

The background of the cover is a photograph of the Charles and Nancy Taylor Hall of Humanities at Trine University. The building is a multi-story brick structure with a prominent arched window and a set of stairs leading to the entrance. A large tree with white flowers is in the foreground on the left, and several tall, thin evergreen trees are on the right. A paved path leads from the bottom center towards the building.

THE MAGAZINE OF TRINE UNIVERSITY

TRINE

SUMMER 2020

**TRINE LEADERSHIP MOVED
QUICKLY TO CONFRONT
COVID-19** SEE PAGE 16



Indiana University and NBA superstar Isiah Thomas gestures at the audience during the 17th annual Trine University Scholarship Gala, held Feb. 8 in the Keith E. Busse/Steel Dynamics Inc. Athletic and Recreation Center. The event raised nearly \$1.3 million for Trine student scholarships.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

History records that in October 1918 the flu pandemic ravaging the world reached the Tri-State College campus, closing the school for three weeks and taking the lives of four students.

Slightly more than a century later, our world has been turned upside down by the COVID-19 pandemic and Trine University, once again, was not spared disruption. However, as you will read in this issue of Trine magazine, the advances of the last 100 years allowed us to continue to provide a quality education over the five weeks students were unable to learn physically on campus.

Thankfully, as of this writing, there have been no cases of COVID-19 among Trine students or employees. However, we must remain diligent, and are implementing and refining measures to keep our community safe as we welcome students back to campus, classes, activities and athletics. We look forward to the day when COVID-19 is contained. In the meantime, the Trine student experience may look somewhat different, but it will not be diminished.



While the pandemic dominated headlines and our thoughts this spring, there were many exciting developments and happenings on campus, and we are proud to share them in this issue. The Franks School of Education is developing the state's first Montessori teacher education degree program, and several other departments will launch new majors this fall. Read about Trine student accomplishments as well as the powerful anti-hazing presentation sponsored by Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Learn about Bill SanGiacomo, who retired this spring after 55 years of service to Tri-State and Trine. And read stories of our alumni, from Bill Gettig, whose connections to our institution date back prior to World War II, to Nada O'Brien, who is helping design new ways to help us all stay connected in the future.

I hope you and your loved ones continue to remain safe and healthy. We are grateful for your support of Trine University, particularly in these uncertain times, and look forward to your continued partnership as we produce the graduates who will lead and serve our nation and world in the future.

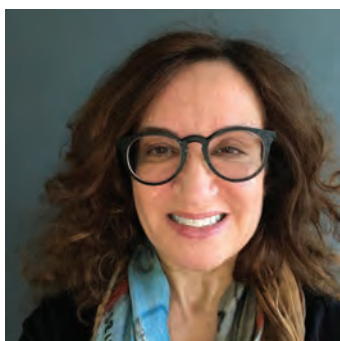
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Earl D. Brooks II". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "II" at the end being particularly stylized.

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



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Though the Trine University campus was closed during the last five weeks of the spring semester due to COVID-19, the university still provided a quality educational experience through online platforms.



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TRINE

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TRINE RECOGNIZES DISTINGUISHED STUDENTS FOR CLASS OF 2020

Trine University named **Jenna Niemeyer**, an English education major from Hoagland, Indiana, the winner of the Robert B. Stewart Award for the Class of 2020.



Jenna Niemeyer

The Robert B. Stewart Award is presented to the graduate who most clearly exemplifies the traditions and values of Trine University through achievement in scholarship, leadership and citizenship. Each academic school at Trine nominates a graduating senior for this award; Niemeyer represented the Franks School of Education.

Niemeyer earned a cumulative 4.0 grade point average at Trine. During her junior year, she was the lone undergraduate to make it through a professorial review process to present at the 33rd Midwest Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) Spring Conference.

On campus, she served as a senator for Trine's student government. She was director of academic success, Tau honor delegate and bylaw committee member for the Alpha Sigma Tau sorority. She was named a 2020 Indy 500 Festival Princess, where she will participate in a statewide outreach to nursing homes, sports teams, hospitals and non-profits.

Other Trine University Distinguished Students included **Robert Dick**, a chemistry major from Lawrence, Michigan, representing the Rinker-Ross School of Health Sciences; **Brooke Hardy**, a chemical engineering major from Wauseon, Ohio, representing the Allen School of Engineering and Computing; **Madison Sanderson**, a communication major from Leo, Indiana, representing the Jannen School of Arts and Sciences; **Jacklyn Peas**, a management major from Lagro, Indiana, representing

the Ketner School of Business; and **Sheri Boughton**, a psychology major from Sturgis, Michigan, representing the College of Graduate and Professional Studies.

Dick has been accepted into seven different graduate schools across the country for Ph.D. programs in chemistry. He participated in undergraduate summer research opportunities at Northern Illinois University and the University of Cincinnati, and completed a senior research project at Trine University.



Robert Dick, winner of the Best REU/Graduate Project award at Trine University's second STEM Research and Design Symposium in 2018, shares about his project with attendees at the symposium.

Hardy earned a 4.0 grade point average and is planning a career in the pharmaceutical industry. She will continue working for Pfizer, where she previously completed two internships. She has served as principal flutist and drum major in Trine University's marching band, and was named Trine University's 2019 Homecoming queen.



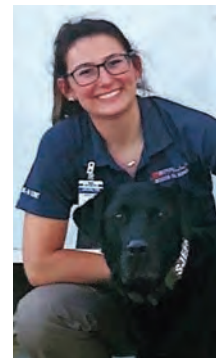
Brooke Hardy, left, was named Trine University Homecoming queen in 2019. Evan Radtke was Homecoming king.



Brandy DePriest, left, assistant professor in Trine University's Department of Humanities and Communication, presents the Outstanding ECO Center Intern award to Madison Sanderson in the spring of 2019.

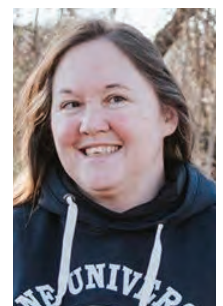
Sanderson earned the Outstanding ECO Center Intern award for her work with Earth Fest. She will work for the Indiana Republican Party following graduation in a full-time position. She was president of Trine's student government this past year.

Peas graduated from Trine University in only three years with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. She was honored as one of the first Ketner Pioneers for an internship she completed with Merrill's Detector Dog Services. She worked with the Miami Heat, training dogs and working NBA games, including the NBA All-Star game.



Jacklyn Peas completed an internship in 2019 for the Miami Heat with her K9, Sjeffe.

Boughton graduated summa cum laude and is focusing on substance abuse counseling within her psychology degree. For the past 10 years, she has been executive director of the not-for-profit St. Joe Community Co-op. ■



Sheri Boughton



TRINE TO LAUNCH STATE'S FIRST MONTESSORI TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Building on the strength and growth of its Franks School of Education, Trine University will launch Indiana's first Montessori teacher education degree program to help meet the growing need for teachers with Montessori credentials.

Trine's Montessori teacher education program will be one of only a few undergraduate programs in the nation offered at the university level, and will provide training that leads toward state-recognized Montessori licensure for both undergraduate students and teachers already in the field.

Undergraduate students at Trine will receive training to earn Indiana Department of Education licenses in Elementary Generalist (K-6) and Montessori within four years. Through Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) accreditation and American Montessori Society (AMS) affiliation, graduates also will earn credentials to teach students ages 6-9 in Montessori settings.

Current teachers will be able to earn Montessori credentials through summer training programs at Trine and at Oak Farm Montessori School in Avilla. The program could include graduate-level credit that would lead to a Master in Montessori Education degree.

Trine's new Montessori teacher education program is made possible in part through a grant from the Dekko Foundation. The foundation, which seeks to foster economic freedom through education, will provide \$385,000 toward startup costs, which include salary for a program director and redesigning a classroom on the Trine campus to mirror a best-practice Montessori environment for elementary-age learners. ■

Children work independently or with teacher Debbie Kovets, front left, in the Lower Elementary 2 classroom at Oak Farm Montessori School in Avilla. Trine University will launch Indiana's first Montessori teacher education program and will redesign a classroom on the university's main campus to mirror a best-practice Montessori environment for elementary-age learners, with help from a Dekko Foundation grant.

UNIVERSITY EXPANDS ENGINEERING MAJORS, ADDS ACTUARIAL SCIENCE

Trine University is adding two engineering majors this fall, along with a major in actuarial science.

The new Bachelor of Science in mechatronics and robotics engineering degree program, part of the Wade Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering, is built on foundations from Trine's mechanical and electrical engineering programs, with an additional mechatronics and robotics core

that prepares graduates to practice robotics engineering at the professional level.

The program seeks to provide students with the breadth and depth of knowledge needed to solve tomorrow's industry challenges by giving them the skills to develop automated systems and smart solutions.

Preparing students who can work with creating items from plastics and polymers as well as with recycling such materials, the Bachelor of Science in plastics engineering technology degree program features curriculum designed to provide students a solid engineering core combined with a high level of plastics industry knowledge. Students will become proficient in areas including plastic product design, materials and their selection, manufacturing processes

related to polymers, and project planning in fields where polymers are used.

The Bachelor of Science in actuarial science, which will be among programs offered in Trine's Jannen School of Arts and Sciences, prepares students for a career as an actuary. Graduates will have the knowledge and skills to pass the preliminary exams given by the Society of Actuaries, as well as the foundation needed to prepare to pass the remaining exams offered by the society.

The degree will prepare graduates to work in government or for any business that needs to manage financial risk, including insurance companies, consulting firms, large corporations, hospitals, banks and investment firms. ■

Rae Ann Gruver, left, and Evelyn Piazza speak in the T. Furth Center for Performing Arts.

MOTHERS OF SONS KILLED IN HAZING INCIDENTS SHARE EXPERIENCES, WARNINGS WITH TRINE STUDENTS

Sigma Phi Epsilon chapter secretary Chris Schuttler noted that Tim Piazza and Max Gruver both “walked into a fraternity house expecting brotherhood and got something very, very different.”

Piazza and Gruver both died as a result of hazing incidents in 2017, Piazza at Penn State University and Gruver at Louisiana State. After hearing their mothers, Evelyn Piazza and Rae Ann Gruver, speak at national SigEp events, Schuttler and Ricky Davila, chapter president, spearheaded an effort to bring Evelyn and Rae Ann to the Trine University campus.

That effort culminated in the “Love, Mom and Dad” event held Jan. 29 in the T. Furth Center for Performing Arts, attended by more than 600 Trine students, including all involved in Greek life.

Evelyn Piazza and Rae Ann Gruver shared for more than an hour to a mostly silent, sometimes tearful audience about the dangers of hazing, as well as their own experiences.

The hazing ritual at the fraternity where Max pledged included having phones confiscated, getting doused in hot sauce and mustard, being placed in a hallway with strobe lights and loud music, and being forced to do wall sits while fraternity brothers walked across their legs, Rae Ann found out later.

“Pledges were placed with their noses and their toes against the wall, and that’s when the questions began,” she said. “Answer a question wrong about the fraternity or mess up on the Greek alphabet, and you have to take a pull off of a liquor bottle.”

The liquor used was Diesel, 190 proof alcohol not intended to be drunk straight. Later reports said Max consumed more than 32 ounces.

As part of the hazing at Penn State, Tim also was forced to drink large amounts of alcohol in a short time. He became so intoxicated that fell down the stairs to the basement of his fraternity.

“[He was] basically ignored and left to die because the fraternity did not want to get in trouble,” Evelyn said.

Rae Ann told the audience that hazing can start small with pledges having to wear certain clothes or perform tasks for current members, but can progress quickly.

“You don’t know where a hazing event is going to lead, and you are literally playing Russian roulette with someone’s life,” she said. “It only takes one second, one person to push it all too far.”

“Max and Tim died because of hazing to join a fraternity. Making this hazing culture change will save lives,” Rae Ann said in conclusion. “Stay true to yourself and your values, and please remember to always keep each other safe.” ■



From left, Ricky Davila, Rae Ann Gruver, Evelyn Piazza and Chris Schuttler.

'THEY'RE FAMILY'

REINOEHL BUILDS FRIENDSHIPS WITH TRINE STUDENTS, ALONG WITH STRENGTH

Though a diving accident left Phil Reinoehl paralyzed from the neck down five years ago, the Garrett, Indiana, man says he is truly blessed.

Reinoehl is still quadriplegic, but has gone from being able to move one toe — something he shouldn't have been able to do — to now moving his left leg on his own while walking in the pool at Turnstone Center for Adults and Children with Disabilities in Fort Wayne. He was able to stand, with assistance, for his son's high

school graduation, and dance with his wife at his son's wedding.

Among the blessings Reinoehl has experienced have been the friendships he has built with Trine University Doctor of Physical Therapy students over his journey.

"They're not friends anymore, they're family," he said.

Following his accident, he began working with a physical therapist at Parkview Health, but needed extra assistance. Sean Collins, a student in Trine's Doctor of Physical Therapy program, had worked at the rehabilitation facility where Reinoehl and his wife took their son after surgery, and Reinoehl enlisted Collins' help.

"He and a buddy, [Trine DPT student] Cole DeVoss, began helping with me in therapy, and as we went on, I gained [another Trine DPT student,] Elisha Handshoe," Reinoehl said.

As the original students graduated and moved on to physical therapy careers, other Trine DPT students began working with Reinoehl.

Last fall, Reinoehl participated in a research study with second-year Trine DPT students to see if Pilates exercises would result in an increase in his core strength. Ashleigh

Depew, part of the group working with Reinoehl, said the project gave students an opportunity to do something unique.

"We wanted to do something that would not only give us results but potentially change someone's life," she said. "We really liked the idea of working with someone who has had spinal cord injury. We had to think of something Phil was not used to, so the idea of Pilates came about."

"I thought he was going to look at us and say we were crazy. Instead, he asked when we could start."

The group noted that Reinoehl showed improvement in abdominal strength and his ability to reach forward after the Pilates. Reinoehl agreed, saying he gained "a ton" of core strength.

"The Pilates program worked so well that I have asked to continue it. I come one day a week and one of the girls helps me in the pool," he said. "Even the walking has changed so much."

He visits Trine physical therapy classes at the Fort Wayne Center for Health Sciences regularly to allow students to practice manual techniques.

"For me, it's a payback for everything they've done," he said. ■

Front, from left, Sarah Boettner, Phil Reinoehl, Kinsey Pass, Tricia Widenhoefer, DPT; back, Vanessa Owusu and Ashleigh Depew. Boettner, Pass, Owusu and Depew, all members of the Trine University Doctor of Physical Therapy Class of 2021, conducted a research study with Reinoehl to see if Pilates exercises would result in an increase in his core strength. Widenhoefer is director of clinical education and an assistant professor with Trine's DPT program.





From left, Trine students Ashton Benson, Sandeep Kurian and Ryan Harth work with villagers on fabric for one of the trenches carrying water to Comuna Guangaje in Ecuador.

TRINE STUDENTS BEGIN WORK ON NEW WATER SYSTEM FOR ECUADORIAN VILLAGE

Since 2017, teams including members from Trine University's Engineers Without Borders (EWB) chapter have assessed the water needs of a remote Ecuadorian village and surveyed the area for additional sources.

In March, work began on improvements to the village's water system.

Four Trine students traveled with Tim Tyler, Ph.D., professor in the Reiniers Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and an engineer from the Indy Professional Chapter of EWB to Comuna Guangaje from March 1-8 during spring break. The trip had been postponed from the fall due to civil unrest in Ecuador resulting from a transportation strike.

During the trip, the group worked with the community of about 400 indigenous people, mostly poor farmers, to excavate two 100-foot-long trenches about 4-5 feet deep to collect spring water. The trenches were lined with geotextile fabric to keep the soil out, and gravel and a 4-inch perforated pipe were installed to collect the water.

"There were two different springs, so everyone was broken into two teams to work on each site," said Sandeep Kurian, a design engineering technology major from Elkhart, Indiana. "Dr. Tyler was in charge of my team, and our responsibilities involved completing anything delegated by Dr. Tyler and to assist the villagers on site in any way possible."

The pipe flowed by gravity to an existing concrete box, then the water flowed by gravity from the mountains to the village below.

"These new collectors performed fairly well," said Tyler. "One of them in particular doubled the capacity of the inflow."

This trip was made possible through donations from Trine University and faculty, staff, current students and alumni, as well as the Auburn Rotary Club and Mad Anthony's.

Additional work is still needed, Tyler said, and another trip is planned for Spring 2021. ■

TRINE MLK SPEAKER STRESSES NEED FOR RELATIONSHIPS TO BUILD UNITY

As much as Joe Martin, Ed.D., reveres Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., he said Dr. King's work was incomplete.

"What we're lacking is learning and life together," he said during Trine University's 29th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Black History Month Celebration. "I am thankful for Dr. King. I wouldn't be standing here today if it weren't for him. But the job is not done."

Martin, an award-winning speaker, university professor and author, returned as keynote speaker for the second straight year for the event, held Feb. 7 in the T. Furth Center for Performing Arts.

The celebration was themed "Unity is Our Greatest Strength." Martin emphasized that connection and relationship are the key to building unity. He commented that the audience in the Furth Center, with multiple races represented, looked to him like heaven.

"Heaven is not going to be segregated," he said. "Heaven is not going to be filled with just the people you like, who you get along with. It's going to be people from different age groups, races, ethnicity, denominations."

The Union Baptist Church Mass Choir, under the direction of Niyoki Chapman, and the Sounds of Redemption, under the direction of Chris Ford, provided music throughout

the event. The choirs also united to lead those in attendance in an upbeat rendition of "We Shall Overcome" prior to Martin's address. ■



TRINE'S ASCE CHAPTER ONE OF NATION'S TOP 5

Trine University's student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) was one of five finalists for the Robert Ridgway Student Chapter Award, given to the ASCE's most outstanding student chapter nationwide.

Named for Robert Ridgway, past president of ASCE, the award has been presented annually since 1966.

"Trine University's ASCE student chapter continues to be an outstanding reflection of the excellence throughout the university and within the Reiners Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, from consistent placement in regional and national competitions to honors such as this," said Ryan Overton, Ph.D., dean of Trine's Allen School of Engineering and Computing. "I commend the chapter members and officers, and faculty advisor Prof. TJ Murphy for representing Trine University so well."

"I am very proud of how the students represent Trine University and the profession of civil engineering. The reputation of our program is growing

nationally because of the commitment of our students to the chapter," said Murphy. "It was hard for the students when the Great Lakes Student Conference, where Trine was the defending champion, was canceled due to COVID-19. So being a finalist for the Chapter of the Year helps with the disappointment."

The chapter from Western Kentucky University won the Ridgway Award for 2020.

ASCE also honored Trine's student chapter with the 2020 ASCE Distinguished Chapter Award for Region 4, given annually to the top chapter in the region covering Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, West Virginia, Virginia, and North and South Carolina.

ASCE presents Distinguished Chapter Awards to the top chapter in each of its 10 regions.

Recommendations for both awards come from ASCE's Committee on Student Members based on activities recorded in each student chapter's 2019 annual report.

Each year, approximately 380 ASCE student chapters around the world submit an annual report for review by the committee, made up primarily of practicing civil engineers and faculty from around the United States.

The report describes chapters' participation in national, state and local activities; their ability to set and meet goals; the percentage of department students who are members of the chapter; their ability to maintain a budget and other items. Last year, Trine University earned a Certificate of Commendation, given to those chapters judged to be in the top 5 percent throughout the organization. ■

2019-20 officers for Trine University's ASCE student chapter: back, from left, Michael Cunningham, historian; Robert Morehouse, treasurer; Bill Kennelly, freshman representative; Calvin Rizzo, conference manager; Anna Kmec, recruitment manager; front, Alex Layman, professional outreach manager; Quinten Prieur, president; Katelyn Tedder, vice president; Liz Pablo, freshman representative; and Makenna Sheets, secretary.



Alumnus pledges \$1 million to Trine engineering expansion

Trine University has received a \$1 million pledge toward the expansion of its engineering facilities.

The pledge came from an engineering alumnus and his wife, who asked to remain anonymous.

"We are continually grateful for the many alumni who support our efforts to build upon our proud legacy of training engineers at Tri-State and Trine since 1902," said Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D., Trine University president. "Such generosity is vital as we look to train the next generation of engineers who will help power this region's, and even this nation's, economic growth."

The university has now raised \$6.4 million toward the estimated \$10 million total cost of the project.

The gift is part of the \$125 million Invest in Excellence campaign, which already has raised more than \$120 million. For more information on supporting the campaign or the expansion, call (260) 665-4114 or visit trine.edu/give. ■



Mad Ants president helps launch Trine Center for Sports Studies

Tim Bawmann, president of the Fort Wayne Mad Ants, speaks at the launch of the Trine Center for Sports Studies on Feb. 20. Bawmann discussed the intersection of sports, business and entertainment — or, as his NBA G-League team calls it, "Antertainment" — as well as his career trajectory to help Trine University kick off its new academic center.



Zollner Golf Course ranked among nation's top collegiate courses

ORLANDO, Fla. – Trine University's Zollner Golf Course is the sixth-best collegiate golf course in the nation, according to reviewers on the GOLF Advisor website.

The site, which features nearly 1 million reviews of more than 14,000 golf courses, announced its Golfers Choice lists, annual rankings of the best golf courses in the United States, on Jan. 8. Formerly known as "Best of," the new Golfers' Choice lists recognize top courses in 10 categories, highlighted by the "Top 50" overall and including two new categories: "College Courses" and "Short Courses."

Zollner Golf course was ranked sixth in the Golfers' Choice ranking of the nation's top 25 college golf courses. Reviews noted the care given to Zollner's greens, the helpfulness of staff, the pace of play and even the comfortable seats in the carts. ■





Innovation Challenge 'sharks'

John Milner, assistant vice president and regional manager at Fifth Third Bank, left, speaks with an Innovation Challenge contestant during the presentations on Feb. 19. Milner was part of the panel of judges for the event. Other judges were, from left, Marlin Stutzman, former congressman and member of the Trine University Board of Trustees; Josh Wenning, executive director, Region 8 Education Resource Center; Bill Causey, mentor, SCORE; and Deb Richard, assistant professor, Ketner School of Business. This year's event was held Feb. 19 and 21 in the T. Furth Center for Performing Arts and featured a "Shark Tank"-style format with a live audience.

Warren named assistant vice president for finance

Trine University has promoted **Kayla Warren**, who has served as controller since 2016, to the new position of assistant vice president for finance.



In her new role, Warren is responsible for the oversight of the annual audit and for the preparation of the annual budget. She also is responsible for tracking cash flow — including establishing, monitoring and enforcing internal controls — and investing excess cash as warranted.

She oversees student accounts and staff accountants and is responsible for back-up of all positions in the university's Business Office.

Warren was named to the board of the Steuben County Community Foundation last year. She lives in Steuben County with her husband Noah, who serves as Trine's head men's and women's golf coach, and their two children.

She earned her bachelor of science in business administration with a major in accounting from Trine University in 2006, and completed additional coursework to meet the requirements for the CPA exam at Purdue University in 2007. She has been a certified public accountant in Indiana since 2010. ■

Trine expanding programs, degrees featuring no-cost textbooks

In a 2018 survey cited in Inside Higher Education, 43 percent of college students reported they had skipped meals in order to afford college textbooks.

To help students reduce or even eliminate this expense, Trine University has introduced new degree programs and courses that replace traditional books with no-cost alternatives.

Trine University's Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership and Lou Holtz Master of Science in Organizational Leadership programs, both offered through TrineOnline, allow students to complete those degrees without paying for textbooks in their core courses or a large portion of their degree coursework.

Keirsten Eberts, assistant vice president for TrineOnline, said Z degrees, the national designation for such programs, utilize other resources that work as well as expensive printed materials.

"The core courses utilize Open Educational Resources (OER), library databases and faculty-developed content and/or zero-cost resources," she said.

Trine also offers 46 individual courses online that feature OER — openly licensed assets used for teaching and learning — and other no-cost resources in place of costly textbooks. These courses are identified as OER when students register for classes. ■

Trine offers

46

individual courses online that feature no-cost resources in place of textbooks.



More Trine exercise science students continuing on to graduate education

The exercise science program within Trine University's Rinker-Ross School of Health Sciences continues to see growth in success and outcomes, with an increased number of graduates from the Class of 2020 accepted into graduate school.

All 22 exercise science graduates who applied to Doctor of Physical Therapy programs were accepted, the first time Trine has seen 100 percent acceptance, said Catherine Swick, Ph.D., dean of the Rinker-Ross School of Health Sciences. Several exercise science graduates are also continuing on to other graduate programs.

Fifteen Trine exercise science graduates will continue on to the university's Doctor of Physical Therapy program at its Fort Wayne Center for Health Sciences. ■

Axel joins Trine University Board of Trustees

The Trine University Board of Trustees elected **Michael D. Axel, CFA**, founder and president of



AMI Investment Management Inc. in Kendallville, to its membership during its June 11 meeting.

Axel founded AMI, a registered investment advisor managing approximately \$550 million for institutional and individual clients,

in 1995. He previously had served as investment manager for the Dekko Foundation and Group Dekko International. Prior to his work at Dekko, Axel was a financial analyst at RCI in Indianapolis.

Axel graduated from Wabash College with a Bachelor of Arts in economics in 1989 and received his MBA from Vanderbilt University with a concentration in finance and investments in 1991. He was awarded the Chartered Financial Analyst designation in 1994 and is a member of the CFA Institute. He has more than 25 years of experience in the investment industry.

Axel grew up in Kendallville and lives there with his wife Natalie. The couple has four children, Drew, Trevor, Jordan and Ben. He was honored as the city's Citizen of the Year in 2013 by the Kendallville Area Chamber of Commerce for his service to the community.

He currently serves as treasurer of the board of Parkview Health System as well as chair of Parkview's finance committee and its investment committee. He also is a member of the Dekko Foundation Grants Review committee, the Oak Farm Montessori School Board of Directors, Trine University's Ketner School of Business Advisory Board and the Strength Capital Partners Advisory Board. ■



Career Fairs continue to grow

Tabatha Cates-Powell, left, of Enterprise Holdings talks with Savion Golden, a sport and recreation major from Fort Wayne, Indiana, at Trine University's annual All Majors Career Fair on Feb. 13. The fair was relocated to Hershey Hall to accommodate continued record numbers of students and employers participating.

Colbert to continue international program work in assistant vice president role

Seeking to build on its international programs and the diversity of its student body in a changing global climate, Trine University has promoted **David Colbert** to the new position of assistant vice president of international services and global partnerships.

Colbert had served the university as executive director of international services since 2013.

In his new role, Colbert is primarily responsible for attracting and recruiting new international students to Trine University, as well as facilitating their academic success. He oversees the Office of International Services and its staff, and works closely with the assistant director of global partnerships to initiate, develop and manage overseas partners and programs.

He also supervises the director of international community services in coordinating and developing programs such as International Student Orientation, international student clubs, International Education Week, the International Thanksgiving Dinner, International Night and the Host Family Program. ■



Read more campus news at trine.edu/news.

Trine selects Bennett to lead enrollment management

Seeking to continue its success in student enrollment, Trine University has named **Kim Bennett** its next vice president for enrollment management.

Bennett, who has been employed at Trine since 2001, replaces Scott Goplin, who retired May 15.

During her tenure at Trine, Bennett has served in multiple capacities, usually with responsibilities serving both admission and financial aid. Over the last 10-plus years, she has largely overseen Trine's financial aid program, admission marketing, telecounseling services and back office staff. She served as assistant vice president for enrollment management over the past six years.

In her new role, Bennett oversees the Office of Admission and Financial Aid, Office of Dual Enrollment, Office of Transfer Admission and Office of International Services and Global Partnerships. She also will have responsibility for retention management and will lead the College of Graduate and Professional Studies/Trine Online in conjunction with John Shannon, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs.

As part of the transition in leadership, Trine University has restructured its admission staff to split the dual enrollment and transfer functions into separate departments. The Office of Dual Enrollment will be headed by Olivia Lusher, Ed.D., who moved from director of strategic partnerships into the new position of executive director of K-12 partnerships and dual enrollment. ■



Business founded by Trine professor receives \$80,000 seed funding

INDIANAPOLIS — A venture launched by a Trine University faculty member has received \$80,000 in seed funding from Elevate Ventures following a pitch competition in February.

Blaire Biomedical, founded by Melanie G. Watson, Ph.D., associate professor of biomedical engineering, was one of 16 startup businesses from around Indiana chosen from 58 finalists that competed Feb. 25-27 in the second regional Elevate Nexus Pitch Competitions.

Each company had 10 minutes to pitch to a judging panel at Innovation Park at the University of Notre Dame, Flagship Enterprise Center at Anderson University or Ivy Tech Community College in Bloomington. The competition was established to invest in early-stage Indiana startups with an emphasis on those taking advantage of support resources from higher education institutions in the state.

Blaire Biomedical is developing a handheld device that performs blood tests when linked to a smartphone. The funds have allowed the company to recruit Joe Wolfcale, MBA, as its new CEO, fund a reimbursement analysis, purchase equipment and supplies in preparation for clinical trials, and pay for legal and CPA services. ■

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**STAYING AHEAD
OF THE CURVE:
TRINE ACTED
QUICKLY TO
KEEP STUDENTS,
COMMUNITY SAFE**

As the COVID-19 pandemic rapidly accelerated worldwide this spring, governments and institutions were forced to make major changes very quickly.

Trine University administration, faculty and staff implemented such changes in less than three weeks' time.

Trine President Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D., said he was following the development of the virus by mid-February. On March 6, while Trine students were on spring break, Indiana reported its first case.

The next day, the university learned that the spouse of a Trine employee was hospitalized and was being tested for COVID-19. That test came back positive early the next morning.

Since the employee had shown no symptoms, the Indiana State Department of Health decided it was safe to keep campus open while the employee self-isolated. However, the situation around the state was rapidly changing.

Storm clouds move in

Trine leadership continued to meet several times a day. Dave Jarzyna, vice president for university marketing and communications, developed a series of email communications and his department quickly built new web pages that included the latest information along with updates about campus event closings.

"From the beginning, we knew it was very important to keep everyone, including students and parents, informed," Jarzyna said.



On March 13, the university announced it would move to online-only classes for two weeks, beginning March 16. John Shannon, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs, said about 600 courses had to be transitioned online.

"Dr. Shannon and his team did an amazing job — over one weekend —

of making the transition to fully online learning," Brooks said. **"Faculty and staff came together in 48 hours to develop online curriculum for students that enabled them to continue the course of their education."**



On March 18, as the state reported its second COVID-19 death and Gov. Eric Holcomb increased measures to stem the spread of the outbreak, the university announced online learning would continue through the rest of the semester. Six days later, the governor's stay-at-home order went into effect and campus closed.

The semester online

Trine faculty, however, continued teaching with the help of modern technology and on-campus resources. The TrineOnline academic team developed a five-hour mini-course that covered basics and best practices for teaching online. They also opened Tutor.com, a 24/7/365 online tutoring service, to all main campus students and created The Onliners podcast, which provides useful information and tips for teaching online.

Information Technology staff hosted training events to help faculty use online teaching tools. The university's Center for Teaching Excellence put together elearning resources to guide faculty throughout the transition.

The university also formed a Hybrid Support Team, consisting of faculty members in each main campus school who were already well-versed in teaching online. These faculty provided support to colleagues as issues arose.

"It was quite amazing to see how well we interacted with each other to ensure our students would continue to have the highest quality of education possible," Shannon said.



Through the process, Shannon said faculty have learned that the principles of good teaching apply to all delivery modes.

"Faculty need to be engaging, interactive, accessible, enthusiastic and caring whether teaching face-to-face, online, or in a hybrid mode," he said. "Good teaching is good teaching, regardless of the platform."

Beyond doing everything possible to maintain the quality of classroom instruction, the university also worked to provide opportunities for students to keep connected to the Trine community. Cisco Ortiz, dean of students, said faculty and staff members called students to see if they needed help with academic resources, emotional support and social support. The Counseling Center also offered support and programs throughout the semester (see next page).

Coaches, deans and staff shared video messages and hosted gatherings on Zoom. Parents also participated in a contest by posting pictures of their student "learning from home" on social media.

Both Shannon and Ortiz said feedback received about the semester has been overwhelmingly positive.

"Like every other university, we had no 'pandemic plan' to which we could refer," Ortiz said. "In the end, we received very positive feedback from students and parents for our decisions, as we all saw that all colleges were impacted in the same way."



Different but not diminished

Though the university successfully made the pivot to online instruction, officials realize how critical the residential experience is to learning, and plan to return to in-person classes for the fall semester. Brooks has stated that the Trine experience will be somewhat different this fall, but not diminished.

—continued

Staying ahead of the curve, continued from page 17

The semester started Aug. 10 and will finish Nov. 25. Campus has undergone enhanced cleaning and disinfection, which has continued since students returned. Students were welcomed to an expanded Health Center. Classrooms and other spaces have been modified to ensure social distancing.

The university will require measures such as face coverings in public places and proper physical distancing. Trine also will continue to monitor community health and wellness, and respond as necessary.

"We have a very strong team of faculty, staff and administrators who work together to provide a safe, flexible learning environment," Ortiz said.

"Situations like these, and let's hope they are very rare, remind us of the need to respond quickly, be nimble, and empower the experts within the organization to do their jobs," Brooks said. **"Throughout this, I am proudest of the fact that our mission survived — teachers continued to teach and students continued to learn."** ■

SERVING MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS DURING COVID-19

Even after Trine University's campus closed in March, Counseling Services was able to help students with mental health needs.

Megan Cook, director of counseling services, said the university was able to provide one-to-one sessions via a confidential, HIPPA-compliant online platform. Counselors also provided a weekly social support group for students.

The counseling team worked with Student Activities and University Marketing and Communications to provide resources for students and staff on healthy coping with pandemic uncertainty, self-care and health/wellness.

The team conducted 327 individual sessions from March to May, nearly 90 more than the prior year. Cook said that aside from assisting students with coping with the uncertainties of the pandemic, the most common student issues were related to transitioning to living off campus unexpectedly.

"The biggest challenge may have been just simply getting used to the online platform," she said.

"However, students and our staff seem to have become more familiar with the process, and it will more than likely continue in the fall to ensure best practices and safety for students."

CAMPUS PREPARES FOR RETURN OF ATHLETICS

Trine University's athletic department has been preparing for the fall since the spring season was canceled, said Matt Land, assistant vice president of athletics.

The Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) postponed fall conference competition and tournaments until later in the year. However, Trine is committed to offering engaging experiences for student-athletes and will continue to participate safely in fall practices, team training and, it is hoped, actual competition. Land said the university has established procedures that will remain in place:

- All athletes will receive mandatory COVID-19 education — how to identify symptoms, resources available and the process for returning to competition if infected.
- Each athletic facility will be cleaned multiple times daily.
- Locker room access will be limited to team members.
- Individuals will clean their own stations before and after a workout.
- Athletes will complete questionnaires to assess their health and whom they have come in contact with prior to each practice.

All plans are subject to change, depending on the guidance of federal, state and local officials. The athletic department continues to work closely with medical staff, the student health center, Cameron Memorial Community Hospital, local, county and state officials and Parkview Health to prepare for fall sports.

"We have engaged the best minds on the subject in the region and are using every resource to protect the health and safety of our athletes, fans and staff," Land said.



TRINE COMMUNITY JOINS FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

As the COVID-19 pandemic hit the United States this spring and summer, many people — including Trine alumni, staff, faculty and students — stepped up to help contain its spread. Here are stories of a few who joined this effort.

From powertrains to PPE

David Stewart, 2014 BSME, was one of 35 Ford Motor Company engineers who traveled to the 3M plant in Aberdeen, South Dakota, to assist that company in ramping up production of N95 particulate filters for healthcare professionals.

Stewart works as a round parts machining engineer in Ford's Powertrain Manufacturing Engineering organization. The Ford engineers brought the company's more than a century of experience in "pulling every available unit of production from its equipment," Stewart said.

Stewart said the Ford team was able to increase production in a matter of days, with masks being airfreighted daily out of the Aberdeen airport.

Engineering new weapons to fight COVID-19

A group of Trine faculty and staff from Trine innovation 1 developed a prototype machine that could automatically pump a manual resuscitator — commonly known by

the proprietary name Ambu bag — serving as a replacement for a ventilator if needed.

Following media coverage of the Trine team's work, Scott Mentzer, 1987 BSEE, vice president of sales and operational planning for Phoenix America in Fort Wayne, Indiana, reached out to discuss a similar device his company was working on. The two groups were able to collaborate, and Phoenix has since developed the PhoenixAir portable ventilator.

Applying skills to help others

Evan Trusty, a sophomore design engineering technology (DET) major from Angola, Indiana, has been 3D printing face mask holders for area businesses using a 3D printer and knowledge he gained in the university's Design for Additive Manufacturing class this past semester. The course provided a 3D printer kit, and students were able to keep the printer after class finished.

RJ Anderson, a sophomore electrical engineering major from Kendallville,

Indiana, has been part of an effort by the Kendallville Public Library that has provided more than 1,800 mask holders for front-line workers and others. Others assisting included Trine alumnus Josh Calhoun, BSDET 2018, and Trine innovation 1, which laser-cut mask holders for the library.

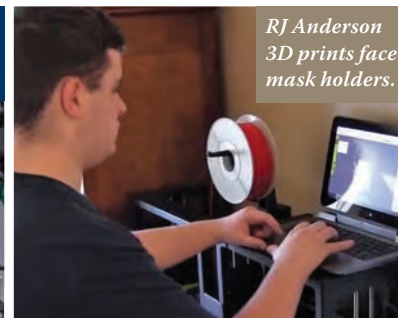
Gaining practical experience

Lauren Connerton, a management major from Kokomo, Indiana, began working May 13 at that city's General Motors plant to help build 30,000 ventilators by the end of August. Her primary job was assembling the main chassis, but she also was cross-trained to perform other assembly and testing tasks.

Her supervisor, who knew she was a business major, provided mentorship and insights into business decisions, and she also personally witnessed how concepts such as supply chain management can impact a business. She planned to continue working until she returned to Trine in August. ■



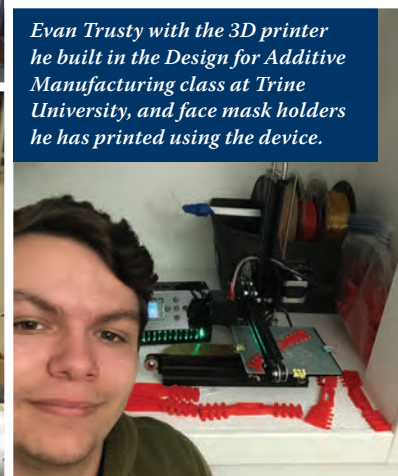
David Stewart, 2014 BSME, operates a machine at the 3M plant in Aberdeen, South Dakota.



RJ Anderson 3D prints face mask holders.



Andrea Mitofsky, Ph.D., left, associate professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Trine University, and Joe Thompson, lab technician and instructor in the Wade Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, work on a machine that can automatically pump a manual resuscitator in the Mechanical Engineering laboratory at Trine.



Evan Trusty with the 3D printer he built in the Design for Additive Manufacturing class at Trine University, and face mask holders he has printed using the device.



FUTURE VISION: TRINE GRADUATE WORKING ON ‘THE NEXT BIG THING’ FOR FACEBOOK

In the future, Nada O'Brien expects to be able to have a conversation with her mother like the two are sitting next to each other, even though her mother is many miles away.



The two will gather

in a realistic virtual version of her mother's living room, using technology built into something that looks like today's standard eyeglasses.

The 1987 Trine University chemical engineering graduate also plans to have a key role in bringing that future about.

"When we take a team photo, I often think this is the team that will be in the history books someday, like those before us who developed the computer, the smartphone or the transistor. We are working on the next big thing," she said.

O'Brien is an engineering manager in the AR/VR organization at Facebook, managing a team working on design, fabrication, testing and integration of display components and systems used in the company's augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR) and Portal family of products.

Though Facebook is much better known for its products such as Instagram, the company has made and is making inroads into hardware as well, acquiring VR system company Oculus in 2014, investing in a VR product roadmap, and releasing the Portal family of products — video calling devices equipped with a smart camera that makes it easier to have a video chat — in late 2018.

"Facebook's mission is to bring people closer together," O'Brien said. "We have

been successful in delivering on this mission through our family of apps used by millions of people every day from around the world, but we can make these human connections better with not only improved software, but hardware products as well."

From Lebanon to Tri-State

Her life now is far cry from her childhood in war-torn Beirut, Lebanon, where school could be suspended for months at a time. She found comfort in studying ahead in math and physics, which provided order and predictability amid the chaos.

Her father encouraged her to pursue engineering, and she was welcomed to what was then Tri-State University when she arrived, with faculty and spouses inviting her over for holidays and taking her shopping.

"I attribute a lot of my success to Tri-State," she said. "The whole community took care of me as a student."

"Not only did Tri-State give me an education, but it also built my leadership skills. It

“Not only did Tri-State give me an education, but it also built my leadership skills. It allowed me to step up and give back to new students who were coming in and to give back to the community that opened up its arms and helped me. I built great friendships, and I am still friends with people who were there.”

allowed me to step up and give back to new students who were coming in and to give back to the community that opened up its arms and helped me. I built great friendships, and I am still friends with people who were there.”

She went on to earn her master's degree and Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. While in her graduate programs at UWM, she worked as a teaching assistant, then as a research assistant, developing thin film coatings to be used in the semiconductor or optical coating industries.

Work in optical coatings

After graduating from UWM in 1992, she went to work for Optical Coating Laboratory Inc., a northern California company. Over 23 years at OCLI, now known as Viavi Solutions, she held positions in research, product development and product management, working on optical coating products for a variety of industries including instrumentation, telecommunication, projection display and defense.

“We worked with a lot of new optical technologies and we were often the best at it,” she said.

Her work at Viavi included development and the go-to-market plan for an ultra-compact near-infrared spectrometer, used for quality control in industries including pharmaceutical manufacturing and agriculture. The product is one of 23 patents she holds. Others include electrochromic material that can be used for architectural windows or ophthalmic glasses that change from clear to dark when voltage is applied, and patents in fiber optic communication and nanofabrication.

In 2016, a former colleague from OCLI/Viavi who was working at Facebook recruited her into that company's Augmented Reality division, where she became one of the first technology program managers. Three months ago, she moved into her current engineering management role.

Looking to the future

The team she leads designs and develops all optical components and subsystems for Facebook's hardware. She said the work differs from what she did at OCLI/Viavi, where she mostly designed components that other companies used in their own final products.

“Now, much of my work is the final consumer product my company develops,” she said.

Though newer products like the Oculus Quest are untethered, allowing physical mobility for VR gaming, O'Brien said Facebook is investing in many new innovations to eventually develop a realistic setting for more mainstream applications for consumers. Teleportation — the scenario described earlier where people can meet in a realistic virtual environment using human-like avatars — is a very exciting one.

“For AR and VR devices to go mainstream in the future, we are also working on optics and display systems for high image quality and improved field of view with an all-day wearable form factor. To make that happen, we need innovations in displays, cameras and optical lenses,” she said.

“We are investing in a wide range of technologies covering new materials, nanofabrication, new light sources, computer vision, new sensors and artificial intelligence, while also building the ecosystem of apps to bring deeper social experiences in the virtual or augmented world to users,” O'Brien said.

“We think of AR and VR as the next computing platform.”

The COVID-19 outbreak, which continues to limit in-person interactions, has reaffirmed Facebook's mission, O'Brien said, and emphasized the value of the company's products even in their current form.

“Portal has been a lifesaver during COVID-19,” she said. “It allowed me to stay close to my mother and daughter even while we are all at home.” ■

Nada O'Brien, 1987 BSChE, speaks at a recruiting event at Facebook's Menlo Park, California, headquarters in August 2019.

GETTIG'S LIFE INTERTWINED WITH TRI-STATE AND TRINE

Dr. Bill Gettig doesn't think his story is very interesting.

"I don't know who'd want to pick up a book by me, to be honest," he said.

However, his 94 years have included service in World War II and building a company that did up to \$40 million of annual business. Many of those years also were intertwined with the history of Tri-State College and Trine University, where he earned his bachelor's degree and has served on the Board of Trustees since 1984.

The association began with Gettig's father, who worked for the Shelby Tube Company in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania. When a customer in Buchanan, Michigan, threatened to reject what it believed was defective tubing around 1933, the elder Gettig was sent to investigate and eventually devised a solution.

Trips to Buchanan, which took Gettig's father past Tri-State College on U.S. 20, soon became a regular occurrence, and Gettig's father eventually made the acquaintance of faculty member George Niehaus. Niehaus had founded Tri-State's School of Engineering in 1902 and served as the college's seventh president from 1932-1935.

"Uncle George, that's what we called him, helped Dad analyze the stress in steel that had been heated, which Dad didn't know how to do," Gettig recalled.

Gettig often got to visit campus with his father, meeting Burton Handy, Trine's eighth president, at age 13. His father bought Gettig his first Duplex DeciTrig slide rule at Tri-State's bookstore.

To Tri-State, then to war

He attended Tri-State after graduating from DeVilbiss High School in Toledo, Ohio. Though he became involved with a Masonic fraternity on campus, he felt out of place in the small town of Angola. As World War II raged, he felt called elsewhere, and enlisted in the Navy in 1944.

"After six weeks, I said I wanted overseas duty, and I got it on the USS Pennsylvania just before the Kwajalein operations in the Marshalls," he said. "I was in the navigation department on the bridge most of the time."

The ship took part in some of the most intense fighting in the Pacific theatre, from the Marshall Islands to the Philippines, the Lingayen Gulf and Okinawa, where it was hit by a Japanese torpedo just prior to the war's end.

"We almost sunk, but were two tugs," he recalled. "They're equipped with pumps and welders, and that's why we didn't sink."

He served until 1946, then returned to work for his father, who by then owned a small company in Detroit.

"I worked for him for a summer. And he said, 'Are you going back to school?' I said, yeah," Gettig recalled. "And he said, 'Well, you going to the University of Michigan, or going to the University of Pennsylvania?' I said, 'No I think I will go back to Angola.'"

Returning to Angola

The climate at the college had changed, as Gettig now fit in with many veterans attending Tri-State on the GI Bill. He returned to the Masonic fraternity, and went to downtown Angola for dances held every Friday night at the Masonic Lodge.

At one of the dances, he met his future wife, Loene.


"I went downtown and saw somebody dancing with somebody about as tall as she was, and she was about 5 feet and one-half inch tall. And she looked pretty bored to me," he recalled. The couple married in 1948 and were together until her death in 2011.

Gettig graduated in 1949 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He went to work for Daybrook Hydraulic Corporation in Bowling Green, Ohio, run by an acquaintance of his father.

"The owner said, 'I know your dad and if you want a job here, you can have it. But I'll fire you in a month if you're no good,'" Gettig recalled.

Eventually, Gettig made the acquaintance of John Reese of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, who was looking for trays that would better accommodate automatic filling of the company's signature confection. Gettig purchased a small manufacturing company in Spring Mills, Pennsylvania, to produce the trays, and went on to make tonearm cables for RCA stereos and eventually items like hypodermic needles.

"Capehart-Farnsworth, Westinghouse Electric, they were all our customers," Gettig recalled, "and all we were was, 'How can we find out how to make something for somebody that was having trouble finding a source after the war?' If you had any adaptability, customers were laying all over the place."



Dr. Bill Gettig, 1949 BSME, donated a model of the USS Bonhomme Richard, a warship in the U.S. Continental Navy, to Trine University. The model is displayed in the Franks Executive Conference Suite inside C.W. Sponsel Administration Center.

Serving on the Board of Trustees

In 1984, Gettig was asked to join the Board of Trustees at Tri-State University. At the time, the university was debating between maintaining its primarily engineering focus or shifting to more of a liberal arts orientation.

By the 1990s, when Gettig became board president, the school was struggling financially and he generously supported Tri-State to help it stay afloat.

"I made a trip with either Lears or Beechcraft every Friday and met with the committee I established that I felt could help run the school," he said.

He also helped launch football at Tri-State in 1995, including using his connections at Penn State University to fly Tri-State's team for a camp there, and flying Coach Joe Paterno in to speak to the team at Tri-State.

"I'd been friends with Joe since the '60s," he said. "Joe stayed at the lake."

Though the board has undergone many changes since he joined, he said today's Trine University Board of Trustees members are quality people who are nice to work with.

"When you have those kind of people, you can't lose," he said. ■

NO SLOWING DOWN: SHOFF CONTINUES RACING CAREER AT 73

At 73, while many of his former Tri-State College classmates enjoy hobbies like golf or fishing in retirement, Darryl Shoff gets in a race car 10 to 12 times a year to go toe-to-toe on some of the nation's top tracks.

"At my age, it's one of the few things I can do that will make me feel alive," he said. "It also makes me go to the gym to keep in shape. And I enjoy the challenge of still being able to beat some of these young guys."

The 1970 graduate currently and primarily races in the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) Majors series, driving the Elan DP-02 he has raced for the past several years. Depending on track and weather conditions, he said, the car can reach 160 miles per hour.

"It's a fun series and we get to race on the country's finest road circuits," he said.

His racing career started at age 12 when his father bought him a go-kart. "A jack of all trades" as a farmer, his dad acted as mechanic and crew chief for Darryl's races.

As time went on, he developed interests in other sports and his racing career waned.

After graduating from Tri-State with a general business degree, he launched "a demanding career that left little time and even less funds to go racing."

He went to work as an estimator for a large contractor in Reading, Pennsylvania. Eventually he founded his own construction companies and also an aviation company, Aerodynamics of Reading.

As his career progressed, he was able to find the time and finances to race again. He got started back in racing between 20 and 30 years ago when, at the urging of some friends, he attended the Bertil Roos Racing School, an open-wheel driving school in Nazareth, Pennsylvania. He later attended the Russell Racing School in Mont-Tremblant, Quebec, Canada.

He obtained his novice permit, then his regional license and eventually his professional permit.

He began racing in an open-wheel formula Ford, and then a Sports 2000, "essentially a formula car with body work covering the wheels." He also has raced

an SCCA Spec Racer, World Sportscar, Mazda Miata and Porsche 911.

"These cars have much different personalities regarding the driving style, but hitting your marks on each turn for every lap of the race remains the challenge: braking point, turn in point, apex, exit edge — four points to each turn," he said.

He won the Prototype 1 class of the Hoosier Racing Tire SCCA Super Tour in 2018. He said one of his favorite memories was the first time he qualified for a race at the pole position.

His fraternity brothers from Alpha Sigma Phi often will come watch Darryl race, and he was surprised when Frank Hall 1970 BSBA, a Kappa Sig, and his brother showed up to watch him earlier this year at Sebring.

"I knew Frank through the annual Sig Cup golf competition," he said. ■

Right: Darryl Shoff prepares to race in the Elan DP02 prototype he has driven for the past few years. His race team is managed by Comprent Motor Sports in Athens, Georgia. Comprent Motor Sports prepares the cars, delivers them to the track and provides race support, including mechanics, a race engineer, truck driver, crew chief and assistants. Below: Darryl Shoff has driven this Elan DP02 prototype for the past several years.





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 alumni@trine.edu.

Join us on social media: **Facebook** (facebook.com/TrineUniversityAlumni), **Twitter** (twitter.com/trinealumni) or **Instagram** (instagram.com/trineuniversityalumni)

1950s

John Kim, 1959 BSEE, has written and published a memoir, "In Pursuit of Science and Technology," highlighting his professional pursuit of science and technology, as well as his personal thoughts on his faith, private finance, struggles with race issues as a minority, discrimination in the workplace and society, and his health issues.

1960s

Following graduation, **John Pellegrino Sr., P.E., 1960 BSCE**, worked as a registered professional engineer for 14 years until he was hired by Ridg-U-Rak, Inc. Owned today by the Pellegrino family, Ridg-U-Rak is known for its innovative and quality rack products, as well as being one of the largest employers in North East, Pennsylvania.

Brian Stebleton, 1963 BSME, is enjoying his family and friends, snow skiing and boating during retirement, following a long career in plant managing and entrepreneurship. Brian joined General Motors Chevrolet Plant as a production supervisor following graduation. From there, he worked for General Foods, American Home Foods, Pepsi Cola, ConAgra Frozen Foods as vice president of engineering and distribution, and Malnove Packaging Engineering Group. Brian purchased a pest control company and towboat operation, both in Florida, and resides in the state. He also remains active with his fraternity, Alpha Sigma Phi, and spends time with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

1970s

Philip Walker, 1972 BSBA, recently retired after 47 years of work. After graduation, he worked for a bank in Peru, Indiana, The Peru Trust Company. After 20 years in banking, he changed careers and went to work for Chrysler Corporation in Kokomo, Indiana. He then spent 27 years in manufacturing. Phil and his wife, Debbie, are traveling and spending time with their seven grandchildren.

1980s

Brad Schudel, 1987 BSEE, was recently promoted to principal process engineer at Abbott Laboratories in Sturgis, Michigan. Brad has been employed as an engineer by Abbott Laboratories for 24 years. In his spare time, Brad enjoys playing slow pitch softball and recreational league basketball, trivia, and spending time with his grandchildren.



Brad Schudel with newest grandchild Henry Wilson, and Piper Wilson.

1990s



With more than two decades of experience, **Daniel Funston, 1997, BSSO**, has been named the next superintendent of Concord Community Schools. Previously, Dan served as a teacher, principal and district

administrator in school districts including Northern Wells Community Schools, John Glenn School Corporation and Plymouth Community Schools. He also worked as director of eLearning for Five-Start Technology Solutions.

2000s

Nathan O'Connell, 2001, BSEE, has transitioned from engineering to teaching full-time and owning a few Pizza King restaurants. Nathan teaches math and the Power Up! class for Wawasee High School and is an assistant varsity basketball coach, and helps when he can at the restaurants.



—continued

class notes

Edward Knauss, 2001 BSCS/MEd, has returned to Michigan to teach high school math at Sturgis High School. Previously, Ed was in Tennessee, where he received his master's degree in educational leadership from Lipscomb University in Nashville.

The Indiana State Police Fort Wayne Post recognized Master Trooper **Kody Buell, 2003/2013 BSCJ/MSCJ**, for 15 years of experience on the force. Kody patrols Steuben and LaGrange counties and serves as one of the district's field training officers, developing and supervising probationary troopers as they begin their career after the ISP Recruit Academy.



Angola, Indiana, girls basketball coach **Brandon Appleton, 2006 BSHPE**, was named one of six District Coaches of the Year by the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association. Brandon has a career record of 111-40 in six seasons as head coach. He recently was named boys basketball head coach for the high school.



Michael Nuss, 2008 BSCE, started a new job at Rural Sourcing in March. He is a senior consultant at the Fort Wayne, Indiana, company.

Jake Wilson, 2009 BSEM, and **Leslie (Schudel) Wilson, 2008 BSBA**,



welcomed a son, Henry Wade Wilson, Sept. 10, 2019. Henry weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces. Big sister Piper (3) is smitten.

Bruce Blessinger, 2009 BSEA, and Emily (McFadden) Blessinger exchanged wedding vows Nov. 2, 2019, in Indianapolis.



Nathan Seaman, 2009 BSCJ, and his wife, Julie, welcomed Kendall Ann Seaman into the world on March 7, 2020.

2010s

Timothy Raftery, 2010 BSCOM, recently accepted a position as a mid-commercial account executive with Salesforce. His territory is Indiana and Western Ohio. He was previously a senior manager for the Verizon Business Group in northwest Ohio.

Jonathan Waidelich, 2010 BSME, and **Sarah Waidelich, 2010 BSME**, welcomed their son, Aiden James, this spring.



Stephanie Smith, 2009 BSBA, and **Matthew Smith 2010, BSEDET**, own a natural family store, Grassroots Baby, in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Matthew Shergalis, 2011 BSCE, was named northeast region manager for the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute (CRSI) on June 10, 2020. Matthew has a decade of engineering and marketing experience. He will be based in Indianapolis and will promote reinforced concrete construction, primarily in the northeastern United States.



Brandon Cosby, 2012 BSBA/BSCJ, and **Heather (McIntosh) Cosby, 2012 BSEIEd**, welcomed their first child, Hudson Michael Cosby, in February.

Roman Smith, 2014 BSXS, has been named Warsaw Community High School's assistant athletic director. Roman previously served for three years as the junior/senior high school athletic director for Lakeland School Corporation.



Brandon Snell, 2015, BSGM, is the new head golf professional at Chatham Hills in Westfield, Indiana.

George Youpel, 2015 BSCJ/BSPSY, graduated from the 79th Indiana State Police Recruit Academy after 25 weeks of intense training. Following field training, Trooper Youpel was issued his own Dodge Charger state police car and started solo patrol on the Indiana Toll Road, primarily in LaGrange and Steuben counties.



George Youpel, left, recently received his patrol vehicle in Indianapolis.

Christopher Collins, 2015 BSFS, has been promoted to quality control supervisor at Ricca Chemical Company and moved to Salisbury, Maryland.



Summer Storm joined the Arrington family in March. Summer is the daughter of **Jeff, 2015/2017 MBA/MSL**, and Emerson Arrington. They live in Florida.

Alejandro Hernandez, 2017 BSCJ, has been granted a permanent transfer of duty assignment to the Fort Wayne Post for the Indiana State Police. Trooper Hernandez and his wife Kailoni currently reside in Steuben County.



Casey Negrete, 2017 DPT, opened IMPACT Health & Performance in Ankeny, Iowa, focusing on helping active adults and athletes stay healthy and continue enjoying the things they love.



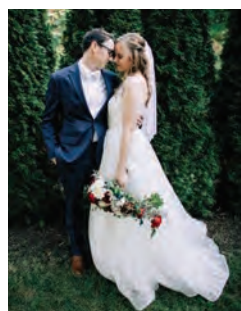
Mandy Stork, 2017 DPT, and her husband, Jeremy, welcomed Noa Joyce Stork on Dec. 17, 2019.

2020s



Since graduating last May, **Audrey (Nikki) Mittelstaedt, 2018 BAM**, has worked for North Western Electric Cooperative, Inc., in Bryan, Ohio. She recently married Mike Mittlestaedt in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and plans to move to Fremont, Indiana.

Julia Hewitt, 2018, BSBA, is the newest executive director of the Angola Area Chamber of Commerce. Julia plans to tackle the role in conjunction with her MBA at Trine.



Samuel Loga, 2018 BSDET, and **Hannah (Hilgediek) Loga, 2018 BSCJ/BSPSY**, were married Sept. 14, 2019.

Following a traumatic brain injury (TBI) of his own, **Payne Sigman, 2019 BSPSY**, is attending the University of Dayton to gain a master's in mental health counseling. He also remains the inspiration behind the Play4Payne Foundation, which focuses on helping families where a member has experienced a TBI. The foundation's newest initiative is providing care packages for families upon arrival at hospitals.

Dustin Winfree, 2019 DPT, and his wife, Claire, recently welcomed baby Anna to their family.



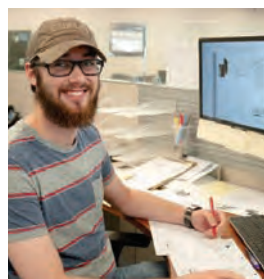
Jacob Payne, 2019 BSCJ, joined the La Porte County Sheriff's Office Patrol Division. Jacob was transferred from the La Porte County Jail.

Hunter Hiatt, 2019 BSSM, joined the Auburn Parks and Recreation Department as the new recreational coordinator.

Nathan Watson, 2019 BSSM, is a new ticket sales account executive for the Indianapolis Indians minor league baseball organization. His career in sports began with the WNBA's Chicago Sky in 2018. Last year, he worked for the G-league's Fort Wayne Mad Ants, and he was most recently a member of the Indianapolis Colts Consumer Sales team.

Blake Sailors, 2019 BSSM, recently started working as a sports coordinator at the Boys and Girls Club of Huntington County, Indiana.

Levi Holdcroft, 2019 BSDET, started at Jayco as a college intern. Now, Levi is full-time engineering team contributor and joined the motorized division the Monday following his graduation.



Emanuel Boar, 2019 DPT, opened Advanced Therapy and Performance in Fort Wayne, Indiana, a physical therapy, bodywork and performance clinic.



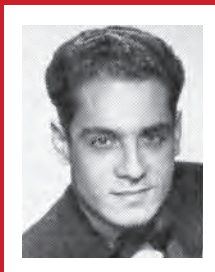
Devin Bradley, 2020 DPT, and his wife, Bethany, welcomed Ezra Lucas Bradley to their family on Jan. 21, 2020. Ezra also was welcomed by big brother James.

Jenelle (Klumpe) Sternasty, 2020 DPT, married D.J. Sternasty on Aug. 17, 2019, in New Carlisle, Indiana.



Shaelyn Duff, 2020 BSCE, accepted a job offer in Cincinnati working for Jacobs Engineering. Shaelyn completed internships with the company before taking the new position.

TRI-STATE ALUMNUS DIED TRYING TO ESCAPE CUBA IN 1963



Eusebio Gilberto Silva-Cruz, 1948 BSME, transferred to Tri-State College in 1945 from Universidad de la Habana. While at Tri-State, he became president of the Phi Iota Alpha fraternity and was a member of the Inter-Fraternity Council and Student Council.

Following graduation from Tri-State he returned to his native Cuba and supervised several sugar mills for Guantanamo Sugar. After Fidel Castro came to power in 1959, professionals such as engineers were prohibited from leaving the country.

His wife and children were able to escape to Florida using falsified papers in February 1962, but Eusebio's work was too high-profile and he had to stay behind. Growing desperate by December 1963, he tried to swim from the Cuban side of Guantanamo Bay to the United States' Guantanamo Naval Base, but was shot by Cuban Revolutionary soldiers during the attempt.

A friend later told family members of his death.

His son, Gilberto J. Silva, remembers,

“He was very loving, always taking me to the baseball and basketball games he played. I still miss him, even after all these years.”

IN MEMORIAM

(current as of June 30, 2020)

1930s

Howard D. McCleery, 1939 BSEE,
East Aurora, New York, May 12, 2020

1940s

Jeanette Florine Fidler, 1943 DDT,
Phoenix, Jan. 5, 2020

Gene M. Arthur, 1945 BSAE,
Indianapolis, Nov. 18, 2019

Robert J. May, 1946 BSAE,
Dover, Ohio, April 23, 2020

Shirley Bernard Brouse, 1947 BSBA,
Ormond Beach, Florida, Jan. 3, 2020

Ralph W. Gilchrist, 1947 BSEE,
Seneca, South Carolina, Feb. 6, 2020

Jack E. Post, 1947 BSAE,
West Hartford, Connecticut, Jan. 12, 2020

Allen D. Gardner, 1948 BSAE,
Georgetown, Illinois, June 10, 2020

Harold J. Griffith, 1948 BSME,
Raleigh, North Carolina, March 27, 2020

Roland F. Hilby, 1948 BSAE,
Cullman, Alabama, June 12, 2020

Edwin L. Koon, 1948 BSME,
Marshall, Michigan, April 25, 2020

Robert J. Richardson, 1948 BSCE,
South Bend, Indiana, Dec. 1, 2019

F. Frank Franze, 1949 BSCE,
Auburn, Indiana, Jan. 9, 2020

David A. Mendel, 1949 BSAE,
Huntsville, Alabama, June 26, 2020

Joseph E. Waddill, 1949 Surveying Certificate,
Neptune Beach, Florida, Nov. 26, 2019

1950s

Richard A. Clevenger, 1950 BSEE,
Phoenix, June 5, 2020

Roger M. Hoersten, 1950 BSCE,
Sidney, Ohio, Jan. 29, 2020

Robert E. McGovern, 1950 BSME,
Canton, Michigan, June 20, 2020

Adolph J Wozniak, 1950 BSRE,
Fort Wayne, Indiana, May 22, 2020

George J. Dudick, 1951 BSChE,
Painted Post, New York, Feb. 11, 2020

Michael B. McIntyre, 1951 BSEE,
Arnold, Maryland, April 30, 2020

Wilson L. Silkworth, 1952 BSEE,
Reading, Michigan, April 12, 2020

Beverly M. White, 1952 BSME,
Naples, Florida, Nov. 16, 2019

Karl J. Carr, 1953 BSBA,
Lansing, Michigan, May 23, 2020

Lloyd W. Elwood, 1953 BSRE,
Sidney, New York, Dec. 11, 2019

Marvin E. Heston, 1953 BSBA,
Fort Wayne, Indiana, March 13, 2020

Don W. Smith, 1953 BSAC,
Auburn, Indiana, Jan. 12, 2020

Calvin L. Crail, 1954 BSME,
Cedar Falls, Iowa, April 30, 2020

John R. Cromie, 1954 DET,
Bay City, Michigan, Nov. 28, 2019

Ron H. Engels, 1954 BSChE,
Oak Park, Illinois, Feb. 2, 2020

Edward F. Palagyi, 1954 BSChE,
Crawfordsville, Florida, June 4, 2020

Thaddeus P. Zyck, 1954 BSChE,
Allegany, New York, Dec. 22, 2019

Richard C. Fuls, 1955 BSRE,
Fort Wayne, Indiana, Jan. 24, 2020

Richard F. Murphy, 1955 BSCE,
Byron, Minnesota, Dec. 18, 2019

Allen L. Brand, 1956 BSME,
Sun City, Arizona, May 28, 2020

Karl R. Hahn, 1956 BSME,
East Hartford, Connecticut, Jan. 3, 2020

Joseph G. Huneck, 1956 BSME,
Indianapolis, April 4, 2020

Frank C. Hill, 1957 BSEE,
Fishers, Indiana, Jan. 28, 2020

Francis Lewandowski, 1957 BSChE,
Mentor, Ohio, April 27, 2020

Gregory L. Windle, 1957 DDT,
Tyler, Texas, Jan. 9, 2020

John Zimmerman, 1957 BSME,
Fort Wayne, Indiana, April 19, 2020

Karl D. Holmes, 1958 BSBA,
Elkhart, Indiana, June 12, 2020

Richard C. Mulvey, 1958 BSEE,
Rhinebeck, New York, June 22, 2020

James Ross Rinker, 1958 BSBA,
Binghamton, New York, April 25, 2020

Joseph Thaxton, 1958 BSAC,
Spring Valley, New York, April 3, 2020

Leroy K. Addis, 1959 BSME,
Rockford, Michigan, May 27, 2020

Eugene R. Blair, 1959 BSME,
Fort Meyers, Florida, June 2, 2020

Henry D. Covey, 1959 DDT,
Napoleon, Michigan, Dec. 6, 2019

Stewart D. Ebnetter, 1959 BSEE,
Peachtree City, Georgia, Jan. 14, 2020

Robert G. Gustafson, 1959 BSME,
Raleigh, North Carolina, June 9, 2020

Kenneth B. Shelton, Jr., 1959 BSEA,
Venice, Florida, Dec. 23, 2019

Robert T. Sorley, 1959 BSChE,
Ontario, Canada, April 26, 2020

1960s

Edwin L. Craig, 1960 BSEE,
Gallipolis, Ohio, Jan. 29, 2020

Robert L. Damian, 1960 BSME,
Madison, Alabama, Dec. 13, 2019

David C. Lambertson, 1960 BSEE,
Dayton, Ohio, April 30, 2020

Robert D. Lyon, 1960 BSBA,
Emporium, Pennsylvania, Feb. 7, 2020

Floyd A. Kunce, 1960 BSME,
Sturgis, Michigan, Jan. 31, 2020

Richard L. O'Brien, 1960 BSME,
Indianapolis, March 19, 2020

Fenn P. Welsheimer, 1960 BSCE,
Willow Street, Pennsylvania, April 18, 2020

Leon R. Armentrout, 1961 BSEE,
Altamonte Springs, Florida, Feb. 20, 2020

Jerry L. Bertram, 1961 BSME,
Marion, Indiana, April 21, 2020

Francis Ronald Ciesielski, 1961 BSEE,
Still Pond, Maryland, Feb. 25, 2020

Richard C. Lessing, 1961 BSME,
Hamilton, Ohio, June 17, 2020

Duane B. Smith, 1961 BSME,
St. Mary's, Florida, April 11, 2020

Stephen R. Brown, 1962 BSCE,
Saint Peters, Missouri, May 27, 2020

C. Wayne Dunlap, 1962 BSME,
Union, Kentucky, May 15, 2020

Theodore J. Mitoraj, 1963 BSME,
Fort Wayne, Indiana, Jan. 23, 2020

William A. Ross, 1963 BSME,
New Hartford, Connecticut, June 14, 2020

John J. Sheridan, 1963 BSCE,
Voorhees, New Jersey, March 25, 2020

Jerry L. Wilson, 1963 BSChE,
Dowagiac, Michigan, Dec. 18, 2019

Ronald L. Augenstein, 1964 BSME,
Louisville, Ohio, September 21, 2019

Paul L. Patterson, 1964 BSEE,
Sheboygan, Wisconsin, June 8, 2020

Norman A. Chrobot, 1965 BSME,
Elkhart, Indiana, June 27, 2020

Shahjehan A. Munjee, 1965 BSME,
San Rafael, California, Feb. 6, 2020

Robert A. Plemitscher, 1965 BSME,
Long Beach, California, Feb. 1, 2020

Larry D. Blount, 1966 BSEE,
Hillsdale, Michigan, Feb. 18, 2020

Robert C. Post, 1966 BSChE,
Ludington, Michigan, June 28, 2020

Gary A. Van Skyhock, 1966 BSEE,
Traverse City, Michigan, April 1, 2020

Ronald L. Flynn, 1967 BSME,
Muncie, Indiana, Feb. 25, 2020

John (Jack) D. Hall II, 1967 BSCE,
Lizton, Indiana, March 4, 2020

H. Alan Karrfalt, 1968 BSME,
Noblesville, Indiana, April 26, 2020

Samual Brian Priddey, 1968 ABA,
Lititz, Pennsylvania, Dec. 7, 2019

Michael J. Ribarich, 1968 BSCE,
Niles, Ohio, April 2, 2020

Ronald J. Truesdell, 1968 BSCE,
Tannersville, New York, Dec. 6, 2019

1970s

David W. Braun, 1970 BSBA,
Lewisville, Texas, May 23, 2019

Anthony L. Antinora, 1971 BSBA,
Johnstown, Pennsylvania, June 11, 2020

Bruce R. Emerick, 1971 BSBA,
Elmira, New York, March 1, 2020

William J. Felger, 1971 BSME,
Kokomo, Indiana, Jan. 21, 2020

Roy G. Brooks Jr., 1972 BSChE,
Kokomo, Indiana, April 10, 2020

Lawrence E. Ley, 1973 BSCE,
Hideaway, Texas, Jan. 7, 2020

James J. Nowak, 1973 BSBA,
Warsaw, Indiana, March 19, 2020

William F. Richardson, 1974 BSEE,
Dacula, Georgia, Dec. 25, 2019

James R. Stang, 1976 BSChE,
Minneapolis, Jan. 26, 2020

1980s

John W. Oxender, 1981 BSBA,
Pioneer, Ohio, March 24, 2020

G. Scott Flory, 1985 BSCE,
Marion, Indiana, Nov. 25, 2019

1990s

David R. Ruselink, 1990 BSMA,
Dearborn, Michigan, April 30, 2020

Paul R. Hurd, 1992 DDT,
Prattsburgh, New York, September 27, 2019

James R. Reinoehl, 1999 BAM,
Corunna, Indiana, March 16, 2020

2020s

Austin R. Bates, 2020 BSCJ,
Greentown, Indiana, May 24, 2020

TRINE MOURNS PASSING OF ALUMNUS, SUPPORTER DR. JAMES ROSS RINKER

Trine University is mourning the loss of 1958 alumnus Dr. James Ross Rinker, who died the evening of Saturday, April 25, at age 85.

Dr. Rinker was born and raised in Kentucky, graduating from Tri-State College with a degree in business administration in 1958. Following Commencement, he took a commission with the U.S. Army.

While in the service, Dr. Rinker continued his education and earned his doctorate in psychology in 1966. He proudly served as a clinical psychologist for servicemen at assignments in multiple hospitals before finishing his career at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland.

After his retirement as a major in 1985, Dr. Rinker returned to

his family's roots in Lexington, Kentucky, where he was actively involved in the family's business of real estate and thoroughbred horses. He also maintained a practice as a psychologist.

He moved to Binghamton, New York, in the mid-1990s, where he had a psychology practice at local hospitals. He also served on the board of directors at Lourdes Hospital.

Dr. Rinker established the Rinker-Ross Memorial Foundation, where he served as CEO, and was instrumental in providing capital funding for medicine and the performing arts in the Binghamton area. He generously supported Trine University through the foundation, particularly in areas related to the health sciences, biomedical engineering and performing arts.



Trine University named the Rinker-Ross School for Health Sciences in Dr. Rinker's honor in 2016 after he provided a \$1.5 million gift for the Best Hall expansion, and presented him with the Distinguished Service Award at the 2019 Touchstone and Homecoming Celebration Dinner. ■

LONGTIME PROFESSOR ARTHUR EBERHARDT PASSED AWAY MARCH 6

Trine University is mourning the loss of longtime professor Arthur Eberhardt, who passed away March 6 in Angola, Indiana.

Eberhardt served as professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Tri-State College/University from 1952 to 1990. He coordinated the first Earth Day on the campus of Tri-State College on April 22, 1970.

The university named the Art Eberhardt Environmental and Community Outreach Center, formed to coordinate the university's sustainability efforts and help provide student volunteers for environmental efforts, in his honor in 2016.

Eberhardt was born April 28, 1925, in Indianapolis. ■



LONGTIME SUPPORTER JUDY WEAVER DIED JULY 15



Trine University is mourning the loss of Judy Weaver, a longtime supporter of the university and the wife of university trustee R. Wyatt Weaver, Jr., M.D.

Mrs. Weaver died July 15 at age 71.

In addition to Dr. Weaver's service on the Board of Trustees, the couple helped with fundraising efforts to benefit the university's athletic department and were loyal, dedicated members of the Thunder Club. The Weaver Soccer Field at Trine University is named in their honor.

Mrs. Weaver had served on the annual Trine University Scholarship Gala committee since its inauguration.

Mrs. Weaver also was active in other Angola community efforts, including serving on the steering committee for Angola Balloons Aloft and actively supporting the Community Humane Shelter of Steuben County.

She and Dr. Weaver had been married for 41 years. ■

AT THE 19TH HOLE: SANGIACOMO ENDS 55-YEAR CAREER AT TRI-STATE AND TRINE

Bill SanGiacomo's life would have been a lot different if it weren't for a sunny day in New Jersey in 1965.

Having just moved into a new home, he was chipping golf balls on his front lawn when a neighbor driving by stopped and invited SanGiacomo to play a round.

That neighbor happened to be an alumnus of Tri-State College, and the chance encounter set in motion events that led to a distinguished career for SanGiacomo at Tri-State and Trine University.

"If it had rained that day, we never would have met," SanGiacomo commented.



SanGiacomo retired at the end of the spring semester, capping 55 years that included 50 as head men's golf coach, 47 as a faculty member and time as an advisor for the Drama Club and Kappa Sigma fraternity.

His coaching tenure included 13 conference Coach of the Year and five NAIA District Coach of the Year honors, and coaching a team representing the United States in the World University Games in 1992. He was honored with the Mayor's Arts and Humanities Award by the City of Angola in 2009 for his work as drama club advisor, and for his participation in plays as actor, writer and director.

Angola, where?

SanGiacomo had never heard of Angola, Indiana, before the fateful golf outing. Having recently completed his master's degree, he aspired to teach at the college level, but thought the environment was too competitive at East Coast universities for him to start right away.

"While we were playing, my neighbor asked what I did and I told him I was an English teacher. He asked what I wanted to do with my life and I told him I wanted to teach at a university," he recalled. "He told me he would call the president (of Tri-State). The next week I was in a hotel in New York being interviewed."

He accepted the position, intending to get a few years of teaching experience so he could advance his career. However, his job soon began evolving to include areas that piqued his interest.

"When I got to Tri-State, they didn't have an English major, but within one or two years they asked me to write the curriculum for a major," he said. "Then I wrote the curriculum for the English teaching major."

"Some of the fondest memories I had in teaching include starting the teacher education program, getting

to know the kids really, really well, and getting to influence their careers through discussions and student teaching observations," he said.

He also got to know more students after becoming faculty advisor for Kappa Sigma in 1967 and through starting the Tri-State Drama Club with math professor Charlie Cook, directing most of the club's plays.

"Then being golf coach – I got that in 1970 and thought I had died and went to heaven," he said.

Success on the course

Athletic Director Mark Peterman had asked SanGiacomo, who played baseball in college, about coaching that sport when he joined Tri-State in 1965, but the new professor declined in order to focus on teaching. When the golf coach position opened up a few years later, SanGiacomo was ready, but Peterman said he wanted to test him first, and gave him the job of coaching the tennis team.

"I had never played tennis," SanGiacomo recalled, "so I would go to practices in my suit after teaching so the kids wouldn't ask me to play. I inherited a great team and won conference coach of the year."

SanGiacomo's golf teams dominated the Mid-Central Conference and hosted three NAIA national championships. During the summer, for 25 years, he hosted the Tri-State Golf Academies, where golfers of all ages could spend the week learning to play golf.

When asked to take charge of Zollner Golf Course in the early 1990s, he decided to launch a golf management major. In 1992 he moved to the School of Business, teaching golf management there until he retired from the faculty in 2012.

"Starting the golf management program was closest to my heart, seeing the kids develop into golf professionals," he said.

Wrapping up 50 years of coaching

He decided to retire from coaching this year "because 50 is a nice, round number."

"I found seven players who have played for me the last four years. They knew it was going to be my last season," he said.

Trine's men's golf team won the MIAA conference in the fall, but COVID-19 cut short their bid for the NCAA tournament this spring. Instead, three of the seven are returning next year thanks to extended NCAA eligibility, and will golf for new coach Noah Warren, a 2007 alumnus of the men's golf team and the golf management major.

"Noah will do a good job and the program will continue to succeed," SanGiacomo said.

SanGiacomo treasures the relationships he has built with students through the years.

"I'm still in touch with the team I coached in 1970," he said. "We play in tournaments together."

In retirement, he is working on a senior golf association and tour that will play on area courses. He plans to spend three months of the year in Florida, and looks forward to more time with his grandchildren.

"I don't want to really work, but I want to stay busy," he said.

SanGiacomo said he was involved in so much at Tri-State and Trine that he "couldn't possibly be stagnant."

"My job just kept getting better over the years," he said. "I really feel grateful to Tri-State and Trine for the diverse opportunities they've afforded me, and for the colleagues and administration I've got to work with. Trine is unique in the way it allows faculty to enjoy ways to make their jobs interesting and better." ■

Zollner stadium getting video scoreboard

A video scoreboard will further enhance the fan experience and atmosphere during home contests at Shive Field and Fred Zollner Stadium.

The LED-style video scoreboard will stand approximately 43 feet tall and 32 feet wide. The board will provide exceptional clarity and use a palette of 281 trillion colors to produce vivid, color-rich images in virtually any lighting condition from wide viewing angles.

The scoreboard was scheduled to be installed by Aug. 1. ■



GO THUNDER!

A new video scoreboard, approximately 43 feet tall and 32 feet wide, will add excitement to home contests this fall at Shive Field and Fred Zollner Stadium.

Brettnacher, Hartline earn top athlete honors

Trine University senior men's golfer Grant Brettnacher and senior softball player Makenna Hartline were honored with the top athlete awards for the Class of 2020.

Brettnacher received the Robert L. Greim Award, given to the best male athlete as voted by the Thunder Athletic Department.

Brettnacher helped lead Trine to its first MIAA Team Championship. He was tabbed the conference's Most Valuable Golfer as well as earning the MIAA Sportsmanship Award, becoming the first player to earn both honors in the same year in MIAA history.

Hartline received the Cheryl L. Coons Award, given to the senior female student-athlete who best embodies the qualities of leadership, character, citizenship, scholarship and the spirit of true competition.

Hartline leaves Trine as one of the best to take the softball diamond for the Thunder. She has been named NFCA All-Region three straight times, the first two as second-team selections before being named first-team in 2019.

At the conference level, she has been a first-team selection for the last two seasons. In 2019 she led the Thunder to an MIAA championship and was named Position Player of the Year for her outstanding play. ■



Katy Steers drives to the basket against Benedictine (Illinois) in the NCAA tournament.



Brettnacher



Hartline

Women's basketball advances to Sweet 16

The Trine University women's basketball team ended the 2019-20 season with a mark of 23-6, reaching the MIAA Tournament title game for the fifth consecutive year. The Thunder also made a fourth-straight trip to the NCAA Division III Tournament and advanced to the Sweet 16 round for the second time since joining the NCAA. The Thunder notched victories over Benedictine (Illinois) and the University of Redlands (California) before the season and the tournament were canceled due to national health concerns.

Three players earned All-MIAA honors, including Tara Bieniewicz and Katy Steers, who were first-team selections. Kayla Wildman was recognized as a second-team pick. In addition, Bieniewicz went on to earn All-Great Lakes Region honors from D3hoops.com. ■



Bieniewicz



Wildman



Track and field excels in season cut short

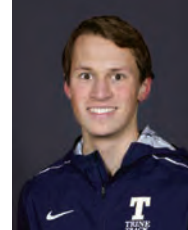
In a shortened 2019-20 season that was limited to the indoor schedule, the men's indoor track and field team captured its second MIAA Indoor Championship, with event champions in Josh Davis in the 60-meter dash, Derek Miller in the 3000-meter run and Jake Gladieux in the 60-meter hurdles. All three earned All-MIAA honors, and Vilis Vuskalns, Mitchell Martin and Jack Beakas went on to earn All-Region honors.

The Trine women's track and field team placed third at the MIAA Indoor Meet and captured a total of six events; five individual and one relay. Evie Bultemeyer won three individual events (400-meter dash, 800-meter run and mile run) and was a member of the winning relay team in the 4x400-meter along with teammates Stephanie Hartpence, Chloe Brittain and Amira Faulkner.

In the field events, Valerie Obear won the weight throw and Autumn Presley won the pole vault. All of them garnered All-Conference honors, and Bultemeyer was named the MIAA Most Valuable Track Athlete for the second straight season.

Bultemeyer and Obear went on to earn All-Region accolades and Bultemeyer was named the Great Lakes Region Athlete of the Year. She and Obear also qualified for the NCAA Division III Championship, as Bultemeyer posted the top overall qualifying time in the nation in the mile run and Obear had the 16th-best mark nationally in the weight throw.

The national meet was canceled due to health restrictions. Athletes were later granted All-American status in their respective events ■.



Beakas



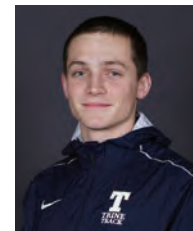
Brittain



Davis



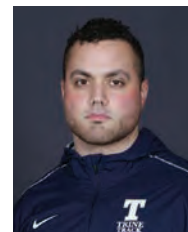
Faulkner



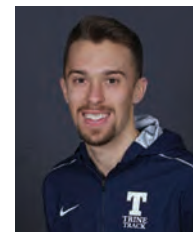
Gladieux



Hartpence



Martin



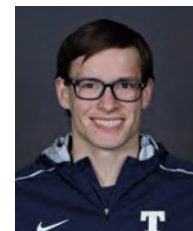
Miller



Obear



Presley



Vuskains



Johnson



Hunter

Two men's basketball players earn All-MIAA honors

The men's basketball team finished 16-12 overall in 2019-20, with an 8-6 conference mark. The Thunder qualified for the MIAA Tournament for the 16th straight year and advanced to the title game for the third time in the last five seasons. Seniors Langston Johnson and Maurice Hunter earned All-MIAA honors.

Johnson was a first-team selection and led the team in scoring (18.0 points per game), field goals made (191), field goal attempts (439) and free throws, with 69 made attempts in 91 total shots. He also became the 46th player in school history to score 1,000 points or more and the sixth in the past nine seasons to accomplish the feat.

Hunter became a two-time All-Conference award winner in his career with his second second-team recognition (second-team All-MIAA in 2017-18). He led the team in rebounding (5.5 rebounds per game), blocks (28) and field goal percentage (53.0 percent). ■

season recaps



Wrestling ties for 2nd in conference

Wrestling capped its 2019-20 season with a 14th place finish in the NCAA Division III Central Regional Meet and was part of a three-way tie for second in the MIAA. At NCAA regionals, Trine had two place: seniors Luke Carver and Nick Miller. Carver was sixth overall in the 184-pound bracket and Miller was seventh in the 174-pound bracket.

Carver ended his career with a 78-43 mark with 31 pinfalls, 21 technical falls, eight major decisions and 14 decisions. His tech falls rank as the program's all-time best and his win percentage (.645) ranks in the top 10.

Miller posted a 42-45 record during his four-year career. He earned Scholar All-American honors from the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) during his time at Trine. ■



Miller



Carver

Men's NCAA hockey makes postseason

The Trine University men's hockey team finished its Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA) slate at 10-7-3, good enough to enter postseason as the three-seed in the NCHA's south division. The team went on to defeat nationally ranked Lake Forest College, advancing to the semifinals where the Thunder came up just short of another nationally ranked opponent, Adrian College.

Two team members received end-of-year accolades from the NCHA: senior goalie Brett Young and freshman defender Brad Jenion. ■



Jenion

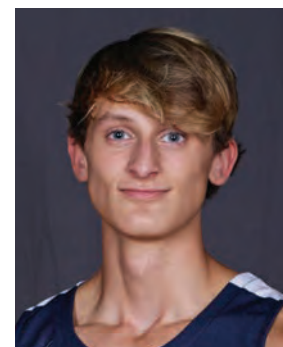


Young

Beale earns Rookie of the Year, conference honors

Freshman Parker Beale highlighted the second season of competition in NCAA Division III and the Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League (MCVL) for Trine's men's volleyball team, earning MCVL Rookie of the Year in addition to first-team All-Conference honors. He is the first Trine player to earn such honors.

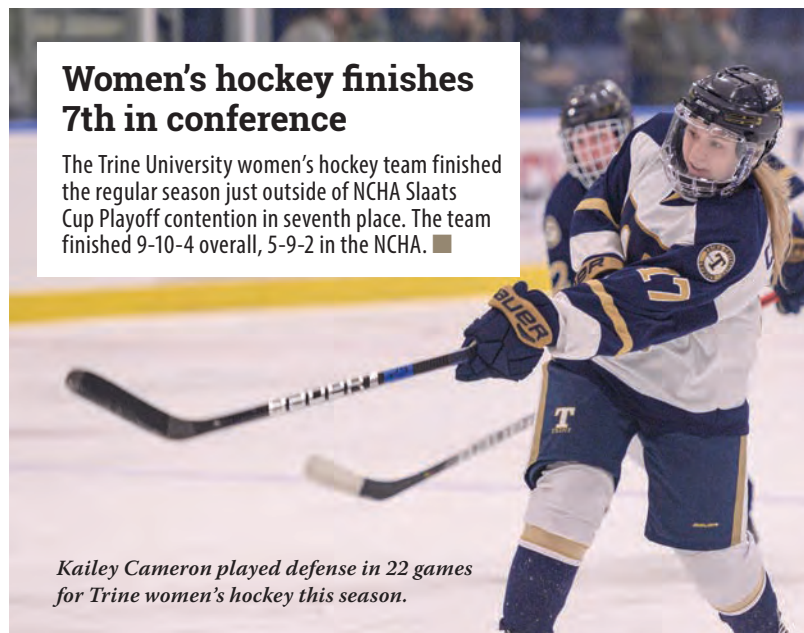
Beale led the team in kills with 164 and averaged 2.88 kills per set. He posted nine matches with 10 or more kills and had a season-high 23 kills in a five-set contest against Hiram (Ohio) College in February. ■



Beale

Women's hockey finishes 7th in conference

The Trine University women's hockey team finished the regular season just outside of NCHA Slaats Cup Playoff contention in seventh place. The team finished 9-10-4 overall, 5-9-2 in the NCHA. ■



Kailey Cameron played defense in 22 games for Trine women's hockey this season.

Skating programs see more success in second season

The Trine University synchronized and figure skating programs continued their impressive growth in their second season.

The figure skating portion of the team competed in a fuller slate of contests and brought home a respectable number of podium finishes. The team also finished fourth overall at the season-opening Red Brick Classic. The collegiate-level synchro team finished the season with a trip to the 2020 United States Synchronized Skating National Championships. ■



BE A HERO FOR STUDENTS LIKE CARLOS

NAME:
Carlos Coeto Espidio

MAJOR:
Golf Management

HOMETOWN:
**San Luis Potosi,
Mexico**

What are your future plans?

I graduated in May and plan on staying at Trine one more year to complete my MBA. I then hope to find a job in the golf industry in Florida. I had never seen snow before coming to Trine. It was amazing, but I think I have seen enough of it now!

What has been the best part of studying at Trine?

My professors care about me and know me. They have helped me in and out of the classroom and are the reason I can now study for my MBA. They have given me opportunities I could not have imagined back in Mexico. I have had three internships in my field, which have prepared me well for my future career.

What would you say to the donors who give to Trine's scholarship fund?

Thank you for the opportunities and for caring for someone you have never met. Your investment has changed my life. My dreams have all come true because I got scholarships to come to Trine. The opportunities I have are beyond my family's wildest dreams. I also know now how important it is to give back to Trine, and I can't wait to do the same for a student in the future.

To learn more about students like Carlos whom your gift will impact, visit trine.edu/beahero

YOU CAN BE A
HERO

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Your gift to the Trine scholarship fund provides students an education and the promise of a bright future. There are several easy ways to make a difference.

1. **Make a gift of any size to the fund.** Your gift will immediately be put to work to help a student.
2. **Give \$1,500 to create a named annual scholarship.** Your entire gift will be given to a student in your name or in the name of someone you choose to honor.
3. **Make a difference forever with an endowed scholarship.** With your gift of \$30,000 — all at once, over five years or through your estate — a Trine student will receive a scholarship from you every year.

More than ever, students are relying on Trine community support to help them get back in the classroom. Join the hundreds who have discovered how rewarding it is to change a life.

Read more
on Page 35!

For more information contact **Lisa Maxwell-Frieden**,
vice president for alumni and development,
(260) 665-4310, FriedenL@trine.edu