

Joudy Sarraj - Female Head of NRA

Members of College,

My nomination for this position comes from an understanding of the difficulties that face non-residents, and a trust in Trinity's potential to be universally supportive. Trinity has been a home to me for the past two years, and I want to work towards giving other non-res students the confidence to say the same.



The non-resident demographic is the largest at this college, and unfortunately, the least represented in social life and governance. With a two hour commute in my first year, and a fifteen minute walk now, I have experienced first-hand the barriers to involvement which are disproportionately felt by non-residents (and I know how much they suck). A lack of visibility and accessibility not only hinders the student experience of commuters at Trin, it stands in the way of policy changes that could ameliorate this experience. I know that I must establish a base of trust that sees commuters approaching the heads, feeling comfortable in the NRAC common room, and articulating how they feel, if I am to truly represent their interests, and illicit any change.

The majority of Trinity's entering class lives on residence, our affairs are conducted informally, in Strachan and the Quad, and elections happen at late-night TCMs. I believe commuters *can* identify with this Trinity rather than feel isolated by it, but only if we do certain things right.

First, there must be an accommodating and inclusive Orientation Week. I will work closely with next year's executive to create an effective hosting survey for commuters staying on res, and to take a proactive effort to reach out to more non-res Frosh Leaders. Similar to the summer programming pre-Frosh, held by this year's Commuter Coordinators, I would like to continue with a series of mixers and movie nights immediately after the end of Frosh Week. Engaging commuters is crucial during this time. Once classes begin, most start to feel out of the loop, and disconnected from the Trinity community.

Improving communications is essential to making non-res students aware of the privileges and benefits that they do have at the College, like bringing your own meals to Strachan or the availability of TTC Tokens after events. I would like to maintain an active NRAC Facebook Group with updates on events and governance. Given that non-res involvement is largely contingent on the ability to plan ahead, I am sure that the additional details disseminated through this forum will be of great value.

I will push the administration to accommodate for the things commuters currently do not have, such as access to the lockers in Sub-Larkin during the times we most need them, or security keys to enter important areas on residence, while maintaining the progress made this year by Emily and Ben, especially the positive changes to Dining Hall policy. I also promise to open NRAC early, and close up late; you can find me in the Buttery pretty much all of the time now anyways. Finally, I hope to see the common room become more open, popular and accessible; a space to build a stronger non-res community, and to add to the diversity of the Trinity community broadly.

In addition to my personal connection, I have a breadth of leadership experience that qualifies me for this position. Within Trinity, I have worked on the executive of Conversat and as a Mentor for Trinity Women in Leadership. Externally, I am the Treasurer of Hart House Debate and U of T Refugee Alliance, a member of Hart House's Finance Committee, and an executive in several other positions across campus. I know what it's like to be busy, and off-res, and I have built a good working relationship with administration.

Above all, I think election season should be a time to devise productive solutions together. I would love to hear your questions and comments. You can email me at joudy.sarraj@mail.utoronto.ca or send me a message on Facebook.

Met' agona,

Joudy