

# InTouch

Trinidad State Junior College  
Educational Foundation Publication



RuthAnn Woods & TSJC

## Banking on a Bright Future

Woods Appointed President of TSJC

### Also in this issue

Looking back at the Gunsmithing Program  
Nursing Program  
Theatre Student Takes the Gold



# Making Headlines

**‘I’ve got an idea!’** According to many members of the faculty and staff at Trinidad State Junior College, that phrase perfectly describes the college’s new President, Ruth Ann Woods. The words may come from a cell phone, in the middle of a meeting, or walking around campus.

After taking over as Interim President in December of 2004, Woods was named the 10<sup>th</sup> President of Trinidad State in November of 2005. “I really love the job, and am committed to the improvement and sustainability of TSJC for the benefit of our students, faculty, and staff,” said Woods with her typical exuberance. Many of the faculty and staff describe Woods as a sharp, creative, intuitive “dynamo.”

According to Felix Lopez, Executive Vice President, “the energy Ruth Ann has brought to TSJC is tangible”. “She has brought new approaches and new ways of thinking, and that’s always a good thing.”

Sandy Veltri, Dean of Student Services added, “She truly leads by example and never asks anyone to do something she wouldn’t do herself. Ruth Ann is the 4<sup>th</sup> President I have worked with at TSJC and she has the most community involvement and partnerships with the community that I’ve seen. In just a short period of time she’s earned the community’s respect. She also enjoys raising funds for our college.”

Citing the new and ongoing mural projects around the Trinidad Campus featuring the history of the Purgatory River Valley, art instructor Doug Holdread said, ‘there’s a willingness there to consider new and innovative ideas. “She is approachable in terms of listening and trying new things.”

With a B.A. in Business Education from the University of Arizona and a Masters from the University of North Texas, Woods was employed by Trinidad State in 2002 and served as Vice President of the Alamosa Campus. “She came as a bundle of energy and enthusiasm,” said Antonette Lane, Alamosa Campus Administrative Assistant. “In Alamosa she became a visible presence in the community.”

With her ideas of taking education to the people, outreach centers were established around the San Luis Valley and four new career and technical programs developed. “To determine the needs of the 14 school districts, Ruth Ann met with area school superintendents during the first three months on the job and brought her infectious enthusiasm to the staff here on the Alamosa Campus,” said Tom Scarlett, Dean of Career and Technical Education for the Alamosa Campus.

Woods’ vision is to continue to improve the partnerships with Colorado’s four-year institutions. “We’re always working on new program development in Arts and Sciences –our guarantee transfer programs—and in the Career and Technical Education area.” There is much to be accomplished on both campuses. “Due to budget cuts over the past three years, we’re now in need of equipment upgrades for our CTE programs, renovations to our dorms (which are not state funded), and additional full-time faculty.

As President of Trinidad State, Woods’ focus is to build upon the strengths of Trinidad State. One of those strengths, she says, is the quality of the faculty and staff. To utilize that resource, Woods involves them heavily in both the strategic and budget planning process. “I love to work with people who have great passion for the job they do everyday.” Woods also commends both the Advisory Council for their support and guidance and the Educational Foundation for their unwavering support of students and college projects.

With all of her optimism, drive, and supportive faculty and staff, it’s not surprising that Ruth Ann Woods is such a cheerleader for Trinidad State. Woods credits the Colorado Community College System for part of her optimism toward the future of Trinidad State. “Our system is strong,” she said. “We’re under the leadership of Dr. Nancy McCallin, a very decisive and strong leader who knows how to take the Community College System to the next level. I appreciate her support and the support of all the Community College Presidents.”

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## In Touch

### Volume 14, Number 1 Summer 2006

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#### Alumni/Foundation Office

Phone: 719-846-5520 Fax: 719-846-5667

Toll Free: 1-800-621-TSJC

Web site: [www.trinidadstate.edu](http://www.trinidadstate.edu)

<b>President</b>	Ruth Ann Woods
<b>Editor</b>	Toni DeAngelis
<b>Writers</b>	Toni DeAngelis, Mike Jordan, Melva Nolan
<b>Graphic Designer</b>	Andrea Hedges

# Sports Spotlight



## Nino Giarratano

When Nino Giarratano graduated from high school in 1980 he knew he really wanted to be a baseball player. But as time went on, he realized that he couldn't stay at a level of play that would ensure a career. With his AA from Trinidad State, Giarratano continued his education at William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri, where he received his Bachelors in Physical Education before returning to Colorado and Adams State for a Masters in Secondary Administration. In 1989, finished with college as a student and newly married, he got hired as the head baseball coach for Trinidad State.

He amassed an impressive 233 and 86 record as coach of the Trojans, he led the team to the JUCO World Series in 3 of his 5 seasons as head coach, and was honored as Collegiate Baseball's National Junior College Coach of the Year three times! He then moved on to Yavapai College in Prescott, Arizona and in just two seasons sent 25 players into the professional ranks while posting a 77-36 record. He then traveled to Tempe, Arizona, to become assistant coach at Arizona State, helping the Sun Devils to reach the 1998 College World Series championship game. Later that year, Giarratano would become the head baseball coach at University of San Francisco. Now in his 6<sup>th</sup> season at USF, Giarratano's players have set team records in several categories and have sent 11 players to the pros.

Giarratano credits Trinidad State with influencing him to make a mark in his chosen field. "Everyone there gave me and all the other students an incredible amount of support," he said. "Coach Zimmerman, Pete Deluca, Dick Compton, Lorene Cusimano...they wanted all of us to succeed as much as we did. They helped me to mature and be in an environment where learning was taking place and pushed me to be the best and to make something of myself."



## Mark Lee

High school graduate, Mark Lee, of Casper, Wyoming dreamed of a professional baseball career back in 1982.

A liberal arts major, Lee set about his baseball career at TSJC with a vengeance. After finishing two years at Trinidad State, he transferred and completed his college baseball career at

Florida International University. In 1985, Lee got the call that every young athlete hopes to get. The Detroit Tigers had drafted him in the 15<sup>th</sup> round of the 1985 amateur draft.

Lee was traded here and there around the league until late in the 1988 season when, as part of the Kansas City Royals farm system, he got the call to the "biggs" and on September 8 he made his major league pitching debut. As a relief pitcher, Lee pitched in four games in 1988, and pitched in a total of 116 games for the Royals, the Milwaukee Brewers, and the Baltimore Orioles, until his retirement from baseball in 1997.

Lee has advice for any young athlete that dreams of pro-sports: "Finish school." Lee went for three years, but didn't finish. "It just gets harder when you wait. Also, any athlete's chances of making the pros is very slim, and the chances of having a long career in the majors even slimmer," he added.

"Trinidad State was a great start for me," he said. "For one thing, I met my wife, Janet, there. She had just graduated and was working in the financial aid office."

Now retired from his baseball career, Lee is a supervisor for UPS in Colorado Springs. He and Janet have two children, Matthew and Kristen, and he enjoys watching and coaching their sports teams. "Matthew plays baseball (of course), basketball and golf; Kristen is into Volleyball.



## Carolyn Jimenez

In 1982 Carolyn Jimenez graduated from Trinidad Catholic High School with the desire of playing basketball.

She credits head basketball coach Marvin Wetzel and biology professor Charles Haner for pointing her in the direction that her career would eventually follow. Haner, along with Chemistry professor Usha Herbert "helped me

finalize my choice to pursue an undergraduate degree in Biology at Colorado College. Coach Wetzel helped me find the profession of Athletic Training—a job I absolutely love."

Following her studies at Colorado College, and subsequently receiving her Masters in Exercise and Sports Science at the University of Arizona, came the task of finding work in her chosen field. In 1989, she interviewed at Smith College in North Hampton, Massachusetts. She was offered and accepted the job of Assistant Athletic Trainer at Smith. Jimenez remained at Smith until 1992 when she was offered the position of Associate Professor/Chairperson of the Department of Sports Medicine at West Chester University in West Chester, PA. It was also the time that she met her partner of 13 years, Kristin Nowell.

Finally, in 2002, Jimenez reached the pinnacle of her career. After receiving her PhD in Kinesiology with a concentration in Athletic Training from Temple University in Philadelphia, she was elevated to Chairperson of the WCU Department of Sports Medicine.

Today, Jimenez enjoys running, working in her garden and spending time with Kristen and their 5 cats. She also volunteers for the Diabetes, Exercise and Sports Association as a board member and conference planner.

## MacLaren Named TSJC Faculty of the Year - Trinidad Campus



Judy MacLaren, an instructor in the division of science and mathematics, has been named the Trinidad State Junior College faculty member of the year. Professor MacLaren has been teaching at the college for 15 years.

“I am honored to be recognized by my colleagues with this award,” MacLaren said. “I would like to dedicate this award to the memory of my parents, Rico and Frances Guigli. Education was very important to them and they sacrificed so that their children would have educational opportunities that were not available to them.”

Professor MacLaren attended TSJC after graduating from Trinidad Catholic High School. Upon her graduation from TSJC she went on to receive her Bachelor of Arts in Biology from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a Master’s Degree in Education from Regis University in Denver.

“Teaching is a noble profession. I really enjoy the interaction with the students and watching them grow. I get to work with students from diverse cultural and social backgrounds as an instructor at TSJC,” MacLaren stated. “It has been a very rewarding experience and I feel privileged to be a part of the outstanding faculty and staff at TSJC.”

In addition to teaching, Professor MacLaren is the director of the federally funded Upward Bound Math and Science program that serves high school students from Colorado and New Mexico. “The program provides the participants with a college experience through residential summer school with a focused mathematics and science curriculum,” explained MacLaren.

MacLaren and her husband Dan live in Stonewall, Colorado and have two children, Lysay and Ryan. “I am proud to say we are all TSJC graduates. Our educational experiences here at TSJC provided a solid foundation for our advanced studies.” Lysay received her Bachelor of Arts in Environmental, Population, and Organismic Biology from the University of Colorado at Boulder and Ryan is studying architectural planning at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

## Meyerholz Named TSJC Faculty of the Year - Alamosa Campus

Nine years of teaching in the Office Technologies program at Trinidad State Junior College, along with working on the Alamosa Campus website, has paid dividends for Donna Meyerholz and for the students at Trinidad State. On February 8, she was honored at the State Faculty Award ceremony in Denver as TSJC Faculty of the Year.

In addition to the experience above, Meyerholz developed a Web Design Certificate Program in 1999 and, in 2004, added the first level Oracle Certification program to her course load.

Involved in numerous committees at the college, Meyerholz also serves in the capacity of Vice President of the Faculty Senate, and as the TSJC representative on the Colorado Faculty Advisor Committee. She also serves as the advisor to the Phi Beta Lambda student organization.

Meyerholz holds a Bachelors Degree in Psychology as well as Masters Degree in Public Administration (with an emphasis on non-profit management) from the University of Colorado and a Masters in Education from the University of Phoenix. She has 15 years additional experience working with diverse populations in the non-profit sector.

“Working at Trinidad State has been a wonderful experience,” Meyerholz said. “When our students graduate they seem to have grown six inches because they are standing taller and their eyes are clear and focused. Being a part of that transformation is beyond wonderful.”





## TSJC Theatre Students Shine at Recent Competition: Brandon Samples Takes the Gold

The field began with 30 talented acting teams but by Wednesday afternoon it had fallen to six, raising the stakes for performers Brandon Samples and Miriam Arnol-Martin. The acting duo from Trinidad, Colorado was understandably nervous going back before the audience at the Grandstreet Theatre to perform in the final round of the College-University Acting Competition. Samples and Arnol-Martin, representing Trinidad State Junior College, arrived in Helena, Montana to participate in the Rocky Mountain Theatre Association's "Festivention," which runs from Feb. 1 – Feb. 4 at 17 locations across the city. Marianna Adams, director of the Grandstreet Theatre School and one of many Festivention organizers, described the four-day event as "a festival of workshops, shows, acting competitions and employment opportunities" designed for performers from Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Idaho.

Besides Samples and Arnol-Martin, TSJC was also represented by Alma Lozano, Sarah Wilhelm, and Isaac Taube and were accompanied by Harriet and Fred Vaugeois who have directed and coached the young students for the past year and a half. Alma Lozano and Sarah Wilhelm both competed in the University Acting competition with scene partner Isaac Taube, and Sarah Wilhelm also competed in the Musical Theatre competition.

Only one award is presented for these prestigious and highly competitive events. Trinidad students and teachers had to wait three more, long days to find out the results of the competitions. At the awards ceremony on closing night, the "Best" awards were announced: youth theatre acting, community theatre acting, technical theatre, musical theatre, and, FINALLY, the most coveted award: the best actor award. When the presenter said, "and the Rocky Mountain Theater Association award for best actor goes to...Brandon Samples," the Trinidad contingent, and the entire auditorium broke out in cheers. Only Harriet Vaugeois remained in her seat exclaiming, "I can't believe it. I can't believe it."

This is the first time that TSJC has participated in any event of this magnitude. The competition involved eighteen colleges and universities from five states, and the majority of the actors competing were seniors from large universities with equally large theater departments. Brandon Samples is an actor with tremendous talent. He takes advantage of every opportunity to grow as a performer. He came to TSJC as an accomplished magician, has acted in almost every TSJC production for the past two years, including the role of Jesus in *Godspell* and Stanley Kowalski in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Samples is also an apprentice with the Southern Colorado Repertory Theatre Company this summer.

The TSJC theatre students were asked for their resumes by professors at four-year universities and by directors of summer theatres that pay actors. Vaugeois notes, "wherever I went I could hear people asking 'what school are those kids from; where's Trinidad? etc.' It was powerfully fulfilling for us!"

While attending the RMTA conference, TSJC students took advantage of every workshop and performance opportunity, often skipping meals so as not to miss a thing. They took workshops in dance, acting, improvisation, singing, and the business of theatre with professionals from Broadway and Los Angeles and other theatre centers throughout the U.S. Most notable were Blair Bybee, a director and choreographer who appeared in *Cats* on Broadway, Dawn Wells, best known as Mary Ann on *Gilligan's Island*, and Bill Bowers, an actor currently touring his one-man Off-Broadway show *Under a Montana Moon* who also appeared on Broadway as Zazu in *The Lion King*.

As a final accomplishment and honor, the TSJC actors were chosen to perform in the closing production number, staged by Broadway choreographer Blair Bybee, before loading into the van and starting the 15 hour drive back to Trinidad. The College and the community are very proud of these TSJC students who worked as a team, traveled as a team, and supported each other through every event.

# Class Notes

## 1950's

**Richard Gupton, '55**, retired after 15 years with the Massachusetts Teacher's Association in July, 2005. He was a consultant working with 13 different teacher's associations in MA. Dick assisted the various teacher associations in contract negotiations, grievances and arbitration. Prior to that, he taught for 28 years in Beloit, WI as a history teacher. In 2004, he was inducted into the Beloit Sports Hall of Fame. Fellow teammates from the 1954 championship football team, Frank Clarke, Tarzan Honor, and Charles "Choo Choo" Gladney were previously inducted into the Beloit Sports Hall of Fame. Dick is not sure where retirement will take him but promised to keep "In Touch"!

**Robert Shannon, '55**, was recently honored as Cattleman of the Year. Shannon served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps from 1956 to 1958 and used that training to work for the Kim Mutual Telephone Co., for many years. He served on the Kim School District Board for 12 years, the Colorado Wheat Administrative Committee during the 1970's and also worked with the County Farm Service Agency for 12 years. He and his wife Barbara have five children and 14 grandchildren. The family has made its home on the old T-Heart ranch south of Kim, CO since the early 1960's.

**Gerry Cuzzetto Yoakum, '55**, recently returned from Rome where 5,000 youth from all over the world were invited to sing at the Vatican's St. Peter's Basilica. Gerry is the accompanist for the 50 member youth choir from St. Jude Catholic Church in Lakewood, CO. She is a retired teacher from Denver Public Schools with a Master's Degree from the University of Colorado.

**George Scott**, for whom TSJC's Scott Gym is named and **Dale Hardy**, football coach '53-'55 were inducted to the Black Hills State University Hall of Fame in February.

## 1960's

**Shirley Werden, '60**, has been helping feed the homeless for 20 years. She doesn't do it alone, but she's definitely the heart of the program at Saint Clair's Soup Kitchen where they serve up more than just great food. The hot meal is available every Tuesday evening at Denver's Episcopal Church of St. Peter and St. Mary. "We serve anywhere from 100 to 150," said Werden. Werden manages the kitchen, but it's the way she runs her life that makes the biggest impact. "God says feed the hungry, right? And these guys are hungry," said Werden. Most of the guests on Tuesday nights call her Aunt Shirley.

**Pete Gomez, '63** was among five men who were inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame's Colorado Chapter in April. Gomez was head wrestling coach at John Mall High School in Walsenburg, CO from 1972-2002. Gomez' officiating is where he earned international acclaim, beginning his career as a national official in 1975 and becoming an international official in 1985. He obtained the highest rank possible: Exceptionelle. Gomez officiated all over the world and still serves as head official and director for the Australia-based International Sports Specialists where he and his wife, Ina, run two Gold Coast events every July. He was be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

**Frank Cooper, '69**, and his wife, **Anna Marie (Oss) Cooper, '69** own a 120 acre farm west of Olathe, CO – home of Olathe Sweet Corn. Anna Marie is a loan officer at a credit union. They have three children and three grandchildren.

## 1970's

**Ron Solt, '74**, was a Lamar police officer in the 70's then became self-employed as an electrical contractor and is currently semi-retired. In his spare time he enjoys boating, fishing and water skiing and snow skiing in the winter as well as

checking out all the lucky people winning in the gambling towns while driving through the mountains. Ron's son, Ronnie, graduated this spring from TSJC.

**Bijan Shakiba, '77** transferred to San Diego State University and graduated in 1981 majoring in math and science. Bijan worked for four years in a private engineering firm in San Diego then was hired by the City of San Diego Development Services Department in the land development section as a Civil Engineer. He is married to Ladan; and has two children - son, Paymaun and daughter, Kayla.

**Jamshad Ghanbar, '75**, studied at TSJC and then transferred to Iowa State University, returned to Colorado and joined his colleagues at CU – graduated from the Civil Engineering Dept., married and then returned to his home land– Iran. Ghanbar started working as a civil engineer and after some time migrated to the beautiful Kish Island which is south of Iran. He presently works for the Kish Free Zone Organization as the Director of Kish Destination Master Plan with a background filled with lots of engineering and investment experiences. From his second marriage he has a son who is an athlete and studying mechanical engineering at the American University of Sharjah in UAE. Ghanbar and his wife, Nira, enjoy life on the Kish Island.

## 1980's

**Dan Dockham, '85**, is married and has an 8-year old son. For the past 17 years he has worked as a welder in the Pipe Fitter's Union. Recently he ruptured a disc in his neck, and as a result, cannot work construction any longer. After enjoying a vacation to Alaska he moved to the sales department for a supplier.

**Joseph Girodo, '86** majored in Computer Science at TSJC and received his AAS. He worked for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Colorado as a Manager of Technical Services, he then transferred

*Continued on page 7*

# On Campus



**EPIC** – Energy Production and Industrial Construction – the name created by our industry partners. This new program is designed to prepare students for the entry level employment in the coal bed methane gas production field and related construction. Currently, 35 students are enrolled for Fall. The donations of equipment from Pioneer, Wagner, Caterpillar, Volvo and other gas and oil contractors continue to come in.

In partnership with the Phil Long Family of Dealerships, TSJC is completely revamping its automotive program. The Phil Long Certified Service and Training Center at TSJC will provide approximately \$550,000 in both facility upgrades to the Banta Building and in salaries to train, certify and place TSJC students throughout the United States. With this partnership, TSJC can take this program to the next level.

*Continued from page 6*

over to Janus Funds, where he worked as a Field Support Supervisor for two years. Currently, Joseph is employed as a Unit Manager for Sports Authority Incorporated where he manages a group of six employees, working as a Group Systems Manager. Joseph and his wife JoAnn (Milavec '89) have a 10 year old daughter, Jessi and an 8 year old son, Josh.

## 1990's

**Diann (Milavec) Chrisman, '90**, went on to earn her BS degree in Biology from CSU-Pueblo in 1993. While in college, Diann did an internship at Parkview Medical Center in Pueblo, paving her way to becoming one of their own clinical lab scientists, (a.k.a. Laboratory Technician). She has been employed by Parkview for 11 years. She married John Chrisman, who owns and operates C&M Consulting – an engineering/surveying company, in 1997.

**Mark Grudzielanek, '91**, recently signed a one-year contract with the Royals as second baseman. His contract calls for a \$4 million salary next season. If he has 500 plate appearances, he gets a \$3 million player option for 2007. The 35-year old hit .294 with eight homers and 59 RBI last season in helping St. Louis win the NL Central. He led NL

Second basemen in fielding percentage (.990) and double plays (108). Mark was a member of the Trinidad State Junior College team that advanced to the JUCO World Series.

**Anthony Cooper, '92**, Frank & Anna Marie Cooper's son, is a computer tech for the Delta County School District. He is also the bass guitar player for a Christian band called Five Face Down. He and his wife, Purdence, have two boys (ages 5 & 3) and a new baby girl.

**Chris and Julie (Mayer) Berry, '95 & '98** are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Jillian Lynnmaree. She was born on September 22, 2005, weighing 5 lbs., 13 ozs. and was 18 inches long. Maternal grandparents are Jane & Roy Mitchell. Paternal grandparents are Debby Berry and Stanley Berry.

## 2000's

**Antoine "Slim" Millian, '03**, went to Idaho State University from Trinidad State. He averaged 16.5 points and 7.6 rebounds during the season. He made the commitment to become a better fundamental player, especially on defense. He hopes to play professionally somewhere next season.

**Bernadette Gonzales, '00**, has worked on a number of movies like, "Just My Luck" with Lindsay Lohan, "Campus Confidential" as a stand-in for Christy Carlson Romano, "Big Momma's House 2" with Martin Lawrence, as well as several others. Bernadette is working on the movie "The Last Time" with Michael Keaton and Brendan Fraser, where she is a Cast Production Assistant. Gonzales says she "will continue working hard and hopefully will become a director someday."

## In Memoriam

**Lena Rose Cartelli, '34**  
**Katherine Berg, '41**  
**Connie Ortega, '46**  
**Barbara Ruscetti, '46**  
**Harvey Snyder, '52**  
**Charlotte (Olguin) Maldonado, '53**  
**Joe Raymond "J.R." Duran, '56**  
**Bertha Pratto, '57**  
**Joseph Mowad, '62**  
**Wayne Levy, '63**  
**Dolly Reyes Martinez, '67**  
**Lawrence Eloy Maestas, '72**  
**Robert Sweetland, '72**  
**Roger Schneider, '79**  
**Isaac J. "Ike" Gonzalez, Jr., '83**  
**Anthony Santistevan, '04**  
**Dr. Stanley Biber, Friend**  
**Mary Ella (Pena) Cunico, Friend**  
**John Budd, Friend**

Voice  
of  
the  
Students

## THE TRINIDAD TROJAN TRIBUNE

Trinidad  
State  
Junior  
College

Volume Twenty-One

TRINIDAD, COLORADO, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1955

Number One

### NEW NURSING PROGRAM UNDERWAY THIS YEAR

#### PRACTICAL NURSING

Enlargement of Trinidad Junior College's curriculum for 1955 has brought a new course, that of Practical Nursing, to the campus. Heading the new department is Miss Lee Zanon.

An intensive program of study has been set up for the nineteen students in the first class. The nurses, whose ages range from 18 to 30, carry 36 hours a week. Helping in the instruction of the class are Elisor Shiek in Home-making and Nutrition Laboratory and Paul Cordova in First Aid. Miss Zanon teaches the Nursing courses, does the Administrative work, and correlating work between the college and the hospital.

After three months at T.J.C., the nurses will begin their clinical practice at Mt. San Rafael. This training will last for seven months, after which the nurses will receive their certificates and be capped. The entire program has been approved by the State Board of Vocational and Adult Education.

When asked to comment on the course, Miss Zanon said, "This is my first real experience in teaching practical nursing. I enjoy it even more than teaching professional nurses. The girls have plenty of courage and right now their aim is to build up the program and join in the campus activities as much as possible. I think they're just peachy."



Miss Zanon comes to Trinidad from Denver. Prior to her coming, she taught in St. Joseph's hospital and the Army. She is an alumnae of T.J.C. and she received her B. A. degree from Denver University.

#### PRACTICAL NURSING DEPARTMENT

Left: Instructor Lee Zanon demonstrates to the students how to pacify "Toby Chase."

### *A message from the President*

Dear Alumni & Friends:

The Trinidad State Junior College Nursing Program has reached the half century mark. Your financial assistance is needed to develop the nursing program into a state-of-the-art training facility. The unprecedented shortage of nurses in Colorado is twice the national average!

The TSJC budget has been reduced greatly over the past three years, which has severely limited our ability to upgrade the nursing program and facilities.

At this time, 100+ nursing students are enrolled in the TSJC Nursing Program. Until we can provide updated equipment in our nursing labs, our program in Southern Colorado will face on-going difficulty competing with other programs in the State and our students will not be prepared to pursue a four-year degree.

TSJC needs the essential technology required to train our students to meet the employment needs of the medical community. YES, we need your help!

If you have any questions or need further explanation on how you can help ensure the future of the Trinidad State Junior College Nursing Program, please call me at (719) 846-5541.

Sincerely,

Ruth Ann Woods, President  
Trinidad State Junior College

# Campaign News



To honor the leadership and dedication of the College's most generous supporters, the TSJC Educational Foundation formed the Pete Deluca Society. The Deluca Society recognizes cumulative giving by individuals for academic enrichment. It is divided into six different levels:

- Legacy for lifetime contributions of \$1,000,000 or more in cash or cash equivalents*
- Keystone for lifetime contributions of \$500,000 or more in cash or cash equivalents*
- Landmark for lifetime contributions of \$250,000 or more in cash or cash equivalents*
- Pillar for lifetime contributions of \$100,000 or more in cash or cash equivalents*
- Cornerstone for lifetime contributions of \$50,000 or more in cash or cash equivalents*
- Charter for lifetime contributions of \$25,000 or more in cash or cash equivalents*

Membership benefits include invitations to special on- and off-campus events, annual listing in TSJC publications, and a certificate of induction to the respective society.

Landmark Level	Pillar Level	Cornerstone Level	Charter Level
Charles Latuda, '48 Leroy Martinez	San Luis Valley Federal Bank Alamosa National Bank Anonymous Donor	Roy Boyd Gerri DeAngelis, '67 Pioneer Natural Resources	Laura DeBella, '74 Mr. & Mrs. Rex Monahan Jay & Emily Cimino, '58

## Other Contributors

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In addition to these contributors, the Foundation is pleased with the college's 100% participation of faculty and staff members, raising over \$70,000.

The Society of 1925 was been established to honor and recognize donors who choose to support TSJC through their estates or with deferred gifts. Donors who document the TSJC Educational Foundation as the owner and beneficiary of a life insurance policy, qualify for membership in the Society of 1925

<b>Society of 1925</b>	<b>Ms. Laura DeBella, '74</b>	<b>Mrs. Gerri DeAngelis, '67</b>
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## Nursing Pledge Card

The Trinidad State Junior College Nursing Program would greatly appreciate your help and support. If you would be interested in helping keep this program's facilities state of the art please enclose your gift with this card.

I/ we would like to donate:  \$10  \$25  \$50  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to the Trinidad State Junior College Educational Foundation. Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent of IRS Regulations.*

# Spotlight



## Three generations of McClungs at T.S.J.C.

Lillian McClung agreed to serve on the first Board of Directors at Trinidad Junior College in 1926. Lillian's husband was Rupert E. McClung, Owner/Manager of The Chronicle-News, he had been one of the businessmen who worked hard for a number of years to get the college established. Although she had not attended a traditional college, Lillian studied at the medical school and earned her degree in nursing in Wheeling, West Virginia. Prior to her marriage, she worked as a private nurse and also was the staff nurse onboard the Delta Queen river boat on the Mississippi River. In Trinidad, Lillian raised her and Rupert's three children; Rup, Ruth, and Bob. When they were small, she took them with her to homestead east of Trinidad, fulfilling a dream of hers to own a ranch. She also helped establish an American Red Cross chapter in Trinidad.

Lillian McClung's daughter Ruth left Trinidad as a young adult. She completed her college education in California, married and settled in Denver to raise a family. In the summer of 1963, she returned to Trinidad and to TSJC. She had been hired as lab director on two archaeology excavations. The summer projects led to a fulltime job at the college. Over the course of the next eight years, Ruth McClung Henritze would be director of the archaeology lab, teach classes, and help to establish a museum where artifacts and prehistoric bones discovered in Las Animas County would be displayed. One day, that museum would be named for her and two of her close friends and colleagues, Richard and Willard Louden. The Louden-Henritze Archaeology Museum at T.S.J.C. is today an important resource and attraction for visitors interested in the history of southeastern Colorado.

When Ruth Henritze returned to her home town in the 1960s she brought her youngest daughter, Cosette. Cosette attended Trinidad High School. When she graduated in 1966, she chose to attend TSJC the school which her grandfather had helped to establish and where her grandmother had served on the first board of directors some 40 years earlier. Cosette, who would one day become Managing Editor/Publisher of The Chronicle-News, the newspaper her grandfather McClung once owned recalled being a student at T.S.J.C. "I didn't think about it at the time, but I represented the third generation of women in our family to be part of the school," she said. "When I graduated from T.S.J.C. in 1968, my grandmother was in the audience and Mother was in the procession along with me. She was wearing her faculty robe while I was in my student robe. I remember Grammy saying that she couldn't have imagined in the early years how far the college would come or ever dreamed that she'd return one sunny June day to watch her daughter and granddaughter in the commencement ceremonies on campus.



## Dr. Harold Deselms

I recall the first time I ever visited Trinidad and how impressed I was with the community and the historic downtown area. At that time, I had no idea we would ever live there. Several years later, when my wife Barbara and I moved to Trinidad, we found the community to be all we could have expected. We were warmly welcomed and the community was so accepting that it seemed like home from the very beginning. My ten years as president of Trinidad State Junior College was a richly rewarding experience for both Barbara and me. When we arrived, the College Advisory Council took us under their wing and helped us to assimilate into the community and area. I owe a great deal to all of those people who served on the TSJC Advisory Council during my entire ten years at the college.

Trinidad State Junior College is a very special place. The college serves one of the largest service areas of any two-year college in Colorado and I was always proud that we had the second most diverse student body of any college in Colorado. Only Community College of Denver, an inner city college, surpassed us in student diversity. The inclusion of the Valley Campus in 1994 was a real opportunity to broaden the outreach in Southern Colorado. It was a time of growth and capital improvements as the economy of the state was strong. The opportunity to enhance the Valley Campus with upgraded facilities to a true campus atmosphere and the beauty of the Trinidad campus are special aspects of TSJC.

Because of a very strong faculty, students at TSJC received a high quality education. Students were active in student affairs and became leaders in the community college system through the State Student Advisory Council and, on four occasions, TSJC students served as president of that group representing over 100,000 students throughout the state. I was pleased to be able to work closely with and get to know a great number of students who passed through the college during the ten years I served there. They hold a very special place in my memory. The faculty, staff and students were a delight to work with. Any institution is only as strong as its staff and TSJC was certainly strong because of the quality staff. I really appreciated that staff and the community support that made TSJC such a special place. I am proud to have played a small role in the 80-year history of Trinidad State Junior College.



## Crist Cunico

A 1950 graduate of Lincoln High School in Sopris, Cunico had two things going for him. He could play baseball... and he could do math. Being from Southern Colorado, Trinidad State Junior College seemed the right place, "and I got an athletic scholarship," Cunico said.

A starter for the Trojan baseball team, Cunico said he "enjoyed playing on the same team with guys that had been my opponents in high school." He received his A.A. in radio and electronics in 1952 as the Korean War was winding down, and Cunico began a 3 year stint with the U.S. Army Signal Corps. He was assigned to Germany, where he met and married his wife, Nora.

Cunico wasn't finished with TSJC. In 1955, after returning from Germany, he enrolled again at Trinidad State. This time, his A.A. was in Electrical Engineering. "TSJC prepared me well for future job opportunities," he said, and he saw an opportunity to transfer many of his credits to Colorado State University, where he graduated with a Bachelors Degree in 1959.

So...where does a young man with a degree in Electrical Engineering go? Cunico went to the largest electrical corporation there is...General Electric. Just two years after the launch of Sputnik by the Soviets in 1957, the United States and Russia were in an all-out space race. Cunico began his career with G.E. in their Military Electronics department, but soon transferred to the G.E. Missile and Space division where, in 1964, he managed test-site engineering for the NASA Apollo program's Saturn rockets, which were used in the Apollo program that sent Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin to the moon.

Cunico spent his entire working career with General Electric, working in their Computer Memory Service Department and in the Medical Systems unit where he managed international field engineering services.

In 1985, Cunico reached the pinnacle of his working career when he was appointed Operations Vice President for G.E. Medical Systems in Europe. He held that position until his retirement in 1989.

Two years later, Crist Cunico, decided to help other students take advantage of the educational opportunities offered by Trinidad State Junior College. "If students have a desire to work hard, study hard, and apply themselves," he said, "they should have the opportunity to further their education." With those words in mind, Cunico and TSJC set up the Crist Cunico Scholarship.

Established through the Trinidad State Junior College Educational Foundation, the Cunico Scholarship was established with an endowment that provides tuition assistance for promising Engineering, Math, or Science students.

Today, Crist Cunico lives in California with his wife, Nora. He enjoys trap and skeet shooting, and has three grown children.

NOTE: Individuals and companies wishing to establish endowed scholarships may call Toni DeAngelis, TSJC Director of Development, 719-846-5520 for complete information.

## George Turner

In the late 1960s, Trinidad State Junior College had a football team. By most accounts, it was pretty good. As most colleges and universities do, TSJC recruited high school players from around the country by offering scholarships. One of those players, George Turner, came all the way from Cradock High School in Portsmouth, Virginia. "The head coach, Marvin Wetzel, was known all over the country for his single wing offense," Turner said. "I had some friends that attended Trinidad State and then I was recruited, so I came to TSJC." He attended Trinidad State from 1968-70, and has fond memories of the glory days of Trojan football.

Turner received his Associate Degree in Law Enforcement with a minor in Psychology in 1971. Rather than return to Virginia, he did a stint in the Marine Corps until 1973 as the war in Viet Nam wound down. Still hooked on Southern Colorado, he returned to Trinidad.

With his experience in the Marine Corps and his AAS from TSJC, it was logical that he would make a career of law enforcement, beginning with the Trinidad Police Department and moving on to the State Patrol. It was during his time with the State Patrol that Turner earned his Bachelors in Criminology from Metro State in Denver.

After a time with the State Patrol, Turner was recruited to the Colorado Liquor Enforcement Division. As part of his job, Turner developed a program to help liquor vendors serve responsibly. "It was called Project BRITE—Beverage Retail Industry Training and Education." The program was unique in its time. "Now, of course, there are a lot of those kinds of programs," he added, "and that's good."

When the Colorado Lottery was established in 1983, the State called on Turner again to help in making sure no-one tried to win "the easy way" by working in its enforcement division. "We did background checks on vendors, investigated folks who tried to 'doctor' scratch tickets, and the like," he said. Turner laughs at some of the things he had to do.

"When the lottery started, the grand prize drawing used these egg shaped containers containing prizes," he explained. "I used to have to go to the grocery store and buy L'Eggs<sup>TM</sup> panty hose just so we could use them for the drawings!" Turner eventually worked his way up to Colorado Lottery Director.

It only made sense that Turner be a part of the Gaming Division when Gambling came to Blackhawk, Central City and Cripple Creek in the early '90s. "I was supposed to come in and help get it started, and run it for six months," he said. "I wound up staying with gaming for five years and becoming the Senior Director with authority over all of the associated law enforcement groups." He finally decided he'd had enough, and after 30 years with the State of Colorado he retired in 2003.

Today, Turner still has his hand in the security field. As Director of Customer Relations for Bandimere Speedway, he oversees security, traffic and crowd control during the racing season. He enjoys hunting and fishing, riding his Harley, and spending time with his four grandchildren.



# OnCampus

## TSJC Gunsmithing Program

### Jack Stoney

He's seen the ugly side of World War II, hitch-hiked across the country to save a few bucks, turned down possibly lucrative job offers, and regularly returned to the mountains of Colorado to hunt elk and mule deer, and along the way honed the skills he acquired more than half a century ago at Trinidad State Junior College's Gunsmithing School.

Jack Stoney (TSJC '49) remembers a Gunsmithing Department fundamentally different from the organized, sequential program offered now.

"Of the 125 students in my class," Stoney said, "I think 124 of us were veterans. We got 75 bucks a month from the GI bill—and that covered everything...books, tools, food. I went to school here for two years, and only made it to Walsenburg and Raton once. We didn't have money for anything, except nickel beer."

Stoney visited TSJC recently, and toured the Gunsmithing Department, now nearly unrecognizable from his day. "I'm not sure we learned a hell of a lot back then," he said. "The trouble was, we were just getting started. P.O. (Parker Ackley, founder of the program) wasn't sure exactly what he should teach us, or how to do it. They hired a retired tool and die maker to teach us some machining, and I remember hacking away at a piece of wood with a hatchet, draw-knife, and rasp, trying our best to make a stock. We spent a lot of time looking over (instructor) Russell Hightower's shoulder."

When Stoney graduated in 1949, "it was hard to make a living as a gunsmith." He went to work for the Post Office, a career that spanned 37 years. When he retired in 1988, he returned to his first love, full-time gunsmithing, and hasn't slowed down since.

Working out of his home shop, Stoney concentrates on his specialty—fine custom hunting and target rifles. "Right now I'm working on a pair of matched, custom rifles," he said. "One's a .375 based on a Winchester Model 70 Classic, and the other is a 7 x 57 on a Mexican Mauser action."

Modern assault rifles like the AR series, or handguns, don't interest him. "Laws in Wisconsin are stiff," he said. "I won't even let a handgun into my shop. If a gunsmith wants to be successful, he has to do two things: he has to specialize, and he's got to be the cream of the crop." Stoney's rifles are in demand, despite a hefty price tag. "It's not unusual any more to spend \$1000 for a blank of wood."

He smiled at the memory. "Back in school, we spent \$5 for a Mauser action, and thought that was high. We could buy a myrtle wood stock blank for another \$5—I don't think you can even find myrtle wood anymore."

Over the years, the Gunsmithing Department has grown from the dark, poor-lighted shops to four shops on two floors with a full compliment of vertical mills, lathes, horizontal mills, surface grinders, and much more—as well as plenty of bench space for each student's hand work.

Stoney looked down the rows of 18 lathes in the main machine shop and shook his head. More impressive to him than the machinery was the organized, sequential approach that is used now to teach the basics to fledgling gunsmiths. "This would be a heck of a challenge now," Stoney said. "I'm not sure I could make it."

When asked if he had advice to give to beginning students today, Jack Stoney grinned. "You know, I hitch-hiked back home to Wisconsin after the war. We stopped in a dusty little town in Nevada called Las Vegas. I shoulda stopped there, and got my real estate license!"

Offered a job at one point by Marshall Fields, the prestigious store in Chicago, Stoney turned it down. "I couldn't face working in a big city like that," he said. Now, he calls Clinton, Wisconsin home, with hunting trips to familiar stomping grounds in Colorado.

"A student can succeed now," he said, "if he'll specialize, and be the best." From what he sees of the industry, Stoney said there's a need in two areas. "If you can make quality octagonal barrels with integral ribs and sights, and if you can rust blue, you'll never be out of work."

At 80, Stoney's days are still full and challenging. After touring all the shops, talking with students, and paying a wistful visit to the bookstore, he left to go hunting—and then to return to Clinton, Wisconsin to continue work on those two matched custom rifles.



# P.O. Ackley Would Have Been Proud.

In 1946, when Parker O. Ackley started the gunsmithing school in Trinidad, it was at the request of veterans returning home from World War II. They had often been hunters and shooters before entering the service, or they may have developed a deep-seated trust and affection for the tools of their military trade. Whatever the reason, one thing was certain: there existed no formal gunsmithing school, no accredited college that offered gunsmithing skills.

P.O. Ackley had his hands full. A member of one of his first classes recalls vividly that Professor Ackley (as he probably would not like to be called) knew a world of information, but didn't know how to organize it, or deliver it in a comprehensible way to students. Now 80 years old, Jack Stoney of Wisconsin, says that "we often just stood and watched, trying to soak it in. The instructors knew their stuff, all right, but they sure didn't know how to teach us."

In the 60 years since those veterans first assembled in Ackley's shop in Trinidad, the program has grown to embrace a huge, technology-centered industry. While the same rasps that Ackley might have used in his shop still shape walnut blanks into fine rifle stocks, and the same files turn out intricate antique gun parts, the program has grown to keep pace with a changing economy and changing demands of the public. Graduates need to know how to work on, even build, sophisticated competition firearms, weapons for the military or law enforcement, and the 'core' firearms favored by an eclectic variety of hunters and sportspersons.

One major area of change addresses some of those early complaints of disorganization. A student coming into the TSJC Gunsmithing Department now will experience a department where the professors concentrate first on an organized approach: What is the first step? is a favorite question, whether the project is in wood, steel, fiberglass, or composites.

"We want each student to know why he's doing what he's doing," says



Instructor David Nolan, (TSJC '85). "If he doesn't know why, he's lost." Over the years, instructors, Keith Gipson (TSJC '77) and Dave Nolan, have worked closely together to establish a sequence that works—not only within a particular course, but a sequence of coursework over the student's two or three year enrollment.

The typical freshman in the gunsmithing department may be 18 or 75 years old, male or female, veteran or civilian. Regardless, the student will take the same first semester courses. In Bench Metals, the student explores the world of steel and how to shape it, whether with heat, forging, or files.

"A student needs to learn that he can make steel do just about anything he wants," Gipson says. During the course of that first semester, the student will make a reproduction of a complete, functioning Remington #6 action, right down to the screws and springs. When finished, the student will have the basic skills necessary to succeed in other classes where the traditional file is still the tool of choice.

"Many times," says instructor Gipson, "all that is needed to return a damaged gun to service is a touch or two with the file. It's understanding the tool and what it can do that's so important. A file isn't just a rusted thing in granddad's toolbox."

Along with Bench Metals, the beginning student will take his first machine shop class, an introduction to the lathe. Some will come to TSJC with vast experience on machines, others have never touched one. Regardless, they will

leave the class with the skills necessary to succeed in the gunsmithing coursework that follows.

And, to provide a more global attitude, first semester students take History and Development of Firearms, one of the few all-lecture/demonstration classes.

From there, students progress as their skills open new doors, entering the world of stockmaking, barrel-fitting, action blue-printing, and the creation of custom match pistols or 'race guns.' They may diversify, taking electives that examine shotguns, checkering, engraving, knifemaking, and many more.

Along the way, because gunsmiths spend a good share of time fixing broken firearms, students take Repair I and Repair II, comprehensive courses that feature disassembly/assembly, trouble shooting, and the economics of repair.

"Being a successful gunsmith in this day and age," says Gipson, "requires more than just a little skill with the correct-sized screwdriver and a brass hammer. We want students to leave here after two years confident that they can find a place in a fast-paced, changing industry...that they have the background to pursue their own personal goals and dreams, whether it be working on museum flintlocks or building a .50 BMG benchrest rifle."

Statistics confirm that the new approach is working. Always enjoying high percentages of graduates working in the firearms industry, the fall '05 class hit the mark—100 percent of the graduates went from Trinidad State Junior College to work as professional gunsmiths.

# Spotlight



## Veronica Goodrich

Veronica (Marta) Goodrich graduated from Holy Trinity High School in 1954. “I really wanted to be a journalist,” Goodrich recalled. At that time job prospects for most women were in teaching or secretarial positions. “My family told me I should ‘take some education classes or something’ so I had something to fall back on when I couldn’t find a job,” she laughed.

Goodrich entered TSJC in the fall of 1954. “It would have been very difficult for me to attend college financially if I hadn’t been able to get my first two years in by living at home and attending TSJC.” With her AA in Liberal Arts, Goodrich transferred to the University of Denver. She graduated with a degree in Journalism in 1958 and then spent a year in Italy studying the Italian language and culture.

Goodrich did indeed get a job with her degree. She began working for the Public Information Office at DU as an assistant to the Public Information Officer in 1959. “When the PIO retired, instead of promoting me to the position, the college had me train the student assistant for the job, because he was a man!” Goodrich left and went to work as an editor for a technical publisher.

She married Hile Goodrich, an editor for the Denver Post, in 1959, and she decided that she would prefer to stay home while their children were young. “I was very involved in school activities and community service work while they were in school,” she said, “but when our youngest daughter headed off to college in 1980, I realized that we needed some extra income.”

A friend suggested that she try preparing tax returns. She attended tax preparation classes and was referred to a number of clients “and I found that I really liked that kind of work.” While doing people’s taxes she discovered something else, “People were doing incredibly stupid things with their money,” so she decided that she could really be of help in that area, too. She attended the College for Financial Planning and earned her securities license.

She now works with CapWest Securities and was recently honored as their top producer—the first woman ever to receive that honor. “I’ve really found what I love to do,” she said. “I think the world today is now full of people who are on their 2nd or even 3rd career. I think the days are gone when a person is ‘trapped’ in a job or profession they hate. The working world has really changed in that way.”

Today, Veronica Goodrich lives in Arvada and enjoys hiking and taking photographs of wildflowers with her husband and spending time with their two grandsons, Dominic and Devon.



## Lorraine Azar

In 1953, when Lorraine Azar graduated from Trinidad High School job prospects for women were pretty slim. The only daughter of prominent Trinidad business family, Azar knew that, no matter what her future would bring, she would definitely go to college. She applied and was accepted at Colorado College in Colorado Springs. “That lasted one week,” she laughed. “I had no idea what it would be like. I got so homesick.” She returned to Trinidad and enrolled at Trinidad State Junior College.

Azar received her AA from Trinidad State in 1955 and immediately transferred to the University of Denver. “I guess I had matured by then,” she laughed. Indeed, this time she was ready.

After receiving her BA in business from DU, she still wasn’t sure what to do next. “I didn’t know what I could possibly do with a business degree—I couldn’t eat it—so I decided my senior year to get my teaching certificate at the same time. I had to get a bunch of waivers to allow me to take enough credits to do that.” She got a contract to teach in Englewood the summer of 1957, when she received a call from Trinidad State. “One of their business instructors was leaving, and they needed someone with a four year degree to come and teach some business classes.” It was a chance to go home. “I broke the contract with Englewood and came straight down.” It wasn’t quite that easy. Azar had to agree to work for her masters as part of her arrangement with the college, which she received.

“One of the things I’m most proud of that happened during my time at TSJC is that, at that time the school wasn’t accredited. I was on the committee to gain that accreditation. And we did it.”

Azar’s family was (and is) a business family. After teaching for 4 years, she decided to go into business for herself. Her family owned Azar Distributing, a seller of home furnishings, carpet, paint, and other items. They decided to get into the hotel business and built the Ramada Inn in Trinidad (now the Trinidad Motor Inn). “I got into the motel business on my own a few years later, when I bought the Best Western in town and ran it for 9 years.” So much for not knowing what she’d do with her business degree.

Today, Lorraine Azar is retired and still living in Trinidad. She likes to relax and read and enjoy the company of her friends and has this advice for students now considering college life: “Even if you don’t know what you’ll do, decide to do something. Trinidad State offers so many things to help you. It’s a great place to get the basics without the trauma of a big school.”

And, in this day and age, you probably won’t wonder what you could possibly do with a business degree.



## Alfred Laiminger

There are people in this world who can look at a piece of ground and see nothing but dirt, while others see the potential for a house, a building, or monument. The latter can look at a piece of wood or metal and see its potential in the same way.

When Alfred Laiminger graduated from Sopris High School in 1946, he was one of those who could see potential. "I had a great interest in large construction projects, architecture and engineering," Laiminger said recently. "All through high school I worked summer jobs as a carpenter for Larson Construction in Trinidad." TSJC offered engineering courses and it was close to home, so he enrolled in the fall of 1946.

In 1948, TSJC was small. All classes were held in the Berg building. There was a gymnasium, but there were no dorms as there are today. As a result, said Laiminger, "everyone knew everyone."

Laiminger understands first-hand how the personal attention that small classes and dedicated instructors can make a real difference in education. "My freshman algebra professor, Curtis Benster, recognized the first week of class that most of us were deficient in high school algebra," he said. "He decided to correct that deficiency by teaching high school algebra the whole first semester and college algebra from January to June!" It took two hours a day, five days a week, but the class had learned its algebra. "Without Professor Benster, no one in that class could have continued to pursue a career in engineering," he added.

He transferred to the University of Colorado and graduated with his degree in Civil Engineering in 1951. Engineers were in great demand, and he went to work for Boeing Aircraft Company. He worked on the B-47 and B-52 bombers as well as the B-70 wing.

Laiminger married 1948 TSJC graduate Shirley Gardner in 1953, and with the launch of Sputnik by the Russians in 1957, Laiminger was invited to join a group of engineers to participate in the initial Boeing Space Training Program. "I spent the next 31 years engineering spacecraft and satellites that were on the leading edge of technology," he said.

Indeed, he made his mark on the Aerospace Engineering industry. In 1982, Laiminger received Boeing's Advanced Projects Silver Eagle Award for outstanding program management.

After retiring in 1988, Laiminger began a new career as a sculptor. "I went to the Fremont Fine Arts Foundry where I learned the "Lost Wax" casting process and acquired the basic technical knowledge to complete a bronze sculpture." One of his sculptures, a relief plaque titled "Trinidad and Monuments" is located in the Trinidad History Museum.

As if that wasn't enough, Laiminger is also currently working on the development of the Sopris Maps, a project that will provide a historic record of who lived where in Sopris.

Alfred and Shirley Laiminger recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in Trinidad. They have two sons and two grandchildren.

## Gene Fatur

In 1971 Gene Fatur graduated from Trinidad High School. "I was a starry eyed kid with a 'sky's the limit' attitude," Fatur said "I had developed an interest in science and math and really liked the idea of building things."

In order to pursue that dream, Fatur enrolled at Trinidad State Junior College in the fall of 1971. Fatur earned his AA in Engineering and, in the fall of 1973, transferred his credits to the University of Colorado in Boulder. "That's one of the great things about attending a junior college," he said. "You start at a smaller school, get the personal attention a lot of students need to get in the swing of college study, then you can transfer your credits to a bigger school and go on for your higher degree."

Armed with his B.S. in Engineering from CU, Fatur started work for Turner Construction in 1975. "I worked summers for a couple of small engineering firms in Denver while I was in school, so I had hands on experience when I graduated. I started with Turner just a few weeks after I graduated from CU."

The "hi-rise" boom of the mid-70's was well under way when Fatur started his new job. "I worked on a lot of high-rises," he said, "but that "boom" ended with the oil bust of the 1980's," so, Fatur's company started him on a new project.

"They wanted to put some 'Sky Boxes' on Mile Hi Stadium," Fatur recalled. "Once I had that type of project under my belt, I was kind of 'marked.'"

Marked he was. In the mid-80's he was transferred to Seattle to do some work on Boeing projects, but soon found himself in Portland working on the Portland Trailblazers' Arena. "After that, I started working on sports projects in earnest. I worked on the Grizzlies Arena in Utah, Invesco Field at Mile Hi, Folsom Field in Boulder, and Hughes Stadium at CSU in Fort Collins."

Fatur's latest project is the new stadium for the Colorado Rapids soccer team. "We're about ready to break ground on that one," Fatur said. The stadium will be located on the old Rocky Mountain Arsenal east of Denver.

"The professors at Trinidad State motivated me and, I think all of us, to work to the best of our abilities," Fatur said. "It gave me the confidence to move on and test myself and what I could do. I tell young people all the time to look at a school like Trinidad State for their first college experience. It worked for me."

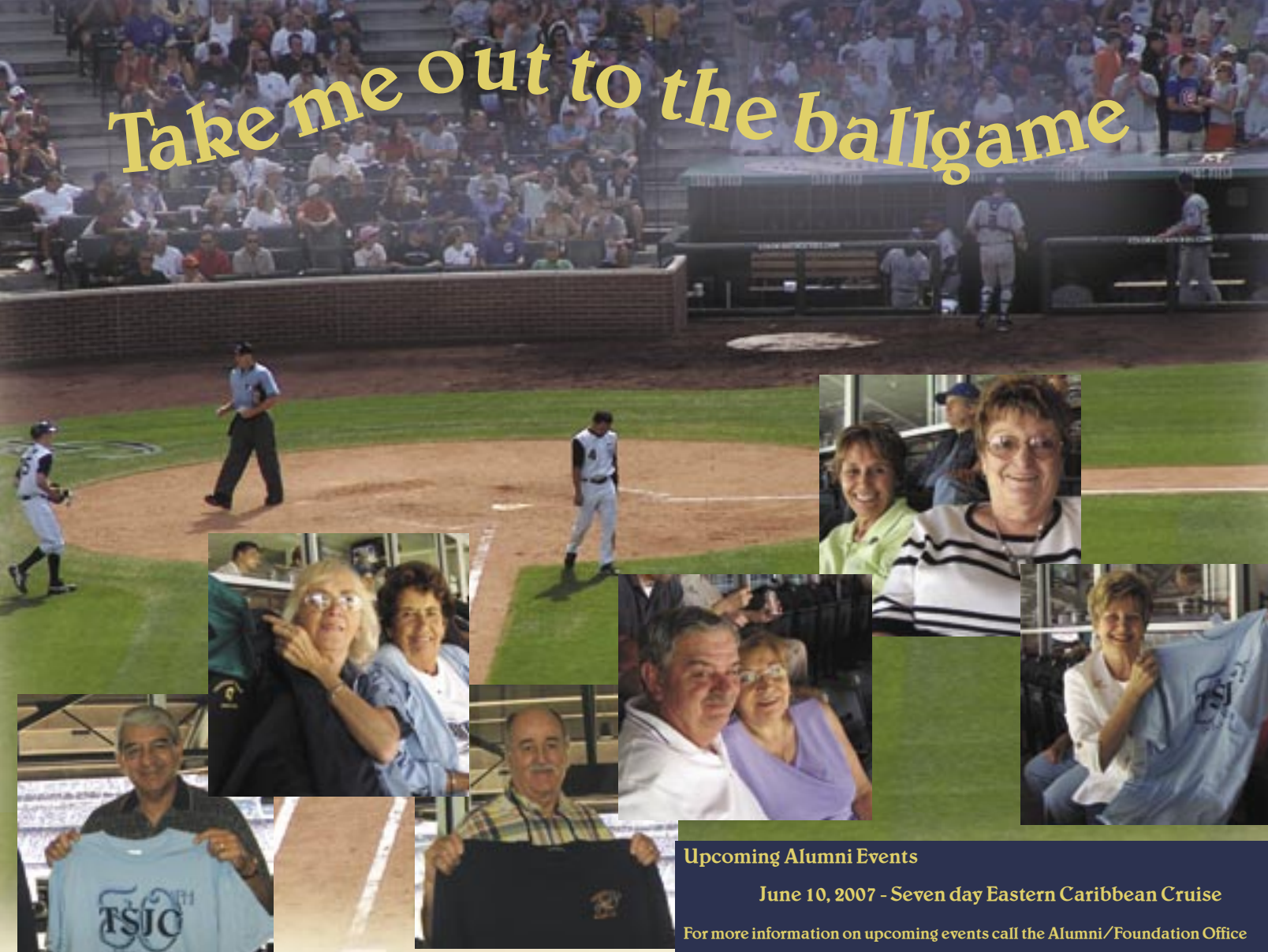
Fatur returns to Trinidad every six weeks or so. His mother, Violet Fatur, still lives here, plus "it's my birthplace and where my roots are," he said.

Today, Fatur continues his structural engineering career with Turner Construction, and spends his spare time with his wife, Vallerie, their 4 children, and their grandchildren.

As a person who spends his working life building, Gene Fatur credits Trinidad State Junior college with helping him "build" what it took to help him succeed. "At TSJC, you're more than just a number. It's a great place to start."



# Take me out to the ballgame



### Upcoming Alumni Events

June 10, 2007 - Seven day Eastern Caribbean Cruise

For more information on upcoming events call the Alumni/Foundation Office

Alumni gathered for fun and prizes at the 4th Annual TSJC Party at Coors Field.



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