

SOCIETY OF 1925

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Our Enduring Society of 1925 Legacies – Sylvia Mantelli

READ TIME: 2 MINUTES

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MANTELLI FAMILY



Sylvia Mantelli in the 1940-1941 TSC Yearbook

Sylvia Mantelli was born in Trinidad, Colorado on September 22, 1920—the same year the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was adopted, granting women the right to vote. Sylvia attended school locally, eventually graduating with honors from Trinidad High School and enrolling at Trinidad State in 1938.

Nicknamed “Toni” by her college classmates, Sylvia was active in many ways—participating in the Pep, French and Choral Clubs. The Choral Club allowed her to indulge her love for singing and the piano. Sylvia played volleyball and was a member of the Outdoor Sports Club. She was also described by classmates as a “football fan.”

Academically, Sylvia was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and served as Treasurer for the TSJC chapter. English and History were her favorite subjects. With Hollywood movies grabbing hold of the American consciousness at the time, Sylvia expressed a love for musical comedies and historical films. Her favorite actors included Jeanette McDonald, Nelson Eddy, Norma Shearer, Margaret Sullivan, Spencer Tracy and Tyrone Power.



Sylvia Mantelli (far left) alongside fellow officers of Phi Theta Kappa

Sylvia also served on the editorial staff of the Trojan Tribune.

After Trinidad State, Sylvia attended the University of Denver where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Education. Sylvia devoted herself to elementary education. When she returned to Trinidad, her career included 1st grade teaching positions at Columbian Elementary School, East Street School, and Eckhart Elementary.

In 1974, Sylvia transitioned into a different role, focusing on Title I administration. The purpose of Title I is to provide resourcing to schools and districts that help all children experience a fair, equitable, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and close educational achievement gaps.

Sylvia also provided loving care to her aging parents and an aunt and uncle during their later years.

On April 22, 2014, Sylvia Mantelli passed away in Trinidad at age 93. Within a few months, family members Robert Mantelli and Marlene Veltri established the Sylvia Mantelli Scholarship Fund in her memory. Priority is given to students from Las Animas County with an interest in studying education, and who demonstrate financial need while also meeting certain academic requirements.

Sylvia Mantelli was a beloved member of our Trinidad State family. She impacted young lives in countless ways during her teaching career. We are grateful for the generous support to students provided by the Sylvia Mantelli Scholarship Fund, and we are pleased to honor Sylvia as a member of the Society of 1925.

For more information about legacy gifts or scholarships at Trinidad State, please contact Toni DeAngelis at toni.deangelis@trinidadstate.edu or 719-846-5520.