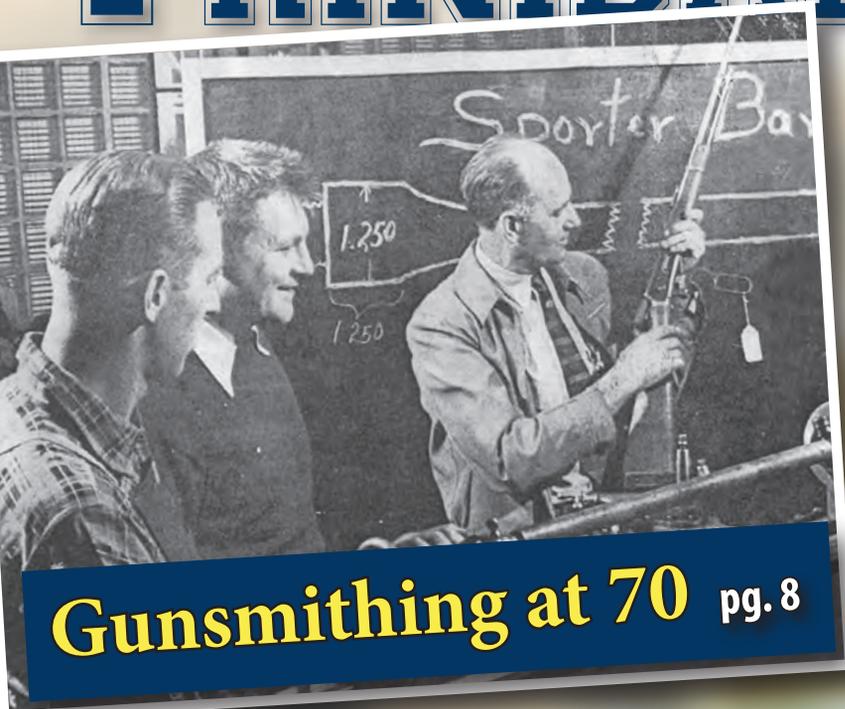


TRINIDAD STATE

Magazine

Fall 2017



Gunsmithing at 70 pg. 8

The Long Road pg. 14

A student's perspective
from inside prison walls



Year of Firsts

**TROJAN
ATHLETICS**

pg. 12



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President's Column

As always, our students continue to inspire us. We think you'll feel the same as you read these pages. Trinidad State has a colorful heritage that continues to grow in many innovative ways. After 92 years we're still reinventing ourselves.



Our Robotics Team (which includes several high school students) took a big step in May with a trip to NASA's "Mars Yard" at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. They're practicing for a future competition against some of the most prestigious four-year schools around. The robot they built, named CLOEE, held her own in the face of every challenge she faced.

Our Gunsmithing Program still draws national attention for the quality of education we provide and the skill of our graduates. We commemorated its 70th year with a reunion in June. We complemented that with our second Art of the Gun at the A.R. Mitchell Museum in downtown Trinidad. Also, one of our students, Ainsley Ridgeway, was featured on the cover of Women and Guns Magazine in their November/December 2016 edition.

Our sports teams continue their strong tradition of competitiveness balanced with integrity and academic achievement. We've quickly put Trinidad State on the map when it comes to competitive running. Our Cross Country team had a respectable inaugural season, then two of our runners went to the Indoor Track and Field Nationals and took 12th place. This past May our Baseball Team won the Region IX Title for the fourth year in a row. Our Softball Team had their best season ever and one of our players was named Offensive Player of the Year. Our Women's Basketball Team made it into the playoffs and our Men's Soccer Team went to the national tournament.

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.

Carmen M. Simone
President, Trinidad State

Trinidad State Magazine Fall 2017

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CLOEE vs. the Mars Yard

Our Robotics Team took an off-world turn over the last year, deciding to build a robot capable of competing with top tier four-year schools at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. The event is called Robo-Ops and is designed to mimic an unmanned Mars mission. While Robo-Ops was canceled this year because of a shortage of funds, NASA agreed to host our team anyway, as a warm-up to the next event planned for 2018. Our robotics team came up with CLOEE (Computer-controlled Land-based Optical Electronic Explorer). Using a cell phone connection, operators see video from robot-mounted cameras and then respond

with movement commands. Her task was to navigate difficult terrain at NASA's "Mars Yard" and pick up specially colored rocks. While the trip in May was a test run, the scores were comparable to those earned by top tier four-year schools in the 2016 Robo-Ops event. The team plans to compete in Houston next year.

College for Kids comes to the Valley

For the first time Trinidad State brought the popular College for Kids program to Alamosa on three Thursdays in July. This is a fun and educational "day camp" for about 20, seven to 11 year olds patterned after a successful program that has operated on the Trinidad Campus for many years.



Programs included archeology, dinosaurs, rockets and health care. As part of the health care program the children got to see an air ambulance up close after it landed in the Valley Campus parking lot!

The program was free, with a suggested donation of \$5 and included lunch. This was a collaborative effort of the University of Colorado Natural History Museum, the San Luis Valley Area Health Education Center and Trinidad State.

New signs send welcoming message



We're upgrading our signs at both our campuses to give them a more modern look. We hope this modern sign at the corner of Main and Bell Avenue in Alamosa catches your eye as you head down the street. A sign marking the entrance to our Valley Campus parking lot on Alamosa Avenue is also on the

way. Two more signs will soon be installed on the Trinidad Campus at Park and Prospect and at the corner of Pine and State streets.

Bus becomes rolling billboard

In September, just in time for the Trinidad Labor Day Parade, we had one of our buses "wrapped" with vinyl images to promote the college. This bus regularly makes trips to New Mexico, Texas, Kansas, Nebraska and Wyoming. We hope this new look will turn some heads along the way.

The bus features runner Elias Gedyon, himself a national champion (page 10), as well as Isabella Navarro (page 12), softball offensive player of the year in 2016-2017. We'll feature a new design on another bus in the next few months.



\$1.86 MILLION Upward Bound grant renewed for five years

In September we learned our Upward Bound Math-Science summer program has been funded for another five years! The federal grant provides \$379,000 a year for an immersive six-week college experience for high school students. It's aimed at low income and 1st generation college students. They stay in our residence halls and eat in the cafeteria to get a feel for what college is like. Courses in math and science give them a taste of the skills needed in a technology career.

A special thanks to Judy MacLaren, who is stepping down as director after more than two decades! We are fortunate Judy plans to continue teaching full-time for Trinidad State after the current grant ends.



L-R Jason Lozano from Madre, NM and Eric Morales from Anthony, NM with a pig ready for dissection

TSJC Educational Foundation's Fun & Friendraiser features interview with OtterBox Founder and honors Hall of Fame inductees

The Trinidad State Educational Foundation's annual Fun & Friendraiser event attracted more than 150 supporters, despite a spring snow storm. With a reception, dinner and silent auction, the event featured an interview with Curt Richardson, founder of OtterBox, and the return of the Educational Foundation's Hall of Fame induction.



DeAngelis (left) and Hall of Fame Inductee Zappanti

In addition to proceeds from the event benefitting the Trinidad State Student Emergency Fund, a \$20,000 donation was presented to the Foundation and plans for a \$30,000 vocational scholarship were announced.

Richardson, the featured speaker at the event, is the Founder and Chairman of OtterBox, a Fort Collins, Colo.-based innovator of protective cases for handheld and wireless devices.



DeAngelis (left) interviews OtterBox Founder, Curt Richardson

In a conversational-style interview, DeAngelis and those in attendance asked Richardson a few questions. Richardson, a 1977 graduate of Trinidad High School, spoke about his 35-year path toward developing his successful business.

"When I walked into that machine shop sophomore year of high school, I knew what I wanted to do.

I saw those machines, and

I saw creating things," Richardson said.

When asked what drives his success, he said, "For me, it's about people. It's about

"I saw those machines, and I saw creating things."

helping them understand their gifts that God has given them and giving them the opportunity and tools to be able to succeed with those gifts."

Another highlight of the evening was the Trinidad State Educational Foundation's Hall of Fame induction, honoring those who have contributed to the betterment of Trinidad State through service, commitment and dedication. Miriam Zappanti was inducted into

the Hall of Fame and Anna Smith-Bacus and James M. Romero were posthumously inducted.

Romero served as a member of the Trinidad State College Council from 1943 to 1963. He played a key role in the early development of the College with tremendous growth of TSJC in the

50's and 60's during President Guy Davis' tenure. One of the first two residence halls built on campus in 1960 bears his name and was dedicated in May 1966.

Zappanti worked at Trinidad State from 1973-2006 as an instructor, grant writer, and Director of the GED program. After retiring from Trinidad State, Zappanti

continued to support the College and its students through her leadership as past President and

board member of the TSJC Educational Foundation. She continues to show her dedication for Trinidad State through

both her volunteer work and donations to the Foundation.

Upon accepting her nomination to the Hall of Fame, Zappanti proudly spoke of her three sons who each graduated from Trinidad State, and thanked her family and friends for their support throughout her career.

A life-long educator, Smith-Bacus joined the Trinidad State faculty in 1965. After a total of 51 years of teaching, she retired from Trinidad State in 1985. Upon her retirement, she said, "My students' success is the highest achievement in my teaching career; that's why I'm here."

Smith-Bacus' son, Roger Smith, accepted the award on behalf of his mother, then presented the Foundation with a donation of \$20,000 from his family.

Proceeds of about \$10,000 from ticket sales and the silent auction at the event benefitted the Trinidad State Student Emergency Fund, providing financial support to Trinidad State students when they need assistance with unexpected emergency expenses.

In addition to the event benefitting the Student Emergency Fund, the guest speaker, Richardson and his wife, Nancy Richardson, offered a \$30,000 matching scholarship gift to help inspire others to donate to Trinidad State. Once the Foundation raises \$30,000 in vocational program scholarships, the Richardsons will establish an endowed scholarship, the Curt Richardson Vocational Scholarship Fund.

Aquaculture students brave the elements to learn more about salmon

The wind-driven snow pelted Trinidad State aquaculture students as they strained to hear Aquatic Biologist Jim White, during the first winter storm of the season. White was demonstrating the spawning of Kokanee salmon at Lake Nighthorse near Durango.

Spawn are the eggs of aquatic animals. Spawning is the process of depositing those eggs. For the land-locked (grown in large lakes but not the ocean) Kokanee salmon in Lake Nighthorse, the eggs and sperm are expressed by hand. While holding the tail of a female Kokanee over a container, the harvester applies gentle even pressure around her body while leading with the thumb along the belly toward the tail fin. The eggs shoot out in a row looking much like a strand of pink pearls. A stream of sperm is then squeezed out of a male fish, identified by its prominent hooked jaw and reddish color, into the same container. Although fertilization may take place in only one to three seconds, the eggs and sperm are swished in the receptacle and left to sit for 30 seconds to assure fertilization.



The eggs are then rinsed in an iodine solution to help prevent disease and collected in containers where they are left to harden for thirty minutes before they are transported to the Durango Fish Hatchery.

Early that frigid November morning all but two class members had

opted out of the demonstration, all but Durango resident Sheryl Andrews and Steve Bunker. As a volunteer at the Durango Fish Hatchery, Andrews had arranged for the demonstration. Her volunteer work at hatcheries in Michigan and Arizona had sparked in her a love for biology. Her many accomplishments as a manufacturing engineer includes creating a design for a part that flew on a shuttle. She is a Colorado State University master gardener who received extensive training in horticulture and has passed that on to others by turning her very large garden into a Community Shared Agriculture (CSA). "Aquaculture is a natural extension of agriculture," said Andrews. She enjoyed her seasonal volunteer work at hatcheries

so much she decided to change careers; but, first, she needs a college credential in order to apply. Andrews worked with Ben Webster, the Trinidad State aquaculture director, to establish a hybridized version of the program. She attends labs at the college in Alamosa on Wednesdays and does the rest of her classwork online from her Durango home. "I just decided if I want to do something different with my

life, at my age (she's in her 50s), I better get with it!" said Andrews.

On the other hand, Steve Bunker's choice to change careers was a necessity. An

electrician for nearly twenty years, Bunker, a Valley native, suffered a severe ankle injury when he fell off a

"I just decided if I want to do something different with my life, at my age, I'd better get with it!"

roof. Following a lengthy surgery it was six months before he began the painful process of learning to walk again. When he was ready to consider a new career, he went to Trinidad State to investigate. After taking the introductory class, he registered for the program. "I've always loved fishing and being outside," said Bunker.

After the spawning demonstration, the group visited the Durango Hatchery where Sarah (Bashaw) Gump, a 2008 Trinidad State aquaculture graduate, gave the tour.

In the hatchery, the eggs pass through an "egg picker" machine that has a laser beam. When that laser cannot penetrate a white dead egg, a puff of air shoots it into a receptacle for disposal. Another receptacle houses the live pink eggs. A human "picker" will then use what looks like a turkey baster to pick out the dead eggs missed by the machine. Twenty elevated cement water runs each house 40,000 kokanee salmon eggs in one specially designed bucket where 50-degree water continuously circulates. The eggs hatch into minnows in about 30 days and are released into the runs. Their first meal is raw cow liver followed by a fish specific meal blend for the next 18 months. When they grow to two to three inches in length, they are stocked in designated Colorado lakes thus completing their life cycle.



Weeklong Hatmaking class now on *both* campuses

For a real cowboy a hat is as much a tool as boots and a lariat. Of course it provides shade from the brilliant Colorado sun and it keeps cold mountain showers from running down your neck. But for a real cowboy it can double as a food dish for your horse. You might even haul water with it.



That's why Jerry Sinor was thrilled to hear about a week-long summer hatmaking class at Trinidad State's Southern Rockies Heritage School. Sinor is Ranch Agent for the rugged 10,500 acre Purgatoire Peak Ranch south of Stonewall and fits the definition of a real cowboy.

Sinor's the type who wears a cowboy hat all the time, even indoors. He says he started wearing one when he was six. Now 68, he's thrilled with his new skill. "To design it in my own way and to form it the way I want it formed, it's the ultimate wonderful feeling that you can get in life."

To design it in my own way and to form it the way I want it formed, it's the ultimate wonderful feeling that you can get in life.

The class is taught each summer by Tom Hirt of Penrose. Hirt has done his share of cowboy work and understands the demands put on a hat. As the four-time winner of the best hat maker in the country award, Hirt is a highly recognized 'hatter.' He uses vintage tools to fashion hats one by one. "I am a dying breed," he said. "My hats are made like they were made in the late 1800s or early 1900s. That makes me uniquely different. I couldn't walk into a modern-day hat shop like Stetsons and use their

machinery. I use my hands." Hirt's antique collection of hundreds of crown blocks provides the bases over which an almost endless variety of hat shapes can be formed. His hats have covered the heads of Sam Elliot, Val Kilmer, Sharon Stone and President Reagan.

The next month Hirt took his tools to Alamosa for the first-ever hatmaking class in the San Luis Valley. Another real cowboy from La Jara, Tom Davis, signed

up. Decades ago at the age of 27, he rode a horse, with a string of pack animals from El Paso, Texas to Fairbanks, Alaska. The six month trip is chronicled in his book, *Be Tough or Be Gone*.

Davis said, "I buy felt hats for myself and I thought I'd like to learn how to take care of them right and make 'em, because they are expensive. I've been laid up with a leg for about five years. I wish I would have had this when they started puttin' my new leg on because I had a lot of down time that I couldn't do nothin'. I have no hobbies. I'm a rancher. We just work – eight days a week, 26 hours a day!" Davis broke a leg which became infected and ultimately was amputated. He just recently climbed back on a horse which he said is challenging



Instructor Tom Hirt forms a hat using steam

with an artificial leg that has no bounce, but he was happy to be back on a horse again.

Also in the Alamosa class of five was Mary Robbins, who describes herself as a "craftaholic." She lives in the Waverly district and raises llamas. She made two hats, one for her, the second for her husband. Robbins also quilts, knits, spins, weaves, and makes candles and stained glass. She said she wanted to add felt hat making to her crafting repertoire. "I'm so glad this class is being held here in the Valley," Robbins said. "I wouldn't have gone to Trinidad to take it with the extra expense of food and lodging."

Robbins described the process: They first turned the hat blanks upside down and poured water in them, let them soak, then poured the water out and set them on appropriate sized hat blocks to form them. Then they sanded the beaver fur until it was smooth, ironed the hats, cut the brims and hand creased the crowns after steaming them.

Dr. L. VanOsdol, from northwest Oklahoma spends summers in South Fork. "My family has been coming up here since the 50s," she said. "I saw the newspaper article and thought it could be

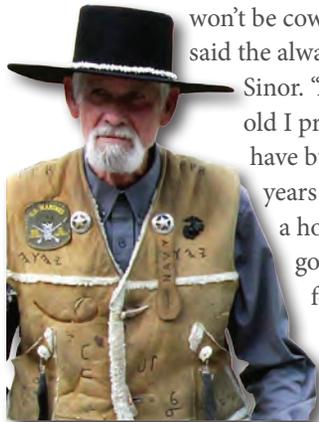


Photo (left): Alamosa Hat Making class

a new skill I could learn after retirement. I might set up a hat shop in South Fork!”

Sinor chose a unique material for his hat band. He found two dead rattlesnakes, boiled them and then painstakingly cleaned each piece of snake spine. What looks from a distance like a string of white coral, took more than two days to complete. He said he'd think hard about it before attempting that again. "I've been all over the country cowboyin' and I've never seen a rattlesnake vertebrae hatband."

His hat is in the Vaquero style, also called a buckaroo in some parts of the country. The white bone on black felt is striking. "This will probably be my Sunday/Go to Meetin' hat. It's something I probably



Sinor wears the hat he made

won't be cowboyin' in," said the always practical Sinor. "At 68 years old I probably don't have but 10 more years riding on a horse so I'm gonna save this for special occasions."

And Sinor might be



Loudon-Henritze Archaeology Museum



Free Admission

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East Entrance of Freudenthal Library at Trinidad State

→ Look for the giant T-Rex!



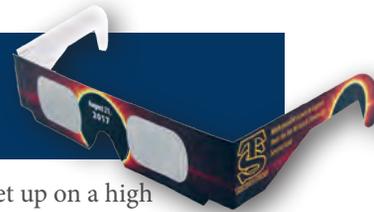
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back and make another hat next summer. He realizes there's a lot to learn about hats. "I have talked to other people, and all my cowboy friends and they're going to be coming up here registering for this course." Hirt's laid back, show-and-do style, resonates with the students. "When you start out you think, 'How would you ever get one to look like this or like this?' But Tom breaks it down into simple

ideology and simple words that you can understand. And the fact that you come in and you start working with that hat as soon as you sit down, it blows your mind."

"To be able to say to people, 'I made this hat,' is probably one of the greatest things I've experienced in my life," said Sinor. "And I've experienced a lot of things as a cowboy."

ECLIPSE IN SOUTHERN COLORADO



Students, staff and community members gathered at Trinidad State in both Alamosa and Trinidad to watch the partial eclipse in southern Colorado on August 21. Using a grant from the Bar N I Community Service Fund plus college funds, Trinidad State purchased 5,000 eclipse glasses. These were given away to students and staff as well as thousands of area children. Groups of people could be seen on both campuses taking a break from class or other duties to look up at the progressing partial eclipse.



ECLIPSE TRIP

Ten community members and three staff members took a trip to Nebraska on August 20 and 21 to see the total eclipse. Planning for the trip started more than a year ago when Dean of Instruction Keith Gipson reserved a block of hotel rooms in Ogallala, Nebraska. A diverse group from Colorado, New Mexico and Oklahoma left Trinidad in two college vans on August 20. On Monday morning, August 21, they drove north about 35 miles to Arthur,

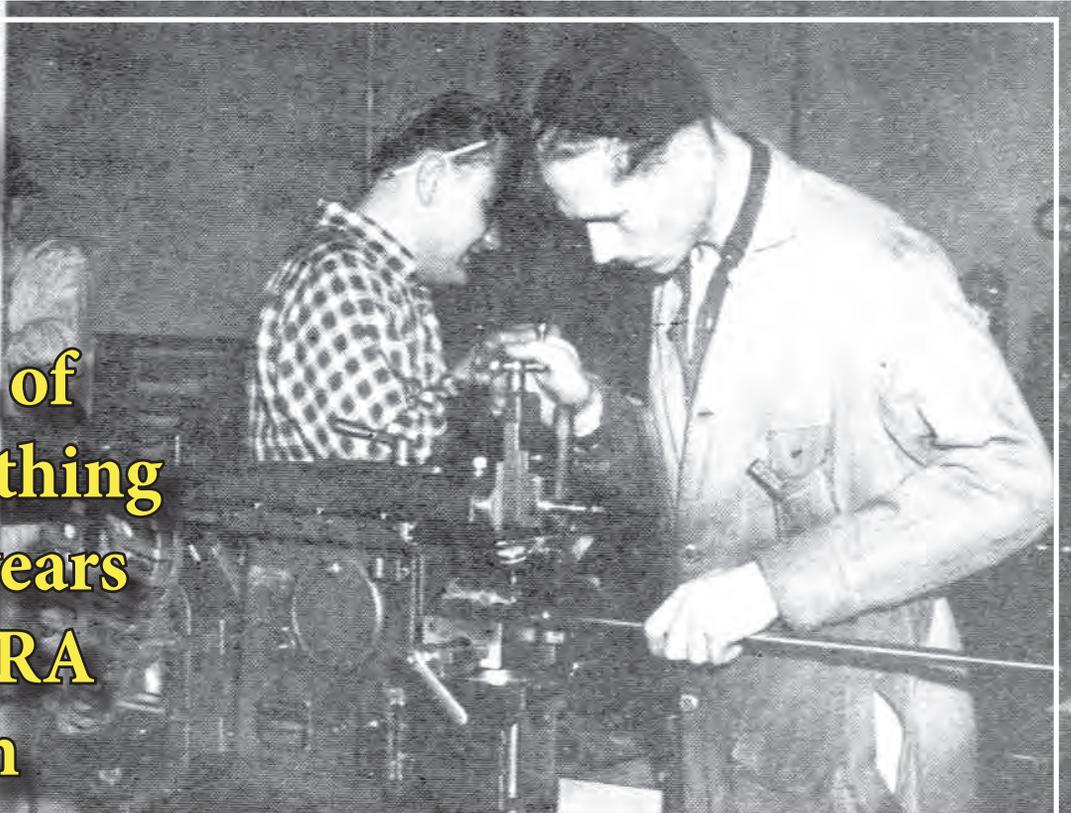
Nebraska and set up on a high school football field with various eclipse viewing devices including two telescopes provided by Physics Instructor Bob Philbin. They shared the football field with four other area schools and by all accounts had an unforgettable time.

Tamera Morton, writing for the Trinidad Chronicle News said, "We could see the prominences with the naked eye on the sides of the eclipsed sun. Seeing the sun's chromosphere, the outer layer of its atmosphere, radiating outward in silvery wispy-like clouds that were glowing and moving with brilliance. Everyone just started shouting "Oh, wow!" along with a lot more screaming and yelling. It was the most amazing sight of a lifetime."





70 years of Gunsmithing and 40 years of the NRA Program



It's been 70 years since legendary Gunsmith P.O. Ackley teamed up with Trinidad State to start a gunsmithing training program. It was 1947 and military service members were returning from war and looking for job opportunities.

The newly constructed Mullen Building would become home to this program, which is now known as America's premier gunsmithing school.

Past graduates gathered on June 9 and 10 to celebrate this milestone as well as forty years of NRA summer gunsmithing classes at Trinidad State.

This celebration of gunsmiths and guns as art culminated with a presentation by Jim Supica. He's the director of the

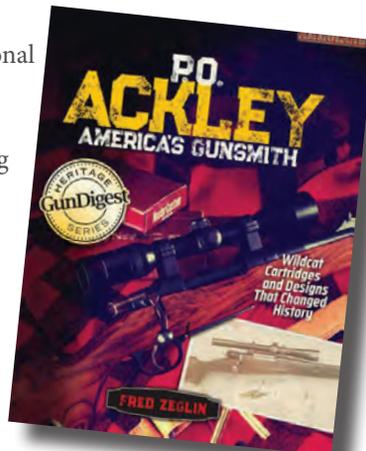


Jim Supica, Director of the NRA Museums

NRA Museums, which include the NRA National Firearms Museum in Fairfax, Virginia, the NRA National Sporting Arms Museum in Springfield, Missouri, along with the Frank Brownell Museum of the Southwest in New Mexico. About 10,000 firearms are included in inventory.

Later Fred Zeglin took the stage. He's an author and gunsmith from Kalispell, Montana. He had recently released P.O. Ackley: America's Gunsmith. Ackley was nationally known as a barrel maker, cartridge designer, experimenter, tool maker, reloading expert and of course gunsmith. He moved on from Trinidad to Utah and died in 1989 at the age of 86.

Ackley wrote handbooks on cartridge design and was known to push cartridges



and firearms to their limits.

His cartridges are still known as "Ackley Improved" and even now his handbooks are regarded as a cartridge experimenter's bible.

From this rich heritage the gunsmithing program has prospered, and continues to gain national attention.

Trinidad State paid homage to the most artistic of the

world's gunsmiths that same weekend with the second Art of the Gun at the A.R. Mitchell Museum of Western Art in downtown Trinidad. From the intricate to the unusual, the main floor of the museum was filled with examples of gunsmithing that ranged from bizarre to sublime. They ranged from a four-barrel movie prop shotgun made by Trinidad State students for the 1988 film Big Bad John, which was shot in Trinidad, to



Lee Griffiths' engraving work displayed at Art of the Gun

the remarkable engraving work of Lee Griffiths. Several of his works were loaned for the weekend by the Frank Brownell Museum of the Southwest at the NRA Whittington Center south of Raton, New Mexico. Many of the dozen artists in attendance took orders for custom work during the show.

A mid-grade Ackley rifle was also on display, part of Trinidad State's gun collection. Ackley had used it to barter for dental work when he lived in Trinidad. A handmade miniature Gatling Gun built by Paul Moore of Aguilar was also on display. It

has ten .22 caliber barrels and can fire 600 to 700 shots a minute.

Art of the Gun will return in 2018 at the same location on June 8 and 9.

When they weren't learning or perusing beautiful guns the past

graduates shared stories. They were also treated to a mouth-watering chuckwagon dinner provided by Tom Hirt of Penrose, and entertainment by Cowboy Poet Don O'Barr of Castle Rock.



Cowboy Poet Don O'Barr at the Chuckwagon Dinner

Save the Date

June 8-9, 2018

Art of the Gun

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A.R. Mitchell Museum
Trinidad, Colorado

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A.R. MITCHELL MUSEUM OF WESTERN ART

TRINIDAD STATE GUNSMITHING

Gunsmithing students gain national attention



Ainsley Ridgeway (Class of 2017) was featured on the cover of Women and Guns Magazine November/December 2016 edition in an article about the Trinidad State gunsmithing program. She grew up in Western Nebraska on a farm/ranch growing alfalfa and raising cattle. She graduated high school in

2012, with honors, having been active in FFA and sports. While at TSJC she was active in student government and was also a Residence Life Assistant. Another 2016 article in Gun World Magazine also prominently featured Ainsley. She graduated in May with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Gunsmithing with a Certificate in Computer Numerical Control Machining. Ainsley now works at the headquarters of Cabelas in Sydney, Nebraska.



Ainsley Ridgeway Gunsmithing project

Justin Kamal graduated in December 2016 and showed off his final project in January at our booth at the SHOT Show



Justin Kamal Gunsmithing project

in Las Vegas. It's a one-of-a-kind .50 caliber single shot that is so unusual you just can't look away. It includes silver wire inlay, relief carving, and checkering on a beautiful English walnut stock. It weighs in at 43 pounds! A media company called Rated Red saw it and turned our photos of this eye-catching rifle into a video which was viewed 3.5 million times on Facebook! You just can't buy that kind of publicity. Needless to say, this was great advertising for Justin as he searched for his first gunsmith job. He is now back home in Connecticut preparing to start his own business.

Unlikely team of two finishes 12th in the nation

The team that finished first brought 34 athletes. Trinidad State came with only two, but ended up in twelfth place at the NJCAA Indoor Track and Field national meet in Pittsburg, Kansas, in February. Considering 2016 was the first year of athletics at the Valley Campus in Alamosa, this was an amazing accomplishment. And their story, which spans the world, is just as amazing.

Raised in downtown Los Angeles, Elias Gedyon, won first in the 1000 meter with a time of 2:29.85. Coming clear from Darby, England, to train with Coach Lauren Masterson, Daniel Haymes placed fourth in the nation in the 3000 meter in 8:30.22, just ten seconds behind the first-place winner. In the mile run Gedyon placed second and Haymes placed seventh.

“They’ve exceeded my expectations. That’s for sure,” said Coach Martin. “Dan is a really good kid who shows up every day, super excited to be here. Elias is usually

the goof ball. It’s hard to have a bad day when the two of them are around. I’m really proud of them.”

Adjusting to the 7,600-foot altitude in the Valley didn’t come easy. Both young men essentially came from sea level. “After I got here and was walking upstairs and was out of breath, I thought ‘man I’m really out of shape,’” said Haymes. “I got fatigued much more quickly and couldn’t do the things I did at sea level.”

Gedyon agreed, “It was really tough at first. My body wasn’t used to the thin air at the time and it took around three months just to get used to the altitude.”

For as long as he can remember Haymes wanted to come to America on a scholarship and study and run. “When Coach Martin (now Masterson) contacted me about the program, it seemed like a perfect fit. He explained that getting his visa was a bit challenging and leaving his family and his girlfriend has been hard. “But, I have no regrets,” Haymes said, “I love it here. At home people are always rushing and they don’t take time to visit. Here the people are very friendly and will take time to talk to you. And in England it’s cloudy all the time and it’s cold. I love the sunshine here. I am happy to commit to two years here. I’ll keep running my butt off! My main objective is to become a professional runner.”

Haymes, who said he takes his education a lot more seriously now, is studying massage therapy.

Word usage in England is a ‘ad’ different than in the U.S. When the team travels for competitions, they often eat at Chipotle Mexican Grill. Martin said, “Dan always asks for tomato (pronounced toe-maw-toe) sauce, which in England means ketchup!” Gedyon added, “He eats

ranch (dressing) with everything.” Haymes laughed and said, “They don’t know what that means back home. I use it for everything even on my cereal!”

Gedyon came to the Valley after a two-year stay in Ethiopia with friends and relatives where he learned to speak Amharic, an Ethiopian language. He said he experienced a culture shock when coming to Alamosa compared to the fast-paced living in California. “It’s a more relaxed slower lifestyle here,” he said. “The people are very welcoming and it’s very peaceful here. It was the best decision for me.” He transferred in August to Adams State where he is now running under the direction of Coach Damon Martin, Lauren’s dad.

“We’re a small campus and with the small classes, the students get a lot of attention. You get that connection with the teacher and it makes it easier,” said Haymes. “And even though this is a junior college, the training here is done like a Division I school,” he said.

Elias agreed. “I really enjoy it – all aspects. I’m enjoying the classes I’m taking.

The teachers are really cool, very laid back. Always the joker, he quipped, “I want to be just like her (Coach Masterson) when I grow up!”

Photos: Haymes (left) and Gedyon



Gunsmithing student Emmitt Reimer was a walk-on, but finished 6th in the nation in the Javelin Throw

Another gold at Outdoor Track & Field Nationals

Four Trojans competed well in May at the NJCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Hutchinson, Kansas. Elias Gedyon took home a gold in the 1500 Meter Run, Daniel Haymes placed 4th in the 5000 Meter Run, Emmitt Reimer placed 6th in the Javelin Throw and Margarita Jones placed 17th in the Women’s 800 Meter Run. Trinidad State finished 16th in the nation.

CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS

wrap up inaugural season at Nationals



A strong new tradition began at Trinidad State in 2016 when 10 Trojan runners joined more than 600 others, representing more than 40 colleges in El Dorado, Kansas at the NJCAA Cross Country National Championships.

The Lady Trojans competed first, running the 5K with 316 individuals representing 37 schools. TSJC placed 27th overall with a team total of 728 points. Leanne Pompeani from Iowa Central Community

College won the overall title with a time of 17:11.34. Winona Martin was the first Trojan across the line in 134th place with a time of 20:46.33.

“There is no recreating a national meet during the regular season,” commented Coach Lauren Martin. “It was a great learning experience for the ladies. They all got out there and competed, which will serve them well in the long-run picture.”

In the Men’s 8K, TSJC was 20th overall with 540 points. Individually, Trojans Elias Gedyon and Daniel Haymes wrapped up a great season with another strong performance, both finishing in the top 25 in the nation and earning All-American awards. Gedyon was 11th overall with a time of 25:25.95. Haymes finished 23rd crossing the line at 25:52.69. Central Arizona’s Gilbert Kigen won the individual title, completing the race in 23:47.45.

Photo (left): Winona Martin

MEN'S SOCCER

Trojans return to National Tournament

The Trojan Men’s Soccer Team capped another stellar season with a trip to the NJCAA Division 1 National Championships. TSJC followed the Region IX Tournament with a win over Yavapai 3-1 and then Trinidad State’s first West District title with a 1-0 win over Southern Nevada.

Ten days later they entered the 12-team national tournament in Tyler, Texas. On November 15, 2016 they defeated Hill College 2-1 and then the next day fell to top-seeded and eventual National Champions Tyler Junior College by a score of 2-1. Tyler ended their season with a perfect 24 wins and no losses.

TSJC finished with an 18-5 record.

Photo (right): Jermey Elmore-Klepac



Trojan Baseball continues domination in Region IX

Our Trojan Baseball Team continued to dominate in NJCAA Region IX with a tournament crown for the fourth time in a row. The Trojans came into the May 11-13 tournament seeded second, having given up the Empire Conference title to Western Nebraska Community College. This was Western’s first conference title and gave them the right to host the tournament. And they were tough at their home diamond in Scottsbluff with a 15-3 record.



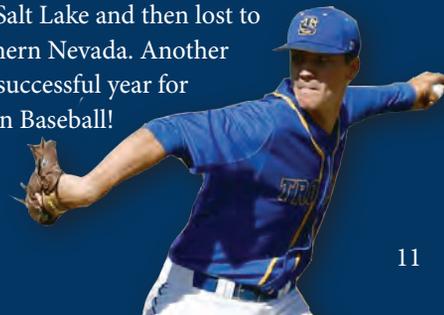
“The biggest thing we try to do here is be as good as we can be on a daily basis, this includes our work in the classroom and the community.”

“I honestly never think about the winning, we are always trying to figure out how to get better the next day.”

- Matthew Torrez, Head Baseball Coach

But the Trojan bats were hot and they burned through the tournament with wins over Northeastern (9-1), McCook (7-1) and then Western Nebraska for the title with a 15-5 win.

That put them into the next round of play for the fourth year in a row. The District Tournament for Regions 1, 9 and 18 happened the following week at Walt Kammann Baseball Field in Yuma, Arizona. Our Trojans lost there to Arizona Western, beat Salt Lake and then lost to Southern Nevada. Another very successful year for Trojan Baseball!



NJCAA announces All-Academic Teams

A total of 31 student-athletes from Trinidad State qualified for the 2016-17 NJCAA All-Academic Teams for their hard work and success in the classroom.

All-Academic First Team: 4.00 GPA

- Mitchell Gray – Baseball
- Michel Dagenais – Baseball
- Job Alexander – Men's Basketball
- Daniel Haymes – Men's Cross Country/Track and Field
- Filip Milivojevic – Men's Soccer
- Filip Cvetinovic – Men's Soccer
- Avery Boccella – Softball
- Kaitlyn Smith – Volleyball
- Noelle Gallegos – Volleyball
- Mandie Perea – Women's Basketball
- Alayna Latimore – Women's Basketball/Track and Field

All-Academic Second Team:

3.80-3.99 GPA

- Reese Patterson – Baseball
- Billy Biyombo – Men's Basketball
- Emmett Reimer – Men's Track and Field
- Olivia Muniz – Softball
- Megan Cosslett – Softball
- Nyece Smith – Women's Basketball
- Brittnee Coberly – Women's Basketball
- Maria Montes – Women's Cross Country/Track and Field
- Claire Gay – Women's Soccer/Track and Field

All-Academic Third Team: 3.60-3.79 GPA

- Seth Crummer – Baseball
- Blagoje Tokovic – Men's Soccer
- Darian Morlan – Softball
- Mariah McDermott – Softball
- Alyssa Suazo – Volleyball
- Shahrenessey Bradford – Women's Basketball
- Gabby Enloe – Women's Basketball
- Jordan Wyatt – Women's Basketball
- Victoria Bonahoom – Women's Soccer
- Laeticia Rambeau – Women's Soccer
- Alex Stabler – Women's Soccer

TROJAN SOFTBALL *Year of firsts*

2017 saw the Lady Trojans win the Region IX Conference Title and the Region IX Tournament Championship for the first time in program history. It also saw Coach Steve Swazo attain his 300th collegiate victory when the Trojans topped Otero on April 23. Swazo now has 307 wins in his eleven years coaching at Trinidad State.

Other firsts this year were setting a new school record for home runs as the Lady Trojans smacked 118 out of the park, top in the nation, breaking the previous school record of 79 set last season. The team ended the season with an all time best batting average of .396, most hits (690), most doubles (120), most runs scored (505), and most runs batted in (460). The team also had a best slugging percent of .687.

Sophomore Isabella Navarro put herself in the school's record book as the

all-time leader in runs scored (146), hits (177), doubles (36), HR (47) and batting average at .511

in her two years at Trinidad State. In 2016, she was named Region IX Freshmen-of-the-Year and in 2017 was selected as Region IX Player-of-the-Year. She also was selected All-Region two straight years and now attends Colorado State University in Fort Collins on a softball scholarship making her the first Trinidad State softball athlete to be awarded a Division I scholarship.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

First playoff victory in history of TSJC

In the first basketball playoff game played at TSJC's Scott Gym in almost forty years the Lady Trojans prevailed over McCook Community College to punch their ticket to the elite eight of Region IX. It was the first playoff victory in the history of

the Trinidad State women's basketball program.

"It was a great crowd and it increased the pressure on our team a little," commented Coach Rich Holden. "but I believe that ended up being a good thing. I was extremely proud of the way our girls responded to a McCook team who really brought the intensity."

The magical run by the basketball team came to an end in Scottsbluff, Nebraska with TSJC dropping a tight contest to Eastern Wyoming in the semifinal round. The previous evening the Trojans prevailed over Miles Community College in the Region IX quarterfinals. Trinidad finished the season 16-16, 10-4 in region, in what many believe was the most successful season in program history.



Get more sports news: www.tsjctrojans.com



The road to nursing school has been long and unusual for 21 year-old David Corvera. His goal now is to get a nursing degree at Trinidad State and eventually, a doctorate.

That's light years from his elementary school days in California. "I was in 5th grade and was expelled because I hurt other students by tapping them with hot scissors. It was quite a handful of classmates I did that to during class and the police department got involved and did a psychiatric questionnaire test to see if I had any mental problems, but I honestly did it as a joke thinking it was funny at the time." Being expelled meant he couldn't go to any public school in Salinas, California. He ended up in a private Christian school. "That played a huge role in my maturity and development towards a relationship with Jesus Christ." After several years, Corvera's family moved to Monterey where he returned to a public school, Monterey High School.

He said his freshman and sophomore years were disastrous. He is grateful the staff was patient with him and he didn't get expelled again. Kevin Mayer, his tutor as well as youth pastor, played a large role in helping steer Corvera's life in a more positive direction. Respect for his teachers grew his junior and senior years. By a slim margin he beat out his only competitor to become senior class president for approximately 240 students. But he barely managed to graduate with a minimum grade point average. That changed once he started college. He is now an A and B student.

"I can confidently say that God plays a big role in my life. I wouldn't be the person

I am today without him," said Corvera who credits God and exercise "for keeping me going and alive and aware." In fact, exercising at a CrossFit class is where he met his girlfriend, Erika. "I try to keep myself in peak condition because I know that with this nursing gig, there's going to be a lot of heavy lifting going on," Corvera explained.

Corvera was not always so fit. His mother fainted during his birth which affected his neck giving him limited movement from side to side. Nor can he look up. "It doesn't stop me from doing anything." He also had a kidney removed at four months and suffered from asthma, which he has outgrown.

While living in California, Corvera attended one year at Hartnell Community College near Salinas. He was drawn to nursing – possibly due to the college level EMT class he had taken in high school where he was required to do some Emergency Room work at a community hospital.

When his parents relocated to the San Luis Valley, Corvera moved with them. "I didn't want to waste any time without doing any schooling," said Corvera. "It was great because there is a college and a university here. Obviously, I didn't want to pay more so I chose Trinidad State real quick."

While Corvera worked an additional two years at Trinidad State to complete his

General Education requirements, his work study position in the Learning Center at the college enabled him to assist other students. His fluency in both Spanish and English enhanced his interactions. His work study supervisor, Todd Cotton, said, "From the first day I met him I knew there was something special about him. He's friendly, comfortable with anyone, and positive. He is one of the most conscientious students I have met in my thirty years of education."

Corvera also tutored students in Statistics. Julianna Chaparro, the TRiO Director, said "He was always available, always willing and loved tutoring. He's very charismatic. Students came to him for help due to his welcoming demeanor."

"I jumped right in to student government my first year at Trinidad State and served as senator at large," said Corvera. Last semester he served as President of Student Government as well as President of T²SC (TRiO Transfer Student Club).

In May, Corvera graduated with both Associate of Arts and Associate of General Studies degrees. Although he is no longer a member of the executive board, he still attends the student government meetings representing Nursing Level I students as their President.

"I'm the first one there, the last one out. It's definitely everything I thought it would be."

"It took me three years of college classes to finally get accepted into the nursing program. "It's hard," he said. "It's time consuming and your life has to evolve around it. That's what I've been living these past four weeks now. It's been a good ride. I'm loving it. It's awesome. I love studying it. I love the hands-on activities. I'm all over it. I'm the first one there, the last one out. It's definitely everything I thought it would be."

After this year, Corvera plans to enroll in the summer program for LPNs. He plans to earn his RN next year and then transfer to earn his BSN, then his master's and finally his doctorate "because I want to be the person in charge." That certainly does not sound like a 'trouble maker!'



The following is the speech given during the 2017 Entrepreneurial Operations Certification Graduation Ceremony at the Trinidad Corrections Facility on May 4, 2017 by student Joseph Ramirez. Classes included Business Communication, Business Law and Business Math.

Our journey began with eight men with nothing in common but blind ambition, unrefined goals and the color green, asking ourselves why we would volunteer to embark on a journey that demands so much but seemingly delivers so little.

A journey that began with test results, that revealed English was in fact, not our primary language. Test results that dictated and required extensive and remedial composition tutoring. Who knew commas serve a real purpose, verbs and past participles have to match and some kind of acronym, FATBOY or FANBOYS can actually help prevent a comma splice.

Along the journey, a syllabus was introduced, time requirements revealed and at that point reality set in—and it was only the first week of class. We understood quickly, this is for real, no more TV, chess, no down time, no more life. All that we once knew was surrendered.

The journey continued. We adapted and pressed on. Game plans created, schedules laid out, study groups forged. A cohort was born. Now of course at first, there was hesitation, pushback. An uncomfortable cloud that sheltered our innate self-reliant mentalities and the prideful tendencies that inhibited our effectiveness as a group. Quickly independence gave way to interdependence, the private victories became public ones. Synergy was

achieved. The cohort strengthened and fortified.

The journey resumed. The classroom threshold—the proverbial barrier that once crossed—transformed State greens to Trojan blue and gold. At first it was a small transition, unnoticed and insignificant but as class progressed, goals were achieved, milestones met and the threshold grew. It expanded and became uncontained, immeasurable, like a shadow, it enveloped us. It followed us outside the classroom, onto the yard, and into our houses. It followed into conversations we had with loved ones at home. Priorities shifted, accountability prevailed and we looked at ourselves, no longer student-inmates at Trinidad Correctional Facility but as college students at Trinidad State, proudly peacocking our insignia totes across the yard to class.

The end of the journey is here and as we look up from our books we can see light at the end of the tunnel. Finals come and go with one last push of intense determination to make it through to the end. It is not for the weak, we are expected to give it everything we have, to the very end. Tired—no not tired—exhausted, doing whatever we can for just a few more precious minutes in the computer lab or library. At last, it is over and we have a moment of clarity, a moment of reflection, a realization of accomplishment, a LIFE VICTORY! There is a self-acknowledgment that through all the adversities over the past 10 months: lack of resources, work, other programs, lockdowns, shakedowns and even waiving our right to parole just to finish what we started. We endured! We prevailed! We overcame challenges that even traditional students will never face. We conquered!

Our accomplishments produced comprehensive and detailed visions in

the form of a business plan and include inspired companies like The House of Higuera: Custom Men's Tailoring, J.P.'s Mobile Oil Change Service, Red Wolf HVAC Services, Adirondack Furniture Works, Austin & Robert's Auto Sales, Red Hammer Construction, Eco-Green Auto Recycling, and LanDocked Seafood Market.



Ramirez (right) with Trinidad State President Dr. Carmen Simone

This journey produced a cohort, a motivated, determined and confident group of future business leaders that learned the value of hard work, goal setting, self-discipline and the value placed in the respect for self, a virtue that many of us lost or buried. This respect for self is now excavated, refined and polished. It is exposed with renewed vigor that drives us to succeed. It creates in us a desire to invest in ourselves through continued education and programs, to continue our journey well after these walls are a distant memory.

It is a journey that began with a college that had a design to bring together eight men who had nothing in common, but it ends with one cohort whose unfinished goals and desire to achieve will reflect our Trojan spirit that has been ignited.

This is our life, our success, our journey.

Ramirez now plans to get an online degree from Trinidad State and then pursue a business degree at Adams State University. Eventually he hopes to open a seafood market.

CLASS NOTES

Share your updates with Trinidad State!
Email Shannon.Shiveley@trinidadstate.edu or visit www.trinidadstate.edu/alumni.

Anna (Konogeris-Kelloff) Floyd, '46 relocated to Pueblo with her first husband, Mitchell Kelloff, Sr. where they opened and managed 19 movie theaters including the historic Uptown Theater. She began a second career with the Colorado Division of Rehabilitation where she met her second husband, Robert Floyd. They were married 41 years. Following her retirement in 1990, she and Robert traveled the world. In her final years, she overcame cancer yet ultimately succumbed to Alzheimer's disease. Anna passed away March 14, 2017.

Robert "Bob" Menardi, '51 was an outstanding high school and college multi-sport athlete. After college and a short time in the U.S. Army, he extended his love of sports into a 10-year teaching and coaching career. In 1965, Bob began a 23-year career with the Colorado Department of Youth Services. Bob and his wife Betty have four children and nine grandchildren. Bob passed away January 21, 2017.

Martin Castenada, '54 was a member of the track team at TSJC that placed 4th at the National Junior College Track & Field meet, where Martin won second place in the two-mile run. Martin transferred to CSU-Ft. Collins and ultimately the University of Washington. He studied government and law but didn't stay in those areas.

Nova (Hutchison) Johnston, '53 shared recently "two great years of my life were at TJC." Nova and her sister, **Eileen (Hutchison) Johnston, '56** married brothers.

William Riccotone, '53 was also known as Coach, Rick, and Buddy to his family and friends. Rick was a teacher and coach at Aguilar High School his entire career until he retired. He enjoyed fishing, weekend trips to the cabin at Monument Lake, playing poker and watching sporting events especially the Broncos and his grandchildren's sporting events. Rick passed away March 13, 2017.

Tom Miller, '57 graduated from the Building trades program. He then spent two years in the Army. He used his training and skills learned at TSJC and in the Army to become a successful full-time farmer and rancher raising cattle and growing alfalfa.

Robert Tapia, '57 was an educator, insurance salesman, a member of the early Model Cities program, and up until his retirement in 1996, on staff at Western State University in Gunnison, CO. Robert passed away December 13, 2016.

Emily (Roitz) Cimino, '58 attended the University of Denver for one year after graduating from TSJC. She then went to earn a degree in Business Education and English Literature from the University of Northern Colorado. She married **Gerald (Jay) Cimino, '58**, in 1960. Emily focused on caring for their four children, but still she had a passion for flowers and creating beautiful gardens. As the children grew, she began her own business supplying local companies with plants and floral arrangements. In 2014, the Cimino family dedicated Emily's Bel' Fiore Garden at Mt. Carmel in Trinidad. Emily passed away November 17, 2016.

Gerald (Jay) Cimino, '58 was recognized by the Trinidad/Las Animas County Chamber of Commerce as the 2016 Chenoweth Award winner for his passion and commitment for his hometown of Trinidad. He is largely responsible for the revitalization of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church into the Mt. Carmel Health, Wellness and Community Center and is working on the LaPuerta de Colorado development near historic downtown Trinidad.

Paul Milosevich, '59 who studied under A.R. Mitchell currently has a retrospective show at the A.R. Mitchell Museum of Western Art. It's a retrospective showcasing his work from the 1950's through today with an outstanding array of oils, watercolors and sketches.

Dr. Gayle Hopkins, '61, did some amazing things on various types of athletic fields through the years, especially in long jump pits. While at TSJC, he played football and ran track, earning All-American honors as a freshman and also won the national junior college high jump championship in 1961. Gayle transferred to the University of Arizona and won the NCAA indoor and outdoor long jump titles in 1964. He was a member

of the 1964 U.S. Olympic track team. Gayle spent several years in California, teaching and coaching while working on his PhD. From 1983–2010, he worked in various administrative capacities at the University of Arizona, where he was affectionately known as "Doc Hop." Gayle passed away in March, 2016 from causes related to diabetes, leaving behind a wife, Pat, and two children.

Thomas Schenker, '64 was only able to attend TSJC for one year, but he always felt that the lessons he learned including self-discipline and strong work ethic were invaluable to him in his eight-year career in newspapers and over 30 years in shopping center management. He shared, "Words cannot begin to express how much it meant to me to finally visit Trinidad State after 53 years and the kind reception I received." Foundation Note: It was our pleasure, Thomas!

Alexander Bell, '65 said "TSJC was the best part of my college education...my heart is with TSJC!" He went on to say, "I am so thankful that I attended TSJC and consider my two years there as the most rewarding of my college years from junior college to graduate school."

Patrick Squire, '66 attended the Gunsmithing program until being drafted for Vietnam. Upon his return, he completed his undergraduate degree at Penn State, then attained his law degree at University of Wisconsin Law School. After graduation he was a general practice lawyer in a town of 50,000 people and "it was the worst job ever." So he went to the library and researched industrial manufacturers (gunsmithing). He then wrote a cover letter to about 30 gun manufacturers and told them he had studied gunsmithing at TSJC,

Recent graduate receives high praise from City of Trinidad

Raven Paiz received a degree in Graphic Design in May of 2016 and has already made her mark at the City of Trinidad in her job as Media Administrator. In July Trinidad released a 67-page Visitor's Guide filled with beautiful photography and information about places to go and things to do in the area. Raven took most of the photos.

"We hired Raven for this specific reason," said Director of Economic Development

Jonathan Taylor. "This was one of three tourism goals for 2017 and once this guide is published today, we'll have met all three goals by July. This was Raven's project. I oversaw it, and the first floodgate was getting past me, because I'm very particular, but Raven did an amazing job.

Taylor said Paiz had been put in charge of the photography for the guide because of her unique skillset. "Like I said at City Council the other night, hiring Raven has been our biggest success here in Trinidad."

Photo and story excerpts courtesy of the Trinidad Chronicle News



was a Vietnam veteran, and was a lawyer. He received a number of job offers and that is how he spent his career — as a lawyer for gun manufacturers. He recently retired as VP of Colt Manufacturing.

Frank Steed, '67 played football and was selected for the TSJC Student Leader Award. Frank earned a bachelor's degree in 1969, and later a master's from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He was an electrical engineer at McDonnell Douglas, working on aerospace programs. In 1976, he went to work for Samsonite Corporation, eventually becoming President of Samsonite, USA. Frank has co-founded many companies including Optimum Water Technologies, a wastewater treatment company; eBags.com, one of the very first internet e-commerce companies and he is currently President of Apera, manufacturer of high-end sports and fitness bags. Frank has taught entrepreneurship classes at the University of Denver, and mentors high school students for the Think Like a Genius Foundation. Frank has been married to his wife Letha, a Trinidad native, for 47 years, has two daughters and three grandchildren.

Mike Lujan, '72 came to Trinidad State from Albuquerque, NM and received a degree in Education. Mike says "Trinidad State changed my life. I was one of 15 children and TSJC was where I got help to continue my education. Mike went on to teach for 42 years and coach wrestling for 28 years. He retired from Santa Fe High School three years ago.

Robert Romero, '72 celebrated his mom's 99 1/2 birthday party in July, 2016. Sadly, Lucy (Torres) passed away November 9, 2016. The family requested gifts be made to the Fidel Romero Scholarship at TSJC.

Dennis Stone, '73 shared his contact information and noted he's looking for classmates Debbie Lucero, Carlos Guzman, Joseph Winkelbauer, Lee Royce Bird, Nick Fortune, and Virginia Guzman. Please note, when asked for personal information, the TSJC Alumni Office policy is that the request is forwarded to their peer. Then individuals can make the choice to contact the

requesting party. For questions, please call the Alumni Office at 1-800-621-TSJC ext 5569 or email shannon.shiveley@trinidadstate.edu

Jeffrey Kennison, '73, nicknamed "Bear" in college, cherishes his memories of TSJC and considers the Gunsmithing program a very valuable part of his overall education with many experiences that have helped him in life. After TSJC, Jeffrey went to Western State College and studied business and music. Music was always a first love of his along with firearms and shooting. In 1976, he joined a rock band and continues to make his living playing music.

Laura DeBella, '74 transferred to the University of Northern Colorado where she received her bachelor's degree in Consumer Education with a minor in Business. She worked for a short time for The Equitable Insurance Company as a management trainee receiving her license in all lines of insurance. In 1978, she helped her brother, Pete, establish his State Farm Insurance agency. For the next 17 years, she helped grow and manage the agency. In 1994, she was appointed as the State Farm Agent in Trinidad and has received numerous company recognitions including the State Farm Legion of Honor award and a State Farm Select Agent for the years 2001-2004. Laura is active in many organizations in the Trinidad area.

Joseph A. DeGregorio, '75 attended the University of Colorado-Boulder to earn his BS in economics. He directed the Huerfano/Las Animas Council of Governments for several years. In 1986, he earned his Doctorate of Juris Prudence at Gonzaga University. After a short time in private practice, Joe began working for the Denver City Attorney's office. Even while practicing law, he became a certified welder and enjoyed woodworking, making much of the furniture in his home. Joe passed away unexpectedly November 10, 2016.

Douglas Rodriguez, '75 is a professional business consultant owning and operating Pro-Law Assist Incorporated in the greater Denver area since 1988. He earned his Masters of Business Administration from Kansas State University. He and his wife Miriam have been married nearly 40 years and have two sons.

Jeff Mangino, '76 began a new career in 2016 as owner of the Farmers Insurance Agency in Trinidad. He purchased the business from his son **Jon Mangino, '00** when he relocated to Denver. Prior to that, Jeff served as President of The First National Bank in Trinidad for 17 years. Jeff and his wife, **Judy (Martorano) '77**, have three children **Jon '00, Jina '03, & Jenna '09**.

Kimmi Lewis, '77 attended Trinidad State on a basketball scholarship and was a member of the TSJC choir. After graduating, Kimmi and husband, Dave, owned and operated Dave Lewis Trucking, while raising six children. The couple purchased the Muddy Valley Ranch and Lewis continues to operate the ranch after losing Dave to leukemia. In 2017 she was sworn in to the Colorado House of Representatives.

Alumni Memorials

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Caroline (Fantin) Martini, '39 | Dennis Rice, '68 |
| Max Kennedy, '43 | Agapito Martinez Rivera, '68 |
| Anna (Konogeri-Kelloff) Floyd, '46 | Mariana (Floyd) Buhr, '70 |
| Mary Dona, '47 | Paul Julian Duran, '70 |
| Joseph W. Torres, '47 | Christina Sena, '70 |
| James F. Begano, '48 | Manuel Zuniga, '70 |
| George Ortiz, '48 | Janice Lynn Bulson Shew, '71 |
| Lee Albright, '49 | Leslie (Rodger) Colucci, '73 |
| Olga (Genis) Reorda, '49 | Pia (Jackie) DiPaolo, '73 |
| Ruth (Cunniff) Smelser, '49 | Robert Rice, '73 |
| Joseph Cassio, '50 | Joseph DeGregorio, '75 |
| Russell Titsworth, '50 | Dunklin McCondichie, '75 |
| Ardeth Marie Banta Lemaire Winslette, '50 | Orville Gilpin, '77 |
| Donald Anderson, '51 | Robert (Romero) Barron, '78 |
| Robert "Bob" Menardi, '51 | Christopher Samuel Welch, '81 |
| Richard Selfridge, '51 | Gwen (Martinez) Breedlove, '84 |
| Harold Tupps, '51 | Gwen R. Martinez, '84 |
| Betty (Newcomb) Owens, '53 | Mary (Sena) Begano, '94 |
| William J. Ricottone, '53 | Marco Anthony Mattorano, '98 |
| Gerald Maes, '55 | Michelle Sepulveda, '02 |
| Albert Bracco, '56 | Wessley Duran, '07 |
| Crist Donald Cunico, '57 | Aerial Valdez, '08 |
| Robert "Bob" Tapia, '57 | Martin L. Abeyta |
| Emily (Roitz) Cimino, '58 | Portofino Sanchez |
| MaryLee (Gray) DeGarbo, '59 | |
| Stanley Nobles, '60 | Friends of TSJC Memorial |
| Shirley Werden, '60 | Peter Frank Borrego |
| Gayle Hopkins, '61 | Frank A. Deluca, Sr. |
| Paul Kracht, '61 | Father Robert DeRouen SJ |
| Clark B. Scott, '61 | Janyce DiPaola |
| Judith (Langoni) Tyler, '61 | Louis Girodo |
| Gloria Tunney, '62 | Leon F. Gutierrez |
| Roger Hoxie, '63 | Cliff Kitchen |
| Marilyn (Swift) Palovich, '63 | Rosemary Iuppa |
| Anthony B. Schroeder, '63 | Sam Madrid |
| Darrell Pedri, '64 | Marjorie Marty |
| Stanley Blatnick, '65 | Loan Kieu (Anderson) Maas |
| Richard Hartwig, '65 | Shirley Ann Owens |
| Ronald Passarelli, '67 | Lucy G. Torres |
| Tom Martinez, '68 | Mary Martinez Torres |

Trinidad State graduate Jeff Gipson is on the Disney team that won an Oscar at the Academy Awards for "Zootopia." He works as a lighting artist. And this isn't the first time Jeff has had his hands on an Oscar. He also worked on "Frozen" and "Big Hero 6." After graduation

from Trinidad State he attended the University of Colorado and got a degree in Environmental Design (Architecture).

For a time he designed skate parks before landing a job at Disney in 2013.



Trinidad State VP chosen for national award

The National Council of Instructional Administrators (NCIA), headquartered at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln, selected our Lynette Bates as the recipient of its 2017 Emerging Chief Academic Officer award.

Lynette became our vice president for academic affairs in 2015. She first came to Trinidad State Junior College as an assistant coordinator of a tech prep grant in 2002. Over the years Ms. Bates has provided leadership in multiple roles, beginning in 2003 as the Career and Technical Education advisor, in 2011 she was named Associate Dean and in 2012 the Dean for Career and Technical Education.

She earned her bachelor's degree at Colorado State University-Pueblo. She earned a master's degree in Education at Colorado State University.

NCIA is a professional organization affiliated with the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). This award recognizes instructional administrators who have served as chief academic officer for less than 3 years.



Photo: Trinidad State President Dr. Carmen Simone (left) presents the NCIA Emerging Chief Academic Officer award to Vice President Lynette Bates.

William "Billy" Garlutz, '80 has been in the jewelry business for 35 years and is an accomplished designer and maker of fine jewelry. He graduated from the Gemological Institute of America in Santa Monica in 1984, where his passion for these small treasures began. Billy is the owner and creative force behind Andrews Jewelry Store in Centennial, CO. A few years ago, he bought the Middle Fork Resort in Stonewall, CO.

Charles Glorioso, '84 Trinidad's Police Chief was honored in 2016 with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Business Award. While **Daniel T. DuRan, '94** received the Hispanic Leader of the Year Award; **Francisca Villani, '62** received the Women in Business Award; and **Lydia Baca, '62** received the Education Award.

Gregory "Bubba" Leal, '86 has been working for a manufacturing company that sells vacuum chambers. His travels have taken him to South Korea, Russia, & China.

Doug Bak, '87 enrolled at TSJC in the fall of 1985 and graduated in 1987 with an AAS degree in electronics technology. He continued for a second AAS degree in computer maintenance in 1988. During the summer of 1988, Doug applied for and was hired as TSJC's Audio Visual Director. Doug has worn many hats since then and has been involved with all the technology changes at TSJC for 30 years. Doug currently serves as the IT Director at Trinidad State.

Leeann (Lackey-Fabec) Pacheco, '89 earned her accounting degree at TSJC and then completed her bachelor's degree in business finance from Regis University. She began working as the Las Animas County finance director in 2000 and was appointed county administrator in 2012. Leeann retired in 2016.

James "Dodie" Smith, '95 served in the Army for seven years after graduating from Trinidad State, then attended William Penn University in Iowa. He currently resides in the Houston area and has been doing what he can to help out after the recent hurricane.

Lisa (Saracino) Glorioso, '97 remembers her involvement with the Upward Bound program as a highlight for both learning and fun. Lisa then attended Adams State College, now Adams State University, and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education. She continued her education and in 2006, she graduated from Grand Canyon University with a Master's Degree in Teaching. Lisa has been employed by the Trinidad School District for 17 years, teaching now at Trinidad Middle School.

Eric O'Brien, '97 graduated from Alamosa High School in 1996. He went on to Trinidad State Junior College Valley Campus and completed the Diesel Mechanic Certificate in 1997. He worked for local farms from 1997 until 2006 when he began teaching the Diesel Mechanic Program at Trinidad State.

Heather Haefeli, '97 received both an LPN certificate and an Associate Degree in Nursing (RN) from Trinidad State. She says "TSJC was a great starting point for a

very productive, rewarding, and stable career in nursing. My education has helped me to support my three daughters and be a valuable role model for them. It is one of the best decisions I've made." Heather obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Grand Canyon University and has worked at the San Luis Valley Health Regional Medical Center. Heather plans to return to school to pursue a Master's Degree in Family Nurse Practitioner/ Adult-Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner.

ToniJo Niccoli, '99 was recently honored for her work and positive impact in education. She is Assistant Principal at Old Columbine High School in Longmont, Colorado. She says the commitment and encouragement she received from her teachers and coaches when she was growing up "inspired her to become an educator and to hopefully do the same for my students one day." ToniJo is the daughter of Gerald and **Kim ('79) Niccoli**.

Laurie Corradino, '07 continued her education at Colorado State University – Pueblo, earning a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She became a licensed CPA in 2011. Laurie taught accounting at Colorado Mesa University, then returned to school, graduating last year from Texas Tech University with a Ph.D. in Business Administration. Laurie currently resides in Laramie, Wyoming, and is an Assistant Professor of Accounting at the University of Wyoming.

Brandon Gylling, '07 received an Associate of Applied Science with a major in computer and networking technology. Brandon founded and owns Rocky Mountain Fire and Security, and feels fortunate to provide a service to the San Luis Valley and surrounding areas. Brandon said, "I enjoy the technology field as it always continues to grow and change. I will always be thankful for Trinidad State Junior College and its instructors, as it has helped me to achieve and continue to achieve new goals that come my way."

Our newest alumni from the **class of 2017** include these students who will be furthering their educations at four-year institutions:

- Tedi Archuletta** – Adams State University
- Nancy Chan Balderrama** – Adams State University
- Jennifer Ball** – Colorado State University, Pueblo
- Regina Ball** – Colorado State University, Pueblo
- Filip Cvetinovic** – University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Devin Dallas** – Montana State University
- Oswaldo Diniz** – W. Florida State College, Pensacola
- Rachel Fraser** – Wayne State College, Nebraska
- Thais Gomes Dos Santos** – Ohio Valley University, WV
- Elias Gedyon** – Adams State University
- Angela Henderson** – Adams State University
- Johanna Hoffpauir** – Colorado State Univ., Pueblo
- Steven Holden** – Southwestern Oklahoma State Univ.
- Seychelle Lusk** – Colorado State University
- Cheryl Martinez** – Adams State University

- Stephanie Martinez** – Adams State University
- Tashena McIntosh** – Houston State University
- Megan Mckibbin** – Adams State University
- Filip Milivojevic** – University of the Cumberland, KY
- Isabella Navarro** – Colorado State Univ., Ft. Collins
- Anthony Ruybal** – Adams State University
- Kaitlyn Smith** – Univ. of Colorado, Colorado Springs
- Rebekah Trodick** – Adams State University
- Blagoje Tokovic** – University of the Cumberland, KY

Azar Endowment for Excellence

In January, Denver attorney and Trinidad native Franklin D. Azar established the Franklin D. Azar Endowment for Excellence through the Trinidad State Educational Foundation with a \$100,000 gift. Back in 2014 Azar had committed \$250,000 to support scholarships over a five-year period. He then elected to shift the focus of the fund to help the college in a broader way.

The endowment will help with funding in areas such as responding to training and education needs, strengthening academic programs, providing professional development for faculty to implement the newest technologies in teaching, or offerings that maximize student success.



DONOR REPORT

Trinidad State Junior College Educational Foundation • Gifts were received September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2017

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Elizabeth and William Eckhart Memorial Scholarship



Barbara Eckhart Knight established the Elizabeth and William Eckhart Memorial Scholarship fund in the spring of 2017 in honor of her parents. Matched dollar for dollar by the Trinidad State Educational Foundation, it funds a scholarship for a student pursuing a vocational path of study. Barbara had just finished elementary school when her family moved to Colorado Springs. Her father was a judge in Las Animas County and was later appointed to the bench in Colorado's 4th Judicial District in Colorado Springs. "I wanted to help someone go to school and get the training needed to come out and have a job," she said of her gift.

- | | | | | | |
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Alamosa State Bank establishes endowment

Trinidad State Junior College Educational Foundation recently finalized a gift agreement with Alamosa State Bank for an endowed scholarship for students attending the Valley Campus.



SLV Federal contributes to TSJC endowment

San Luis Valley Federal Bank's board of directors approved a \$25,000 contribution to the Trinidad State Educational Foundation for scholarships to benefit Valley Campus students.



Alumni Office
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SOUTHERN ROCKIES HERITAGE SCHOOL

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