

## **Digging Out Your Spooky Side**

“Halloween, a holiday for all ages.”

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*Brittnee Reed*

Every year on the night of October 31<sup>st</sup> millions of monsters, witches, princesses, ninjas, and clowns roam the streets in search of candy to celebrate the most unique and creative holiday, Halloween. Children from all over the globe are able to dress up and pretend to be someone else for one night, while indulging in tons of chocolaty treats and creating life long memories along the way. However, many people see Halloween as a holiday geared towards children and young adults who try to join in on the fun of trick-or-treating are usually frowned upon. Yet who is to say only children can celebrate Halloween? As society ages, many young adults are starting traditions of their own to keep the spirit of Halloween present in their lives.

Kristyn Connelly, a junior at Holy Family University, believes that just because she is 20 years old, does not mean she must give up entirely on all of her childhood Halloween traditions. “When I was younger, my sister and I and all of our friends would go out trick-or-treating, filling up pillow cases with candy. Then we would all come back to my house and watch scary movies and eat ghost in the graveyard dessert.” She explained. Although Connelly has given up her past tradition of trick-or-treating, she hasn’t given up on wearing a costume on Halloween night. Instead of dressing up with intentions of trick-or-treating, Connelly now dresses to impress the new generation of trick-or-treaters as she hands out candy. By dressing up each year, Connelly is able to hold onto that little piece of the past and keep in the “holiday mood”.

Holy Family University student Rachel Helkowski, 20, shares in Connelly’s love for continuing her tradition of dressing up for Halloween. When Helkowski was younger, she and her siblings would dress up to go trick-or-treating while her father would give out candy. When

he was finished, her whole family would pay a visit to her grandmother to show off their costumes. “I still love Halloween, I dress up to give out candy and plan to still visit my grandma in that costume.” She stated. Helkowski explained that she feels Halloween is a holiday that should never be completely outgrown and while most college students are past the point of trick-or-treating, there are other alternatives to take part in such as, “decorating your garage like a haunted mansion or if that's not your thing, throwing a Halloween party, visiting a haunted attraction, or renting a classic scary movie to scare yourself in the comfort of your own loving room.”

However, Gabrielle Fabioneri, a junior at Holy Family University, feels that if college students are going to make the effort to continue dressing up each year, why not take it one step further and join in on the excitement of trick-or-treating? Fabioneri explained her logic by stating, “It’s a shame that a lot of older students think they are too old for Halloween. My friends and I are all in our 20’s and we still go almost every year in theme. This year we are going as characters from the Little Mermaid. The costumes are fun to make, and we all love free candy.” Fabioneri realizes that she is one of the few college students who still feel comfortable enough to trick-or-treat and suggests that those uncomfortable look into other activities such as, attending the Holy Family Halloween dance, picking pumpkins at a local farm, or finding a haunted house or hayride in the area to keep in the spooky spirit.

Halloween is a holiday with many different activities to take part in. Whether it be carving pumpkins, dressing up, or visiting a haunted house, there is always something entertaining and age appropriate for college students to take part in. “I’m too old,” is not an excuse for students to get out of participating in the holiday. As Holy Family University senior, Lauren Hutchins stated, “Go big or stay home! You only live once. Have some fun with your

friends and get creative for the night.” As a child, Halloween is a night where traditions are practiced and memories are created. Traditions do not have age limits, the longer they are practiced, the more lives they will impact.