The Double Bridge – fall term 2014 – at Trinity University

As part of the First-Year Experience at Trinity University, entering students are required to take First-Year Seminar (GNED 1300) and Writing Workshop (ENGL 1302). Trinity offers a special opportunity for First Generation, Underrepresented Students (FGUS) known as The Double Bridge, where FGUS first-year students can get a early start on college academic life by simultaneous enrolment in two special courses (GNED 1300-11 and ENGL 1302-05), which begin early (August 11, 2014) and end early (November 6, 2014) in the fall term. The selected students will receive special class programming between August 11 to 20 at no additional expense including early move-in into campus residence halls and certain course materials.

The Double Bridge is focused on the topic of Knowing and Persuading: when does a person know enough to persuade another person to that point of view. The specific examples used in the two linked courses will revolve around the medical and legal concept of “The Standard of Care.” At what point does the medical profession agree that an approach to medical treatment should be considered the standard of care from a scientific, legal, and ethical stance?

Dr. Robert Blystone of the Biology Department will develop the content side of Knowing enough and Dr. Greg Hazleton of the English Department will explore areas of Persuasive written argumentation. Two very contemporary subject themes will be presented and discussed: 1) treatment for low testosterone and 2) need for mammography. Literally each day brings new and often conflicting information as to the standard of care with reference to low-T therapy and breast cancer detection. By careful analysis of these medical examples, students will gain experience in the critical examination of important issues and the expression of these issues to others.

The first ten days of The Double Bridge are intense. We will meet for 40 hours of instruction and discussion prior to new student orientation, which begins August 20. After taking a break for orientation and registration, we move to a regular academic schedule until the conclusion of The Double Bridge in early November. With the seminar and workshop course over early, students can take advantage of their now lighter academic schedule and prepare for finals in December. Of the 15 students who enrolled in the first Bridge class in 2010, 13 walked the stage at graduation May 2014. Perhaps you will be a member of the fifth Bridge class and be at Trinity’s 2018 graduation.

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