

## PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

**SPRING 2024** 



May 30, 2024

Dear Alumnae, Alumni, Parents and Friends,

120 years ago, Trinity's very first graduating class—the great Red Class of 1904—marched forth from Main Hall to serve and lead in a world where women with college degrees were few in number, but mighty in their impact. This year, Trinity's 121st graduating class—the great Red Class of 2024—follows the pathways in service and leadership blazed by those pioneer women so long ago.

As Trinity graduates have done across the last twelve decades, the Class of 2024 brings its considerable talent to communities as teachers, healthcare professionals, scientists, journalists, diplomats, business executives and nonprofit leaders. Their many professional pursuits are all rooted in Trinity's values of service to others, integrity and commitment to social justice.

Throughout the Spring 2024 semester, examples abounded of Trinity students and faculty robustly engaged with teaching and research, internships, advocacy and scholarship across the full range of issues our graduates will encounter for decades to come. From confronting intergenerational poverty on a United Nations panel, to advocating for environmental protection for the Chesapeake Bay, from learning the fine art of diplomacy through the Model Organization of American States, to presenting research on the medical exploitation of Black women at the National Council for Undergraduate Research, Trinity scholars demonstrated their deep commitment to academic excellence and action for social justice.

This newsletter recounts just some of the remarkable achievements of today's students and faculty at Trinity. Each generation of Trinity alumnae lived through tumultuous times, and each carried with them Trinity's hallmark passion for developing solutions to some of the most complicated issues of human society. Our academic community today exemplifies the importance of sustaining the climate for active learning and deep engagement with the issues of the day, with vigorous advocacy and even intense debate at times, but without rancor or disruption of the fundamental life of the campus.

I hope you enjoy this report on some of the exciting work of today's students, and know of

**Members of the Red** my deep gratitude to you for your generous support of the vital mission of alma mater. Class of 2024 celebrate during Trinity's Spring

Office of the President Trinity Washington University 125 Michigan Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20017 202-884-9050

**Commencement Ceremony** 

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## **Trinity at the United Nations: Citizens for Global Solutions**

Trinity students had an extraordinary experience spending several days in March at the United Nations as fellows with Citizens for Global Solutions. As part of their experience, they created a special panel presentation with Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur who maintain NGO status at the U.N.: "An Intergenerational Panel, Confronting Poverty Through Diverse Lenses."

"This trip is the capstone activity for the new 'Trinity Global Solutions Fellowship' in partnership



with Citizens for Global Solutions (CGS)," said College of Arts & Sciences dean, Sita Ramamurti. "After spending the Fall 2023 semester learning about UN and global issues, the students have now travelled to New York City to participate in-person at the United Nations Conference on the Status of Women as delegates of CGS."

Of the overall experience, one of the students writes, "As a Global Affairs major, I spent years of higher education learning about past and current events, as well as common future challenges that we will have to address cooperatively... Needless to say, I am forever thankful for this fellowship."



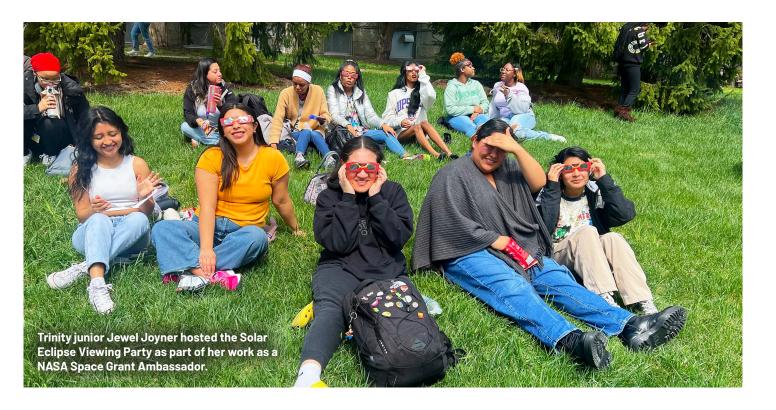
# Trinity Hosts Model Organization of American States Conference

More than 200 students from across the country came to Trinity to participate in the 2024 Model Organization of American States (OAS) conference. Model OAS is a rigorous and competitive experience in which universities participate by representing countries in South, Central and North America. Trinity's Dr. Erin Carriere-Kretschmer '92, Assistant Professor of Political Science, was recently named the President of the Washington Model OAS.

Above: Trinity's Model OAS student team representing the country of Suriname: Kayla Strong, Sircey Smith, Lexi Bernier, Skylar Blue, Cuaresma Gillard, Cinthya Calderon-Hernandez, Inari Martinez (not pictured), and Betty Seyoum (not pictured)

Right: Students from across the country engage in a Model OAS session in the Payden Academic Center







## **Phi Beta Kappa**

The Epsilon Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa inducted ten new senior members and one junior member at the annual induction ceremony on April 22. Since its founding at Trinity in 1971, the Epsilon Chapter has remained dedicated to the highest standards of academic excellence.

## Alumnae Spotlight - Kimberly Ortiz '22

Trinity Washington University's tradition of service is clear in the work of alumnae like Kimberly Ortiz, '22. During her time at Trinity, Kimberly pursued a Master's in Public Health, complementing her Bachelor's degree in Medical Sociology and Health Services. Her senior research focused on the influence of physician demographics on patients with disabilities.

Now, as the Healthy Athletes Program Manager for Special Olympics DC, Kimberly utilizes her degrees to promote inclusivity and wellness for individuals with intellectual disabilities, combatting medical discrimination and challenges.

Kimberly spearheaded a partnership between Trinity's School of Nursing & Health Professions and Special Olympics DC, guided by Dr. Brigid Noonan and Dr. Nicole Betschman. This partnership underscores the university's commitment to community engagement and service, fostering collaboration since its establishment in 2023.

Kimberly Ortiz's work highlights the tradition of service that is so strong among Trinity alumnae across the generations.







## Ten Years of Partnership with TheDream.US

In February, TheDream.US celebrated its tenth anniversary as an organization devoted to supporting DACA and undocumented students in college. Trinity was one of the first private colleges included in TheDream.US program, and today we celebrate the several hundred Dreamer Scholar alumnae and students who have thrived at Trinity through this program.

Karla Núñez Pérez '24, Red Class President and President of the Butterfly Network, Trinity's organization of undocumented students, recently wrote on LinkedIn about her experience at the Dreamers of Today Summit in Chicago where students from all over the country convened to discuss strategies for the future of undocumented students and college graduates. One of the key challenges the group discussed was the need for legislative action to sustain work permits for undocumented students and graduates. She writes that the experience made her feel, "...immensely empowered. I was surrounded by a group of bright, resilient, innovative and inspiring individuals...I know we have a long and challenging fight ahead of us. However, this group gives me hope for a better tomorrow."



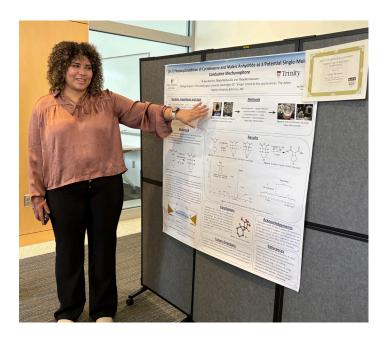
Karla Núñez Pérez '24

Above: The Dream. US scholars preparing to graduate at Trinity's Spring Commencement Ceremony As a result of Trinity's partnership with TheDream.US, Trinity is now classified as a Hispanic Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education along with our designation as a Predominantly Black Institution. Trinity's student body is now 30% Latina, with 56% Black students. In recognition of Trinity's growing status serving Hispanic students, Trinity Provost Carlota Ocampo joined other distinguished guests for an important discussion, "Breaking Barriers: Latinos and Education, Economic Mobility and the Catholic Church" presented by the Georgetown University Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life. She outlined the many ways in which Trinity supports Latina students.

### **10th Annual Spring Research Day**

Each year, Trinity showcases the research and discovery of our scholars at our annual Spring Research Day. Students in STEM, social science, and the humanities present their research to faculty, peers, and family during an interactive and engaging afternoon.

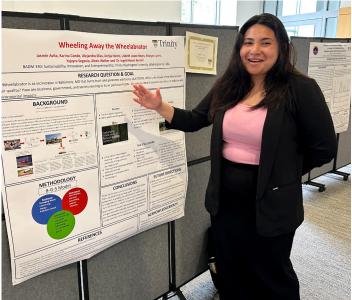
Student research spanned numerous disciplines and topics ranging from cancer and environmental research to antibiotic resistance and lifespan effects on children of mothers with mental illness. Trinity chemists, biochemists, and social scientists wowed their audiences with their command of their subjects.



#### Arbey Romero: "(2+2) Photocycloaddition of Cyclohexene and Maleic Anhydride as a Potential Single Molecular Conductive Mechanophore"

Arbey Romero '24, presented a groundbreaking project titled "(2+2) Photocycloaddition of Cyclohexene and Maleic Anhydride as a Potential Single Molecular Conductive Mechanophore." The research project aimed to confirm and replicate findings from a 1963 study on the [2+2] photocycloaddition reaction. Arbey's research findings explore chemical species and their interactions, shedding light on fundamental principles in chemistry. Arbey's team collaborated with Johns Hopkins University to access advanced equipment like a single x-ray diffractometer, highlighting the interconnectedness of academic institutions in advancing scientific knowledge.

Arbey emphasizes the iterative nature of science and Trinity's role in nurturing curious minds and empowering future scientists. Reflecting on her journey, Arbey notes, "Science is continual learning. Trinity equips us to drive innovation forward."



#### Jazmin Avila: "Wheeling Away the Wheelabrator"

Jazmin Avila '24, highlights the importance of interdisciplinary approaches in addressing contemporary challenges through her spring research project presentation. The project titled "Wheeling Away the Wheelabrator," explored the impact of the Wheelabrator Baltimore's waste-to-energy incinerator on air quality and public health. Jazmin's project highlighted the complexities of pursuing profitability while safeguarding public health. Through her work, she emphasized the importance of considering the broader implications of business decisions and the need for sustainable solutions.

Reflecting on her experience, Jazmin noted, "This project was truly enriching, providing me with a deeper understanding of the intersection between business and health, science, and medicine."





## **Trinity on the Hill**

Trinity students held a panel discussion with Speaker of the House Emerita Nancy Pelosi '62 at the Capital regarding the relevance and importance of women's colleges and universities. The event was coordinated by the Women's College Coalition. Following the panel discussion, the group had a celebration on the steps of the Capital with U.S. House

Appropriations Chair Kay Granger and Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro – co -sponsors of a resolution establishing National Women's Colleges and Universities Day.

Also on the Hill, as part of her senior project, Adilia Sequeira '24, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, advocated on Capitol Hill for greater funding for nursing workforce development in the United States. She presented her project, entitled "Empowering Voices: Title VIII and the Future of Nursing Education" at Trinity's first Nursing Symposium. This year, Adilia received Trinity's prestigious Special Service Award, and is graduating this spring.



Adilia Sequeira '24

### **School of Education Successes**

With the leadership of our new Dean of Education Christine Carrino Gorowara, Trinity's School of Education is enjoying some important successes. This spring, the School of Education enrolled more than 80 teachers from the D.C. Public Schools for a special certificate program for K-8 math teachers.



Trinity has also received a major grant to prepare future teachers for the D.C. Public Schools. This grant for the "Grow Your Own" teacher preparation program comes through OSSE, the Office of the State Superintendent for Education. Collaborating with Dean Gorowara on the program is Mr. Michael Rowe who leads the Early Childhood Education Program.

Trinity is also celebrating with Mr. Brandon McCoy, a current master's student in Trinity's School of Education Educational Administration Program, who was selected as the recipient of the W. Edward Walter Excellence in Teaching Award as Teacher of the Year, 2024, given by the Friendship Charter Public Schools. He was honored at a gala and received an award for this honor.

Brandon McCoy, left



October 24 - 26, 2024



The celebration continues as we welcome all alumnae and alumni back to campus for three days of exciting intellectual, academic, social and celebratory events!

Our All-Alumnae Reunion weekend takes place on October 24, 25 and 26.

Highlights of the full schedule include:

#### Thursday: Alumnae College

Experience Trinity academics today! All alumnae/i are welcome to sit in on classes and engage with today's faculty and students across a range of disciplines. Enjoy lunch in the Alumnae Hall lunch line like a student.

#### Friday: Symposium: "Democracy on the Ballot"

A fantastic roster of speakers will be on hand for informative discussions on a variety of election topics. Speakers list forthcoming.

#### Saturday: Cap & Gown Convocation and All-Alumnae/i Luncheon

Celebrate with our seniors and their families and welcome alumnae to participate in this grand Trinity tradition! Then join classmates and friends as we celebrate reunion and salute the 50th Reunion Class of 1974!

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