

## TRINIDAD STATE

# 90th

## STUDENTS FIRST SINCE 1925

**PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE**  
*Trinidad State Celebrates 90 Years*

# President's Column

*Dr. Carmen Simone, Trinidad State President*

## Trinidad State Junior College Educational Foundation

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Trinidad State has the distinction of being the first Colorado community college, first opening our doors back in 1925. Over the years, we have served countless students, many of whom were the first in their families to attend college. This institution has witnessed prosperous times and it has weathered tough times.



As we celebrate our first ninety years together, it is essential to remember the impact education can have on individual students, often dramatically changing their lives. At the



same time, it is important to acknowledge the impact of the institution on society as a whole, both economically and culturally. Trinidad State will always be a great institution, firmly rooted in the past and deeply committed to the future.

## INTOUCH

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## New Health and Wellness Certificate

At the forefront of holistic health education, Trinidad State was the first in Colorado to offer an associate degree in holistic health in 2007, and now again leads the way with a new Health and Wellness Certificate to be offered beginning this fall on the Trinidad Campus.

The new Certificate exposes students to a broad overview of wellness over two semesters. Courses cover topics such as nutrition, managing stress, first aid and CPR, weight management and fitness, among other subjects.

Anyone interested or wanting more information should contact Kay Evans at (719) 846-5468 or kay.evans@trinidadstate.edu.

## Trinidad State robot conquers Dunes challenge



Even the Great Sand Dunes wasn't enough to tame A.L.L.E.N. – Trinidad State's entry in the Robotics Challenge sponsored by NASA and the Colorado Space Grant Consortium.

Each year sponsors put together six increasingly difficult robot courses, all designed to test the abilities of robots built by college students from across Colorado.

In the seven-year history of the Robot Challenge at the Sand Dunes, no robot has ever conquered all the challenges set up by the judges. Until now. A.L.L.E.N., an acronym for Autonomous Logical Land-based Electronic Navigator, became the first on April 5, 2014.

Trinidad State's Robotics Team was made up of Hayden Alworth, Andrez Leyva, Mary Carpenter, Eric Perry and Camille Arn.

## Valley Campus students excel at business competition

Three Trinidad State students who competed in the Phi Beta Lambda statewide competition in April in Denver qualified for the national competition in June. In addition, Trinidad State's Shawn Cavalli was chosen Advisor of the Year. Trinidad State was also honored for the size of its local program.

Colleges from across the state sent representatives to the two-day competition at Johnson and Wales University in Denver on April 12 and 13. Phi Beta Lambda is the college counterpart of Future Business Leaders of America, which runs at high schools all over the country.

Student Marcos Trujillo won 1st place in Computer Concepts as well as 1st Place in Networking Concepts. Jason Delman had a 2nd place finish in Retail Management. The team of Trujillo, Delman and Jessie Hinkley also won 2nd place in Parliamentary Procedures.

## Trinidad State's Artocade T-Rex



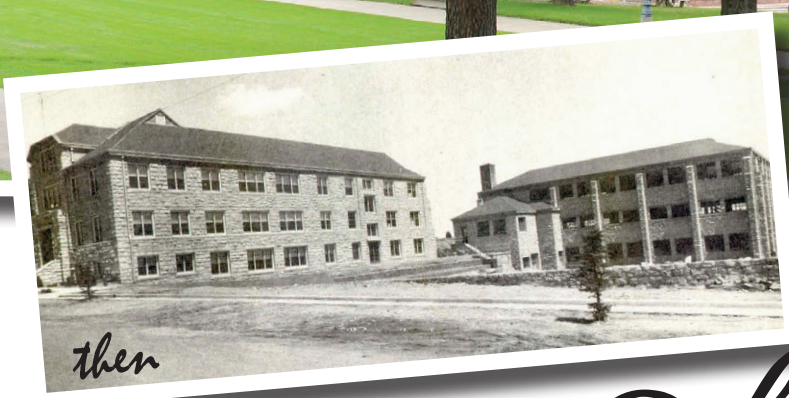
A collaboration between the Machining, Welding, Auto Service Technology and Art departments, Trinidad State students and instructors created a metal dinosaur mounted in a painted truck donated by Phil Long Family of Dealerships as an entry

for Trinidad's Artocade, an art car parade held in September.

Following the parade, the College plans eventually to put the dinosaur on display permanently outside of the Loudon-Henritze Archaeology Museum on the Trinidad Campus.

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# Trinidad State Celebrates 90 years

## Past, Present, and Future

When Trinidad State Junior College opened in April of 1925, it was Colorado's first community college. In the beginning, the College shared space and faculty with Trinidad High School. It started with 37 students, compared to about 1,800 now.

By 1935, classes were moved to a newly remodeled Tillotson Academy building. That building sat just east of the present-day Berg Building, but has since been torn down. The 17-acre Trinidad Campus now includes 15 buildings, plus two more in Alamosa and a handful of off-campus training sites.

Trinidad State continues to offer traditional programs of study in academic-transfer areas, such as accounting, business administration, English, chemistry, mathematics and psychology. Those students often continue their education at a four-year school. Trinidad State also offers a wide range of career and technical training in programs like gunsmithing, cosmetology, massage therapy, welding, diesel mechanics auto mechanics and nursing.



Construction on what is now the Berg Administration Building began in the spring of 1940



# Historical Highlights

The bill that established Trinidad State Junior College in 1925 was sponsored by State Senator Sam Freudenthal, for whom the campus library is now named

In the beginning classes were taught at Trinidad High School by high school teachers, but college students were not allowed to mingle with high school students



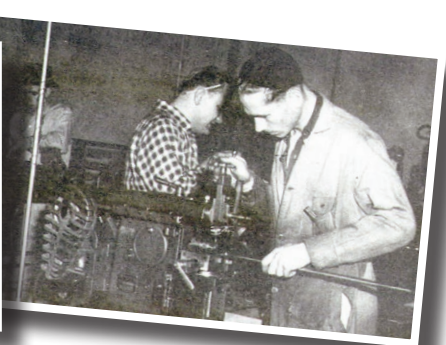
By 1932 a full two years of classes were offered allowing the first eight students to earn two-year degrees in May of 1933



In the spring of 1940 construction began on what is now the Berg Administration Building

In the fall of 1940 construction began on what is now Scott Gymnasium

Trinidad State's gunsmithing program began in 1947 and is now regarded as the premier gunsmithing program in the United States



Trinidad State was accepted into the Colorado Community College System in 1968



In 1994 Trinidad State merged with the San Luis Valley Educational Center in Alamosa, creating the Trinidad State Valley Campus

# CLASS NOTES

## 1940s

**Margaret (Oxandaburu) Lewis, '44** – Margaret and her 5 sisters were raised on a sheep and cattle ranch in eastern Las Animas County. She always loved the agricultural life. She graduated from Holy Trinity Catholic School, Trinidad State Junior College, then earned her Bachelor Degree in education and spent her life teaching. She taught in Fallas Springs one-room school, Trinidad School District #2, Holy Trinity School and Branson School for over 50 years. She also taught Catechism and was a 4H Leader. She retired from teaching in 1982 but continued to substitute until 2009. Margaret married Don Lewis in 1948 and had 2 children. In May 2012, Margaret's grandchildren took her on a trip to Southern France to the Pyrenees Mountain area where both of her parents were born and raised. Margaret stays active following her retirement from teaching with her yard and flower garden and also sewing, knitting, and doing puzzles. She continues to be involved in education as she makes weekly visits to Branson School to hear school children read. Margaret was honored in 2013 to be the Trinidad Round-Up Rodeo Silver Queen/Grand Marshall.

**Willard Loudon, '46 and Founding Member TSJC Louden-Henritze Archeology Museum**, died in September 2013. Willard grew up on his family's Mesa de Maya Ranch in eastern Las Animas County. He loved the land; it spoke to him. He was a rancher, a geologist, an archaeologist, an environmentalist, a humanitarian, and an artist. He passionately supported the local, regional, and national community and the world through his many volunteer efforts as well as his educational service and environmental advocacy. Willard received his Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of Missouri and continued his graduate studies at Adams State College, University of Colorado, and Colorado State University. He was a World War II veteran. He volunteered for the Peace Corp in its first years and served in Iran. He studied under and was mentored by A.R. Mitchell, artist and teacher at TSJC. Loudon became a founding board member of the A.R. Mitchell Museum and served until his death. He was a founding member, along with his brother, Richard, and Ruth Henritze of the TSJC Louden-Henritze Archaeology Museum. In 1972, Willard helped to establish the Corazon de Trinidad Historic District in order to have it



designated as a National Historic District. He influenced countless students as a teacher and board member of Branson School as well as Trinidad State Junior College. He considered himself a Western landscape picturemaker and his works may be seen in various locations in Trinidad as well as at the Mesa de Maya Ranch art gallery in his Branson home.

## 1950s

**Florie Massarotti, '50 Electronics** – Long time Boy Scout leader, Florie Massarotti, earned the 2013 City of Champions Award presented by the Trinidad Community Foundation. Florie began as a Boy Scout in the 1940's, an assistant leader of Boy Scout Troop #269, then as leader in 1958. Troup #269 is the oldest continuously active troop in the Rocky Mountain Council. Florie's service to the community and to Boy Scout Troop #269 was recognized by this award.

**Marjorie (Pernick) Orth-Youngblood, '52 Business Administration** – After leaving Trinidad in 1952, Marjorie moved to Los Alamos, NM. Sadly, she has been widowed twice. She is now living in an assisted living facility.

**Ken Berger, '56 Gunsmithing** – Ken graduated from University of

Northern Colorado in 1958, and then was in the U.S. Army 1959-1961. He worked at Remington Arms Company 1961 to 1969 and manufacturing rep business from 1969-1975. He has spent 50 years in the shooting sports business and was inducted into the 2011 Ohio Trap Shooting Hall of Fame. He and wife, Lynda, have been married 55 years and have one daughter, Hally Hansen Berger. Ken is still active in shooting, hunting, and fly-fishing and is a four-time All American Trap Shooter.

**Loretta (Gagliardi) Paolucci, '57 AA Education** – Loretta began her 36 year teaching career in La Junta in 1961, retiring in 1993 after impacting the lives of thousands of students. After retiring, she has remained active in the La Junta Catholic parish community, as a Delta Kappa Gamma member, member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, and a member of PEO Chapter W serving as an officer during the Chapter's 100 year anniversary. This June she was awarded the Sunshine Award in recognition of her service to the community.

## 1960s

**Joe Bonacquista, '61 Education** – As a freshman at TSJC in 1961, Joe led the baseball team with a batting average of .344, then transferred to University of Northern Colorado where he also led the team hitting .383. Now in his early 70's, his baseball career goes on, earning five national title

rings while playing for the Chicago Skyliners and two second-place national finishes with the South Dakota Rushmores with whom he still plays in the Over 70 division. Over his lifetime, Joe has played with the Little Rockies, the Denver Athletics and the California Cardinals. Joe works out three times a week including sprints, agility drills, and weightlifting. He loves the game!

**Tony Klenakis, '61 AA Physical Education** was an offensive line star for the Trojan football team. Fellow classmate, Dave Van Lanen, '62 Business played quarterback. Together with TSJC Football Coach Kay Dalton, the trio had two winners in 2012 at the Arapahoe Race Track in Denver when they met for a mini TSJC reunion. They had a great day!

**David Snider, '63 Psychology** – David worked for Caterpillar Tractor for 32 years before retiring in 1996. He studied both here at TSJC as well as at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL. For 50 years, David served in the U.S. Marine (Reserve). He has three children and five grandchildren.

**Jim Fernandez, '67 Drafting and Design Technology** – After graduating from TSJC, Jim was drafted into the U.S. Army and served almost a year in Vietnam. He married his high school sweetheart, Sharon. They have two daughters and two grandchildren. Jim worked for the City of Trinidad for almost 42 years and retired in November of 2013.

After working under the then city engineer for several years, he applied for and landed the job of utilities superintendent in 1977. From 1977 until late 2013, Jim was in charge of three departments, sewer, water and gas.

**Ron Cordova, '69 Education** – Ron wrote that TSJC has always remained high on his list of experiences for which he is truly thankful as it afforded him the opportunity to make choices that were unavailable prior to graduation. Ron came to TSJC after working as a barber for six years. After looking at Ron's previous academic record and his age, Dean Reuben Gutierrez put him on academic probation for the first semester. Ron wanted to be a teacher, declared that major, treated school like a full time job and worked hard to be the best student he could. His wife, Laura, was a constant support and worked full time in the newly opened Samuel Freudenthal Memorial Library. Ron graduated having made the Dean's List every semester as well as Phi Beta Kappa, Who's Who in American Junior Colleges, Student Association President and Typical Trojan of 1968/69. Ron spoke at graduation saying, "With the opportunity TSJC provided all of us, the future has no limits." Ron earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Secondary Education, a Master of Arts Degree in Higher Education Administration from the University of Colorado and worked

*Continued on page 10*



# TROJANS TAKE REGION IX

The Trinidad State baseball team fought its way to the top of Region IX this past spring with tournament victories over Northeastern, Lamar and Otero. The Trojans entered the tournament seeded third in the region, however they rolled through the first two games before defeating Otero in extra innings to claim the crown.

At the midpoint of the season things were looking bleak as a mid-season slump left the team at a 22-22 record. The team turned things around taking two games from Otero, splitting with Lamar and sweeping McCook. The Trojans finished the regular season with a six game winning streak and a 31-24 record. They then had to wait almost two weeks to start the playoffs.

"We finished the season playing pretty well," commented second year Head Coach Matthew Torrez. "I was asked a couple of times if the ten-day layoff would affect us. Some people may look at that as a negative but I took it the opposite way. I felt that it would give us time to get healthy and be at full strength for the playoffs."

At the regional tournament the Trojans did what they do best, get the ball in play and hustle to make teams make mistakes. In the first game against NJC, the Trojans stole seven bases keeping the Plainsmen off balance. TSJC won the back and forth affair 6-4. Alex Rogers pitched seven beautiful innings striking out five to pick up the win and Julian Moroyoqui tossed two perfect innings to earn the save. TSJC leadoff

man Julien Belanger finished with three hits and a stolen base.

Game two only lasted seven innings as the Trojans rolled past regular season champion Lamar 8-0. Eric Bussey was dominant on the hill giving up only four hits while striking out five in the complete game shutout. Colby Schrade scored two runs, including a solo home run, to pace the Trojan offense.

The title game went to extra innings but the Trojans finally put away the fourth seeded Rattlers 9-6. Moroyoqui picked up the win in relief. Drake Duncan, Wesley Aguilar and Christian Benitez all hit bombs for Trinidad.

"Our kids went out and played aggressively," noted Torrez. "We were able to get extra bases and put pressure on the defense as an offensive club. On the other side of the ball we minimized our errors and the pitchers kept the walks to a minimum. I am very proud of this group as we had a chance in the middle of the season to fold up tents. They kept pushing and that adversity sent us on a nice little end of the season run."

Six Trojan players earned post-season honors. Belanger and Dunkin were first team All-Region selections and Benitez, Bussey, Max Broullaird and Michael Barrientos each earned second team honors. Coach Torrez was named Coach of the Year for Region IX.

"We have reached a goal our program has set and would like to keep reaching for more," said Torrez. "I speak for our whole program when I say thank you to all the people that support our program and we hope that we have made you proud!"



# Student Athletes Find Success

As instructors entered grades, it quickly became apparent that this was one of the highest achieving group of athletes in the history of Trinidad State. Once all of the grades were entered, TSJC had 11 individual athletes and four teams recognized nationally.

The highest level a student athlete in the NJCAA can reach is that of Pinnacle Award winner for Academic Excellence. To qualify, students have to sustain a GPA of 4.0 for at least three semesters. This year, two Trinidad State students received the Pinnacle Award; they were volleyball player Shelby Walker and soccer player Andrez Leyva.

Also awarded is the Superior Academic Achievement Award, which credits student-athletes who have maintained an overall GPA between 3.8 and 3.99. Nicole Ortega (soccer), Oscar Rivero (soccer), Dillon Gaasbeck (baseball), Erik Bussey (baseball) and Vanessa Gonzales (basketball/volleyball) all earned the Superior Academic Achievement Award. Finally, the Exemplary Academic Achievement Award is awarded to student-athletes with a GPA between 3.6 and 3.79. Earning the Exemplary Award were Asha Rose (basketball), Nick Eurich



Soccer player Andrez Leyva (above) and Volleyball player Shelby Walker (below) received the Pinnacle Award



Rich Holden. "Faculty, staff, students and the parents of our students should all be congratulated for this historic and prestigious accomplishment."

(baseball), Thanasi Lycou (baseball) and Jean-Felix Proulx (baseball).

The team awards go to teams that maintain a 3.0 GPA average for two semesters. These awards are much more difficult to achieve with Trinidad placing only one team on the list in the past two years. In 2013-14 the Trojan Baseball, Volleyball, Women's Basketball and Women's Soccer teams all "made the grade."

"To have four teams achieve recognition from the NJCAA for academic excellence reflects positively on our entire institution," commented Athletic Director



## TROJAN SPORTS

### 2014 Fall Home Schedule

#### Golf

9/25/14	Trinidad State Invitational	1:00 pm
9/26/14	Trinidad State Invitational	8:00 am

#### Men's Soccer

9/5/14	Northeastern JC	6:30 pm
9/6/14	Central CC	1:30 pm
9/17/14	Otero JC	7:00 pm
9/20/14	Western Wyoming CC	3:00 pm
10/17/14	Northwest College	1:00 pm
10/18/14	Sheridan College	3:00 pm

#### Volleyball

9/9/14	Colorado Christian JV	7:00 pm
9/16/14	Air Force Prep	4:00 pm
9/20/14	Adams State JV	11:00 am
9/20/14	Garden City	3:00 pm
10/9/14	McCook CC	7:00 pm
10/10/14	Northeastern JC	7:00 pm
10/11/14	Western Nebraska	1:00 pm
10/18/14	Frank Phillips	1:00 pm
10/25/14	Lamar CC	1:00 pm
10/28/14	Otero JC	7:00 pm

#### Women's Soccer

9/5/14	Western Nebraska CC	3:00 pm
9/6/14	Laramie County CC	4:00 pm
9/17/14	Otero JC	5:00 pm
9/20/14	Western Wyoming CC	1:00 pm
10/17/14	Northwest College	3:00 pm
10/18/14	Sheridan College	6:00 pm
10/24/14	Dodge City CC	6:00 pm

# CLASS NOTES



*Continued from page 7*

as a Vocational Counselor at CU before joining IBM and reaching his full potential in executive management. Even in the private sector, Ron found opportunities to be involved in education. He taught business classes in the evenings at Cochise College. Ron was appointed to the advisory board for the College, and he and Laura were instrumental in helping the College raise \$2 million to build the Benson Campus. In 2003, Ron retired as Vice President of Touchstone Energy in Arizona. He and Laura celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary in June, 45 years after walking out of Scott Gym, optimistic about their future.

## 1970s

**Clint Tweden, '77 Criminal Justice** – Clint joined the Air Force in 1973 as security police, transferred to the reserves and “retired” in 1999 as an agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. He worked as a deputy with the Grand County Sheriff’s Office from 1975-1977, then to Adams County Sheriff’s Office in 1977 where he retired as Lieutenant in 2010 and became Captain with the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office. Clint graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1999 from the University of

Phoenix and also a graduate of Northwestern University’s School of Police Staff and Command and Northwestern University Police Executive Management Program.

**Gerry J. Lawson, '77 Gunsmithing** – When Gerry came to TSJC to study gunsmithing, he had already retired from a career with the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) as an air traffic controller. He received his AAS in Gunsmithing as well as a 3rd year Gun Repair Certification in just 18 months graduating in 1977. Gerry helped to build the original trap range, and he took the first black powder class offered. For his second career, he opened a gunsmithing business in Durango. After closing the business, Gerry and his wife bought and sold homes as they traveled and followed their kids and grandkids.

**Barry Young, '77** – Barry was an all-star high school basketball player in San Francisco, CA and spent one season playing for TSJC before transferring to CSU in Fort Collins. The New Jersey Nets drafted Barry, and he played in the developmental Continental Basketball Association for three seasons, then in England for three more seasons, and back to California to play in summer pro leagues. His passion was to help the youth of the community. Barry

has followed that passion serving as staff and then supervisor in the juvenile probation department for the last 32 years.

## 1980s

**Emmanuel G. Chaidemenakis, '83 Engineering** – After graduating from TSJC, Emmanuel transferred to the University of New Haven (CT) and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in 1987 and Master of Science Degree in Environmental Engineering in 1989. He resides in Greece and works at the Organization for the Development of Crete.

**Mary (Bruce) Iverson, '84 Psychology** – graduated with honors in 1986 from Adams State with a BA in Education. She was hired in June that year at Trinidad School District #1 and received her Master’s Degree from Adams State in 1993. She taught 5th grade at Park Street for two years and then transferred to Trinidad Middle School and was once selected as Teacher of the Year by the Order of Eagles. She is in her 24th year of teaching and still enjoys the students. Mary has six wonderful grandchildren.

## 1990s

**Patrick Malone, '93 Liberal Arts**

– Patrick’s journalism career began at the Trinidad Chronicle News and then to the Pueblo Chieftain from 1997-2012. In 2012, he began writing for the Fort Collins Coloradoan. Most recently, he is working for the Santa Fe New Mexican. In an interview upon his departure from the Coloradoan, when asked what advice he would give to a young person wanting to be a journalist, Patrick said, “I’d tell them the only measure of control journalists have over the news they cover is the effort that they put into it. So work hard. Remember that you’re asking the questions all of society wants answered....so channel your readers when you ask questions. Write to them and for them, not for yourself or the subjects of your stories.” *HuffingtonPost.com/ Denver 12/9/13*

## 2000s

**Kelli (Dochter) VanMatre, '02 Business** – In 2011, Kelli and her husband, Jeremy, started a new business, The Water Station, to make hauling water convenient and to provide users with Trinidad’s pure drinking water. This year they have expanded operations and opened Terra Firma Recycling to meet the community’s desire for a recycling facility.

**Jeff Gipson, '05 Engineering Technology** – After earning his degree at TSJC, Jeff transferred to CU Boulder where he graduated with a Bachelor Degree in

Environmental Design in 2008. Along his career path, Jeff went through a stint of designing skate parks (one of which is in Trinidad!), opening his own architectural firm, a semester in the masters architectural program at CU Denver and then transferring programs and taking digital animation and graphic-arts classes. He applied for and was chosen for an internship with Pixar learning the layout of an animated movie from start to finish. Jeff attended graduate school at Ohio State for digital animation. Ready to get back into the work force, he applied at Disney and started training. Jeff was part of the team to win an Academy Award working in digital animation for the 2013 movie “Frozen”. He now mentors trainees like he was himself and is working on the next Disney animated film “Big Hero 6.” Jeff is following his dreams.

**Ben Christensen, '06 Heavy Equipment Mechanics** – Currently, Ben is serving as Vice President of the San Luis Valley Cattleman’s Association and is a member of Colorado Farm Bureau. Ben is farming on the family homestead with his father raising a variety of crops as well as running mother cows and heifers. Ben belongs to the San Luis Valley Chapter of the Colorado Young Farmer and has served as a state

officer for five years, currently as Vice President.

**Nicole Shanell Abeyta, '08 and James Patrick Harmes, '07** – were married in April of 2013 and reside in Pueblo. Following TSJC, Nicole graduated from Pueblo Community College as a dental assistant and is working in Pueblo. James is a Department Manager for Pueblo West Walmart.

**Monica Hanley, '09** – After graduating in 2009, Monica continued her academic career at Midwestern University in Glendale, AZ. She earned her Doctorate of Physical Therapy in May of 2014.

**Dr. Harold Deselms, former TSJC President** and career educator has been honored as a Distinguished Alumni by the Nebraska-Kearney Alumni Association. Deselms served as president of McCook Community College, Moran Community College and as administrative vice president at Peru State College. Dr. Deselms was President of TSJC from 1991-2001. He also served as president of the Colorado Association of Community and Junior College Presidents, was Citizen of the Year for Morgan County, CO and was recently named to the TSJC Educational Foundation Hall of Fame.

### Help us reclaim our history...

The Trinidad State Athletic Department has had great success over the years both on the playing surface and in the classroom. Unfortunately, many of the records of these past accomplishments have been lost. We are attempting to rediscover this lost heritage and highlight some of our greater achievements. To do this, we need your help. If you remember some past athletic achievements by the TSJC Trojans, please call us at (719) 846-5653 or email us at [webmaster@trinidadstate.edu](mailto:webmaster@trinidadstate.edu) and share your story.

We look forward to hearing from you.





## Cimino addresses 2014 graduating class

Trinidad State Junior College recognized 305 degree and certificate graduates of the Trinidad Campus at its annual Spring Commencement ceremony on Friday, May 9.

The keynote speaker for the ceremony was Trinidad native and Trinidad State alumnus, Jay Cimino. President of Phil Long Dealerships, Cimino began his address by sharing the rich history of Las Animas County and his roots to the area. "I grew up believing Trinidad was the city of champions," he said, and then continued by sharing examples of "Champions" in his life, in Trinidad and in graduating students of Trinidad State.

Cimino encouraged graduates to pursue their passions and shared with them his leadership

steps and guiding principles, which start with having a vision. "If your choice is to follow your passion, you'll have the opportunity to pursue excellence," Cimino said, "When excellence is pursued, you can make a

difference in your family, your children, your community and just about everyone you touch."

He closed with a saying from A.R. Mitchell, a local artist in the 1930s who painted western scenes, and who Cimino cited as a "Champion": "You look over the back trail and you see the fine friends you've made and you see you've managed to make a good living doing something you really loved. So how could anyone ask for more?"

Cimino has been instrumental in inspiring growth and change in the local community through the establishment of the Trinidad Community Foundation, Phil Long Toyota of Trinidad, Phil Long Ford of Raton, Mt. Carmel

Health, Wellness, and Community Center, and recent plans for La Puerta de Colorado, a proposed downtown revitalization development to include a classic car museum, brew pub and restaurant, and other attractions.



During the graduation ceremony, Foundation Director Toni DeAngelis recognized alumni class representatives. Those honored included Robert Eales, Class of 2004; Lynn (Pachelli) Rivera, Class of 1994; Jolene Casias, Class of 1984; Donald A. Berg, Class of 1974; Patrick H. Schmidt, Class of 1964; Phillip R. Castle, Class of 1954; and Amalia (Dona) Deitsch, Class of 1944.

## Past Trinidad State President featured at Valley Campus Commencement



Twenty years ago, when the San Luis Valley Vocational School became part of Trinidad State

Junior College, it was thanks partly to the work of then President Dr. Harold Deselms. Deselms was the commencement speaker for the Valley Campus graduation on May 9 at a packed Alamosa High School gymnasium.

Deselms considers the addition of the campus to be one of the greatest accomplishments during his ten years at Trinidad State. He served from 1991 to 2001. He credits Gordon Snowbarger, who came from the Trinidad Campus to serve as the Valley Campus Dean, and Phil Rouse, then Director of The San Luis Valley Area Vocational

School as instrumental in making that merger happen. "Without Rouse's leadership, that would never have happened," said Deselms. He added, "Back in the good old days funding wasn't near the challenge that it is now. The state had money. The legislature gave us money to convert the campus and then with capital development funds we added on to the campus. During that transition a very ugly metal building was torn down and replaced with a whole new wing. Gordon Snowbarger was instrumental in managing the campus during the remodel while the displaced classes operated out of an old furniture building in town."

While in education, Deselms

often borrowed the following quote from Father Clark who was President of Regis University years ago, "People should not be prisoners of geography." He believes community colleges offer choices that change lives, giving them options that they may not have known they had. And he believes that the ability for community colleges to now offer four-year degrees will expand those possibilities.



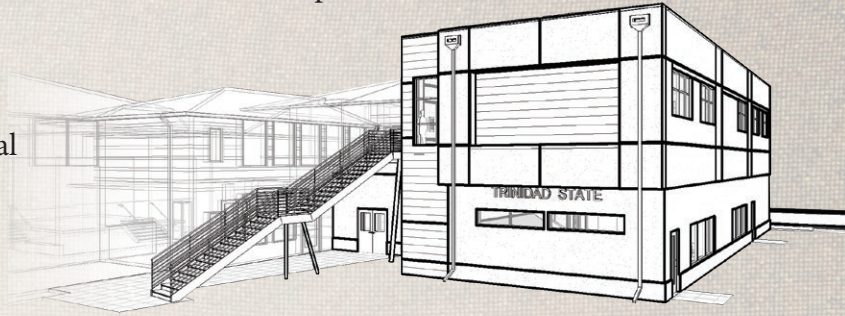
# Valley Campus Expansion Project

Construction is expected to begin soon on a 6,700 square foot addition to the Main Street location of the Trinidad State Valley Campus in Alamosa. The Valley Campus earlier this year received about \$1.5 million from the State of Colorado to expand on the north end of the existing building.

The new wing is science-focused, rounding out general education courses offered at the Valley Campus. The first floor of the addition will include two classrooms along with bathrooms. The second floor will house

two laboratory-equipped classrooms and a laboratory preparation space.

Construction is expected to take about six months.



## Trinidad State proposes new campus on the west side of Alamosa



Recognizing the need to accommodate continued growth and expansion of distinct academic programs, Trinidad State has proposed Phase 1 of a new Valley Campus.

While construction of the new science-focused wing on the existing Main Street location of the Valley Campus will solve a small portion of the crowding issues the campus is facing, Phase 1 of a new campus would allow some Career and Technical Education programs which require large indoor spaces to move from the cramped Main Street location to the proposed new campus.

The proposed 29,000-square-foot facility, Phase 1, emphasizes designated learning spaces for Valley Campus signature programs, including Welding, Machining, Diesel Mechanics, Agriculture, Aquaculture and Construction Technologies. Also planned is a space for Emerging Technologies, which might include biomass and biofuels technologies.

A donation of 15 acres to the Trinidad State Educational Foundation by local business owners LeRoy and Rosalie Martinez and Butch and Izora Southway would allow for construction of the new campus. The land is located on the west side of Alamosa near First Street and Craft Drive south of Highway 160.

Trinidad State presented a proposal for funding to the State of Colorado for Phase 1. In addition, the Trinidad State Educational Foundation plans to raise private funds in order to make the \$14-million project a reality.

Eventually Trinidad State would plan to move all its facilities and campus administration to the new site. That would require additional construction of 30,000 to 40,000 square feet. Currently Trinidad State operates out of two buildings at 1011 Main Street, plus five off-site locations.

“Our goal here in the Valley is to be able to have a facility to meet the needs of the community and keep the College growing and vibrant and moving forward,” said

Trinidad State President Dr. Carmen Simone.

The Valley Campus has grown by 13 percent over the last four years and an overall growth of 20 percent over the next decade is anticipated.



# Friends We'll Miss...

**Lena (Maglia) Cimino, '36**  
Education

**Imogene (Paden) Antista, '39**

**Robert Fabec, Sr., '39**

**Angelina (Mariano) Galasso, '40**

**Sylvia Mantelli, '40** Education

**Harold Winter, '40** Engineering

**Viola (Fouret) Winter, '41**

**Violet Edith (Coren) DiPaolo, '43**

**Jane Sawaya, '43**

**Willard Loudon, '46**, One of the Founders of the TSJC Loudon-Henritze Archaeology Museum

**Joseph Vaccaro, '46**

**Geraldine Eloise (Parsons) Merrill, '49**

**Maclovia Trujillo, '50** Education

**Victor A. "Doc" Veltri, '50** Pre-Med

**George R. Cassa, '51** Business

**Orlando Arnone, '52** Liberal Arts

**Phyllis Lee (Smith) Duckworth, '53** Home Economics

**Stanley Anthony Roitz, '53**  
Engineering

**Raymond Rodighiero, '54** AA  
Radio and Electronics

**Leo Joseph Madrid, '55** Business  
Science

**Frances Gonzales Kidder, '56**  
Business Administration

**John "Miggs" Palmer, '56**  
Gunsmithing

**Esther (Blasi) DeCrescentis, '57**  
Psychology

**Ernestine (Valenzuela) Young, '57**  
Nursing

**Albert A. Dalvit, '59** Engineering

**Judith (Micheliza) Reyes, '59**  
Business

**Frank A. Coke, Jr., '60** Business

**Isaiah Keiffer, '61** Physical  
Education

**Ann Marie (Febbraro) Salbato-Large, '68** Business  
Administration

**Charles Gagliardi, '69** Automotive  
Service Technology

**Henry "Nick" Holt, '69**  
Gunsmithing

**Joseph D. Gonzales, '72** Building  
Trades

**Richard F. "Dick" Trujillo, '72**  
Psychology

**George P. Pantazes, '73** Welding

**Frances (Serazio) Sanchez, '73**

**Dolores (Dolly) (Suazo) Yepez, '73** CNA

**Timmie John Hershel, '74**

**Fred "Harvey" Harnish, '76**  
Psychology, OSHA trainer

**Ed Torres, '77**

**David Lee Velasquez, '83** Auto  
Mechanics

**Avinicio Joseph Rivera, '87** AA  
Education/Psychology

**Vince A. Martinez, '88** Registered  
Nurse

**Leonard J. Bull, '93** Gunsmithing,  
Gunsmithing Instructor 1979 to  
1999

**Washington Herbert, '95** Art,  
Painting

**Patricia A. (Martinez) Romero, '95** Liberal Arts

**Gino Begano, '98** Gunsmithing

**Frank P. Fehn, '98** Criminal  
Justice

**Jeannie Marie (Gonzales) Sanchez, '99** Nursing LPN

**Gilbert "Gil" Valdez, '00**  
Occupational Safety Tech

**Scott Robert Lenzotti, '02** Liberal  
Arts

**Deborah A. Treat, '02** Liberal Arts

**Larry Zappanti, Jr., '02** Farm and  
Ranch Management

**Jeffery D. Guzzo, '03** EMT

**Andrew Frank Milinazzo, '06**  
General Studies

**Slade M. Maes, '07** CDL, Welding

**Rebecca Ann Bingham, '09** Early  
Childhood Development

**Mark Francis Visconti, Jr., '13**

## Friends of TSJC

**Eugene Aiello**, Former  
Educational Foundation Board  
Member, passed away 2/14/14

**Bernard Joseph Brunelli**, Safety  
Instructor, passed away 8/11/13

**Frances Cuckow**, Employee,  
passed away 4/19/14

**Stephen Eric Griffis**, Philosophy  
Adjunct Faculty Member, passed  
away 7/11/14

**Evelyn Pedri**, Community  
Supporter, passed away 3/3/14

# LOOKING BACK: ALUMNI PERSPECTIVE

TRINIDAD STATE JUNIOR COLLEGE

BY PATRICK SCHMIDT

Diversity. Opportunity. Dedication. Inspiration. Excellence.

Those are some of my immediate thoughts when the subject of Trinidad State Junior College is raised.

## DIVERSITY

50 years ago the College was a real melting pot. The football team and gunsmith school were probably the two biggest reasons for the diversity.

I came there on a football scholarship when coaches at the University of Wyoming contacted Coach Bob Weber and said I might have potential.

The diversity didn't stop with the athletes, the gunsmiths or the male students. I recall a Jewish Homecoming princess from Iowa, some students from non-Christian backgrounds, literally all income levels and many nationalities.

## OPPORTUNITY

Every TSJC teacher and staff member kept pointing out opportunities that were available to us, things we were overlooking.

One non-credit after-hours class paid off big time for me and, I'll bet, others. A speed-reading course offered by the librarian increased our reading speed and accuracy by tenfold.

Music teacher Mary Ellen Dowell almost tackled me in her efforts to get me to join the chorus. It's probably best that I got away.

However, the biggest opportunity was provided by interaction with the outstanding students who chose to advance their education at TSJC.

An example? John Dusty Rhoads, whose family ranches near Trinidad, shared a unique connection with me that went

beyond friendship. On impulse I stopped by his apartment at the edge of campus on Nov. 22, 1963, and learned President Kennedy had been assassinated. Dusty provided a view of impact of the moment that I still believe should have been featured on national news.

Students like Dusty were everywhere.

Another thing I recall is how many students there were like me who were to become the first in their family to graduate from college. What a tribute to a community college.

## DEDICATION

Two staff members are excellent examples of the dedication almost all showed.

Business professor Curtis E. Babcock, who was stuck with me as editor of the Trojan Tribune student newspaper, literally spent hours working our newspaper staff into a respectable team of students who could work with the local printer and publish something that wasn't an embarrassment to the college and community.

The other person would be surprised to be praised by me. My proposed editorials earned me more than one meeting with college president Guy C. Davis; while neither of us was completely happy with the end product, I like to think we were proud of our efforts to communicate, find middle ground and share the students' viewpoints.

(I can tell you that no local or district court judge later in my career was any more intimidating than President Davis when he raised those busy eyebrows.)

The other dedicated person who should not be overlooked was our landlady, Louise Danielson, whose home at 900 Tas-

cosa was shared by four college boys every year. We became part of her family, taking care of one another, and learning that spaghetti sauce had to simmer for at least 24 hours to be halfway respectable and pinocle was a fine card game. She taught tolerance at every turn. What a lady!

## INSPIRATION

To exemplify the inspiration that was everywhere, there is no better example than Morris F. Taylor. His political science and history classes were taught at the level you would expect at an Ivy League university; he demanded and earned instant respect.

Professor Taylor gave me a writing lesson that I turned to time and again during my newspaper career. When I, a student without straight As and with little involvement in campus organizations, was voted Typical Trojan, he was given the assignment of making me sound worth it.

His description of me being "a good example of the reward for excellence which can come to a person for concentration on one activity rather than striving for participation in many" became

the mantra for my life.

## EXCELLENCE

The football team was rated #1 in the NJCAA that year and even played in a bowl game in Texas. The basketball team was superb. Football and basketball players continued their careers at USC, UCLA, Utah and New Mexico, to name a few colleges, as well as on the professional level.

I'm certain the same can be said for the graduates of the gunsmith, law enforcement, science and other departments.

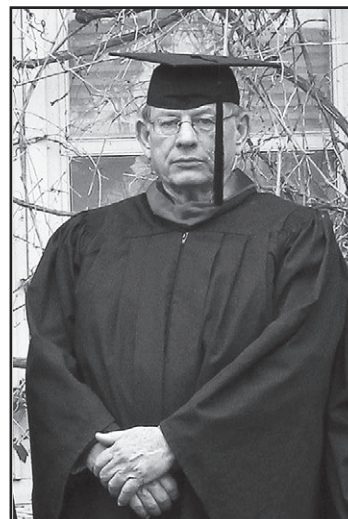
My family grew so tired of hearing me praise TSJC that a son and grandson insisted we go there in 2005. The College had grown in 41 years and didn't disappoint us.

To show how things go full circle, a year later I watched my younger son play basketball against TSJC in the regional tournament. Talk about mixed emotions!

Now, after 50 years, I get to show TSJC off to my wife and represent the Class of 1964 a half century after graduation. Thank you for the honor—and for the education.



Patrick Schmidt featured as a Typical Trojan in a 1964 Trojan Tribune



Patrick Schmidt at Trinidad State's 2014 Graduation Ceremony

# All I ever wanted to do was draw

Forty-one year old Trinidad State student, Brent Montoya, is finally realizing his dream. "I was nervous and scared about going back to school," said Montoya. "I graduated high school in '92 and I thought I was too old." But older students at the Valley Campus in Alamosa are not unusual. Trinidad State is where Montoya got the encouragement to go beyond the certificate he had intended to earn and get his Associate of Arts in Graphic Design. After graduation in May of next year, he plans to complete a four-year degree. Montoya credits Dr. Enid Sepulveda-Rodriguez, who taught English at Trinidad State, with being his main inspiration. When she saw some of his artwork, she asked permission to feature him on the school's bulletin board.

Montoya has been drawing since he was five, but he recently took his first ever art classes from Art Instructor Kris Gosar, at Adams State University. In the drawing class he learned about five types of shading and perspective which helped him immensely. He then took Gosar's painting class. Gosar was amazed at Montoya's natural ability and asked him, "Is there anything you can't do?"

When Montoya was young, his mother encouraged him by hanging white sheets on the walls of his bedroom. She gave him water soluble markers and let him draw. When he filled that space, she would take them down, wash them and hang them again. "My mom has always been my biggest

source of encouragement," said Montoya, "no matter what I do."



Montoya attempted college right out of high school, but after two semesters he dropped out. "I just wasn't ready for college," he said. He went on to work a number of jobs until he started back to school at age 40. A self-trained chef, Montoya spent seventeen years cooking, a skill he learned from his mom and "by just going with my taste buds." Then for nine years he managed the Houseware Department at Walmart and then he worked at JC Penny where he was eventually laid off. When his unemployment ran out, education seemed a good option.

Montoya is the oldest of four siblings and is the last to earn a degree with the exception of his 14 year-old sister. "All I ever wanted to do was draw," said Montoya who is now following his heart. He is the Vice President for the ACE (Accepting Creative Expressions) Club at the Trinidad State Alamosa Campus. The club's motto is "free your spirit" and that is exactly what Montoya feels he is doing with his art.

"I've always been a jack of all trades but a master of none," said Montoya. "There's a verse in the Bible that talks about using your God-given talents. Now I'm doing that. In a song by Matthew West called 'Hello, My Name Is,' West sings about defeat and regret. Sometimes I felt like my whole life was about defeat and regret. Not anymore."

Montoya's art can be seen on the shirts worn by fellow students and staff. He is currently creating the artwork for a book that Diamond Mobbly, Trinidad State psychology instructor, is writing. He painted the Casa de Lucero Apartments sign located across the street south of the Alamosa post office on the Colorado Parts building. He drew Rock Hudson on a T-shirt for his supervisor in the bookstore at the College where he has a work study position. Most recently he was asked by Jeff Torr, EMS instructor at Trinidad State, to create the artwork needed to give the finishing touch to the mock-ambulance that is now located in the EMS classroom.

Montoya is excited about finally doing what he has wanted to do all along – draw.



Photos: (Left) Montoya drew this picture of Rock Hudson on a T-shirt for his work study supervisor. (Right) Montoya stands in front of the sign painted on the mock ambulance in the EMS classroom at Trinidad State in Alamosa.



# Colorful professor makes splash in Trinidad arts scene



In slightly more than a year in Trinidad, Art Professor Vilas Tonape has made his mark on the local art scene. His positive attitude makes everyone believe they too, can draw.

Tonape graduated from the most prestigious art school in India, Sir J.J. School of Art, in 1992. His Master of Fine Arts came from Texas Christian University in 1996. He has taught art at the college level in Florida, Georgia and now Colorado. He arrived in Trinidad in August of 2013. By December, faced with more students than expected in his painting class, he enlisted volunteers to help build more easels for his studio on the 4th floor of the Berg Building.

"What you want is a disciplined training," said Tonape. His approach is very much step by step. He shows a technique and then his students give it a try. He believes students need three things to succeed: Potential interest, proper supplies, and they have to show up. In the classroom, his enthusiasm is infectious. He'll make fun of his "Brooklyn" accent. He often sprinkles his explanations with metaphor. His students love it.

Laura Gowan has taken two classes from Tonape. The last time she took an art class was 17 years ago. "The classes I took before were fun, but they subscribed to a much looser theory of art instruction. The quality just didn't compare." Tonape believes in establishing a solid foundation first. "He gives you explicit formulas for discerning how to start a

painting," said Gowan. "I've scoured books for the last 20 years about art instruction and for some reason it never made sense until he explained it. And it just clicked."

Tonape is on the Board of Directors of the A.R. Mitchell Museum, as well as on the Trinidad Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission. In the spring, his students took over a downtown gallery, Gallery Main, to show what they'd accomplished. That exhibition was sponsored in part by Trinidad Area Arts Council.

He regularly takes students on field trips to local galleries and museums to immerse them in art. In July he was one of the artists in the annual Quick Draw fundraiser to benefit the Mitchell Museum. He led the effort to paint Trinidad State's entry in the annual downtown Artcade. He even did a free demonstration showing how to draw a portrait from start to finish. "A student said, 'Can I bring a friend to watch this lesson?' And I said, 'sure.' I'm doing this lesson anyway, so why not open it to everybody." It attracted about 25 people of all ages in the middle of the day.

Still in demand in his native India, he did two lectures there in May and is headed back to Mumbai in December for a week-long workshop where, with the help of three assistants, he'll teach 50 students simultaneously at five different drawing stations.

He was also invited to display his work in Telluride in September, 2014 by the Telluride Arts Council. That show will include seven artists from Creative Districts in Colorado as well as seven from Brooklyn.



# HE STARTED SOMETHING AT TRINIDAD STATE



Photo (left): Trinidad State was a great starting place for Jesse Rawls – pictured here on the right with fellow national titlists Terry Anders (left), Tom Clardy (kneeling) and Coach Ron Dalley. Rawls went on to great success at the University of Michigan and then as a teacher and coach in Pennsylvania. (Photo – 1968 TSJC Shield Yearbook)

Photo (below): Jesse Rawls (middle) and his wife, Donna (right), pictured with Pete Deluca (left) during a visit to the Trinidad State campus last spring.

Success stories are abundant around the NJCAA as players come from relative obscurity and because someone took a chance and gave them an opportunity they have changed their future. In the case of Jesse Rawls, he changed not only his life, but his time at Trinidad State altered the course of his family for generations to come.

Rawls grew up in Guyton, Georgia but did not wrestle until his family moved to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania when he was 17. Wrestling led to a state championship at John Harris High School, which led to a scholarship to Trinidad State in the fall of 1966.

“Trinidad was a bit of an eye-opener,” Rawls noted. “I believe there was only one African-American family in the town at that time. There were a lot of athletes on campus, but it was still a bit of a culture shock. When I got to Trinidad, I was ready to leave. It was Basketball Coach Verne Mosier who convinced me to stay. He told me to give it two weeks. Two weeks became two years. Staying was one of the best things that happened in

my life because it started me on the right path.”

That path began on the football field his freshman year. Rawls was named All-Conference as a defensive lineman. Despite his success on the gridiron, it was when he got on the wrestling mat that winter that he really began to shine. Rawls led the Trojans in pinfall wins with eight and went on to finish the year sixth in the nation in the 160-pound class, losing just five matches all season.

Noting that he was too light, Rawls gave up football and concentrated on the 167-pound wrestling division his sophomore year. 22 wins later Rawls was an undefeated National Champion and the Trojans were second in the nation as a team. Rawls was awarded the Manzanares Award as “Outstanding Wrestler” for his sophomore season.

Success at TSJC led to a scholarship to the University of Michigan

where Rawls became a two-time All-American and Big 10 champion wrestler for the Wolverines. His time in college led him to a teaching degree, 35 years of teaching and 30 years of coaching high school wrestling. Now retired, Rawls continues to serve as a

member of the Susquehanna Twp. School Board in Harrisburg. He married his sweetheart Donna 44 years ago and they have six children and 17 grandchildren.



Rawls' life has

been a picture of success since his time at TSJC in the late 60's. He succeeded in school and life, and it has led to the success of his children as well. All six of his children followed in his footsteps of getting an education and becoming teachers to continue to educate future generations. Rawls brings the focus of his success back to his time at TSJC, “knowledge is the most powerful thing a person can have and Trinidad was the place to give me a great start.”

## 3rd Annual Trindiefest



At the 3rd Annual Trindiefest Truly Independent Trinidad Film Festival held on the TSJC campus, enjoy

a wide spectrum of films for this fun-filled weekend. The selection of films range from Comedy to Drama, and Thrillers to Animated and Live Action Shorts. And for the first time...Music Videos. Over 30 films will be shown! Students may enjoy for free—see Joe Reorda Jr. for details. Enjoy the festival September 18-21. For more information: <http://trindiefest.net/>

## Bringing Together Community Leaders in Southeast Colorado

Southeast Rural Philanthropy Days is a three-day conference, September 24-26, 2014, to be held in Trinidad and on the TSJC campus where approximately 300 nonprofit professionals, public agencies, elected officials, business leaders and funders learn from one another and collaborate on projects and funding opportunities. Capacity building workshops for nonprofits are offered and networking opportunities encourage relationships that lead to mutual understanding, successful grant proposals, and more resources for rural Colorado. The conference is designed, organized, funded and planned by community volunteers from the Southeast region of Colorado. Residents

# UPCOMING EVENTS

from Baca, Bent, Crowley, Huerfano, Kiowa, Las Animas, Otero, and Prowers counties will participate.

[Southeastrpd.org](http://Southeastrpd.org) for more information.

## Donors and Scholars

The Trinidad State Junior College Educational Foundation honored students who have benefited from scholarships at fall receptions on both the Trinidad and Valley campuses. The event allowed scholarship donors and community members to meet the students who benefit from their support, while also giving students the opportunity to thank those who have an interest in their education. "Nearly \$200,000 in scholarships are awarded to Trinidad State scholars each year," said Foundation Director Toni DeAngelis.

"This event brings together students and donors," said President Carmen Simone as she addressed the students. "It's not just financial. It builds confidence as well. When you become successful, remember to give back. Remember the students at Trinidad State who will need support like you are getting now."

The 2nd annual Donors & Scholars event will be held later this fall.



# DONOR REPORT

## TSJC Educational Foundation

Gifts were received August 1, 2013 - August 29, 2014

**\$50,000+**

Colorado Community College System Foundation

**\$10,000+**

Kane Family Foundation  
Charlotte Kilpatrick  
Ron Lopez  
The NRA Foundation, Inc.

**\$25,000+**

Franklin Azar  
Dennis Grabowski  
Estate of Sylvia Mantelli  
Pioneer Natural Resources

**\$5,000+**

City of Ft. Collins  
El Pomar Foundation  
C.R. Palmer  
San Luis Valley Federal Bank

**\$20,000+**

Jay & Emily Cimino  
Roger Smith  
TSJC Booster Club

**\$2,000+**

Alamosa State Bank  
American International Group

Anonymous  
Bar NI Ranch Community Service Fund  
Lynette & Marty Bates  
Jack & Cathy Bearden  
Frank Brownell  
Colorado Department of Natural Resources  
Steven & Susan Cook  
Fraternal Order of Eagles Ladies Auxilliary  
Doris Monahan  
Phil Long Family of Dealerships  
Mary Frances Prator  
Raton Recreation & Education Council  
Robert Hoag Rawlings Foundation  
Norma Reed

Tim & Lynn Simmons  
Wells Fargo  
Women's Exchange  
Miriam & Jim Zappanti

**\$1,000+**

Pedro Acosta  
Vibeke Adkisson  
Alamosa Rotary Club  
Carl & Diane Baylor  
Century Savings & Loan  
Joe & Toni DeAngelis  
Laura DeBella  
Fisher's Peak Veterinary Clinic  
Clifton & Bonnie Henry  
Mt. San Rafael Hospital  
Frank & Mary Beth Pierz

Robert & Susan Romero  
San Isabel Electric Association  
Sodexo  
Ed & Pat Trommeter  
WalMart

**\$500+**

BKM Guns Inc. (Bryan Murray)  
Carol & Steve Bolton  
Leon Crocfer  
Pete Deluca  
Farmers Insurance  
GFWC Woman's Citizenship Club  
Edward & Karen Griego  
Molly & Robert King  
Sharon Leone  
Jonathan Mangino

Continued on page 22 InTouch 19



## “HATS OFF TO THE PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE” ANNUAL FOUNDATION EVENT

### Thousands raised for scholarships at annual Trinidad State Foundation event

The Trinidad State Educational Foundation announced a very generous pledge of \$250,000 for scholarships over the next five years at its annual Fun & Fundraiser gala event on April 26.

That was just part of the fundraising, which included a silent auction at Scott Gym on the Trinidad State Campus. Nearly two hundred were in attendance for the event. The theme was “Hats Off to the Past, Present and Future.” Keynote speaker, Tim Simmons, presented a check for \$1,925 to form the “Founder’s Club for the 1925 Fund,” named for the year the College was founded. Tim and his wife, Lynn, also pledged \$2,014 if those in the audience would match that amount. After “passing the hat,” that amount was reached in just a few minutes.

Foundation Executive Director, Toni DeAngelis, announced at the end of the evening that Attorney Franklin Azar, who could not be present due to a recent serious surgery, had pledged \$50,000 in 2014 for scholarships, as well as \$50,000

in 2015. He also committed another \$150,000 for an additional three year period, dependent on economic conditions at his law practice and the progress of the scholarship program. This is a total pledge of \$250,000 over five years. DeAngelis said, “Franklin knows the value of education, and he believes that everyone should have the chance to go to college regardless of their financial situation. This is a wonderfully generous investment in the students of Trinidad State and the educational opportunities the students have available.”

Keynote speaker, Tim Simmons, shared what TSJC has meant to him. Tim is the son of legendary Southern Colorado basketball coach, Harry Simmons—known as “The Chief.” Harry Simmons coached 40 years at the high school, junior college and college levels, including Trinidad State Junior College.

Tim got a taste of the sports information world at Southern Colorado State College where he started keeping statistics for the football team and then wrote for the college newspaper. That was in 1965 and he’s been in the sports information businesses ever since.

Tim is on the nominating committee for the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame. He urged those in attendance to write letters in support of NJCAA Hall of Fame Trinidad State Basketball Coach Jim Toupal. “He’s been my number one goal, to try to get him into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame.”

Several family members of the Hall of Fame inductees were present for the event. Don and Katherine Berg, Ben Johnson, and Fidel Romero were inducted posthumously to the Trinidad State Hall of Fame as four people who have made a difference for Trinidad State and in the lives of countless students. Don and Katherine Berg were honored for their commitment and service to Trinidad State. Don served as President of the Trinidad State Educational Foundation Board. They also established the Albert V. Berg Memorial Scholarship. The Berg Administration Building is named after Don’s father, Albert. Don’s daughter, Janet (Berg) Swift and son, Bill Berg accepted the award on behalf of their parents.

Ben Johnson was one of the founding members of the Trinidad



*Trinidad State Educational Foundation Executive Director Toni DeAngelis presented part of the old gym floor to keynote speaker Tim Simmons at the Fun and Fundraiser on April 26*

State Educational Foundation and was a member of the college Advisory Council for over 35 years, from 1939 to 1975. Ben’s grandson, Brad, accepted the award for the Johnson family.

Fidel Romero was a long time custodian at Trinidad State. He touched thousands of lives with his kindness and wisdom. His family honored his commitment to education and Trinidad State by establishing the Fidel Romero Scholarship. Fidel’s son, Bob Romero, accepted on behalf of the Romero family.

The mission of the Trinidad State Junior College Educational Foundation is to promote the growth and development of Trinidad State. The proceeds directly tied to the event totaled nearly \$33,000, not including the “1925 Fund” gift and the announced scholarship program gift. The Foundation is a private, non-profit corporation founded in 1968 to raise and manage private gifts for Trinidad State.

# Prator Gun Range aims higher

Trinidad State unveiled the newest addition at the ever-improving Prator Gun Range with a Grand Re-Opening on April 5. The range is located about six miles southeast of downtown Trinidad and is owned by the Trinidad State Educational Foundation.

Plans for a trap and skeet course began in 2011 and by 2012 trap was a reality and the clay pigeons were flying. Both trap and skeet are shotgun sports. The object is to hit a spinning clay disk that is mechanically launched into the air. In trap the disk, or “clay pigeon” is launched in front of and away from the shooter. In skeet the disks are launched from the left and right and at times fly almost over the shooter’s head.

Over the last year a “high house” and “low

house” were built and launchers were installed. Lights have also been installed to allow nighttime trap and skeet shooting.

The Educational Foundation also installed a 1,500 square foot, three-bedroom, two-bath modular home at the Range and a fulltime range director has been hired.

The 23-acre range also features a rifle and pistol range with distances up to 100 yards. The 100 yard range has four shooting lanes, eight lanes at 80 yards. The pistol course has movable targets for various distances.

The range is open to the public for a nominal fee, and annual memberships are available. Prator Range is located at 42013 County Road 24.6. For more information, call Dan Croghan at (719) 680-7236.



## Clays Shooting Team



In February, eight students were chosen to represent Trinidad State on the Clays Shooting Team. Try outs were held at the Prator Gun Range. A total of 18 students shot 50 rounds of ammunition in skeet and 50 rounds in trap and those 18 were narrowed down to eight, based on their scores.

They then practiced once a week, each firing 250 shells, in preparation for the 2014 ACUI Collegiate Clay Target Championships in San Antonio in March.

Trap Team Members chosen were Kullin Alldredge, Luke Tibbits, Barry Russel, Wilhelm Orten and Kevin Wedgworth. Skeet Team Members were James Norin, CJ Lee and Patrick Murray. Several students fared well at the ACUI Collegiate Clay Target Championships.





# DONOR REPORT

TSJC Educational Foundation • Gifts were received August 1, 2013 - August 29, 2014

## Leaving a Legacy

One of the major goals of the TSJC Educational Foundation is to increase its “endowment” or permanently invested capital. Endowments are the basis upon which TSJC can build lasting financial strength and ensure academic quality. Once in place, an endowment can provide permanent support for student scholarships, faculty chairs, professional development, and program advancement.

A named gift opportunity sends a strong message to our students and our communities that an individual, business or organization has partnered with the College in order to help shape the future of TSJC. The Foundation is grateful for the individuals who have offered life-changing resources to future generations at TSJC. The following endowments were established between July 1, 2012 and August 29, 2014:

- The Toney & Eileen Cantu Difference Maker Scholarship Fund
- The Tom & Lena Cimino Scholarship Fund
- The Crystal Ferrendelli Memorial Scholarship Fund
- The Dennis J. and Vickie Byrd Grabowski STEM Scholarship Fund
- The Dennis J. and Vickie Byrd Grabowski Nursing Scholarship Fund
- The Charlotte Kilpatrick Scholarship Fund
- The Sylvia Mantelli Scholarship Fund
- The Rachel Padilla Scholarship Fund
- The Pioneer Natural Resources STEM Scholarship Fund
- The Smith-Bacus Faculty Professional Development Fund
- The Miriam & James Zappanti Family Scholarship Fund

We invite you to consider the wide variety of opportunities and to help the College address current needs and prepare for future challenges. You are also encouraged to work with the Foundation and the College to create naming opportunities that fit with your special areas of interest. *All facility naming opportunities must be approved in accordance with College and System policies.*

## Trinidad native starts scholarship fund

The Trinidad State Junior College Educational Foundation is pleased to announce that Denver attorney Franklin D. Azar, has established the Franklin D. Azar Scholarship Fund at Trinidad State Junior College with a very generous contribution. Azar pledged his support to aid TSJC students with their educational expenses by committing \$250,000 to the scholarship fund over the next five years. The initial scholarships will be awarded starting this fall. “His generous spirit to his hometown community will provide much in the way of aid,” said Foundation Board President, Miriam Zappanti.

Azar’s goal is to help students financially as they begin their educational journey at TSJC. He recognizes the needs of those students whose grades may be “average” or whose resources may be in the median income range, yet those students may not qualify for scholarships or other financial assistance.

“While a student’s grades may be “average” from a traditional academic perspective, many talented “ordinary” students often are looking for available scholarships for students who don’t have an A average,” said Azar. The Franklin D. Azar Scholarships are intended for “average – ordinary” students who nevertheless have the desire and motivation to succeed at TSJC in pursuit of their goals.

Trinidad State President, Dr. Carmen Simone said, “The support provided to our students by Mr. Azar is deeply appreciated. His desire to assist those who would otherwise be without support speaks to his personal mission. Trinidad State is fortunate to have such a strong advocate dedicated to TSJC, our students, and the community.”

Twenty five recipients have already been chosen to receive \$1,000 each for this upcoming school year.

*Photo above: (L-R) Trinidad State Educational Foundation President, Miriam Zappanti, Trinidad State President Dr. Carmen Simone, Franklin Azar, Foundation Executive Director, Toni DeAngelis and Foundation Board Member, Ed Trommeter.*

### Continued from page 19

#### \$500+

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 Stan & Peggy Obrey  
 Alvin & Carol Rivera  
 Celia Rodriguez  
 Thomas Shearman  
 San Luis Valley Health  
 South Central Council of Governments  
 State Farm Companies  
 Foundation  
 McLane & Clynne Tilton  
 TrindieFest LLC  
 Trinidad Housing Authority  
 Debbie Ulibarri  
 United Way of Pueblo County, Inc

Alexander Bell  
 Robert Bell  
 Tony & Deborah Bobicki  
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 John Tarabino  
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#### \$100+

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 Anne Aranda  
 Raymond Barela  
 Charlotte Benich  
 Kenneth & Lynda Berger  
 Joyce & Bruce Billings  
 David Bisant  
 James & Sally Bjerklie  
 Charlotte & Tom Bobicki

#### \$250+

Carl & Rosalie Amato  
 Joyce Anderson  
 Martin & Betty Bania

Thanks to the incredible support of the 2013-14 Annual Fund, the Annual Fund continues to grow with fellow alumni and friends contributing over \$43,000, surpassing last year's goal of \$35,000. The Foundation recognizes with appreciation those who made charitable donations to the Fund between November 1, 2013 and August 29, 2014. These gifts have impacted students, strengthened the College, and shown that alumni value their TSJC education while friends of the College care deeply about the mission of TSJC. Watch for the 2014-15 Annual Fund information to see how you can make a difference!

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 Bryan & Jan Bryant  
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 Elizabeth Budd  
 David & Denise Clark  
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**Up to \$99**

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*The Foundation Office has made every effort to ensure this publication's accuracy. If you suspect your name was inadvertently omitted, please call the office at 719-846-5520 or email us at [tsjcalumnifoundation@trinidadstate.edu](mailto:tsjcalumnifoundation@trinidadstate.edu).*



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600 Prospect Street  
Trinidad, CO 81082

Return Service Requested

**TRINIDAD STATE MISSION STATEMENT:** *Trinidad State's mission is to enrich the lives of our diverse communities by providing quality educational experiences and promoting lifelong learning.*



# 1925 CLUB



*Celebrating the history of  
Trinidad State*

The goal of alumni and friends of the 1925 Club is to demonstrate commitment to Trinidad State Junior College by giving \$1,925 in unrestricted funds annually. Named for the year the College was established, the 1925 Club was founded by Tim Simmons, son of early TSJC basketball coach, Harry Simmons with a gift of \$1,925 and a challenge to get ten donors a year to be a part of the Club to raise nearly \$20,000 in unrestricted funds for TSJC as a source of support for projects to provide instructional offerings for enhanced student learning.

**To join the 1925 Club, call 719-846-5520.**