

THE MAGAZINE OF TRINE UNIVERSITY

TRINE

WINTER 2022



**TRINE PROPELS INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
ON TO SUCCESSFUL CAREERS. SEE PAGE 18**



Storm helped usher in the holidays as downtown Angola welcomed Santa Claus on Nov. 26, the day after Thanksgiving. Trine University's mascot rode downtown on an Angola Fire Department truck before greeting and posing for pictures with families as they waited in line for Santa.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Our world is more interconnected than ever.

Within the last century, intercontinental travel has been reduced from a matter of weeks to a matter of hours. More recently, faster, cheaper communications technology has made commonplace what was unthinkable even a generation ago.

Many of us can still remember when we were amazed by news video from the other side of the globe; today we connect instantaneously with family, friends and business associates worldwide. With this connection, our world is also realizing that we need to work together more closely to confront the challenges that face us all.

In this environment, it is more important than ever for Trine University to reflect the global society and to empower our graduates to succeed, lead and serve around the world.

Thankfully, we have a long history of serving students from many nations. In this issue, you'll read profiles of several Trine University international alumni — what brought them here, their experiences in a new land and how they are making an impact today. You'll also read how we are expanding our international programming in new, exciting ways.

Though the world may be changing, Trine University's commitment to excellence remains constant. You'll read in these pages about our record fall enrollment, stellar employment numbers for the Class of 2021 and record-setting fall athletics seasons, which included a national championship for women's triathlon. You'll also read about the growth at Indiana's CrossRoad Engineers and some of the Trine alumni who work for that company.

I hope you enjoy this magazine and appreciate Trine University's global reach in addition to our impact closer to home. With your support, we look forward to continuing to make a difference worldwide.

Sincerely,

Earl D. Brooks II

Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D.
Trine University President



16 Touchstone awards



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CORRECTION:
A photo caption in the Fall 2021 Trine magazine incorrectly identified women's lacrosse player Liv Ghent. Trine magazine regrets the error.

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THE MAGAZINE OF TRINE UNIVERSITY
TRINE

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Trine University, Angola, Indiana, trine.edu
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Trine fall 2021 enrollment shatters record



Trine University is serving 5,421 students this fall, more than 200 above its previous enrollment record.

“We are proud that an increasing number of students continue to choose Trine University as the pathway to their career and life goals,” said Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D., Trine University president. “Our combination of personal attention, practical experience, state-of-the-art facilities and job placement is second to none, and we will keep working hard to provide this unparalleled service as our numbers grow and our programs expand.”

The record enrollment is fueled by growth across multiple programs, locations and platforms.

The university saw growth in the number of new students from 2020, with main campus enrollment matching last year’s record. Trine’s Franks School of Education and Rinker-Ross School of Health Sciences both saw enrollment increases.

Now serving more than 200 students, enrollment in the Franks School of Education has increased nearly 150% over the last five years.

The university also saw about 7% growth in programs at its College of Health Professions (CHP) in Fort Wayne. The CHP includes Trine University’s first doctoral degree program, the Doctor of Physical Therapy, as well as Master of Physician Assistant Studies, Associate in Applied Science in surgical technology and RN-to-BSN, which graduated its first students this past summer.

The CHP will launch Master of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology programs in 2022.

An increasing number of students are enrolled in TrineOnline programs this fall. Enrollment in graduate programs, in particular, has been buoyed by interest from international students.

Kim Bennett, vice president for enrollment management at Trine, said that in addition

to programs such as civil engineering and mechatronics and robotics engineering, the university is seeing substantial growth in its health sciences, business and education majors.

“Trine University continues to provide, support and develop academic programs across all our academic schools that meet critical needs, which is reflected in the fact that more than 99 percent of Trine graduates are employed or in graduate school within six months,” she said.

The university has continued to add facilities to accommodate growth. Trine opened the new 101-bed Fabiani Hall this past fall, and began construction on the Steel Dynamics, Inc. Center for Engineering and Computing this past summer to provide additional facilities to accommodate continued growth in its academic programs.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER: NATION’S FOUNDATION BROUGHT US THROUGH 9/11 ATTACKS



Maj. Gen. Omer C. (Clif) Tooley Jr.

Providing the keynote address for Trine University’s Distinguished Speaker Series 9/11 Memorial, Maj. Gen. Omer C. (Clif) Tooley Jr. said that while the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, inflicted considerable damage, they did not accomplish their ultimate goal.

“For today you and I are gathered together as free people, living in a country that despite all its flaws remains the light, hope and envy of the world,” he said.

The event, held Sept. 10 in the T. Furth Center for Performing Arts, marked 20 years since the 9/11 attacks — 7,304 days, Trine University President Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D., noted in welcoming students, employees and members of the public to the event.

“But even in the midst of unparalleled destruction and violence, the days and months after 9/11 showed an incredible resilience, courage and strength of the American people, and it’s in this spirit that we join here together today,” Brooks said.

Tooley, who had a more-than-40-year career in the US Army and today serves as president of defense development for the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, opened his remarks by explaining how the Parthenon serves for many in the military as a metaphor representing the components of national security and national power. He explained the top pediment represents the totality of national security, the columns represent elements of national power, and all rest on a three-step base of the economy, culture and, at the foundation, values and virtues.

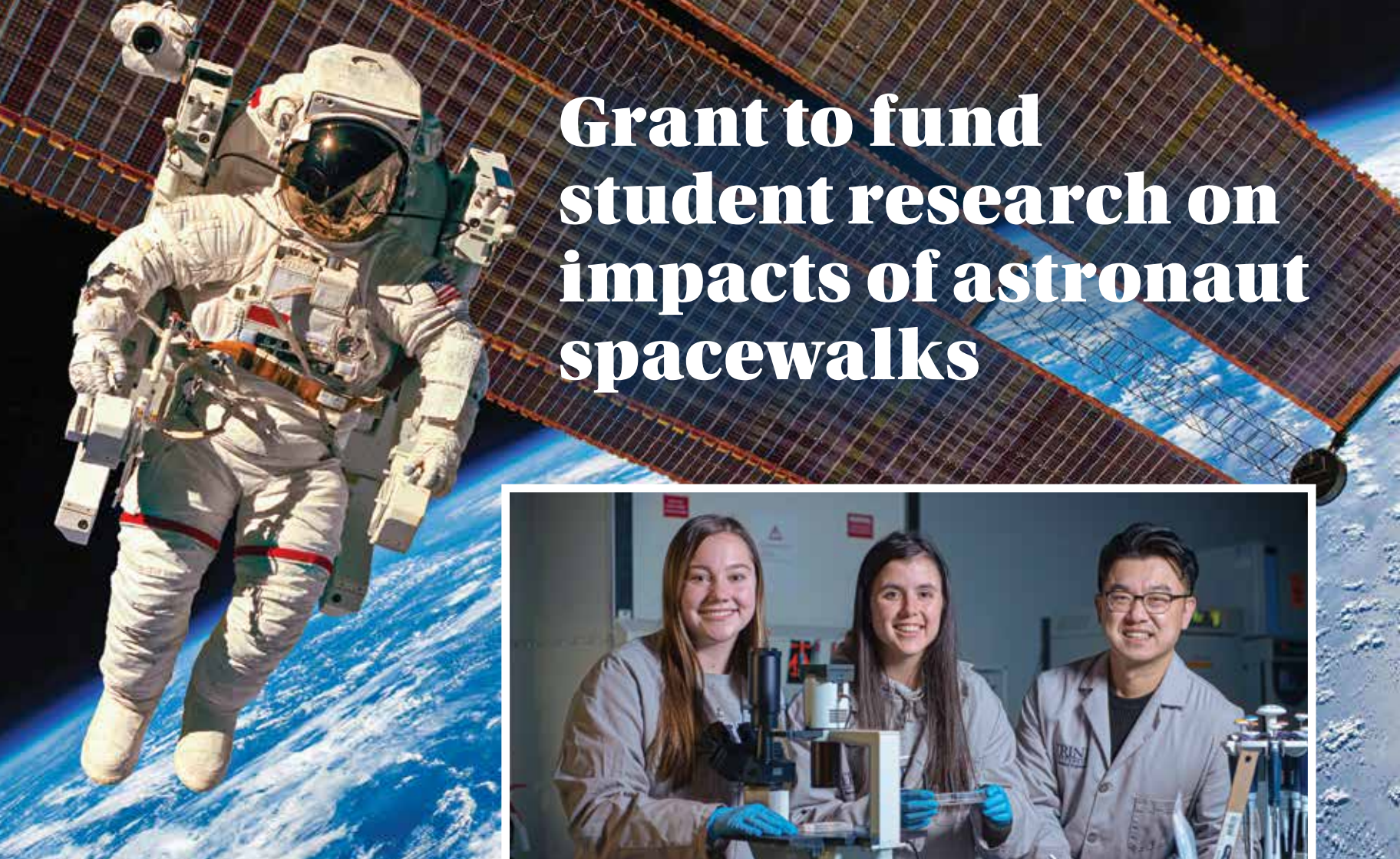
Though 9/11 caused 2,977 deaths, more than 6,000 injuries and more than \$2 trillion in economic damage — in addition to inspiring subsequent terrorist activities — Tooley said it only damaged the pillars, not the foundation of the United States.

“To me 9/11 was not just a tragic, infamous event occurring at a moment in time, but also a mile marker on our journey as a free people, a point at which we were reminded that freedom is a unique blessing gifted to us, a blessing not to be taken for granted,” he said.

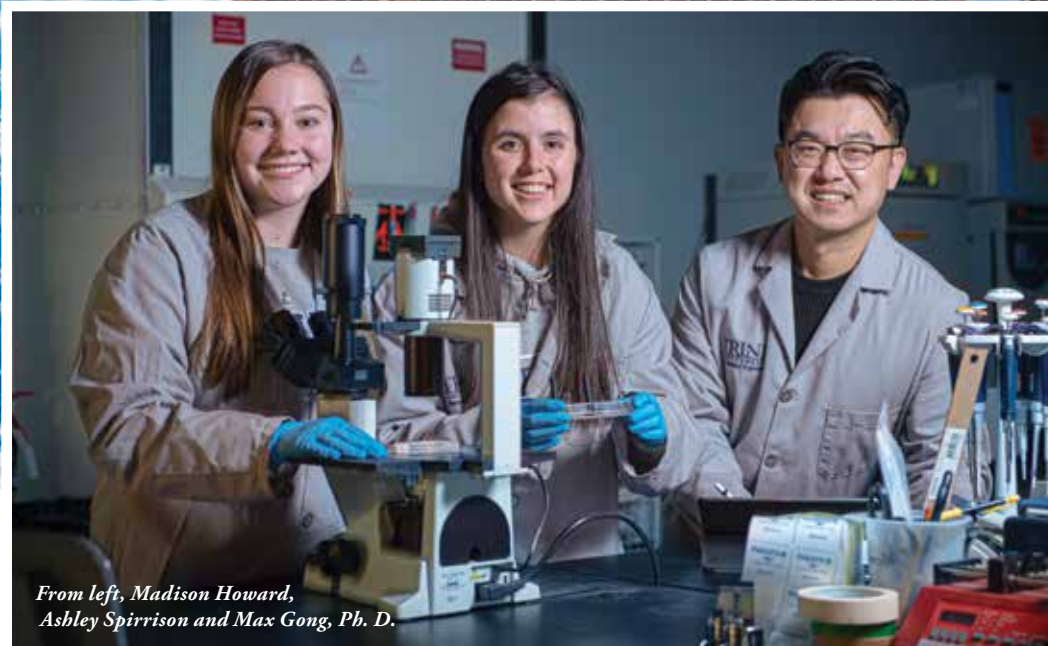
He added that 9/11 is also a reminder of the importance of preparing the next generation of leaders, entrusted to institutions such as Trine University. During a question-and-answer session that followed his address, Tooley told students the core values that bind us together will get them through challenges in life.

“You are our nation’s treasure,” he said. “Never take lightly what you bring to the table and never discount it. If you continue the path you’re on, you will experience great success and our nation will rest in great hands.”





Grant to fund student research on impacts of astronaut spacewalks



From left, Madison Howard, Ashley Spurrison and Max Gong, Ph. D.

A \$15,000 grant from the Indiana Space Grant Consortium (INSGC) will fund an undergraduate research project at Trine University that seeks to help understand the impact of spacewalks on astronauts.

Trine University biomedical engineering seniors Madison Howard of Pleasant Lake, Michigan, and Ashley Spurrison of Fishers, Indiana, will lead the project, titled “Developing Microfluidic Technology to Model the Vascular Health of Astronauts.” Max Gong, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Bock Department of Biomedical Engineering, will serve as advisor.

The project seeks to help address concerns NASA has regarding the safety of its astronauts while completing missions outside of Earth’s atmosphere, Gong said.

During missions, astronauts execute Extravehicular Activities (EVAs), commonly referred to as spacewalks, to repair and complete quality checks of spacecraft, and for

research and exploration purposes. Prior to an EVA, astronauts must be exposed to 100% hyperoxia (a state of excess supply of oxygen in tissues and organs) for approximately five to eight hours, with repeats of the protocol two to three times each week.

This increase in blood oxygenation has been linked to DNA damage to lung tissue, overproduction of nitric oxide, cell damage from lipid peroxidation, and increased pulmonary fibrosis, Gong said.

Hyperoxia also causes blood vessels to narrow and abnormalities in the architecture of organs, limiting blood flow or fluid transfer through organs.

The Trine students will develop microfluidic vasculature-on-a-chip models, engineered

models that mimic living tissues, of blood and lymphatic vessels to investigate the relationship between hyperoxia and its negative health effects. Such models have been used to better understand vascular health in diseases, such as atherosclerosis, Gong said, and can be applied to studying and improving the health of astronauts.

The Indiana Space Grant Consortium was created in 1991 under NASA’s National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program. The Space Grant national network includes organizations working to expand opportunities for Americans to learn about and participate in NASA’s aeronautics and space projects by supporting and enhancing science and engineering education, research and public outreach efforts.



From left, Jacob Nelson, Nathon Luong and Jhaven Thompson fist bump at the 2021 Fall Career Fair.

UNIVERSITY WELCOMES RECORD NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS TO CAREER EVENTS

Nearly 150 employers have participated in Trine University Career Fair events this fall, a record for single-semester participation.

Between the Tailgate for Talent in September and the Virtual Career Fair in October, the university welcomed 147 employers to events. The previous record was 128, set in the spring.

“An increasing number of employers are seeking the knowledge and hands-on experience that Trine University students and graduates bring to the table as interns and full-time employees,” said Jason Blume, executive director of Trine innovation 1. “We’re proud that many employers as well as

students and their families recognize the value of a Trine education.”

More than 500 Trine University students participated in the various events this fall.

Trine sees 99.3% of class of 2021 employed

More than 99% of Trine University’s Class of 2021 reported being employed or in graduate school within six months of graduation, continuing an eight-year trend of near-perfect employment.

The class saw 99.3% of its members employed, joining an eight-year average of more than 99% employment for Trine University graduates. This includes ten straight years of 100% employment for graduates from the university’s Franks School of Education.

“Though the last 18 months presented many challenges for Trine University as well as higher education as a whole, **we have remained laser-focused on our mission to prepare students to succeed, lead and serve,**” said Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D., Trine University president. “These latest employment figures show the fruits of our efforts. I commend our faculty and career services personnel for the excellence they continue to demonstrate in educating our students and helping them develop the connections to reach their personal and professional goals.”

Trine’s Class of 2021 saw 95% of its members employed or attending graduate school in a major-related field.

Trine’s employment rate continues to far exceed national averages released by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), which reported that 86% of graduates nationwide from the Class of 2019, the most recent year available, were employed or in graduate school within six months of graduation.

Jordan, Cerasani join Trine board

The Trine University Board of Trustees voted to add two new members during its meeting on Friday, Oct. 1.



Joe Jordan



John Cerasani

Joe Jordan, a lifetime resident of Fort Wayne, Indiana, has served as president and CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Fort Wayne since 2009. Jordan has more than 25 years of experience at the executive level of organizational management, working in community organizations whose primary focus is youth and family development.

Jordan serves on many boards at the local and state level. His leadership roles include serving as chair of the board of the Fort Wayne United Initiative, co-chair of the Mayoral Police Reform Commission, and co-chair for the City of Fort Wayne’s Untied Initiative.

Jordan received his degree in business management from Indiana Institute of Technology and he earned his master’s degree in business management from Indiana Wesleyan University.

John Cerasani is a key shareholder at private-equity-backed Risk Strategies Company. A Chicago native who still resides in greater Chicagoland, Cerasani has successfully launched businesses in the insurance, event-planning, real estate, food industry and venture capital space.

A scholarship athlete who started at tight end for the University of Notre Dame and Northwestern University, Cerasani earned a Bachelor of Science from Northwestern in 2000 and joined the insurance industry, eventually founding and selling his own company. He has worked with well over 100 small private colleges, many of which are in the Midwest.

Cerasani is actively involved in philanthropic efforts, including endowed college scholarships, ministry, youth athletics, socio-economic equality advocacy programs and the promotion of the arts. He has provided financial support to projects at Trine University including the Ford Hall renovation and Thunder Ice Arena.



Stucky returns to lead Trine advancement efforts

Kent D. Stucky, J.D., is serving as Trine University’s vice president for university advancement.

An experienced fundraising executive, Stucky returns to Trine after a highly successful tenure leading Trine University’s alumni and fundraising efforts from 2010 to 2017. Stucky left Trine to begin his own advancement consultancy, which has only added to his wealth of expertise and experience.

During Stucky’s previous tenure as Trine’s vice president for alumni and development, he led a development team that launched the Invest in Excellence capital campaign with a \$75 million goal. That campaign concluded last year after raising more than \$137 million for student scholarships, campus facilities and the endowment.

Also under Stucky’s leadership, the university saw tremendous growth in its annual fund and the Trine University Scholarship Gala.

Since 2017, he has provided professional fundraising advice to educational institutions and non-profit organizations. His work has included serving in interim leadership roles at the University of Texas at Tyler, Goshen College and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Trine prof’s presentation included in Best of Conference publication

A presentation by a Trine University faculty member is included in The Best of the 2021 Teaching Professor Conference, newly released by Magna Publications.



Jeremy Rentz, Ph.D., professor in Trine University’s Reiners Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and director of the university’s Center for Teaching Excellence, presented “Put the Hammer Down and Build Your Teaching Toolbox” at the Teaching Professor Conference, held June 2-4 in New Orleans.

His presentation, rated among the conference’s best in a post-event survey, is one of eight included in the publication.

“Dr. Rentz is not only an outstanding teacher to his own students, but, as director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, increases the quality of academic instruction across the Trine University campus by sharing what he and others have learned,” said John Shannon, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs at Trine. “I’m pleased that he not only gets the honor of being recognized in a national publication, but the opportunity to share his teaching expertise with a wider audience.”



Trine presents honorary degree to State Health Commissioner

Dr. Kristine Box, Indiana State Health Commissioner, center, holds her honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Trine University, presented during the 50th anniversary celebration gala for the Indiana Academy, held Oct. 18 at the Columbia Club in Indianapolis. Trine University President Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D., left, presented the honor at the gala, praising Box’s leadership and support for universities during the coronavirus pandemic. At right is David W. Wantz, president and CEO of Independent Colleges of Indiana, which established the Indiana Academy.

Trine team places 3rd in international ChemE-Sports competition

A team of Trine University chemical engineering students made it to the Final Four of the recent ChemE-Sports competition, held as part of the national American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) conference.

The team of Jonah Blanchard of Wauseon, Ohio; Laura Weller of Munster, Indiana; Patrick Loeffler of Columbia City, Indiana; and David Deniston of Bowling Green, Ohio, placed third after falling to a team from the University of Moratuwa in Sri Lanka.

The AIChE national conference was held in person the weekend of Nov. 5-8, with the ChemE-Sports competition taking place on Nov. 7. Eighteen Trine students participated in the conference, with two teams of four competing in ChemE-Sports.

The second Trine team was made up of Blaine Harvey, of Anderson, Indiana; Tristan Ortiz of Wayland, Michigan; Nolan Oleski of

Commerce Township, Michigan; and Nasir Al Mutlaq of Saudi Arabia. Both Trine teams advanced through the field of 28 teams to the Sweet 16.



The Trine University ChemE-sports team of, from left, Patrick Loeffler, Jonah Blanchard, David Deniston and Laura Weller placed third in competition held as part of the national American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) conference.

Four Trine faculty earn Education Awards

Four Trine University faculty members were among 14 outstanding educators chosen as honorees by Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly for its annual Education Awards.

Trine University was the only college or university whose faculty members were recognized.



Emilio Vazquez, Ph.D.



Linda Conley

Emilio Vazquez, Ph.D., medical director for Trine University’s Master of Physicians Assistant Studies program, was honored with the 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Linda Conley, assistant professor in the Ketner School of Business, was honored for Innovation in Teaching.

Timothy Jenkins, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Design Engineering Technology, received the award for Excellence in STEM Subjects.

Bradley Martin, assistant professor in the Department of Criminal Justice, was recognized for Excellence in Social Sciences.

The Education Awards marked the third time in 2021 Trine University received special recognition in regional media. In September, Trine University was voted the Best College in the Greater Fort Wayne area by readers of the Journal Gazette. The university also was recognized for Innovation in Education earlier in 2021 as part of Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly’s Innovation Awards.



Timothy Jenkins, Ph.D.



Bradley Martin



Giving Tuesday raises more than \$100K; Trine Day coming April 22

Trine University raised more than \$100,000 toward student scholarships, enhanced classroom experiences and state-of-the-art facilities on Giving Tuesday, Nov. 30.

The university received \$101,161 throughout the day from 268 Trine alumni, employees, parents and friends.

Trine Day will celebrate the university Friday, April 22, offering members of the Trine University community the opportunity to give back to the area they love most about Trine, whether academics, athletics or organizations. More details about Trine Day will be coming from the Office of University Advancement.

Trine offering master’s in early childhood Montessori education

Trine University has received approval from the Higher Learning Commission to offer a Master of Education in Early Childhood Montessori Education degree.

The program is an extension of the Early Childhood training program in Montessori education already offered through the university’s Center for Montessori Education. Students who complete the Montessori training coursework can earn the master’s degree by finishing an additional course through TrineOnline.

The program will be offered through Trine’s Franks School of Education (FSOE) and will be the school’s first graduate degree offering.

For more information about the degree program, visit trine.edu/montessori

RN-BSN program earns accreditation

Trine University’s RN-to-BSN program has received accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

At its October meeting, the CCNE Board of Commissioners determined the program met all four accreditation standards, with no compliance concerns. The board granted accreditation through 2026.



Sharon Willey, DNP

“I’m excited that we not only earned accreditation, but that the CCNE granted it for five years, which is a remarkable achievement for a new program,” said Sharon Willey, DNP, program director. “I’m thankful for the support we

have received from the university to launch a quality nursing program, and grateful to the pioneering students who have helped us build upon and refine this program.”



University recognized with Duesy Award

DeKalb Chamber Partnership board president Steve Snider, left, presents the chamber’s 2021 Education Award to Jason Watson, vice president and dean of enrollment for TrineOnline, who accepted the award on behalf of Trine University. The DeKalb Chamber Partnership honored Trine University for its contributions in education at its annual DeKalb Awards for Excellence in Business Community and Education, known commonly as the Duesys, on Nov. 11. The annual awards gala, held at the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum, celebrates DeKalb Chamber Partnership members and recognizes contributions in business, community and education.



Read more campus news at trine.edu/news.

Thousands enjoy Homecoming's return



Homecoming made a triumphant return to Trine University Oct. 1-3 as many alumni joined students, their families and the Trine community for events including the Touchstone and Homecoming Celebration Dinner (see page 16), Homecoming bonfire, Tour de Trine and Thunder Zone.

Students launched the festivities earlier in the week with the annual Thunder Games competitions. The winners were:

- Cornhole: Corn Stars (**Rylan McBride** and **Colten Kitchen**)
- Trivia: Legacies (**Mykah Garrison, Madysen Collins, Haylee Smith, Andrea Mendoza** and **Isabella Hug**)
- Sidewalk painting: Dance Team/ Multicultural Student Organization (MSO)/Newman Catholic Fellowship
- Pie-eating contest: Delta Chi
- Lip sync battle: Men's lacrosse
- Dodgeball: Delta Chi
- Tour De Trine: Delta Chi

The university crowned senior chemical engineering major **Meghan McGonagle** as Homecoming queen and senior mechanical engineering major **Aiden Benysh** as Homecoming king during the ThunderStruck Pep Rally on Friday, Oct. 1.

On Saturday, Oct. 2, nearly 6,000 fans braved soggy weather to watch the Trine University football team win the 2021 Border Brawl game 36-20 over Adrian College.

Be sure to save the date for next year's Homecoming, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2022.



Members of the Trine University Classes of 1970 and 1971 celebrated their 50-year reunion during Homecoming weekend.



Homecoming court



Trine University President's Cup winners Kappa Sigma and Theta Phi Alpha

UNIVERSITY PRESENTS TOP AWARDS AT TOUCHSTONE

Trine University honored top supporters, alumni and athletes during its annual Touchstone and Homecoming Celebration Dinner on Oct. 1.

Keith Busse, who rose from modest means to co-found Steel Dynamics, Inc., one of the nation's largest steel producers, received the Pillar of Success Award.

Calling his involvement with Trine University one of the "great adventures of my life," Busse said, "It has truly, truly been my pleasure to serve."

A member of the Trine University Board of Trustees since 2003, Busse chairs the Campus Planning Committee and has helped guide the capital construction and improvement plan for the institution. Among other projects and efforts, Busse and Steel Dynamics Inc. have provided significant support to the Keith E. Busse/Steel Dynamic Inc. Athletic and Recreation Center, the Thunder Ice Arena and the Steel Dynamics Inc. Center for Engineering and Computing, which is scheduled to open in fall 2022.

The university honored Indiana Lt. Gov. **Suzanne Crouch** with its annual Woman of Distinction Award.

In 2019, Crouch served as speaker for Trine University's Commencement ceremony. Following her address, the university awarded her the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree in recognition of her public service to the state of Indiana.

Three distinguished graduates received alumni awards.



Keith Busse, left, accepts his Pillar of Success Award from Trine president Earl D. Brooks, II, Ph.D.

Ned Haylett, a 1972 mechanical engineering alumnus, was honored with the Distinguished Service Award. Haylett has served on numerous boards, including serving as board president for the Sturgis Area Chamber, Trine's Alumni Association and Domestic and Sexual Abuse Services. He is a regular supporter of Trine's Scholarship Gala and the Books & Beyond program, and is a member of the Legacy Society and often participates in alumni events.

Carl Tilmann of Dayton, Ohio, a 1987 aeronautical engineering alumnus, received the Outstanding Achievement Award. Currently serving as aerodynamics competency lead at the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, Tilmann has published seven journal articles, multiple U.S. Air Force technical reports, more than 40 conference papers and a book chapter.

Garrett Day of Jackson, Michigan, a 2009 civil engineering alumnus and 2021 Master of

Science in organizational leadership graduate, was honored with the Outstanding Young Alumni Award. Day currently is a Transition Line Engineer at Commonwealth Associates in Jackson, Michigan. He is a presence around campus for alumni and scholarship events, and regularly donates to Trine's Reiners Department of Civil and Environment Engineering. Recently, he was named the Statewide Young Engineer of the Year by the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers.

Four distinguished former athletes were added to the Athletics Hall of Fame: basketball player **John Peters**, wrestler **Nick Kraus**, baseball player **Ryan Smith** and softball and volleyball player **Carly Searles**.

Peters graduated in 1978 after competing on three conference-winning men's basketball teams. He was also part of two NAIA District 21 State Championship teams and one that made an NAIA Sweet 16 appearance.



Indiana Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, left, accepts her Woman of Distinction Award from Trine president Earl D. Brooks, II, Ph.D.

Kraus graduated from Trine University in 2010 as one of the winningest wrestlers in school history.

Smith is a 2012 graduate of Trine University and was a four-year member of Thunder varsity baseball, where he distinguished himself among the greats in program history.

Searles gained Hall of Fame recognition for her efforts in softball and volleyball. In all divisions of the NCAA, she holds the record for most triples in a season (17) and is ranked second in career triples (48).

In women's volleyball, Searles was a setter who is a member of both the 1,000 Assist Club and 1,000 Dig Club.

The university also honored former faculty member and golf coach **Bill SanGiacomo** by announcing that the golf laboratory in Ford Hall has been renamed the Bill SanGiacomo Teaching and Learning Center. SanGiacomo retired from Trine in 2020 after 55 years with the university, including 50 as golf coach.



Ned Haylett



Carl Tilmann



Garrett Day



John Peters



Nick Kraus



Ryan Smith



Carly Searles



Bill SanGiacomo



Herndon, Virginia



Phoenix



Detroit

GRADUATE PROGRAMS DRIVING NEW INTERNATIONAL ENROLLMENT

While many universities are seeing declines in international enrollment, Trine University has more than 900 students from other nations enrolled in graduate programs this fall.

The university offers four graduate degree options at education centers in Detroit and Phoenix, with plans underway to open a Herndon, Virginia, center.

“Our locations, price point and delivery model are all very attractive,” said David Colbert, assistant vice president for international services and global partnerships. “Our degree offerings are in demand and practical. Students are very well-prepared for the workforce, and we have nearly 100% employment post completion.

“The faculty is top-notch, and we pay very close attention to service and advising of the students. Evaluations are exemplary and the word is out that we care, and we support our students at a very high level.

“The locations are urban hubs, with access to public transportation, airports, hotels, etc. with

large, diverse immigrant populations, so many of the students have a network and communities for support. They also have lots of companies in the engineering and tech sectors, so there are opportunities to acquire internships while they study.”

Colbert said the university began developing its programs in the fall of 2014, offering the Master of Science in engineering management and MBA at the Angola main campus on weekends only. Responding to the need for more flexibility and a more urban location, the university moved those offerings to the Dupont Education Center in Fort Wayne.

“At our first intake we had over 130 new students arrive for orientation,” he said. “We knew then we had a market for what we had to offer.”

The university developed the Master of Science in information studies program in 2016, which now is Trine’s largest program, with more than 320 international students enrolled. Responding to the need for big data expertise, the university

developed the Master of Science in business analytics in 2020, which is Trine’s fastest-growing major.

“We continued with the model, allowing weekend, hybrid programing and a long day residential component that allows flexibility while also adhering to the regulatory residential requirements for internationals to maintain their F-1 (student) status,” Colbert said.

Brittni Heiden, senior director of graduate programs, said the university makes the most of sessions at the education centers. Instructors do their best to get to know students while covering course content.

“Throughout the day, students can expect group work, one-on-one time with their instructors and other classmates, and content delivered to them from a working professional with extensive knowledge in the field,” she said.

The university is investigating options for additional degree programs and education centers.



Trine University a launchpad for alumni from many nations

They represent different nations and cultures. Several came to small-town Indiana from sprawling metropolitan areas and national capitals. Some experienced the bite of winter for the first time.

They all came to the United States looking for greater educational opportunities, and found them at Trine University.

As Trine celebrates continued growth in the depth and breadth

of its international student body, currently enrolling more than 900 students from 38 countries, here are stories of several international alumni who arrived from other nations and went on to succeed, lead and serve.

Bolu Olaniyan, Nigeria, 2020 MSEM



Bolu Olaniyan has always enjoyed a challenge. In high school, she took advanced mathematics, finishing as one of the best in her class.

She was attracted

to engineering by its emphasis on “what can we do to make things easy, what can we do to save time, what can we do to save cost (and) how can we make people’s lives easier.”

She completed her bachelor’s degree in systems engineering at the University of Lagos, and decided to seek her graduate degree in the United States.

“I felt like the United States had a lot of opportunities. The United States is where a lot of different people meet from different backgrounds,” she said. “Indiana, France, Italy ... we all come together here.”

One of her lecturers whose nephew was attending Trine recommended the university because of its international population, small class sizes and engineering management degree program.

“I wanted to do more of the management part of engineering,” she said. “He mentioned that Trine is one of the few schools that offers this course.”

Unlike in Nigeria, where thousands of college students competed for jobs, Trine’s career fairs offered her the opportunity to personally connect with potential employers. In addition, the Six Sigma green belt she earned as part of her degree program at Trine gave her the certification she needed for her current position as a quality engineer with Exo-s, a company that designs and manufactures plastic systems.

“If I didn’t have a green belt I can bet that I wasn’t going to get called for this interview at all in the first place,” she said.

She hopes eventually to earn a Ph.D. in quality systems management and become a consultant, working with companies in multiple nations, including her home country.

“I want the knowledge so that I can make the engineering sector in Nigeria better,” she said.

Pauline Odambo, Kenya, 2020 BSBA



Pauline Odambo dreamed of studying abroad as long as she could remember. Her uncle, brother-in-law to David Colbert, assistant vice president of international

services and global partnerships at Trine, told her about the university and suggested she apply. He also suggested she major in accounting.

“He knew I was not interested in anything related to science and I was not that big a fan of finance so I settled on accounting. It was kind of a process of elimination,” she said.

Coming to Angola, Indiana, was a big change from the large fast-paced city of Nairobi where she grew up.

“The environment is much slower, so it also gave me a chance to slow down and focus on education,” she said.

However, one difference was not as positive.

“I completely hated winter. I still do,” she said. “It is horrible. I was not prepared at all.”

Fonder memories include taking part in an Amish dinner as a member of the Multicultural Student Organization at Trine.

“You leave there in a food coma,” she recalled. “Whenever we would go, the car would be so excited. On the ride home, you would hear everyone talking, and everyone is just full and happy and ready to go to bed.”

While at Trine, she completed internships with public accounting firm Ernst & Young in Indianapolis. Today she works there as a staff assurance auditor, helping companies keep financial statements free from material misstatements.

“I’m hoping that I can get into a managerial position in the coming years as I learn more in the accounting field,” she said.

She also hopes to eventually move somewhere warmer.

Ryan Pereira, India, 1998 BSME



You may not have heard of JBT Corporation, where Trine University alumnus Dr. Ryan Pereira serves as president, but chances are you’ve eaten something the company has been involved

with. JBT provides industrial-scale technology solutions for companies like Nestle, Tyson and Tropicana.

“We make food tastier, we make it safer, we make it last long, and we help our customers be productive,” Ryan said.

Ryan’s multicultural background serves him well as he leads the growing company.

“Food is a global business,” he said. “I travel the world once every six weeks.”

Tri-State University advertised at the oil company in the Middle East where his father worked, offering scholarships for international students.

“I was looking for an engineering school,” he said. “It was an engineering school and it had quite a history to it and they had a good offering of majors plus the scholarship and that sealed the deal.”

In addition to a solid engineering education that allowed him to pass the EIT exam “right out of the

chute,” Ryan received leadership experience by serving as a resident assistant, and prepared for the workforce through co-ops at Bryan Custom Plastics and Hendrickson Truck Suspension.

“That experience gets you a job and helps you be productive quickly,” he said. “Then a combination of hard work and skill and abilities and some planning take you to the next steps.”

He started as an engineer at Dura Automotive, where he eventually became engineering supervisor. He then served as a consultant and researcher while completing his graduate work at the University of Michigan, then moved into engineering management and vice president roles before assuming his current position, which has continued to expand.

“If you get good at one business you get to run several businesses, and that’s basically where I’m at,” he said.

Braeden Pearl, Canada, 2019 BSBC



Braeden Pearl had two goals growing up: playing college hockey and going on to medical school. Trine University helped him achieve both.

Now a medical student

at McGill University in Canada, Braeden found Trine University while searching for smaller schools with hockey programs. He majored in

biochemistry at Trine, which gave him a solid foundation for what he is studying in medical school.

“Trine was a great place to do my undergrad, and I’d recommend it to any international student who values good education and small class size,” he said.

His favorite memories at Trine include going to the national championship with the ACHA Division 2 team and hanging out with teammates. Even in medical school, his passion for hockey continues – in addition to his studies, he serves as CEO and advisor for Advancement Hockey, which helps mentor young hockey players and help them prepare to play at the college level. He hopes to continue to build the company as well as become an attending physician in psychiatry.

“But I’m only a first-year medical student, so I’m keeping an open mind as this can change,” he said.

Nirosh Wijayaratne, Sri Lanka, 1998 BSEE



Nirosh Wijayaratne’s interest in electricity goes back to a very young age, and “included getting electrical shocks doing things I shouldn’t have been doing.”

He began studying electrical engineering at the Technical University of Budapest in Hungary, but had to take a break due to financial reasons.

“When the opportunity and time came for me to get back on track I decided that I wanted to instead come to the US,” he said. “With my field being electrical engineering, I felt there were more opportunities.”

He liked the idea of a smaller university, and chose Tri-State after researching and applying to “a bunch of” universities. The United States became the tenth country he has lived in, but for the first time, he wasn’t living in a national capital.

Angola, Indiana, was quite a contrast from Singapore, where he had spent the prior seven months.

“When I came to Angola, at the time the tallest building was four stories, and it was one of the dorm buildings,” he said.

When it came to his education, however, he found that smaller was much better.

“I had a lot of friends who were in school that were working with teaching assistants, whereas at Tri-State all the classes were taught by professors,” he recalled. “As we got into our senior classes some of the professors gave us their home phone number, so if we got stuck on something, we could call in the evening. Stuff like that flabbergasted a lot of my friends at bigger schools.”

He learned to love the small-town environment as well. One night, he and four friends crammed into a two-seat Pontiac Fiero to grab a bite to eat at a 24-hour truck stop near campus. The tight quarters caused the driver to exceed the speed limit, and the group was pulled over by a local police officer.

“He asked where we were going, and we said we were going to the truck stop,” Nirosh recalled. “He said, ‘Well, I’m going that way, so why don’t I just give you a ride?’ ”

“I still keep coming back to Angola 23 years after I graduated, and it still feels like I am coming home.”

His original plan to start graduate school after finishing at Tri-State did not work out, but the detour proved to be fortunate. He began working at HM Electronics, Inc. (HME), and is still there today.

Beginning as an entry-level engineer, he now serves as senior electrical engineering manager, leading a team that performs board-level design for electronic products. He also was eventually able to attend graduate school, earning his Master of Science in electrical engineering from San Diego State University.

“I think Tri-State had the right mix of hands-on work and theory,” he said. “The more theoretical aspects of the curriculum lined me up for grad school, and the hands-on work, as well as the theoretical work, prepped me for my work at HME.”

Vipul Shah, India, 1996 BSChE



Though he works as an International Client Advisor for Morgan Stanley, Vipul Shah still applies principles he learned as a chemical engineering major at Tri-State University.

“Chemical engineering taught me how to analyze and solve problems,” he said. “Life is a journey and an opportunity to help people. There are situations every step of the way that add tools to your toolkit.”

He originally chose chemical engineering because his father had a plastics and polymers business, and Vipul planned to eventually operate it. He felt studying for his bachelor’s degree in the United States would give him more opportunities for professional development.

“Education in the United States was more hands-on and more inclusive, including topics like social studies and economics,” he said.

He knew of Tri-State because a distant relative knew a professor there.

“Trine was a good school in a small community that would allow me to focus on my studies, and didn’t have a \$50,000 price tag,” he said.

Even though the costs were lower, Vipul still worked five jobs to get through college, including serving as a resident assistant and helping run the pizza store in the basement of Stewart Hall.

“I learned how to motivate people at work, how to keep a business running and how to take care of clients and staff - skills I still use today,” he said

Though he completed his chemical engineering degree, he also wanted to experience other areas. After graduation, he began his career in environmental and health safety consulting, moved to manufacturing and then on to retail in senior management positions. He then started a software company, which he sold.

At that time of the 2008 financial crisis, Vipul was assisting friends with their questions. They told him he was more helpful than their financial advisor.

“After the fourth or fifth time I heard it, it started to sink in,” he said.

Vipul continues to support the university, serving on the advisory board for the Ketner School of Business. He was honored with the university’s Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award in 2019.

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“I still keep coming back to Angola 23 years after I graduated, and it still feels like I am coming home.”

- Nirosh Wijayaratne, Sri Lanka, 1998 BSEE

CrossRoad Engineers continues to build on alumni connection



CrossRoad Engineers, P.C., has 18 Trine University alumni among its 51 employees, including 17 of its 23 civil engineers.

From its beginnings, Indianapolis-based CrossRoad Engineers, P.C., has had a strong connection to Trine University.

Founded in 1995, the civil engineering firm, which focuses on transportation and development, brought on Trine alumnus **Trent Newport, BSCE 1992**, the next year. Today, 18 of the company's 51 employees, and 17 of its 23 civil engineers, are Trine graduates.

In addition, Trent, now president of CrossRoad, estimates the company has hired more than 100 other Trine students for summer internships over the past 25 years.

"We started interviewing at Tri-State back when there was no career fair and we asked if we could come and set up in a room to do interviews for summer internships," he said.

"Our partnership with Tri-State/Trine obviously started because of our alumni relationship. However, if the relationship would not have been good and fruitful for our growing company, we would not have kept going back for talent recruitment. We are very proud of this longstanding relationship and how it has impacted CrossRoad Engineers."

Other Trine alumni who work for the company were attracted by the company's atmosphere after completing internships. Here is a look at a few Trine alumni who make up part of the CrossRoad family.

Trent Newport, 1992



After graduation, Trent went to work for a civil engineering firm in Indianapolis. During his second year there, he began working for the vice president leading the transportation and site design department.

The next year, that vice president decided to start a new company and invited Trent to join him and become an owner when he got licensed.

"I was quickly an owner at age 27, but my role has grown over the years with our growth as a company," he said. "I became president in 2016 to transition that leadership, and our founder retired in 2020."

He said his education at Tri-State gave him a great engineering foundation and set him on the path to his current role.

"I also believe that my leadership roles with Kappa Sigma fraternity gave me great experience in leading a group of diverse-minded individuals," he said.

Kevin Lee, 2010



Kevin Lee has always enjoyed being around construction, both building things and understanding how they work.

"Majoring in civil engineering was the best of both worlds," he said. "It allowed me to be a part of the construction industry while having the opportunity to design, inspect and improve the community I live in."

His high school baseball coach, a Tri-State alumnus who employed him during the summer in residential construction and remodeling, pointed him toward the university.

He started interning with CrossRoad the summer after his freshman year, and continued to intern with them until he was hired full-time in January 2011.

"Once I started working here I didn't really think of working anywhere else," he said.

As assistant survey manager, he helps schedule and prepare projects for the company's survey department.

"I enjoy being a part of the projects from the very beginning to the very end," he said.

Already licensed as a professional engineer, he is taking more classes to become a licensed surveyor to become a more versatile member of the company.

"Being part of a company that works hard and at the same time is able to create an atmosphere where co-workers hang out after work and are friends away from the office is awesome," he said.

Morgan Sapara, 2019



Interested in math and science as she was growing up, Morgan Sapara was drawn to civil engineering by her desire to understand how things work, and to make a difference in the community.

During her sophomore year at Trine, the Canadian citizen was seeking a summer internship so she could stay in the United States over the summer. She did internships with CrossRoad that year and after her junior year as well.

"When it came time to find a full-time job, I ultimately chose CrossRoad because I felt like I was part of a family, even as an intern," she said.

She works as a project engineer/inspector, making sure projects constructed in the field match the designs in the office. She also designs transportation projects around the Indianapolis area.

"I don't just do one thing all day," she said.

“I am constantly learning and growing as an engineer and a person. I am challenged daily to come up with new and out-of-the-box solutions, I get to meet and coordinate with people who have 30+ years of experience and that just helps me to learn more.”

She said the many team projects and real-life scenarios that were part of her Trine education helped her contribute as a team member once she began at the company, and she is excited about the future.

“I feel like there are still so many new projects and opportunities to determine where I excel best in the industry,” she said.

Mark Beck, 2000



Mark Beck became connected with CrossRoad through his fraternity, when Trent Newport asked him at a Kappa Sigma alumni event if he would be interested in interning at the company.

“I’ve always known I wanted to do some type of civil engineering,” he said. “Summer interning at CrossRoad brought into focus what I wanted to do for my career: transportation design.”

Mark leads the company’s Transportation Design department, which includes obtaining and scheduling projects for all the engineers (including himself) and computer-aided drafting and design staff. His Trine education not only gave him the educational foundation he needed and an appreciation for hard work, he also learned how to think critically and how to approach problems from different angles.

“I have always been attracted to the family atmosphere of CrossRoad, and the fact that engineers are expected to get hands-on

experience in the field as inspectors prior to coming into the office to do design,” he said. “This just gives a young engineer a much better perspective on how things work, versus only having ‘paper’ experience.”

He plans to continue to help CrossRoad grow and develop as a company by learning from those who have come before him, and passing on what he has learned to the next generation.

Justen Hochstetler, 2017



From a young age, Justen Hochstetler has been fascinated with how things work and are constructed.

“As a child, and even now, my favorite part of road trips is driving over large bridges and admiring the intricacies of the truss or cable-stayed bridges,” he said.

He was attracted to Trine by its small size and the reputation of its engineering programs. While visiting campus, he was impressed by the care professors in the Reiners Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering showed, care he continued to see as a student.

An alumnus at his fraternity spoke highly of CrossRoad, so Justen applied for an internship, which led him to focus on transportation engineering.

“It was a field where I could make a tangible difference in people’s everyday lives,” he said.

He currently works on the site development side of the company, but remains involved in some transportation projects.

“Every project is different and comes with its own set of challenges, which helps keep the job interesting,” he said.



Alumni collaborate on CrossRoads’ new HQ

A familiar face helped CrossRoad Engineers built its new headquarters last year.

Indianapolis-based Gilliatte General Contractors, where



Adam Gilliatte, BSCE 1994, is managing partner, constructed the building after coming in with the low bid on the 17,000-square-foot facility.

Adam and **Greg Ilko, BSAE 1994**, who is vice president at CrossRoad, lived in adjacent rooms in Stewart Hall during their freshman year at Tri-State University.

“It’s one of the most rewarding things ever,” Adam said, “to get to work with your buddies with the knowledge that we gained together.”

It’s not the only time the companies have collaborated, as Adam uses CrossRoad to complete surveying and civil engineering on his company’s projects, which include retail stores, libraries, schools and multifamily housing.

“Greg and **Trent (Newport, BSCE 1994)** are both brilliant and both great people,” Adam said. “Whether they’re doing survey work or civil work or whatever, they’re a great, great vendor.”

Trent said he is extremely proud of the beautiful new office building that Gilliatte General Contractors build for CrossRoad, and working with Adam made his company’s new home even more special.

“It was a great experience to work on a project that is very typical to us, but yet this time it was for us,” he said. “Our previous building was 7,500 square feet, so we were busting at the seams for some time. Our new home gives us a lot more space currently as well as room for growth in the future.”

The new facility, which includes a separate four-bay garage for survey vehicles and equipment storage, is located on a roundabout in Beech Grove, Indiana, that CrossRoad designed.

“You could say we’ve come full circle,” Trent said.

THUNDER’S FINAL ROLL

(current as of Dec. 9, 2021)

1940s

Mirto A. Corte, 1942 BSAE, Dublin, Virginia, Sept. 16, 2021

Phyllis Crothers, 1944, Secretarial Science, Angola, Indiana, Dec. 13, 2019

Dale B. Cook, 1947 DDT, Reading, Michigan, Aug. 27, 2021

Carroll D. Dofflemyer, 1949 BSCE, Lucray, Virginia, Sept. 27, 2021

Theodore Kyle, 1949 BSA, Somerset, Pennsylvania, April 28, 2021

1950s

Charles E. Feller Jr., 1950 BSAE, Sturgis, Michigan, Aug. 25, 2021

Dwight A. Hull, 1950 BSME, Byron Center, Michigan, Oct. 6, 2021

Robert M. Lozier, 1950 BSBA, Lancaster, Ohio, Nov. 13, 2021

James C. Tidwell, 1950 BSRE, Paducah, Kentucky, Sept. 20, 2021

Richard A. Francis, 1951 BSCE, Glen Carbon, Illinois, Nov. 3, 2021

George S. Rowley, Jr., 1951 BSEE, Orem, Utah, Oct. 27, 2021

Edward A. Chambers, 1953 BSAE, Brunswick, Maine, Aug. 6, 2021

Henry S. Chapla, 1953 BSCE, West Rutland, Vermont, July 16, 2021

Charles H. Franklin, 1953 BSAE, Ann Arbor, Michigan, Sept. 23, 2021

Marvin J. Harris, 1953 BSAC, Springfield, Illinois, Nov. 8, 2021

William R. Shike, 1953 BSAC, Towson, Maryland, July 31, 2021

Jack E. Barrett, 1954 BSEE, Bremerton, Washington, Feb. 9, 2011

Sharon Kannel, 1954 Intensive Secretarial Science, Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 1, 2021

Oliver W. Ford, Jr., 1955 BSAC, Daytona Beach, Florida, Aug. 15, 2021

Dennis P. Graumann, 1955 BSAC, Horseheads, New York, July 17, 2021

Donald P. Guckenberger, 1955 DDT, Nappanee, Indiana, Sept. 5, 2021

Peter M. Mytchak, 1955 BSME, Houston, Texas, July 7, 2021

Daniel Calendo, 1956 BSRE/BSEE, Rochester, New York, Aug. 28, 2021

Walter P. Dykas, 1956 BSME, Saint Charles, Missouri, Oct. 10, 2021

Virgil J. Hertzner, 1956 BSEE, Jackson, Michigan, Aug. 11, 2021

G. LeRoy Johnson, 1956 BSME, Hudson, Indiana, Sept. 12, 2021

James D. Arnold, 1957 BSAC, Waynesville, Missouri, Nov. 4, 2021

Kenneth F. Johnson, 1957 BSME, South Windsor, Connecticut, Nov. 19, 2021

Jerold A. Koerner, 1957 BSBA, Heppner, Oregon, July 28, 2021

Joseph Lefebvre, 1957 BSRE, Burlington, Massachusetts, March 31, 2013

John E. MacAleese, 1957 BSME, Cranberry Lake, New York, Nov. 28, 2021

Harold L. Reid, 1957 BSCE, Wichita, Kansas, July 24, 2021

Forrest L. Robinson, 1957 BSBA, Somerset, Kentucky, Nov. 10, 2020

William F. Tatem, 1957 BSCE, Scottsdale, Arizona, Sept. 23, 2021

Joseph R. Cristina, Jr., 1958 BSCE, Lancaster, New York, Sept. 29, 2021

Murray L. Aarestad, 1958 BSCE, Boise, Idaho, May 3, 2021

Jerry F. Dyben, 1958 BSEE, Fort Wayne, Indiana, Oct. 14, 2021

John J. Eitel, 1958 BSCE, Ames, Iowa, July 14, 2021

Freeman E. Riddle, 1958 BSME, Sherwood, Michigan, Sept. 30, 2021

Robert V. Williams, 1958 BSAE, Scotts Valley, California, May 13, 2021

John V. Howard Jr., 1959 BSCE, Rensselaer, Indiana, July 2, 2021

Richard E. King, 1959 BSME, Midland, Michigan, Oct. 27, 2021

Richard W. Longsderrf, 1959 BSEE, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, July 17, 2021

Thomas A. Michael, 1959 BSME, Ocala, Florida, Oct. 16, 2021

David T. Ostheimer, 1959 BSCE, Indianapolis, Indiana, Sept. 25, 2021

John A. Salyers, 1959 BSEE, Louisville, Kentucky, Sept. 13, 2021

1960s

Larry E. Rittenhouse, 1960 BSEE, Broomfield, Colorado, Sept. 20, 2021

Harry Smith, 1960 BSEE, Concord, Ohio, Sept. 28, 2021

Claude E. Snyder, 1960 BSME, Elkhart, Indiana, Oct. 30, 2021

Robert E. Thompson, 1960 BSME, Clarkston, Michigan, Nov. 17, 2021

Robert L. Williamson, 1960 BSME, Jacobus, Pennsylvania, Oct. 30, 2021

George F. Arvans, 1961 BSCE, Belleville, Illinois, July 24, 2021

Charles Boule, 1961 BSEE, Loveland, Colorado, Sept. 30, 2121

James R. Cole, 1961 BSEE, Indianapolis, Indiana, Aug. 10, 2021

Terry L. Henley, 1961 BSChE, Troy, Ohio, July 31, 2021

Jackie W. Johnson, 1961 BSCE, Allendale, Illinois, July 20, 2021

Frank R. Leslie, 1961 BSEE, Palm Bay, Florida, Oct. 31, 2021

Robert D. Nicholas, 1961 ABA, Cummings, Georgia, Sept. 29, 2021

Philip G. Rankin, 1961 BSCE, Bradford, Pennsylvania, Nov. 12, 2021

David A. Field, 1962 BSCE, Angola, Indiana, July 18, 2021

Stephen L. Haff, 1962 BSAE, Cave Creek, Arizona, June 16, 2021

Ray Jacobsen, 1962 DDT, Shoreline, Washington, Oct. 21, 2021

Richard L. Mattingly, 1962 BSAE, Dallas, Texas, June 20, 2021

John H. Mikalchus, 1962 BSME, Ruckersville, Virginia, Aug. 7, 2021

Brian F. White, 1962 BSBA, Dover, New Hampshire, Oct. 21, 2021

David C. Wodrich, 1962 BSAC, Perham, Minnesota, Aug. 19, 2021

Wayne L. Canning, 1963 BSEE, Ogallala, Nebraska, Sept. 14, 2021

William G. Falardeau, 1963 BSEE, Superior, Colorado, August 2021

Maurice L. Hagan, 1963 BSME, Auburn, Indiana, July 6, 2021

Ronald J. Kennedy, 1963 BSEE, Apopka, Florida, Sept. 13, 2021

Rev. Carl Richardson, 1963 BSAE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Nov. 2, 2021

Philip S. Miller, 1964 BSME, Auburn Hills, Michigan, July 31, 2021

Gordon A. Van Marter, 1965 BSCE, Zionsville, Indiana, Sept. 2, 2021

David C. Koch, 1966 BSBA, Chillicothe, Ohio, Oct. 22, 2021

Michael Buchs, 1968 BSBA, Fort Wayne, Indiana, Oct. 15, 2021

Neal Swanson, 1968 BSBA, LaPorte, Indiana, July 10, 2021

1970s

John W. Ewing, 1970 BSCE, Fairfax, Virginia, Sept. 13, 2021

Robert A. Hunt, 1970 BSCE, Carmel, Indiana, Sept. 17, 2021

Terry W. Loar, 1971 ASBA, Monterey, California, Nov. 1, 2021

Garry M. Niedbalski, 1970 BSME, Columbus, Indiana, July 16, 2021

Rajendra K. Sinha, 1971 BSChE, Canton, Michigan, Aug. 8, 2021

Raymond T. White, Jr., 1971 BSCE, Irondequoit, New York, July 1, 2021

Daniel Collins, 1974 BSBA, Medina, Ohio, Oct. 4, 2021

John P. Letki, 1974 BSCE, Rome, Ohio, Oct. 29, 2021

Peter J. Phillip, 1974 BSME, Mentone, Alabama, Aug. 6, 2021

Bruce E. Dayhuff, 1977 BSBA, North Liberty, Indiana, Oct. 28, 2021

1980s

Barbara J. (Sackman) Graham, 1982 BSBE, Schuylerville, New York, Sept. 6, 2021

Lisa (Cripe) Donaho, 1986 BSCE, Shipshewana, Indiana, Oct. 10, 2021

1990s

David E. Jessee, 1992 BSCE, Arcadia, Indiana, June 18, 2021

2000s

Verla J. Evans, 2005 BSCE, Kingsford Heights, Indiana, Oct. 2, 2021

Charlayne M. McClanahan, 2005 BSCE, Fremont, Indiana, Nov. 24, 2021



class notes

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1970s

Ken Peterman, 1979 BSEE, has been named CEO of Paragon VTOL Aerospace, a lead innovator in vertical take-off and landing technology.

1980s

Joaquin (Wok) Gracida, 1988 BSBA, was recently named general sales manager for KUSI-TV in San Diego. Joaquin has been with the television station for six years and previously served as national sales manager.



1990s

Greg Ilko, 1994 BSAE, and **Marvelle (Nolan) Ilko, 1994 BSEIEd**, celebrated the marriage of their daughter **Sydney Ilko, 2020 BSES**, to



Dakota Hucke, 2019 BSDET, in September 2021. It's a Trine thing!

2000s

Mike Miller, 2006 BSEIEd, was recently



named Principal of the Year for the Michigan Elementary & Middle School Principals Association's Region 4. Mike is principal at Eastwood Elementary School in Sturgis, Michigan.

Stephanie (Keister) Dowe, 2008 BAENG,



and her husband Justin Dowe welcomed a new daughter Sutton to their family in November 2021. She joins big sister Finley and big brother Beckham. They reside in Noblesville, Indiana.

2010s

Ben Lauletta, 2011 BSCE, and wife Sara Vaught-Lauletta, welcomed Lincoln Michael



Lauletta on March 28, 2021. He weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Audrey Bond, 2015 BSCJ, and **Andrew Hadden, 2015 BSME**, celebrated their one-year anniversary in October. They were wed in Richmond, Indiana, on Oct. 17, 2020.

Amanda Higbee, BACOM 2016, married Nicholas Skourtis on Nov. 23, 2021, in Bayonne,



New Jersey. Amanda works at Trine University as marketing and communications coordinator; Nick is serving in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Brad and **Brook (Waddups) Murphy, 2017 DPT**, welcomed their son, Baylor Lee, on June 30, 2021.

Brittnee and **Jarred Burns, 2018 DPT**, welcomed their son, Knox Thomas, on Feb. 9, 2021.

Congratulations to Grant and **Steph Peebles, 2018 DPT**, who welcomed their son Judah on June 12, 2021.

Zach and **Lauren Morton, 2018 DPT**, welcomed their daughter Hallie Jo on June 20, 2021.

Zachary Thiel, 2018 BSDET, and **Sarah Thiel (Westman), 2018 BSEE**, married on June 26, 2021. Sarah also completed her master's in management and leadership in March 2020



from Western Governors University. She has switched jobs to a systems engineer at Altenloh, Brinck & Co. U.S., Inc. and has been there since March 2020.

Brad and **Kirsten (Allman) Atchison, 2019 DPT**, were married on Feb. 26, 2021.

Congratulations to Niki and **Daniel Hinde, 2019 DPT**, on the birth of their daughter, Murphy Jean.

Neil and **Sarah (Wilder) Hurford, 2019 DPT**, welcomed their son, Cale Joseph, on Jan. 30, 2021.

2020s

Taylor and **Katie (Bissel) Jones, 2020 DPT**, were wed on June 12, 2021.

Congratulations to **Bridgette Welker, 2020 DPT**, and Gavin Windau on the June 14, 2021, birth of their daughter, Cali Jo Windau.

Lee Dougherty, BSME 2021, and **Lydia MacGilvray, BSBA 2021**, were married on Nov.



6, 2021. Lee is a process engineer for Univertical in Angola, Indiana; Lydia works in Trine University's Office of University Marketing and Communications as communications specialist.

Justin and **Torrey (Christopher) Davenport, 2021 DPT**, were wed on May 1, 2021.

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Trine triathlon wins national title



Trine University recognized its women's triathlon team during the Nov. 16 men's basketball game for their national championship. Pictured, from left, are Cameron Hoellrich, Kathryn Berlew, Kyra Warren, Amira Faulkner, Matt Land, assistant vice president for athletics, Danny Powell, Ed.D., head coach, Stacy Dibley, assistant coach, Alexandria Smith, Samantha Weaver and Rebecca Schaffner.

Women's triathlon team won its first national title Nov. 13 at the Women's Triathlon Collegiate National Championships.

The event, held at Tempe Town Lake near the campus of Arizona State University, featured a 750-meter swim, 20-kilometer bike and 5-kilometer run. It was a part of the Sun Devil Draft Legal Classic, with the races separated by division.

Trine University junior Amira Faulkner finished in second place individually with a time of 1:12:56. Trine junior Alexandria Smith placed sixth with a time of 1:16:28 and senior Kyra Warren ninth with a time of 1:17:57.

Five team members were named All-Americans by the College Triathlon Coaches Association following the event. Faulkner and Smith took home first team honors

while Warren joined junior Samantha Weaver and freshman Kathryn Berlew on the second team.

The team earned their spot at the national championships with a victory at the central region qualifier, where Faulkner finished second overall. The team finished third at the east region qualifier, where Faulkner finished as individual champion.

Adding to their success on the course, the Thunder held a team GPA of 3.82 and, at the conclusion of the spring 2021 semester, nine Thunder athletes were named Division III Individual Scholar All Americans. Across all three divisions, Trine had the third-most student-athletes recognized for their work in the classroom.

Men's soccer earns first national tournament berth



The Trine men's soccer team made its first NCAA Tournament appearance in program history in the 2021 season by way of the MIAA automatic qualifier. The Thunder took on the ninth-ranked team in NCAA DIII, the Otterbein Cardinals, and lost 5-1 in the first round to finish their season 12-8-1 overall.

Trine was able to win the MIAA Championship as the number four seed with a 2-0 victory at Kalamazoo College in the MIAA Finals. It is the first time in program history that the men's soccer team won the MIAA title, coming off a season where they finished runner-up.

One of the best matches of the season came in the MIAA semifinals, when the Thunder defeated the top seed, Calvin University, 1-0 in overtime with a goal off the foot of sophomore Tyler Murphy. Murphy was the team's lone representative on the All-MIAA First Team. He scored a team-high 17 goals and notched three assists to total 37 points. The forward also led the team with six game-winning goals.

Sophomore goalkeeper Troy Saylor and the defensive line of the Thunder recorded shutouts in all three MIAA Tournament matches. Trine men's soccer recorded wins in the final three regular season matches and all three rounds of the MIAA Tournament to go on their longest winning streak in 10 years at six straight matches.



Tyler Murphy



Troy Saylor

Women's soccer sets record

The Thunder shattered records during a season of firsts for the program. The team finished the season by reaching their first Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) Tournament final before receiving an at-large berth in the 2021 NCAA Division III Women's Soccer Championship tournament, another first in the program's NCAA tenure.

Trine started the season with a 12-game unbeaten streak, the longest in the program's NCAA history, and with just their tenth game of the year they set a new NCAA program record for most wins in a season.

A victory over Adrian College in the opening round became the team's first MIAA tournament victory and broke the all-time program single season win tally. In the second round, the team upset top-seeded Calvin University by advancing on penalty kicks before ultimately falling in the finals to Hope College. After a long wait on selection Monday, the team was named the final addition to the NCAA Division III Women's Soccer Championship field. In their opening game they forced double overtime with nationally ranked Carnegie Mellon, but dropped the contest 2-1.

In addition to historic win totals, the team broke four single-season records. Offensively the team shattered previous records by recording 49 goals and 126 points during the year. Defensively the team came in with a 0.89 goals-against average and posted 12 shutouts.

Freshman Teresa Ashbrook led the way individually with a remarkable first season in which she broke single-season records for points (39), points per game (2.29), goals (18) and goals per game (1.06). Junior Veronica Ocampo and sophomore Olivia Argentieri each finished the year with five assists, tying the program high as well.

Three members of the team earned All-MIAA recognition including Ashbrook as a first team selection, with freshman Sophie Aschemeier joining junior Olivia Butterworth on the second team.



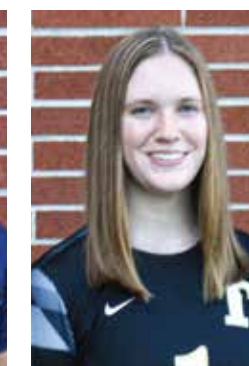
Teresa Ashbrook



Veronica Ocampo



Olivia Argentieri



Sophie Aschemeier



Olivia Butterworth



Women’s cross country makes first trip to nationals

The Trine women’s cross country team’s 2021 fall season was highlighted by the team’s first trip to the NCAA DIII Championship race in Louisville, Kentucky. The Thunder placed 28th overall as a team at the event.

Senior Evie Bultemeyer was the top finisher for Trine in fourth place. It is the second time in Bultemeyer’s career that she has been named All-American in cross country, the first coming in 2019. Her time of 20:43.7 was the best 6K of the senior’s career. Carol Haldeman, Chloe Brittain, Lydia Randolph and Chloe Goodrich were the four other scoring members of the national qualifying team.

Bultemeyer, Haldeman and Brittain were all named All-Region at the Great Lakes Regional, with Bultemeyer earning a regional title for the second time in her career. As a team, the Thunder were fifth in the regional race.

At the MIAA Championships, Trine brought home a third-place team finish, with Bultemeyer claiming Most Valuable Runner for the second time. She was named All-MIAA for the fourth time and was named MIAA Athlete of the Week three times in 2021. The Thunder were regionally and nationally ranked for most of the 2021 season.



Evie Bultemeyer



Carol Haldeman



Chloe Brittain



Lydia Randolph



Chloe Goodrich

Women’s volleyball advances to MIAA semifinal

The Trine women’s volleyball team concluded their 2021 season with a 17-16 record, 5-3 in MIAA play, and 5-2 at Hershey Hall. The Thunder defeated Adrian College in the first round of the MIAA Tournament 3-2, but were defeated by Hope College 3-0 in the semifinal.

Senior setter Jacqueline Baughman was a First Team All-MIAA recipient for her efforts this season. Baughman had 1,017 assists, 290 digs, 135 kills and 48 aces in the 2021 season. She finishes her career with the third-most assists in program history at 2,631. Baughman also is fourth in the NCAA DIII era with 122 career service aces.

Freshman Samantha Carlin was a Second Team All-MIAA member with her efforts as a defensive specialist and libero this season. Carlin broke the team’s single season record in the NCAA DIII era with 578 digs. Sophomore outside hitter Olivia Jolliffe led Trine with 351 kills and 63 service aces. Her 63 aces tied her with Lindsey DeCamp for the most in a single season in the NCAA DIII era. The team had 256 total aces, which ties the NCAA DIII record for most team aces in a single season.



Jacqueline Baughman



Samantha Carlin



Olivia Jolliffe



Thunder football contends to the end

The Thunder spent another season as a strong contender for the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association football championship, heading into the final two regular season contests undefeated in conference play. They ended up dropping a pair of close contests to eventual co-champions Albion and Hope, finishing 6-4, 4-2 in MIAA play. The team finished with the eighth highest strength of schedule in NCAA Division III. All four losses came by a touchdown or less and a combined 19 points.

The MIAA named ten Thunder student athletes to All-MIAA teams, five on first team and five on second team. Seniors Keysean Amison, Josh Davis and Ryan Hibbets, junior Kyle Niaf and sophomore Jamon Gibson were named to the first team while seniors Aaron Dean, Tyler Pollard and Angel Sanchez joined juniors Xaine Kirby and Jackson Linback on the second team.

Senior Justin White became the fifth football player in the program’s history to be awarded the Pete Schmidt Memorial Scholar-Athlete award. Majoring in both criminal justice and psychology, White overcame cancer and Gitelman’s Syndrome to continue competing for the football program while excelling in the classroom. White has served as the Thunder’s starting long snapper on field goals and extra points for the past two seasons.



Keysean Amison



Josh Davis



Ryan Hibbets



Kyle Niaf



Jamon Gibson



Aaron Dean



Tyler Pollard



Angel Sanchez



Xaine Kirby



Jackson Linback



Justin White

Men’s cross country 3rd in MIAA

The Trine men’s cross country team competed at the Great Lakes Regional to conclude their 2021 fall season, bringing home an 11th place team finish. Noah Acker lead the Thunder at the event with a 24th place finish (25:32.0) and was named All-Region for the first time in his career as a senior. Acker was also able to take 20 seconds off his career-best 8K time at the Great Lakes Regional.

In the MIAA Championships, Trine finished third overall, with Noah Acker and sophomore Zachary Brickler claiming Second Team All-MIAA honors. It is the first time either earned All-MIAA honors. Brickler was able to set a new career-best time of 26:05.7 at the MIAA Championships. In an early season race at Mount St. Joseph, the Thunder were able to bring home a team victory over four other schools.



Noah Acker



Zachary Brickler

Thunder win opening tournament

The Trine women’s golf team completed play in the fall season with a seventh-place finish as a team in the MIAA standings. Unfortunately, the Thunder did not qualify for an opportunity to play for the MIAA’s automatic qualifier into the NCAA Championships this spring.

Maire Sullivan had the lowest average score this fall for the Thunder in conference events with an 84.8 and placed ninth on day one of the fall championships and tenth on day two. In six conference rounds, Trine brought home their lowest team score at Hope College with a third-place finish.

The Thunder were victorious in the team’s opening tournament of the 2021 fall season, the Trine Women’s Invite. Sullivan was the individual medalist at the event and scored her first career hole-in-one on the par-3 sixth hole.



Maire Sullivan



Trine advances to spring qualifier

The Trine men’s golf team wrapped up play in the fall season with a third-place finish at the MIAA Fall Championships. The team has qualified for the opportunity to play for the MIAA’s automatic qualifier into the NCAA Championships in the spring season.

Mark Civanich was the individual medalist of the fall final with a two-day score of 148 and was named First Team All-MIAA. Mitch Lowney finished the fall season in a tie for 12th in the player standings to garner Second Team All-MIAA honors.

The team was victorious at the third MIAA Jamboree event of the fall at Zollner Golf Course. Jack Brockie, Civanich and Brogan Brockie all finished inside the top 10 at the team’s home conference event.

Lowney was named MIAA Athlete of the Week on Sept. 20. He tied for second as an individual at the Irish Hills Invitational with a 36-hole score of 143.



Mark Civanich



Mitch Lowney



Jack Brockie



Brogan Brockie



Cole Goodman

Men’s tennis finishes 3-2

The Thunder finished the fall portion of their season 3-2. They opened the season with a pair of lopsided victories, the first a sweep of Manchester University and the second 7-2 over Franklin College. They would drop the next two before ending the fall with an 8-1 win over Bethel University. Following the first two contests of the season freshman Cole Goodman was named Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association Athlete of the Week after a 2-0 start in No. 1 singles and No. 3 doubles.

Spirrison earns women’s tennis accolades

Senior Ashley Spirrison picked up another MIAA Athlete of the Week award this fall while finishing undefeated in dual match competition. She also reached the second day of the 2021 Division III Women’s Central ITA Regional Championships as a singles player and the consolation bracket semifinals with doubles partner Ellie Cole. As a team, the Thunder finished the fall 4-2 after opening the season with four straight wins.



Ashley Spirrison



Ellie Cole

Scholarship continues Craig Laker’s legacy

Many of Craig Laker’s former students say that when they met Craig, they felt welcomed and instantly knew Trine University and its criminal justice program were where they belonged.

His wife Hope wants students who receive the new Craig Laker Memorial Endowed Scholarship to get the same sense of welcome.

“I want students who receive this scholarship to feel like they are still meeting Craig and still feeling welcomed, supported and encouraged,” she said.

Craig Laker’s legacy during his 20-year career as a faculty member, department chair and dean at Trine University included preparing thousands of students to work as criminal justice professionals, including law enforcement officials, attorneys, judges and members of the military. He died Dec. 6, 2018, following a lengthy battle with brain cancer.

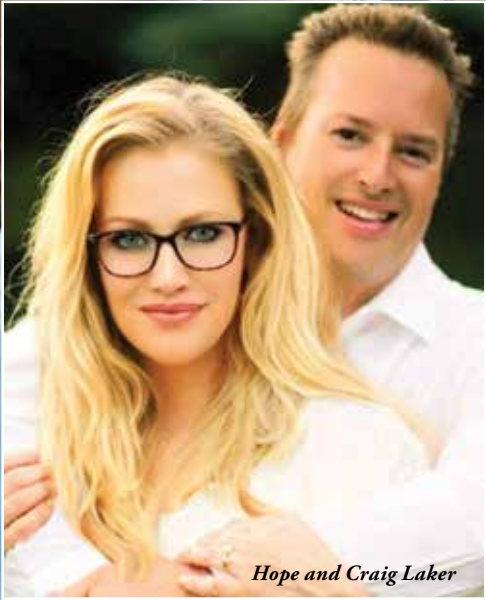
“His biggest pride and joy was developing and expanding the criminal justice program at Trine University, and I want that legacy to continue,” she said. “He loved Trine. He was very passionate about all the people at Trine. He called them ‘my people.’”

The scholarship will be awarded to Trine University students seeking careers in criminal justice, reducing financial stress so they can have a better university experience.

“I want them to get the full experience, from the handgun team to ACJA competition and other extracurricular activities in addition to what they learn in the classroom,” she said.

Besides providing an initial gift, Hope has included the scholarship in her estate plan. She hopes Craig’s former students will join the effort so the scholarship may be awarded as soon as possible, and encourages alumni to share their memories of Craig, “so that who he was will continue.”

To find out how to support the Craig Laker Memorial Endowed Scholarship or to share memories of Craig Laker, contact Ryan Robinet, assistant vice president for university advancement, at (260) 665-4310 or robinetr@trine.edu.



Hope and Craig Laker



One University Avenue
Angola, Indiana 46703

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