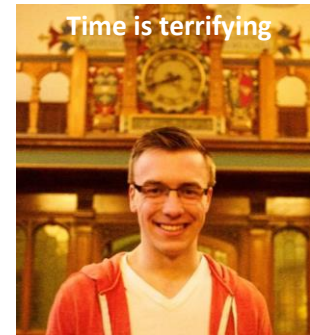


## Nathan Postma – Male Head of NRA

**Members of College**, has it been two years already? I got by the first year with no small amount of help from my friends on Massey. Now it is time to relinquish the Quad views Body provides in favor of views from the 6ix. This will be my first time living outside of the bubble and I am eager to embrace the new challenges. With that said, I believe my previous contributions to this #blessed community and vision for a respectful campus (not to mention the genuine love for Trinity which inspires my candidacy) make me a qualified nominee for Male Head of Non-Resident Affairs. Hopefully by engaging with me in person, reading this paper and participating in the upcoming forums and you will see it the same way.



### **Events, Experience and Environmentalism (oh my!).**

As Second Year Male Head of Residence I sit on the Board of Stewards which has allowed me to experience some of the **inner workings of student governance**. Furthermore, through organizing Thanksgiving and Christmas High Tables, I **learned how to be fiscally responsible**. I believe that with some structural amendments these dinners could be a focal point of engagement for the non-resident community. Running the IR Society Mentorship Program this year gave me particularly valuable lessons such as finding effective ways to academically **engage with first year students**. Lastly, I pursued my passions as VP of the U of T Green Party during the last federal election (E-May is Bae). While I certainly still have much to learn, particularly about the challenges of off residence living, I believe these foundations represent a wealth of experiences which will manifest themselves in the complete fulfillment of my duties as Male Head of NRA.

### **Walls, Alienation and Miscommunication (oh no!)**

Before introducing my ideas I would like to thank Emily and Ben for the time and dedication they have put towards non-resident students this year. With that in mind, I believe improvements to Frosh Week and event communication would help accommodate non-resident students and contribute to a respectful Trinity.

I believe Frosh Week can unintentionally set an intimidating tone for incoming students. As crazy as it sounds it took me until second semester last year to realize the upper-years dealt with the same day to day issues that I did. This can have an alienating effect on non-resident students who feel as though they do not have the same opportunities to interact with upper-years as resident students do. I may be just a bleeding heart idealist but **I believe intensive, story sharing seminars like Breaking Down the Walls can address this problem**. As a former participant I can speak to the program's ability to profoundly alter ones perceptions and interactions with peers for the better. I encourage everyone to find their promotional videos online for they represent genuine accounts of the impact this seminar could have on Trinity. I do not think the addition of this seminar to Frosh Week will radically alter Trinity's social structure, but **I do know a little respect can go a long way towards facilitating a caring and compassionate community**. Interpersonal interaction is the key to tackling student alienation. This idea represents one of several approaches I envision our college pursuing to tackle **non-resident alienation**.

Through reflections on ways to improve current levels of non-resident engagement with my peers it was revealed **the sheer volume of posts on the 1T9 Facebook group make it an ineffective way to communicate events**. As a result many non-resident students have stopped visiting the page which prevents them from learning about events they would otherwise love to attend. I believe shifting the primary means of event communication to a non-resident specific newsletter –to be emailed out weekly with contributions from the Heads of NRA and the NRAC Communications Coordinator –would be an effective and personalized means of overcome this barrier.

Overall I understand that my ideas constitute just that: ideas. It will take the entire community working together and communicating openly if we are to engage as many non-resident students as possible. If you have questions or would like to contribute to the above ideas I can be usually be found in Strachan or the Buttery. Email (nathan.postma@mail.utoronto.ca) or Facebook message work just fine as well. Finally, good luck to all of the other candidates running for Heads positions and I will see everyone at forums!

Met'agona Stephanos,

Nathan Postma