Nish Chankar – Female Head of College Candidate

Hey there, Members of College,

One and a half years ago, in the midst of the chaos known as Frosh Week move-in, I saw 6 students in white shirts. Although I wasn't aware of exactly what 'Student Heads' did at the time, I could tell all six were thoroughly committed to bringing out the best in our College. If elected as your **Head of College for the 2016-17 school year**, I promise to work towards marrying tradition with accessibility, ensuring the availability of resources for individual success, and championing greater opportunities for leadership and community involvement for all students. Accessibility, resources, and transparency.

Between the internal desire to do right by the College, and the pressure of the unofficial jury known as the Trinity Facebook group, a Head of College must have the experience and enthusiasm to achieve results the College deserves and needs. As co-Head Frosh Leader on the 2015 Frosh Executive, and this year's co-President of Students for Gender Equity, I believe I have a comprehensive understanding of how to leverage our community's strengths in order to improve as a College.

Trinity traditions seem as though they're here to stay, and not just because of the alliteration. Though our traditions make for a unique community, there are still barriers to access for many of our community members. Fortunately, we've already begun to implement solutions. This year, the St. Hilda's Board of Trustees has been instrumental in providing bursaries to Trinity students who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend semi-formal events based on financial inaccessibility. I hope to help streamline the process next year so that more students are made aware of the resources available. Similarly, concerns about dress code and the general appeal of High Table have surfaced repeatedly. If elected, I would ensure that the lockers in the basement of the Larkin Building are more accessible to students bringing formal wear to campus. Also, we can bring actual relevance to high table by having members of the UofT academic community speak weekly on current affairs and community issues. It's time to shake things up, and make an event out of Wednesday evenings.

While great strides have been made this year with regards to Mental Health initiatives, much still needs to be done. A year from now, I hope to have established a comprehensive drop-in centre system that can cater to student needs. This system will ensure that there is no longer an onus placed on students to seek out help, when they are already struggling to navigate through the emails and red tape. Bureaucracy lends itself to the delivery of information rather than the delivery of care; many of us are at the point where we need both. Furthermore, I'm looking forward to turning our discussions around sexual assault as well as information gleaned from this year's town halls into tangible policy that will serve future generations of Trinity students.

Through my experience as an Associate Vice President at the University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU) this year, I understand the need for a close-knit working relationship between the Trinity Heads, and campus-wide groups such as the St. George Round Table, and the UTSU Board of Directors. In addition to forming sustainable relationships outside of Trinity, there needs to be more transparency with regards to the actions of the Heads team. If elected, I hope to put together a "UofT This Week" listserv, written by the Heads of College, so that students are informed about issues across campus. And, while not everyone at Trinity will want to be informed or involved, all students should at least have the necessary **resources,** should they be inclined to participate.

I'm looking forward to a year of accessibility, community, and transparency; I hope you are too. I would really appreciate any questions or comments, so feel free to send them my way! I can be reached at nish.chankar@mail.utoronto.ca, on Facebook, or in 325 Whitaker if you're not down with the world wide web.

Take care, and Met'Agona,
Nish Chankar, 1T8