nominal fee. The physician is available 3 days a week. When necessary, the nursing staff may assist in locating an off-campus physician who participates with the student’s insurance. The student is responsible for fees associated with treatment obtained away from campus and prescription drugs. Services available on campus include: most vaccinations, laboratory testing, including testing for sexually transmitted infections, routine gynecology, and administration of allergy injections. Fees associated with these services will be at or near cost, payable by check, Tiger Bucks or billing of the student’s account. Health Services does not file insurance claims. More information about Trinity Health Services is available on our website. Medical and nursing services to students 18 years of age or older are confidential, therefore parents are not notified of routine treatment provided by Health Services.

Requirements for New Students

Matriculating students are required to provide a health record including a recent physical exam, immunization records, and TB screening. Texas Law requires all new students to have the meningitis vaccination administered at least 10 days before and within the 5 years prior to the first day of class. The health record forms were mailed to the student’s address by Admissions at the time your deposit was received. The forms are also available on the Health Services website. Please help ensure that your student has a physical exam this summer and returns the completed forms to Health Services by July 1, 2014.

Your Insurance or Ours

The University requires all students to have health insurance. We never want our students to be vulnerable by not being insured. Students will be charged for the Student Health Insurance Plan with United Healthcare during the summer with bills for fall tuition. The premium for 12-month coverage is $1216.

If your student is covered by a personal health plan, you may submit an online waiver to meet the University requirement. Click here for details about submitting your waiver. If your waiver is submitted before July 1, you will not see the premium for the Student Health Insurance Plan on your bill. Waivers may be submitted until September 4, 2014. After this date, the student will be enrolled in the Student Health Insurance Plan and the premium will not be refunded. Click here for information about this plan, including benefits and limitations. Students who plan to be covered by the Student Health Insurance Plan may enroll online during the summer so that they will be able to access benefits when the term starts on August 10. Their student account will be billed for the premium. You may call Health Services at 210-999-8111 if you have questions. Completing the online waiver is an annual requirement.

Student Health 101—Not Just for Students

Trinity University subscribes to a monthly electronic health newsletter written specifically for college students. All Trinity students will receive this newsletter. The package includes a special condensed edition for parents—all at no cost. Those who subscribe to the TrinitE Parent and Family electronic newsletter (see information elsewhere in this newsletter) will receive this automatically each month. Parents receive this newsletter not only for their own information, but also so they can encourage their student to read the information as well. This is coordinated by Health Services and funded by the Residential Life Office.
Using Tiger Bucks on Campus

Books, Books, Books, and More Books All required textbooks, school supplies, and very cool Trinity apparel are available at the University’s local on-campus Barnes & Noble bookstore. Pay for it quickly and conveniently using Tiger Bucks.

Digital Printing Trinity’s own full service digital print shop is located on the bottom floor of the Elizabeth Huth Coates Library. This full service digital print shop and self-serve copiers only accept Tiger Bucks.

Print Management System Students simply send jobs to print from a computer lab computer, then release and pay for them at the Pharos Pay-For-Print Release station located in most computer labs. This system only accepts Tiger Bucks.

Campus Dining Generally students use their meal plan funds, but if that runs out, Tiger Bucks can be used at all campus dining locations including Java City, Mabee Dining Hall, Commons food court, which includes Einstein’s bagel shop, Taco Taco, and the convenience store (Provisions On Demand, or POD), located in Mabee Dining Hall.

Vending Machines An array of snack and soda machines that accept Tiger Bucks are conveniently located in residence halls and academic buildings across campus.

Campus Laundry Facilities It is no longer necessary to search for change or take dirty clothes home for mom to wash. The University has over 100 washers and dryers strategically located in the residence hall laundry rooms. Students can even check online to see when loads are finished with Laundry Alert system. Find the quick link on the Tiger Bucks website.

Student Departmental Fees Students can purchase theater tickets, stamps at the campus mail center, pay for recreational field trips, ITS Student Computer Service Center (for computer repairs), Center for Science and Innovation (for CSI departmental fees), Health Service fees, campus parking permits, and more, all by using their Tiger Bucks accounts.

Managing the Tiger Bucks Account

Everyone who has a Trinity University ID card already has a Tiger Bucks Account. All they have to do is add value to the discretionary spending account that is accessible with their ID card. Tiger Bucks is the name given to Trinity University’s popular debit card program. It allows students to deposit funds, known as “Tiger Bucks,” into their campus debit-like account. Please note that this is in addition to the meal plan account and is totally optional. These funds can be used on campus at all point of sale devices and off campus at over 20 local restaurants, located outside the University. Click here to learn more about your Tiger Card.

Students can easily access Trinity’s Online Debit Card Management System, Get FUNDS. From this secure website, students and their parents can make deposits, report cards lost or stolen, view transaction history, and get account balance details for both Tiger Bucks and meal plan accounts. Deposits can be charged to any major credit card and are posted immediately to Tiger Bucks accounts. Accounts are accessed online, in real time, through a secure Tiger Bucks website. Access is easy and quick from any internet browser in the world, and now available in a mobile format. To access these areas, click the Tiger Bucks link located on the Tiger Card Office website.

While anyone can deposit money into a Trinity account, only those with the correct user ID information and password can view individual account balances and account transactions.
Tiger Bucks Accepted Off Campus Also

Tiger Bucks are now welcomed as payment for goods and services at several well-known Trinity area merchants. These merchants have partnered with Trinity University and our operating partner, The CBORD Group, to provide a wide array of dining options in some of San Antonio’s finest restaurants and very popular campus hang outs. Check out the quick link for Off Campus Merchant Program to see the current list of participating merchants.

Trinity bills include tuition insurance as an option. Families may decline this option by e-mailing studentfinancialservices@trinity.edu. The fee is reasonable ($183 for the year) and while I have no stake in whether or not families pay for this, I can share some experience with it. Some students experience physical or mental health issues and are faced with a decision of whether or not to withdraw for a semester. Not having to factor in the lost tuition money can help in making a decision that is best for the student. Refunds up to 100 percent are issued on withdrawals for documented medical and up to 60 percent on documented withdrawals for psychological reasons (which include admission to a treatment facility). As with all insurance, it is a waste if never used, but a necessity when needed.

Trinity University is not responsible for student property. Check your homeowner’s insurance to see if your student is covered. Trinity University students are eligible for insurance with a low deductible rate. We have no stake in this either, but are affiliated in order to offer you a reasonable option. For more information, visit the National Student Services, Inc. website and complete an application.

Campus Programming

Part of creating a vibrant campus community involves providing fun, free, and safe opportunities for students to meet one another and build relationships. Many student organizations host campus-wide events that are available to all students, including the Student Programming Board.

The Student Programming Board (SPB) is a University-sponsored organization whose sole purpose and vision is to plan campus-wide events on a regular basis. These events include movie nights, concerts, comedians, magicians/hypnotists, Trivia Nights, and traditions events (Welcome Week Concert, TigerFest Gala, Chocolate Festival, Trinity Spotlight, and Destress Fest).

These events are also intentionally scheduled on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday nights to provide an alternate experience to off-campus parties. With over 15 events scheduled per semester, SPB offers a multitude of opportunities for students to have fun with their friends and to meet new people.
Caring About Copyright

Understanding and respecting intellectual property is an important element in becoming an educated and conscientious citizen.

In the digital age, court decisions about copyrighted material have become increasingly supportive of the authors, owners, producers, and legal distributors of copyrighted material. Trinity's Appropriate Use Policy clarifies for students the University’s expectations regarding safe and legal usage of Trinity network resources. Illegal file-sharing through any otherwise legally neutral technological medium (“torrenting,” or using seedboxes or VPNs) is expressly forbidden.

Trinity prohibits students from violating copyright law because they (or the University) can be held civilly or even criminally accountable for their actions. If a music or movie studio finds that the Trinity network is the source of illegal file distribution for materials owned by the studio, the student can be sued and fined. Some civil suits have cost students, their families, and educational institutions hundreds of thousands of dollars, and even put at risk federal funding of educational programs such as financial aid at these colleges and universities.
Facilities Services and Custodial Staff Procedures

If you hear from your son or daughter that they are having room maintenance problems, ask them if they have submitted a service request. They may do this by calling 210-999-8413 or preferably by sending an e-mail (they should save a copy of the e-mail).

Residence hall rooms are cleaned every other week to protect the University’s facilities. Cleaning schedules are posted in the residence halls at the beginning of the semester. Custodial staff will not handle students’ personal items, so the floors and counters must be cleared for cleaning to occur.

**Tip:** If there is an emergency maintenance concern that absolutely can’t wait overnight or over the weekend, students should not just submit a service request through the regular channels. The Facilities Services staff may not learn of the emergency until the next work day. Residents should call Trinity University Police Department 210-999-7070, who in turn contacts the on-call maintenance staff. If that doesn’t produce satisfactory results, students should ask University police to contact the residential life coordinator on call.

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**Student Employment Interviews**

The student employment interview dates will be August 25 and 26. This will be for FWS and institutional (non-FWS) job openings. New students will need to complete a W-4 and an I-9 form in order to interview for a position. When completing the I-9 form, per federal law, students will be required to attest that they are citizens or nationals of the U.S., lawful permanent residents, or aliens authorized to work. All new employees are required to produce original documentation to show proof of identity and employment eligibility in the United States. For a complete listing of acceptable documents, click here.

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**Mail**

(That stuff we received before e-mail and texting)

In late June, all students receive their campus mailbox assignment by e-mail. A student’s campus mailbox usually remains the same until a student elects to move off-campus. There are a few important tips to keep in mind when mailing items to your son or daughter.

When addressing mail to students from off-campus, please use the format detailed below:

**Full Name** (student’s name; no nicknames)

**Trinity University**

**One Trinity Place #** ___ (student’s mailbox #)

San Antonio, TX 78212-7200

**Example:**

LeeRoy Tiger

Trinity University

One Trinity Place #1234

San Antonio, TX 78212-7200

Incorrectly addressed mail can cause significant delays, misdelivery, and/or failure to reach final delivery destination.

For additional mail related information, please visit the Mail Center website or contact the Mail Center directly at 210-999-7220.
If you are receiving this, you are automatically subscribed to TrinitE Parent and Family Electronic Newsletter.

This web-based newsletter publication especially for parents is sent to all subscribers every three weeks. Learn about upcoming deadlines and events, campus news bits, and much more.

Please note that this is a University publication and is different from the interactive listserv “ParentTalk,” which is also available through the Parents and Families Web page.

Subscribers are able to unsubscribe at any time.
ParentTalk

Go to the Trinity Parents and Families page to sign-up to participate on the uniquely-Trinity listserv ParentTalk. There are approximately 500 parents on this virtual network, all poised to answer questions, offer advice, commiserate, pose questions to others, occasionally complain, and share in the experiences of their Trinity students. Are you too busy for all of the e-mail traffic? Once you subscribe there are ways to receive one digest per day and even check messages on a private Web page. The list is loosely moderated by the dean of students. Other staff members participate as well.

“Refrigerator Magnet” Calendar for 2014-15

While not technically magnetic, please print the parent calendar for 2014-2015, also available on the Parent Web page. The advantage to our version is you can post it anywhere.

Please view the Trinity University 2014-2015 Academic Calendar and the Long Range Planning Calendar (2014-2018). The calendars can also be found on the Registrar’s Web page.

Dia del Tigre

Trinity University families gather together in their hometowns each year for Dia del Tigre. The program was started by ParentTalk participants several years ago as a way to meet and bond over their common connections as parents and guardians of current Tigers.

Parent Giving Programs

The Parent Giving Programs at Trinity University support the mission of the University in increasing family involvement and philanthropic support through meaningful programming, volunteer and leadership opportunities, and frequent communication about students’ educational experiences.

Parents of Trinity students and alumni can make a significant impact on the educational experience of their son or daughter by making a gift to the Trinity Parents Fund. Your gift supports the unique Trinity experience—from faculty mentors to service learning projects to studying abroad and everything in between. Every gift makes a difference for our Trinity students.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

On behalf of the Parent Leadership Council, we welcome you to Trinity University! The mission of the Parent Leadership Council is to serve as an advisory and advocacy group, helping to foster the sense of community among parents of Trinity students and alumni. An essential component of the council’s work is its philanthropic support of Trinity’s Parents Fund. Gifts from parents make a difference in many areas of the University and have an impact on our core priorities.

Whether you want to stay informed regarding Trinity University news and plans or welcome incoming families through events or phone calls, the Trinity University Parent Leadership Council and Volunteer Council help to identify and put to best use the considerable talents and resources of Trinity parents for the benefit of the students’ education.

For more information about Parent Giving Programs opportunities, contact Tanya Johnson-Ruffin, director of parent giving programs, at 210-999-8438 or by e-mail.

Contact Us

Questions or comments related to campus life? If you don’t know where to start, please call the Dean of Students office at 210-999-8843 or e-mail us at student.affairs@trinity.edu.