

Trinity College

HARTFORD CONNECTICUT

March 8, 2021

Dear Alumni,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. It's hard to believe that a year has passed since the pandemic set in and we all began to find ways to adapt to the challenges that were just unfolding. I write today to share important news about two events we hold so dear at Trinity, Commencement and Reunions.

Earlier today I wrote to the Class of 2021 and their families to inform them that we plan to hold an in-person Commencement ceremony, albeit a modified version, on May 21, 2021. All of our students will have been participating in the rigorous campus COVID testing protocols for three months and we are confident we can celebrate their graduation in a safe and festive manner. We will also welcome them to bring two guests, who will have to adhere to testing or vaccination obligations. You can read that letter [here](#).

We have also made the difficult decision to not hold in-person Reunions or a delayed Commencement for the Class of 2020 this June. This saddens me greatly because I am reminded of the energy and continuity of history that reunions bring back to campus each year. I am sure this decision comes as no surprise to many of you; we are just unable to accommodate a few thousand alumni and guests in a safe and responsible manner, while following prescribed guidelines and capacity limitations for both indoor and outdoor gatherings. We recently met with the Class of 2020 leadership and our Reunion volunteers to share this news and to commit to each other that we would work together to find ways to come together, both virtually and in-person when it is safe to do so.

We have asked our Reunion classes (0's and '5s), postponed from last year, to celebrate virtually this June 10-13, 2021. We have also asked this year's scheduled Reunion classes (1's and 6's) to wait until June 2022 to come back to campus with fellow alumni from next year's cycle (2's and 7's), thus creating a "cluster Reunion". We have paid particular attention to working with members of the 25th and 50th Reunion classes (1970 and 1995) to find ways to bring them back in person when it is safe to do so, possibly independent of reunions. We recognize the importance of observing our sacred alumni traditions together – passing the hat, groups photos and class pins and the like. Most importantly, we recognize the importance of being together socially as a community.

I will close by saying thank you to the many constituencies in the Trinity family who have offered support, patience and encouragement as we navigate these uncharted waters. And to you, the alumni body in particular, so many of you have stepped up to help each other and our students and faculty in myriad ways, and I am most grateful. As the world returns to some sense of normalcy, I look forward with optimism to visiting with many of you in person, whether here on campus or all over the world.

Sincerely,

Joanne Berger-Sweeney
President and Trinity College Professor of Neuroscience