

# TRINIDAD STATE MAGAZINE

## *The Dawn of a New Era*



*For Trinidad State College Alumni and Friends*

*Fall 2021*

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## TRINIDAD STATE MAGAZINE Fall 2021

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# President's Message

The year 2021 has brought challenges and change to Trinidad State, some of which have been transformational. For one, we have a new name! We are now Trinidad State College, reflecting a more modern institution that is granting its first baccalaureate degrees this December. We've also been transformed by COVID, which has affected our instructional and business operations in ways we never could have expected. Much like our rural communities in Trinidad and Alamosa, the college has seen its share of struggles through the years. We've experienced the ravages of economic downturns, and yet through it all, Trinidad State continues to represent all that is hopeful, creative, and resilient in rural Colorado.

We are helping to build the economic prosperity of our region. We offer an on-ramp to the middle class for our citizens. We train the workforce of our communities, and we are inextricably linked to the economic success of our service area.

In these pages, you will see some of the programs at Trinidad State that are driving economic development in our communities. From Building Trades to Trail Construction to Drones, Cybersecurity, eSports, Teacher Preparation, Nursing, and the Arts – Trinidad State is blazing new trails that lead to family sustaining wages and a more equitable, prosperous region.

I hope you will enjoy reading the inspiring stories of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and athletes, and all they have accomplished during this past year. Thank you for your continued support of Trinidad State College.

Dr. Rhonda M. Epper  
President



Above: 2021 Graduation Ceremony

Below: Trinidad Campus retirees were celebrated – President Epper, Greg Boyce, Dan Wilson, Darryl Vezzani, Kathy Carpenter, Doug Bak, and Jack Gilmore. Not pictured: Lorrie Cappellucci, Keith Gipson, Karen Harrell, Al Malespini, and AnnMarie Rigdon



President Epper ready to walk the parade route with community member Cletus Perea at the 136th Manassa Pioneer Days

Below: Students enjoy "Pizza with the President"



Below: Valley Campus retirees celebrated with President Epper – Lourdes Fleming, Ellen Caparosa-Hanson, Genia Rasmussen, and Gayle Pepper



Keep up with the latest news and sign up for Campus Connection at [trinidadstate.edu/alumni](http://trinidadstate.edu/alumni)

## Teacher Education

Trinidad State continues to expand its Teacher Education programs on both campuses. The Teacher Preparation for Rural Education Program, known as TPREP, is an innovative partnership with University of Colorado Denver (CU Denver) to offer a **bachelor's degree in Elementary and/or Early Childhood Education** that can be completed entirely at Trinidad State. The TPREP program has grown to 45 students this year.



## Building Trades

With \$1.66 million from the Colorado Attorney General's Office COPERR (Colorado Partnership for Education & Rural

Revitalization) program, the College revived the Construction Trades program to help revitalize housing and economic development in Trinidad and the surrounding area. Thus far, the College has trained 28 students with an additional session scheduled for late fall. Students attend class in the mornings and work on the job site remodeling dilapidated houses in the afternoon for four weeks, receiving



a stipend for their time working. At the end of the program, students leave with a set of basic tools and an industry-recognized certification. Students are entering the workforce at entry level positions for contractors in the community.



## Arts programming

Trinidad State is excited about the creative industries happening in Trinidad. Our faculty are expanding opportunities for arts, education and culture in ways that allow students to explore various art mediums that peak their interest. Students can also experience art and culture outside of the classroom through engagement with the local art community.

### First Fridays

English faculty members, Dustin Hyman, Ph.D., and Tom Nordgren, Ph.D., have hosted several "First Fridays" open mic author readings that celebrate local creative writers. Recently, the group merged with Trinidad's First Friday Art Walk, an after-hours art walk in search of art, music, performances and more in the galleries and creative businesses in downtown Trinidad.

### Creative Writing Contest

In collaboration with the Corazon de Trinidad Poetry Festival, Nordgren and Hyman worked again this year with community volunteers to organize the annual Las Animas County Creative Writing Contest. Students K-12 from eight public and private schools participated in the contest. Three winners were awarded

from four grade brackets (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12). Two seniors were awarded \$500 scholarships to Trinidad State courtesy of the TSC Foundation. Winners read their work and a virtual awards program was created.

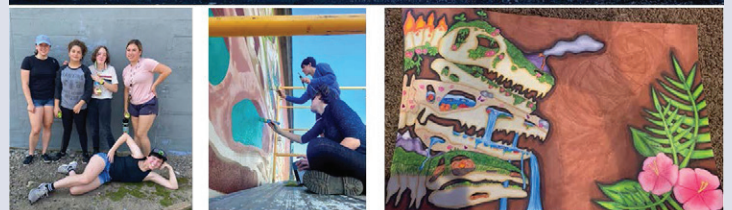
### Trinidad Youth Mural Program

With the goal of creating a more beautiful and dynamic Trinidad, the Trinidad Youth Mural students came together to design and create a wall mural in downtown Trinidad with the support of Visual Arts professor, Ily Reiling. The group is co-led by a TSC student and consists of four local high school sophomores who are invested in making their hometown reflect their passion for art, public works, and collaborative spirit. The group raised \$2300 in scholarships for participants for future use at TSC.



## Nursing Students in the Community

Valley Campus nursing students served their community through helping to administer approximately 600 coronavirus vaccinations, putting their pandemic training into practice. The event, held in a local high school gym, was coordinated by Rio Grande Hospital.



## College joins national push to diversify and grow cybersecurity workforce

Trinidad State has partnered with Metropolitan State University of Denver and 11 other colleges and universities across the nation taking part in the National Security Agency Cybersecurity Education Diversity Initiative (CEDI). The NSA developed the program to attract a more diverse cybersecurity workforce, including students from other disciplines, business, criminal justice and political science.

Bolstering the country's cybersecurity defenses is a critical need. A 2021 SonicWall Cyber Threat Report said ransomware attacks had risen by 62% worldwide since 2019 and by nearly 160% in North America. Victims of cyberattacks paid more than \$400 million last year, a 337% jump from the 2019 total, according to Chainalysis, a firm that tracks ransomware payments.

"Diversity in the cybersecurity field allows for alternate viewpoints and strategies to be shared and better reflects the population, ultimately enhancing team and business effectiveness," said Serena "Sully" Sullivan, TSC Director of Technology Programs and Instruction. "Working with MSU Denver provides access to key resources and a pathway for students of diverse backgrounds to enter the cybersecurity workforce."

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that information-security analyst will be the 10th-fastest-growing occupation over the next decade, with an employment growth rate of 31%. That compares with the 4% average growth rate for all occupations.

## Cadaver Lab

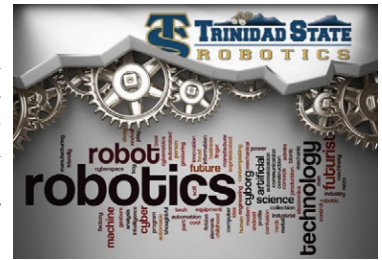
Under the direction of faculty member Kevin Walker, Ph.D., Trinidad State now has a cadaver lab to enhance physical and life sciences learning.



While textbooks provide the theoretical understanding, student learning is heightened by this practical experience. A cadaver lab at this level is not common. Learning how all the systems work together is knowledge Walker's biology and anatomy & physiology students come away with in this unique environment.

## Robotics Program

Guided and advised by TSC math faculty Cindy Clements and faculty Kristi Rogers, this year's cohort had two teams - Team B.O.L.T. and Team B.A.C.O.N. In April, Team B.O.L.T. won their poster session at the Colorado Space Grant Consortium's research symposium. Team B.O.L.T. built a wearable lightning tracker for outdoor enthusiasts to use for early warning of possible lightning strikes. The team developed coding, circuit design, fabrication, and placement on the body for two different design ideas. Then, Team B.A.C.O.N. would win their paper session at the symposium. They created a "mother ship" robot that would deploy two smaller drone robots to search out obstacles and relay that information back to the mother ship. The mother ship would then use that information to move through the field to a target. As a final feather in their cap, the TSC Robotics video won the People's Choice Award. It was quite a day for Trinidad State Robotics!



## Electric Vehicle Charging Station

The City of Alamosa celebrated the addition of a newly installed electric vehicle (EV) charging station. The City received funding from the Charge Ahead Colorado grant program to install an EV charging station. Through a partnership with the College, Geography and Anthropology Professor Bill Hatcher proposed the idea to City leaders, saying "This naturally informs what I teach, how I teach, and why I teach at Trinidad State. Giving people options for EV charging stations is one way we can move in a healthier direction," said Hatcher. Trinchera Blanca Foundation made a generous contribution as well through the TSC Foundation to support the effort.



## Appreciation

In her monthly newspaper column, *Thriving in Trinidad*, TSC faculty member Dr. Sue Nesbitt recently shared, "There are so many things for us to appreciate, everything from sunsets to the smell of fresh bread, a good joke, and most importantly, each other. I am delighted to have had the life experiences and opportunities I have enjoyed and appreciate everything and everyone that made it happen. I can even appreciate my own contributions toward these. If I had to reduce to one word that we need most in order to get along well with ourselves and others I would choose the word, 'appreciation'."



# Jobs of the Future — TSC Drone Program

Once upon a time, the concept of an unmanned aircraft was the stuff of science fiction novels. Today, however, practical uses for drone aircraft are expanding rapidly, and Trinidad State is uniquely positioned to help lead the way.

In 2015, the Federal Aviation Administration awarded the San Luis Valley a *Certificate of Waiver or Authorization*, opening up its skies for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) use. This designation allowed commercially licensed drone operators and researchers to fly unmanned aircraft up to 15,000 feet in altitude, above the previous 400 feet. The Valley’s unique terrains and weather conditions along with agriculture, power lines, solar panels, sand dunes and more make the Valley an excellent learning base for those interested in piloting drones.

“The San Luis Valley is the highest valley, pretty much, in the world,” said Jason Kelly, who serves on the Unmanned Aviation Systems (UAS) advisory committee at Trinidad State. “Our elevation here is about 7,500 feet, surrounded by mountains. It has an area of about 8,100 square miles, so it’s a pretty large area where drone operators can really expand on the use of UAVs and do some testing.”



Recognizing the growing demand for drone pilots—and the opportunity unlocked by the FAA’s decision—Trinidad State launched its Unmanned Aviation Systems program in 2019 at the Valley Campus in Alamosa.

Led by Dr. Evert Brown, the TSC drone program provides the resources and knowledge needed for students to complete an FAA examination and earn a Remote Pilot Certification. Coursework also includes a variety of flight experiences. The program trains students to become safe and proficient pilots, and to also earn additional certifications.

“These pilots are going to be stewards of the air space,” Dr. Brown stated. “Our students are going to know the rules and ethics. They will know when and where to fly. We’re building a cohort of pilots that truly are professionals.”

After graduation, job opportunities will await TSC graduates.

“In the current job market, companies are always looking for pilots,” Jason Kelly said. “A lot of them are looking to use smaller drones to gather information and data—things like inspecting transmission

lines, wind turbines, and railroads.”

Drone operators can also help monitor changes in environmental conditions. “Government and environmental organizations can inspect things like waterways, collecting data and comparing it with historical data so they can check for erosion and things like that,” Kelly explained.

Search and rescue is another opportunity, as drones can be deployed to quickly explore difficult geography—and provide resources.

“Currently, a drone operator can conduct a basic search with a drone equipped with an infrared camera to identify the location of an individual,” he explained. “As the vehicle goes up in size, it can be used to take supplies there. This could include a radio or a first aid kit, so it buys them a little more time for rescue personnel to actually reach them.”

Additional uses include aerial photography and mapping, surveying accident scenes, inspecting pipelines, tracking forest fires, managing crops/agriculture, completing wildlife surveys, measuring atmospheric conditions, inspecting solar panels and cell towers, and monitoring our reservoirs. Drones can also support

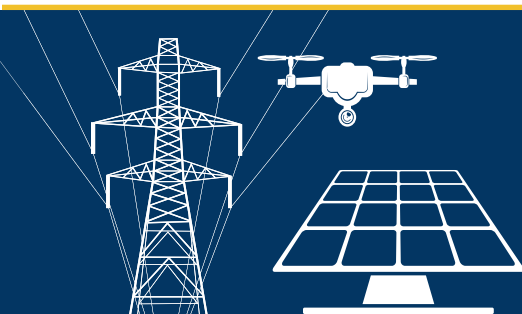
firefighters and law enforcement, alerting first responders to unseen risks.

Commercial applications like product home delivery may be in our near future. We may even see drones being used to deliver vital supplies to people in hard hit disaster areas.

Human ingenuity will continue to expand the ways in which we utilize drones. As the demand grows, Trinidad State will be at the forefront—educating students for the jobs of the future.

*“As a graduate of the Trinidad State program, I use drones as a part of my own business. My primary focus is photography and videography, with an emphasis on the real estate market. I also utilize my skills and aircraft for public education and community relations.”*

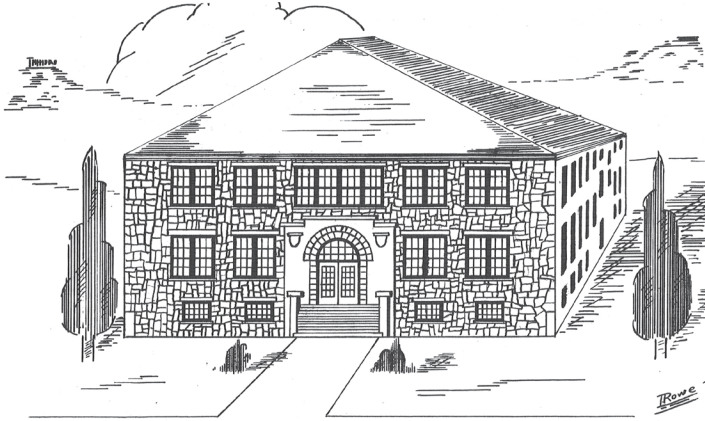
*– Zoey Woodworth,  
TSC Unmanned Aviation Systems graduate*



The San Luis Valley was selected as a testing site due to a combination of unique terrains and weather conditions along with agriculture, power lines, solar panels, sand dunes and more. These factors make the Valley an excellent learning base for those interested in piloting drones.

# A New Era – Trinidad State College

Our name may have changed, but our roots haven't. Trinidad State is just as committed to preparing students for a lifetime of impact as it was in 1925.



Our new classroom building facing on Prospect Street at Tiltotson, now under construction. Ample space is provided in large classrooms, lecture rooms, laboratories, a library, and faculty and executive offices.

1939-1940 Yearbook rendering

On May 18, 2021, Governor Jared Polis signed the bill into law. We are officially Trinidad State College!

While prominent in the early 1900s, junior colleges have mostly vanished. Across the nation, only 15 colleges still carry the word junior within their name, which is another name for community college. There is also a trend in the country to drop “community” from community college names, with over half already dropping “community.”

Below: Campus photos from 1953

Typically, two-year schools are non-bachelor's degree granting institutions, although Colorado has approved them awarding selected bachelor degrees. Trinidad State will grant its first baccalaureate degree in Nursing this December.

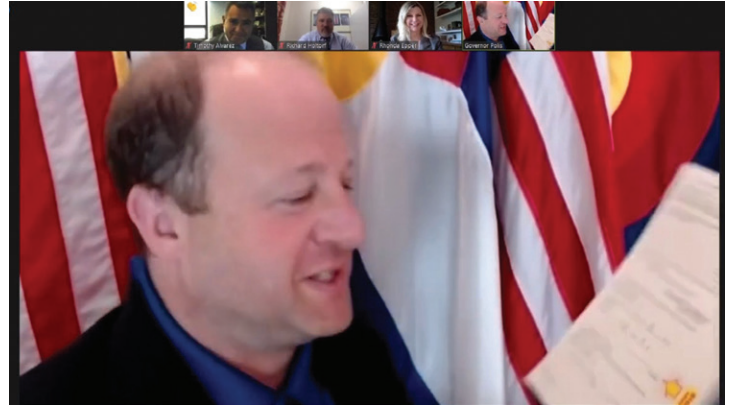


ALBERT V. BERG ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
SCOTT GYMNASIUM—BUILDINGS A, B, AND LIBRARY



We recognized that by carrying the junior within our name, the College was potentially limiting its reach. The historic change, requiring legislation, was co-sponsored by Senator Cleave Simpson of Alamosa. “The campuses not only offer needed job training, but also add art, theater, and a sense of cultural significance to their communities,” said Simpson.

The updated name will increase the value-perception among students and potential employers and increase the effectiveness of marketing the College to foster enrollment growth, build partnerships, and increase overall competitiveness in the region.

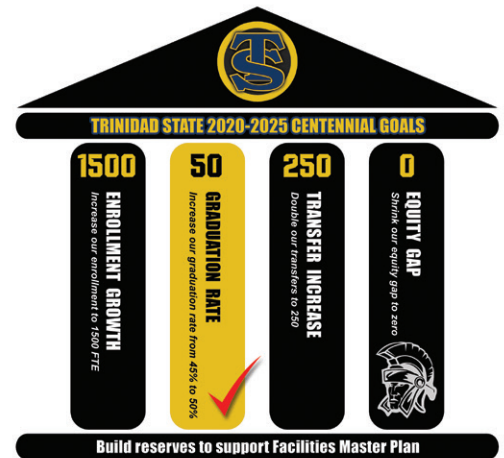


**Trinidad State College** Gov. Polis is seen virtually signing the bill enacting the name change to Trinidad State College for the nearly 100-year-old institution.

Trinidad State has always placed incredible importance on remaining an affordable choice, while still preserving rigorous and engaging academics, always adapting to the current educational landscape.

We serve as a critical workforce pipeline for our eight-county region. From the health care industry to manufacturing and early childhood education, our programs help sustain growth and economic vitality across Southern Colorado while also preparing students to transfer to college and university bachelor's degree programs.

With this change, Trinidad State is preparing for the future by strategically branding the institution to ensure that students receive every advantage in reaching their career and educational goals with a name that reflects the College's enrollment, outcomes, programs, and graduates.



“This is an important and proud moment in our history,” said Trinidad State College President, Dr. Rhonda Epper. “The name change is symbolic of our transition to a better, brighter future for students, faculty, staff, and our communities.”

As we build upon our past and look forward to our future, Trinidad State's mission and core value remains the same – *enriching our diverse communities through quality educational experiences and lifelong learning*, putting *Students First*.

“The name change is symbolic of our transition to a better, brighter future for students, faculty, staff, and our communities.”



# Library Renovation Moving Forward

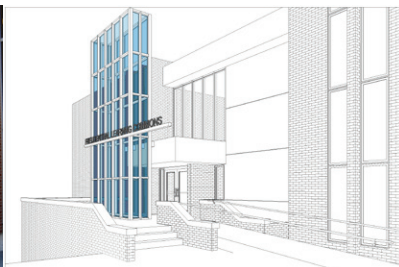
Trinidad State is excited to announce a significant step forward in our campus renovation efforts, as the Colorado Legislature approved \$6.27 million for the Samuel Freudenthal Memorial Library.

The Library project represents a large component of our Facilities Master Plan, which will guide campus renovations in anticipation of our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2025.



The Freudenthal Library has served thousands of students since it opened in 1967. However, as digital resources become increasingly available, libraries require less space for books and more room for collaborative learning environments. This was a major focus in our efforts.

Phase I of the renovation project will thoroughly modernize the Library. It will create a new two-story entryway that also establishes an after-hours study space. New study alcoves will be added. We will also create additional office space for advisors, faculty and staff, in addition to remodeling existing spaces. Specific heating and cooling problems will be addressed, with the goal of securing a LEED energy efficiency certification. Our project plan also replaces all windows, remodels all

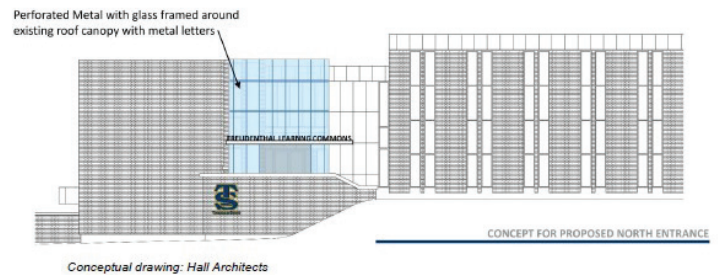


bathrooms, acquires new furniture and furnishings, and creates an additional parking lot on the south side of the Library.

Adjacent to the new parking lot is a courtyard that features a great view of Fisher's Peak. "We envision outdoor meetings, music, and catered events in that space," said TSC President, Dr. Rhonda Epper. "Having it accessible from inside the library as well as from the street should make it a popular place for both students and the community."



Construction for the first phase is expected to take 12-15 months, beginning in Spring 2022. A second phase costing just over \$1 million will address the bottom level of the building, which houses the Loudon-Henritze Archaeology Museum.



As we look toward our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, our Facilities Master Planning Committee continues to evaluate and prioritize campus improvements. This approved funding for the Freudenthal Library represents a major step forward.

## Residence Hall Complex Renovations

With an eye for improving the student housing experience, supporting TSC's core value of "Students First", the Facilities Master Plan (FMP) committee prioritized the development of a Program Plan to renovate the Trinidad Campus Residence Halls. This decision recognized a unique opportunity to use \$2.1 million in federal COVID relief funding to improve air quality as a measure to suppress Coronavirus. The funds need to be expended by August, 2022.

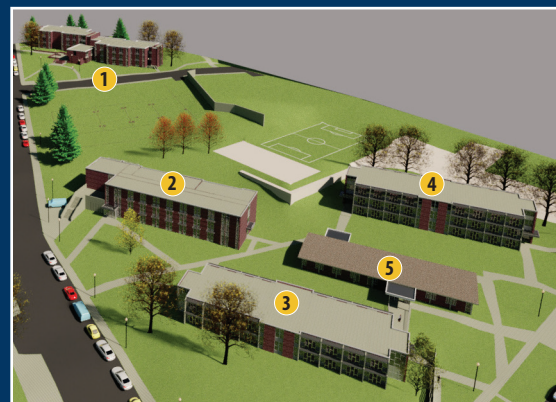
The Residence Hall Complex consists of four onsite dormitory facilities available to resident students, a Student Center, recreational fields and a parking lot.

Part of a planned three-phase overall dormitory complex renovation, TSC will maximize the \$2.1 million for Phase I to specifically address improving the indoor air quality and circulation and also improve overall thermal comfort for the two oldest dormitories, Romero Hall and Johnson Hall, and the Student Center to support resident students. These buildings were all built in 1960.

Work under Phase 2 and Phase 3 would continue the goals of improved air quality in O'Connor and Huggins Residence Halls. In addition, the remaining two phases would address energy performance, overall accessibility, and modernization of interior finishes in all four halls.

As auxiliary funded facilities, the Residence Halls are not eligible for capital funding from the State of Colorado. Although specific strategies for financing the project are still under discussion, we anticipate the need for private philanthropic support from our friends and alumni to fully realize the project. More information will be coming in the months ahead.

Trinidad State is excited to finalize the Facilities Master Plan (FMP) document for submission to the State of Colorado. The Facilities Master Plan will provide a blueprint for the projects the College will prioritize over the next ten years.



- Residence Halls**
- 1 Huggins Hall**  
Age: 54
- 2 O'Connor Hall**  
Age: 57
- 3 Romero Hall**  
Age: 61
- 4 Johnson Hall**  
Age: 61
- 5 Student Center**  
Age: 61



# The Collaboratory at Trinidad State

Trinidad State College has created a community makerspace and small business incubator, known as the Collaboratory, on the Trinidad campus. The Collaboratory is uniquely positioned to help increase workforce development, foster creativity and innovation, provide team building skills, encourage exploration of success and failure, and offer participation in work-based learning opportunities. The Collaboratory is set to empower the economic and creative development of Trinidad's diverse community and its members through experiential learning, inclusive collaboration, radical knowledge sharing, and hands-on opportunities to explore new skills and knowledge.

While rural areas are not known for recruiting large employers who offer high paying jobs or offer work-based learning opportunities, it is critical to the stability of small communities to grow their own talent and create their own economy. This community need led us to include business incubation services in the makerspace.

With the makerspace and business incubator in place, the College will build on its certificate programs in entrepreneurship and marketing, while developing computer information systems curriculum with technical resources for small business. The hands-on learning combined with business education and internship opportunities coordinated with local businesses will provide new opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs to put their new skills into action and will encourage young people to remain in the community while working remotely or starting their own business.

To grow and develop that entrepreneurial spirit, various types

of equipment will be made available for students and the general public to learn how to operate. Opportunities for workshops, meeting spaces, and team building exercises will be offered to local businesses and organizations to facilitate learning.

The Collaboratory is in the process of acquiring equipment and holding community interest meetings to gather feedback on the equipment and workshops the public would like to see in the space. This fall the College has hosted workshops and worked with groups interested in using the space with plans to open in the spring of 2022.

Once the Library renovations are complete, the makerspace will take its place in repurposed classrooms with additional room available for business incubator offices. Both spaces will also have access to a newly created meeting room with robust videoconferencing capabilities, which will allow students to demonstrate business products and present business plans. It's a model for collaboration and ingenuity in a new and innovative environment.

## What is a Makerspace?

A makerspace is a place that contains tools, equipment, and technology allowing people to enter with an idea and leave with a completed project. The goal is to work together to learn, collaborate, and share.



## Colorado Governor Polis attends multiple events in Trinidad



Last October, Colorado Governor, Jared Polis, officially opened Fishers Peak State Park. President Epper was invited to speak at the occasion to share the College's vision for how the newest state park will enhance student learning. While students from the Trail

Management & Construction program are involved in building trail systems, students also have the opportunity to study the rich fossil history and look for evidence of paleontological life as well.

In June, Trinidad State hosted the Colorado Parks & Wildlife Commission in Scott Gym. Prior to the gathering, Governor Polis sported his Trinidad



State baseball jersey during a virtual press conference to announce winners of COVID vaccine scholarships.

Trinidad State played host again, this time in the Massari Theater for the Action 22 annual meeting. Governor Polis was one of the many speakers who gave 'Ted Talk' style presentations. President Epper's address featured the history of Trinidad State, projects happening on campus, and enrollment information. She pointed to the strength of the nursing program with 123 RN students and 26 BSN students, noting that 90% of the nursing graduates stay in our local communities in Trinidad and Alamosa. The first BSN class will graduate in December.





# Faculty Focus

## Meet Ily Reiling, Visual Arts Faculty



With all that is happening in Trinidad's growing arts and creative industries, Trinidad State is renewing its own focus on the arts. To complement the Massari Theatre renovations and the new Technical Theater program, the Fine Arts program has been re-energized with new degrees in Studio Art and Art History. Starting in Fall 2022, the Trinidad State College Foundation has agreed to fund five full Arts scholarships to help kickstart the College's efforts to revitalize and grow the Performing and Visual Arts programs. To help introduce the fabulous Arts faculty members, Todd Cotton, TSC Director of Communications, recently sat down with Ms. Ily Reiling, Associate Professor of Visual Arts to learn more about her background, her vision for the program, and what she loves about Trinidad State.

### How did you get started as an educator?

My first job was in Denver public schools teaching math, surprisingly. After I went to grad school and found a way to combine the artistic and the education side of things, I found my passion. I don't see me doing anything else. This is the avenue that I'm made for.



### What is an educator?

I think an educator is a facilitator, building bridges between students and opportunities, having them understand what possibilities are out there in the world. That connection between an educator and a student, I think of it more as a collaboration

between peers searching for answers in the universe. That 'seeking' is what we do, and I think it's the purest way of humans communicating. I think that's why we are on the earth, is to make those connections and discover everything. See things anew. I love education because that gives me the ability to do so and see it every day.

### What is unique about your field?

The artistic realm, the creative realm, touches on a lot of multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary skills and pathways. One of the things that I really stress in my classes and extra-curricular work is being an observant human being. The ability to slow down, to observe, to make connections, and have it apply to ourselves. We focus a lot on creative problem solving. Art specifically, is a pathway to do that, creating those skills in order to do that.

### Who or what influenced you?

I've had so many mentors in my life that have shown me my abilities and what I can do with passion and skill and work ethic. My father was a painter, so I grew up being around art, artistic things, and he's also an engineer. My grad school advisor's research influenced me, it was absolutely fascinating. She was specifically working towards her doctorate in art education and what that actually brings to communities. I became convinced of the power of art education for all walks of life. Her friendship and support has been ongoing, and I owe so much to her. I hope to be that for my students also.



### What are some of the highlights of the Visual Arts Department?

We just opened up a degree with designation for Studio Art and for Art History. I really look forward to having students in those degree programs so we can take them through the entire process to be ready for transfer to a 4 year institution or off to their careers making money as artists. There are a few other projects that I love. We collaborate with the Artocade in Trinidad and have created two art cars where we have involved college students as leaders and then high school, middle and elementary students as collaborators. We also started a mural program in the community. I'm just so excited for students to have all of this good stuff and remember the power of art.



### What brought you to Trinidad State?

When I was working in Denver and a couple other cities, I realized that no matter how hard I worked, how much money I spent, how many sleepless nights I had, I couldn't make the impact that I wanted to. My husband and I were looking around for a place to be and we came to Trinidad. We realized that it was a perfect melting pot, a petri dish of opportunity and potential. We thought it was perfect, and I think it is! Trinidad State specifically, this is exactly the situation that I love teaching in. We have small classes, the demographic is fantastic, people are here as a choice, not just as an expectation you go to college. We have lots of different lifestyles and walks of life here which adds flavor and robustness to our conversations, to our classes and the community.

*To learn more about Ily, you can watch the full interview at [trinidadstate.edu/art](http://trinidadstate.edu/art).*



Ily received her BFA in 2012 from the Metropolitan State University of Denver and her MA from the University of Denver in 2016. Her artwork embodies the observations of a contemporary absurdist; investigating narratives, archetypes, and myths. Ily's work has shown in Ireland, New York, CA, AZ, and CO. She has been instructing studio and art history for over 10 years. Her research in education focuses on Visual Art's ability to initiate environmental change in rural settings, specifically for underrepresented populations. Ily has worked as a curator, marketing consultant, fundraiser, and artist advocate for various institutions over the past 7 years. She has received three residencies in CO and NM. Ily has been involved with multiple organizations in the area and continues to expand her knowledge, skill set, and art in order to benefit her students, her audience, and her communities.



# ATHLETICS AT

Coming off the strangest year in a long history of Trojan sports, we're looking ahead to the new year with hope and cautious optimism. Despite less than ideal circumstances during 2020-21, our athletic teams all found ways to thrive. Their successes are a compliment to the strength and character of these young men and women. Our student-athletes persevered during an incredibly challenging time.

One such moment is something Trinidad State will be proud of for years to come. The Women's Half Marathon team claimed a national championship in the fall of 2020! It was the first 'team championship' in the long and storied history of Trinidad State athletics. These women made TSC proud for years to come.

In what turned out to be a double win for the Trojan Ladies, following their title win, Head Coach Lauren Masterson was named the 2020 Half Marathon National Coach of the Year. Congratulations Lauren!



## Cross Country/Half Marathon/Track

Although our teams lost a pair of All-Americans from last year's fantastic rosters, we have proven to be stronger overall this year. Ashley Lagat, Sharon Jesang, Conner Dosmann and Ethan Coyhis all return for the blue and gold and were joined by some exciting new runners. More athletes on the team helped TSC score more points and move up in the final standings across the board. In late October, the Cross Country Team brought home the 2021 Region 9 championship for **both** men and women during the regional finals in Wyoming. It was the second straight title for the women and fourth straight title for the men. Sharon Jesang claimed the women's singles title. It's been an exciting year so far. The Trojans teams are legitimate title contenders every time they lace up their running shoes.



Another notable achievement came with the Women's Beach Volleyball team—and yes, Trinidad State does offer beach volleyball during the spring season! Our Trojan women boasted a 3.80 cumulative GPA, topping all others to win the National Junior College Athletic Association Academic team award.

Turning attention to our 2021-22 athletic seasons, the NJCAA is hoping to have a "normal" year with all of its sports programs. Our hopes are right there with them. We are preparing for normal schedules throughout the year—hoping to see fans back inside Scott Gym, which will celebrate its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the coming months. And we're ready to adjust, if need be.

## Softball

Our Trojan Softball team thrilled the fans with a great spring playoff run. By topping all Region 9 schools during the regular season, they earned the right to host the postseason tournament—before winning the tournament in exciting fashion! Although they fell just short of qualifying for the national tournament, it was certainly a great year. Coach Swazo lost some great players to graduation. Their cleats will be difficult to fill, but a solid good group of returning athletes will be joined by another exciting recruiting class. We anticipate great things on the Softball diamond this spring.



Earlier this year, Coach Swazo celebrated his 400th career win. 'Swaz' has coached and influenced student athletes over 15 years to success both on the field and in life. Congratulations, Coach Swaz!





# TRINIDAD STATE

## Baseball



The Men's Baseball team was off and running last year when a bout with COVID knocked them out of action for three weeks. They never fully got going after returning to the field, finishing fourth in the region before losing to the eventual champion, Western Nebraska, during the playoffs. That said, the Trojans return a great core of players along with a strong recruiting class. If things go right,

TSC Baseball looks to contend for the title again this year.

In early October, Women's Basketball Coach, Destiny Bragman, brought back alumni for the first ever alumni scrimmage. Coach Bragman is an alum herself, Class of 2013!



## Soccer

Our Trojan Soccer teams each finished 2021 in the top tier of Region 9, with the men advancing to the final-four of the playoffs. Both our men and women will return a significant portion of their rosters, with the women losing only their goalkeeper from last season. Each team has made key additions. Both should be stronger this fall.



## Basketball and Volleyball

Our court sports at TSC had their seasons dramatically shortened during 2020-21. It was a tough year all around due to the pandemic. Although each team lost key players to graduation, we're excited about our incoming freshman athletes. We will be young in all the court sports, but our rosters should be more athletic. We're excited and hopeful that we'll hear the roar of fans again, as it was entirely too quiet in Scott Gym last year.



## Overview

It's exciting to note that Trinidad State boasts almost 200 athletes on our rosters. It's impossible to underestimate how character develops through competition. It builds skill sets that will support these men and women throughout their lives.

Our student-athletes put in a ton of work each day, and if possible, they would love to see as many of you in the stands as possible. And if you live outside the region, you can still follow our teams online at [www.tscrojans.com](http://www.tscrojans.com). Please bookmark this site and check back often.

Thank you again for your support of Trinidad State. We hope to see you at the games!





# Best Option for a Legacy Gift?



When you create a legacy gift, you make a deep commitment to the students of tomorrow.

A legacy gift represents an investment in the future. It's a gift of resources—and a gift of trust. It's a way of paying it forward, creating opportunities for the next generation. And for the next.

If you've ever wondered about legacy gifts, there are several options—but a great place to start is with a traditional IRA or 401k. These accounts carry an income tax dynamic that makes them ideal for legacy support.

## Traditional Retirement Accounts

The path to securing our retirement is well-marked. We invest using an IRA or workplace retirement account. Our funds grow, tax-deferred—often for decades. Eventually, these assets will support us during our retirement years.

A key feature? No income tax applies until we make our retirement withdrawals. This dynamic helps us all save for a healthy and financially secure retirement.

## Income Tax Considerations

There is an additional consideration, however. Traditional retirement assets never lose their income tax obligations. When we withdraw funds during retirement, we pay income tax. Later, when our loved ones inherit these accounts, they will pay income tax on their withdrawals, too.

This dynamic can help unlock a tax-efficient opportunity for a legacy gift.

## The Legacy Option

When thinking of our loved ones in our estate planning, the first priority should be assets that receive favorable tax treatment. Our homes, our regular investment accounts, our personal effects—these assets typically transfer without any income tax liability.

However, traditional retirement accounts still carry an income tax obligation. Fortunately, Trinidad State is a non-profit organization. We pay no tax on gifts from retirement accounts.

If appropriate, you could name us as a primary (or co-primary) beneficiary of your IRA or 401k account. You would submit an updated Beneficiary Form naming Trinidad State *and your loved ones*, in whatever proportion you decide. You still preserve your full control over these funds for life—no one receives anything until your estate settles. And when Trinidad State eventually does receive your legacy gift—zero income tax is withheld. With your gift to us, you've given away the tax liability. Every dollar you share is a dollar we receive.

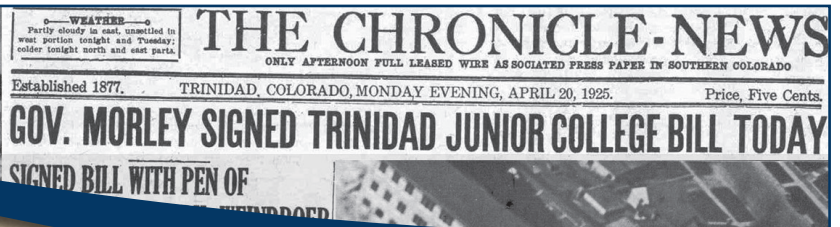
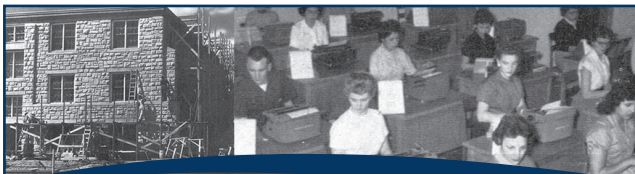
If you'd like to support the students of tomorrow with a legacy gift, a traditional IRA or 401k is an excellent option.

Please contact Toni DeAngelis at [toni.deangelis@trinidadstate.edu](mailto:toni.deangelis@trinidadstate.edu) or 719-846-5520 with any questions at all. And please know there will never be any expectation or obligation whatsoever.

Thank you for considering this idea. We are Trojans forever.



We've included this handy envelope to jump-start your support of Trinidad State. All gifts are welcome!



The *Society of 1925* honors those who remember Trinidad State College 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 Insurance

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.

## SOCIETY OF 1925

For more information, please visit [www.trinidadstate.edu/1925](http://www.trinidadstate.edu/1925) or contact Toni DeAngelis at 719-846-5520 or [toni.deangelis@trinidadstate.edu](mailto:toni.deangelis@trinidadstate.edu)



# Get to Know Trinidad State College Foundation Leadership



*“What I love most is that place inside someone, where they care so much and just want to see Trinidad State thrive. To me, that’s what is sacred in all these conversations...it’s the core of why I love this work.”*

Trinidad State enjoys an amazing history in southern Colorado. Founded in 1925 by visionary thinkers who knew that education held the key, they recognized the impact a local college would create for future generations. This significance is not lost on Toni DeAngelis, Executive Director for the Trinidad State College Foundation.

“Trinidad State enrolled 37 students in 1925,” Toni said. “When I think of all the students since then—all the families we’ve touched through the generations—it’s humbling. This legacy matters. And when I connect with people who care about Trinidad State, it informs each and every conversation.”

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Toni graduated from Trinidad High School in 1987. She would then receive both academic and athletic scholarships at Trinidad State, playing on the first intercollegiate volleyball team at TSJC. Toni earned her Associate of Arts degree in 1989. From there, she would earn her Bachelor of Science in Finance at Adams State in 1991 and later a Master of Science in Management from Colorado State University-Global Campus.

In 1998, Toni’s life took an unexpected turn. “I was playing volleyball and felt something. At first, I thought I’d pulled a muscle,” she said. “But even with rest, it wouldn’t heal.”

Eventually, her doctors discovered a benign tumor on the head of the femur, inside the hip socket. Toni was facing some hard choices and a long recovery. “They gave me several options, including a complete hip replacement,” she explained. “I ended up choosing a procedure that utilized a partial cadaver bone, wrapped in a bonelike substance. It meant four surgeries, two bone grafts and 13 months on crutches.”



“It was hard, especially with two small children at the time,” she added, “but it postponed a full hip replacement.”

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In 2002, Toni returned to Trinidad State in a part-time position in Alumni Relations that allowed her to devote time to her young family. She helped plan alumni events—anniversary celebrations, department gatherings, hosting alumni at sporting events, even two alumni cruises. “Our very first event was an alumni gathering at Coors Field for a Rockies game,” she said. “It was so much fun meeting our alumni and their families. We made connections and built friendships.”

“These gatherings also helped me realize how much I love doing this work,” she added, “just connecting with people who care deeply about Trinidad State.”

In 2004, Toni would return to a full-time professional role when she was named Director of Development & Alumni Relations/Foundation Executive Director.

As Executive Director for the TSC Foundation, Toni leads the fundraising effort on behalf of the College. It’s a role she embraces, but perhaps with a slightly bigger perspective. “Fundraising is vital to the College,” she said, “but it’s not just about raising dollars. It’s also about people and their hopes for Trinidad State.”

“My hope is to connect with people who love the College as much as I do—to learn their stories, and to uncover our common experiences. To share our belief in the College, as it gives each and every student a chance to build a great future.”

“And there are so many wonderful people out there,” she said, “so many great stories. In these conversations, I often find myself wishing I could go back in time to see someone in their youth at Trinidad State. What connects us is our shared experiences—our shared love for Trinidad State.”

“I also know that fundraising can get a bad reputation, like we’re just trying to squeeze people for money,” Toni added. “And I get it—I know it’s out there. But that’s not me. I just enjoy connecting with people, helping others create an impact that truly matters to them. When people know they made a difference—knowing inside, ‘I did that!’ It’s those moments that truly matter.”

For those curious about ways to support Trinidad State, there are many options. From a single donation to the monthly Partner’s Program—from a special gift for a scholarship, or a creating legacy gift as part of the Society of 1925—there are lots of ways to offer support.

“There’s another thing,” Toni added, chuckling. “Those who know me also know I’m a little on the introverted side. But I’m also incredibly motivated to help others. And I’m always grateful for the trust people place in me, as they explore how they might be able to give back.”

“Family is my first priority,” she added, “my husband, Joe, and our three sons, Chris, Matthew and Nick. But professionally, this work has become my life’s vocation.”

It’s hard to know if those early graduates could ever have imagined today’s Trinidad State College. But it’s easy to recognize how very proud they would be.



Foundation Board Chair, Dick Compton was born and raised in Trinidad. He graduated from Trinidad State in 1967 and went on to Western State to earn his bachelor’s degree. After two years in the US Army, Dick returned to Trinidad in 1971. Dick started at Trinidad State in 1972, first as Student Activities Director and would then spend the rest of his years at TSC as the Financial Aid Director. In retirement, Dick has served on the TSC Booster Club and the College Advisory Committee. He joined the Foundation in 2016. This year, Dick assumed the role of Board Chair. “With only a couple brief periods, I’ve enjoyed a 55-year relationship with this institution, it’s a privilege to continue serving Trinidad State. I’m excited for what lies ahead.”

## In Gratitude – Tony Rodriguez



When Tony graduated from high school, he wasn't sure college would be an option. Tony was an athlete, and a good one. And as graduation neared, he received full scholarship offers to play football and basketball at Blinn Jr. College and New Mexico Highlands.

Tony also received one more, from Trinidad State.

When Tony arrived in his dorm room, he was surprised by a call from Guy Davis, President at TSJC. He asked if he could see Tony in his office. "I wasn't sure why he called," Tony said, "but he just wanted to welcome me to Trinidad State. He told me, 'I expect good things from you in sports.' And I just said, 'yes, sir.' There were no lectures—instead, it was a very cordial, welcoming moment. He wanted me to feel at home at Trinidad State."

"I was totally surprised the College President reached out to me," Tony said. "And I'm even more impressed now than I was back then."

Tony's basketball coach also helped him line up a job through the Work-Study program. "I had no money when I got to Trinidad State," he said. "For them to give me two years of full scholarship, plus room and board—and the chance to earn money, too? It was amazing. It's another part of why I decided to give back."

Attending college at Trinidad State also introduced Tony to people from across the country. "I grew up in Harlingen, TX," he explained. "Suddenly, I'm at college meeting people from Compton, CA, Lawrence, MA, Muncie, IN, Chicago, and New York—it opened my eyes to life outside of Texas.



**CONTACT US TODAY**  
about ways to make a future gift to help  
strengthen our Trinidad State community

Toni DeAngelis (719) 846-5520  
SOCIETY OF [tscalumnifoundation@trinidadstate.edu](mailto:tscalumnifoundation@trinidadstate.edu)  
1925 [trinidadstate.edu/foundation](http://trinidadstate.edu/foundation)



promotion to Regional Director of Tax in Dallas.

Eventually, in 1984, Tony was invited to join an oil and gas company in Harlingen as their Controller, bringing him over to the operations side. Continuing his education, Tony would also earn his MBA from the University of Texas at Brownsville. And in 1996, Tony decided he would leave to focus more in real estate, and acquired multiple properties along the way.

"Except for a few bumps along the way, I've had just about a perfect life," Tony said. "I thank God for it, and I'm enjoying it. And even though my knee went out, and the surgeries couldn't keep me on the basketball court—Trinidad State was my springboard, the foundation for everything. My time at Trinidad State has paid dividends throughout my life."

When looking at different ways to help, Tony decided he would also include a future gift for Trinidad State in his estate plan. The *Society of 1925* honors those who create a legacy gift.

The idea to create a scholarship with his legacy gift appealed to Tony. "I want to help people who can't really afford college. If I can help them, they're likely to appreciate it the same way I appreciated my scholarship."

When asked why others might want to consider giving back to Trinidad State, Tony replied, "if you're in a position financially to do so, you should! The older I get, the more success I've had—I say you need to help other people."

"The day Guy Davis called me into to his office, it wasn't to lecture me—it was to welcome me. He knew what Trinidad State was offering. I appreciate that moment even more, now. It was a gift. And when I see the letters or updates from TSJC President, Rhonda Epper, I still feel the same connection."

"Trinidad State made me feel right at home—it fit like a glove," Tony said. "I've had a lot of success in life, but people have helped me along the way. The decision to give back is really just a matter of saying, 'I want to help.' It's a chance to help the people who helped you, and to help others just starting out."

The Foundation is grateful to Tony Rodriguez, and to all members of the *Society of 1925*.

*"Trinidad State was my  
springboard, the foundation  
for everything. My time  
at Trinidad State has paid  
dividends throughout my life."*

## From Sopris to Trinidad State



Gloria Maupin (nee Skufca) graduated from Lincoln High School in Sopris, CO in 1948. She was given a four-year scholarship to the University of Colorado, but decided it was cheaper to go to TSJC and live at home for two years. She never regretted the decision. She made lifetime friends and had very good professors at TSJC, and all her credits transferred to CU. While at TSJC Gloria belonged to most of the clubs and was President of Phi Theta Kappa and the Newman Club.

During the summers of her last two years of high school and four years of college, Gloria worked as a Law Secretary for Mr. Franklin W. Azar, who hired her back every summer. He said she was the only one who could spell and use shorthand, and he knew she needed the money.

She decided to become a psychiatrist after reading a paper in high school that discussed professions. On the first day of college she was told that she had very high SAT scores, and was asked, “what did she want to do?” It was a surprise to her when the professor said, “great, we will enroll you in Pre-med.” The article did not discuss getting an MD to become a psychiatrist. Because it was very difficult for a female to get into med school at that time (only 5%), she got a BA in Psychology as well as pursuing the Pre-med curriculum. If she did not get accepted into medical school, she could still make a living.

Gloria did her internship at the Medical Branch Hospitals in Galveston, Texas. While there she heard the United Mine Worker Union was sending the first specialists to the Trinidad area, and they wanted her to practice with them. They were all men except for one pediatrician. Much to the surprise of the head surgeon for the Colorado and Southern Railroad in Denver—who thought

none of the men would go to see her—the fellows said either she goes or they would leave. So Gloria went to work for the Colorado and Southern Railroad, the Santa Fe Railroad, and United Mine workers. Gloria was happy to say, she had no problems. The men all came to see her.

While practicing in Trinidad she also became the Aviation Medical Examiner for Southern Colorado. She also became the flight surgeon for the commuter airline where her husband was President and Operator for eight years. Unfortunately, the FAA at that time would not approve the airplane they needed to carry freight and passengers over the Colorado mountains, leading to the airline’s closure.

While practicing, Gloria spent a good deal of time electing a new City Council, getting Hill Burton Funds for a new hospital, and fighting the Colorado Medical Society to secure more doctors. Gloria was happy to say she won all the political battles, even one with a State Senator who once practiced medicine in Trinidad.

As a doctor Gloria did a tremendous amount of charity work, since the patients were taken into the office ‘ad lib’ and never paid a bill in advance. They would get billed later, but many did not pay. As such, Gloria delivered a lot of babies free of charge.

Gloria made a lot of good friends at TSJC and knows she received a very good education there. She highly recommends the College to anyone who wants a good college education. Gloria has included TSJC in her estate plan to provide scholarships for future students.

Trinidad State is honored by Gloria’s decision to include a legacy gift in her estate plans. Her scholarship will help support future generations of students as they pursue their educational dreams.

## Humble Leadership

Born and raised in Trinidad, Laura DeBella was the sixth of seven children born to John and Grace DeBella. Even while attending Trinidad Catholic High School, she knew she wanted to attend TSJC.

“I knew it would be a great option for me,” Laura said. “Trinidad Catholic provided an excellent foundation, and the professors at TSJC prepared me to take the next step. I especially appreciated Charlotte Kilpatrick in the Music department, and Father Victor Dossogne in Philosophy and Sociology.”

After leaving TSJC to complete her four-year degree at University of Northern Colorado, Laura entered the insurance industry—where she built an increasingly successful career, primarily with State Farm. After several years away, an opportunity arose in 1994 to return to Trinidad.

“Trinidad holds a special place in my heart,” she said, “and when the opportunity to return to my hometown came up, I embraced it for many reasons. Professionally, it allowed me to serve both long-time residents and new community members.”

Laura’s agency flourished in Trinidad. She would also place great emphasis on civic engagement, immersing herself in a wide range of community volunteer activities.

“Each of us has an opportunity,” Laura explained, “we can choose whether or not we want to impact our community. I chose to get involved to help the local business environment, and do what I could to improve opportunities for our most important assets—our children and their dreams.”

In many ways, Laura has always exemplified a quiet perseverance—working tirelessly to help create a greater good. Thankfully, this also included the TSJC Educational Foundation, where she served on the Board of Directors for a total

of 13 years. Never one to seek the spotlight, Laura was viewed by her peers as a trusted, dedicated leader.

In 1993, the DeBella family established the R. Greg DeBella Scholarship in memory of Laura’s brother. In addition to being a local artist and sculptor, Greg was a wildlife biologist. Laura continues to support this scholarship through annual contributions. She also became a member of the **Society of 1925**, which honors those who include a legacy gift for Trinidad State in their estate plans.



“I wanted to do something to help students,” she explained. “I also knew that I didn’t have a great amount of money, but I realized I could purchase a life insurance policy and make the TSJC Educational Foundation the owner and beneficiary. It was one way I could create a legacy gift.”

After a long and successful career, Laura decided to retire in 2020. “I love my profession but realized—even though I’d originally planned to celebrate 30 years in business in Trinidad—2020 was right time to retire. It was time to focus on the next chapter of my life.”

“My husband and I have three sons and six grandchildren,” Laura added. “I’ll stay involved in the community, but will also be pursuing my favorite hobbies, fitting in more travel, and spending time with our grandchildren—all fun, fun, fun!”

Trinidad State remains grateful to Laura DeBella for all she’s done for the College—sharing both her leadership and her generous philanthropic support.

## A Family Legacy – David and Marlene Pratto



Bertha Bon Pratto was born into the mining community of Starkville, Colorado in 1908. She would grow up and live a large portion of her life in the coal camps and farming communities of Starkville, Delagua, Trujillo Creek, Gulnare, and Aguilar.

Medical care in those days was unlike today. Bertha's younger sister, Margaret, developed bronchial pneumonia – becoming delirious and fitful, and experience high fever with no perspiration. "Bertha's parents couldn't read English," Marlene explained. So, Bertha looked up the symptoms in a book called *Vitalogy* and instructed her mother on how to care for her sister. The treatment helped her sister finally break her fever and she then slept for three days, recovering from her pneumonia.

Her role in helping her sister overcome pneumonia may have played a role in Bertha's future, too. Healthcare would eventually become her chosen vocation.

Bertha would attend Trinidad High School from 1924-1928, working as a live-in caregiver for a local family. She then began her life with her husband, Pete, before returning years later to attend Trinidad State Junior College. Healthcare was her true calling, and she would graduate from the LPN training program in 1958. During their careers, both Bertha and Pete would work for St. Joseph's Hospital.



Bertha's commitment to her education would prove an inspiration for her family. In 1988, her son, David, and daughter-in-law, Marlene, decided to honor her by establishing the *Bertha Bon Pratto Scholarship Fund*.

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David Pratto was proud of his Italian-American and Hungarian-American roots in ranching and coal-mining. After graduating from Holy Trinity High School in Trinidad, David would serve as a radio specialist in the U.S. Navy from 1956-59, before attending the University of Colorado—where he earned a B.A. (1963) and Ph.D. (1972) in Sociology.

Marlene Massaro Pratto was born and raised in Pueblo, CO. She would graduate from Central High School before attending the University of Colorado, where she majored in mathematics and worked for the National Bureau of Standards before and after graduation until 1969.

"David was a sociologist," Marlene said, "and he did not know he wanted to major in sociology until he'd been at CU for a year or so," Marlene added. "He surprised me when he graduated, and said, 'I am going to graduate school.' That was 1963. I had a good job, and he could watch kids some of the time, so it worked."



Eventually, life would take David and Marlene from Colorado to Greensboro, North Carolina. Marlene initially taught programming to engineering faculty at North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University. After they adopted their fourth child, Marlene stayed home and went to PTA. A few years later she returned to work, this time at UNC-Greensboro in academic computing. She retired as the Director of Instructional and Research Computing. Marlene would earn her Master's Degree in Education from UNCG in 1985.



David enjoyed a 31-year career at UNC-Greensboro. He would become Professor Emeritus of Sociology, twice chairing UNCG's Sociology Department as well as its Faculty Senate.

Sadly, he would pass away in 2002 after a three-year struggle with brain cancer.

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In deciding to honor Berta Bon Pratto, David and Marlene initially funded their scholarship with a gift of appreciated stock. Their scholarship would provide a partial scholarship to a deserving student. Two more gifts of stock were made in 1998 and 2019—the second more than 30 years after the scholarship was first established!

Marlene decided to expand the scholarship criteria after making the third gift. The *Bertha Bon Pratto Scholarship Fund* will now support students who attend the Trinidad Campus with first preference to graduates of Aguilar High School and second preference to students from the old mining towns in Las Animas County. Additional preference may be given to graduates from Trinidad High School—and ultimately to any student from Aguilar to Colorado's southern border.

The Trinidad State College Foundation will administer the scholarship according to these wishes.

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On May 6, 2021, Marlene Massaro Pratto served as the keynote speaker for the University of Colorado Department of Mathematics spring Graduation Ceremony. In reflecting upon her career, Marlene noted how the Russian Sputnik impacted her professional life. She also placed great emphasis on working with children to encourage new generations of students who love math

Marlene remains active in volunteer roles to this day, including an annual food drive for local food banks. She and her neighbors all create large lighted tree ornaments that hang in oak trees across their neighborhood during the holiday food drive.

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Trinidad State remains grateful to David and Marlene Pratto for establishing the *Bertha Bon Pratto Scholarship Fund*.

For more information about scholarships, supporting programs or other areas of need at TSC, please contact Toni DeAngelis at (719) 846-5520 or [toni.deangelis@trinidadstate.edu](mailto:toni.deangelis@trinidadstate.edu).



## Giving Back



James Lockett and Dennis Stone first met while attending Trinidad State in the early 1970s, forming a friendship that would last for decades. During a class reunion two years ago, as they joined old friends and classmates to reflect on the impact Trinidad State has made on their lives—an idea emerged.

Shortly thereafter, Dennis and James would each make a generous endowment gift to create the **Lucky Stone Scholarship**. Motivated by the pandemic and its impact

on the country and the world, this new scholarship will support nursing curriculum for students who attend class on the Trinidad campus.

“It’s something we felt was important—the on-campus experience,” Dennis said. “Trinidad State created a turning point in our lives. It gave us an educational base to move forward—to navigate this path called ‘life’ and succeed.”

“We shared many conversations in the days that followed,” James added. “We wanted to find a way to give back, to help others find the same success that we’ve enjoyed.”

James and Dennis also donated an additional \$3,000 to fund three scholarship awards for the 2021-2022 academic year. This creates an immediate impact, while simultaneously allowing the Foundation to invest the scholarship for a full year to support future awards.

“When I think about the whole legacy thing,” Dennis said, “it just makes me feel good. I remember coming in as a freshman and I had nothing, and now I’m able to come back and give back.”

“We always talk about, ‘oh, you should give back, you should give back,’” he added, “but this is probably one of my more major give-backs, because it’s going to impact people for a long time. The legacy will be there and it will keep giving. That makes me feel really, really good!”

James approached his gift from his perspective as a teacher. “My passion has been communicating directly with students to have dialogue and give them hands-on tools,” he explained. “My expectations for what I tried to accomplish in the classroom were to get students to be humanitarians. I like the concept of paying it forward, and for students to have that on their mind as well.”

Trinidad State is grateful to James and Dennis for their generosity. The **Lucky Stone Scholarship** will directly impact the lives of future nursing students at Trinidad State.

## A Lifetime's Appreciation – Chuck Stevens

When Chuck Stevens first considered college, he decided it wasn’t right for him. “To be honest,” he said, “I didn’t feel I had what it took to be a successful student. I didn’t think I could do it.”

With the Vietnam War at its height, Chuck would turn his attention instead to serving his country. As with many Vietnam-era soldiers, it would prove to be a difficult experience—and Chuck would later struggle with the social climate after he returned. But once he was back home, he soon found himself reconsidering the idea of college.

“Financially, I realized the G.I. Bill could make attending college possible,” he explained. “I still wasn’t sure I had the necessary intelligence or social abilities to succeed in school, but I was willing to try. And Trinidad State gave me a chance.”

Trinidad, Colorado would become the perfect place for Chuck. “It was so welcoming—there was so much love in the community,” he said. “It was the perfect place for me to thrive.”

He quickly discovered he’d been wrong about his abilities as a student. Important friendships blossomed, too.

“The Hispanic community in particular accepted me, and I became very close with the Santistevan family,” he explained. “Gerri Garcia-Swift was another wonderful friend, and I was saddened to learn of her recent passing. Trinidad offered an ethnic ‘love your neighbor’ ethos. It had a huge impact on me.”

“I also remember skipping class in 1971 to wheelbarrow cement for a few days,” Chuck said, sharing another memory. “We were pouring cement for the new science building. That extra dinero purchased the best green chili in the world, from the old Santa Fe Cafe located on the east side of town.”

Chuck would attend Trinidad State from 1970-72, earning his degree in Liberal Arts. He would later graduate from Western State in 1974, where

he would double major in Economics and Political Science, and earn a minor in Business.

“My start at TSJC and my time at Gunnison revealed how wrong I’d been about myself,” Chuck explained. “I didn’t think I could succeed as a student. I was wrong.”

“A junior college experience is especially meaningful to people like me,” he added. “I felt like I was flawed in high school, but Trinidad State gave me a second chance. It helped me become an informed, humane citizen.”

When it came time to think about philanthropy, Chuck shared something important. “I wasn’t always what you’d call a ‘consistent’ donor. But at this point in my life I’ve realized it’s important for me to give back, to show my gratitude. It was just time.”

He recently established the **Chuck Stevens Corazon De Trinidad Scholarship Fund**.

“When I left Trinidad, a piece of my heart remained,” he said. “And it’s always been there, so I decided this scholarship would support local kids who attend TSJC on the Trinidad Campus.”

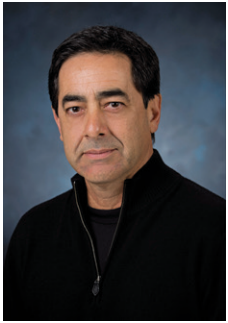
Chuck’s scholarship will also offer secondary consideration for students from the greater Las Animas or Huerfano counties, again attending on the Trinidad campus.

Chuck is also creating a legacy gift for Trinidad State. He will soon become a member of the Society of 1925, which is how we honor and recognize those who create a gift in their estate plans.

“Trinidad State educated me,” he said, “and that education made me a better person. In my 76<sup>th</sup> year, I decided to show my appreciation for what Trinidad—not only the school, but the community—provided to me. Confidence.”

Trinidad State is most grateful for the generosity of Chuck Stevens.

## A Foundation for a Lifetime – Larry Carrillo



Although Larry Carrillo grew up in Albuquerque, NM, his connection to Trinidad State started much earlier than his freshman year.

“My father went to Trinidad State to teach and coach baseball when I was young,” Larry said. “After my parents divorced, I would visit frequently, especially in the summers. I absolutely loved the College, the outdoors, fishing, skiing—there was so much to offer.”

During high school, the idea of attending Trinidad State began taking shape. “I already had friends from all my trips,” he said. “During those visits I realized I could attend TSJC for a very low cost. At the time, it was really just the cost of books—and I planned to live with my father.”

Larry would graduate in 1978 with his AAS degree in Engineering Technology. After summer intern positions, he landed a permanent position as a surveyor with the Highways Department. He would begin to think about his next step. At his mother’s suggestion, he applied for a position at Sandia National Laboratories, where she would work as a secretary and staff member from 1965 to 1995. Soon, Larry was offered a job.

“I was hired along with another student from Trinidad State, Dave Trujillo,” he added. “Dave was hired as a draftsman, me as a technologist. I mention this because Dave’s just retired from Sandia after a long and distinguished career. We both found Sandia to be a great company to work for—agreeing that our education at TSJC supplied us with the tools we used to thrive.”

After a year in his first position, Larry shifted jobs, lining up a new opportunity to manage projects for a field test organization within Sandia. “Soon, I was traveling to testing sites all over the country,” Larry said. “Here I was, just a couple years out of college, flying on the company jet to visit project sites all over the US—before flying back to Albuquerque for the weekend.”



A few years later, Larry would meet his wife, Dale, while working at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) where the US Department of Energy conducted underground nuclear weapons testing. “Dale was attending UNLV and I was traveling from Albuquerque each week,” he said. “Sandia offered to move me to Las Vegas. Eventually we got married, bought a brand-new house and started our life together.”

From there, Larry and Dale moved to Livermore, CA in 1993, where he’d accepted a new position with Sandia in the Explosive and Environmental Testing organization.

“I worked really hard to learn many different technologies,” Larry explained. “Sandia offered so many opportunities—if you put in the work, you could end up leading a project and a team of very talented people.”

Eventually, Larry advanced into the full-fledged engineering ranks in charge of Sandia’s Explosive Testing Facility and became the Technical Customer Interface for the Environmental Testing Lab—a 50/50 role. From there Larry accepted key roles with increasingly greater technical responsibilities.

“In 2012, I was promoted to Manager of Engineering Services, overseeing ten buildings, laboratories and 45 employees,” Larry said. “It’s possible that I could be the last person at Sandia to reach this management level without a bachelor’s or master’s level engineering degree.”



Larry is planning to retire at the end of the year, after 42 fulfilled and challenging years with Sandia. With retirement comes reflection, and Larry is looking forward to sharing happy moments with friends and loved ones. He’s also thinking

a lot about his time at Trinidad State. “My education at Trinidad State afforded me this opportunity—it enabled me to perform at a high level.”

In appreciation, Larry has decided to support Trinidad State philanthropically. “I’m where I am today because of Trinidad State,” he said. Larry has an idea for his first gift to TSJC. “When I retire and I receive my first 401k distribution,” he said, “I’ve decided to celebrate that moment by giving back.”

Larry also intends to support TSJC with a legacy gift from his estate. “It’s another way I can help,” he said. “Dale and I will support other causes too—but Trinidad State is special.”

Larry’s commitment to Trinidad State, both now and through his legacy gift, will help create opportunities for future generations of students.

The Foundation is grateful to Larry for his confidence in Trinidad State’s ability to prepare students to enter challenging, rewarding careers. He hopes that his philanthropy will make a difference in the lives of others.

*My education at Trinidad State afforded me this opportunity—it enabled me to perform at a high level.*

# Devoted public servant, an outstanding citizen, an admired physician and a true pioneer



A long-standing tradition during the graduation ceremony at Trinidad State has been to recognize distinguished alumni who left Trinidad State to achieve great things in their professional lives. One of those recognized this year was **Dr. Charles J. Blackwood, Jr., Class of 1941.**

In February, the University of Colorado School of Medicine on the Anschutz Medical Campus announced the establishment of the Charles J. Blackwood, MD, Endowed Memorial Scholarship to support Black and other underrepresented medical students. The endowment, named after the school's first Black graduate, will initially provide funding for full scholarships for at least four students and the school intends for the endowment to continue to grow so that it can support additional scholars in perpetuity.

The initiative to create a scholarship fund dedicated to Black medical students was organized and led by the Mile High Medical Society, a Denver-based group of Black health professionals working to eliminate health disparities through advocacy, education, mentoring, and health policy.

Dr. Blackwood was born on September 25, 1921 in Trinidad. According to the 1940 census, his dad, Charles, was an electrician for Burlington Northern and his mother, Ethel, was a homemaker. He had an older sister, Virginia and a younger sister, Beverly.



After graduating from Trinidad High School, Dr. Blackwood would attend TSJC. A December 1940 *Trojan Tribune*, article had this to say:

*Charles Blackwood is the gentleman about campus who never fails to tip his hat to a lady when he meets one on the street nor does he fail to head the honor roll... Charles was one of the recent pledges to Phi Theta Kappa. He is also a member of the student council. He hopes to go to Colorado University next year to take up surgery.*

GRADUATING CLASS OF 1941

The Ninth Annual Commencement

THE TRINIDAD STATE JUNIOR COLLEGE

1941

HONOR ROLL

Lloyd Norman	Billy Brown
Charles Blackwood	Margaret Gagliardi
Esther Palmer	Frank Stone
Walter Melrose	Alfred Chaffee
Tracy Ross	

In 1941, Dr. Blackwood graduated with honors receiving his Associate of Arts degree. He received a scholarship to attend University of Colorado at Boulder and graduated with a

bachelor's degree in chemistry. He entered medical school in 1943 and was also a private in the United States Army. Dr. Blackwood graduated at the top of his class from CU School of Medicine in 1947.

In 1950 Dr. Blackwood returned to Denver, serving two years as a resident at the University of Colorado's Colorado General Hospital. He would open a private practice in June 1950. During this time, he was the only African American to serve as Police Surgeon for the Denver Police Force.

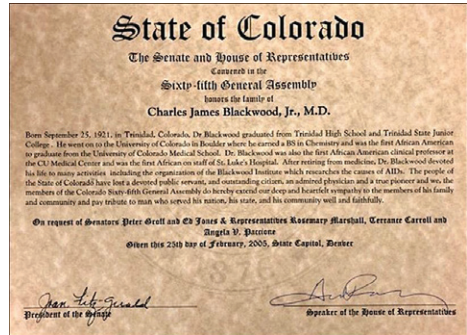
Dr. Blackwood joined the U.S. Air Force Medical Corps in 1952 and served for three years. During his service in the Air Force, Captain Blackwood established the radiology department at Hamilton Air Force Base in Novato, California. He was honorably discharged as a Captain and returned to Denver to continue his private internal medicine practice.

According to the *Trojan Tribune* in May 1953, Guy Davis shared the following:

*Charles Blackwood, who graduated from Trinidad Junior College in 1941, has received the George W. Scott Honor Alumnus Award. This certificate is awarded to the alumnus who has made an outstanding record for himself. The award is chosen by an alumnus committee.... Mr. Blackwood was an honor student at both TJC and the University of Colorado Medical School...His sister, Virginia, graduated from the Troy School in 1939.*

A 2020 article in *CU Anschutz Today* stated that Dr. Blackwood was appointed to the medical staffs of St. Luke's Hospital and General Rose. He was the first African American physician on staff at St. Luke's and the first African American clinical professor of medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

After retiring from his clinical practice, he would organize the Blackwood Institute that focused on the AIDS project and began writing a book on Holistic Medicine. Dr. Blackwood would pass away in 1993. He would be buried where he was born, in Trinidad.



In 2005, the Colorado Senate and the House or Representatives honored Dr. Charles J. Blackwood for being a "devoted public servant, an outstanding citizen, an admired physician and a true pioneer."

Source credit: Tom Sherlock [https://library-cuanschutz.libguides.com/ld.php?content\\_id=63489898](https://library-cuanschutz.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=63489898)

# CLASS NOTES



1962-1963 Cheerleaders

We're proud of our Trinidad State alumni. We want to celebrate your accomplishments and cheer you on – and so do your fellow classmates! Tell us about your memories and experiences at TSC. Share your personal or professional accomplishments -- a new job, another degree, a recent wedding or a new baby, or another milestone in your life. Stay connected to your TSC family. Submit a class note at [trinidadstate.edu/alumni](http://trinidadstate.edu/alumni)



**Tom Erb, '56** worked for a short time in the gunsmithing industry before returning back to school, receiving his bachelor's degree from Rutgers University. He retired from the healthcare industry as an administrator. Tom's favorite part of his work was negotiating contracts.

**Reed Jenkins, '56** stopped by campus with his son and shared stories about the 1954 Trojan football team. He was All-Conference Honorable Mention that year and All-Conference and Co-Captain in 1956. Reed served in the Korean War. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree from Western State and later his doctorate in Dentistry at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Reed's practice was in Aurora, CO.

**Denis Walters, '56** shared that after three years in the Navy during the Korean War, he came to Trinidad State. "That was the two best years of my life – first, I met Vera there & we were married in 1955, second, with two very talented instructors like Bill Prator & Louis Mrace, I found the life I really wanted." Thank you Denis!

**Mike Maio, '59** went to University of Northern Colorado then started his teaching career at Rice School in Trinidad and later taught at Holy Family in Denver, before moving to California where he taught at Belmont for 13 years. Mike then taught at El Camino for 25 years until his retirement. He coached baseball and football all but three years of his career. After retiring from El Camino, he coached part-time at Oaks Christian for 13 years. "Teaching wasn't a job, I just enjoyed it so much!"

**Dolores (Montoya) Parker, '60** worked for the Foreign Service (State Department) for 20 years. Her husband, Bill, also worked there. Their jobs took them to Europe, Russia, and Central America to name a few, only returning to the US twice during their tours. When Bill took a job in Albuquerque, NM, Dolores worked for the Department of Energy and the Department of Health, and then worked for Sandia Labs for 18 months. They retired in Ocala, FL, living there 18 years. After Bill's passing, Dolores moved to Raleigh, NC to be close to her grandchildren. She has two daughters, Karen & Judy.

**Thomas Schenker, '64** shared an open letter to the students of TSJC: "I attended TSJC for one year in 1964. But in that one year, I learned two very valuable lessons. A strong work ethic and self-discipline. These two lessons gave me the opportunity to spend eight years working for newspapers and thirty years in shopping center management. . . Education will provide you with the opportunity for success. TSJC is a great start."

**Ronald Cleaver, '65** started in the law enforcement program and was a member of the police cadet corps for his first 2 quarters before switching to Liberal Arts. He also served in student government. After TSJC, Ron graduated from CU-Boulder in Journalism. His career was primarily in law enforcement. First, as a Military Police Officer and a Company Commander in Vietnam, then with the Denver District

Attorney and finally as a career FBI Special Agent carrying out assignments across the US and around the world. Ron truly enjoyed his FBI career and hoped he was able to do some good.

**Anthony Giordano, '66** and his wife were in town from NJ visiting campus. Tony shared stories of his experiences playing football for Trinidad State. Tony met with friends Letha & Frank Steed,'67, Adolph "Juge" Monarco,'67, and Pam & Jim Keaton during his visit.

**Walter Krawiec, '66** expressed that he feels he owes Trinidad quite a lot, saying, "my success in my life has been because of Trinidad. For that, I will always be eternally grateful." He and classmate, **Martin Bania, '67**, connect regularly and plan to make a visit to campus in the near future.

**David Ravanelli, '67** went on to study at California Institute of the Arts, the University of Colorado, then to NM Highlands, and finally to Adams State where he graduated with a BA & MA. David earned another MA in Guidance Counseling from Western State. He worked in Pueblo School #70. He credits William (Bill) Johnson as the best instructor he ever had, learning skills that allowed him to design and build adobe homes in Pueblo and Santa Fe, NM.

**Marshall "Houston" Wallace, '67** went on to receive his bachelor's in industrial arts. For the last 20 years, he worked doing inside sales for a supply company. Houston would also serve in Vietnam where he was almost killed 8 times. In fact, he noted that Chapter 3 of the book, "Black Horse Riders", recounts the story about his unit. He and his wife, MaryKay, celebrated 48 years of marriage in April. Houston has recently reconnected with several of his classmates, enjoying catching up and remembering their time at TSJC.

If you'd like help to find a classmate, please contact us at [tscalumnifoundation@trinidadstate.edu](mailto:tscalumnifoundation@trinidadstate.edu). \*The College's policy is that the request is forwarded to the individual. Then if they would like, they can contact the requesting party.\*

**Don Macrino, '69** noted his experience at Trinidad State was brief given factors in his life at the time that prompted his return to New England. Still, he has fond memories and made many friends. Don would continue his education in Connecticut and became a high school English teacher. He later became principal at Waterford High School. Don retired from public school a few years ago and is now serving as Headmaster of St. Bernard School. While only at TSJC a short time, he credits the teaching staff for enabling him to find his confidence, commenting – "forever thankful to Trinidad State Junior College."

**Tracey Monroe Whitaker, '70** played third base for Coach Carrillo and batted .327 with 12 RBIs his sophomore year. His teams won the Empire Conference both years. He went on to Western Kentucky University before moving on to Dallas Baptist, to play and finish college. He would receive

his bachelor's in business administration & economics and a master's in conflict resolution, both from Dallas Baptist. Tracey worked for Xerox for 20 years advancing to VP/GM and would then take a position with Fed Ex as a sales director for the state of TX. Now with Home Depot for 9 years, Tracey sets up major contracts and agreements for a 5-state area. In addition, he's been an adjunct professor for Dallas Baptist for over 20 years. "Trinidad helped me out a lot! Without that opportunity, I don't think I would be where I am today."

**Thomas Bell, '72** graduated from the gunsmithing program. He recently reconnected with several of his 1972 classmates, and he looks forward to seeing more of his classmates at the upcoming class reunion in July, 2022. (See the ad on page 23)

**Viki Montera-Heckman, '72** began her teaching career after receiving her bachelor's in Elementary Education, Communication, and Journalism from the University of Northern Colorado (UNC). Viki completed her MA in Communication at UNC with an emphasis on organizational development, interpersonal communication, and conflict management. During her doctoral work at the University of Arizona, she was a leader in the Educational and Community Change Project, a multiyear, school reform project in five economically poor neighborhoods and schools in Tucson, AZ. Currently, Viki is an Associate Professor in the School of Education at Sonoma State.

**Michael Jewell, '73** moved to Denver where he finished his degree in Education while working at King Soopers. In 1986, he moved to Houston, TX and began a career in outside sales, retiring in 2012 at the age of 66. Michael retired in Austin, but found after 18 months of retirement, he needed a little more structure in his life. So, he began working at AOMA Integrative College of Graduate Medicine, an Acupuncture and Chinese Herbal Medicine. In his spare time, he likes to bicycle, bird and travel. He has traveled to photograph and see many birds in places like Panama, Brazil, England, Sri Lanka and of course in the States.

**James Luckett, '73** transferred to Central State University in Ohio. He noted a personal goal of graduating from a Historical Black University. In 1975, he would join in the U.S. Navy before returning to CSU to earn his Bachelor's in Education in 1979. He would later earn a Master's Degree from the University of Texas at Tyler. He worked for the Fort Worth Independent School District from 1981-2017. James has devoted his life to education and the Ministry. He leads Bible studies for children, and works with juveniles in a correctional facility. He also ministers to men and women in a rehabilitation treatment center.

**Dennis Stone, '73** majored in Psychology and was a guard for the Trojans basketball team. After graduating, he went on to attend the University of New Orleans, where he played as a guard for the Privateers basketball team. Dennis would then serve in the U.S. Navy, where he also played basketball. After the Navy, he worked as a Computer Engineer for Digital

Equipment Corporation, first in Houston, TX, and later in Portland, OR, and South Korea. Since 1996, Dennis has been President and CEO of Techsource Enterprises Inc., a commercial flooring and real estate investment corporation.

**Janet "Berg" Swift, '75** Her family's history and connections to two iconic buildings on campus are forever a part of our story. The oldest building on campus, the "Albert V. Berg Administration Building" was named for her grandfather, who served as a member of the College council for many years. His wife, Hazel Elizabeth Mullen, was also represented at TSJC by her nephew, **James E. Mullen, '40**. Jim was an all-conference football captain, member of Phi Theta Kappa, student body president, and Typical Trojan. During World War II, Jim was a pilot in the Philippines until the surrender of Bataan. Lieutenant Mullen was taken prisoner by the Japanese and subsequently died at Moji, Japan, January 30, 1945. Lt. Mullen made the supreme sacrifice for his country. The "James E. Mullen Mechanical Arts Building" was named in his honor and memory and for all veterans of World War II. Jim's sister, **Betty Mullen, '42**, met her husband Dick Whitney, while visiting the military hospitals in Southern California, searching for word of Jim's fate. The Berg Family connections run deep at Trinidad State!

**Nancy (Ramirez) Durrani, '77** stopped by campus recently. Originally from Venezuela, she remembered the large international population on campus. She went on to Colorado School of Mines and received her degree in Chemical Engineering. She has three children, the youngest is now a student at Mines. Her other two children studied Petroleum Engineering. Nancy looks to get more involved with happenings at Trinidad State.

**Dominic Martinez, '84** studied pre-law and journalism. He then received his bachelor's in political science from CU-Boulder and also served in the Army obtaining the rank of Lieutenant. Previously, he worked in the wealth management group at Wells Fargo Bank and held senior management roles at several other Colorado banks, retiring in 2008. Currently, Dominic is the President and co-founder of MYGOFLIGHT, an aviation inspired products company along with SKYDISPLAY, a Division of MYGOFLIGHT, that provides a heads-up display (HUD) for critical flight information directly into the pilot's line of sight.

**Robert Trapp, '86** said the connections to TSJC are on his list of positive milestones, having made a profound

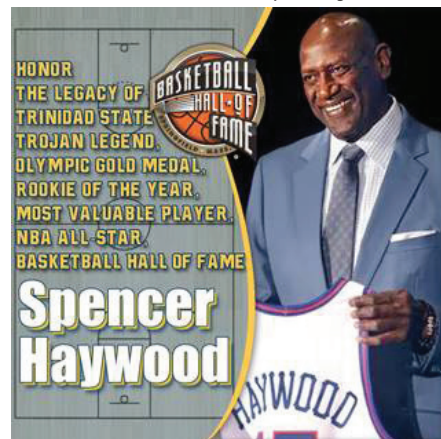
impact on his life. He believes that he and his classmates in the computer maintenance program have had fruitful careers as a result.

**Monica Harmes, '92** studied electronics & computer maintenance along with liberal arts and was Student Association President for two years. After TSJC, she went on to University of Southern Colorado (now CSU-P). Monica works for Pueblo School District 70 and also for Amigo Home Health Care Services. Married for 15 years, she is now a single mom of 4 boys, ages 13-19. One son has disabilities, so they are very active with the Special Olympics.

**Glennine (Giron) Varga, '95** has her own company and specializes in training dentists on how to use a mouthpiece to prevent patients from having sleep apnea.

**Destiny Bragman, '13** was the Trojan's assistant Women's Basketball Coach for three years before being named Head Women's Basketball Coach in 2019. Prior to that, she was an assistant with Western Colorado University. Destiny played two years for the Trojans and was second in the NJCAA for shot blocking as a sophomore. She went on play and study at to Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX. Destiny graduated from SFA in 2015 with a degree in kinesiology.

**Julia Trujillo, '19** played basketball for the Trojans and credits Coach Bragman for becoming the person she is today. "I would say that 95% of the confidence that I have, it came from her and the words of encouragement that she poured into me." Julia was fortunate to continue playing at York College where she graduated with a degree in Sports Management. However, due to COVID, she has one more year of eligibility, so she is now working on her master's in Global Leadership and Organization.



## Friends we will miss...

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Leroy Vallejos '43                | Yvonne (Adams) DiPaola '82   |
| Marie Garcia-Chavez '44           | JoAnn (Buccola) Maes '82   |
| Mary Ann (Arnet) Mincic '46       | Terry (Rolf) Valdez '82  |
| Joan (Horner) Doherty '48         | James Belding '83  |
| Marie (Cuzzetto) Miller '49       | Evalyn (Babb) Branson '83  |
| Anthony Cassio '50                | Juan Bustamante '83  |
| Elida (DeRouen) Gibbons '50       | Carmen (Gallegos) Colangelo '84  |
| Flavio Chavez '52                 | Jacqueline (Lovato) Lopez '84  |
| Rita (Reed) Cusimano '52          | Ernest Arias '85   |
| William Reilly '52                | Allison Sparrow-Balog '85  |
| John Sebben '52                   | John Timms '86   |
| Allene (Miller) Crichton '55      | John Martinez '87  |
| Paul Lucero '55                   | Dana (Saracino) Shaw '87   |
| Priscilla (Cordova) Parton '56    | John Ortiz '88   |
| Richard C. Richmond '56           | Mary Sue (Mestas) Erdman '89   |
| Edward Domenico '58               | Lester Gunter '89  |
| Patricia (Bujacich) Incitti '58   | Mark Pachorek '89  |
| George Johnson '58                | Ronnie Jackson '90   |
| Dan Marques '58                   | Inez (Jaure) Casias '92  |
| Frank Milavec '58                 | William Garcia '93   |
| Alice (Bayley) Garcia '59         | Stephanie Romero '93   |
| Joseph Santistevan '59            | Darlene (Foster) Paradiso '94  |
| George Zanotelli '59              | Antonio Craig '95  |
| Eva (Torres) Aschenbrener '60     | Ricky Sisneros '96   |
| William Farnsworth '60            | Edward Dominguez '97   |
| Rudy Gomez '60                    | Roque Marquez Jr. '97  |
| Richard Olguin '60                | Michael Theodorou '99  |
| Judith (Fernandez) Acre '61       | Norma Murphy '00   |
| Tony Fatur Sr. '61                | Debbie (Martinez) Robinson '00   |
| Lydia Baca '62                    | Joseph Marrinan '01  |
| Robert Sandoval '62               | Thomas Peters '04  |
| Steven Cook '63                   | John Laudel '07  |
| Anna Belle (Martinez) Duran '63   | Geraldine (Montoya) Martinez '08   |
| Leslie Shehorn '63                | Ernie Zambonato '04  |
| Robert Garcia '64                 | Cory Morgan '09  |
| Louis Myers '65                   | Michael Sandoval '09   |
| David Selko '65                   | Jardena (Dunn) Martinez '17  |
| Glenn Welch '65                   | Kevin Tonso '17  |
| Gene Salbato '66                  | Wayne Lopez '14  |
| Gloria (Gonzales) Gagliardi '67   | Angela Esquibel '17  |
| Margaret (Landefeld) Mitchell '67 | Dennis Felthager '20   |
| William Morris III '67            | Korey Albritton '21  |
| Ralph Salaz '67                   | Nicholas Vigil '21   |
| Paula Ozzello '68                 |  |
| Donald Williamson '68             | <b>Friends of TSC</b>  |
| John Benavidez '69                | Suzanne (Kuehnl) Campbell  |
| Carlos Nunez '69                  | Miguel Chaparro  |
| Mary (Lopez) Armijo '70           | George Ghella  |
| Stanley Clark '70                 | Dewayne Howard   |
| Ronald Samson '70                 | John and Mary Ann (Cimino) Johnson   |
| Jerry Gallegos '71                | Glenna (Skeen) Langshaw  |
| Nick DeBono '73                   | Alice Vasquez  |
| Marlene (Torres) Marquez '73      |  |
| Gaylene Uyemura '74               | <b>Memorial gifts to the Trinidad State College Foundation are a meaningful way to honor the legacy of friends and loved ones while conveying your support to family. For more information, call 719-846-5520.</b> |
| Gilbert Vanhoy '74                |  |
| Doug Mangino '76                  |  |
| Edward Raye '76                   |  |
| Patricia Toner '77                |  |
| Robert Gonzales '78               |  |
| Glenda (Vera) Swazo '78           |  |
| Clayton Bierwagen '82             |  |



A tradition at Trinidad State has been to invite distinguished alumni from the past decades to participate in the graduation ceremony. This year's honored alumni were **Charles Blackwood, '41; Robert Menardi, '51; Anthony Nagy, '61; Bernard Sysko, '71; Edmeston Woodley, '81; Marie Ortiz, '91; Evalee (VanMatre) Malespini, '01; Michael "Chris" Veltri, '11**. Valley Campus honored alumni - **Geneva Torr, '01** and **McKenzie Sowards, '11**.



To read about the wonderful accomplishments each of them achieved in their professional lives, please go to [trinidadstate.edu/foundation/magazine](http://trinidadstate.edu/foundation/magazine) for the May issue of the Foundation's quarterly e-newsletter, *Pillar & Post*. And see page 19 for a full story on Charles Blackwood.



Sign up to stay in touch with periodic news from the Trinidad State College Foundation at [trinidadstate.edu/alumni](http://trinidadstate.edu/alumni)

# DONOR REPORT



Your GIFT. Your LEGACY.

**TRINIDAD STATE**  
COLLEGE FOUNDATION

## Trinidad State College Foundation

Gifts were received October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021

### \$75,000+

Colorado Opportunity Scholarship  
Charles Stevens

### \$25,000+

Dennis Grabowski  
Las Animas County Board of  
Commissioners  
James Luckett  
San Luis Valley Federal Bank

### \$20,000+

Foundation for Colorado Community  
Colleges  
Kane Family Foundation  
TSC Booster Club

### \$10,000+

Colorado Springs Utilities  
Jay & Beryl Jacobson  
Kayvan Khalatbari  
Dennis Stone

### \$5,000+

Bar NI Community Service Fund  
Steve & Susan Cook  
Palmer Foundation  
Tony Rodriguez  
San Isabel Electric Association  
Spanish Peaks Purgatoire River  
Conservation D

### \$2,000+

Vibeke Adkisson  
Michael & Terri Allsup  
Carl & Diane Baylor  
Timothy & Jean Crisler  
GFWC Woman's Citizenship Club  
Ron & Sharyn Lopez  
Robert Hoag Rawlings Foundation  
Shaun & Ellen Sullivan

### \$1,000+

Dr. Frank Armijo  
Phil & Sandy Byrd  
Richard & Shirley Compton

Roger Cunniff  
Rhonda Epper & Myland Pride  
Ed & Karen Griego  
Domenic & Catherine Incitti  
Jeffrey & Judy Mangino  
Mary Margaret & John Meyer  
Stan & Peggy Obrey  
Frank & Mary Beth Pierz  
Rodney Reed  
Patrice Richardson  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Steed  
Wells Fargo

### \$500+

Reza Ahrabli  
Alamosa Rotary Club  
Alexander "Duke" Bell  
Mark & Gloria Bosley  
Paul & Judith Briggs  
Cameron Blatnik Memorial Fund  
Karen & Hal Carter  
Peter & Wendy Deluca  
Michael & Eleanor Dippel  
Ray & Christina Duran  
James Fidler  
Leslie Gerbracht & Chuck Grace  
Emily Hix  
Dr. & Mrs. Joe Jimenez  
Molly & Robert King  
Barbara Knight  
George & Judy Latuda  
Robert Lehr  
Sharon Leone  
Les Liman  
Mike McMillan  
Margaret Mitchell  
Rich & Frances Salter  
Cleave Simpson  
Walter & Paula Steige, Jr  
Ed & Pat Trommmer  
Gary Vezzani  
Harold Waterman  
Wayne Weiser

### \$250+

Anonymous

Martin & Betty Bania  
Robert "Mack" Bell  
James Bjerklie  
Michael Blackmore  
Joann Cambruzzi  
Gloria Coke  
Ronald & Laura Cordova  
Laura DeBella & Kerry Taube  
Pete Deluca  
Jann Farnsworth  
Malcolm Freeman  
John & Mary Garcia  
Veronica Goodrich  
Edward Hall  
Hi Country Flies  
Mary Hoffman  
Richard & Kathy Holmes  
Ronald Klopff  
Claude & Cathy McAnally  
Dr. & Mrs. Douglas McFarland  
Kevin & Suzette Megyeri  
David Newcomb  
Roberta Owens  
Dana Riccatone-Trujillo  
Robert Richardson  
Christopher Rodas  
Jess Sheets  
Marshall Swing  
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## PARTNER'S PROGRAM

TSC Foundation's Monthly Giving Program

Our new **Partner's Program** offers an easy way to show your love for Trinidad State. Monthly giving is growing more popular every day, and it's easy to see why. You sign up one time—quick and easy. And your gift supports students at Trinidad State month after month.

*"TSC was a gift that has continued to enhance our lives since we enrolled over 50 years ago! The Monthly Partner's Program is our way of giving back."*

- Richard '72 and Kathy '73 Holmes

For questions about how the **Partner's Program** can work for you, the program's flexibility, or how to enroll—please contact Toni DeAngelis at [toni.deangelis@trinidadstate.edu](mailto:toni.deangelis@trinidadstate.edu) or 719-846-5520. You can make your monthly contribution in whatever way is right for you.

# REUNIONS

## Class of 70-73 Reunion

The Classes of 70-73 are planning a reunion event on the Trinidad Campus July 21-24, 2022. For more information about the class reunion, please contact James Lockett at [jdlockett28@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jdlockett28@sbcglobal.net) or 817-791-8487.

## Gunsmithing 75th Anniversary Events

The Gunsmithing Department will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the program in conjunction with the class reunion (July 21-24). In addition, the Gunsmithing Department is hosting an open house for past graduates and friends who may be attending the NSSF SHOT Show in Las Vegas. The open house will take place on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 from 6-9pm at the Venetian Hotel. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Ryan Newport at [ryan.newport@trinidadstate.edu](mailto:ryan.newport@trinidadstate.edu)

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# Welcome!

Trinidad State College Foundation is proud to welcome three new members to our Society of 1925, **Jennifer Hudson Connors, Tony Imbronone, and Ron & Shari Lopez.** The Society of 1925 honors and recognizes those who have remembered Trinidad State with a legacy gift.

Joe & Gerri DeAngelis  
Laura DeBella  
Mark & Glee Hellenschmidt  
Gloria Skufca Maupin  
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