

TRINIDAD STATE

Magazine

Fall 2016

Cross Country
1.42 miles above
sea level pg.8

BASEBALL
CHAMPS

Back Cover



3-IN-A-ROW



OLD WEST
HATMAKING
lives on in
Trinidad pg. 10



Bringing
out the
BIG GUNS

pg. 6



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DR. CARMEN SIMONE, TRINIDAD STATE PRESIDENT



As you read these pages, we think you'll be impressed with the student stories that inspire us each year. Trinidad State has a colorful heritage that continues to grow in many innovative and creative ways. After 91 years we're still reinventing ourselves and adapting to changing times.

We're now hosting a yearly middle school and high school robotics competition designed to encourage students to pursue technical fields in college. It's part of a national competition called BEST (Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology).

Our college robotics team (which actually includes some high school students) completed the most complex robot we've ever designed last spring. In addition to navigating an obstacle course, S.A.B.L.E. (Scoop and Bucket Land Explorer) was able to pick out an orange golf ball and scoop it up while ignoring golf balls of other colors!

Our Gunsmithing Program still draws national attention for the quality of education we provide and the skill of our graduates. We recently held a gun show in cooperation with the A.R. Mitchell Museum in Trinidad called Art of the Gun, featuring some amazing work from some of our past gunsmithing graduates.

We've partnered with the Colorado Department of Corrections to offer an Entrepreneur Certificate inside the walls of the Trinidad Correctional Facility. The first class graduated in August.

Our sports teams continue their strong tradition of competitiveness balanced with integrity and academic achievement. This past May our Baseball Team won the Region IX Title for the third year in a row. We've also added men's and women's cross country, the first Trinidad State sport in the San Luis Valley.

We also opened up a new wing at our Valley Campus. It features two state-of-the-art classrooms and two science labs to better serve our students.

As I reflect on Trinidad State, I am so humbled by where we've been and so excited about where we're going. Thank you for taking the time to see what's been happening in our corner of the world.

Trinidad State Magazine
 Fall 2016

Trinidad State Magazine is published by the Marketing and Communications Department at Trinidad State. Publication dates may vary according to the College's calendar, events, scheduling and funding.

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Six-week robotics competition challenges students

Design, build, complete and compete – in six weeks. That’s the stressful challenge tackled each year by BEST Robotics contestants across the country. Teams of middle school and high school students start with

a kit, consisting of plywood, PVC pipe, a pile of hardware and robot parts. They then design and build a remote control machine and bring it to a competition at Trinidad State held in October.

This year SOCO BEST at Trinidad State expects to host 12 to 15 teams from northern New Mexico to the San Luis Valley. Each year the game field changes, though the size – 24 feet square – stays the same. The theme is “Bet the Farm” with points awarded when the robot successfully plants or harvests a simulated crop. The goal, of course is learning. Students face a challenge and must solve problems, build, adapt and strategize. And on game day there’s the added pressure of a three-minute time limit and live competition.

10 *We received the full ten-year stamp of approval*
YEARS

Higher Learning Commission grants continued accreditation

The Higher Learning Commission has announced continued accreditation for Trinidad State Junior College for another decade. The Higher Learning Commission evaluates colleges from top to bottom to ensure students in those schools are getting a quality education. More than 1,000 institutions are affiliated with the HLC.

“We received the full ten-year stamp of approval,” said President Dr. Carmen Simone. “That’s awesome and it doesn’t always happen.”

Trinidad State Nursing Program receives accreditation



The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) announced in the spring initial accreditation for the Trinidad State Nursing Program for a five year period. This signifies the high caliber of nursing education offered by Trinidad State in both Trinidad and Alamosa. ACEN accreditation proves a program supports its students at the highest level.

Director of Nursing LoriRae Hamilton said all of the nursing graduates over the last three years got jobs in the field, and this accreditation is a strong indicator of their skill set.

Trojan athletes earn George W. Scott Award

The George W. Scott Award is presented to the Trinidad State athlete, or athletes who have participated in one or more major sports over three consecutive semesters and have the highest scholastic record of all athletes over that same period. This year TSJC awarded the Scott award to a pair of 4.0 sophomores, Dorian Ray from the volleyball team and Yasmin Mookerdum from the soccer team. Ray and Mookerdum are the first recipients of the George W. Scott award in many years.

Ray, from Eads, Colorado, plans to continue her education at UCCS majoring in Business and Finance. Mookerdum, from Brisbane, Australia, will major in Communications at Eastern Oregon University while continuing her soccer career.



Trinidad State President Dr. Carmen Simone, Dorian Ray, Yasmin Mookerdum and Interim Women’s Soccer Coach Hawken Hannah

Exciting trip to Washington D.C. completes student leader’s two-year term

Of the 12 million community college students in the U.S., only four were selected to serve on the National Leadership Council for community colleges. Danielle Armstrong from the Trinidad State Valley Campus served her second term this year along with two students from Wisconsin and one from Utah. These students spent many hours collaborating online as they assisted with the planning for the National Student Advocacy Conference in Washington D.C. on March 12-15. Over 200 students from across the nation attended the conference. Armstrong graduated in May with degrees in Addiction Counseling, Political Science and Psychology.



After four homeless years, Couple gets a new start at Trinidad State

In 2010 drug abuse cost Chip and Carrie Reed their home, their jobs and their four children. “We let them down. We failed them,” Carrie said as her eyes filled with tears.

For four years they would struggle to survive on the street, first in Texas and then in Colorado. “We did a lot of day labor in Texas to try to get ourselves off the street,” Carrie said. They believed they could become certified as flaggers on a road construction crew if they could get to Denver.

A homeless person with a van gave them a ride. As they passed through Trinidad on the way, Carrie saw an awning on a building at Trinidad State that advertised the welding and auto mechanics programs. She thought to herself as they drove by, ‘I’d rather be going to school there than living on the street.’ But it would be more than a year before her prophetic thought came true.

Unfortunately, when they reached Colorado Springs, they learned the flagging opportunity was no longer available. Discouraged, they decided to stay there and look for work.

“People wouldn’t believe we were a married couple until we showed our



IDs,” Carrie said. “What happened to you guys?” they were asked. “Life,” answered Carrie, “our childhoods that we never dealt with. We found the wrong way to deal with our emotions.”

Chip and Carrie often held up a homeless message scrawled on cardboard hoping for a handout. The homeless call it “flying a sign.” Some days they ate. Some days they didn’t. Chip said, “I don’t know how many times I heard, ‘Get a job you f___in’ vomit!’” He wanted to yell back, “I’m trying to get a job.” But everywhere they looked for work, a phone or license plate number or a home address was required.

After four months of trying to find steady work, the desperate couple decided to head back to Texas. They had enough money to hire a cab to take them as far as Pueblo where they found a patch of woods to camp in. “We started to fall apart,” said Carry, “and I told Chip, ‘I’m going back to Texas. I don’t give a s__t what you do.’” But street life is rough, they said, especially in Pueblo. Chip convinced

Carrie they should stay together. Choking up, he explained, “As angry as I could have gotten with her, to leave her alone – the things that are out there, for them to get to her was not an option for me.” In Pueblo Chip broke his hand twice – once when he defended Carrie against a drunk and then again when he defended a “dirty kid” who was being mistreated. Homeless people refer to homeless teens as “dirty kids.” While Chip defended the young man, Carrie saw a guy approach Chip from behind. He was going to strike Chip on the head. “I wasn’t going to have it,” said Carrie as she rushed in, grabbed the guy by his belt and the back of his shirt and slammed him to the ground. Ironically, she earned that man’s respect and they later became friends. “I was loud and rowdy. I didn’t take much,” said Carrie, “but there was times when I was grateful he was there.” Carrie added, “You can’t depend on anyone else to have your back. I had him and he had me.”

“You have no door to lock and no wall to protect you,” she added. “Once a guy

You can't depend on anyone else to have your back. I had him and he had me.

attacked us with a large branch while we were sleeping in our tent. We came out ready to fight," said Carrie.

"Living homeless is scary and nerve wracking," said Chip. Carrie affirmed, "It's damn scary, man. If you show fear, you're a target." Chip continued, "I'm a big guy. I think that helped us out a lot. People don't tend to mess with you as much if you look kind of tough. My rough look helped us out."

"The attacks brought us closer together," said Carrie. But it was Zoey that made the biggest difference. After the attacks, they decided to buy a pit bull for protection. Not long after they purchased her, they discovered she was afraid of stop signs and the dark. "But she did protect us," Chip explained, "because she prompted us to become parents. We didn't want to fail with her the way we had failed before. She's probably one of the biggest reasons we had a turn around." "She is the reason," Carrie emphasized. After they had lost everything but each other, the addition of Zoey sort of felt like they were getting a chance to start over.

Wanting to get back to Texas, they walked

out to Love's Truck Stop in Pueblo and found a homeless person with a van to travel with. But an argument over money caused them to get out in Trinidad. It was August of 2013. They continued to fly signs and look for work but Carrie had had enough.

Gathering all the courage she had and shaking with fear she timidly walked in to the Adult Education Center at Trinidad State. Had it not been for Nancy Wilkinson's (Adult Education Director – now retired) warm welcome, she may have turned and run. But having passed three of the four required GED classes while in Texas, she only needed one more – math. Her self-confidence was at an all-time low, and she didn't believe she could do it, but she signed up anyway. Part way through the course, Carrie announced, "I'm done!" But Tammie Mack (current Adult Education Director) fired back, "Over my dead body! You're not quitting!" Mack's response was far different from the "stupid" Carrie said she heard so often in elementary school. Buoyed by the encouragement and instruction she received from Mack and GED Instructor



Marilyn McGuire she passed her math test in December. Christmas Eve would be the last time she would "fly a sign."

Chip already had his GED and his confidence level was low as well but Mack and McGuire urged them on. Their confidence in the couple seemed to give them confidence in themselves. Carrie was first to register for college. Because she "always liked to play in the dirt," she chose to study heavy equipment and diesel mechanics. A few days later, Chip registered for the same classes.

In May, Carrie and Chip graduated with AAS Degrees (Associate of Applied Science) in Diesel Mechanics and Heavy Equipment Operation.

Photos: (Opposite Page) Neither believed they were college material, but both Chip and Carrie graduated with degrees in Diesel Mechanics and Heavy Equipment Operation in May.

(Above) Carrie fills a dump truck with dirt as she operates a front end loader. Her favorite machine is an excavator.



Electrical Advisor Earl Nesbitt, students Richard Maldonado, Alyssa Benine, Joshua Hoffpauir, Hayden Alworth and Jennifer Kramarz, Robotics Advisor Cindy Clements and Building Advisor Karen Howl.

Trinidad State Robotics

Trinidad State's Robotics Team was awarded a certificate from the Colorado Space Grant Consortium for Advanced Autonomy, Obstacle Avoidance and Beacon Navigation. SABLE (Scoop And Bucket Land Explorer) completed all challenges presented including rock and wall avoidance, pit avoidance, beacon location and locating an orange golf ball (while ignoring other colored golf balls), picking it up and taking it to a pre-established location. The golf ball challenge is the most advanced task ever attempted by any Trinidad State Robotics Team.

The judging was done based on video this year because of winter weather that hit the Sand Dunes the day of the challenge on April 16.

Art of the Gun

Sometimes a gun is just a gun, but customization and craftsmanship can elevate it to art status



In August, the A.R. Mitchell Museum of Western Art, in cooperation with Trinidad State and its renowned gunsmithing program, featured Art of the Gun, a gun show highlighting the craftsmanship and history of American guns.

Guns on display included three from the museums operated by the NRA. These guns were chosen for their artistic style and exemplary craftsmanship. On the other end of the spectrum was “Gator” a four-barrel shotgun built by Trinidad

State Gunsmithing students and used in a 1988 movie called Big Bad John. That movie was filmed in the Trinidad area and featured Jimmy Dean of Jimmy Dean Sausage fame as Sheriff Cletus Morgan. The gun has been modified so it cannot fire, but Dean noted that it had a real kick, saying “...my arm was numb for about ten minutes.”

Also on display was a replica of a Gatling gun built by Paul Moore of Aguilar (photo below). The Gatling gun was first used by Union forces in the Civil War and was the

precursor of the machine gun. Moore's replica features a brass plate, indicating it was built in Trinidad. It fires .22 long rifle shells and includes a carriage mount with wheels. It took Moore several years to solve a jamming

problem caused by the different shape of modern cartridges. He built more than a dozen of them over a period of years. Moore no longer builds Gatling guns, but does sell the plans on the internet.

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

Proceeds from the show benefitted the Friends of TSJC Gunsmithing Endowed Faculty Fund, a fundraising campaign for an endowed faculty position at the acclaimed Trinidad State Gunsmithing Program.



Photos: (Above) This 12-shot revolver was built by hand by 1966 Trinidad State Gunsmithing Graduate Ken Hower. The revolver will hold 12 .357 Maximum cartridges. Plus it can fire an additional 28 ga. shotgun load from the bottom barrel. It was built over a period of two years. It weighs 11 pounds and has never been fired. The engraving was done by Ken's wife, Carolea.

(Left) .22 Caliber Gatling Gun replica built by Paul Moore of Aguilar, Colorado.



Prator Gun Range reopens with improvements

After six weeks of hard work by Trinidad State students, the Prator Gun Range southeast of downtown Trinidad opened again in May.

The addition of Hesco barriers allows operation of the rifle/pistol range and the trap/skeet field at the same time. This was done by raising the back stop on the 100 yard lanes and

boxing in the 25 and 50 yard lanes. About \$30,000 in grants from Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Trinidad State Educational Foundation made the project possible, but it couldn't have been completed without students in the Trinidad State Heavy Equipment program. They operated a variety of machinery, including front end loaders and dump trucks, to transform the range into a more modern and multi-function facility. Students from the welding,

diesel and gunsmithing programs also volunteered.

Hesco barriers are basically giant baskets made of fabric and wire mesh. When filled with packed earth they become almost impermeable to gunfire. The barriers are common at military facilities around the world, though this is believed to be the first time they've been used at a college shooting range in the United States.

Fun and Friendraiser raises \$33,000

More than 200 supporters attended the TSJC Educational Foundation Fun and Friendraiser event in February to benefit the Foundation in its efforts to provide support to Trinidad State's initiative to advance the College's premier gunsmithing program.

The event featured outfitter, bowhunter and TV personality Fred Eichler who entertained the crowd with his engaging style of storytelling surrounding the excitement and humor of his unique experiences in the wild.

Eichler's message for the evening was about finding something you love to do and then working hard at it. "What you're doing for the TSJC Gunsmithing Program is huge," Eichler said. "I'm super excited about this program because these students are pursuing their passion."

The gross proceeds from the event totaled over \$33,000. The silent auction featured dozens of items for sale, including a Sleeping Beauty Turquoise jewelry set designed by Calvin Begay, a Spring Turkey Hunt at Tercio Ranch, along with donations from Eichler's sponsors, Leupold and Hornady, among many other unique items. The silent auction raised

nearly \$8,400 this year, a record high in the history of the event.

The Trinidad State Junior College Educational Foundation is a private, non-profit corporation founded in 1968 to raise and manage private gifts for TSJC. The Foundation's mission is to promote the growth and development of Trinidad State. A diverse group of volunteer community members oversee the operations of the Foundation and strive to involve alumni and friends through events such as this to benefit the College and its students.

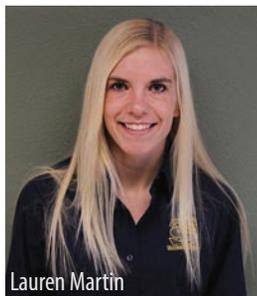


Photo: (Above) Fred Eichler, outfitter, bowhunter and TV personality, was the featured speaker at the Fun and Friendraiser event in February.



New cross country team starts out 10 strong

Ten runners, five gals and five guys, are all pumped about running for ten-time All-American and four-time national champion, 24 year-old Lauren Martin, who is coaching the first team sport to be offered by Trinidad State on the Alamosa Campus.



Lauren Martin

Last November, while she was on vacation, Martin saw the ad for a cross country coach in the Valley Courier. “That’s so awesome!” she

thought. “That would be so cool to have a cross country Junior College team in Alamosa.” “I think there’s no better place in the whole country to be, to do long distance running – just with the elevation and the trails and the places to run, it’s phenomenal. When the opportunity opened up, I applied and went through the interview process and ended up here. I’m really excited.”

Martin graduated with a bachelor’s in Political Science from Adams State in 2014 and earned her master’s there in Business Administration over the summer.

Martin considered herself to be a mediocre runner coming out of high school and she said her dad never interfered with that process. But she wanted to be a really good runner. For that reason, she chose Adams State because she knew her dad was the answer to that dream. Winner of numerous coaching awards, Damon Martin who heads both Track and Cross Country at

Adams State University is considered to be one of the best in the country. He has led his teams from victory to victory establishing an impressive track record. His specialty is distance running.

“My dad is a really good coach and he knows how to make people better. Running for my dad was one of the best experiences I’ve ever had. I worked hard and my improvement from year one to year two was better than most.”

Researching runners using MileSplit, an online network focused on track and field and cross country, Martin worked from February to August recruiting eight of her ten runners. Two others who heard about the new team wanted to train with her as well. They all know about her running record and believe she has the ability to help them excel.

Maggie Jones from Wisconsin, who is studying nursing, ran with Martin at Adams State and wanted the opportunity to train with her. She said, “She is an incredible coach and you can feel her compassion and love for the team and the sport. Every time you are in her office or looking for that last ounce of motivation during a tough workout, her enthusiasm is there to keep you pushing.” Elias Gedyon from California said, “Coach Lauri knows what she’s doing. I’m confident I can grow as a student and as an athlete here before I transfer to Adams State to study business management and law.” Manuel Villeggs, a nursing student from La Junta is in National Guard training here in the Valley and feels like working with “Coach” will enhance that training. Cody Latone from the Zuni Reservation south of Gallup, New Mexico, wanted to run cross country. He felt a small school would help him get off to a good start. He wants to be a Game and Fish Warden. Majoring

in diesel mechanics, Alamosa native Nick Molina has followed Martin’s whole career and is thrilled to train with her. His sister, Brianna, agrees. She is interested in criminal justice. Daniel Haymes, who knew about Martin’s background, came here from Derby, England. He’s enthusiastic about the massage therapy and holistic health program. Twin sisters Wyonna and Winona Martin from Gallup, New Mexico, are interested in sports medicine. They like motivating each other and they liked the idea of starting at a small school and working up. Mosca resident, Maria Montes, is studying education. She works from 7 am to 4 p.m. and then goes to class from 5 to 7 p.m. Training with the team is challenging but she’s determined to improve her running.

Their first competition, the Adams State University Joe Vigil Open, (Joe Vigil was the widely acclaimed Adams State men’s cross country coach for nearly 30 years) was held on September 10. Both Trinidad State teams finished in third place. Martin was pleased with her team’s performance and said several of them ran their personal best. She expects them to get better and better.

“Coaching is a lot of fun,” said Martin. “I really enjoy helping kids get better. I knew right away that this was going to be a good fit. I love it here.”



Gunsmithing grad hopes for return to competitive shooting

By Charles Rondinelli | Saturday, July 2, 2016, *Pittsburg Tribune-Review*

One of the youngest women in Western Pennsylvania to make her mark in the shooting sports has been amassing experience on a number of levels for the last decade.

Danielle Shuster, who shot on the high school rifle team at Bethel Park and learned skeet from her father, has been working for a non-political arm of the National Rifle Association for about nine months. Since high school, she traveled as a representative of Beretta's vast gun organization, graduated from gunsmith school, shot and worked at a couple of national shooting clubs and made a mark in skeet shooting.

In 2005, she "swept the board" at the state championship at Shenecoy Field, Huntingdon County, home to many national and state events. She won eight titles at one time, a rarity, any part of which would elate most shooters. Those titles were in 28 gauge junior, 12, 20, 28, .410 gauge lady, doubles lady, and high overall lady and high all-around lady, including doubles. In 2003, she won a 12-gauge title for juniors. In 2004, she won the ladies title in 12 gauge and the high all-around title for juniors.

How did a teenager with no formal training achieve so many titles?

She credits her instruction to dad, Dave, who started out needing a clay bird puller, but adds that more than a few shooters at Library Sportsmen's Association were helpful.

"It's different when you are young," she said at NRA headquarters in Fairfax, Va. "You don't have all the stresses and the reality you have when you are an adult. You're just carefree, and I didn't think

about the crowd and everyone watching or what if I missed. ... It would be a different story now, for sure."

She said she never took shooting seriously and had no desire to become an Olympic shooter, always instead considering it a hobby. She said she just never felt pressure.

Shuster, 28, is merchandise and firearms coordinator for Friends of NRA. Her role involves planning and stocking various gun-related events. Handling 1,100 gatherings a year becomes quite a task. The organization was established in 1990 to provide funding for programs such as youth education, law enforcement training, hunter education, conservation, firearms and marksmanship training and safety. The NRA says it has raised more than \$300 million through 38,000 grants.

Taking a desk job was difficult for Shuster, "a huge change. It took a lot of adjusting, probably six months. It is a whole different lifestyle."

That's because she had been on the road for Beretta, driving a 30-foot truck to shoots around the nation in her "dream job." Although she didn't get to shoot that much, she traveled from Maine to Virginia to the Dakotas, seeing dealers and attending shoots and gun shows. Sometimes she was on the road for three months at a time.

But Beretta decided to get rid of its mobile trucks, so Shuster hooked on with the NRA.

She had graduated from George Mason with a major in art history and a minor in classical studies. She lived and worked on the grounds of the Fairfax Rod and Gun Club in Manassas, Va., deciding that gunsmith school would be her goal.

Next was a two-year stint at Trinidad State Junior College in Trinidad, Colo., where she learned gunsmithing, engraving, scrimshawing and stock checkering. She preferred working on stocks because of the "gorgeous wood" and because engraving metal and scrimshawing — working on bone — were hard on her hands. On weekends, she often got experience at the expansive NRA Whittington Center in Raton, N.M., only a half-hour away from school.

Shuster is elated that the number of women in shooting sports nationally is "immensely growing," but she shudders upon hearing that skeet and trap numbers are down in the Pittsburgh region.

What does the future hold for the 5-foot-4 shooter now sitting behind a desk? "Hopefully, I'll be back into competitive shooting some day," she said. "It takes a whole lot of time to practice to be at the level I would want to be again and a lot of money. ... I just don't have that kind of money right now. But I hope to some day."

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Danielle Shuster while a student in the Gunsmithing Program at Trinidad State in 2013



Old West hatmaking lives on in Trinidad

There are probably no more than 50 people in the United States who earn a living making hats by hand, the old fashioned way. One of those spent a week in Trinidad each of the last two summers passing on this dying art to eager students at Trinidad State's Southern Rockies Heritage School.

Tom Hirt of Penrose, Colorado has been making hats for decades. His hats have graced the heads of famous people including Sam Elliott, Kurt Russell, Sharon Stone, Tom Selleck and even President Ronald Reagan. "I was roping down in Canon City and the people I was roping with said, 'Hey Tom, we want you to meet Max.' He said, 'My name is Max Baldrige.'" Malcolm Baldrige was the Secretary of Commerce

under Ronald Reagan. Hirt said Baldrige ordered a couple of hats, one for himself and one for Reagan. "Ronald Reagan sent me a nice little letter, which was more than I expected." About a year and a half later Hirt said the phone rang and it was the White House. President Reagan said, "Tom, you sent me that hat and I want to thank you for it. I really, really like it. I need

two more hats. I'd like you to send them to the ranch in Santa Barbara for me. Could you do that?' I said, 'You betcha.' He said, 'I don't want you to give it to me, I don't want you to discount it for me. I don't want any special treatment. I can afford to pay for it, probably better than you can afford to give it to me,'" recalled Hirt.

"Besides, I'll write it off my taxes."

Using the traditional method, hat blanks made from beaver and other animal fur are formed over wooden blocks, then steamed, shaped, sanded and stitched by hand. This past July three students took the class in Trinidad. Two of them, professional hairstylists, came all the way from the San Francisco area. They flew home at the end of the week with two hats each.

One of them, Le Lu, views the human head the way a painter views a canvas. "To me, the space that I work within is the head. This (the head) is a moving gallery," said Lu. "I'll



study any form that allows me to articulate this space." To that end she has studied fiber arts and wig making. And this isn't the first time

she's taken a hat making class. She's been making hats for about five years.

Last year in Los Angeles she noticed hats had become a hot fashion item. "I was at a hair show and there were some pretty elite hair stylists and they were all wearing a particular kind of hat. And that made me really interested." Lu wanted to know more. "I didn't understand what I was looking at. I didn't understand the method. I thought I could just look at YouTube and just do it, because I have a history in hatmaking. No. It wasn't the same. The more research, the more questions I had." She found Hirt and began asking him questions and he suggested she come to Trinidad for a week. "Now, after taking this class I go home with so much knowledge. What Tom has taught me is to transfer what's in my mind. I didn't even know this world existed," said Lu.

Andrea Zanella is a fellow hairstylist in the Bay Area. "She (Lu) knew I was looking for a hat and I was going to go down to Los Angeles because there's



this guy who makes hats for Madonna and a lot of celebrities. But they're well over a thousand dollars. They could be thousands. And she said 'We can learn to make hats ourselves. Why spend that money?' So we kind of made this pact that we would

take a road trip and take this class together and have fun with it." Zanella made a hat for herself

and one for her husband. "Tom has helped me understand a new craft and allowed me to bring my own personal style into it. It wasn't 'We're all going to make the same hat, we're going to do the same thing.' I think as hairstylists we need creative freedom. And the class was small enough that he could really help us customize and personalize our hats. It's been a very fun adventure. I think it was cheaper and a lot more fun," said Zanella.

"When they get to this point, where things are starting to come together and they see a finished item they get excited," said Hirt. "I mean, look at her modeling her hat!"

The third student was Jack Vier of Colorado Springs. He said hatmaking intrigued him. "I'm retired so it gives me something new to play with," said Vier.

The gals have so many ideas. They want to make it fancy. The guys just say 'Just give me a hat to put on.'

"I already have two orders from people who want me to make them a hat."

In 2015 the hat class had eight students, all of them men. This was Hirt's first experience teaching women and he believes they bring a different dynamic to the class. "The gals have so many ideas. They want to make it fancy. The guys just say 'Just give me a hat to put on.' The gals challenge my artistic ability."

The materials for a hat cost a couple hundred dollars, but the completed hat is

worth \$500. "It's not like they're coming in and spending a lot of money and

getting nothing in return except for knowledge," said Hirt. "They can go home and even if they never do anything else (with hatmaking), they can say 'This is my hat. I made this.'"

Both Lu and Zanella say they'd consider coming back for another week to learn even more and Hirt

would be happy to have them.

"I feel complete," said Lu. "I have elevated my skills 10 levels. I am now almost comparable to some of the French milliners. Right now I'm really excited to go home and finish a lot of hats."

Photos, from left to right: Andrea Zanella models her hat; Andrea Zanella and Jack Vier shape their hats; Jack Vier, Le Lu, Tom Hirt, Andrea Zanella; Le Lu with her French hat.



Summer gunsmithing series at Trinidad State approaches forty

Year after year, the NRA Summer Gunsmithing Series at Trinidad State Junior College provides hands-on short courses for people interested in guns and gun related skills. Experts from across the country take time to travel to Colorado and pass on the skills you just can't learn from a book or a video.

They include Jim Stevens, a Kennedy Center Artist from Wheatridge who sets aside time for Trinidad each summer. This past summer he taught a week-long course on scrimshaw. Many of the teachers have spent a lifetime learning a particular skill and have a desire to pass their knowledge on to another generation. "I enjoy knowing that the knowledge and skills I share in the classroom will become

the foundation of unique creations in the hands of those who take what they learn from me and make more of it," said Stevens.

In the summer of 2016 Trinidad State offered a wide range of gunsmithing basics, from machine shop to welding to building an AR-15 rifle. Courses will also cover more advanced and specialized skills, like building Race Guns (fast shooting competition handguns), Take Down Lever Action Rifles (building a rifle that breaks down into two pieces) and Metal Engraving.

The classes started on Memorial Day and ran for nine weeks. Most of them were five days long. 2017 will mark the fortieth year of the summer program.



Trinidad State has captive audience in **New prison education program**

Starting in the spring and through the summer, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday night, 14 dedicated people gathered to learn about business. Specifically how to be an entrepreneur. Hand-picked and attentive, they have at least two things in common: **All are men, and all are inmates at the minimum security Trinidad Correctional Facility east of Trinidad.**

Amazingly, half the class members voluntarily delayed their parole date so they could complete the course. “They ask great questions and it’s really evident that they want to be there,” said Trinidad State Instructor LiAnn Richardson.

Last year the Colorado Department of Corrections asked Trinidad State, said Dean of Instruction Keith Gipson, to provide entrepreneur training. “They needed something in business because they (Department of Corrections) felt a lot of these people would not be able to get jobs in corporations because of their backgrounds, and that they probably would be interested in starting businesses of their own once they get back out in the world.”

On one evening these men, polite to a fault and wearing identical green jumpsuits, shared their business ideas. Dog training, professional cleaning company, a unique twist in real estate sales. Marketing, advertising, debt and the most thorny question: ‘How should we handle talking about our criminal record?’

“When you hold a conversation there are no blank stares – they all know what you’re talking about,” said Richardson. “I wish all students were like that.” She’s been teaching for 17 years, but never adults. At first, “It was really unnerving. It’s not somewhere you’d want to be. But when you get into the classroom and you have students that are engaged you forget you’re in a prison. And that’s actually a challenge because I have to remember where I am. When you get into the classroom it would be just as if you were in any TSJC classroom really.”

This program was made possible by a law passed in Colorado in 2012. It allowed the Department of Corrections to expand educational offerings to take advantage of expertise available at area colleges. The Corrections Department has offered educational programs behind prison walls

for decades. At the Trinidad Correctional Facility that includes training for Customer Service, Computer Information Systems, Foundations of Career and Technical Education, IT Essentials and a Carpentry class. But this program paves the way for more classes.

“Trinidad State, Colorado Mountain College, Adams State University, Pueblo Community College, Red Rocks Community College all offer classes to inmates,” said Programs Coordinator Melissa Smith. “Everyone brings in something that is kind of unique to their school or something that the offenders are looking for specifically. So the entrepreneur program is huge for offenders, because that’s something that helps when they’re released. So we utilized Trinidad State’s expertise to bring that program in.”

Those in the corrections industry know prisoner education pays off. “There hasn’t been enough time to measure the recidivism rate related to this program,” said Smith. “But on the average we find across the board for all correctional areas across the nation with education the recidivism rate ranks approximately 25 to 30 percent. On an average Colorado’s recidivism rate (the number who end up back in prison) is about 50 percent.”

It’s not somewhere you’d want to be. But when you get into the classroom and you have students that are engaged you forget you’re in a prison.

Trinidad State has a three-year contract with the Department of Corrections.

Photo Above: Trinidad State awarded Entrepreneurial Operations Certificates to a dozen prisoners at the Trinidad Correctional Facility at a ceremony on August 8. Wearing the blue caps and gowns of Trinidad State over their green prison uniforms, these men were hand-picked and dutifully attended class each Monday, Wednesday and Friday night since March.

Trinidad State bookstores get new management

An outside contractor, BBA Solutions of Little Rock, Arkansas has taken over operation of the Trinidad State Bookstores with a plan to modernize and upgrade the customer experience.

The Trinidad campus bookstore has gotten a facelift with new paint and fixtures. The floor plan has also been redesigned to make it more welcoming and efficient. The Alamosa bookstore has been moved down the hall, to a more prominent location across from the president's office.

BBA Director of Business Development Bobby Lorimer said, "Our goal is to lower the pricing of the textbooks, particularly on textbook rentals for the students. We've seen that in a lot of our markets, there's substantial savings. Our major focus as a company is price, and also service. When you come in the store, now all the books will be behind a book counter. All a student has to do is walk in with their schedule, they tell our staff, 'Hey, I'm

taking these classes' and we go and get the books for them and bring them back up. This allows accuracy, reduces anxiety for the student and third, it increases the speed, so there's a lot less wait times in the bookstore as well." There will also be a new website that will allow a student to make purchases of books and apparel online. Financial aid dollars will be easily accepted using the BBA system.

Parents, fans and past graduates are now able to buy Trinidad State gear online, with orders shipped daily.

"This is a solid step forward for us," said Trinidad State President Dr. Carmen



Simone. "We believe BBA Solutions will bring needed bookstore expertise to our campuses, while at the same time providing the kind of "Students First" customer service we strive for. We're excited about the possibilities."

BBA Solutions operates more than 100 bookstores around the country.

New addition opens on Valley Campus

Trinidad State began using two new science labs on the Valley Campus in January. This construction project was approved by the State of

Colorado in 2013 at a cost of \$1.5 million.

The new wing, on the north side of the building at the corner of 4th and Bell Avenue, includes bathrooms, two classrooms on the first floor and two science labs on the second floor. The classrooms have a portable partition which can be opened to make one large

This really allows us to be at the cutting edge of science education...

space. The second floor labs are separated by a prep room where experiments can be set up for biology, chemistry and physics.

"This really allows us to be at the cutting edge of science education to support programs like our nursing program that

relies heavily on those background pre-requisite courses," said Trinidad State President Dr. Carmen Simone. "This will give us more

equipment so that more students can work on the same kinds of experiments at the same time."

"The building came about based on a shortage of up-to-date lab technology and classroom space," said Josh Jones, head of Maintenance at the Trinidad State Valley campus. "We had a student load our facilities could not accommodate."



COSMETOLOGY JOURNEY LEADS FROM THE VALLEY TO PARIS



McGoveran (left) and Kilgore pose outside the Paul Morrison Colours salon in Boulder where they both now work.

When her daughter wanted to study cosmetology, Rose Vanderpool thought maybe she was setting her sites too low. She wanted more for Candice. But Candice Cano (McGoveran) knew what she wanted. Who would ever guess her dream would lead to Paris?

By the time she was a junior in high school she had decided she wanted to be a cosmetologist. Inspired by her hair dresser, Lisa Stoeber Ellithorpe, she said, "I was fascinated with the whole thing. I have short hair so I never had to worry about my hair but I used to do everybody's updo for prom."

Both Cano and her friend, Harmony Heller (Kilgore) graduated from Del Norte High and both trained under Gayle Trujillo Pepper, the Trinidad State Valley Campus Cosmetology Director. During

her training in Alamosa, Heller read a magazine article about Toni and Guy and told Trujillo, "I'm going to work for them." Toni and Guy are world famous as cosmetologists having established 475 salons across 48 countries. Heller would work for them for the next twelve years in Arizona until she returned to Colorado, settled in Boulder and immediately hired on with Paul Morrison Colours as their hair cutting educator. "Miss Gayle (Trujillo) was my driving force," said Heller. "She encouraged us to follow our dreams. I never had an educator in my life impact me as much as Miss Gayle. I now travel the world with my craft and make a six-figure income. I credit Miss Gayle and Trinidad State Junior College for giving me my start. Candice and I want everyone to know small town girls can make it big." Later Kilgore would be Cano's link to Paul Morrison Colours where both women now work. The company recently sent them to a training in Paris.

"To me French hair cutting is simpler, not as technical as the way we cut here," said McGoveran. "It's more free hand, more how the hair naturally lays. It's working with the client's body type - how their shoulders lay, how long or short their neck is, the shape of their face - and finishing the cut dry and tailoring to the client as a whole including height and clothing while keeping in mind what the client wants." McGoveran's education goes beyond cosmetology when she travels. "In Paris we wanted to experience as much as we could. We took advantage of being there," she said. "We took a mini-tour, walked along the Seine River, saw the Eiffel Tower, and dined in a restaurant overlooking Paris at night. I can't imagine an educational opportunity that would be more exciting than this!"

She began her career in the Valley, but wanted to experience life in the city. She worked many venues but the fast pace of 25 to 30 cuts a day at one company in Denver nearly ended her career. She felt she couldn't spend quality time with her customers. A brief move back to the

Valley helped her realize the Valley was not for her. "I felt like I couldn't grow as a person or a stylist like I could in the city," she said. She moved back to Denver and worked in a high-end commission salon for a while.

She then moved to Golden where she married Nick McGoveran and had two children. After having her children, she taught at a cosmetology school where she said, "Teaching definitely made me realize I'm better behind the chair."

Four and a half years ago her connection to Kilgore helped land her a job at Paul Morrison Colours. McGoveran was impressed with the products, their training opportunities and their reputation and was able to interview with Paul Morrison at that time and was hired on the spot.

"That's where I found my true passion for doing hair where I could actually further my education and skills without having to do 30 people a day," she said.

The company had been trying a new hair care product line called Phytodess, natural plant-based (phyto) products based out of France. "I was asked if I would be interested in becoming the advocate for these products. Harmony had recommended me. I agreed and that was one reason I was sent to Paris," McGoveran said. She explained that although the Phytodess products were discussed early on at the training, the bigger part of the class was about French hair cutting. "The hair cutting class was good for me. Clients are always looking for better ideas. If I'm not educating myself, I can't offer a better idea. I need to be able to bring something new to the table while keeping in mind what the client wants."

"We were best friends in high school," said Kilgore. "We both studied cosmetology with the same instructor and now, we have reconnected and we're working together. We both have Trinidad State and Miss Gayle to thank for giving us a solid foundation to build on!" ♣

CLASS NOTES

Share your updates with Trinidad State!
Visit www.trinidadstate.edu/alumni

Emily (Schoembs) Bocko, '45 arrived in Trinidad when her father took the job of Manager of the Chamber of Commerce. She transferred to what was then Trinidad Junior College and graduated in 1945. She met and married Michael Bocko. Emily's father was active in bringing gunsmithing to TJC and was also active in re-vitalizing the Trinidad Foundry.

Sam Diele, '47 taught high school math and coached in Colorado for four years. He then moved to California and taught 31 years and coached. He retired in 1985 and is still doing fine.

John Gagliardi, '47, the winningest coach in college football history. He was a head coach from 1949 to 2012 and compiled a record of 489-138-11 at Carrol College in Helena, MT and St. John's University in Collegeville, MN. His teams won four national titles over a 63 year head coaching career that ended with his retirement at the age of 86. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2006 and the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame in 2015. He was known for his quiet, cerebral style. He didn't use a whistle, didn't raise his voice, didn't have a playbook and prohibited tackling in practice.

Michael Bocko, '48 continued his education at Denver University and then he and Emily moved to Pueblo for 10 years where he ran a kitchen design studio. They moved back to Denver and Mike pursued his career in finance and retired as CEO of the Colorado State Employers Credit Union.

Sam Diele, '48 served in General Patton's Third Army, fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. He used his G.I. Bill benefits to enroll in classes at Trinidad State Junior College and was a member of the "Little Rose Bowl" Football Team. He continued his education at Western State University in Gunnison. Sam taught 31 years at Merced High School as a math teacher, football and basketball coach. Sam died in March of 2016.

Thomas Elliott, '48 served in Europe in France and Germany during World War II as a Private First Class in the 165th General Hospital. He opened his business, Bacon Creek Gun Shop, in 1955 and operated it for 53 years. He was a member of the first TSJC Gunsmithing class. Thomas died this year at age 90.

Marie Cuzzetto Miller, '49 says, "TSJC will always be a part of my life that I will cherish. The faculty was very special to me and I thank them for guiding me to my educational career."

Ken Dimick, '52 graduated with an AA degree in Agriculture and went on to Colorado A&M (now

CSU). He received his draft notice and enlisted in the Marines in February of 1953 and worked as an M.P. on the San Juan, Puerto Rico Navy Base. After he was discharged he worked as a farmer until 1970, then for Public Service of Colorado out of Fort Collins. He retired in 1994 and winters in Casa Grande, AZ.

Isabelle Vigil Arman, '56 received an AA in Business and began her professional career in Colorado Springs working for the Federal Government. After a move to California she worked in private industry in various capacities ranging from Executive Assistant to Department Manager at a time when it was difficult for a woman to reach a managerial position. In more recent years, Isabelle moved to New Mexico and worked at the Georgia O'Keefe Museum as well as for the State of New Mexico. She retired five years ago.

McLane Tilton, '58 just retired from a firearms exporting business to concentrate on his race car-motorsports manufacturing business, Tilton Engineering.

Paul Milosevich, '59 was recently in Trinidad giving a talk and slide show of his work at Mt. Carmel Community Center. After studying under A.R. Mitchell at TSJC, Paul earned his master's degree at California State University, Long Beach, then taught at Odessa Junior College becoming the Art Department Chair. He left Odessa in 1970 to join the Texas Tech Art Department where he taught for 5 years then struck out on his own. His outstanding portfolio is the subject of a 30-year retrospective "Out of the Ordinary: The Art of Paul Milosevich."

Steve Tucker, '59 worked as a gunsmith until he retired from Griffin & Howe in 2011.

Dolores (Montoya) Parker, '60 worked for the State Department in multiple locations: Montevideo, Moscow, Munich, Pretoria, Mogadiscio, Santo Domingo, Asuncion, Lilongwe, New Delhi, San Jose, Washington, and Ankara then for the Department of Energy at Sandia Labs in Albuquerque, NM. She now volunteers through Catholic Parish Outreach feeding and clothing the poor.

Roy A. Ray, '62 continues to correspond with TSJC and tells wonderful stories about his adventures in Trinidad while attending TSJC Gunsmithing School. Back when he was a newlywed, he and his wife lived in the Bloom House as caretakers. They didn't have to pay rent, but had to cook on a wood stove.

Ron Clever, '65 was TSJC Student Body President and was honored to be selected as Typical Trojan. He transferred to the University of Colorado in Boulder, graduating with a degree in journalism, and then moved on to the Army where he was a Company Commander in Vietnam. His was a Special Agent with the FBI, which he thoroughly enjoyed. Since retiring,

Coaching legend inducted to Colorado Sports Hall of Fame



Retired Trinidad State Basketball Coach and former Athletic Director Jim Toupal was inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame in April.

Toupal was raised in Trinidad and was an athletic standout at Trinidad High. After THS, he attended school at Boston College where he earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business and Accounting. From BC he went to Utah State University where he served as graduate assistant for the football team. Toupal then returned to Trinidad where he became an assistant coach for the TSJC football team until he was named Head Basketball coach in 1973.

The hardwood is where Toupal found his greatest success. He led the Trojans for 32 seasons, amassing an amazing 678-333 record, which included 132 straight home wins at Scott Gym over a ten-year period. Ranked 23rd all-time for wins among junior college coaches, Toupal led TSJC to the 1986 national tournament and was named Region IX Coach of the Year four times. On March 1998, Toupal was inducted into the National Junior College Athletic Association Hall of Fame. The court at Scott Gym is now known as Jim Toupal Court and Coach Toupal's portrait watches over all of TSJC's home games. Best known for his success on the basketball court, Toupal also spent time coaching baseball, volleyball and golf for TSJC and served for many years as the Athletic Director.

Case for the Hall of Fame: Mark Grudzielanek

Baseball writer starts the bandwagon for 1991 former TSJC player

By Khurram Kalim
Former staff writer
Outside Pitch MLB

Baseball is a numbers game. So too should the National Baseball Hall of Fame be numbers based. The logic has reason: if your ability is all mathematics, your legacy should be as well.

So when considering Mark Grudzielanek's Hall of Fame candidacy, the hope is that numbers tell an inductee's story. In fairness to Grudzielanek, we won't measure him against his current Hall of Fame positional brethren. It only makes sense, since not very many compare to Rod Carew, Roberto Alomar, Rogers Hornsby and Jackie Robinson, anyway.

A good place to start is in Grudzielanek's career. An eleventh round pick out of Trinidad State Junior College, Grudzielanek hit .289 with a .332 on base percentage. He charted over 2,000 hits in 15 seasons, projecting to a 162 game average of a stellar 183 hits a year. Grudzielanek was a contact aficionado: he never struck out more than 90 times in a season while logging 450 or more at-bats 11 times. He didn't have much pop, but averaged 25 doubles a year for his career. In 2005, for the St. Louis Cardinals, Grudzielanek was credited with 23 defensive runs saved per fangraphs.com, a valuable measure for defensive ability. He was top five in all of baseball for the season by that metric.

Unfortunately, where Grudzielanek had a truly terrific career, it's not, by many numbers, a Hall of Fame career. His

numbers really do pale when compared to the other luminaries at his primary position. For his era, Grudzielanek would have to contend with the likes of Craig Biggio, Jeff Kent and Alomar, a trio whom he doesn't truly compare to. Biggio and Alomar are already Hall of Famers, Kent is still on the ballot, and may not get in with better credentials.

But baseball is as much about the out of box criteria as it is the straight-forward numbers. So let's make a case for Mark Grudzielanek on his ballot.



Longevity matters in the National Pastime. Of the 32 players on the 2016 Baseball Writers Association of America Hall of Fame ballot, Grudzielanek is one of 27 players who played

15 or more seasons in the majors.

He's in the top 15 on his ballot in career hits. He's also one of only 15 players on the ballot with 2,000 or more hits.

He's in the top 13 on his ballot in batting average, fourth best for the first time candidates.

He's one of only 11 of the 32 with a Gold Glove to his name.

So is Mark Grudzielanek a Hall of Famer? It really depends on how accepting you are of contrived subjective statistics with tenuous value. One thing is a lot less debatable: Mark Grudzielanek had himself a great career, Cooperstown enshrinement or not.

Reprinted with permission from the February 12, 2016 edition of The Chronicle News. Khurram Kalim is a former staff writer for Outside Pitch MLB, a professional baseball blog.

he has become a writer and the author of three novels: *Trap Doors: A Novel of FBI International Intrigue*; *Swashbuckler: An FBI international Thriller*; and *Mission Trip: A Challenge to the FBI in Africa*.

Mark Chanlynn, '68 went to work as a gunsmith three days after graduation and has been doing it ever since. Mark taught gunsmithing at TSJC in the mid-70s.

Bruce Daley, '68 has owned Thoroughbred Paint and Body Inc. since 1979 as well as BMD LLC, a Tucson real estate investment firm.

Michael Swyers, '68 served in the Navy, then worked for the New York State Police. He is currently living in Pennsylvania.

Mary (Reeves) Nicol, '71 is a retired school teacher and Allen Nicol, '73 is a farmer in Hoehne. They also run a feedlot and own and operate Nicol's Cottonwood Corner in Hoehne specializing in home grown flowers and produce.

Dave Norin, '72 worked as a general gunsmith for a dozen years and is now a specialist in refinishing. Sports Afield Magazine recently published a story about Dave and his work. He may be contacted at his website: www.davenoringunmaker.com.

Thomas Gregorich, '75 and '76 has been working as a gunsmith in Iowa since graduating from TSJC.

David (Fathali) Nasab, '79 came to the United States from Iran and his first stop was at Trinidad State Junior College where he took English as a Second Language courses. He remembers TSJC fondly and noted that Pete Deluca helped him to find his sense of place in the United States by helping him continue his education in Galveston, TX where he earned his mechanical engineering degree. He lives and works as an engineer in Houston.

Rebekah Davis, '00 continued her education at Oklahoma City University where she has earned a Master's of Education in Applied Behavioral Studies. She is currently working on her Doctorate of Education in Organizational Leadership with an emphasis in Higher Education through Grand Canyon University. Her first book, "Becoming Educated: The Options After High School" was published in 2015 and is available on her website www.rebekahdavis.net or at Amazon.com.

Jamie Butler, '04 Director of Safety and Health for Burns & McDonnell, has recently been promoted to Vice President. Occupational Safety and Health was Jamie's focus at Trinidad State and during his 12 years at Burns & McDonnell he has navigated some of the firm's most complex projects to a safe completion. Jamie managed the safety on the \$240 million construction project with ConocoPhillips in

Oklahoma with 9 contractors, 390 employees and more than one million man hours – without a single recordable injury.

Dario San Roman, '05 continued his education with Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Chamberlain College of Nursing in Jacksonville, FL. He went on to receive his master's degree in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner and Acute Care Nurse Practitioner at Colorado State University-Pueblo. He maintains certifications in Basic Life Support/Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Emergency Pediatric Nursing, Trauma Nursing and Pediatric Life Support. He has joined Mt. San Rafael Hospital in Trinidad as an additional provider to the Hospital's Rural Health Clinic.

Our newest alumni from the class of 2016 include these students who will be furthering their educations at four-year institutions: **Danielle Armstrong** – Adams State University; **Cam Baird** – Texas State University; **Aleksa Blagojevic** – Midwestern University; **Rene Bustamante** – Adams State University; **Bryan Bronson Butcher** – Texas A&M University; **Anabelle Celis** – Metropolitan State University; **Laura Cordova** – Adams State University; **Cheyenne Cron, '16** TSJC Summa Cum Laude, transferring to Florida Southern University; **Amber Dahl** – Odessa College; **Alex Dominguez** – Bethesda; **Torri Farrow** – Colorado State University; **Schady Ferguson** – Colorado State University; **Katelyn Findley** – Metropolitan State University; **Kara Flores** – University of Colorado, Colorado Springs; **Danica Garcia** – Adams State University; **Emmy Gazaway** – Johnson and Wales University; **Samantha Glover, '16** Cum Laude, transferring to Eastern New Mexico University; **Alex Goodman** – Angelo State; **Kelsey Hernandez** – Metropolitan State University; **Saad Hissien** – Metropolitan State University; **Kiera Jackson** – University of Northern Colorado; **Naomi Jacquez** – Colorado State University; **Tyler Klein** – College of Southwest; **Adelicia Lucero** – Adams State University; **Angel Luedtke** – University of Massachusetts Online; **Felipe Machado** – Lincoln Memorial University; **Demetria Madalena** – New Mexico Highlands University; **Amber Marquez** – University of Colorado - Colorado Springs; **Yasmin Mookerdum** – Eastern Oregon University; **Chelsea Nicol** – Eastern Oregon; **Wesley Padgett** – Colorado State University; **Julian Padilla** – University of New Mexico; **Rachel Pirtel** – Savannah State University; **Caden Pratt** – University of North Western Ohio; **Jenna Quintana** – Adams State University; **Dorian Ray** – University of Colorado - Colorado Springs; **Hannah Reynolds** – Kansas Wesleyan; **Katia Rocha** – University of Texas; **Ashlee Rogers** – Metropolitan State University; **April Romero** –

Colorado State University; **Zoe Ruff** – Northern New Mexico University; **James E. Smith** – University of Nebraska; **Lukas Smith** – University of New Mexico; **Cameron Stewart** Rising Star -- Colorado State University; **Sierra Valerio** – York College; **Courtney Vigil** – Eastern New Mexico University; **Jackson Wodiuk** – University of Colorado - Colorado Springs.

2016 Honor Grads - Trinidad Campus

Each year at graduation, we honor graduates from the past decades

Mr. Richard Richmond, '56. Mr. Richmond left the Marine Corps in 1954. He had earned his GED before the Corps and with the help of the G.I. Bill began college at TSJC. He said in his correspondence with us that "I fell in love with learning at T.S.J.C. I went on to earn a BA degree and a Masters of Education degree and to have a wonderful twenty eight year career in public education in Colorado." He concluded his correspondence with "I have enjoyed a full life and still love learning."

Mr. John Pearce, '66. John was Typical Trojan in 1966, having been class president both his freshman and sophomore years here at TSJC. John was a member of the baseball team and Letterman's Club as well as the Ichi-Ban Club. He graduated with an AAS in Building Trades. He then joined the US Navy and was honorably discharged in 1972. John continued his education receiving his Bachelors of Science in Business Administration with a minor in Accounting. He and Felicia Morelli married in 1968 and have two daughters, Suzanne and Pamela, and four grandchildren; Emily and Andrew, Corinne and Tristan. John's work experience includes Office Management at the Abex Corporation, multiple positions with Loaf n Jug, Inc., Duran Oil, and Hometown Handyman Business owner. Currently John is serving our Trinidad and Las Animas County community as business manager at Holy Trinity Parish.

Jeff Mangino, '76. Jeff continued his education graduating from Western State College (now Western State Colorado University) in 1978 with a double major in accounting and business management. From 1978 to 1998 he was the controller here at TSJC and during his tenure he obtained his certified public accountant license and also operated a small seasonal tax return business out of his home. In 1998 he joined The First National Bank in Trinidad as a credit analyst; two years later was promoted to Executive Vice President and commercial lender. In 2008 he was appointed President and remained in that position until January 31st of this year. He is now filling a genealogical gap by pursuing a career in the insurance business. His father and father-in-law were both insurance agents and in February he purchased the Farmers Insurance Agency from his son.

Mr. Anthony Trammel, '86. Anthony attended Trinidad Catholic High School before coming to TSJC and graduating in 1986 with three Associate Degrees which gave him a solid base to pursue his Bachelor of Science degree in accounting at Adams State University. After graduating from Adams State he became a District Manager for Pepsi working out of the Trinidad branch. In 1992 Anthony launched his career as a firefighter at the Raton Fire Department and transferred to Trinidad Fire Department in 1998 and has been a Captain for 10 years. His extensive training includes certification as an EMT, Firefighter I and II, Haz-Mat Technician, Incident Safety Officer, Wildland Fire Red Card holder, and Fire Code Building Inspector. He and his wife, Janet (a TSJC Nursing Graduate) have been married 26 years and have a son who is a personal trainer in Fort Collins.

Ms. Heidi Archuleta Martin, '66. After earning her Associates of Arts at TSJC, Heidi continued her education at Adams State College (now Adams State University) earning a BA in Psychology. Her Masters in Counseling is from the University of Phoenix and she is currently working on her Ph. D. in Psychology with an emphasis in Health Psychology and Addiction. Heidi is a licensed counselor in both Colorado and Oregon. She began her counseling career in Arizona as a family, marriage, and child therapist for 6 years before moving to Roseburg, Oregon as a youth department program director and then a primary care behavior health counselor. In June of 2015 Heidi became the Rural Director for Health Solutions in Pueblo, Colorado. In this position she serves the Trinidad area through the office practice at Mt. Carmel Health, Wellness, and Community Center.

Ms. Sandra L. Chavez, '06. Sandra began her college experience at TSJC in August 2004 on a softball scholarship. She graduated in 2006 and continued her studies at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, NM. There, she earned her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Civil Engineering. While at New Mexico State University Sandra was recognized as the outstanding senior for the college of engineering department. She was a member of Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society and an officer of the American Society of Civil Engineers student chapter. After graduation, she got a job as a Civil Engineer-Basic with the New Mexico Department of Transportation. Since then, she has passed her Professional Engineer's Exam, been promoted to a Civil Engineer-Operational, and now in her current position, Civil Engineer-Advanced as a Project Development Engineer. Sandra is engaged to be married to her best friend, Esequiel Lopez (pronounced Ezekiel), in November 2016.

2016 Honor Grads - Valley Campus

Each year at graduation, we honor graduates from the past decades

Mr. Alan B. Taylor, '96. After graduating from TSJC Alan began his nursing career as an Emergency Room Nurse, continuing his education at USC in Pueblo (now CSU Pueblo) obtaining his Bachelors of Science. He and his family then moved to West Virginia where Alan enrolled in a Nurse Anesthesia program and a Masters of Science in Healthcare Administration program at Marshall University. After graduation and completing his national boards he began his anesthesia career in Ogden, UT at a Level II Trauma Center. While in Utah, the family adopted two boys to grow their family to four children. In 2007, Alan and his family returned to Alamosa and he began his practice at San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center. Alan continues his education and training and loves caring for the patients in the San Luis Valley. Alan

notes his appreciation that TSJC supplied him with the tools needed to begin his career and provide the best care possible for his patients.

Mr. Kory Russell, '06. Currently Kory serves our community as a paramedic with the Conejos County EMS Service. He is also a paramedic and firefighter with the Rio Rancho Fire Department. His training has included his AAS EMS at Trinidad State, EMT Basic through Paramedic training, Hazardous Material Awareness, National Fire Academy Arson Detection for the First Responder, Flammable Liquids live fire training, Firefighter II, Confined Space Rescue, Critical Care Paramedic, Fire Services Instructor I and Fire Officer Certification among other workshops and certification programs. Kory also volunteers in our community as a Captain and training Officer with the Northeast Fire Protection District, as a Merit Badge Counselor with the Boy Scouts of America teaching First Aid, Emergency Preparedness and Fire Safety

and also assisting with Fire Protection Week with area pre-schools to high schools.

Alumni Memorials

Isabelle Plotts, '41	Ronnie Mitchell, '70
Sam Diele, '48	Jerry isenhart, '72
Thomas Elliott, '48	Loretta Hurtado, '73
Paul Cordova, Jr., '49	Joseph Robles, '75
James Salvato, '49	Ruth Medina, '76
Dan Summers, '50	William Liddicoet, '82
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Students take advantage of new Scholarships *just for locals*

From Aguilar to Weston, from Center to San Luis, southern Colorado residents are taking advantage of Trinidad State's Learn Local Scholarship offer.

The new scholarship, backed by the Trinidad State Junior College Educational Foundation, helped pay tuition in the spring 2016 semester for 45 full time students who live in Las Animas, Huerfano, Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande or Saguache counties. "The Learn Local Scholarship knocks 20 percent right off the top of tuition costs," said Trinidad State President Dr. Carmen Simone. "That's a savings of about \$392 each semester."

Steven Bunker of La Jara decided to try a new career after he was hurt on the job. He took out a student loan and started school part time last fall, wondering what he would face in Trinidad State's Aquaculture program. "The first semester I wanted to see how I would do, and I did fine so I just jumped in with both feet this semester," said Bunker. "(The scholarship) helps, not having to worry about how to pay some of these bills."

Sarah Lindquist of Trinidad is married

and a decade out of high school. "We finally decided whatever it takes, we're going to do this," said Lindquist. "Seeing there was something available for us, it almost makes you a little giddy. It's exciting and relieving."

The Trinidad State Educational Foundation funded the program for the spring semester at a total cost of about \$17,640. "The Foundation is pleased to support the Learn Local scholarships," said Foundation Executive Director, Toni DeAngelis. "We know that when Trinidad State students achieve success, so does our community as a whole." "Without the support of the Foundation our task would be much more difficult," added Simone.

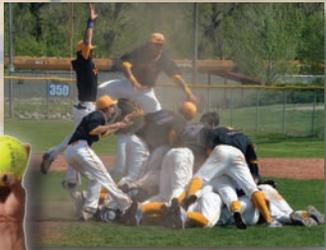




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TROJAN ATHLETICS



Trinidad State's **Baseball Team** won the Empire Conference regular season crown in 2016 allowing the regional tournament to be held in Trinidad. At the tournament the Trojans took the Region IX Title for the third straight year. TSJC also hosted the Western District Tournament the following week. Coach Mathew Torrez was named Region IX Coach of the Year for the third time. They finished with a record of 43-17.

The Lady Trojans **Softball Team** finished the season with a school record 39 wins, but fell just short of a Region IX Championship. They lost to Western Nebraska 4-3 after giving up a three-run homerun in the bottom of the sixth inning in a pitching duel in Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

This stellar group of Trojans also set school records for home runs (79), hits (546), and had the highest team batting average ever with .355.

Pitcher Jessica Salbato tied a Trinidad State record with 39 wins over two seasons.

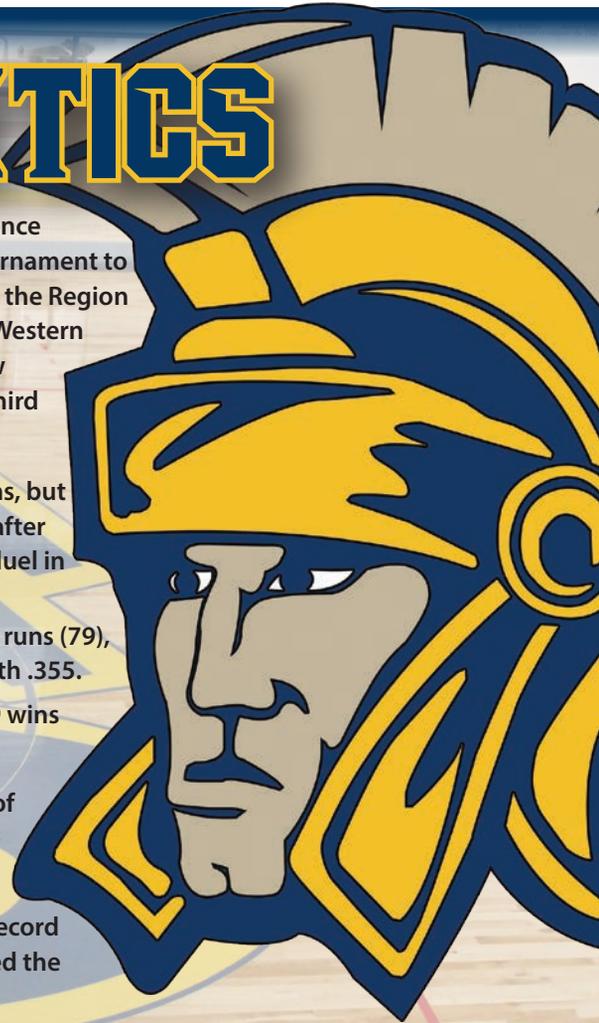
Our **Men's Basketball Team** finished with a record of 15 wins and 16 losses. In **Women's Basketball** we finished with a 7-22 record.

Our **Men's Soccer Team** finished with a record of 11-8-1. In **Women's Soccer** we ended the season at 7-8-1.

Women's Soccer is now coached by Peter Freeman, who was hired over the summer.

Our **Volleyball Team** had a record of 15-24.

A total of 33 Trinidad State athletes were selected for All Region honors. Five of the seven teams earned team academic honors for having a grade point average above 3.0. The Volleyball Team had an amazing 3.54 GPA. Trinidad State had 21 National Academic Award winners and 43 Region IX Academic Award winners.



Keep up with the latest Trojan Athletics news at www.tsjctrojans.com