

Wall Street Journal names Trinity one of the nation's top 50 "feeder" colleges

When the *Wall Street Journal* looked to see which colleges send the most students to elite grad schools like Yale Med or Wharton, Trinity was included in the top 50 of "America's most successful 'feeder' colleges." As writer Elizabeth Bernstein reported, it came as a surprise that it's not just the Ivies that are successful in getting grads into the nation's most prestigious graduate programs.

To develop their list, published in a September 26 article, "Want to Go to Harvard Law?," the *Journal* focused on 15 elite

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professional schools, five each from medicine, law, and business: for medicine—Columbia, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, the University of California, San Francisco, and Yale; for business—Chicago, Dartmouth's Tuck School, Harvard, MIT's Sloan School, and Penn's Wharton School; in law—Chicago, Columbia, Harvard, Michigan, and Yale.

While Harvard, Yale, and Princeton claimed the top of the *WSJ* list of feeder schools, the survey showed that many of the smaller colleges, such as Amherst, Pomona, Bowdoin, and Trinity, also made the list. To compile their list of the most effective feeder colleges, the *WSJ* researched the background of

more than 5,000 students starting this fall at more than a dozen top business, law, and medical schools. Trinity placed 43rd with nine students, right after Barnard and before Grinnell, Tufts, and Colby.

As observed by Sharon Herzberger, vice president of Student Services, "Being on the list with so many of our peer small, private, liberal arts colleges certainly affirms our belief that it is our kind of schools that best prepares people for graduate study." What does Trinity do to get students into top professional schools and graduate schools? Providing students with a first-class education is, of course, essential. Beyond that, Herzberger continues, "We do an excellent job in connecting students to faculty research and supporting students' independent research. The faculty and Career Service officers offer extensive and early advising on preparation for getting into graduate and professional schools. The trend—especially lately—has been to work for a while after graduation before going to professional schools. The schools encourage the delay and the advisers are following suit.

"We also count on alumni to offer advice (many career panels here bring alumni back), allow students to shadow them at work, and provide summer and vacation internships," Herzberger adds. "And we have a credit-bearing internship program. One of our very successful recent projects has been to take students to mentoring programs, such as the one offered this month at MIT. Fifteen students and Lanna Hagge, head of Career Services, spent the weekend at MIT interacting with scientists there and learning about graduate school in science."



Members of the Trinity community gathered at the end of Dialogue Day to reflect on the day's events and to begin planning for the future.

Dialogue Day creates campus discussion of diversity

On September 16, 2003, Dialogue Day, the inaugural event of Trinity's two-year "Pride and Prejudice" initiative, all classes were suspended for the day, allowing students, faculty members, and staff to view a video and then follow up with conversations on issues of race and diversity on campus. Close to 200 faculty members, students, and staff members volunteered to facilitate the discussion groups.

In noting the importance of dealing with issues of ethnic and social difference, Interim President Borden Painter said, "This initiative is in keeping with our commitment to our stated institutional mission: to foster critical thinking, free the mind of parochialism and prejudice, and prepare students to lead examined lives that are personally satisfying, civically responsible, and socially useful." He continued,

"More specifically, our discussions are meant to initiate an honest engagement with issues of privilege and prejudice, inclusion and discrimination."

According to diversity consultant David Campt, of Washington, D.C., who helped Trinity plan the event with colleague and co-consultant, Theo Brown, the idea of a college proactively suspending classes and investing time, money, and energy to address the issue is an unprecedented effort among American institutions of higher education. "Trinity College has acknowledged that tolerance, inclusion, and respect for human differences are important values and has decided to call attention to them," noted Campt, whose work in easing race relations includes working with the Urban League, the National Conference for Community and Justice, the President's Initiative on Race, and on campuses across the United States. "For a college or university to do this proactively is an incredible thing," Campt said.

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He added that the Trinity initiative has created a lot of buzz among other colleges. Most of them grapple with similar issues, which include differences in race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and physical ability.

Karla Spurlock-Evans, dean of multicultural affairs at Trinity, can see why other colleges are interested in how Trinity is approaching the controversial

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topic. “The same set of challenges exists everywhere, but because of our urban location and our increasingly varied student population, we want to ensure that everyone feels a sense of belonging, and, at the same time, make sure that when our students leave, they are better able to handle the diversity that is a reality in this country and in the world.”

Spurlock-Evans noted that while the initiative began on September 16, it will be the student-initiated events that follow that make the Trinity vision a reality. She noted that students wishing to get actively involved will meet with a facilitator shortly after the initial event. “The idea,” Spurlock-Evans stressed, “is not to just raise awareness, but, in the long term, to set things in motion.”



Alumni panel addresses technology careers—In October, a panel of distinguished Trinity alumni and parents gathered at the College’s Office of Career Services to share their experiences and insights on the future of careers in the technology sector. The panel included Donald McLagan ’64, chairman, president, and CEO of Compete, Inc.; Joe Adam ’86, chief operations officer of Premise Development Corporation; Ben Howe ’83, cofounder and managing partner of America’s Growth Capital; Elliot Katzman P’05, Kodiak Venture Partners; Mike Solomita ’87, COO and cofounder of Lanthorn Technologies.

Kellogg Grant supports continued urban engagement

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation Board has approved an 18-month grant for \$1.6 million in support of Trinity’s urban engagement endeavors.

The Kellogg award will continue the work supported by the foundation’s previous five-year, \$5.1-million initiative, which played a vital role in connecting the College to its surrounding neighborhoods. As noted by Jim Trostle, director of urban initiatives, “The Kellogg Foundation has given the College this vote of confidence in our urban work. Faculty, staff,

students, administrators, and our neighbors in Hartford are all participating in this project. The extension of Kellogg funding will help us create the administrative and financial base to ensure that the College’s urban engagement will continue for the foreseeable future.”

To date, Kellogg funding has helped Trinity create a nationally recognized Smart Neighborhood Initiative to provide information technology to the surrounding neighborhood, establish a Cities Data Center that supports teaching and scholarship, assess community needs, manage the Learning Corridor, and build positions of leadership within the College designed to strengthen urban studies and community learning.

The bridge grant will help the College anchor these successful endeavors within the curriculum under the leadership of Trostle, who will work to increase coherence among urban offices and programs while guiding analysis and interpretation of evaluation data

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gathered as part of the earlier project. Funds from the bridge grant will continue technology education efforts under way at Trinfo.Café, the community technology center that serves as the cornerstone of the Smart Neighborhood Initiative. Trinity Center for Neighborhoods (TCN) will augment the flow

