



THE MAGAZINE OF TRINE UNIVERSITY

TRINE

SUMMER 2018



Trine University international students perform Soran Bushi, a traditional Japanese fisherman's dance, in Fabiani Theatre during International Night on April 14. More than 650 attended the 50th annual event. Read more on Page 16.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

At Trine University, we honor our proud history, while always continuing to look ahead.

In the centerpiece of this magazine, you will meet several remarkable women representing nearly 100 years of women engineers who have graduated from Tri-State and Trine, and one current student who looks to carry on that proud tradition. While women in our engineering programs are not the novelty they were when Florence (Cramer) Bratton graduated in 1921, we know there is still work to be done in bringing equal representation to STEM fields, and Trine University remains committed to ultimately achieving this worthy goal.

Along with students and alumni, faculty and staff play a key role in the Trine University legacy, and in this issue you will read about three employees retiring after decades of impacting the lives of students. You also will see photos from International Night, which marked 50 years of celebrating the contributions of international students to Tri-State and Trine, and a summary and photos from Commencement.

This issue you also will get to read the remarkable story of Kara Eck, who earned her fifth All-American honor this spring, a university record, after emergency surgery for a life-threatening brain infection in December. We are proud of Kara and all the Thunder athletes whose successes are highlighted.

As I mentioned, Trine University continues to plan for the future, and I am honored that the university's trustees have given me the opportunity to lead the university through its next phase of growth and development. You can read about this as well as other news in this issue.

As always, I encourage you to visit trine.edu to stay informed about the latest happenings at Trine University. The history of Trine continues to be written, and we are excited to share the ongoing growth and development of this institution as it occurs.

Sincerely,



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



Emma Brooke Hyer, granddaughter of President and Mrs. Earl D. Brooks II, is already showing her Trine colors. Emma was born May 21 to Evan and Megan Hyer. She weighed 6 pounds and was 21 inches long.



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ON THE COVER: Madison Hatkevich, who graduated as part of the Class of 2018 with a degree in biomedical engineering, is part of Trine University's nearly century-long history of women in engineering.



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Building projects meet needs of growing student body

With record enrollment again expected this fall, Trine University is putting the finishing touches on building projects designed to serve its increased student population.

The new bookstore in the Rick L. and Vicki L. James University Center opened over spring break, with final work completed in early summer. The new space combines the existing university bookstore with the textbook annex formerly in Conrad Hall. An expanded food service kitchen area will be completed in time for the fall semester. The university received a \$560,000 gift toward the new bookstore from Follett Higher Education Group and a \$1 million gift from Bon Appetit toward the kitchen area.

Stadium Hall, connected to the Larry and Judy Reiners Residence Hall, also will open this fall, adding more than 170 beds. Like Reiners Hall, the new building features rooms for two to three with a private bath and air conditioning. Students are also able to share an open space and kitchen located on the main level of the building. ■



Students check out Trine gear in the Rick L. and Vicki L. James University Center's new bookstore.



Stadium Hall (right side) construction is adjacent to the Larry and Judy Reiners Residence Hall (left side).

Trustees renew president's contract



Trine University President Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D., visits with students on campus.

The Trine University Board of Trustees has renewed the contract of President Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D., for five years, through the 2022-23 school year.

The board approved the action unanimously at its May 4 meeting.

“Trine University has flourished in all areas under Dr. Brooks’ outstanding leadership, with ongoing growth in enrollment, fundraising, academic programs, and outcomes for our alumni,” said Dr. Rick L. James, chairman of the Trine University Board of Trustees. “We are confident that his continued direction will allow the university to build on the positive momentum that has been generated over the past 18 years.”

“I am grateful for and humbled by the confidence expressed by the Board of Trustees with this decision,” said Brooks. “As Trine University moves forward into the next decade, I will work with the entire university community to continue to provide our students the personal attention, excellent faculty and career-focused majors that have been the hallmark of a Trine education since its founding in 1884.”

Brooks became what was then Tri-State University’s 16th president in 2000. Since coming to Trine, he has spearheaded a successful \$90 million capital campaign, headed initiatives to revitalize campus, positively engaged the surrounding community, cultivated relationships with alumni and friends, and sought new opportunities for students. In the fall of 2013, Trine kicked off a \$75 million campaign that has since expanded to \$125 million, focusing on capital improvement projects, endowment and the annual Trine fund.

The university recently celebrated 16 consecutive years of balanced budgets, with record positive cash flows in recent years, and will retire its endowment loan next year. The university endowment of \$35 million is more than triple what it was 15 years ago. Trine’s economic impact is more than \$100 million on local, regional and statewide economies, more than four times the 2000 figure.

Brooks oversaw the transition from Tri-State University to Trine University in 2008, which helped the university better define

its mission and direction. The decision was part of a strategy that has spurred the university to continued growth, with Trine’s fall 2017 enrollment of 5,184 coming in at nearly four times the number when Brooks took office. The residential population has nearly quadrupled during this time, as well.

The university maintains an impressive career placement average of more than 99 percent over the past four years. Trine also continues to successfully expand its academic programs, graduating its first doctoral class of physical therapists with the Class of 2017. Trine will launch its Master of Physician Assistant Studies and Ph.D. in entrepreneurial leadership programs this fall.

Since 2000, the university has invested more than \$155 million to transform the campus. Additions during that time have included academic buildings, student recreation and housing and athletic facilities, including the Thunder Ice Arena, home to new university and community hockey and skating programs, in 2017, and the MTI Center, the home for Thunder basketball, bowling and esports, earlier this year. ■

STUDENTS HELP COMMUNITY WITH TAXES IN VITA CLASS



Trine University senior Ethan Kirkman, from Oregon, Ohio, assists a client with preparing a tax return during a Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) session at the Carnegie Public Library of Steuben County.

Mention the word “taxes” and the phrase “win-win” would rarely come to mind for most people.

But that’s exactly how Trine University senior Grant Holbrook of Clinton, Michigan, described a new class that allowed accounting students to help low- to moderate-income Steuben County residents through the dreaded annual task.

Holbrook was one of five students in the university’s MGT 493 Voluntary Income Tax Assistance class during the spring semester. Each week, the students worked in the Carnegie Public Library of Steuben County to complete tax forms for residents with annual income of \$54,000 and below.

The Trine class operated as an Angola branch of the Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offered by Catholic Charities.

The class was the brainchild of Jeff McGowan, assistant professor in

Trine University’s Ketner School of Business. McGowan served in VITA programs while working on his undergraduate degree and MBA.

Over the first four sessions of the class, the students worked to earn certification so they could participate as “advanced” preparers for VITA, a national program administered by the Internal Revenue Service. Once certified, they began offering sessions at the library.

“The first week we were here everybody was really nervous. We didn’t know what to expect,” said Colin Galloway, a senior from Reading, Michigan. “But thanks to the courses we’ve taken at Trine and the experience we’ve had previously, we all felt much more comfortable after meeting our first client.”

McGowan said the group served nearly 100 residents before April 15.

Brian LeGalley, a senior from Bowling Green, Ohio, said the opportunity to take what he learned in his classes and use it to help people drew him to the program.

“It’s trying to relate some of the problems we had in class and then seeing them in a different light with real people and real numbers,” he said.

“Each client is different in their own way, and it’s good because we get to see taxes from a variety of standpoints,” said Ethan Kirkman, a senior from Oregon, Ohio.

Senior Kayla Spande, from Mapleton, Minnesota, said the class gave her the opportunity to try a branch of accounting she won’t experience in her planned career of corporate finance and accounting.

“It’s cool to get to know people on a personal level while helping with something they need help with,” she said. ■

HAVE CANINE, WILL TRAVEL:

Trine DPT student, dog are therapy team

For most who participate, Take Your Dog to Work Day is a once-a-year occurrence.

But Sarah Botts hopes her dog Maisey will become a regular part of her work once she completes her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree at Trine University.

Botts and Maisey, a 3-year-old golden Labrador retriever, recently became certified as a therapy dog-handler team by the Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD).

As a therapy dog, Botts says Maisey can work in nursing homes, hospitals, schools and clinics to provide emotional and psychological support, and help clients or patients work on socialization and motor skills. Therapy dogs differ from service dogs, which are trained to provide specific skills for one person.

"Service dogs work for only their owners. Therapy dogs work for everyone," she said.

The pair first met two years ago as Botts was preparing to move from her home in Germantown, Ohio, to Fort Wayne to begin the DPT program. She decided to adopt a dog before leaving Ohio.

"I wanted a loyal best friend by my side as I went through graduate school," she said.

She searched for a dog on Craigslist and found Maisey, whose family was moving to Florida and couldn't take her along.

"I drove down in the pouring rain to Berea, Kentucky, on May 1, 2016," she recalled. "We met at a pet store and I brought her home with me! She was extremely anxious at first, but settled in quickly!"

As Maisey adjusted to her new life, Botts, who said she always wanted to own a therapy dog, began to think Maisey had great potential for that role.

"I quickly realized that Maisey was one of the sweetest dogs I've ever met," she said. "Her previous family included three little boys, so she is very fond of children and



Braden Blaugh, 3, of Columbia City plays with therapy dog Maisey at Trine University's Health Sciences Education Center in Fort Wayne as Doctor of Physical Therapy student Sarah Botts supervises.

absolutely loves human attention. She loves being petted and meeting new people, so I wanted to try out therapy dog training."

Botts and Maisey already have visited nursing homes and preschools, and Botts hopes to continue doing so while working on her DPT degree, as well as getting into pediatric centers, hospitals and medical facilities. Once she graduates, she hopes to work as a travel physical therapist, allowing her and Maisey to see the world for a few years while they work.

"I'm known as the girl who doesn't go anywhere without her dog, so of course she'll be with me whenever possible

throughout our future together," she said. "I'm hopeful we can volunteer our time as clinics allow. It would be great for my future patients to meet her and for her to aid in their care!"

She hopes she and Maisey can bring the same personal attention to her physical therapy clients that she has experienced as a physical therapy student at Trine.

"Physical therapy is an amazingly rewarding field, and I want to love what I do every day," she said. "I hope to help change many lives someday, and I am very excited!" ■



BENSON WITNESSED DECADES OF CHANGE AT TSU, TRINE

**By Mariah Rodriguez
Civil Engineering '21**

A lot has changed on campus since Ann Benson began teaching chemistry labs at Tri-State College in 1977.

“When I first came here, we were still using typewriters and mimeograph machines. When we finally got a computer, we only had one and it took up the entire room where IT is now,” explained Benson. “When I started at the college, we had Quonset huts and army barracks that were used for dorms, so what we have now is a big improvement.”

Originally from the South, Benson received her Bachelor of Science in chemistry in 1968 from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. After graduating, she worked for Dupont, where she served as a patent analyst and technical representative. After marrying, she moved to Angola in 1977.

“At the time, [Tri-State was] looking for someone to teach part-time in the chemistry labs,” explained Benson, “and so I jumped at the chance because I was used to working and not working outside the home just wasn’t doing it for me.”

She began working as a part-time chemistry lab instructor at Tri-State in the winter of 1977 and became a full-time professor in 1985.

“I remember when I first taught, there were no women in the classes; it was all male,” stated Benson, “There were also very few

woman faculty members, so I always felt somewhat like a trailblazer.”

Throughout her time at Tri-State, and now Trine, Benson held many positions in the university’s science department. In 1996, she became Science Department chair and held the position until 2015. She also co-chaired the university’s self-study accreditation team, all while continuing to instruct chemistry labs and classes.

During her employment at Trine, Benson has aided in pushing the science department forward as a whole.

“In the early 1980s we probably had 10 majors at most in the science department and today, we have over 100. The labs are also vastly improved,” said Benson.

She also served as director of the Northeastern Indiana Tri-State Science Fair from 1987 to 2012.

When reflecting on her time at Trine, Benson expressed how much she’s appreciated being a part of the faculty.

“I really enjoy teaching. I enjoy interacting with students,” explained Benson, “I have a lot of good memories of working with the science department, and the faculty has been wonderful.”

While Benson officially retired after the spring 2018 semester, she plans to teach some courses part-time in the fall semester and see how things go from there. ■

25-YEAR CAREER ONLY PART OF WENTWORTH’S LONG RELATIONSHIP WITH UNIVERSITY

Though Kathie Wentworth’s retirement marked the end of her nearly 25-year professional career at Tri-State and Trine University, her relationship with the university stretches back more than 40 years.

She graduated from Tri-State in 1975 with an associate’s degree in English and came back to finish an English education degree in 1990. She taught high school until an admission position came open at Tri-State in 1993, and she decided to return to her alma mater.

After four years of working in admission and teaching English as a second language as an adjunct, she moved to academic support services, where she would spend the rest of her time at Tri-State and Trine.

“I thought I could be more effective in that role,” she said.

Among her favorite memories are seeing a girl she worked with for five years get a job in her major, and getting a thank you note at the end of the year from a student on the autism spectrum whom she had helped.

“I’ve enjoyed being able to allow students to see their strengths and abilities above and beyond their disabilities,” she said.

It’s the students she misses the most after retiring in December.

“Even this spring, I was thinking about the students who were going to graduate and how they were doing,” she said.

That said, she described retirement as “awesome” and says she has enjoyed the opportunity to vacation with family and see more of her grandsons’ school activities. She also reads regularly and has started Tai Chi lessons.

She said she will still stay connected to Trine, with son Nick serving as assistant director of campus operations.

“I have one grandson who will attend Trine in the fall, so I will still keep in touch,” she said. ■



Diverse experiences marked Deller's time at Trine

By Mariah Rodriguez
Civil Engineering '21

From directing a musical to serving as assistant vice president for academics, Jean Deller, Ph.D., has had the opportunity to influence many others since she came to what was then Tri-State University in 1980.

"I've done a little bit of everything, from being assistant athletic director, to being dean of students, to teaching in the education department," who retired at the end of the school year.

Originally from Chicago, Deller received her Bachelor of Arts in music education from Milligan College in Tennessee, where she met her now-husband. After graduating, Deller began teaching music classes in an elementary school in Tennessee before moving with her husband back to Steuben County, where he grew up, in 1976. She continued to teach music classes at Waterloo Elementary School in nearby DeKalb County.

In 1980, Deller was offered the opportunity to teach in Tri-State's Department of Education.

"I got a telephone call on a Sunday night from Trine's head of the education department," explained Deller. "He had a faculty member leave during the middle of the quarter for personal reasons, so there was a class he wanted me to teach and I said yes."

The faculty member never returned, so Deller continued to instruct as an adjunct professor until becoming a full instructor in 1986.

Throughout her time at Tri-State, and now Trine, Deller has held countless positions in the university's education, athletic and administrative departments while continuing to instruct courses in the education department.

.....
"I'm working with really wonderful, caring people here."

In the past 15 years alone, Deller has served the university as the:

- dean/vice president for student life;
- dean of the School of Professional Studies;
- director of institutional assessment;
- assistant vice president for graduate studies;
- assistant vice president for program development and assessment;
- Higher Learning Commission peer review chair; and
- assistant vice president for academics.

"I don't think I've ever applied for a job at Trine," she said. "I would just get asked if I would be interested in it. I think that one of my strengths is the ability to create policies and procedures that make sure we have rules and that everyone is treated fairly. After being chair of the PE department, I began to get into the pattern of basically going in and straightening things out."

After receiving her Doctor of Philosophy in higher education administration in 1993, Deller mainly worked in administration.

As assistant vice president for academics, Deller was responsible for all academic degree program assessment plans and programs. She was also in charge of accreditation, new campus permissions and state paperwork, and backing up Allen Hersel, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs, when he was unavailable.

"I'm in the best office on campus, I think," stated Deller, "I'm working with really wonderful, caring people here."

Since Deller continued to teach in the education department in addition to any administrative position she held, she maintained a strong connection with her students and stayed very involved in student life. In the late 1990s when Deller was dean of students, a group that was aware of her musical background asked her if she'd direct a musical for them. She agreed, with her only condition being that it be a musical of her choosing.

"I had a friend who had written a musical," explained Deller. "It was on Queen Esther from the Bible and it was hysterical. Whenever there was a party in the play, everyone would have confetti and we gave out horns and party hats to the audience so that they could join in."

"It was just a really fun experience," stated Deller. "They were so good and they worked so hard on it. It didn't matter if you sang very well as long as you sang with gusto."

As she moves forward in her retirement, Deller looks forward to all of the little things, like reading, that she'll be able to dedicate her time more freely to. In addition, she hopes to fulfill all the fun duties that come with being a grandparent.

"My number one is being with my grandkids," stated Deller. "That's part of the reason I decided to retire. I decided it was time to be able to babysit and do some things like that, so that's what I'm doing." ■



Top prizes awarded for Innovation Challenge

A popcorn business developed in a Trine University class and a device to help lacrosse players grip their sticks better won the top prizes at the fifth annual Innovation Challenge hosted by Trine University's Innovation One and Fifth Third Bank on April 20.

The awards were presented by John Milner, assistant vice president and regional manager at Fifth Third Bank. Awards for the challenge are funded by a \$100,000 gift from Fifth Third Bank, Greater Indiana.

First place in the business division, earning a \$2,500 prize, was The Corn Club, developed by Jeffrey Bowman, a senior majoring in management from Waterford, Michigan, and Lucas Hochstetler, a senior majoring in marketing from Nappanee, Indiana. Developed in the Venture Planning course taught in Trine's Ketner

School of Business, The Corn Club offers a silicone microwave corn popper and a variety of flavored popcorn options. The popper and popcorn are available for sale at thecornclub.com.

Winning second place, with a \$1,000 prize, was Lax Strong by Lucas Radice, a senior from West Chicago, Illinois, majoring in business administration. Lax Strong is a concept for a training center for youth and adults interested in lacrosse.

Third place, with a \$500 prize, was awarded to Peyton Schrock, a student at Westview High School in Emma, Indiana. Schrock developed a concept for a mobile butchering and processing business.

First place in the technology division, with a \$2,500 prize, was awarded to the A6 Donut by Andrew Walters, a senior from Troy, Michigan, majoring in design

engineering technology. The device allows lacrosse players to get a better grip on their stick.

Second place, with a \$1,000 prize, was awarded to a nickel-free belt buckle developed by Angel Morrow, a Career Academy of South Bend student. The buckle targets those who have an allergy to nickel.

In third place, earning a \$500 prize, was an ergonomic tuba mouthpiece designed by Bernard Woon, a junior from Columbus, Indiana, majoring in mechanical engineering.

Shannon Tew from Kendallville, Indiana, received the top community award for her Community Health Interventions Project, an original health care delivery concept. Tew is a student in Trine's College of Graduate and Professional Studies majoring in health care management.

Alex Sharpe, a student at Career Academy South Bend, received the top high school student award for "Music and Motion," a technology concept to convert movements from the human body into music. ■

FREE SAMPLES AT ENGINEERING DESIGN EXPO

Jacob Forsyth, a senior mechanical engineering major from Howell, Michigan, hands a ribbon to students from Oak Farm Montessori School in Avilla, Indiana, who were visiting the Engineering Design Expo on April 27. Forsyth was part of a team that designed the machine behind him, which automatically cuts, glues and folds the ribbons. The project was sponsored by Tower Advertising in Topeka, which produces awareness ribbons.



TV HOST SAYS TRINE, REGION DOING THE RIGHT THINGS FOR BUSINESS

Trine University and northeast Indiana are doing what's needed to keep the state's business climate competitive, Indiana business media leader and television host Gerry Dick said during the final Distinguished Speaker Series of the 2017-18 school year.

"It's amazing to see what's happening on the Trine campus, and by extension, the impact this school is having on northeast Indiana," he said.

The Inside INdiana Business creator spoke to Trine students, faculty and staff and community members April 10 in Ryan Concert Hall of the T. Furth Center for Performing Arts.

Asserting that the biggest challenge facing the state from a business perspective is developing, attracting and keeping talent, Dick said Indiana expects to have more than 1 million vacant jobs by 2020.

"Indiana is a net out-migration state," he said. "The only reason the population is growing is because the birth rate is outpacing the death rate."

However, the news is better in northeast Indiana, he said, and part of that is due to Trine University efforts to develop skills to make its graduates employable.

"Trine has taken a leadership position in so many ways in working to get that talent pipeline up, and creating partnerships to give students hands-on learning experiences with companies that you can take post-graduation and get great placement in the private sector," he said.

"The Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership is doing some amazing things. This 11-county region is taking a leadership role in workforce issues," he added.



"It's amazing to see ... the impact this school is having on northeast Indiana."

There also are encouraging signs the state as a whole is becoming more competitive, Dick said, including news that Indianapolis is among 20 cities in contention for the Amazon HQ2 project, expected to be worth \$5 billion with the potential to create 50,000 jobs.

"The fact that Indianapolis and Indiana are in the running for Amazon, I think, is a testament to the culture for innovation and entrepreneurship," he said.

He also said moves like adopting Daylight Savings Time, allowing Sunday alcohol sales and the upcoming addition of the first transatlantic nonstop flight from Indianapolis to Paris show change is coming to a state that seemed to resist it for a long time.

"These are things that never happened before in Indiana, but they are beginning to happen more and more around the state," he said.

"I think for the first time Indiana is beginning to engage and embrace innovation and entrepreneurship, understanding we have to create more of our own companies and really think more like entrepreneurs."

As a result, Dick said the state is seeing gains in several key sectors of the economy, including advanced manufacturing, aviation, life sciences, distribution and logistics, and food and agriculture innovation.

Additional challenges for Indiana include the opioid epidemic, which he called, "a devastating deal, not just for Indiana, but most states in our country," and the skills gap due to too few Hoosiers having college degrees.

However, he said talent retention remains by far the largest hurdle to overcome.

"What we are seeing all over the state are communities doing things, economic development and projects, that really focus on talent," he said. "It's not just to create new apartments, new condos and new retail. It's to create a live/work/play environment that's going to be attractive to keep people in that community, and also attract people from other places." ■

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John Shannon returns to lead Trine academics



John Shannon, Ph.D., has returned to Trine University as vice president for academic affairs, effective June 1.

Shannon previously served as vice president for academic affairs at Trine from 2012-2015, following five years as dean and professor in the university's Jannen School of Arts and Sciences. He returns to Trine after leading academics since 2015 at the Indiana Institute of Technology.

He replaces A. Allen Hersel, Ph.D., who had served as vice president for academic affairs since 2015 and is returning to his former role as dean of the Allen School of Engineering and Technology.

"With Dr. Hersel looking to return to having a more personal impact on Trine University engineering students, we are fortunate to welcome Dr. Shannon back into the fold," said Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D., Trine University president. "His past success at Trine University and extensive experience with its academic programs will be invaluable as we grow our existing majors and look to expand our offerings." ■

New programs help students seeking law degree

Trine University students who aspire to a law career now have several shorter, more cost-effective paths to a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree.

The university has entered into agreements with Ohio Northern University's Pettit College of Law, the University of Toledo College of Law, the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University and the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law that will allow Trine students to complete a J.D. in six years of combined undergraduate and graduate work, rather than the traditional seven.

Under the 3+3 programs, students in several majors will have the option to finish their coursework at Trine after three years, with their first-year courses in law school completing their bachelor's degree at Trine.

The agreement with IU McKinney also creates the Trine University Law Scholar program, which provides one exceptional Trine student or alumnus each year a minimum half-tuition scholarship at the school, and a guaranteed experiential learning opportunity after completion of 32 law school credit hours. ■

Trusty leading Trine engineering technology programs



Thomas Trusty has been promoted to associate dean of engineering technology at Trine University.

Trusty has taught at Trine since 2007, most recently serving as chair and associate professor in the Department of Design Engineering Technology. He will continue in that role and will add oversight of Trine's computer science and information technology program, which will move from the Jannen School of Arts & Sciences to the Allen

School of Engineering & Technology to provide increased synergy with Trine's engineering programs.

Trusty holds a Bachelor of Science in industrial technology from Purdue University, a Master of Arts in career and technical education from Ball State University, and a Master of Science in engineering technology from Trine University. His professional experience includes working with companies such as Bradbury & Associates, Firestone Building Products, Impex Corporation, Minkus Construction Corp. and TruTech Design, Inc.

He has received multiple awards from the Indiana/Illinois section of the American Society for Engineering Education, most recently earning Outstanding Campus Representative honors. He also has received several McKetta teaching awards while at Trine, including the Professor Gerald H. Moore Overall Excellence in Teaching Award in 2014.

A United States Marine Corps veteran, Trusty serves as faculty advisor for Trine's Air Force ROTC. ■

Trine MPAS program receives provisional accreditation

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) has granted Accreditation – Provisional to the Trine University Master of Physician Assistant Studies program.

ARC-PA took the action during its March meeting.

Trine University began accepting applications for its MPAS program in April 2017, with the seven-semester program set to launch in August. Located in Trine's Health Sciences Education Center in Fort Wayne, the MPAS degree will allow graduates to sit for the Physician Assistant National Certification Exam (PANCE) to earn certification.

For more information or to apply, visit trine.edu/mpas. ■

Trine launching Ph.D. in entrepreneurial leadership

TRINE UNIVERSITY Leadership Ph.D.

Trine University has received approval from the Higher Learning Commission to launch its new Ph.D. in entrepreneurial leadership, and will begin enrolling students this fall.

The first classes will be offered Aug. 20, with enrollment opportunities available at the beginning of each eight-week session. Trine's program does not restrict students to cohorts, allowing them to complete the doctoral degree at their own pace.

Offered online, Trine University's Ph.D. in entrepreneurial leadership lets students work independently, with faculty readily available as constructive guides and partners throughout the process.

For more information, contact phdel@trine.edu or visit trine.edu/phdleadership. ■

Several Trine community members honored at Ebbie Awards



Several members of the Trine University community were honored by the Angola Chamber of Commerce on April 12 at the fifth annual Excellence in Business, or Ebbie, Award ceremony.

Pictured above are Trine University faculty and staff who were nominated for or received awards: from left, Greg Knauer, regional director of admission, Fort Wayne Education Center; Bill Maddock, associate professor, Ketner School of Business, recipient of the Best Contribution to the Community award; Keirsten Eberts, senior director of Angola Education Center and senior director of global partnerships, recipient of the Young Professionals Network Member of the Year; Kai Hartman, assistant professor, Department of Design Engineering Technology; and Anthony Kline, Ph.D., dean, Franks School of Education, recipient of the Emerging Leader of the Year (under 40) award. ■

Trine criminal justice students win awards at national competition

Students from Trine University's Tau Alpha Omicron (TAO) chapter of the American Criminal Justice Association (ACJA) won two awards at the ACJA's national conference March 18-23.

Trine students and faculty member/advisor Cisco Ortiz attended the 2018 American Criminal Justice Association (ACJA) National Conference, hosted by the Lambda Alpha Epsilon national chapter of ACJA in Independence, Ohio. They competed against dozens of other chapters from colleges from throughout the nation in four categories: written examinations, handgun competition, crime scene investigation and physical agility.

In written examinations, MaKenna Knuth, a sophomore criminal justice major from Lake Villa, Illinois, won second place in the lower division for the criminal law exam.

In crime scene investigation, the three-member team of Kaitlyn Kistel, a senior management student from Coldwater, Michigan, Elizabeth Gillette, a junior criminal justice major from Scottville, Michigan, and Ashley Weber, a senior criminal justice student from Bluffton, Indiana, placed third in the upper division. The team of Terek Curtis, a freshman criminal justice major from Edwardsburg, Michigan, Zoe Stephan, a sophomore psychology major from Tippecanoe, Indiana, and Griffin Watson, a freshman criminal justice major from Sterling Heights, Michigan, received honorable mention.

Trine's members were part of the hosting region and assisted in the planning and coordination of events of the national conference. ■

Stone receives national award

A Trine University Campus Safety officer has been named Officer of the Year by a national organization.

Officer Doug Stone was recognized as Officer of the Year in the non-sworn category by the National Association of Campus Safety Administrators (NACSA) at its national conference, held July 23-27 in Orlando, Florida.

Stone has been with Trine University Campus Safety since 2013. Trine University Campus Safety Director Keith Hefner said that, although Stone is part-time, he works nearly all the university's special events.

"Doug is one of the best and is very deserving of this award. He is great at training our new hires," said Hefner. "He treats everyone with the utmost respect and compassion, and exemplifies what a Campus Safety Officer should be." ■



Read more campus news at trine.edu/news.



From left, Azusa Sakuma of Japan, Chinazam Gift Okoroafor of Nigeria and Rahul Anandkumar Tundel of India perform in Fabiani Theatre during the 50th annual International Night.



Trine celebrates 50th International Night

More than 650 attended Trine University's 50th annual International Night, themed "The Trine Cruise," on April 14 in the Rick L. and Vicki L. James University Center.

The event opened with the "cruise" held in the University Center Mall. Nearly 50 "ports" filled with cultural music, food, exhibits and various activities showcased more than 30 different countries represented at Trine University, including countries of alumni returning to their alma mater for the event. Activities included caricatures, jewelry making, henna art and reiki Japanese massage.

Traditional and modern performances by students followed in Fabiani Theatre, including demonstrations, dances and music from China, Japan, Nepal, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and South Asia as well as "Ice Hockey Pride" by Trine's ACHA Division 2 ice hockey team. Rupa Shanmugam, a 1995 Trine alumna originally from Malaysia who now serves as president of SoPark Corporation, a technology company based in New York, spoke.

The night concluded with fireworks celebrating the Bengali and Nepali New Year, which was observed April 14. ■



Yahya Aleid, left, puts a headdress on Storm in the Saudi station.



Asuza Sakuma shares a game from her home country, Japan, with members of her host family during Trine University's 50th annual International Night.

CLASS OF 2018 ENCOURAGED TO ‘THINK BIG’



Ashley Kretler of Kendallville, Indiana, smiles after receiving her Master of Business Administration degree.

With more than 6,000 in attendance to celebrate their accomplishments, members of the Trine University Class of 2018 were urged to “think big” by Commencement speaker Benjamin S. Carson Sr., M.D., Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

About 660 graduates out of a class of more than 900 participated in the university’s 133rd Commencement ceremony, held May 5 in the Keith E. Busse/Steel Dynamics Inc. Athletic and Recreation Center.

Carson said he considered it a great honor

to be forever linked to the Trine University through the honorary degree he was presented. He told the graduating seniors that struggles lie ahead in their lives, and it is important for them decide now how to deal with them.

“The only way really to do that is to decide, right here and now, that you can handle anything life throws at you, and you will carry with perspective, determination and faith what is needed to achieve full freedom and lasting success,” he said.

He also said to resist pressure to give up, sharing that an academic advisor had

told him to drop out of medical school after he performed badly on his first set of comprehensive exams. After examining his learning style, Carson was able to turn his performance around by focusing more on gaining knowledge through reading.

“There are so many people who are just negative, negative, negative,” he said. “They can always tell you why something can’t work, but they never seem to be able to tell you why things can work. Please don’t be one of those people. You all are going to have significant spheres of influence, and using those in a positive way will make a tremendous difference for our nation.”



Benjamin S. Carson Sr., M.D., Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, laughs as he delivers the Commencement address.

Carson then shared his philosophy for life, which he summed up in the acronym “THiNK BIG”:

- Talent, which he said, “God gave to every single person. Not just the ability to sing and dance, but intellectual talent, which will be the key to our success as a nation.”
- Honesty. “Lead a clean and honest life,” he urged graduates, “because if you don’t put skeletons in the closet, they can’t come back out to haunt you later.”
- Nice. Carson said it’s essential to recognize that being nice allows people to work together. “My generation has failed, and we have got to change course,” he said. “No nation that divides itself has ever been successful and never will be successful, and it will be you and your generation that will determine the fate of our nation.”
- Knowledge. “The more knowledge you have, the more valuable you become,” he said.
- Books, which he said are “the mechanism for obtaining that knowledge.”
- In-depth learning. “Having knowledge that is deep really gives you a lot of freedom as opposed to the superficial learners,” he said.

- God. “We need to make it perfectly clear that it’s okay to live by godly principles of loving your fellow man, caring about your neighbor and developing your God-given talents to the utmost so that you become valuable to the people around you,” he said. “If you do that, not only will we remain a great nation, but we will truly have one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

After the graduates were awarded their diplomas, Lucy Sare, recipient of the



Lucy Sare, a graduate from Charlotte, Michigan, who earned a degree in biology, addresses her classmates at Commencement.

Robert B. Stewart Award for the Class of 2018, urged her classmates to avoid falling into the trap of becoming fixated on achievement, or getting “caught in a routine waiting for the next life-changing moment.”

“If we continue to measure our happiness based on our accomplishments, we are going to be disappointed a lot. And if we sit around waiting for happiness to find us, it won’t,” she said. “Happiness is something that must be created separate from our goals and standards.”

She shared three hopes for the Class of 2018: that graduates not get distracted from the joys of the present day, that they remain resilient when they encounter struggles, and that they look for opportunities to show love and care for others.

“To finish off my hopes for us as graduates, I hope we remain happy,” she said. “Not through checking off our checklist of accomplishments but through being present, being resilient and loving other people.”

In his closing remarks, Trine University President Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D., told graduates they are now faced “with the awesome responsibility of making choices that will determine the person you are to become.”

“Make those choices wisely,” he encouraged. “Continue to listen to the counsel of those whose lives illustrate success and harmony with humanity and the world around you. Conversely, don’t be afraid to stand alone. Believe in what you’ve cultivated in yourself, your ideals, your standards and your innate feelings of right and wrong, good and bad. Take charge of yourself and build your own successes.” ■

“To finish off my hopes for us as graduates, I hope we remain happy . . . through being present, being resilient and loving other people.”

– Lucy Sare



NOT SO HIDDEN FIGURES

100 years of women in engineering

The Class of 2021, which just finished its first year at Trine University, will mark a century since the first woman earned an engineering degree from what was then Tri-State College.

With that milestone in mind, here is an introduction to just a few of the notable women engineering graduates from Tri-State and Trine, and a reflection on what it means to be a female engineer today from a current Trine student whose class will mark the centennial.

It's interesting to note that the women profiled all credit their fathers or brothers with sparking their decision to become engineers. Perhaps, as we move into the next century of Trine women in engineering, we will share more stories of those inspired by their mothers and sisters.

Special thanks to the English Composition classes taught by Alison Witte, Ph.D., whose December exhibit "Discovering Tri-State's Hidden Figures: An Exhibit of Women in Engineering Before 1980" provided inspiration and initial research for this article; to Troy Eller English, archivist for the Society of Women Engineers; and to the families of Florence (Cramer) Bratton BSCE 1921 and Isabelle French BSRE 1944.

Florence (Cramer) Bratton was Tri-State College's first female engineering graduate in 1921.

Florence (Cramer) Bratton, civil engineering, 1921

Though Florence (Cramer) Bratton was Tri-State College's first female engineering graduate in 1921, only a year after women gained the right to vote, she never considered herself a pioneer.

"There were women engineers from other schools, some of whom graduated quite a few years before I did," she wrote in an article published in a 1976 TSC alumni newsletter.

She was born in 1900 and grew up in Pentwater, Michigan, about 45 miles north of Muskegon on Lake Michigan. Her father was a marine engineer, and Florence excelled in math and science, becoming part of a group of students that persuaded the local high school principal to offer trigonometry.

She also was fascinated by civil engineering students from Purdue University who performed field work each summer in her town.

Her mother, Sibylla (Weiss) Cramer, was an Angola native who had graduated from what was then Tri-State Normal College in 1896 with a music degree. The family moved back to Angola after Florence graduated from high school (valedictorian, of course, her granddaughter, Cheryl Enders of Logansport, Indiana, said) and Sibylla kept house for her two unmarried brothers while Florence attended Tri-State and her younger siblings attended Angola public schools.

Tri-State College around 1920 had no dormitories, Florence recalled later. There also was no equivalent to today's university commons or library, so between classes students usually congregated in the bookstore, which she said "was really no bigger than a large closet."

"We didn't have any extracurricular activities specifically for women except basketball, which was not sanctioned by the college at that time," she wrote. "The two literary societies, Crescent and Philo, were open to women as well as the Engineering Society, of which I was a

member. There were no social activities so we had to make our own. If we wanted a dance we rented a hall and hired a four- or five-piece orchestra."

There were other female students in many of her early math and science classes — young women studying to be teachers. However, she was the only woman in her engineering classes, though she said in a 1971 interview that she never felt there were any obstacles put in her path due to her gender.

She completed her civil engineering degree at Tri-State in three years, since at the time the degree didn't carry general education and liberal arts requirements. After graduating she took a job as an engineer with the Fairbanks-Morse Company in Three Rivers, Michigan.

According to a 1971 article, one of her first tasks was to draw parts for railroad motor cars, and she complained to one of the senior engineers that while she understood the drawings she was making, she didn't understand how the motor car worked. As a result she and the other engineer took a "test drive" in a railroad car so she could get a look at the finished product.

She left Fairbanks-Morse after she met her husband, Corneal, and decided to raise a family. However, she continued to use her engineering skills, drafting plans for their family home and designing buildings for her husband's auto parts business.

Florence also continued to be involved with Tri-State, serving as secretary of the alumni association and participating in the groundbreaking for the Perry T. Ford Library in 1961. The college honored Florence with the Distinguished Service Award at Homecoming in 1971.

Florence died in 1984. Her granddaughter Cheryl remembers Florence's passion for art, literature, music and education, as well as visiting Florence's home to look at her silver Native American jewelry and drink Pokagon soda pop. Cheryl said Florence also excelled as a seamstress.



Florence (Cramer) Bratton

"Unfortunately, as a young teen, I didn't always appreciate the outfits she occasionally made for us made from some leftover fabric that may have been, let's just say, not the height of fashion," Cheryl said. "After wearing nothing but dresses most of her life, at age 70-something, she made herself a pair of blue jeans. The first pair of many." ■

Isabelle French, radio engineering, 1944

Though Isabelle French was a pioneer as the sixth female engineering graduate and first female radio engineering graduate from Tri-State College, her niece, Elizabeth Thoreson, said she was an inspiration to all genders and career paths.

Born outside Boston in 1924, Isabelle was encouraged by her father, Abram French, who had studied civil engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) before starting a career in general contracting, often taking young Isabelle on jobs.

Her mother, Grace, was a suffragette and lobbied for Isabelle to be allowed to take a manual training (shop) course in high school.

"After woodworking, being the only girl in the class was old news by the time she got to engineering school," Elizabeth said.

Isabelle hoped to follow in her father's footsteps and attend MIT, but the Great Depression had left the family unable to afford its tuition. The husband of a family she babysat for, a Tri-State graduate, encouraged Isabelle to consider that school.

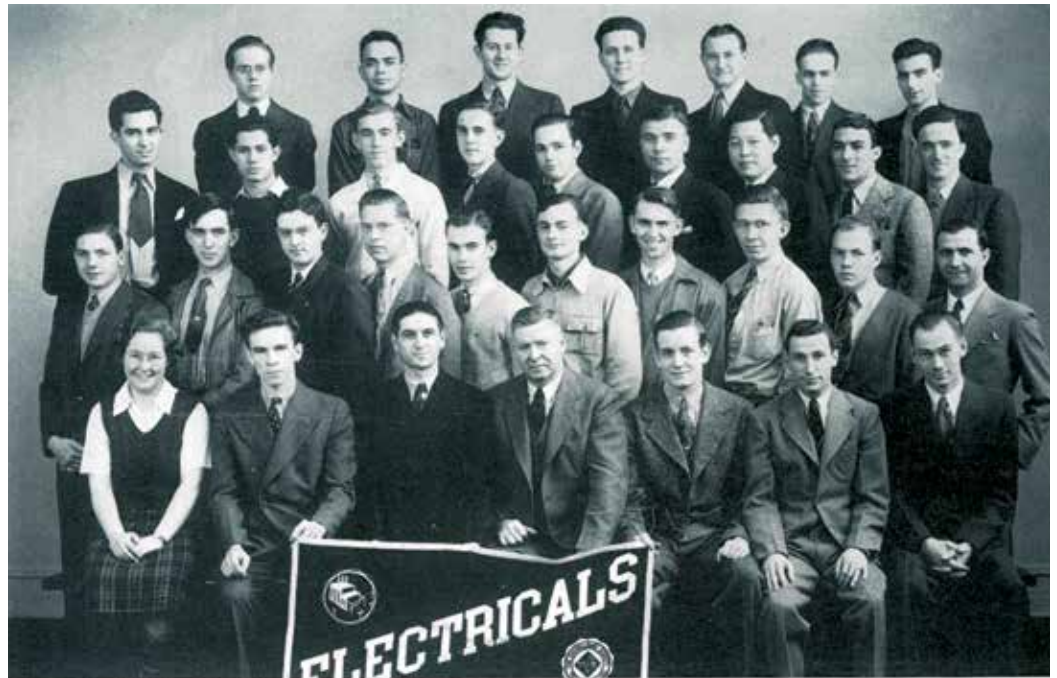
"She got some scholarships, and was awarded good jobs on campus that kept her going," Elizabeth said.

Though Isabelle was only one of two women in Tri-State's engineering program at the time, Elizabeth said she earned the respect of her classmates.

"She was an amazing team player, had good ideas, and was very helpful and courteous to classmates," Elizabeth said.

World War II was still raging when Isabelle graduated from Tri-State in 1944, and she was quickly hired by Sylvania Electric Products upon her return to Massachusetts. In 1952, she came back to Indiana to work for Capehart-Farnsworth Corporation in Fort Wayne, where one of her assignments was helping develop infrared scopes used during the Korean War.

"She was very excited to have been a part of the team so that, 'our guys could see the



Isabelle French, front row, left, was part of the Electrical Engineering Society at Tri-State.

Korean boats in night when it was dark,' " Elizabeth said.

In 1954 she headed back East to work for Bell Telephone Laboratories in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where she worked until retiring in 1984. She built her own house in 1955, which her niece called "the most incredible conglomeration of inventions you can imagine."

"One could stand in one central spot and turn on a different radio station for every room in the house, open the garage door, various windows, and so much more," Elizabeth remembered. "There was even a button that could be pushed attached to a long line of levers to put a small pearl of toothpaste on her toothbrush."

Isabelle was active in the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), serving in leadership roles and becoming national president from 1964-66. She spoke in high schools, at Tri-State and with engineering societies to encourage women in the field.

She received the Distinguished Service Award from Tri-State in 1962 and an honorary doctorate in 1966, though she said in a 2001 interview, "I don't use it too often

for the simple reason that I figure people that spend a lot of time in college and energy and sweat and tears deserve to be called doctors."

An illness in 2008 forced Isabelle into a retirement home, though Elizabeth said she still tried to sneak her Sawzall in. When a subsequent health incident left her confined to bed, Isabelle, insisting she felt fine, got up, found a wheelchair and visited friends.

"This act of rebellion was followed by the installation of alarms on her bed that would alert staff if she tried to get up," Elizabeth said. "Not to be discouraged, Isabelle strategically used her engineering skills to disassemble the alarms, hopped back in the wheelchair and went about cheerfully visiting her friends, convincing the nurses she was well enough to go back to independent living!"

Isabelle died in 2014, not long after her 90th birthday.

"Isabelle was a great encourager, not just of women, but of people," Elizabeth said. "She was passionate about helping people find their passion. If that passion was engineering, all the better." ■

Esther (Reid) Sundstrom, civil engineering, 1963

Though Esther (Reid) Sundstrom attended Tri-State College more than 40 years after its first female engineering graduate, she was still a rarity as a female engineer.

At the time, she was even a rarity as a female student.

"There were 1,100 students and only two ladies," she recalled.

A native of Welland in Ontario, Canada, not far from Niagara Falls, Esther said she was drawn to engineering by her brother, Harold Reid, who graduated as a civil engineer from Tri-State in 1957 and became employed in Cleveland, Ohio.

"I would visit his office and he would show me his projects," she said.

Esther said she had a good feeling about the Tri-State campus when she visited, and liked the small-town atmosphere of Angola. Once

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"I will always be thankful for the education I received at Tri-State."

on campus the extreme gender imbalance meant she never lacked offers for dates, but did create some other issues.

"Renting a room was a challenge since there was only one homeowner in Angola who took in ladies," she said. She also noted that "the guys used to study with each other and I had no one to study with."

With the exception of one instructor who said he didn't think women should be in engineering, Esther said, everyone at Tri-State was respectful and acted the same toward her as they did the male students.

For Esther, finances were a bigger challenge than gender equity. Though the debt load created by student loans is a political controversy today, Esther said not having them as an option meant she had to work multiple jobs and borrow money from her brother to pay for tuition.

"I did a lot of babysitting, cleaned for instructors and worked in a restaurant, so I didn't have a social life, but that didn't really bother me," she said. "I would have liked to have had more time to study."

Her first encounter with more blatant sexism came after graduating from Tri-State, when she went for her first interview at a Buffalo, New York, company.

"The secretary took me in and sat me down at a big desk," she recalled. "The interviewer came into the room, sat down, looked across



Esther (Reid) Sundstrom

the desk at me and said, very emphatically, 'You're a woman. No dice.' "

Instead, she worked in drafting for several months at Linde Engineering in Buffalo. She then relocated to Jackson, Michigan, where she worked for Commonwealth Associates, a consulting firm.

For 16 years, Esther, the first female engineer the company had hired, worked on the design of lattice-type towers and steel poles, including foundations, for high-voltage transmission lines.

"They hired another lady engineer later on as well as female drafters," she said. "I enjoyed my work and feel I was treated very well in general, and got along well with those I supervised."

Esther and her husband Ernie, a mechanical engineer, then moved their family to California, and she eventually went to work for San Bernardino County doing road design. Though she was once again the only female engineer in her division, she said quite a few women worked in drafting and as technicians. She found the work very rewarding, as she enjoyed the opportunity to do some drafting, and said her associates were pleasant to work with.

Now retired and living near Atlanta, Esther said she is glad women today have many more opportunities and that more women are choosing to go into engineering. She also said she keeps in touch with her alma mater and thinks opportunities like the new Thunder Ice Arena are "wonderful" for Trine students.

A very proud mother of three, Esther is not surprised that her son Michael chose to become a mechanical engineer and that daughter Sharon, who also was fond of math, graduated with a degree in business. Son Larry at a very young age owned and operated his own landscaping business.

"I had the opportunity of coming to my 50th reunion and enjoyed it very much," she said. "I will always be thankful for the education I received at Tri-State." ■

Rupa Shanmugam, electrical engineering, 1995

Rupa Shanmugam started her engineering career by serving as “right-hand man” for her father’s home improvement projects in Perak, Malaysia.

Today, half a world away from Malaysia, she is the one in charge, serving as president and chief operating officer for western New



Rupa Shanmugam

York’s largest electronics manufacturing service provider.

“As a child I used to follow my father around the house and watch him do repairs,” she said. “I helped him build cabinets, shelves and all sorts of electrical work. I loved working with him on his projects and handing him tools.”

She attended the school where her father taught physics, and decided at 16 that she wanted to become an electrical engineer.

“This was the year my eldest brother passed away during his second year at college,” she said. “I knew then that I had to follow in his footsteps and fulfill my father’s dream, which had become mine.”

With her father’s encouragement, she earned a diploma in electrical engineering

from the Federal Institute of Technology in Kuala Lumpur. She stood out as the only female student in her three years there, although she said she didn’t feel like she was treated differently.

“All my classmates were very respectful and helpful toward me,” she said.

She always had wanted to study in the United States, and worked for five years to save up money to do so. She worked

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“I absolutely loved my days at Tri-State and am extremely grateful to the wonderful professors and staff who were ever so willing to help.”

as a technician at Thomson Consumer Electronics and Western Digital in Singapore, then with Carsem in Malaysia – the only woman technician at those facilities.

She heard about Tri-State University from a student recruitment organization in Kuala Lumpur, and was attracted to the small college environment as well as the community of Malaysian students Tri-State had at the time. Even though the classes were much smaller than in Malaysia, she did have other girls in her classes, about two or three in each, she said.

“I absolutely loved my days at Tri-State and am extremely grateful to the wonderful professors and staff who were ever so willing to help,” she said.

After graduating she worked for two years as a quality engineer at Wabash Technologies in Huntington, Indiana, then worked the next nine years as quality support and industrial engineering manager for Crown International. She said she encountered some obstacles as she moved into management.

“Initially there was that challenge to prove that a woman leader’s business decision is just as good as her male counterpart, and that the decision was not just based on emotion,” she said.

In 2007, she moved to Buffalo, New York, and joined her current company, SoPark Corporation, as director of operations. SoPark, which has been in business for more than 37 years, provides medical device and high-tech original equipment manufacturers with circuit board, electro mechanical and custom cable assemblies, in addition to design for manufacturing services.

She was promoted to vice president of operations in 2012 and president and COO in 2013, and will become majority owner of the company later this year.

Her work as an executive and in the community has earned her multiple honors, including the 2016 STEP (Science, Technology, Engineering and Production) Ahead Award, recognizing the top women in the manufacturing industry; and the Women in Leadership award from the Buffalo Niagara Chapter of NYS Women, Inc.

She continues to stay connected to her alma mater, recently speaking at Trine’s partner institution, Putra International College, in Malaysia, and at the university’s 50th annual International Night. She credits her successful career to the knowledge and mentoring she received from Tri-State faculty, along with people who gave her professional opportunities and her own hard work and persistence.

She hopes female engineers who follow after her will show similar persistence, and that they won’t feel like they have to act like one of the men to fit in.

“I hope they always maintain the identity that makes them who they are, and not change themselves to fit in because that’s what they think they are supposed to do,” she said. ■

Mariah Rodriguez, civil engineering, 2021

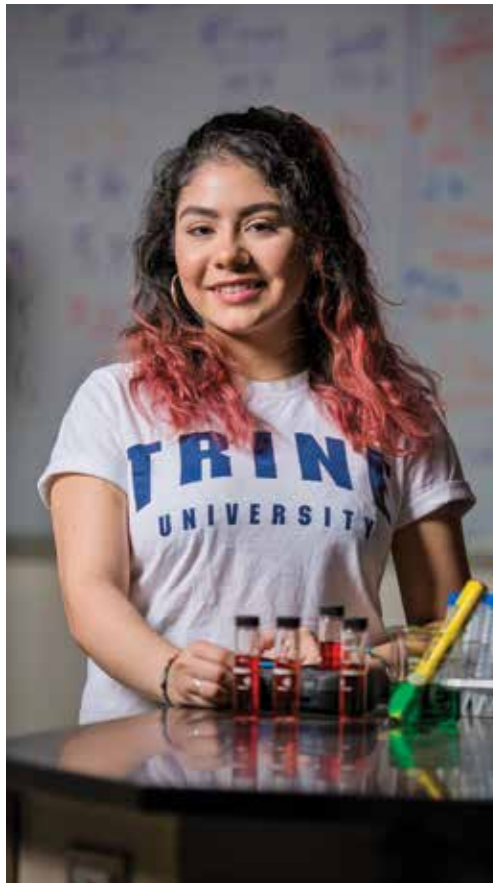
A lot has changed since Florence (Cramer) Bratton, the first woman civil engineering major, graduated from Tri-State College in 1921. While civil engineering at Trine University has come a long way, it's still easy to imagine how she felt. As it is, women now make up 20 percent of CE majors.

Much like Florence, I developed a love for math and science at a young age and, as I continued my education, it only became stronger. I also grew up watching my dad work as an architect, and while I couldn't see myself following directly in his footsteps, the engineering aspect of everything he did caught my attention.

Through high school, I was able to take part in the Project Lead the Way pathway and began taking classes in engineering as a freshman. The main focus of the pathway was to expose us to different sectors of engineering and, while I was fascinated with all of them, civil engineering always stuck out to me in a big way.

Coming from a large city in Southern California, I was nervous to leave home to attend Trine. While I knew it was what I wanted, starting a new life in Angola, away from my family and friends, was daunting. I think, most of all, I was worried about the size of campus and the surrounding areas. I've never lived in a small town and I wasn't sure how well I'd like it or how well I'd fit in. Now it's been two semesters since my big move, and I couldn't be happier with my decision.

Here at Trine, I'm majoring in civil engineering and minoring in environmental engineering. While I haven't been here long, I've had the privilege of experiencing the vast opportunities offered through the Allen School of Engineering and Technology. This past April, I attended the National American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Great Lakes Student Conference in Chicago. Through the months of planning and preparations I learned so much about my major and was able to interact with



Mariah Rodriguez

many other students and professors in the department.

Today, the civil engineering department in its entirety has a little more than 100 students. With around 25 students in each graduating class, it's a little difficult to not get to know everyone, which is one of the reasons I find it so enjoyable. Though at first I was worried about the smaller size of Trine's campus, I couldn't be happier with it now. Through all the shared classes, labs and design projects, our respective graduating classes all have the opportunity to grow, learn and succeed as a unit.

When Florence attended Tri-State in 1921, there was no library, no dorms, and very limited space to study on campus. "As a result," she stated in a 1976 interview, "we all congregated in the bookstore, which was really no bigger than a large closet."

While Trine now has almost every amenity expected of a university, it's still common to find the majority of the civil engineering students, myself included, huddled together

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"There is really no limit to what we can do or what we can change when the right opportunities are available to us."

in the not-much-bigger-than-a-large-closet civil engineering lab. The civil lab has been a constant comfort through my time here because I know everyone there is dealing with the same course load as me. It also happens to be the setting of all my ill-planned all-nighters and mid-semester panics.

I'll graduate from Trine with my B.S. in civil engineering in the spring of 2021, 100 years after Florence graduated from Tri-State in 1921. It's been almost a century since she left campus, and I count myself lucky to have been able to share an experience somewhat similar to hers.

After graduation, I hope to start my career working for a nonprofit that serves rural areas of the world. It's been a goal of mine to be able to travel to underdeveloped regions and work with people there to solve issues with existing water supplies and sanitation systems, and to develop more easily accessible means of transportation.

There are more jobs and opportunities available for women engineering majors, like myself, than ever before. It's hard to say what changes will occur in the next 100 years, but I truly believe that women engineers will soon be commonplace. There is really no limit to what we can do or what we can change when the right opportunities are available to us. ■



class notes

keep connected with alumni and friends

Share what is happening in your life with your fellow alumni. Class notes, including births, marriages, promotions, additional education, relocations, etc., may be submitted to Sarah Belote at belotes@trine.edu.

Join Trine's alumni Facebook group at facebook.com/groups/TrineUniversityAlumni/

1950s

Leon Jacobson, 1951 BSME, retired from Sikorsky Aircraft as director of aircraft design in 1996 after 35 years of helicopter dynamic systems design experience. He has fond memories of his time on the fencing team while attending Tri-State.

Fred Yoder, 1957 BSAE, spent 11 years working at McDonnell Aircraft in St. Louis. He shares



that his association with Project Mercury and Project Gemini were the highlights of his

career with McDonnell. He then spent 30 years at Sverdrup Corporation, a design/construct company, as a project manager and director for projects in heavy industry, food processing, metals production and aerospace. His two most prominent projects with Sverdrup were the launch operations center for Project X-33 and the NIF project for inducing a hydrogen fusion via laser stimulation at Lawrence Livermore Laboratories. He has been retired for 17 years, but remains active with the local Lions Club.

Russ Felderman, 1958 BSME, has retired from Felderman Design-Build in Fort Wayne, Indiana, which he founded 43 years ago. The company specializes in commercial and industrial general construction throughout the Midwest. Russ is pictured here with his stepson, Ryan Harris, who is now president and owner of Felderman Design-Build. Since retirement, Russ stays active hunting all over North America as well as watching his grandchildren play sports.

Larry Priem, 1959 BSAE, recently returned to



Indiana to visit with family. While in Indiana, he had the opportunity to meet his two great-grandsons for the first time, born just 22 days apart.

1960s

Michael Miller, 1962 BSEE, and his wife Susie will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary this year. They were married at St. John's church in Fort Wayne. They are high school sweethearts from Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne. Michael is retired after 54 years of working in the aerospace industry at Hughes, Magnavox Research Labs and Rockwell Collins in California.

Gary Green, 1962 BSAE, recently retired. He now enjoys traveling, visiting with grandchildren, singing with a seniors' group and contacting classmates. He welcomes communication from fellow classmates, and can be reached at (281) 515-7916 or garygreen2@comcast.net.

Lellan "Mac" McFarland, 1963 BSAE, had the opportunity to fly a TF-51, owned by the Collings Foundation, last August. He is excited to repeat the experience again in August. He stays active driving his 1966 Mustang Fastback and volunteering at Barborton Schools, his church and MAPS Air Museum.

Norman Pettus, 1963 BSEE, is celebrating 48 years of marriage with his wife, Marianna.

T. Patrick Laughlin, 1964 BSME, and his wife Judy recently celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary. They live in Avon, Indiana, and winter vacation in Siesta Key, Florida.

—continued

1960s

John Olmstead, 1966 BSME, retired from the US Navy after 57 years of service; 36 in uniform



and 21 as a contracted senior systems engineer. His wife, Martha, joins him in their new retirement community in Laurinburg, North Carolina. They are blessed with good health and travel about

five months per year in their motor home. They have three children and six grandchildren who are spread across the country.

1970s

Patrick Anway, 1971 BSAD, celebrated his 45th wedding anniversary with the love of his life in November 2017 on a cruise in the Caribbean.

Ginter Bansen, 1971 BSBA, recently sold his business and is now enjoying retirement.

David Deitzel, 1971 BSCE, recently retired after years of service as a Madison County engineer. He also stepped down as chairman for the State Business Development Board after five years in that position.

Larry Kennedy, 1971 BSBAD, recently completed more than a decade-long career of being a true white-bearded Santa Claus. This past year he attended 33 events and saw more than 3,000 children, including kids at the UH Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. He spends his summers as a starter/ranger at Grantwood Golf Course in Solon, Ohio. He has been retired for 15 years, after 30 years with Searle/Pfizer Pharmaceuticals as a HOF Master Consultant sales representative, and is celebrating 17 years cancer-free. His wife of 38 years, Maryann, has been retired five years and is celebrating 10 years cancer-free. Maryann completed 35 years of service at Roche Pharmaceutical/Genetech as a national director of medical science liaisons. She is now on the Foundation Board of The Ohio State University, and is serving a six-year term as a civil service representative for the City of Solon. They are proud of the three scholarship funds they have had the

opportunity to create at Trine University, The Ohio State University and Gilmour Academy.

Carlton Terry, 1971 BSAE, retired as chief engineer at FlightSafety after more than 30 years of service. He now raises sheep in Colorado and enjoys his time fishing in Wyoming.

Jim Richter, 1975 BSCE, retired as assistant vice president of engineering and design from Amtrak after 43 years of railroading with Amtrak, Conrail and Penn Central. He is enjoying his time relaxing, and says, "Every day is Saturday, except for Sunday."

Ralph Bietz, 1976 BSCE, was elected as Legacy & Personal Mentor for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Queen's Young Leadership Program of the Commonwealth, Cambridge, UK.

1980s

Kerry Henneberger, 1985 BSCE, serves as a highway project manager for the Larson Design Group in Pennsylvania. She was recently



elected to the presidency of the American Society of Civil Engineers' Central Pennsylvania Section. Henneberger also spends time as a practitioner advisor for the ASCE student chapter at Pennsylvania

College of Technology in Williamsport.

1990s

Michael Arnold, 1993 BSME, had the opportunity to speak at TEDxGreenville about



educating children on better problem-solving tactics.

Jon Bixler, 1995 BSCE, married his wife, Kathy,



on March 31, 2018.

Ken McFarlane, 1999 BSCE, was recently named the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's chief deputy director. Ken joined the department in June 2014 after spending years working as a civil engineer in the private sector, consulting on public infrastructure and large land development projects across the United States.

2000s

Donnie Danklefsen II, 2003 BSSM, continues his career as head women's softball coach



at Trine University. At the conclusion of 14 seasons at the helm for the Lady Thunder, he has brought home eight MIAA conference championships and made two national World Series appearances. Donnie and his wife, Holly, welcomed a son, Nolan, on June 30. Their oldest son, Easton (2-1/2 years old) is very excited to be a big brother.

Jason Stechschulte, 2003 BSCE, was selected to umpire for the 2018 Ohio High School Athletic Association baseball state championship. This is his fourth selection to officiate state championship games.

—continued

class notes

2000s

Jacob Lemish, 2005 BSCJ, is enjoying employment as a patrolman with the Fort Wayne Police Department as he completes his third year of service. He also serves a part of the Public Safety Response Team, as well as the Fatal Crash Team.

Josh Slinker, 2008 BSBA, is enjoying employment as a New Model Parts Quality Team Manager for Honda Manufacturing in Greensburg, Indiana. He is pictured below with girlfriend, Ashley Williamson.

Ashley Williamson, 2008 BSCJ, was sworn into the Army Reserves as a first lieutenant to be a



73A social worker on June 12, 2018. She will provide mental health therapy, evaluations and other social work services on-base. Due to clinical experience, her master's degree, and LCSW certification, she was able to direct commission as an officer.

Garrett Day, 2009 BSCE, was recently named the Young Engineer of the Year twice. He



received his first award in February from the Jackson Chapter of the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers. In May, he was awarded Young Engineer of the Year from the state level at the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers' annual meeting.

2010s

Sarah (Darling) DeMott, 2011 BSCOM, and her husband welcomed their second child, son Allistar, in September 2017. He joins big sis, Genevieve.

Dan LaFond, 2011 BSCJ and 2013 MSCJ, and **Kayla (Grieser) LaFond, BSEDU 2013**, reside



in San Diego, California. Dan is presently serving his second tour onboard USS Dewey (DDG 105) as the anti-terrorism and safety officer. He recently returned from his third deployment and was promoted to the rank of lieutenant on June 1. Kayla began working with the Fleet and Family Support Center as a career counselor in January, and teaches the Transition Assistance Program (TAPS) with the US Navy. She continues to coach lacrosse with the West Coast Starz travel team.

John Staines, 2012 BSCJ, recently hosted **J.C. Hemminger, 2014 BSEDET**, for a visit at



his employment with the New York Police Department.

Patrick Campbell, 2013 BSME married **Hannah (Gaisford) Campbell, 2014 BSEE**, on Oct. 28, 2017.

Ronnie Reed, 2014 BSME, married **Mikala (Freeland) Reed, 2015 BSGM**, on Dec. 2, 2017.

Ryan Schreiner, 2014 BSEDU/BSMA, married his wife, Mikkell on June 30, 2018, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The Schreiners will live in Kansas City.

Zachary Kocsis, 2014 BSEE, and his wife **Lauren (Hood) Kocsis, 2014 BSEXS**, recently welcomed their first child, Atlas. The Kocsis family is residing in Mexico after Zack's recent employment relocation with BAE Systems. Lauren is enjoying her time as an adjunct professor with Trine University, and has continued teaching courses online throughout the move. Lauren completed her master's degree in December 2017.

Ashleigh (Route) Depew, 2018 BSEXS, married Collin Depew on July 7, 2018.



correction



The above photo was placed with the wrong alumni note in the previous issue of Trine magazine. Pictured is **Lindsay (Word) Presley, 2015 BSAM**, who was excited to have Trine's caterer, Bon Appetit, cater her wedding at Glendarin Hills Golf Club on Aug. 12, 2017. Trine magazine regrets the error.

TRINE GRADUATE FOLLOWED IN GRANDFATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

When James Thatcher graduated from Tri-State College in 1967 with an accounting degree, the first female students had recently entered TSC's business programs.

Little did he know that just over 50 years later, his granddaughter would graduate from Tri-State's successor with a business degree.

MaRissa Thatcher graduated from Trine University with the Class of 2018 on May 5, with her grandfather cheering her on as she crossed the stage in the Keith E. Busse/Steel Dynamics Athletic and Recreation Center – a building that didn't exist when her grandfather attended Tri-State.

A management major, MaRissa grew up down the street from the Tri-State/Trine campus in Angola.

"I learned how to ride my bike on this campus," she said. "My grandpa always told me about his time studying accounting at Tri-State College. He appreciated the small class sizes and the fact that there was a university so close to his job. My Grandma also worked at Tri-State College while Grandpa was in classes. I have a picture of her feeding a squirrel from her office window in Sponsel Administration Building.

"I remember going to Tri-State football games with Grandpa when I was probably 9 years old in the old stadium. It was so fun and he was so proud to show me where he went to school."

James Thatcher came to Tri-State after serving four years in the Navy, having married two years into his hitch. At the time, he said, the college's business school had a reputation of being small but excellent, and it led him into a career that included auditing, banking, corporate finance and manufacturing ownership.



MaRissa Thatcher, left, poses with her grandfather James Thatcher.

"It was what I needed at that time, which was more personal attention," he said.

That same type of atmosphere prompted MaRissa to transfer to Trine, and when she did, her grandpa was right behind her all the way.

"He wrote me an 'unbiased' letter of recommendation when I decided to transfer to Trine, and it made me cry reading all of the kind things that my grandpa tried to portray as unbiased," she said.

He also encouraged her through balancing work and classes.

"My experience was a little different because I was not married and had more free time, but I balanced a job and a full course load just like Grandpa did," MaRissa said. "He was the entire inspiration behind my efforts to keep going when I felt overwhelmed by homework, exams and sometimes multiple jobs at once.

"He is wholeheartedly the one person I strived to make proud of me during college, partially because he graduated from Tri-State, and partially because his efforts in

motivating me were genuinely out of love and not 'keeping a legacy.' "

MaRissa has worked as a recruiter for Kelly Services in Fort Wayne since December, and plans to continue in that position once she graduates. She hopes to eventually get more into the sales aspect of the business.

"My father was in sales, so I'd kind of like to follow in his footsteps and get into more that side of it – managing people and accounts," she said.

The family thought MaRissa might graduate in 2017, marking an even half-century since her grandfather graduated from Tri-State, but that pace proved impractical and she finished with two online courses this spring. James is still just as proud.

"Fifty-one is just as cool as 50," he laughed.

James said it didn't surprise him that MaRissa eventually ended up at Trine.

"She has always been a very level-headed young person," he said. "I knew that if she took a look at Trine that she would like it, and that's the way it turned out." ■

IN MEMORIAM

(current as of May 31, 2018)

1940s

Col. Clifford R. Silliman, 1940 BSCE, Lompoc, California, Jan. 28, 2018

Wernert F. Witte, 1941 BSEE, Green Cove Springs, Florida, May 26, 2018

Leland J. Loomis, 1943 BSCE, Mission Viejo, California, March 24, 2018

Irving R. Friedman, 1946 BSAE, North Miami Beach, Florida, July 18, 2017

Raymond J. Wood, 1947 BSAE, Akron, Ohio, May 17, 2018

Gordon T. Carlson, 1948 BSEE, Mishawaka, Indiana, March 8, 2018

Henry W. Loyer, 1948 BSEE, Sacramento, California, Dec. 28, 2017

Clark E. Matson, 1948 BSAC, Avilla, Indiana, Dec. 22, 2017

Robert E. Scholl, 1948 BSBA, Hillsdale, Michigan, April 26, 2018

Maurice H. Bricker, 1949 BSME, Bristol, Indiana, March 16, 2018

Loren E. Heinlen Sr., 1949 BSBA, Mansfield, Ohio, Feb. 12, 2018

Victor A. Gannser, 1949 BSCE, Essexville, Michigan, Feb. 6, 2018

Dr. Richard W. Stout, 1949 BSBA, Elkhart, Indiana, Jan. 14, 2018

1950s

Doyle K. Iiams, 1950 BSAE, Fort Loramie, Ohio, May 8, 2018

Emanuel E. Koltko, 1950 BSME, Arlington, Texas, Dec. 19, 2017

Stanley F. Mather, 1950 BSCE, Saint Joseph, Michigan, March 20, 2018

Robert L. Rhodes, 1950 BSBA, Elkhart, Indiana, March 25, 2018

Kermit E. Shank, 1950 BSCE, Bryan, Ohio, Feb. 24, 2018

Charles R. McClune, 1951 BSEE, Columbus, Ohio, May 14, 2018

Louis J. Valois, 1951 BSME, Narragansett, Rhode Island, Jan. 1, 2018

Bill D. White, 1951 BSCE, Sturgis, Michigan, Dec. 8, 2017

Anthony J. Gaeta, 1953 BSCE, Clearfield, Pennsylvania, Jan. 1, 2018

Frank T. Kubic, 1953 BSBA, Charles Town, West Virginia, March 7, 2018

Donald G. Jordan, 1954 BSCE, Sylvester, Georgia, May 11, 2018

Raymond C. Lindsey, 1954 BSME, Endicott, New York, May 24, 2018

Kenneth C. Wolff, 1954 BSCE, Fort Wayne, Indiana, Jan. 20, 2018

Theodore E. Couris, 1955 BSEE, San Diego, California, April 22, 2018

F. Terry Thomasson, 1955 BSAE, Arden, North Carolina, May 12, 2018

William G. Edwards, 1956 BSME, Horseshoe Bay, Texas, May 21, 2018

William T. Elbow, 1956 BSET, Edgartown, Massachusetts, Jan. 21, 2018

James L. French, 1956 BSME, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, Jan. 21, 2018

John F. Parks, 1956 BSAE, Snohomish, Washington, Nov. 23, 2017

Ernest E. Slinkard, 1956 BSEE, Jackson, Missouri, Feb. 18, 2018

Donald C. Brooke, 1957 BSEE, Lexington, Kentucky, Dec. 15, 2017

Basil E. Eaton, 1957 BSRE, Ormond Beach, Florida, March 1, 2018

Wallace A. Fiore, 1957 BSCE, Seattle, Washington, Dec. 20, 2017

Joseph D. O'Brien, 1957 BSCE, Lorain, Ohio, Jan. 9, 2018

Arthur E. Adams, 1958 BSME, Lexington, Kentucky, Feb. 4, 2018

William J. Ancell, 1958 BSCE, Cannon Beach, Oregon, Dec. 1, 2017

Robert G. Moore, 1958 BSBA, Edgerton, Ohio, Jan. 18, 2018

Eugene G. Beatty, 1959 BSCE, Germantown, Tennessee, April 26, 2018

Weldon R. Harbaugh, 1959 BSAE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Jan. 15, 2018

Douglas E. McBride, 1959 BSME, Eatonton, Georgia, April 30, 2018

John D. Oliver, 1959 BSME, Garson, Ontario, Canada, Feb. 2, 2018

George I. Reeves, 1959 BSEE, Mountain Center, California, Dec. 14, 2017

1960s

Elwyn J. May, 1960 BSEE, Pahrump, Nevada, Jan. 24, 2018

Richard M. Wiskida, 1960 BSEE, Huntsville, Alabama, May 15, 2018

Clayton W. Abrams, 1961 BSEE, Rocklin, California, April 30, 2018

Gerald J. Schoofs, 1961 BSEE, Las Cruces, New Mexico, March 10, 2018

Marion M. Kirby, 1962 BSCE, Elizabeth City, North Carolina, Dec. 26, 2017

Arlen J. Paul, 1963 BSAC, Granger, Indiana, May 25, 2018

Thomas C. Slick, 1963 BSCE, Melbourne Beach, Florida, March 15, 2018

James A. Domin, 1964 BSBA, Dayton, Ohio, Jan. 17, 2018

Robert J. Marando, 1964 BSME, Melbourne Beach, Florida, Jan. 21, 2018

Warner M. Heckley, 1965 BSME, New Castle, Indiana, April 6, 2018

David M. Little, 1965 BSAE, Mount Joy, Pennsylvania, March 9, 2018

George E. Maule, 1965 ABA, Rock, Michigan, Nov. 17, 2017

Joseph W. Messick Jr., 1965 BSEE, Tipton, Indiana, March 24, 2018

Bruce D. Trifsthauser, 1965 BSBA, Montgomery, Alabama, March 3, 2018

Sanford D. Hall, 1966 BSME, Harrodsburg, Kentucky, Jan. 10, 2018

John A. Washburn, 1967 BSEE, Middletown, Ohio, Feb. 11, 2018

Robert E. Bartlett, 1968 BSCE, Addison, Michigan, Dec. 27, 2017

Paul S. Belpasso, 1968 BSBA, Fremont, Indiana, Feb. 10, 2018

Stephen O. Linnemeier, 1968 ABA, Angola, Indiana, Jan. 30, 2018

Richard E. Biller, 1969 BSME, Tiffin, Ohio, Jan. 24, 2018

1970s

Keith K. Wyatt, 1972 BSBA, Angola, Indiana, May 26, 2018

Edward F. Flavin, 1973 BSBA, Swartz Creek, Michigan, March 24, 2018

Andrew J. Larson Jr., 1975 BSCE, Jamestown, New York, May 3, 2018

Richard E. Durham, 1979 BSCE, Anderson, Indiana, Feb. 8, 2018

1980s

Hugh H. Heiermann, 1980 BSME, Harper Woods, Michigan, Dec. 12, 2017

1990s

Emily F. Watson, 1998 BAPSV, Kendallville, Indiana, March 18, 2018

2000s

Darrell N. Quander Jr., 2008 BSET, Medina, Ohio, Feb. 21, 2018

2010s

Rickey L. Daughterly, 2011 BSCRJ, Kokomo, Indiana, Feb. 12, 2018



TRINE MAKES HISTORIC RUN IN WOMEN'S HOOPS TOURNAMENT

The 2017-18 women's basketball team recorded a school-record 26 victories (26-4 overall) in addition to making its second straight appearance in the NCAA Division III Tournament, advancing to the Sweet 16 for the first time in program history. Trine also shared the MIAA regular-season championship, claiming its second overall conference title in back-to-back seasons.

Individually, Brandi Dawson (Garrett, Indiana/Garrett) and Hayley Martin (Auburn, Indiana/DeKalb) highlighted the list of individual awards, as both repeated as MIAA "Most Valuable Player" and "Defensive Player of the Year." Both also garnered All-Region honors and Dawson was tabbed as an All-American for the second time in her career.

Trine spent the entire season ranked in the national polls, beginning the 2017-18 campaign with 11 straight victories before suffering its first loss of the season to the eventual 2017-18 Division III National Champion, Amherst (Massachusetts) College, in the second game of the D3hoops.com Classic in Las Vegas, Nevada, in late December. Two games later, Trine began another win

streak, this time 13 straight victories, that carried over into the MIAA Tournament. Two of the team's four losses during the year came against conference rival Hope (Michigan) College, which included a 68-62 overtime loss in the MIAA Tournament title game.

After receiving an at-large bid to the national tournament, Trine began play with a 65-50 win against DePauw (Indiana) University in the first round, following that with a 79-70 victory against Illinois Wesleyan University the next day to advance to the Sweet 16. The Thunder then took on Wartburg (Iowa) College where they fell, 78-54, to the Knights to end the season. Wartburg would go on to the Final Four before falling in the semifinals.

Trine finished the season with the fourth-best defense in the nation, allowing opponents to score an average of just 47.7 points per game. Trine also ranked in the top 20 in fewest turnovers per game (eighth - 12.9), field goal percentage - defense (13th - 32.6), win-loss percentage (15th - 86.7 percent) and field goal percentage (16th - 44.4 percent).

Dawson led team scoring with a 14.6 points per game average. She also led the team,

and the MIAA, in field goal shooting with an impressive 60.6 percent (183-of-302), ranking fifth highest nationally, and was the third highest in a single season in Trine history. In three seasons with the program, Dawson already has become a member of the Trine 1,000-point club and currently sits seventh all-time, with 1,171 career points.

Martin finished second on the team in scoring at 11.0 ppg and shot 45.7 percent (116-of-254) overall. Martin's biggest presence came on the boards and as a defender, as she led the team in rebounding average at 6.3 rebounds per game with 169 total (25 offensive and 144 defensive). She led both the team and the MIAA in blocked shots with 58, falling just six blocks shy of her own single-season school record (64).

Martin ended her career at Trine as the program's 11th-leading scorer with 1,118 career points. On the glass, Martin had 523 total rebounds to rank 13th all-time and her 6.5 rpg average is tied for sixth best. Defensively, Martin is the Thunder's all-time leader in blocked shots with 164; she averaged a program-best 2.0 blocks per game. ■

season recaps



Several boost men's basketball to 7th straight MIAA appearance



Myles Copeland



Maurice Hunter



Pete Smith

The men's basketball team (12-14) made a seventh-straight appearance in the MIAA Tournament in 2017-18, led by Myles Copeland (Perrysburg, Ohio/Toledo St. John's), who was named D3hoops.com All-Great Lakes Region and first-team All-Conference. Copeland was one of the top scoring threats for Trine throughout the season, averaging a team-best 20.1 points per game, fourth highest in the MIAA.

Maurice Hunter (Monroe, Michigan/Monroe) was tabbed MIAA Defensive Player of the Year and was a second-team All-MIAA selection after averaging 11.0 points per game while shooting 52.5 percent (116-of-221) from the floor. He led the team, and was third overall in the MIAA, in rebounding at 7.5 boards per game.

Pete Smith (Bristol, Indiana/Northridge) made an immediate impact in his first season with the Thunder and was a second-team All-MIAA pick. He was second on the team in scoring at 14.6 ppg while leading Trine, and the MIAA, in three-point shooting with 75 made triples. During the season, Smith made 11 three-pointers in a win at Kalamazoo (Michigan) College to set a Trine single-game record. In addition, he led the team in free-throw percentage (88.6), assists (91) and steals (31).

NCAA hockey grows in inaugural season



Lucas Bombardier



Ryan Murray



Tanner Bennett

In its inaugural season, the Trine men's NCAA hockey team experienced some understandable growing pains. The first-year team was not helped by an extremely difficult schedule, including six games against three of the top five teams in the country, with two coming against the eventual national champion. The highlight for the team was a five-game



Henry Hearon



Brett Young

stretch spanning the end of December and beginning of January where the team went undefeated, picking up four wins and a tie. The Thunder finished the season 6-17-2.

Five members were named to the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA) All-Academic Team: seniors Lucas Bombardier (Pittsford, Vermont) and Ryan Murray (Farmington Hills, Michigan), and sophomores Tanner Bennett (Columbus, Indiana), Henry Hearon (Chicago, Illinois) and Brett Young (Livonia, Michigan).

Women's hockey finishes inaugural year



Bailey Goodwin

The Trine women's NCAA hockey team experienced some first-year struggles, finishing the season with a 4-17-1 record. Trine enjoyed an undefeated streak during December and January, putting together a 3-0-1 record over the course of four games.

Bailey Goodwin (Fort Wayne, Indiana) got the nod from the NCHA as a member of the conference's All-Academic Team.

ACHA D3 ends season at .500

The ACHA D3 men's hockey team finished off its inaugural season with a 13-13-2 record. Next season the team will become a full member of the Indiana Collegiate Hockey Conference.

This season, following the announcement of Trine joining the conference, the ICHC was invited to the 2018 ACHA All-Star Showcase for the first time. Four members of the Thunder were selected to participate: forwards Jacob Ruelle (Niles, Michigan) and Trenton Mulnix (Leslie, Michigan) and defensemen Tyler Groth (South Lyon, Michigan) and A. J. Crawford (Granger, Indiana).

Two wrestlers top 20 wins



Luke Carver



Austin Farrell



Riley Rasler

The Trine wrestling team had two wrestlers finish with 20 or more wins in Luke Carver (21-12, Sturgis, Michigan/Sturgis) and Austin Farrell (21-8, Hopkins, Michigan/Allegan). Carver had a strong showing at the NCAA Division III Central Regional by advancing to the semifinals in the 184-pound weight class, finishing fifth overall. Off the mat, Riley Rasler (LaGrange, Indiana/Prairie Heights) earned recognition in the classroom as a NWCA Scholar All-American. In addition, Assistant Coach Tom Hall was promoted to head coach in the offseason and takes over for Dan Callahan, who moves into an assistant athletic director of compliance role within the Athletic Department. ■

ACHA D2 hockey shines in inaugural season

Trine University's American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) D2 men's hockey team entered its inaugural season with a brand-new ice arena but tempered expectations. The team ended the season having exceeded every one of those expectations by earning a trip to the ACHA National Championship Tournament.

From the beginning it was clear the Thunder were going to have an impressive offensive attack. The team came away with a 10-0 victory in its first-ever game and finished the month of September with an impressive 5-0 record while outscoring its opponents 64-3.

The Thunder would never slow down, finishing the season with a more than seven goals per game average while holding opponents to just over two goals, on average, and ending the regular season undefeated with a 29-0-2 record.

The team made its debut in the first ACHA D2 national rankings of the year as the third-ranked team in the central region, and in the regular season the Thunder would never drop out of the top five. Trine finished the regular season ranked second in the region, earning an automatic bid to the national championship tournament.

The team headed to Columbus, Ohio, to begin the national tournament with pool play as a part of pool A, which included top seed Northern Arizona University, third seed University of New Hampshire and fourth seed University of Toledo.

Despite rolling through the regular season, head coach Dan Mayes warned of underestimating the competition in the national tournament. "When you cut the field from over 200 teams to just 16, everyone is going to be good," he said.

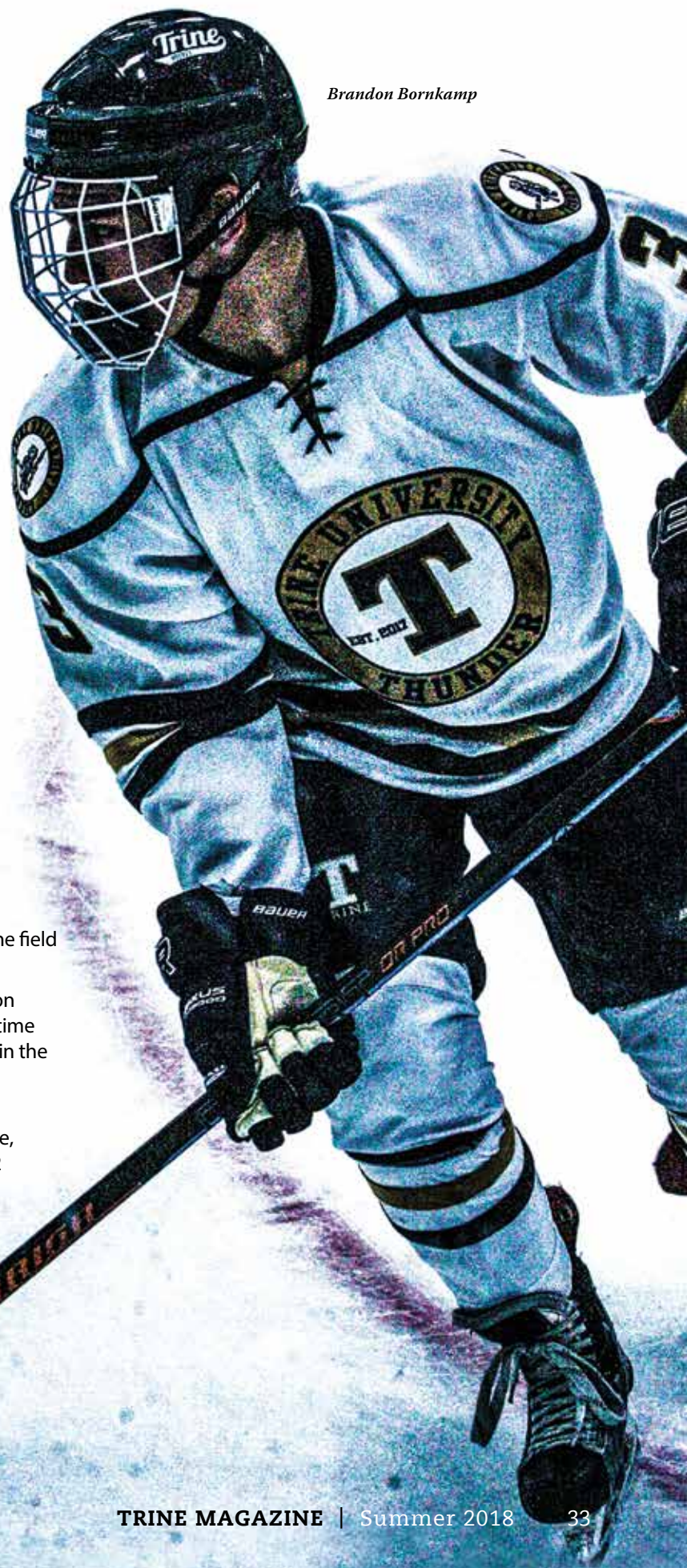
Trine discovered the truth of those words, coming up just short of the opposition in its first two games of pool play. The team then defeated Toledo for the third time during the season, ending the year on a high note, but not enough to advance in the tournament. The Thunder finished with a spectacular 30-2-2 record.

Leading the way for the Thunder throughout the year were freshmen skaters Adam Schaffer (Defiance, Ohio) on defense and Brandon Bornkamp (Fort Wayne, Indiana) at forward. Both earned spots on the ACHA National Championship D2 All-Tournament team, Schaffer on the first team and Bornkamp on the second team. They also were named to the ACHA D2 All-Central Region First-Team.

Schaffer was the top defender for the Thunder, helping the team put up a stout defensive effort during the season. He added a significant contribution on the offensive end, notching the third highest assist total on the team, with 21 during the year.

Bornkamp made his mark as an offensive juggernaut for the team's inaugural season. He led Trine in all offensive categories, tallying 59 points on 28 goals and 31 assists. ■

Brandon Bornkamp



BACK FROM THE BRINK

Eck recovers from brain surgery for record 5th All-American season

With content by Reggie Hayes, the News-Sentinel

Kara Eck had a sinus infection. It happens. It's annoying and frustrating, but you take some over-the-counter meds and fight it off.

Eck couldn't seem to shake it, but she forged on because she's as tough as they come, a multiple NCAA Division III All-American in the throws for Trine University. Finally, after days of little sleep and a continually swelling face, she went to the emergency room.

The doctor walked in with results of the MRI.

"In the end, he said, 'It's a brain infection. You have a packet of pus in between your skull and your brain on your left frontal side,'" Eck recalled. "He said the next step was to contact a higher facility."

Eck was transported to Lutheran Hospital, where the situation escalated. On Dec. 19, Eck underwent brain surgery to treat the infection.

She stayed in the ICU for five days, 24 or 25 staples on left front side of her head, and was home on Dec. 23 – meeting her goal of being home for Christmas. She had two more sinus surgeries after that to open up the sinus cavities and make sure the infection was gone.

"To see her come out of surgery with her head all wrapped up and tubes coming out, it's very scary and alarming," her father, Mark Eck, said. "We just had faith the Good Lord was going to see us through."

On Feb. 5, she was cleared to practice again, with some restrictions. That was also the day she began student teaching at Wolcott Mills Elementary School in Wolcottville, Indiana.

"I'm so used to going 110 mph, and then I was knocked down and going zero," she said.



Kara Eck is presented the Cheryl L. Coons Award, awarded to the top female athlete at Trine University, by Matt Land, left, assistant vice president of athletics, and Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D., Trine University president.

"Jumping into student teaching and practicing at the same time felt like no big deal to me. You take it and run with it."

She returned to practice with the goal of competing in the MIAA indoor meet.

Doctors told Eck she might not have made it if she would have waited a few days longer to be tested for her infection. For her to return to action was nothing short of incredible.

"A lot of people weren't expecting me to come back," Eck said. "But I tried to focus on the positive. I'm going to heal. I'm going to get better. If I can throw, great. That's how I approached it. The possibilities are endless if you're positive."

While she won the weight throw and shot put at the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association Indoor Championships and qualified for the national indoor meet in March, Eck elected to not compete in that event to continue work toward making her final outdoor season a memorable one.

She continued her inspirational comeback into that season, capturing the MIAA individual title in the hammer throw for the fourth time in her career. She also went on to win the shot put and help lead the Thunder women to a fourth-place finish in the overall team standings.

Eck qualified for the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track & Field Championship Meet with a season-best mark of 174' 8" (52.23 meters) to rank 14th in the nation. At nationals, she advanced to the finals on her final preliminary attempt with a throw of 176' 0" (53.64 meters). In her very next throw, she launched her best effort of the day, 185' 8" (56.60 meters), finishing fourth overall to claim her combined fifth career All-American


honor, a Trine University record. The finish also tied her best-ever placing in national meet competition.

"What a way to finish a stellar career," said Rod Waters, head track and field coach. "There were some who didn't believe she'd be able to throw again, let alone garner All-American honors after entering the meet ranked 14th. Her fourth-place finish is another display of her courage, dedication and commitment to excellence."

As word spread of her surgical procedure and recovery, as well as her continued standout athletic performances, the "whirlwind" that was her senior season started to gain national recognition. Eck became one of three finalists for the Honda Inspiration Award, sponsored by The Collegiate Women Sports Awards and given to a deserving female student-athlete in Division I, II or III who has experienced extraordinary physical and/or emotional adversity, injury and/or illness, or experienced extraordinary personal sacrifice during her college enrollment as a student-athlete and yet returns to athletic success.

In addition to her All-American honors, Eck ended her athletic career at Trine as a 12-time national qualifier, holder of four school and conference records, a 13-time MIAA Champion, two-time USTFCCA national Athlete of the Week, a six-time MIAA Most Outstanding Field Athlete award winner and a multiple all-region award winner. In the classroom, she graduated with a degree in elementary education/special education and was named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll multiple times.

"Kara will never be replaced," said Waters. "Her legacy will live on forever in Trine track and field history." ■



.....
**“A lot of people
weren’t expecting
me to come back.
The possibilities
are endless if
you’re positive.”**

season recaps

Bats propel Thunder to postseason



Erica Robles



Kaylee Fox



Makenna Hartline

The Trine softball team began the season by traveling to Arizona to face off with some of the best teams in the country at the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) Leadoff Classic, coming out of the weekend with a 5-1 record and finishing spring break with a 12-2 record and ranked fifth in the nation by the NFCA.

Throughout the rest of the regular season the Thunder were led by an impressive offensive attack, leading NCAA Division III with a .603 slugging percentage. They also averaged just under nine runs per game and 1.28 home runs per game, both third in the country.

Despite not reaching the MIAA tournament, the Thunder's strength of schedule and explosive offense garnered them an at-large selection to the regional round of the NCAA Tournament, where they were eliminated with a 1-2 record. Seniors Erica Robles (Long Beach, California/Lakewood) and Kaylee Fox (Vermilion, Ohio/Edison) both earned Regional All-Tournament team honors.

Trine finished the season 26-13. Three Thunder members picked up awards following the completion of the season. Sophomore Makenna Hartline (Niles, Michigan/Brandywine) was named second team NFCA All-Region as an at-large selection. She finished the season second on the team with 11 home runs and a .723 slugging percentage.

Robles began the award season by being named second team All-MIAA, then added a first team NFCA All-Region nod and a second team NFCA All-American selection. Robles finished the season with a team and MIAA-high .486 batting average. She began the season with a 30-consecutive-game hit streak, dating back to last season, the longest in school history.

Fox finished off her historic Thunder career with another spectacular season, earning first team All-MIAA honors, first team NFCA All-Region honors and first team NFCA All-American honors. She is just the second Trine player to earn NFCA All-American first team honors. She finished the year with 17 home runs, 63 RBI and a .984 slugging percentage, leading the team and the MIAA in all three categories. She leaves Trine leading the program with career totals of 62 home runs and 206 RBI as well as a .786 career slugging percentage.

McKay standout for men's golf

After finishing third in the fall half of MIAA conference play, the men's golf team spent the spring competing for the conference's national automatic qualifier. The team came in third in the three-round tournament, while Hope College earned the qualifier.



Grant McKay

Sophomore Grant McKay (Las Vegas, Nevada/Coronado) was a standout for the Thunder, averaging a team-low 73.6 strokes. He was named to the MIAA All-Conference second team during the fall and earned All-Region accolades from the Golf Coaches Association of America this spring.

In the early summer, McKay advanced to a U.S. Open sectional qualifier after shooting a 67 at the local qualifier hosted by the South Bend Country Club.



O'Malley, Heller lead baseball team

The Thunder baseball team recorded its fourth straight season with 15 or more wins (19-21 overall) and had players Kevin O'Malley (Commerce Township, Michigan/Walled Lake Central) and Jacob Heller (Fort Wayne, Indiana/Prairie Heights) garner All-MIAA honors. O'Malley earned first-team accolades and Heller was named second team.

O'Malley was second on the team in batting average and hits at .397 with 56 hits. He led the team in RBI with 33, in addition to hitting one home run, two triples, 10 doubles and scoring 21 runs. Defensively, O'Malley served as the team's starting catcher and was responsible for throwing out 15 potential base stealers, second most in the MIAA.

Heller capped a standout season with his first All-Conference selection after leading the team in batting average at .444, also the best in the MIAA, with 60 hits in 135 at-bats. Heller also led the team in doubles (12), runs scored (36), on-base percentage (.513), slugging percentage (.556), was tied for the team lead in stolen bases (six) and was second in RBI (29).



Kevin O'Malley



Jacob Heller

Men's lacrosse ties victory mark

The men's lacrosse team tied its single-season win mark with 10 victories (10-6 overall) and qualified for the MIAA Tournament. The Thunder had six players named to All-Conference teams. Nick Maher (DeWitt, Michigan/Dewitt) and Alex Jamieson (Hartland, Wisconsin/Arrowhead) were first-team selections, while Justin Gearig (Vicksburg, Michigan/Vicksburg), Conner Putman (Ridgefield, Connecticut/Ridgefield) and Kevan Barissi (Grand Rapids, Michigan/Forest Hills Central) were second-team picks and Dave Keptner (Midland, Michigan/H.H. Dow) was named "Rookie of the Year." Maher led the team in overall points with 63, the second most in Trine history, on 31 goals and 32 assists, a school record.



Nick Maher



Alex Jamieson



Justin Gearig



Conner Putman



Kevan Barissi



Dave Keptner



season recaps

Thunder capture 7 track and field events

The Trine outdoor track and field season saw a combined seven event championships, with Jeffery Barnett (Fremont, Ohio/Fremont-Ross) and Kara Eck (Auburn, Indiana/DeKalb) capturing two conference titles each. Barnett won the long jump and 200-meter dash, while Eck became a four-time champion in the hammer throw as well as taking top honors in the shot put. Ryan Haarer (Goshen, Indiana/Northridge) won the pole vault and Nick Gerber (Goshen, Indiana/Goshen) took the men's hammer championship, while Kyla Binfet (West Yellowstone, Montana/West Yellowstone) capped her senior season with an individual title in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. The Thunder also had a pair of individuals qualify for the NCAA Outdoor Track & Field National Meet in Eck and Patrick Richardville (Leo, Indiana/Leo). Richardville competed in the preliminaries of the 100-meter dash despite fighting an injury suffered during the MIAA Championships. Read more about Eck on page 34.



Jeffery Barnett



Kara Eck



Ryan Haarer



Nick Gerber



Kyla Binfet



Patrick Richardville

Men's, women's tennis advance to tournament

Both men's and women's tennis competed in the MIAA tournament for the first time since the field was narrowed to four teams in 2012. Both competed as the four seed in their respective tournaments and both bowed out in the first round.

The women's team finished the season with an 11-10 overall record, 4-4 in the MIAA, its best finish since the 2015-16 season. The men's team finished with an overall record of 7-12 and a 3-4 record in the MIAA. Senior Victor Flynn (Grosse Pointe, Michigan/Grosse Pointe South) garnered second team All-MIAA honors and was named the recipient of the Lawrence Green Scholar-Athlete Award by the MIAA coaches. He is the second Thunder tennis player to earn the award.



Victor Flynn

Warren coaches women's golf

Noah Warren began his time as coach with the Thunder competing this spring, the highlights coming with two dual match wins and a second-place finish at the Steven Tyler Intercollegiate tournament. Warren, a 2007 golf management graduate from Trine, was named to the position after previously serving as director of golf operations for Zollner Golf Course.

Women's lacrosse improves

Women's lacrosse finished the season 5-11 overall and 3-5 in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA), narrowly missing out on conference tournament play after dropping their final game. The team finished the season in sixth place in the MIAA, a two-place improvement over last year. This season's five wins is also the most by women's lacrosse since 2013 and marks a two-win improvement over last season.



Rebecca Plantz

Senior Rebecca Plantz (DeWitt, Michigan/Dewitt) was a standout performer for the Thunder and received All-MIAA honors. She finished the season with multiple single-season school records, including goals and assists. She leaves Trine with the school record for draw controls and is second in school history for points, goals and assists.

Wyse named Greim Award winner

Evan Wyse (Archbold, Ohio/Archbold) was voted the winner of the Robert L. Greim Award, presented to the Trine senior male student-athlete who best embodies the values of leadership, character, citizenship, scholarship and athletic accomplishment. He was recognized at Trine's 2018 Honors Day program.

Wyse had a standout senior season that was capped by being named the MIAA "Offensive Player of the Year" as well as first-team All-MIAA. In addition, he was named a finalist for the Gagliardi Trophy, the Division III equivalent of the Heisman Trophy.

In the classroom, Wyse earned CoSIDA Academic All-District and Academic All-American distinction as a mechanical engineering major. ■



Evan Wyse, center, receives the Robert L. Greim award from Matt Land, left, assistant vice president of athletics, and Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D., Trine University president.



Rachel Franchock

Franchock to head synchronized skating

Trine University assistant vice president for athletics Matt Land has announced the hiring of Rachel Franchock as head coach of the new women's synchronized skating team, which will begin competition starting in the 2018-19 season.

"We are happy to announce the addition of synchronized skating and Rachel to the athletic department," Land said, "Her energy and excitement for the sport are contagious and I am confident she will do a great job."

Franchock is originally from Michigan and grew up skating in the Detroit area. She has competed nationally and internationally as a member of Team USA, culminating with a trip to the World Synchronized Skating Championship in 2010.

Most recently Franchock coached the Washington Ice Emeralds Synchronized Skating Team to their first-ever podium finishes in 2016. Before that, she taught skating classes at Michigan Technological University as well as coaching and skating for the university's intercollegiate figure skating team. ■

Trine esports continues success in spring



Trine esports players compete in the MTI Center.

Following a successful fall and a move to its new home in the MTI Center, Trine University's esports program continued to grow and compete at a national level in the spring semester.

The Hearthstone team added for the spring, made up of seniors Nick Gerber and Mitchell Martin and freshman Garrett Hunter, was 7-0 in Tespa's Collegiate Hearthstone Series and ranked second in the nation going into the playoffs. The team advanced to the grueling second day of playoff competition, only to be prevented from advancing on a tie-breaking statistic.

"I am very proud of this team. They came together and played very well, bouncing ideas off of each other and having fun," said esports director Alex Goplin. "If it weren't for a couple of very unlucky card pulls in the playoff rounds, this team could have been one of the top in the nation."

Led by seniors Zachary Phillips, Jason Brand and captain Bryce Hernly, Trine's Rocket League team competed in four College Carball Association invitationals, advancing to multiple rounds in each tournament and narrowly losing to Ohio State, the top team in the nation.

Trine had three teams compete in League of Legends, coached by Robby Scheckelhoff

2017 BSDET. The Thunder Team, composed of senior Josh Jensen, freshman Jiahao Lin, sophomore Blaine Harvey, junior Brandon White and freshman Cole Harding, notched a 5-2 record in Riot League of Legends collegiate competition, one win shy of the knockout playoff round. Harvey had the most gold per minute of any player in the league. Thunder also advanced to the semifinals of the Teemo Cup.

Team Storm and Team Blue played in the Collegiate Star League, and each finished near .500.

"All three teams showed vast improvement from the start of the year," said Goplin. "We competed across all three levels against much higher-ranked games and were able to take some victories."

Two of Trine's three Overwatch teams competed in the Tespa Tournament, both advancing to the elimination round and finishing in the top 100. Trine's top team, Team Storm, placed second in an unofficial tournament, losing one match.

Trine's Heroes of the Storm team was anchored by sophomore Drew Furman and competed in the Blizzard Heroes of the Dorm Competition, finishing about .500 on the season. ■

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Thanks to your generosity, Trine University has raised **\$99 million** of our **\$125 million campaign goal:**

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But there is still work to be done as we turn our focus to building our endowment to provide more financial aid for our students:

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CONCERT

Travis Tritt • Sat., 8 p.m.

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