

TRINIDAD STATE MAGAZINE

THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN LINE SCHOOL GETS NEW HOME



TRINIDAD STATE
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
celebrating **50** YEARS

ART of the GUN

Trojan Robotics
TACKLES THE RED PLANET!
NASA

TRINIDAD STATE
COLORADO

FALL 2018
IN THIS ISSUE



On the Cover . . .

- 03 - Rocky Mountain Line School Gets New Home
- 04 - Foundation Celebrates 50 Year Anniversary
- 02 - Art of the Gun
- 11 - Trojan Robotics and NASA Tackle Mars Exploration

Main Stories . . .

- 03 - Gunsmithing student donates
- 04 - Foundation Focus
- 06 - Fun & Friendraiser event
- 07 - \$500,000 from Outcault Foundation for SLV facility
- 07 - Educational Foundation Hall of Fame
- 07 - Human Services launch
- 08 - Trojan Athletics
- 10 - Vilas teaches President Bush
- 10 - Washington, D.C. building named after former student
- 11 - Gunsmithing Down Under
- 12 - Trinidad State featured in national magazine
- 12 - Budding scientist ups game
- 14 - Mother and daughter tackle nursing program together
- 14 - Summer Hatmaking Classes grow in popularity
- 15 - World traveler enriches Trinidad State

- 16 - Rising Stars

Regular Features . . .

- 01 - Campus News
- 13 - Class Notes
- 15 - Memorials
- 16 - Donor Report

President's Farewell

Trinidad State President Dr. Carmen Simone will leave to take a job in higher education in South Dakota. Her last official day on the job at Trinidad State will be January 1, 2019. Her new job, Sioux Falls University Center (UC-SF) Executive Director, will start the following day.



Dr. Simone has a Ph.D. in chemistry from Colorado State University in Fort Collins with a B.S. in chemistry from the University of North Dakota. She served as assistant professor of chemistry at CSU from 1993-2003 and was a chemistry instructor at Casper College in Wyoming from 1993 to 2004. Before arriving at Trinidad State in 2013 she served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho as well as vice president for academic affairs at Casper College.

In more than five years at Trinidad State she led efforts to stabilize enrollment and increase retention rates while streamlining course offerings and tackling a severe budget shortfall in her first year. She made a commitment to unifying Trinidad State's two campuses in Trinidad and Alamosa, which are separated by 110 miles and the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range. She oversaw the beginning of highly successful cross country teams in Alamosa, which expanded to indoor and outdoor track and field. In only two seasons several athletes have claimed individual NJCAA national titles.

She oversaw the re-accreditation process from the Higher Learning Commission, helped with internal planning for an upcoming four-year nursing degree, and supported the Trinidad State Robotics Team which has gained a national reputation for excellence with the help of NASA.

Dr. Simone has kept an overwhelming schedule, committing early on to spending time on both campuses each week and has been involved in community planning and service clubs, while attending nearly all home sporting events.

She is known for her positive personality, her friendly nature and tireless energy. The Colorado Community College System has already begun the search for her replacement.

"I leave Trinidad State with a sense of accomplishment, tempered with the knowledge that there is always more work to do. For me, this has always been about the students. Theirs are the stories that drive me and give me a warm glow and a smile. A college can never go wrong when it truly embraces our internal motto: Students First."

"I've spent much of my life in Colorado and leaving will certainly be bittersweet," she said. "Being a college president is very challenging and very rewarding at the same time. I've made many new friends and wonderful colleagues in the last five years and will cherish so many memories, but I'm ready to start a new chapter with my family in South Dakota."

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- Contributors - Toni DeAngelis, Linda Perry and Matt Young

Another successful BEST Robotics

Ten southern Colorado and northern New Mexico middle school and high school teams accepted the BEST Robotics Challenge on October 20 at Scott Gymnasium. Using the national BEST (Boosting Engineering Science and Technology) rules, students design, build, complete and compete – in six weeks. Teams start with a kit, consisting of plywood, PVC pipe, a pile of hardware and robot parts.

Teams may also choose to compete in oral presentations, technical writing, team spirit, exhibit design and more. Each fall, students face a challenge and must solve problems, build, strategize and adapt. And on game day there’s always the added pressure of a three-minute time limit.

The 2018 theme was Current Events and the challenge proved difficult. Robots had to traverse a swinging beam and attempt to harvest trash from baskets about four feet off the ground. The game field mimicked a boat harvesting trash from the ocean. Several robots fell to the ground. Teams came from New Mexico, the San Luis Valley and southeast Colorado. Branson was the winner of the BEST Award, while the Game Award went to the first year competitors from Rocky Ford.



Bachelor of Science in Nursing coming to Trinidad State



Trinidad State is one of a handful of two-year colleges in Colorado now planning to offer a future Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. House Bill 1086 became law in late March of 2018. After approval from the Colorado Community College System work is now progressing on accreditation and curriculum.

Every year Colorado needs hundreds more nurses than it produces. The U.S. Department of Human Services in Colorado states that there could be a shortage of 13,000 nurses by 2025.

The current plan is to offer the four-year degree in both Trinidad and Alamosa starting in the fall of 2020. “It takes quite a while to get the curriculum together and get approvals in place, not only through the state, but the accrediting organizations also,” said Trinidad State President Dr. Carmen Simone.

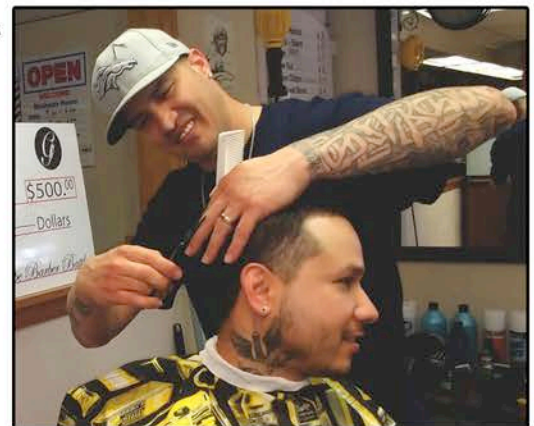
“Stretch” and “Santos” win big in competition and life

The creative barbering skills of two Trinidad State graduates led to two first place finishes at the Western Slope Barber Battle held April 29 at the Two Rivers Convention Center in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Horacio “Stretch” Naranjo won first place for the fastest fade, which he completed in ten short minutes. A fade is cut very close on the sides and back of the head and tapers to almost any length on the top. Santos Morales, known by his clients as Santos Manos (Spanish for hands), created the coldest (slang for best) style. They each received \$500 and a large trophy.

“If you truly feel like you found your passion, you’ll never work a day in your life,” said Santos. “That’s how I feel right now. It’s not work for me. It’s art – being able to create. And I’m making a heart feel happy. I want to be a better barber with every cut I make.”

Read about their fascinating story at <http://trinidadstate.edu/news/2018/0530.html>



Teacher Preparation for Rural Education Program



Trinidad State and the University of Colorado Denver (CU Denver) have launched a partnership to offer a bachelor’s degree in elementary education that can be completed entirely at the Trinidad Campus. It’s called TPREP (Teacher Preparation for Rural Education Program).

This partnership brings together a top Colorado public university and a prestigious rural community college to provide a pathway to a four-year degree in education based in Trinidad. CU Denver is ranked as a top education school by U.S. News & World Report and is known as a leader in teacher residency programs. Trinidad State has prepared students for bachelor degree programs with success for more than 90 years. The program will include field experience in local elementary schools all four years. Students will be given credit for past college classes when possible.

More information at <http://trinidadstate.edu/tprep/>

ART of the GUN

**A.R. MITCHELL MUSEUM
TRINIDAD, COLORADO
JUNE 8-9, 2018**

Art of the Gun celebrates guns as art. People who are passionate collectors often begin to gravitate toward more unique and artistic examples of whatever they collect. Guns have such a rich and iconic history in America it makes sense that some are true works of art. There might be embellishments like engraving, carving, inlay, even full color artistic scenes on a gun! These firearms are normally fully functional, but can be appreciated at an artistic level.

This event is a natural way for Trinidad State to celebrate craftsmanship and artistic excellence in the gun world. Trinidad State was the first college in America to offer a degree in gunsmithing and continues to be the premier gunsmithing school in the United States. Our students graduate with comprehensive skills that range from welding to machining to stockmaking. We emphasize tight tolerances and the excellent finish quality expected from employees at a top-notch gunsmithing business but the works shown at Art of the Gun are a step above.

About a dozen artists committed to showing their works at this year's Art of the Gun. They included Master Engraver Jim Blair from Wyoming and Steve Nelson, a member of the Board of Directors of the American Custom Gunmakers Guild. Bob Caulkins

of Farmington, New Mexico brought fine examples of leather holsters and Paul Moore of Aguilar displayed his miniature, yet functional .22 caliber Gatling Gun. A movie prop from the 1988 movie *Big Bad John* was also shown. It's a four-barrel shotgun called "Gator" which was built by our own Trinidad State Gunsmithing students. The movie was shot in the Trinidad area and starred Jimmy Dean of Jimmy Dean Sausage fame as Sheriff Cletus Morgan. The gun has been modified so it cannot fire, but Dean noted at the time the gun had a real kick, saying "...my arm was numb for about ten minutes."

Another gun that was featured was a rifle made by P.O. Ackley, the father of the TSJC Gunsmithing Program, which began in 1947. The .270 Mauser is part of Trinidad State's permanent collection and is considered a mid-grade Ackley. Ackley traded it to Trinidad Dentist Dr. Gordon Sanders in exchange for dental work. It is believed the gun has never been fired.



Paul Moore's miniature replica of a Gatling gun.



Remarkable engraving work by Lee Griffiths. This gun was loaned to Trinidad State for the 2017 Art of the Gun by the Frank Brownell Museum of the Southwest at the NRA Whittington Center in New Mexico.

Trinidad State's highly successful Rocky Mountain Line Tech Program will soon have a new home on the southeast side of Colorado Springs. The 12-acre site, just south of South Academy at Highway 87 is part of the old Pinello Ranch. Trinidad State recently secured a lease for the property from Colorado Springs Utilities.

"This is the perfect spot for our line tech program," said Dean of Instruction Keith Gipson. "There's a 7,500 square foot building on-site with water and septic systems and plenty of room for a pole farm and a future classroom."

Right now the "pole farm," where students practice climbing 30-foot utility poles, is located at Pikes Peak Community College, while classroom space is several miles away. The new pole practice area at Pinello Ranch will be available by the start of the next semester on January 7, 2019. New classroom space will take longer.



The Rocky Mountain Line School offers a certificate in less than 16 weeks. Each semester about 25 graduates qualify for entry-level electric utility jobs. These are the people who string new power lines and fix them when required. Despite operating 100-plus miles from Trinidad State's Trinidad Campus, Rocky Mountain Line School students recently told a site reviewer from the Higher Learning Commission that instructors are ready to help in this immersive program, giving prompt and continuing feedback. All instructors are retired professionals in the same field. Rocky Mountain Line School opened in the fall of 2008.

The class is physically strenuous and requires at least 100 hours of climbing and training atop poles, plus math, safety, First Aid, driving large trucks and Department of Transportation regulation training. The program jams 26 college credit-hours into one semester. By contrast, most programs require 15 credit-hours in order to complete on time. Graduates can expect to get a job making \$18 to \$28 an hour after less than four months of intensive training.

THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN LINE SCHOOL GETS NEW HOME

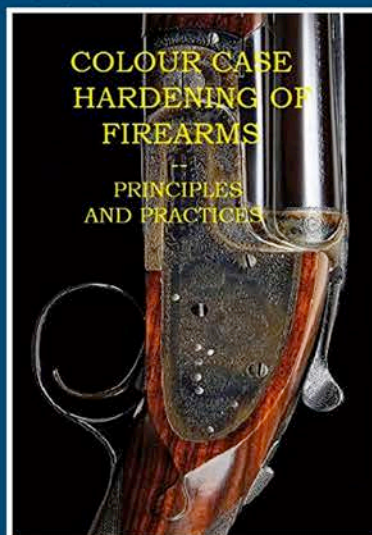


Perennial summer gunsmithing student donates \$10,000

John Seim has spent at least a week at Trinidad State's Summer Gunsmithing Series for more than 30 years. A couple of years ago he began documenting the tricky process of color case hardening, a common finish on guns in the 1800s. It's a simple heating and quenching process, but results can range from beautiful rainbows to disappointing blotchy grays or browns depending on many factors.

Seim, a retired medical doctor from Alberta, Canada, experimented with the variables in 2016 and 2017, scientifically documenting the results from hundreds of experiments, mostly performed at Trinidad State's Gunsmithing Department. He wanted to demystify the technique. His book, *Colour Case Hardening of Firearms*, was vetted by Trinidad State Gunsmithing instructors and others and then went on sale through Amazon.

Seim has already sold 370 copies and hopes to sell 1,000.



Educational Foundation celebrates 50th Anniversary

The Trinidad State Junior College Educational Foundation has been in existence since 1968 with a focus on raising, accepting, and managing private gifts that benefit Trinidad State Junior College. With 50 years of history, growth, and success, this monumental milestone celebrates and recognizes the significance of the Foundation in its role of serving the College and the community.



**Founders L to R:
Roy Boyd, Harry Sayer
and Charles Latuda**

In the late 1960s, founding members Roy Boyd, Charles Latuda, and Harry Sayer were forward-thinking, risk takers genuinely interested in the welfare and growth of the College. The Articles of Incorporation were created under

the Colorado Nonprofit Corporation Act and were approved January 12, 1968. Thus, the Foundation became a private, non-profit corporation operating as a separate entity from TSJC with its mission to promote the growth and development of Trinidad State Junior College.

It is through the efforts of the founders and many other Foundation members over the years that have guided and developed the Foundation into the current thriving and robust organization able to enhance the educational opportunities at the College. Foundation members serve as ambassadors of the College and of the Foundation by sharing knowledge of issues, activities, and the need for community investment in order to continually foster greater private support for TSJC and its students. The members of the Foundation have been crucial to the success of the Foundation's fundraising goals and are civic-minded citizens of the communities served by Trinidad State. Members serve as a conduit with individuals who may benefit the Foundation or College by gaining a greater understanding of its functions or facilities.

Private dollars raised by the Foundation do not replace other revenue streams; rather private dollars allow the Foundation to bridge the gap between the needs and the resources of the College. Since its inception, the Foundation has provided funding for several areas including academic and vocational programs, campus beautification projects, as well as acquisition and renovation of various capital projects on behalf of TSJC. Most notable may be the millions of dollars in scholarships awarded to talented and deserving students.

In the last ten years alone, the Foundation has assisted the College to the tune of nearly \$4 million – \$2.5 million in scholarships, \$1 million in programs/instructional support, and \$500,000 in capital improvements. Thanks to private contributions from the community, alumni, and other philanthropic-minded individuals the Foundation has received contributions of more than \$4.7 million during that time.

With total assets currently over \$8.4 million, the Foundation concentrates on the long-term growth and sustainability of TSJC. Two thirds of the total assets are limited by donor restrictions to either a specified purpose or time including funds of perpetual duration (endowments). Currently, the Foundation has over 80 endowments under management.

As has been the case for 50 years, the Foundation's mission will continue to be accomplished through the generous, loyal donors and community partners that seek to encourage and

invigorate student success as well as strengthen the College's capacity to enhance programmatic, instructional, and capital needs.



The Foundation helped welcome back students in August by providing the food for picnics on both campuses.



Classes of '71, '72 and '73 reunion memories

The back of our "Trojan Gold and Blue" reunion t-shirts read, "We're Back and Better Than Ever." Yes, a bit older for sure, but no less excited to be here than we were as students back in the early 70s.

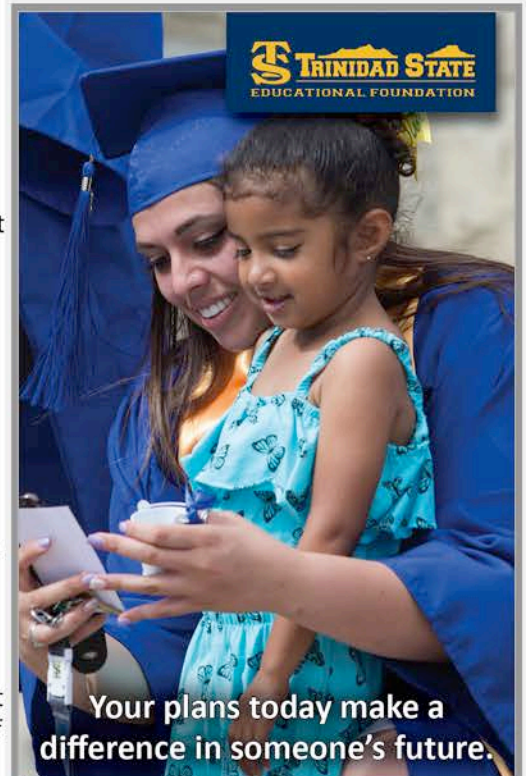
They call us the "Baby Boomer Generation"! We experienced first hand, the Civil Rights Movement and the power of non-violent protest. In fact, we waged our own non-violent demonstration here on campus to protest apparent misappropriation of financial aid to minority students.

We hailed from New York, Philly, D.C., New Jersey, Detroit, Chicago, St Louis, L.A., New Orleans, Indianapolis, San Francisco, Albuquerque, Columbus and Denver, just to name a few.

In addition, our ranks included Native Americans and students matriculating from Central and South America, Europe, Africa and Asia. TSJC was on the cutting edge of providing a diverse and inclusive learning environment. I guess you could say we were diverse before diversity became cool! We all brought with us a piece of hometown pride and swagger but inevitably adapted to and grew to love (or at least tolerate) this place that was so very different from what we knew.

After graduation many of us transferred to four-year institutions to pursue advanced degrees and or continue our athletic careers. Former Trojans landed at some of the most highly regarded schools in the nation including the University of Michigan, University of Colorado, Drake, New Orleans University and Cal-Berkley just to name a few. Others utilized their A.A. Degree and the life skills attained here to pursue the career of their choice. TSJC provided an effective first step as a bridge into the professional world. We became doctors, attorneys, CEO's, plant managers, business owners, educators and coaches, professional athletes, law enforcement and military leaders. Our stories after departing from TSJC are rich, colorful, inspiring and characterized by success and achievement far beyond what any of us could have imagined!

Richard Holmes - Class Reunion Committee Member, 70-71 Football and Track & Field



Your plans today make a difference in someone's future.

CONTACT US TODAY

about ways to make a future gift to help students at Trinidad State

SOCIETY OF 1925

Toni DeAngelis (719) 846-5520
tsjcfoundation@trinidadstate.edu
trinidadstate.edu/foundation

Members of the Classes of '71, '72 and '73 Gather at Trinidad State in July

What we experienced here, individually and collectively, changed our lives to such an extent that the chance to reunite, reminisce, catch up and celebrate our bond together was irresistible!

Yes indeed, after over forty-five years, drawn by the allure of this very special place, Trinidad State Junior College, "We're Back."

We had a wonderful time together and are already making plans to meet again in 2020.

That will mark the 50th Anniversary of the year that we first set foot on those red bricks inscribed with the word "Trinidad."

Richard Holmes



In alphabetical order: Alfonso Adair, Diane Austin, Leuvenia Bland, Ron Buckner, Alonzo Butler, Jauan Crews, Sheryl Davis, Allen Gray, Tim Harris, Richard Holmes, Kathy Johnson, John Kerrigan, James Lockett, Mike Lujan, Debbie Monticue, Phil Ross, Anthony Shirley, Ron Slaughter, Dennis Stone and Virginia Wattley.

FUN & Friendraiser

"Laugh as often as you can," was the message from Guest Speaker Nancy Norton at the Trinidad State Educational Foundation's annual Fun & Friendraiser on April 21 at Brix Sports Bar & Grill in Trinidad. "Seek it out. Don't wait for it to come to you."

A comedian, registered nurse and professional speaker, Norton shared the health benefits of humor, while ensuring the audience of 175 Foundation supporters got in their daily dose of laughter. "Most adults laugh approximately 15 times a day," said Norton. "They say we need 30. We need 30 times a day to stay healthy."

While interjecting jokes into her presentation, Norton discussed how laughter is like a workout. "It will raise your blood oxygen, it will lower your heart rate, lower your blood pressure, and most importantly it lowers your stress hormones. Your stress hormones are what kill you. That's what shortens your life."

Norton encouraged those in attendance to "put a little humor on every slice of your pie chart." She continued, "It'll expand not only your life and the joy in your life, but it will expand the length of your life. It's really a life-changing thing."

The Fun & Friendraiser event features a reception, dinner, silent auction and Trinidad State Educational Foundation Hall of Fame induction, in addition to the guest speaker. The purpose of the event is to raise money for specific needs of Trinidad State Junior College. Proceeds from this year's Fun & Friendraiser support Trinidad State's Nursing Program, which fits with Norton's experience as a nurse and her presentation on the value of laughter for overall health.

"When I heard the Foundation selected the Trinidad State Nursing Program for recognition and support this year, I was absolutely overjoyed," Trinidad State President Dr. Carmen Simone said in a welcome address. "After all, our nursing program has been serving Southern Colorado since 1978, and for 40 years now, we have been graduating some of the best nurses around."

In closing out the night, DeAngelis remarked, "We are so proud of the accomplishments of the Foundation over the past 50 years. This event put a bright spotlight on the Foundation's good works to support TSJC and also showcased the impact George & Doc made on their students at Trinidad State. They both had such a passion for teaching and learning!" DeAngelis continued, "As the Foundation looks forward to the next 50 years, the focus will remain on the College's strategic needs and priorities knowing that Foundation support is critical to sustainability and fulfillment of the College mission."

Trinidad State Foundation's Fun & Friendraiser entertains, supports Nursing Program and celebrates 50th anniversary!

"LAUGH as often as you can. Seek it out. Don't wait for it to come to you."

Guest Speaker Nancy Norton



New San Luis Valley facility planned thanks to \$500,000 donation

The Ralph Outcalt Foundation has awarded Trinidad State a half million dollar donation to be used for a skilled trades center somewhere outside of Alamosa. The money must be spent on an existing building, or possibly land on which to construct a building, where Trinidad State could teach agriculture, welding, machining and diesel mechanics. Other courses might also be taught there. The Outcalt Foundation will work with Trinidad State to identify that land or building.

"With a service area that is as large as the State of Connecticut it makes sense to spread out our educational offerings when possible," said Trinidad State President Dr. Carmen Simone. "Our explorations in this area always seem to lead us to the west of Alamosa. A facility in Rio Grande County makes sense to us, so we're excited to continue on this journey with the Outcalt Foundation as partners."

The Foundation has agreed to provide an additional \$500,000 to equip or possibly renovate the future skilled trades center. The goal is to open this facility for use no later than January of 2020.

A check for the first half million dollars was presented to Simone on December 18, 2017 by Karla Shriver and Carolyn Kawanabe representing the Outcalt Foundation. Ralph Outcalt was a successful San Luis Valley businessman and philanthropist who believed the Valley is an extraordinary place. He was committed to hope, compassion and prosperity for the Valley. The foundation supports area youth through scholarships, grants and community initiatives.



L to R: Karla Shriver, Dr. Carmen Simone and Carolyn Kawanabe

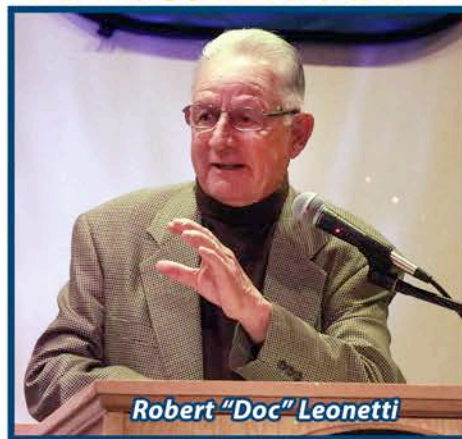
FUN & Friendraiser

Also at the Fun & Friendraiser event, former Trinidad State Faculty George Leone and Robert "Doc" Leonetti were inducted into the Educational Foundation's Hall of Fame.

Leone was born and raised in Trinidad. After a 20-year career in construction, Leone joined the faculty at Trinidad State, teaching all levels of Physics, Mathematics and various engineering courses. A forward-thinking educator, he developed coursework to be offered remotely as the technology was just emerging. Posthumously inducted into the Hall of Fame, Leone's wife, Sharon, and his daughters, Diane and Karen, accepted the award on his behalf.

Robert Leonetti, affectionately known as "Doc," began working at Trinidad State in 1973 taking on various leadership roles.

"I came back and I took that job as administrator and I insisted with Dr. Sullivan that I teach a psychology course, which he eventually let me do," said Leonetti, a 1963 Trinidad State graduate, upon accepting his nomination into the Educational Foundation Hall of Fame. "I taught one course every semester." Ultimately, he joined the faculty for a 25-year tenure as a psychology instructor. Leonetti retired in 2003.



Robert "Doc" Leonetti

Human Services program launch

Trinidad State launched a new program in the fall of 2018 on the Trinidad Campus called Human Services.

This training may qualify a student for jobs such as intake worker, case manager, community outreach worker, and more. Eventual career paths (with additional training) may include social work, counselor, or juvenile probation officer. We offer a certificate in as little as two semesters, or an Associate's Degree in two years. While designed to prepare students for entry-level positions in Human Services agencies, the curriculum offers skills and knowledge which can be useful in any setting where people interact with others.

This is the result of several years of research and effort by Dr. Sue Nesbitt.

For more information, contact Dr. Nesbitt at 719 846-5510 or visit the program page at trinidadstate.edu/human-services.



Softball wins Region IX Championship!

It was a crazy finish to the NJCAA Region IX Softball Tournament in Lamar in April. The double elimination tournament started out for the Lady Trojans with a loss to Otero. They then had to fight back through the consolation bracket beating Lamar, then Western Nebraska and then taking two from Otero, 4-3 and 3-2.

- Lost to Otero – 2-1
- Defeated Lamar – 4-2
- Defeated Western Nebraska – 10-2
- Defeated Otero – 4-3
- Defeated Otero – 3-2

Lady Trojan Basketball in playoffs again

Our Lady Trojans Basketball Team made it into post season play for the second year in a row. On March 2 they defeated Laramie County Community College 76-64 at Scott Gym and then went on the road and lost to Northwest College in Casper, Wyoming 79-58. They finished with a 15-14 record.



Cross Country, Indoor/Outdoor Track & Field continue to excel

The Trinidad State Trojan Cross Country teams competed at the NJCAA Nationals in Iowa last November. For the women, our team of seven runners placed eleventh nationally, with Toni Moore earning All-American honors for her 12th place finish individually. Our team of seven men placed sixteenth nationally, with Daniel Haymes and Derek Holdsworth also earning All-American honors, placing 11th and 21st, respectively. In addition, Coach Masterson was recognized by the US Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association as the Western Region Women's Coach of the Year.

Indoor Track shines at NJCAA Nationals in Lubbock, Texas

Our Men's Indoor Track team went to the 2018 NJCAA National Indoor Meet in March. The Trojans went in with a top ten ranking and did not disappoint, scoring 44 points, good enough for sixth in the nation, missing the top five by only one point.

The Men's Distance Medley team kicked things off in fine fashion, when despite having a runner fall in the second leg they managed to catch up and finish second behind Cloud County College. The members of the relay, Daniel Haymes, Riley Allen, Godfrey Chama and Derek Holdsworth were all named NJCAA All-Americans for the performance.

Haymes also stood out as an individual, making his way to the podium in both the 3000 meter and the mile with a pair of fourth place finishes. Chama grabbed the spotlight in the 600 meter with a third place finish and not to be outdone, a pair of Lady Trojan runners, Toni Moore and Benadine Chelimo, made their way to the winner's podium as well, placing seventh and eighth in the 3000 meter.

Derek Holdsworth was the star of the weekend, taking national champion honors in both the mile and 800 meter races.

Outdoor Track & Field 8th at Nationals

Trinidad State athletes ran strong at the National Track and Field Meet in El Dorado, Kansas in May, finishing 8th in the nation. In the Men's 10,000 meter race Trojans Daniel Haymes ran toward the front of the pack for the entire race and finished in third place with the time of 31:49.09, only 17



*Indoor and Outdoor National Champion
Derek Holdsworth*

from gold.

On the final day of competition, Derek Holdsworth grabbed the spotlight. Holdsworth, the West Region Track Athlete-of-the-Year, won both the 1500 meter and 800 meter to claim two National Championships. Holdsworth, a freshman, ran a 3:57.89 in the 1500m and 1:49.77 in the 800m. Haymes then made his way to the podium one last time by placing third in the 5000 meter. Haymes left the Trojans as a nine-time All-American.

2018 GEORGE SCOTT AWARD WINNERS

Mandie Perea, Avery Boccella and Job Alexander, all 4.0 GPA students, are the 2018 recipients of the prestigious George W. Scott Award for academic excellence at Trinidad State Junior College. The Scott Award is presented annually to the Trinidad State athlete, or athletes, who have participated in one or more major sports over three consecutive semesters and have the highest scholastic record of all athletes over that same period.

Mandie Perea was a captain on the women's basketball team and a member of the 2018 Region IX All-Tournament Team. She holds records for scoring, including the two highest scoring single games in TSJC women's basketball history, 38 against Laramie County and 44 against Fort Carson.

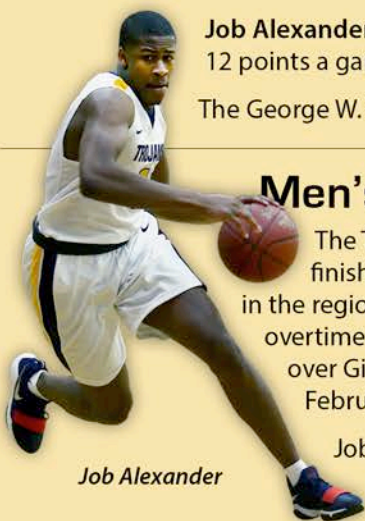
Avery Boccella was a power-hitting infielder for the TSJC softball team and also was an Academic All-American. On the field this year she hit .348 with 8 homeruns. Her onfield highlights include a game-winning grand slam against Otero and winning a pair of Region IX titles at TSJC.

Job Alexander was a captain on the men's basketball squad, an Academic All-American. On the court he averaged 12 points a game as a sophomore but pumped that up to 23 points a game during the playoffs.

The George W. Scott award is named for long-time coach and administrator who led Trojan athletics in the 1930s.



2018 George Scott Award Winners - L to R: Dr. Carmen Simone, President of Trinidad State, Avery Boccella, Job Alexander, Mandie Perea, Mike Salbato, Athletic Director



Job Alexander

Men's Basketball posts most wins since 1997

The Trojan Men's Basketball Team made it into the Elite 8 in Region IX play in March finishing with a 21-10 overall record. They ranked just above the middle of the pack in the region with a record of 10-7, but finished strong, including an incredible double overtime win against North Platte Community College 72-68, followed by a 96-84 win over Gillette College in the first round of the Region IX Tournament in La Junta on February 8, and then a loss to host Otero Junior College 79-66 the following day.

Job Alexander led all scorers in that game with 26. It was the most wins by a Trojan Men's Basketball team since 1997.



Jesus Martinez

Baseball Region IX Champions once again!



Trinidad State's Baseball Team finished the '17-'18 season with a stellar 47-12 record and another Region IX Championship. They were ranked 10th in the NJCAA National Poll, but weren't able to get beyond the Western District Tournament. It was the fifth championship in a row for the Trojans. Coach Matt Torrez then took over another college baseball team in Iowa.

In July, after an extensive national search, Justin Wichert was named the new head coach of the Trojan Baseball program. He comes to Trinidad from the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith.

Winningest coach in college football history passes

Trinidad native John Gagliardi (class of 1947), died October 7, 2018 according to St. John's University, a Division III Catholic school in Collegeville, Minnesota. Gagliardi was 91.

Gagliardi's methods were unconventional. Practices never lasted longer than 90 minutes, tackling was prohibited, coaches didn't have whistles, and there was no yelling at players. He never cut anyone from the team, resulting in rosters sometimes larger than 150. He coached by the Golden Rule, treat players the way you would want to be treated. And it worked.

Gagliardi retired in 2012 after 64 seasons as a head coach, 60 of those at St. John's. His record was an incredible 489 wins, 138 losses and 11 ties, more wins than any college football coach in history. His "Johnnies" won four national championships and an amazing 27 conference titles.

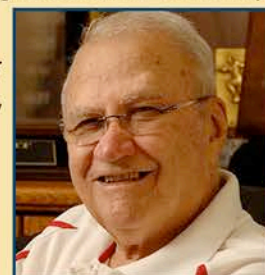




Photo courtesy The Fayetteville Observer

Vilas teaches President Bush

Courtesy The Chronicle-News

A former Trinidad State Junior College art instructor, Vilas Tonape, currently teaching at Methodist University in North Carolina, made news recently when it was revealed he spent time instructing former President George W. Bush on his painting technique this spring.

Tonape told The Fayetteville Observer the experience was “weird,” after President Bush washed his brushes following the demonstration. “I mean, the president washed my brushes. That’s freaking weird,” he said. Tonape, a 49-year-old native of Bombay India, is currently the chair of the Methodist Art Department. He has been on the Methodist staff since 2015 after moving there from Trinidad State in Trinidad. At Methodist, he teaches painting and drawing, and occasionally design and art history. Tonape’s style of painting has been described as classically inspired contemporary realism and he said that without

a doubt, President Bush ranks as his most famous student to date.

One of Tonape’s requirements had been the need for a live model, and Laura Bush agreed to sit for the painting. “He was a very good student,” he said of the former president. Bush is no mere novice to traditional paint media, although for years he kept the hobby secret. He started painting in 2009, after leaving office, according to a story posted on the CNN website. “Portraits of Courage,” a book of his paintings of military veterans, was published in 2017.



Photo courtesy The Fayetteville Observer

Through the years, Tonape has remained in contact with a former instructor named Jim Woodson, a professor emeritus at Texas Christian University, where Tonape earned a masters in fine arts in 1996. Woodson told Tonape about Bush, whom he had been teaching off and on in Dallas. Bush enjoys painting portraits, Tonape said, and he wanted to learn more about painting from a live setting, with a model as opposed to working from a photograph. Painting from real life is Tonape’s specialty. After Woodson showed Bush some of his former student’s work from YouTube videos, a series of phone calls ensued over the next few months.

After receiving Secret Service clearance, Tonape flew to Dallas on March 13. The following day, class was in session with the former president and first lady.

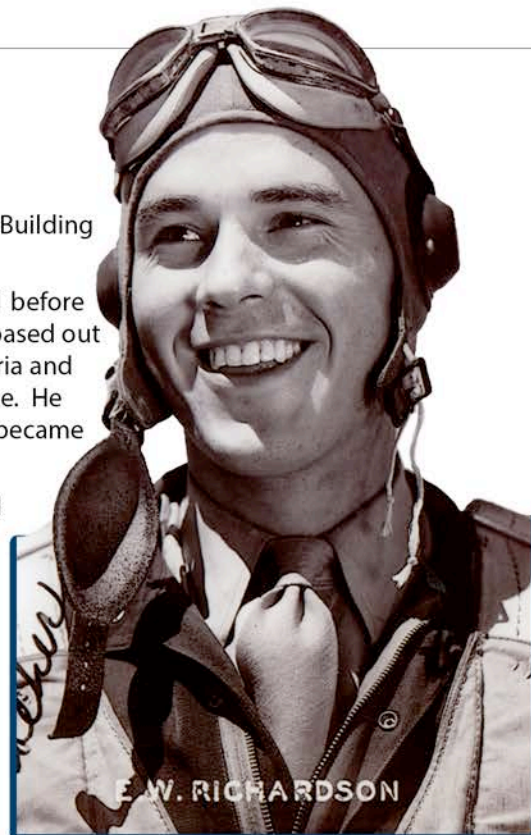
Washington, D.C. building named after former Trinidad State student

In May, 2018 the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C. opened the E.W. Richardson Building just three blocks from the U.S. Capitol, to house conservative government interns.

“Rich” Richardson was born in Kim, Colorado and graduated from Trinidad State in 1941 before joining the Army Air Corps in 1942. At the age of 22 he became the captain of a B-24, based out of Italy and making raids into central Europe. His plane was crippled in 1945 over Austria and he waited until his crew had bailed out and then he parachuted from the doomed plane. He was struck by the tail of the aircraft, breaking his shoulder and was then captured and became a German prisoner.

After the war Richardson married and then established one of the most successful Ford dealerships in the country in Albuquerque. He died in 2003, having been known for his “give-back spirit.” He had supported numerous universities and medical centers throughout his life. In 2014, the Richardson family and close friends pledged money to the Heritage Foundation for the redevelopment of a seven-story building to house government interns in Washington. The building can accommodate 186 interns and has space for three ground floor restaurants plus six guest suites.

“Young Americans are vital to our quest for freedom, prosperity, opportunity, and a flourishing civil society. That’s why it’s so important for us to provide the next generation with the resources needed to carry on the fight,” said Heritage President Kay Coles James. “The E.W. Richardson Building is an incredible resource that will enable Heritage to prepare young conservatives to lead American policy and culture – not just for years or decades but for generations to come. And it is truly an honor to remember Rich Richardson – an extraordinary American who lived an extraordinary life built on the solid foundation of conservative principles – by telling his story to everyone who visits the building.”

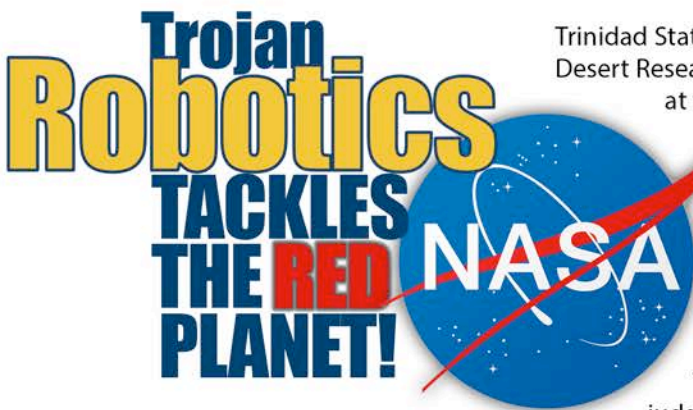


Trinidad State Gunsmithing graduates James Graham, Corey Gillespie and Aaron Harrison are in the midst of an adventure in Australia at start up gunshop Shepard Arms. Graham is an Australia native who graduated in 2016. He took fellow grads Gillespie and Harrison back home with him, along with their dream of opening a retail gunsmithing business.

Harrison reports it took a year to get all the paperwork in order (rules are more restrictive in Australia) and Shepard Arms opened in June, 2017. "Even with a relatively limited marketing campaign because of firearms advertising laws in the state, word-of-mouth has proved to be quite effective bringing business to our door," said Harrison in a recent email. Most of the work so far has been .22 rifles, air guns, shotguns and bolt action center fire rifles. He says they feel very qualified compared to others who do gun work in Australia. "We'll all be forever grateful for the training we received and the career opportunities it opened up to us. I hope the gunnies at TSJC realize how lucky they are to be in the program, there's a lot of people here who would line up to take their place if they could."

They spend a lot of time fixing the work of others, because most repair on guns in Australia is done by self-taught machinists and carpenters. "We occasionally have these moments in the shop where we get stumped on something and we ask ourselves, 'What would Ryan, Bill, Glen or Keith say?' We wish we had a mentor over here to help guide us."

"In time as we grow the business, and we can afford to hire another gunsmith from the USA, we will contact TSJC to see if we can run a job advertisement and interview anyone interested. We like TSJC so we'll come to you first." Graham projects that will happen in 2019.



Trinidad State's Robotics Team continued its success in May with a trip to the Mars Desert Research Station in Utah. After an impressive performance the previous year at the Mars Yard at Johnson Space Center in Houston, the team reworked their robot to make it even better. The brilliant result was SCOUT-E (*Sample Collecting Optical Ultimate Terrain Explorer*).

The suspension system was changed, lowering its center of gravity, the wheels were made wider to better traverse soft sand and electronics were upgraded and the streaming video system improved. Autonomous features were also added. The idea was to click on a rock on the video screen and have SCOUT-E pick it up.

The trip to Utah came with a request for the Trinidad State team to help judge other robots at the University Rover Challenge. In addition SCOUT-E

was able to run through the rocks and sand to test the new design.

SCOUT-E out-performed her predecessor in every way. Student operators were able to pick up more than twice the number of rocks and maneuvered better in the sand and rocks of central Utah.



SCOUT-E
at the Mars Desert Research Station in Utah





Trinidad State featured in national magazine Community College Journal

An article written by Trinidad State President Dr. Carmen Simone was featured in the August/September edition of the Community College Journal. The entire magazine focused on college sports and Dr. Simone's article showed how adding athletic teams at our Valley Campus in Alamosa helped bring our two campuses together.

"Athletics plays a pivotal role as a key enrollment management tool, particularly for rural colleges."

You can read her article here:
<http://www.ccjournal-digital.com/ccjournal/20180809?pg=8#pg8>



Budding scientist ups the game at Trinidad State robotics program

Even before he graduated high school, Hayden Alworth, was making his mark on the Trinidad State robotics team. In fact, he was making his mark on the city of Trinidad.

Alworth had little interest in computers until he discovered programming which he studied on his own until he joined the robotics program at Trinidad State when he was 14. When his mom drove him to the college to interview with the Robotics Faculty Advisor, Cynthia Clements, he learned that studying robotics provides opportunities for programming, mechanical design and electronics. He was hooked.

"He's one of the best programmers I've ever taught if not the best," said Clements. "One of the reasons he's successful, besides that he speaks computer, is he learns on his own and absorbs anything he reads. He did all of the programming for three of our robots."

The college isn't the only one benefitting from Alworth's expertise. Home schooled and self-taught, he serviced the family computers and then his friends' computers. Then others wanted his assistance. When he was 16, he and his family opened a computer repair shop.

At first, he serviced mostly personal computers, but when local businesses learned of his prowess, he began to maintain their systems as well. That has evolved into computer maintenance for the City of Trinidad, the Las Animas County Sheriff's Office, E-911 Authority, the town of Aguilar and many other businesses and private customers.

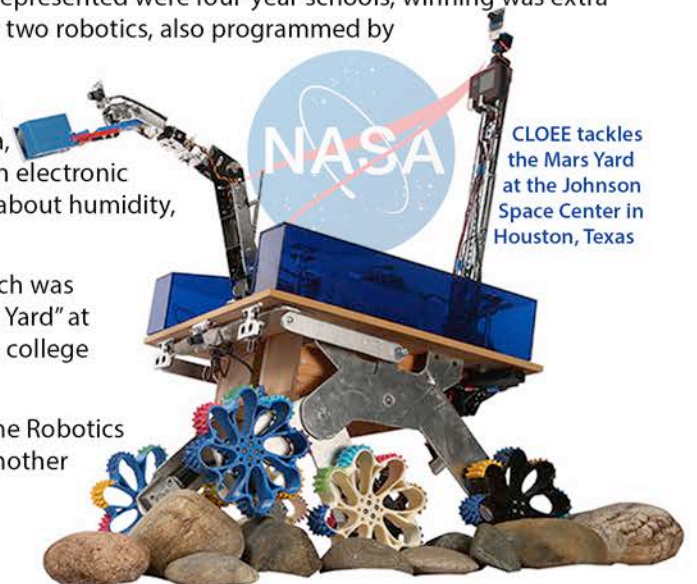
The first robot Alworth programmed was also the first to complete all six sand challenges at the Colorado Space Grant Consortium competition at the Sand Dunes in April, 2014. Considering most colleges represented were four-year schools, winning was extra special for the two-year community college students. Trinidad State's next two robotics, also programmed by Alworth, also conquered all six challenges.

In June 2016, NASA invited Alworth along with two classmates, Colin Pratt and Jordan Jones, to the Wallops Flight Facility near Chincoteague, Virginia, where they had the opportunity to work with a group of people to build an electronic payload that was launched in a rocket. Five different sensors logged data about humidity, temperature, pressure, radiation and acceleration.

By 2017 Alworth was on the team that built a remote controlled robot which was successfully tested by the Trinidad State Robotics Team at the famed "Mars Yard" at Johnson Space Center in Houston. Trinidad State was the only community college invited.

In the summer of 2018, just after Alworth graduated from Trinidad State, the Robotics Team was invited to the Mars Desert Research Station in Utah to test yet another robot (see related article on page 11).

Access more information about the Trinidad State Robotic Program at trinidadstate.edu/robotics.



John Gagliardi, '47 was a husband, father and coach at St. John's College. John felt great pride in his wife Peggy, his nine children, grandchildren and more than 3,000 football players. John passed away October 10, 2018.

Marie Cuzzetto Miller, '49 said "the years fly by quickly but I will never forget my years at Trinidad State. The faculty was outstanding and prepared me for my career in education."

Ralph Woodworth, '49 celebrated his 91st birthday recently.

Alan Cunniff, '51 passed away five years ago according to his widow Shirley Cunniff, and she still misses him terribly. She proudly shared that Alan dearly loved his home town of Trinidad. "TSJC was very special to him."

Harold Waterman '54 graduated from the gunsmithing program at TSJC. After three years in the Marines, he pursued an engineering degree and worked for eight different gun companies including Remington, Winchester and Colt. He remembers his time at TSJC fondly, recalling the snow storms and goose hunting on the eastern plains.

Melvin Hoch, '55 reminisced about classmates **Clayton Nelson, Malcolm Freeman, and Kenny Berger**. Mel had training as a machinist and tool and die maker, owning his own shop.

Betty Ann Trinaistich Holloway, '55 passed away August 9, 2018. Betty and her husband Howard were members of the Trinidad State Educational Foundation Society of 1925 and generously funded the Betty and Howard Holloway STEM scholarship through their will.

Dale Yoakum, '55 was a pre-law major and a member of the track team, letterman's club, a student pilot, and built two cars "from scratch" under Paul Arnold. He married Gerry Cuzzetto of Aguilar in 1960, and graduated from the University of Denver Law School in 1963. Dale passed away April 9, 2017 with his wife of 57 years by his side.

Thomas Schenker, '64 recently visited the Trinidad State campus. Although retired, he has been consulting for a national shopping center developer that has required a lot of travel. He's looking forward to spending time with his two grandkids.

Lyle Wilson, '65 recalled with great fondness his time at TSJC and his hope is that all students start their career at TSJC with much success. He honored his wife, **Marilyn K. Rountree, '65** with a gift to the Trinidad State Educational Foundation in her memory.

Ian DeBono, '66 was able to reconnect with classmate, **Alan Smith, '66** in 2014. They hadn't spoken to each other since graduating. He was happy to be able to keep in touch with Smith before his passing in 2017.

Mike Swyers, '68 wanted to go to veterinarian school but was short on funds. So he went back to New York and did a short stint as an industrial arts teacher before going on to a 26-year career with the NY state police and then working at a federal prison for five years. Mike is looking to make contact with classmates **Stanley Harris, Larry Bloxsom, and James Bloxsom**.

Please note, when asked for personal information, TSJC's policy is to forward the request to their peer. Then individuals can make the choice to contact the requesting party.

Ronald Cordova, '69 was grateful for the chance to enroll in 1967 because of TSJC's "open door policy." Although he had a dismal high school academic record, he took advantage of the opportunity to earn his AA degree despite not being eligible for financial assistance. He then received a full scholarship to the University of Colorado where he earned a BS and MA. "My academic success enabled me to realize the importance Trinidad State had on my life."

Marshall Swing, '69 will always remember dances and football games, riding around in his roommate's beat up but reliable Chevy, and of course, **Spencer Haywood and Marvin Wetzel**.

Richard Holmes, '71 and his wife, **Kathy (Johnson) Holmes, '73** met on the Trinidad State campus and have been together ever since. Richard acknowledged all those who gathered from all over the country to attend the '70-'73 class reunion. He remarked on how he and his classmates gained the strength and the knowledge to move forward from Trinidad and had much success in their lives.

Allen Gray, '72 was recruited from Michigan to wrestle at TSJC. "Trinidad is where I grew up. I learned how to study, how to compete, I graduated on time in 1972 and it allowed me to go on to the University of Michigan where I continued my education and then to go on to get my MBA." He spent 30 years in business, traveled the world and had very interesting and successful experiences. Allen was excited to see everyone at the '70-'73 class reunion and noted that the friends he met at TSJC are friends for life!

Tim Harris, '72 and his wife, **Jauan (Crews) Harris, '72** attended the '70-'73 class reunion this past summer. Tim was the all-time single game scoring leader in TSJC basketball history scoring 50 points against in one game which broke NBA Hall-of-Famer **Spencer Haywood's** record of 49. Tim acknowledged fellow teammate, **Alfonso Adair, '73**, noting he met Al at the bus station in Denver and rode with him to Trinidad, becoming roommates and life-long friends. Jauan told the story of how they met at school in 1970 and later married him. She thanked TSJC for bringing them together.

Michael Lujan, '72 was part of the wrestling team at TSJC. He thanked TSJC for giving him the wisdom and the power to become a teacher and a coach for 40 years. He was excited to attend the '70-'73 class reunion.

Steve Snyder, '72 visited Trinidad after 46 years. He wanted to show his wife where he started his college journey. Steve said, "I never would have completed my college degree without Trinidad State."

Ronald Buckner, '73 was enrolled in the electronics program at TSJC, referring to that group as the "short circuits" of the College. He appreciated seeing everyone at the reunion and encouraged other classmates to make the next reunion in 2020.

James O. Luckett, '73 thanked TSJC for being one of the most diverse schools, having people from all countries and all cultures.

Virginia (Wattley) Newton, '73 said TSJC was a great stepping-stone for her. She went on to Drake University and taught for over 20 years in the Denver area.

Ronald Slaughter, '73 came to TSJC on a music scholarship. While he was here, he learned to play 13 instruments. TSJC gave him his start and from that point on he was able to get his MBA. He was thrilled to see his classmates at the reunion after 40-plus years.

Dennis Stone, '73 enjoyed the wonderful reunion weekend held on campus for the classes of '70-'73. He was happy to reconnect with old friends and visit "The Dad." He plans to make it back for a TSJC basketball game this season.

John Clark, '77 truly loved his time in Trinidad. "TSJC was wonderful to me. I have so many good memories of that place. It really has a special spot in my heart."

Christy Bruno, '07 worked in the healthcare industry and loved her cat "Velvet" and watching the Denver Broncos with her dad. She married Rachael Ann Bruno-Watts in 2017. Christy passed away August 5, 2018 in Colorado Springs, CO.

TRINIDAD STATE

Trojan Alumni Unite!



Let us (and your classmates) know what you've been up to! Please feel free to share your experiences or even a change of address by visiting the following page and clicking on the icon.

trinidadstate.edu/alumni

Mother and daughter tackle nursing program together

Melanie Sowards decided to pursue nursing after 17 years in an elementary school classroom. In 2013 she took a break to give birth to her fourth daughter and spend time with her. She intended to return to teaching but never did. Her first daughter had taken several classes at Trinidad State in 2008 before transferring to study nursing. Sowards considered joining her at that time, but the timing didn't seem right. Her second daughter finished her nursing degree in 2016. Both women are now nurses in Utah. After much deliberation, Sowards, now 47, inspired by her daughters, chose not to return to teaching, but to study nursing instead. She registered for classes at Trinidad State.

One of her classmates is Sowards' third daughter, Emily Faucette. Emily graduated high school in 2016, earned her CNA and is working in Alamosa. "I love my job and I feel like it helps me get a better picture (of nursing) and experience," said Faucette. Working as a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) solidified her desire to be a nurse. At twenty years old, she's the youngest in the class. "I don't have my CNA," said Sowards. "I'm envious of that." Although Sowards would like the experience of working in the nursing field as she continues to study, she does credit her life experiences for helping her with the discipline and tenacity needed to complete this challenging program. Their first class together was the accelerated A & P (both Anatomy & Physiology 1 and 2 taken in one semester) with "Dr. Mel" (Biology Professor Melissa Kleinschmit). They were impressed then, with "Dr. Mel's" class and they are impressed now with the program. They have completed Level I, their first year. "We hear a lot of positive feedback about the program here when we're working in the community in clinicals," said Sowards.

Sowards and Faucette started the nursing program in August of 2017 and plan to graduate in May with an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN). But neither will officially be an RN until passing the standardized NCLEX (National Council Life Ensure Examination) which determines whether a nursing candidate is adequately prepared for entry level nursing.

"We've never had a mother and daughter in the same class," said Trinidad State Nursing Instructor Martin Dineen. "It's neat to have that kind of situation. They're going to do well."



**Melanie Sowards
& Emily Faucette**

Summer Hatmaking Classes grow in popularity

Now in its fourth year, our Southern Rockies Heritage School Hatmaking Class continues to grow in popularity. On day one in Trinidad there were ten people and a total of 29 hats. Seventeen were blanks, ready to be formed and customized, a few were examples. Most of the rest rode in atop their owners, sporting the scars and stains of everyday use.

The laid back leader is Tom Hirt of Penrose, Colorado, known by many as *Hatmaker for the Movies*. His custom made hats have graced the heads of Sam Elliot, Sharon Stone and Val Kilmer. He made two for President Ronald Reagan. He takes two weeks each summer and passes on what he knows at a week-long class in Trinidad and another at Trinidad State's Alamosa Campus. At the end of five days all the students will take home a brand new beaver and rabbit fur hat – most will take home two.

There are enough steps and nuances to the process, along with specialized tools, that it would be very difficult to learn this through a book or video. This class fits perfectly with the Heritage School's goal of preserving arts and crafts that might otherwise be lost. Hirt's techniques use very few mechanical tools. "Everything's done by hand," said Hirt. "Which is the way it was done 100 years ago."

"This class is turning out to be a fun thing, sharing what I know. I can't tell you how many calls I got about this class. It's really catching on, which is what we want. Everybody here is going to tell somebody else." Six took the week-long class in Alamosa, another nine in Trinidad. With the earthy wisdom of a cowboy Hirt mused, "Someday I'm going to die and look at everybody who has had a chance to enjoy this. That's kind of the rhythm of life."

The five-day Hatmaking Class is offered every summer at Trinidad State's Southern Rockies Heritage School in Trinidad and then again in Alamosa. Call Donna at 719 846-5724 or donna.haddow@trinidadstate.edu for more information.



**Jerry Papke,
93 years young, shows off his two hats**



World traveler enriches Trinidad State

"In the time I have been here," said Kay Evans, Director of the Holistic Health and Massage Therapy program on the Trinidad Campus, "massage has gone from this weird touching thing to a mainstream form of therapy. You don't have to explain to every single person what massage is. They know." Evans thinks stress and unresolved pain are the reason more people are seeking alternative health care.

Her story is certainly unique and reaches from New Zealand to China to the United Kingdom and then to Colorado. In all her stops, she has picked up tools to help people deal with pain and stress. She speaks four languages and has visited 53 countries.

One of her loves -- therapeutic massage -- has exploded and demand for graduates is high, but student numbers are not. There is a shortage of therapists. "It's not an easy course of study. It's intense and physically demanding, but incredibly rewarding."

Evans' interest in things natural was evidenced at age seven when she announced to her family in New Zealand that she was joining the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society. She said her dad very bravely joined her and they learned about the native species in their area and grew plants together. "Plants have always been important to me; they help me evolve," she said. "Because we lived rural, we always had a big garden and grew our own food."

Before she left home at the age of 21, she had completed her nurses' training including operating "theatre" (room) training. She first went to China. She loved the food and the country's rich history and the massive city of Hong Kong with its dramatic geography. But at that time restrooms ("the loo" in New Zealand) consisted of shacks built over small streams of water where you simply squatted to do your business! Considering toilet paper was not provided, she said this was a bit disconcerting!

From China, Evans traveled to the United Kingdom where she worked in a children's hospital for a year and then took a job in Cyprus where she set up two operating "theatres" and a 28-bed hospital. She learned to speak Greek, Russian and Indonesian-Malay. She studied Chinese medicine later, starting with Jin Shin, the art of releasing tensions that block the body's energy pathways. Later she started doing massage treatments on athletes and worked on members of the UK Cycling Team.

From there Evans became interested in essential oils and aromatherapy. She wrote a book in 1997 called Arousing Aromas which is still available today. She landed in Colorado as a nurse after a seminar in Boulder and was later offered a job at Trinidad State.



Kay Evans teaches a student with Julie Kotalik (Valley Campus faculty)

"All my jobs have been creating something that hasn't existed before," said Evans. "Training was very good at home and I never felt out of my league. I have always asked myself, 'How can this be done?'" Evans has applied that attitude to Holistic Health and Massage Therapy and has helped create an entirely new program in an ever-evolving alternative health care industry. Trinidad State offers training in Massage Therapy, Holistic Health, Reflexology, Herbology and Health and Wellness in both Trinidad and Alamosa.

ALUMNI MEMORIALS ~

Frances (Benich) Johnson, '45
 Beverly (Cannon) Fante, '47
 William J. Kancilia, '47
 Victor Macaluso, '48
 Letha Emmagene (Boyd) Caldwell, '49
 Edna Mae (Cunico) Kelloff, '49
 George W. Kelloff, '49
 Catherine Louise Ridolfi, '49
 Barbara (Gonzales) Baca, '50
 Charles R. Warmath, Jr, '52
 Frank Clarke, '53
 Kenneth L. Ray, '54
 Frank Alfonso, '54
 Betty Ann Holloway, '55

J. Bruce MacLiver, '55
 Dale G. Yoakum, '55
 Herman Abeyta, '56
 McLane Tilton, '58
 Earl Shell, '58
 Walter Lee Just, '59
 Lorraine Azar, '59
 Jacqueline Walton, '60
 Robert J. Simpleman, '63
 John C. Avery, '64
 Gregory Gillum, '64
 Darrell W. Pedri, '64
 Marilyn K. (Rountree) Wilson, '65
 Johnabelle (Raye) Micheliza, '66

Alan Smith, '66
 Dr. Harold G. Holderness, '68
 Thomas Martinez, '68
 Mary Jane Ward, '69
 Helen Davis, '70
 Thomas A. Veltri, '71
 Silverio Gurule, '72
 Cleo F. Perea, '73
 Charles E. Griego, '73
 Laurie (Veltri) McMillan, '84
 Joseph Castellano, '92
 Dietrich Apel, '00
 P. Wayne Rivera, '00
 Christy Bell Bruno-Watts, '07
 Kyle Duran, '13

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 Jacqueline Sawaya
 Albert Verderaime
 Lawrence (Larry) Vezzani
 Helen Marie Zappanti



The Colorado Community College System recognizes Rising Stars from across Colorado each spring. Students are selected based on good grades and outstanding contributions to college activities and to the community.

TRINIDAD STATE RISING STARS 2018



JOB ALEXANDER

When Job Alexander made the decision to move from Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Trinidad, Colorado his world changed overnight. A standout basketball player in high school, he had offers from several NCAA Division III and Division II schools – but only one from a community college. He made the decision in part due to a connection with Trinidad State Assistant Basketball Coach Chauncey Russell, who is also from Milwaukee. “He came to a few of my high school games and presented me with the opportunity,” said Alexander. By his second season at Trinidad State he was a co-captain, a 4.0 student and serving in the Student Government Association. In his last game as a Trojan, a loss in the Region IX Playoffs, he led all scorers with 26. “It worked out because of playing time and a two-year degree. Now I’m being recruited by better programs than I had in high school. Tennessee State, Montana State, Youngstown State, Coastal Carolina and some others.”

Job graduated in May with an Associate of Arts in Business and attends California Polytechnic State University.

JESSICA SUAZO

Jessica Suazo graduated in May from Trinidad State’s Valley Campus with an Associate of Science degree. She plans to continue her education and get a bachelor’s degree in audiology and then a master’s in speech pathology. She was inspired to enter this field by a three-year-old named Sapphira who could only say two words. Working as a para-professional one-on-one with Sapphira under the guidance of a speech therapist, Sapphira is now talking non-stop.

Jessica graduated from Centauri High School in 1996 with a plan of getting married, having children and raising them. But after a divorce with two teenagers at home she realized she would have to get a new plan.

She was honored last year at Trinidad State with a student employee of the year award and was active with student government, volunteered as a tax preparer while carrying a 3.56 GPA. She says she runs into people all the time who are decades out of high school with few prospects. She tells them, “It’s never too late to come back to school.”



DONOR REPORT

→ Gifts received between September 1, 2017 and August, 31 2018

❖ \$50,000+

Dennis Grabowski

❖ \$20,000+

Kane Family Foundation
San Luis Valley Federal Bank

❖ \$10,000+

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Community Colleges
Edward & Judy Fuentes

❖ \$5,000+

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Club
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Fritz Hallberg
Jeffrey & Judy Mangino
R. Michael McMillan
Stan & Peggy Obrey
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James Tertin
Trinidaddio Blues Fest
Wells Fargo

❖ \$500+

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Paul & Judith Briggs
Richard & Shirley
Compton
Paul Connell
Leon Crocfer
Laura DeBella &
Kerry Taube
Pete Deluca
James & Sandra Fidler
Leslie Gerbracht &
Chuck Grace
Molly & Robert King

❖ \$500+ (cont.)

George & Judy Latuda
Sharon Leone
James Luckett
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Dr. & Mrs. Douglas
McFarland
Mary Margaret Meyer
Anthony Nagy
Rodney Reed
Antonio Rodriguez
San Isabel Electric
Association
San Luis Valley Health
Shaun & Elle Sullivan
Chris Veltri
Gary Vezzani
Ralph Woodworth

❖ \$250+

Joyce Anderson
Martin & Betty Bania
Ed & Georgia Bell
Robert Bell
Kenneth Berger
Herschel Berry
Randy Beverly
James & Sally Bjerklie
Gloria Coke

❖ \$250+ (cont.)

Ronald & Laura Cordova
Joe & Toni DeAngelis
Joe & Gerri DeAngelis
International Bank of
Trinidad
Peter Deluca
Bill & Jann Farnsworth
Veronica Goodrich
Ricardo James
Astrid Kramarz
James Leamer
Justin & Leann Malespini
Jesse & Kathy Manzanares
Claude & Cathy McAnally
Kevin & Suzette Megyeri
David Newcomb
Dan & Kathy Nuschy
Phil Qubain
Nick & Alicia Reyes
Richard & Frances Salter
Al & Betty Sanchez
Bank of the West Charitable
Program
Robert Scavarda
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The Society of 1925 honors those who remember Trinidad State Junior College Educational Foundation in their estate plans. Estate gifts come in all shapes and sizes. All gifts are welcome, as the spirit behind each one is the same.

There are many ways to create an estate gift:

- Bequest (Will or Living Trust)
- Beneficiary Designation (Life Insurance or IRA)
- POD Instructions (Bank Account)
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Charitable Lead Trust
- Retained Life Estate

The most popular options — Bequests and Beneficiary Designations — preserve your full control over your assets for life, helping to protect against any future uncertainties. Other planned gifts can help you achieve specific financial, tax and estate planning goals.

