

THE MAGAZINE OF TRINE UNIVERSITY

# TRINE

FALL 2023

**Meet John Shannon,  
Trine's 17th president**

- SEE PAGE 26





Trine University's new Best Hall expansion, which opened this fall, offers a striking view to those driving past the university on U.S. 20. Read more on page 8.





# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Though I'm only a few months into my presidency, I'm extremely happy and encouraged by all that Trine University and our students, faculty, staff and alumni have already accomplished. These are truly historic times, and I'm excited for the opportunity to share the many good things happening here at Trine.

In this issue of Trine magazine, you'll read how our enrollment has risen 50% over the past year and more than doubled since 2021. This is a testament to our focus on meeting students where they are at and equipping them with the knowledge, skills and practical experience to lead, succeed and serve.

A shining example of the excellence we are achieving is our softball team's outstanding season; they won Trine's first NCAA Division III national title earlier this year. This issue includes an in-depth look at the path the Thunder softball team took to earn this incredible achievement.

You'll also learn about a new partnership between Trine University and the Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division. This exciting opportunity is giving Trine students real-world experience in artificial intelligence and vessel design while developing technologies that could assist our Navy in disrupting drug trafficking.

Furthermore, you'll read about the impact our Thunder Ice Arena has had on the community, and see photos from Homecoming as well as coverage from my Inauguration ceremony and the dedication of the new Best Hall expansion.

I'm also excited to let you know more about me as I settle into my leadership role here at Trine. In this magazine, you'll read about my experience, philosophy, family and plans for the future of our institution.

There is much more than we can cover in printed pages. I, or a member of our Advancement staff, would love to meet with you personally to share more about the impact Trine University is having on our students, community, nation and world. Please reach out to let us know a time when we can share the story of this great institution in more detail with you.

Sincerely,

  
John Shannon, Ph.D.  
Trine University President



**6** Record enrollment

**22** Dr. John Shannon inauguration

**40** Softball wins national title

**20**  
Homecoming

**16** Campus News  
**31** Class Notes  
**39** Thunder's Final Roll  
**44** Eye on the Storm

THE MAGAZINE OF TRINE UNIVERSITY  
**TRINE**

#### Publisher

Trine University, Angola, Indiana, [trine.edu](http://trine.edu)  
This magazine is published twice yearly by  
University Marketing and Communications.

#### Editor-In-Chief and Chief Copy Writer

James Tew, 2019 MSL

#### Contributors

John Clampitt, Communication '26  
Lydia Roop, English '24

#### Art Directors

Travis Bowersock  
Steve Faramelli

#### Project Coordinators

Brooklynn Gravel, 2023 BACOM  
Lily Walker, 2022 BSMKT

#### Photographer

Dean Orewiler

#### Sports Information

Nicholas Duffy  
Hannah Gaerte  
Matthew Kennell

#### Send class notes and address changes to:

Office of University Advancement  
260.665.4114  
[alumni@trine.edu](mailto:alumni@trine.edu)

#### Social Media Communities

[trine.edu/socialmedia](http://trine.edu/socialmedia)

#### University Administration

##### President

John Shannon, Ph.D. | [shannonj@trine.edu](mailto:shannonj@trine.edu)

##### Vice President for Enrollment Management

Kimberly Bennett | [bennettk@trine.edu](mailto:bennettk@trine.edu)

##### Vice President of Online and International Studies

Kiersten Eberts, 2014 BSPSY / 2015 MSL | [ebertsk@trine.edu](mailto:ebertsk@trine.edu)

##### Vice President for Academic Affairs

Anthony Kline, Ph.D. | [klinea@trine.edu](mailto:klinea@trine.edu)

##### Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Gretchen M. Miller | [millerg@trine.edu](mailto:millerg@trine.edu)

##### Vice President for Student Affairs

Cisco Ortiz, 1999 BSCJ | [ortizf@trine.edu](mailto:ortizf@trine.edu)

##### Vice President for University

##### Marketing and Communications

Rachel Troutman, 2009 BACOM | [troutmanr@trine.edu](mailto:troutmanr@trine.edu)

##### Vice President for Finance

Kayla Warren, 2006 BSBA | [warrenk@trine.edu](mailto:warrenk@trine.edu)

#### Board of Trustees

Rick L. James – Chairman • Keith E. Busse – Vice Chair  
Lynn A. Brooks – Treasurer • Elizabeth F. Rooney – Secretary  
Jerry L. Allen • Michael D. Axel • William D. Dubois  
Kenneth R. Ehinger • Michael J. Eikenberry • James P. Fabiani  
David M. Findlay • Lawrence A. Franks • Tomas Furth  
Timothy J. Haffner • Andrew Hein • Rick Henvey  
Joe Jordan • Mark Music • Richard L. Oeder  
Derek S. Reiners • Larry E. Reiners • Jason Stechschulte  
Jeff Turner • Keith M. Turner • Theresa E. Wagler

#### Trustees Emeriti

James D. Bock • Lou Holtz • Dennis Kruse  
Stephen R. LaHood • Gary L. Ray • Richard A. Rosenthal  
Clifford D. Ryan • Jack A. Shaw • Ralph D. Trine • Sheri G. Trine

Please visit [trine.edu/magazine](http://trine.edu/magazine)  
to download a digital version of  
Trine Magazine.





# Trine enrollment jumps more than 50% for 2nd straight year



For the second year in a row, Trine University has experienced a more than 50 percent increase in its official fall enrollment numbers.

Trine has more than 13,000 students enrolled throughout its campuses, education centers and online, compared to 8,446 recorded in the fall 2022 headcount and 5,392 in fall 2021.

“Trine University’s academic programs are designed to equip students with the skills they need to succeed, lead and serve. Our continued growth demonstrates that we are doing just that,” said John Shannon, Ph.D., Trine University president. “We look forward to continued expansion by meeting the needs of our students as well as business and industry.”

The university enrolled a record 2,425 students at its Angola campus this fall, including a record class of more than 750 new students.

Trine also retained more than 85% of its fall 2022 freshman class.

“We’re pleased that an increasing number of Trine University students like what they experience,” said Kim Bennett, vice president for enrollment management. “We’re always looking for ways to improve our campus amenities as well as our academic programs to give Trine students the best college experience possible.”

“

***We look forward to continued expansion by meeting the needs of our students as well as business and industry.”*** - John Shannon, Ph.D., Trine University president

To accommodate increased growth in its Rinker-Ross School of Health Sciences, Trine University opened a 36,000-square-foot expansion to Best Hall this semester. Work also continues on the 110,000-square-foot Brooks College of Health Professions facility in Fort Wayne, which will house Trine’s health professions programs.

The total also includes more than 7,500 hybrid students enrolled in graduate programs in Detroit and Phoenix. Trine will further expand those programs with the opening of an education in Reston, Virginia, last month.



Trine University students and faculty worked with the Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division over the summer to develop prototype vessels that could be controlled by artificial intelligence for a variety of missions, including intercepting illegal drug shipments.

The partnership came about thanks to a \$5 million funding addition championed by Congressman Jim Banks (IN-3).

“I was proud to help secure funding for this important partnership between Trine University and Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division,” said Banks. “This investment will further strengthen our maritime security efforts and ensures Northeast Indiana remains a leader in defense innovation.”

The effort is part of the U.S. Navy’s overall Artificial Intelligence for Maritime Maneuver (AIMM) program.

The unique partnership, funded by the Office of Naval Research (ONR), focuses on two separate efforts, an artificial intelligence training simulator and a Low Profile Vessel (LPV). Overall, AIMM works to provide a low-cost, easy-to-build, LPV that can be made fully autonomous to perform functions such as supply delivery and stealth and location missions.

The initial goal of the program is to intercept illegal drug shipments.

#### **Practical experience, societal impact**

The AI training simulator will run for 18 months, focusing on swarming technology and collaborative autonomy, incorporating the individual AI into a virtual environment. The

## US Navy partners with Trine University on AI project

LPV effort will build a 12-foot vessel with sensor packages, working to develop a fully autonomous LPV.

The AIMM partnership offers a unique opportunity to research and develop advanced autonomous robotic delivery systems for maritime platforms. The grant funded 14 students split working on both AI and the LPV over the summer, and eight faculty and staff overseeing the research, with research continuing through the school year.

“A key part of education at Trine is providing our students, particularly our engineering and computing majors, practical experience on real-world projects,” said Jason Blume, assistant vice president of Innovation One. “It’s a bonus when those projects also have the potential to make such a positive impact on our society.”

The grant has allowed Trine University to purchase state-of-the-art equipment that will be used in design, building and testing processes throughout the project. This includes a large-scale 3D and metal 3D printer, a water tunnel and particle image velocimetry equipment to perform precise measurements.

#### **Naval Academy collaboration**

The collaboration also involved midshipmen from the United States Naval Academy (USNA) who participated in an internship program. They visited NSWC Crane for three weeks to learn more about warfare centers and assist with the AIMM effort.

During the internship, they spent three days at Trine University and collaborated with the Trine students.

“The best part of the visit to Trine University was getting the hands-on experience of helping with the LPV build. Both the build and AI team were open to our input, and the staff treated us as if we were a part of the Trine family,” said USNA Midshipman Will Robinson.

“Hosting the Naval Academy midshipmen allowed us to put a human face on this project and see those who may benefit from the systems we are developing. There was an immediate camaraderie between these future officers and future civilian engineers, and it was great to



see the collaboration between them as we work together toward a common goal,” said Blume.

Students at Trine University not only saw the value in the collaboration, but got to meet the warfighters who might use their products in the future.

“From the visit I was able to take an understanding of the people that our project will aid in making their job easier and potentially safer,” said Mason Bledsoe, extended reality major.

The AIMM effort will climax with the Artificial Intelligence Maritime Maneuver Indiana Collegiate Challenge (AIMM ICC) scheduled to take place in April 2024. Universities across Indiana will have the opportunity to compete and demonstrate the ability to make a fully autonomous LPV with object detection and identification.

The cooperative effort between Trine University and NSWC Crane builds on existing partnerships that have spanned several years. Over the years, the two have entered into Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs) that allow for sharing of critical information, allowing university senior design teams to complete multiple projects for Crane.



# University dedicates Best Hall expansion

Trine University kicked off its Homecoming weekend by dedicating its latest expansion to Best Hall, with trustees, employees, students and others gathering outside the building for the event on Oct. 6.

“Our phenomenal growth in the past few years has once again created the need for an expansion of our academic programs, facilities and labs to meet our flourishing needs,” Trine University President John Shannon, Ph.D., said in welcoming those in attendance.

The more-than-36,000-square-foot, three-story addition, completed for less than its \$16 million budget, features offices and classrooms, including six specialized laboratories, as well as collaborative learning space. Its striking interior

murals and the university seal on the center of the building are visible to those driving by campus on U.S. 20.

The expansion, the second since Best Hall was constructed in 1967, will help accommodate overall growth in the university as well as significant growth in Trine’s Rinker-Ross School of Health Sciences, which is housed in the building.

Best Hall also will be home to Trine’s Associate of Science in Nursing program, which will launch in January in partnership with Cameron Memorial Community Hospital.

Dr. Shannon offered special thanks to several university employees and teams for their work on the building, as well as to JICI Construction and Ken Wilson, the company’s president.

“If you look across campus, (JICI has) completed tremendous work, and we appreciate their partnership in their building of remarkable facilities,” he said.

Dr. Shannon also thanked the university’s Board of Trustees for their leadership and support, and offered special recognition to the Olive B. Cole Foundation, the Hayner Foundation and Dolores Tichenor, Ph.D., for their financial support.

Dr. Shannon said the Olive B. Cole Foundation, represented by its president, Emily Pichon, has not only supported Best Hall but the Steel Dynamics Inc. Center for Engineering and Computing, the Northeastern Indiana Tri-State Regional Science Fair, laboratory equipment, the Bock Center for Innovation and Biomedical Engineering, and student scholarships.

The Hayner Foundation, established in 1966 by John and Mary Hayner, longtime residents of Fort Wayne, supports a variety of religious, charitable and educational purposes.

Drs. Don and Dolores Tichenor were fixtures at Tri-State and Trine universities for many years. Don Tichenor, a 1958 mechanical engineering alumnus, taught mathematics and mechanical engineering courses from 1962 until his death in 1993. Dolores, who said she remembered when the original Best Hall opened, taught mathematics from 1967 until 2010.

“We can’t thank you enough for your friendship and support, and for being with us today,” Dr. Shannon said to Dolores Tichenor.

“Thank you all for your involvement and most importantly, your enthusiasm and support for Trine University,” Dr. Shannon said in closing.



**John Shannon, Ph.D., speaks to those in attendance at the dedication of the university’s latest expansion to Best Hall.**

“We are so fortunate and blessed because of all of you who are here today. We thank you for your time, dedication and support, which contributes so much to the success of Trine University and our current and future students.”





# Thunder Ice Arena's impact on community, athletics growing



In the six years since its opening, Trine University's Thunder Ice Arena has already served thousands of youth and college students, with its impact on the local community as well as the sports of hockey and skating continuing to grow.

Nearly 3,000 children and youth have participated in the facility's programs over the past four years, including nearly 1,000 last year alone. Trine had more than 300 students from 11 states in its skating and hockey camps this summer.

"It's increased every year," said John Mihalik, youth program director and assistant rink manager for the Thunder Ice Arena.

The arena recently graduated its first class of Angola High School hockey players who have spent all four years in that program. Three of those graduates are moving on to college- and junior-level hockey, including David Ernst, who will play at Trine.

University alumni are also making their presence known in the hockey and skating world as professional athletes, coaches and facility managers.

Trine's Brad Jenion and Garrett Hallford are playing in the Southern Professional Hockey League, Jenion with the Fayetteville Marksmen and Hallford with the Macon Mayhem.

Chris Garrity, an NCAA hockey player at Trine, was head coach of the Angola High School team and now serves as the head coach for the university's ACHA D3 team. Another NCAA

player, Max DiCiccio, is now head coach for the Angola High School team.

Brenden Lambert, a student coach at the ice arena and an ACHA D2 player at Trine, is director of hockey operations at The Ice Box Skating Rink in South Bend.

Zakareya Yousef, who was part of Trine's synchronized skating team, is serving as an intern at Miami University's rink.

## Athletes first

Opened in fall 2017, Trine University's 46,200-square-foot, 700-seat Thunder Ice Arena has expanded the university's community presence from its inception, hosting not only Trine and youth hockey teams but skating and hockey classes and open skating.

In addition to the beautiful facility, Mihalik attributed the growth and success of the arena's programming to an athlete-first culture.

"Everything we do is for the best interest of the athlete," he said. "In our house leagues, we're focusing on the kids having fun, we're focusing on the development of ice skills and skating, and we're focusing on making sure that they leave here better than they were."

Mihalik also credits the coaches, both parents and Trine students.

"The program has a good mix," he said. "I've got about 10 student coaches that I'll hire who are athletes here. And then we have the parent coaches. They're always helping out and the combination is unbelievable."

The arena does not offer a travel hockey team, but sends many players on to those teams, Mihalik said.

"A lot of families want to play travel hockey, so we develop players and then a lot of them go and play in Fort Wayne," he said. "We enjoy their presence here and they appreciate everything we've done, but if we can get them to that next level, that's the goal."

The Angola High School team plays in a junior varsity league based in South Bend, facing teams from Indianapolis to Michigan.

"They've come a long way," Mihalik said of the program.

## Life lessons, relationships

Mihalik said it's rewarding to see the growth in the ice arena's programming. He sees sport as a vehicle for kids to learn life lessons.

He also enjoys seeing the relationships develop between Trine student coaches and the youth in the program.

"We have some great athletes who are coaching, who maybe want to do that in the future, and it's good leadership for them," he said. "And then the kids look up to them."

Often, he said, families involved in the programs come to Trine hockey games or skating competitions to cheer their coaches on.

Moving forward, Mihalik said he hopes to see the university continue to build on its youth programming, particularly in areas such as figure skating.

For more information on Thunder Ice Arena programs, visit [thundericearena.com](http://thundericearena.com) or follow Thunder Ice Arena on Facebook or Instagram.



## Dreams come true: Adrienne Rosey's Nike internship followed national championship

By John Clampitt, Communications '26



Adrienne Rosey got to live two dreams this past summer.

The design engineering technology major from Schoolcraft, Michigan, won a national championship with Trine University's softball team, then boarded a plane the next day for an internship at Nike headquarters in Beaverton, Oregon.

Rosey has dreamed of working at Nike since she was 17. She discovered her passion in a public speaking class while researching a presentation about her dream job in product design and engineering.

### 'Hard for me to breathe'

It was a surreal experience when she first arrived at Nike.

"When I saw the huge Nike signs at the entrance it was honestly pretty hard for me to breathe," she said. "The world campus is huge, there's a big pond in the center and all the buildings surround it."

During her internship, Rosey worked at Nike Air Manufacturing Innovation, where the company develops the air components featured in some of their shoes.

"They call them 'air bags' and they're what you see when there's an air bubble in the sole of your shoe," Rosey said. Her main project was when Nike's skateboarding (SB) team asked for an air bag made specifically for a new shoe they were developing.

"I was the project manager, and we sent out 100 samples to the SB team so they could do wear testing on the shoes with those air components in them," she said.

For the other half of her internship, Rosey was networking with big shoe designers Tinker Hatfield and Dave Forland, among others.

### Flourishing at Trine

Rosey chose Trine because the design engineering technology program is very similar to product design, and because Trine's softball team is elite.

The Society for Women Engineers (SWE) really allowed her to flourish.

"Every year, there is a SWE career fair and conference hosted somewhere in the United

States. I have been two years in a row, and Trine was able to fund the trip both times," she said. "I hope more women here

studying engineering will take advantage of that conference. That is where most of the women engineering interns I met at Nike got their job."

With her background as a softball pitcher, she would love to design softball cleats for women.

"There is a ton of room for improvement for cleat design in both baseball and softball, and I would love to be able to help make strides forward in the industry," she said. "I'm currently working on getting my MBA through Trine as well, in case I want to start my own company someday."





# Celebrating July 4: Trine student gives back with 247 holes of golf



While many Americans geared up for July 4 by buying food to grill or fireworks, Trine University student Nicholas Coccaro was preparing to play golf.

## A lot of golf.

The golf management major from Palos Park, Illinois, played 247 holes of golf on July 4 — one for each year of the United States’ independence — to raise money for an organization that provides scholarships to children of fallen or disabled veterans.



## Dream internship

Nick interned this summer at the Pete Dye Course at French Lick, part of the French Lick Resort in French Lick, Indiana.

“I originally came down here for a golf trip in 2019 and fell in love with the course,” he said.

While looking for a summer internship he asked Cat Benson, dean of the Ketner School of Business, if an internship at Pete Dye might be possible. Benson put him in contact with Dave Harner, director of golf operations at the resort.

“I came down and interviewed here right after Christmas,” he said. “I couldn’t turn down a course like this.”

## Celebrating independence

When Nick floated the idea of playing 247 holes to celebrate the years of independence since 1776, Harner suggested making it a charitable event.

“I chose Folds of Honor because I had the pleasure to caddy for and play golf with Lt. Col. Dan Rooney, the founder and CEO,” Nick said. “It was easily the coolest round of golf I have ever played. I really love what he has done for the families of our late soldiers.”

He had played enough golf at Pete Dye this summer that he didn’t feel he needed any special preparation.

“The only thing I did to prepare was buy some light-up golf balls because I wasn’t sure how long it was going to take me to play all that golf, and I bought a bunch of Gatorade to help stay hydrated,” he said.

He said the staff at the course thought he was “crazy” to make the attempt, which gave him more motivation to follow through.

“But they were all very supportive and made sure I was supplied with water, food and fresh carts all day,” he said.

## 14 hours of golf

Nick teed off July 4 at 6 a.m.

“When I started, all I was doing was just playing golf,” he said. “I just got into a zone and those first seven rounds went by very quickly.”

Two hundred forty-seven holes later, Nick finished at 8:05 p.m. He said it was a rewarding feeling.



**Trine University Student Nicholas Coccaro played 247 holes of golf on July 4 as a fundraiser. In the photo at left, he prepares to tee off at 6 a.m. with a lit ball.**

“I had my family out there with me and some others as well that celebrated with me on the final hole,” he said.

His tally for the day was 1,061 strokes, with 29 birdies and one eagle throughout the day. His low round was 69, with a high round of 85.

The effort brought in more than \$5,000 for Folds of Honor.

# TRINE STUDENT PROJECT CAPS OFF CLC STAIRWAY RENOVATION

When the Community Learning Center in Kendallville needed replacement parts for stair rails built in 1915, the organization turned to Trine University and its students for a solution.

Trine students designed and fabricated replacement newel post caps for the rails in the CLC building.

## From high school to community center

The building that today is the Community Learning Center served as a high school, elementary school and middle school, then closed in 2018. An organization formed with the goal of saving and revitalizing the building, and meeting other community needs.

The building has undergone extensive renovation. Part of that effort has included restoring stairways to their original glory.

However, over the past century-plus, the caps for the newel posts had disappeared or been replaced with caps that weren’t as ornate as the originals.

## Working together

Seth Boszor, facilities director for the CLC, discussed the issue with Jason Blume, assistant vice president for Innovation One. In addition to being an East Noble alumnus, Blume plays pickleball regularly in the CLC’s gymnasium.

“It’s always exciting to assist area organizations and give our students a chance to gain real-world experience, but rarely do I get the opportunity to help something that’s played such an important part in my own history,” Blume said.

Madelyn Summers, who graduated from Trine in May with a mechanical engineering degree, was introduced to the project through her Metallurgy class with Darryl Webber, Ph.D., chair of Trine’s Wade Department of Mechanical and

Aerospace Engineering. The class designed a CAD model to create a 3D print using a surviving original post cap as a model.

Once printed, the model was used to create a matchplate for a sand mold.

Summers is from Kendallville and attended school in the building. Her great-grandparents attended when it was Kendallville High School, and her father worked maintenance there.

“It kind of felt unreal to be doing work for my old middle school,” Summers said. “I thought once I went to college, I was going to be done with everything from back home.”

## Finished product

Trevor Towghi, who will complete his mechanical engineering degree at Trine in December, worked with the post caps for his senior design project.

His team designed 3D models, printed them in Trine’s makerspace and poured aluminum into molds in Trine’s foundry lab. They also machined, polished and fastened the parts.

“Finishing the first post cap was a relief because it took about 10 hours to make with casting and machining,” he said.

Boszor said overall, “the finished product looks great. We are so appreciative of the work and effort that these students have put into our old building; helping us restore this little piece of local history.”

**From left, Jason Blume, assistant vice president of Innovation One, Trevor Towghi and Madelyn Summers. Towghi is leaning on one of the newel post caps designed and manufactured by Trine students.**



# Trine degree allowed McDonald to advance to executive role

David McDonald had worked as a maintenance technician and electrician, but at age 27, he wanted something more.

“I knew to have the opportunity to continue on a path toward leadership and more financial freedom, I would need a four-year degree from a reputable university,” he said. “Additionally, I was motivated by wanting to be the first in my family, and one of very few in my extended family, to graduate from college and set the path for others to follow.”

David enrolled in what at the time was Trine University’s School of Professional Studies.

### Delicate balance

It was a challenging time in his life, as he had to balance full-time work and classes with raising his young son as a single father.

During his four years at Trine, he married his wife Emily and the two welcomed a daughter. He credits Emily with being a driving force in helping stay focused on his degree program.

“I pushed through it and never gave up, knowing the better life that was in store for my son and new family I was building,” he said.

He completed two degrees, straddling a pivotal time in the university’s history: His business management degree in 2008 came from Tri-State University and his human resources degree in 2009 came from Trine University.

“Being able to share that experience with my family and friends was one of the greatest feelings and accomplishments I have ever experienced. I will never forget walking across the stage and hearing them cheer,” he recalled.

### Up the ladder

After graduation he worked in the Career Services department at Trine for four years. His presentations included sharing his own story with SPS students.

He also received mentorship from Trine’s human resources department and went on to earn PHR certification.

He left Trine to pursue sales and customer service experience, seeking to round out his skills as he prepared for a senior leadership role.

“I was employed for a few years as a manager in manufacturing, including a Tier 1 automotive supplier,” he said. “Then, I became a plant manager in the printing and converting industry for several years.”

Today, David serves as director of operations for an environmental testing laboratory in Virginia.

“Without Trine, I would probably still be stuck with no career goals or path,” he said. “Obtaining my degree was instrumental in my ability to move up the career ladder with each role I pursued, and it allowed me the chance to gain expert-level experiences. Without the degree, those opportunities would have never been available to me.”



“Without Trine, I would probably still be stuck with no career goals or path..” - David McDonald

David McDonald, left, credits his Trine degrees with helping propel him to a successful career.

## DID YOU KNOW

Trine offers seven fully online graduate programs?

### CHOOSE FROM:

Master of  
**BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

Master of Science in  
**BUSINESS ANALYTICS**

Master of Science  
with a major in  
**CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Master of Science in  
**ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT**

Master of Science in  
**INFORMATION STUDIES**

Lou Holtz Master of Science in  
**ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

Doctorate of  
**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

TRINE UNIVERSITY  
**TRINEONLINE**

- TrineOnline offers **100% online career-focused master’s degrees** built on the academic strength and prestige of Trine University.
- Our **convenient, highly affordable program** lets you complete your degree on your own time.
- Our **eight-week courses** have no set class times, so you can log in whenever it works best for you.

Master’s degrees can be completed in a year or less!

**TRINEONLINE**

LEARN MORE: 877-701-3343 | [ONLINE@TRINE.EDU](mailto:ONLINE@TRINE.EDU) | [TRINE.EDU/ONLINE](https://trine.edu/online)



Miller named senior vice president, COO at Trine

Trine University has promoted **Gretchen Miller** to the new role of senior vice president and chief operating officer.

Miller, who has been with the university since 2011, most recently served the university as vice president for administration and chief of staff.

In her new role, Miller will lead or assist in the management of day-to-day operations at Trine University. She will continue her participation with senior officials in institutional planning, including property acquisition and large capital construction efforts on the Angola campus. She also will continue to play a role in policy development and problem resolution.

She will serve as President John Shannon, Ph.D.'s, primary liaison with the university, government and/or community leadership. She also will continue to serve as chief aide and liaison to the University Board of Trustees.

She will serve as the university's chief development officer, overseeing and leading the Office of University Advancement. In addition, she will continue her oversight of Trine Innovation One, which includes Career Services and the Trine Center for Technical Training, and leadership of the university's camps, conferences and events team, including the T. Furth Center for Performing Arts.

Miller joined Trine University as director of alumni relations and events before becoming chief of staff and assistant to the president in 2012.



Gretchen Miller

Eberts named VP for online, international studies at Trine

Recognizing the dramatic growth of its online and international programs, Trine University has promoted **Keirsten Eberts** to the new role of vice president of online and international studies.

In her new role, Eberts will serve on the university's Cabinet, providing leadership and vision for the operations of the College of Graduate and Professional Studies/TrineOnline and the Office of International Services.

Eberts previously served as associate vice president and dean of the College of Graduate and Professional Studies and Office of International Services.

Under her leadership, enrollment in online and international programs at Trine University has grown to more than 7,500 students.

A staff member at Trine since 2013, Eberts has served the university in roles with increasing responsibility, including enrollment specialist, senior director of the Angola Education Center, senior director of global partnerships and assistant vice president and dean of academics for TrineOnline.

Eberts graduated from Trine University with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology in 2014 and a Master of Science in leadership in 2015.



Keirsten Eberts



Darrin Wilcox, Ph.D.

Wilcox named dean for Jannen

Trine University has named **Darrin Wilcox, Ph.D.**, as the new dean of its Jannen School of Arts and Sciences.

Wilcox has been an assistant professor in Trine's Department of Criminal Justice since 2022. Prior to teaching at Trine, he served as an assistant professor at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas, an instructor at Central Community College in Grand Island, Nebraska, and an adjunct faculty member at Motlow State Community College in Smyrna, Tennessee.

He has 12 years of experience as a law enforcement officer.

99.5% of Trine's Class of 2023 employed

Trine University's Class of 2023 saw 99.5% of its members obtain their desired career outcome within six months of graduation.

That figure matches the employment and graduate school placement rate for Trine's Class of 2022. The placement average for Trine graduates is now more than 99% over the last 11 years.

More than 97% reported employment in their field of study.

Trine's Class of 2023 saw almost 65% of its graduates employed in Indiana, and more than 91% stay in the Midwest.



From left, Trine University biomedical engineering majors Olivia Schuller, Amy Apgar, Megan Davis and Nikki Hibler at Medtronic headquarters during the BMES Coulter College Program. The team was honored for Best Design in Pain Stimulator.

Trine biomedical engineering team awarded for design

A group of Trine University biomedical engineering majors won a top award for medical device design at a national competition over the summer.

**Amy Apgar** of Wickliffe, Ohio, **Megan Davis** of Genoa, Ohio, **Nikki Hibler** of Lafayette, Indiana, and **Olivia Schuller** of New Haven, Indiana, were honored for Best Design in Pain Stimulator at the BMES Coulter College Program, held Aug. 6-8 at Medtronic headquarters in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The event is an annual education forum and competition sponsored by the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation and the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES).

Trine is Fort Wayne's Best College for third straight year

Readers of Fort Wayne Newspapers have voted Trine University the Best College in the Greater Fort Wayne region for the third straight year.

The recognition was announced in the Sept. 30 Journal Gazette as part of the newspaper's annual Readers' Choice awards. Journal Gazette readers voted for the best in each of 260 categories.

Trine received the most votes of 12 Indiana public and private colleges nominated for the honor.



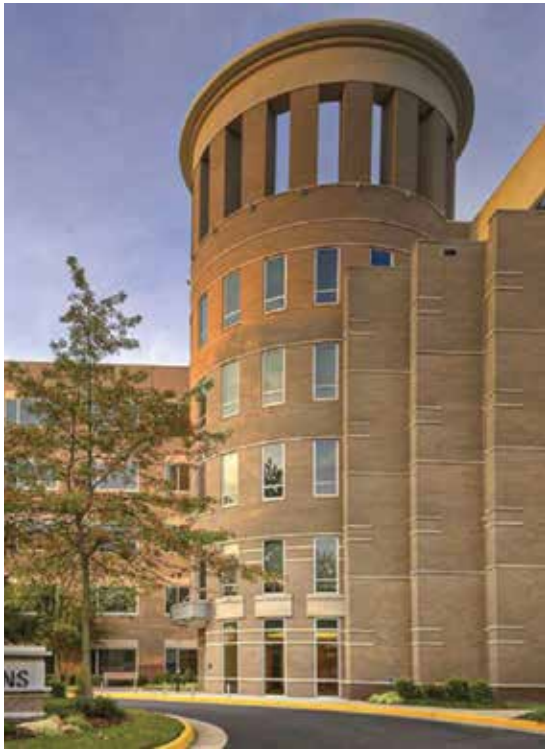
Trine offering classes at Reston, Virginia, location

Trine University has begun offering classes at its new Reston, Virginia, education center.

Located at 1881 Campus Commons Drive, the center offers four master's degrees in a hybrid format, following approval by the Higher Learning Commission, State of Virginia Council for Higher Education, and Student Exchange Visitor Program.

Trine already enrolls more than 7,000 students in similar programs offered at education centers in Detroit and Phoenix.

Reston students will be able to choose from Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Business Analytics, Master of Science in Engineering Management, and Master of Science in Information Studies degree programs. All four programs offer an optional accelerated one-year program.







*Hundreds of high school and Trine University students were able to see Indiana’s criminal justice system in action when the state Supreme Court held an oral argument in the T. Furth Center for Performing Arts on Sept. 27. The court heard from attorneys in the case of WEOC, Inc., et al. v. Niebauer, then took questions from the students in attendance.*



**Golf outing raises more than \$100,000 for student scholarships**

More than 250 golfers helped raise more than \$100,000 for Trine University student scholarships at the university’s 33rd annual Alumni & Friends Scholarship Golf Outing, held Aug. 4. Seventy teams enjoyed perfect weather on the beautiful Zollner Golf Course, with 132 golfers taking part in the morning flight and 123 participating in the afternoon. The annual golf outing benefits the Trine Fund for student scholarships, which helps deserving students earn a degree at Trine. The 34th annual outing is scheduled for Aug. 2, 2024.



*Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D.*

**Dr. Brooks inducted into Business Hall of Fame**

**Earl D. Brooks, II, Ph.D.**, Trine University chancellor, was inducted into the Greater Fort Wayne Business Hall of Fame on Sept. 21 during Junior Achievement’s Business and Education Leadership celebration.

Dr. Brooks retired May 31 after 23 years as Trine’s 16th president. His legacy includes transitioning the university from undergraduate to graduate and doctorate degree status, adding numerous fields of study, increasing student enrollment to nearly 10,000 national and international students, and the awarding of more than 40,000 degrees.

“Dr. Brooks is an inspiration to all of us who offer young people the innovative educational experiences they crave and the knowledge they can gain working with educators and mentors like Junior Achievement volunteers. Together, we are preparing young people for future success in their career fields,” said Lena Yarian, President, Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana.

**University purchases additional 43 acres from Parkview Health**

Trine University has purchased an additional 43 acres of land from Parkview Health in Fort Wayne.

The new property is adjacent to a 13-acre parcel Trine purchased from Parkview in February 2023, where the university is currently constructing its new Dr. Earl D. and Melanie Brooks College of Health Professions facility. That facility remains on pace to open in summer 2024.

The new parcel is north of the existing property and includes additional frontage on Union Chapel Road.

John Shannon, Ph.D., Trine University president, said the acquisition will allow the university the opportunity to continue to grow its health professions programs.

“It will also give us the flexibility to consider other options, such as future housing and recreational possibilities,” he said.

**Trine launching Doctor of Information Technology program**

Trine University will offer its first hybrid doctoral program, the Doctor of Information Technology, at its Detroit Education Center beginning in spring 2024.

This program focuses on incorporating information technology to address organizations’ high-level challenges. Students in the program will evaluate the latest advancements in information technology and identify real-world industry challenges.

It is Trine University’s second doctoral degree program.



*About 1,000 Trine students joined members of the Angola community for food and fun during the second annual Trine Fest in downtown Angola on Aug. 31. The event welcomed students to Angola with food trucks, a dunk tank and other activities, and giveaways and discounts from local businesses and organizations. Angola Mayor Richard Hickman also proclaimed Aug. 31 as Trine University Softball Day in honor of the team’s national championship.*



*John Shannon, Ph.D., Trine University president, shares reflections during the university’s 9/11 memorial. About 200 students and employees gathered on the 22nd anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to honor those who died.*



# Homecoming 2023: Rain can't dampen our spirit

Though rain forced some activities indoors, thousands of alumni, students, families and friends of the university still enjoyed Homecoming weekend, Oct. 6-8. A full Zollner Stadium crowd witnessed a come-from-behind 34-14 Thunder football victory over Adrian.

**Thaddeus Marcola**, a finance and marketing major from Almont, Michigan, was named Homecoming king, and **Andrea Rodeheffer**, a design engineering technology major, was named Homecoming queen.



Thunder Games winners were:

Lip Sync: Men's hockey

Tricycle Race: Alpha Sigma Tau

Dodgeball: Christian Campus House

Sidewalk Painting: SPEAK, Theta Phi Alpha and tennis

Be sure to mark your calendar for Homecoming 2024, Sept. 27-29.



## University presents awards at Touchstone

Trine University recognized accomplished individuals, including several alumni, with prestigious awards at its annual Touchstone and Homecoming Celebration Dinner on Oct. 6.

The event was held in the Keith E. Busse/Steel Dynamics Inc. Athletic and Recreation Center.

### Pillar of Success

**Chuck Nedele**, a longtime pillar in the



Angola, Indiana, community was named Pillar of Success.

Nedele's father, Roscoe, studied chemical engineering at what was then Tri-State College before enlisting and serving on a B24 bomber during World War II.

In 1975, Nedele married Tri-State College alumna and 2016 Trine University Woman of Distinction, Rita. The Nedeles have supported Thunder Athletics, the Trine Fund, Scholarship Golf Outings, the T. Furth Center for Performing Arts, the Books and Beyond Scholarship Program and the Scholarship Gala. Chuck also serves on the board of Education One, Trine University's charter school authorizing body.

### Woman of Distinction

**Debra Rhoads** received the Woman of Distinction Award.



Rhoads married Mitch, a 1966 Tri-State College graduate, in 1985. Their path would include stops for Mitch's career at Burger King Corporation and ownership of LePeep Restaurants. Debra owned and operated Palisades Office Products and later Executive Suites and Business Services in Denver, Colorado.

Mitch and Debra lived in Angola, Indiana, for more than 25 years, with Mitch serving on the Trine University Board of Trustees for 16 years. They have generously supported the Fred Zollner Athletic Stadium, the Rhoads Center for Entrepreneurship in the Ketner School of Business, the Trine Fund, the Stephen M. Elder Endowed Scholarship Fund, Scholarship Gala, Sig Cup and Mitch's Kappa Sigma Fraternity, and numerous student scholarships.

### Alumni awards

**Jennifer Sharkey**, a 2007 civil engineering alumna who lives in Angola, Indiana, was honored with the Distinguished Service Award. She has served as Lead Research Engineer for Purdue University's Indiana Local Technical Assistance Program since 2021.

**Kelly (Welty) Ferneau**, a 1990 mechanical engineering alumna, received the Outstanding Achievement Award. A Benton Harbor, Michigan, resident, she has been Site Vice President at American Electric Power's Cook Nuclear Plant since July 2022.

The Outstanding Young Alumnus/ae Award was presented to **Kayla (Cheesman) Warren, CPA**, a 2006 accounting alumna. An Angola, Indiana, resident, Warren was named Vice President of Finance at Trine University in August 2021.



### Athletics Hall of Fame

This year's inductees to the Athletics Hall of Fame were softball player **Kaitlyn (Clark) Brock**, wrestler **Mackenzie Green**, women's basketball player **Hayley Martin** and football player **Evan Wyse**.

Brock was a four-year starter. Her accolades include twice being named to National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All-Region teams, once as a first-team selection and once on the third team.

Green compiled a career record of 98-42 while qualifying for the NCAA Division III Wrestling National Championship twice.

Martin was a two-time Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) Defensive Player of the Year and a three-time All-MIAA selection, twice on first team. She was also named D3hoops.com All-Region second team in her junior season.

Wyse was a semifinalist for the Gagliardi Trophy in 2017 as well as a CoSIDA Academic All-American. He was named Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) Offensive Most Valuable Player and was selected first team All-MIAA.



Kaitlyn Brock



Mackenzie Green



Hayley Martin



Evan Wyse



# Trine University inaugurates Dr. John Shannon as 17th president

In a ceremony that highlighted relationships with the community, employees, students and even family, Trine University inaugurated a new president for only the 17th time in its 139-year history.

**John Shannon, Ph.D.**, who took office June 1, was officially installed Saturday, Oct. 7, in the T. Furth Center for Performing Arts.

In addition to Dr. Shannon, the crowd of several hundred people in attendance heard from local government and representatives of Trine faculty, staff, students and the Board of Trustees.

They even heard instrumental music by Dr. Shannon's children, Anya and Aidan, and some of their Angola High School classmates, performing in honor of Dr. Shannon's new role.

#### **City, faculty and staff**

Richard Hickman, mayor of the City of Angola, thanked Dr. Shannon "for stepping in and taking over this role for this prestigious institution."

He praised the university for working together with the city over the last 20 years to improve both Trine and Angola through efforts like the Thunder Ice Arena, MTI Center and the Associate of Science in Nursing program, launched in cooperation with Cameron Memorial Community Hospital.

"The City of Angola and Trine University will each have our own unique challenges because that's just the nature of what we do," he said. "But at the same time, I believe that we will meet those challenges because I truly believe we are standing at the threshold of boundless opportunities and possibilities. ... Together, we can harness the power of education and create a vision of hope."

Representing Trine University staff, David Colbert, assistant vice president for international services and global partnerships, said, "Dr. Shannon is a great fit to lead us at Trine University, because I know that no one will work harder than he will to move us forward and to new heights."

"John Shannon has a habit of going the extra mile, in everything that he

does, throughout his entire career, a remarkable career and a career that has been devoted to success, leadership and service, which is part of our mission statement here at Trine," he said.

Sarah Franzen, Ph.D., former dean of the Jannen School of Arts and Sciences and former associate professor in the Department of Humanities and Communication, spoke on behalf of Trine faculty.

She recounted a story Dr. Shannon had told her about working with the Peace Corps in Tunisia serving children who had profound mental disabilities. One young boy, who was nonverbal and diagnosed with autism and psychosis, never spoke, but Dr. Shannon continued to work with the child without knowing if his efforts had any impact.

Returning about 10 years later to visit former colleagues, he was greeted by the now-teenager calling out his name.

"I am grateful that the man charged with leading this institution into the future understands at his core the transformative work that happens in the classrooms that is the beating heart of any school, no matter the level," she said.

#### **Alumni and students**

Sallie Raftery, president of the Trine University Alumni Association, said university graduates are already enthused by Dr. Shannon's presidency, noting that "Trine alumni will always rally around leadership that understands the importance of enhancing the value of our hard-earned academic degrees."

"We support the efforts to strengthen already solid relationships with business and industry," she said. "We applaud the work being done to raise the profile of the institution and better equip students for a challenging future. You have already demonstrated in your past Trine leadership positions that you understand and embrace these initiatives."

Kennedy Jester, president of Trine University's Student Government Association, praised Dr. Shannon for his engagement with the student body, including activities such as the Campus Activity Fair and Bingo for Bucks, as

well as hosting discussions with smaller groups of students.

"In the short duration of his term thus far, he has given incredible leadership advice to all students, myself included, and it has been a privilege to learn about his life story," she said.

Emmanuel Megnanglo, a senior on the Trine University basketball team from the country of Benin, said he looks forward to the "opportunities and growth that lie ahead under the guidance of our new president."

"Thank you so much, not only for taking the mantle of president, but also for carrying the torch that will ensure our university's future will be as bright as its history," he said.

#### **Installation and investiture**

As he prepared to officially install Dr. Shannon as president, Dr. Rick L. James, chair of Trine University's Board of Trustees, said the Board was comforted in knowing that Dr. Shannon's skills and expertise were available after Trine's 16th president, Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D., informed them of his plans to retire.

"Over the past quarter century, we have, together, created a culture of excellence at Trine as we transformed this university," Dr. James said. "It was absolutely essential to the Board that our next president be someone who understands and appreciates this culture. Dr. Shannon has been a key contributor to our recent success, but most importantly, he truly understands what makes Trine University so unique."

"John accepted our offer of this presidency with great enthusiasm because he recognizes that there is no college or university better suited to serve our students. He also knows our mandate reaches beyond that. He understands that this university also plays a critical role in the development of our community, our state, and even our nation."

Dr. James then placed the medallion signifying Dr. Shannon's investiture as president around Dr. Shannon's neck.

#### **Inaugural address**

After welcoming the different groups





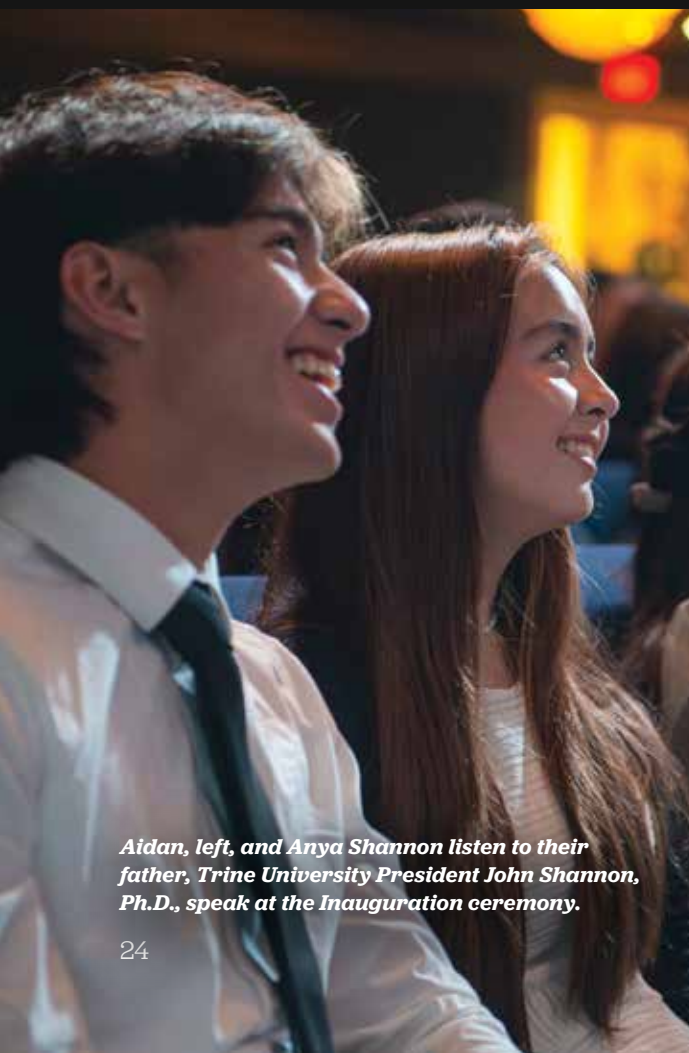
*Members of the Shannon family gather after the Inauguration ceremony: back, from left, Moncef Mzibri, Nora Mzibri, Peggy Shannon Eckhardt, John Shannon, Ph.D., Tim Shannon, Liesi Shannon, Grace Shannon; front, Dounia Mzibri and Maysa Mzibri.*



*Grace Shannon, left, and Nora Mzibri listen to Trine University President John Shannon, Ph.D., speak at the Inauguration ceremony.*

66

As president of Trine University, I greatly look forward to seeing all of the outstanding ways our Trine family makes our vision a reality.”



*Aidan, left, and Anya Shannon listen to their father, Trine University President John Shannon, Ph.D., speak at the Inauguration ceremony.*



in attendance, Dr. Shannon began his inaugural address by thanking his predecessor, Dr. Brooks.

“His accomplishments were many and his legacy astounding,” Dr. Shannon said. “In addition to positioning Trine University for continued success, he served as my mentor, preparing me for the responsibilities ahead.”

He said the university is in an excellent position, with a record incoming class and record enrollment on the Angola campus as well as record overall total enrollment exceeding 13,000 students.

However, he addressed two upcoming challenges Trine University will face. The first, he said, is the dropping birth rate since the Great Recession of 2008, combined with a lower number of high school graduates in Indiana attending college.

“That means putting our energy, focus and attention squarely on the issue of enrollment, and doing so by thinking outside of the box, being innovative and dynamic, and doing things in the right way,” he said.

He said the university will need to find novel solutions that may include increased workforce development programs and increased partnerships with industry.

The second challenge he addressed is the perception that the return on investment for higher education is low.

While acknowledging that attending college can be expensive, Dr. Shannon cited data from the Bureau of Labor

Statistics stating there is a strong positive correlation between educational attainment and income.

“Not only do highly educated people earn far more and have more career stability than their less-educated peers, they also tend to have a higher standard of living, are healthier, live longer, save more money for retirement, are more likely to vote and volunteer their time, and are more philanthropic,” he said. “The return on investment in higher education in terms of quality of life is substantial, and we should be shouting that from the rooftops.”

He said the university will continue to engage with key stakeholders including trustees, employees, alumni, donors, university partners and friends, industry leaders, the community and, most importantly, with students.

“Our engagement with students includes being highly interactive inside the classroom, accessible to students outside of it and caring about students and their learning at all times,” he said. “The result is that we get to know our students. ... And in the process of getting to know our

students, we help them develop as learners and grow as people, which is our primary goal as a university.”

In closing, he shared a quote from Father Theodore Hesburgh, former president of the University of Notre Dame, who said, “The leader’s task is to realize the vision in its totality. His or her reward is to see that happen.”

“As president of Trine University, I greatly look forward to seeing all of the outstanding ways our Trine family makes our vision a reality,” he said.





# MEET *John Shannon*

## Trine University's 17th president talks about his experiences and plans for the future

**John Shannon, Ph.D.**, became president of Trine University on June 1, the 17th to hold that title since the university's founding in 1884. As Dr. Shannon settles into his new role, here is a look at Trine University's new leader.

**Talk about your background. What was your pathway to the presidency at Trine?**

I served in the United States Army in West Germany in the early 1980s. Our mission was to prepare for a Soviet invasion. It was the defense, basically, of Central Europe. I had a great experience.

I also served in the United States Peace Corps. I did that in North Africa where I taught special education. I had never envisioned myself as a teacher, and I worked with developmentally delayed children. I really grew to love teaching and being in the classroom with students.

One other experience that really helped develop me was when I served as dean of a school of Arabic at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. The DLA is the largest Language Institute in the world. When I was there, we had over 1,600 full-time faculty.

I loved it at the Defense Language Institute, but housing was very expensive. We wanted to live in a part of the country where we could afford a house and raise our children. Ultimately, I was offered the position of dean of Arts and Sciences at Tri-State University, now Trine University, and accepted. We moved to Angola and fell in love with the city and the surrounding community. Our plan is to stay here for the rest of our lives. This is our home.

In terms of my role at Trine, I originally was hired as dean of Arts and Sciences, did that for about five years and moved on to vice president for academic affairs (VPAA), and ultimately became provost and senior vice president in the last year and a half. All of those led to my current position as president.

**What do you think has best characterized your career to this point?**

I've never worked in an environment where enrollment was in decline. Never. Growth has been my *modus operandi* for 26 years.

It doesn't matter where I've been. In 1997, I worked at the American University of Sharjah. It was a startup university. We only had 285 total students the first year. I stayed seven years. When I left, we had 4,000.

I went to the Defense Language Institute from there; they put me in charge of a school of Arabic during the Iraq War. It was the fastest-growing school. We had more students who were added for all three years I was there.

Then I came here, and from 2007 to 2015 our Jannen School of Arts and Sciences went from 270 students to 540 when I became VPAA. As VPAA for the next three and a half years, growth continued.

**How have your experiences prepared you for the presidency at Trine?**

I've served in academic leadership for the past 26 years, from department chair to dean, to vice president for academic affairs and provost. Those roles really helped me understand how

universities operate, how they work, and prepared me very well for a presidency.

I've worked for so many years at Trine; I know the people here and I understand the culture here. I'm a part of that culture. I wouldn't want to work anywhere else. This is, for me, the dream job.

**How would you describe the culture?**

Dynamic. We're not satisfied with the status quo. We understand the status quo leads to stagnation and stagnation results in failure. And that's not acceptable. So we're always thinking about how we can do things in a better way.

We are willing to change things up not for the sake of change, but to keep what we're doing current, relevant, meaningful, state-of-the-art and always with an eye on doing what's in the best interest of our students.

**How would you describe Trine University's position as you become its 17th president?**

Trine's in a very strong position right now. We're working in an environment in higher education that is really in decline. Enrollments are down throughout the country. Yet at Trine we're growing. It's really a testament to the groundwork that was laid by my predecessor, Dr. Earl Brooks. He established the culture here; he set change in motion. He has passed the torch in a way that's left me in a very enviable position. I'm very appreciative of that.

**How do you plan to build on that success?**

It all starts with our mission. The mission of



*John Shannon, Ph.D. and his wife Grace*



Trine University is to promote our students' intellectual and personal development through professionally focused learning opportunities, preparing them to succeed, lead and serve in their communities. We're going to continue to ensure those professionally focused learning opportunities are tightly aligned to industry needs.

One way we can make that happen is to continue to dialogue with industry, with education, with whatever field our graduates are going into, so we can understand what the gaps are in the knowledge, skills and abilities of the employees that they hire, knowing we can incorporate activities into our curriculum to ensure our students are prepared.

We're always looking for new programs that fit what we do at Trine. A new program has to meet two criteria: one, it has to have some interest from prospective students, and two, it has to lead to jobs. If one of those is not met, we won't offer that program.

**What are some of challenges facing higher education right now?**

The biggest challenge is enrollment. This started probably about 2010. Since that time, every year enrollment has gone down across the country in institutions of higher learning. High school graduates are attending college at a lower rate. In last five years in Indiana, the percentage of high school graduates that attend college has dropped 6%.

The second is a perceived return on investment. People believe it's low, but that's an inaccurate perception. The reality is return on investment in higher education is tremendous.

**How will Trine University meet these challenges going forward?**

We will focus our efforts on enrollment and understanding what prospective students need and want from higher education. That's going to mean thinking outside the box. It's going to mean adding certain types of programs we don't currently have that will be of high appeal. And it's going to also mean working as a collective

entity to think about solutions, because there won't be just one, there will be many solutions to this problem.

I think we'll be able to continue growing even in the face of the enrollment cliff. But it's going to mean looking at things differently and doing things in new and different ways.

**How would you describe your leadership style?**

I strive to stay mission-focused, to put service ahead of ambition, and to care deeply for our students, for employees, and for the institution as a whole. I believe strategic planning is good but strategic action is better.

Also, delegation that gives real responsibilities, the authority to get them done, and the accountability in the recognition and review process is extremely important to me. I love it when someone comes to me with a problem or issue and then asks me what should be done about it. My experience has been that when people go to their supervisors with issues, they invariably have thought about it and have an idea about how it should be handled. In this type of situation, I enjoy responding by asking how that person would resolve it. If I agree, it is so nice to be able to authorize and basically validate their idea while at the same time empowering them to make it happen. If, on the other hand, I disagree with it, I can explain why and put us both on the same page in that scenario. It's a win-win.

It's very important to me to be transparent in the decision-making process and to share information with those who need it. I remember my first year as an academic leader in 1997. I led a department of about 20 faculty and staff, and one of them came to my office to give me advice on leadership. He said that knowledge was power and that I should hold relevant information tighter to my chest and not share it with others. In that way, I would have power over them. I told him that I was not in it for the power but for making our department the best it could possibly be. I said that 26 years ago and I still believe it and follow it to this day.

The people who have worked closest to me throughout my career tend to work harder than everyone else. We get so much done, whomever I'm working with, from secretaries and administrative assistants to people who are running labs, to faculty in the classrooms, who are developing curricula, and on and on. People are happy because they're doing things they feel are meaningful, and they're getting them done.

**What else would you like people to know about Dr. John Shannon?**

Outside of work, I'm a family man. If I am not at work, I'm probably at home, or I'm out somewhere doing something with my family.

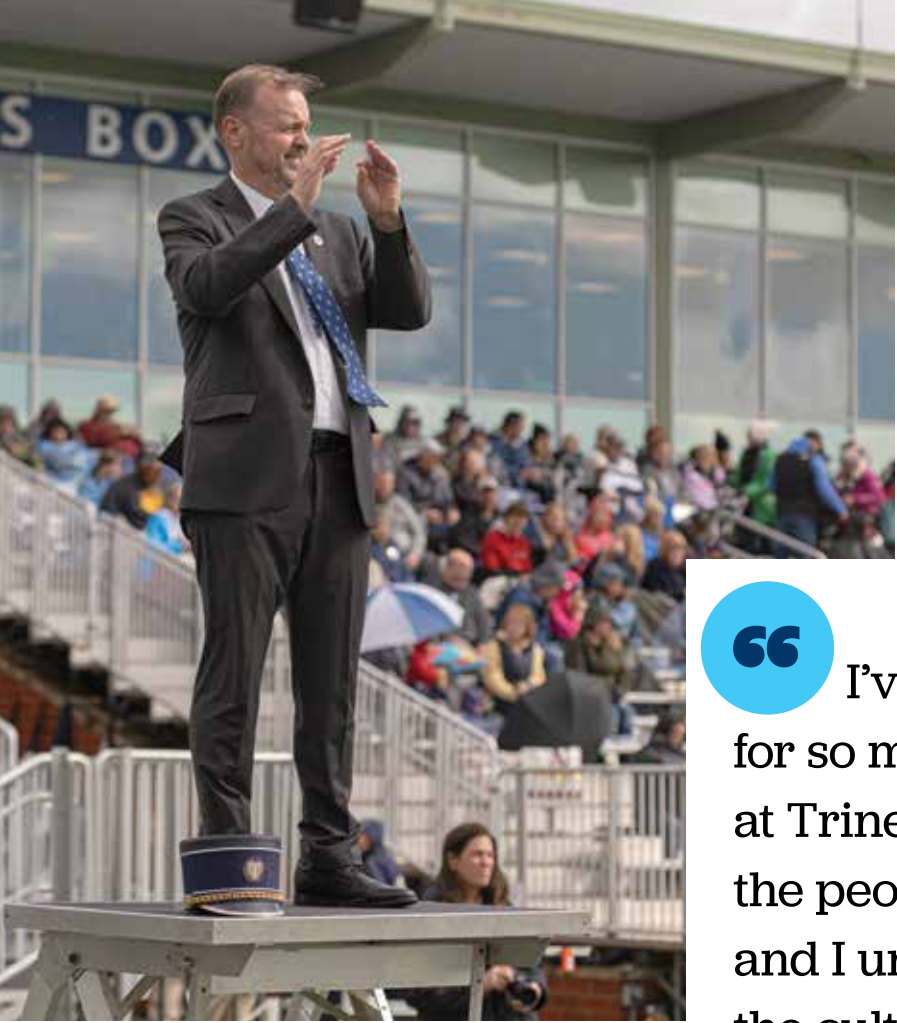
My wife Grace and I have twins, Aiden and Anya. They're both 17. I have another daughter, Nora; she lives in Columbus, Ohio, and she's married with three children.

**How has your family felt about your move to the presidency?**

I think my kids are very impressed by the fact that I'm the president. But I'm still their dad, so it's impressive to them for a few minutes and then they're on to whatever is happening in their life. My wife understands I've reached the pinnacle of my career, and she's very happy that's happened. She understands she'll have different responsibilities or expectations, and she's handling it really well. Melanie Brooks gave her great advice. She just said: Just be yourself and people will respond positively. Grace has done a great job already, just being herself, and I think she'll enjoy it.

**What do alumni have to look forward to from your presidency?**

I would like all our alumni to know that I welcome them back to campus, and that I want them to view Trine as their home away from home. We will continue to grow, develop and be an institution they can be proud to call their alma mater. My door is open to them, and I would love to see them here for a visit.



**“**I’ve worked for so many years at Trine; I know the people here and I understand the culture here. I’m a part of that culture. I wouldn’t want to work anywhere else. This is, for me, the dream job.”





# Concrete canoes have seen many changes over 50 years

Today, Trine University senior design teams spend an entire year preparing for the annual American Society of Civil Engineers concrete canoe race, from developing the most hydrodynamic design to perfecting concrete mixtures.

But just over 50 years ago, when Tri-State College's ASCE chapter first dipped its toe into competition, it was a lot less formal.

**Ron Glasgow, BSCE 1972,** said no one on the college's first team in 1972 had true concrete experience.

"I was a farm kid from central New York who 'battered' with concrete as needed to fix the 1800s barns foundations. Some guys had some summer job construction experience," he recalled. "But we built our canoe best as we could, good shape, unsinkable, but maybe not the best swift fleet construction."

Glasgow said he became involved in the race by being very active in ASCE at Tri-State, serving twice as president.

"Plus I was a Boy Scout, so I had a lot of canoeing experience, which made this much more inviting for me to participate," he said.

The national ASCE organization did not begin sponsoring concrete canoe races until 1988. However, individual chapters have held intramural competitions since the 1960s.

## Design solidifies

Glasgow said Al Guilford, structural engineering professor and ASCE student chapter advisor, guided the team as their vessel began to take shape. Their creation, christened "Bud Man," complete with Budweiser stickers, weighed in at 460 pounds.

"The canoe team wanted to make sure ours would be solid and not break, hence the sides were probably thicker than they needed to be," Glasgow said. "That was higher consideration than navigability and speed, as we learned during the race."

In contrast, Purdue University's canoe only weighed 110 pounds. Glasgow said the Boilermaker canoe was "powered by two very muscular Indiana farm boys with boonie hats" and easily won the race.

"Their canoers were very in-your-face about winning," Glasgow recalled. "Notre Dame's crew did not take it too well, and they guided their 720-pound monster into Purdue's canoe, breaking it in half. Purdue's winning design now rests at the bottom of the reservoir north of Indianapolis."

Bud Man, meanwhile, was retired upon the Tri-State team's return to campus and became a planter for Prof. Guilford's flowers.

Glasgow later used the expertise he gained in the competition and through classes at Tri-State to make his own concrete for houses he built in Indianapolis, Michigan and on his family farm in Central New York, where he has lived the last 43 years.

## Many changes in 50 years

Today's competition is much more formalized, according to Trine ASCE advisor TJ Murphy. He said the national ASCE produces a guidance document for all chapters to follow, with designs changing slightly each year.

"This isn't a 'slap some concrete in a canoe form and hope for the best' event anymore," he said.

Every spring, regional competitions are held between schools, and the winners from those competitions move on to a national competition over the summer. Trine's team took second place at the ASCE's Indiana-Kentucky symposium in April.

The final score for the competition is based on a team's report, presentation, mockup, display and aesthetics in addition to racing times.

"All canoes must be able to float when fully submerged, so even if they break, they don't end up at the bottom of the reservoir," Murphy said, "so competing schools must submit a report with a mix design and structural analysis."

"Also, there's no way a beer-themed canoe would be allowed."



## 1960s

**Esther N. Sundstrom, BSCE 1963,** was a trailblazer as the third woman in the history of Tri-State and Trine to have earned a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering when she graduated in 1963.

There were only 1,100 students and two ladies during her time

at Tri-State, she recalls.

Esther's interview with a Buffalo, New York, company was her first encounter with blatant sexism when the interviewer looked across the desk at her and said very emphatically, "You're a woman, no dice."

She relocated to Jackson, Michigan, where she worked for a consulting firm called Commonwealth Associates. She was the first female engineer the company hired. After 16 years there, the family moved to California.

Eventually she became employed with the County of San Bernardino Transportation Department, where she focused on road design. Later, when she and her husband, a mechanical engineer, retired, they relocated to Georgia, near Atlanta. Her husband passed away three years ago.

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



# 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](mailto:alumni@trine.edu).

Join us on social media: **Facebook** ([facebook.com/TrineUniversityAlumni](https://facebook.com/TrineUniversityAlumni)), **X** ([x.com/trinealumni](https://x.com/trinealumni)) or **Instagram** ([instagram.com/trineuniversityalumni](https://instagram.com/trineuniversityalumni))

She and her husband attended her 40th and 50th reunions, but she hesitated to attend alone this year. She enjoys reading Trine's emails and receiving the magazines, and will always be thankful for the education she received at Tri-State.

## 1970s



**Michael Noll, BSME 1973,** of Fort Wayne, Indiana, whose letter appeared in The Journal Gazette April 11, was selected as the month's Golden Pen Award winner. In the judgment of the editors, he had April's

most effective letter. The recognition expresses the newspaper's appreciation for the contribution letter writers make to the editorial page. Michael, 79, is a retired mechanical engineering manager with Navistar and spent his entire 38-year career in Fort Wayne. He also spent two years as an assistant professor at Trine University. This is Michael's second award; he won for his July 2021 letter "Patriotism bonds vets down to their souls." Michael is a Vietnam war veteran. He said he considers it an honor to be included among the "insightful, intelligent people who write in." Writing has proven therapeutic since the loss of his wife, Linda, especially as he tries "to educate people a little about Alzheimer's disease."

## 1990s

Cameron Memorial Community Hospital recently welcomed **Scott Gruner, 1998 BSACC,** president and CEO of First Federal



Savings Bank of Angola, to its Board of Directors. Scott brings to the board more than 25 years of leadership and community-based service experience, bringing the total number of Cameron Board members to 12. Scott is currently serving on the

Steuben Community Foundation Investment Committee, as well as the Angola Kids League Board of Directors. He previously served in the 101 Lakes Kiwanis Club of Angola, and the boards of directors for the Steuben County United Way, YMCA of Steuben County, and Angola Area Chamber of Commerce. Scott is also an adjunct professor at Trine University and Indiana Tech. "As the newest member of the Cameron Board of Directors, I would like to stress the significance of serving our community and organization. The purpose I hope to bring to the hospital exceeds organizational goals and margins but lies in the impact we can have on patients and those in our community," Scott said. "Cameron Hospital is an intriguing opportunity because it is unlike any other board on which I have previously served, and I'm excited to support our downtown business neighbor in, now, an official capacity." In his spare time, Scott enjoys traveling, golfing, and attending sporting events with his wife and sons.



2000s

**Benjamin Gilpin, 2000 BSEIEd**, was named superintendent of Newaygo Public Schools in March. Vince Grodus, board president, stated, “I want to thank our board and community for their diligence and perseverance in finding us the perfect candidate! We are pleased to welcome Mr. Gilpin as our next superintendent of Newaygo Public Schools.” Prior to being named superintendent, Benjamin served 13 years as principal at Warner Elementary School in Spring Arbor, Michigan. He and his wife, **Amy Gilpin, 1998 BSEngEd**, have two adult sons.

**Kiley Adolph, 2004 BSMK**, of Steuben County declared her run for the Democratic nomination for Indiana’s Third Congressional District in late August. The former elementary school teacher said she’s running to “bring people together” and build a “stronger, more equitable economy.” Adolph said “an education-first agenda and focus on workforce will improve systems and jobs.”

Financial Partners, Inc., an experienced provider of wealth management solutions, welcomed **Scott Hartman, 2004 BSFIN/2022 MBA**, to their team of wealth advisors in June. Cory Marlow, president of Financial Partners, Inc., said Scott “will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in strengthening our capabilities and delivering exceptional results for our clients.”

Laele Marie Ewart was born to **Brad Ewart, 2007 BSCE**, and his wife, Angie, on Aug. 24 at 4:39 p.m. Laele measured 19.8 inches and weighed 6 pounds, 4 ounces. The Ewart family lives in Eaton Rapids, Michigan.



2010s

**Megan Tolin, 2010 BSSciEd**, was named head volleyball coach at Fremont High School. Go Eagles!

**Christopher Collins, 2015 BSFS**, married Cynthia Collins April 15, 2023 in Batesville, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Collins honeymooned in Jamaica and currently reside in Harrison, Ohio, where they volunteer on the Recreation Commission.



reside in Champaign, Illinois.

**Astrid Margulis, 2015 BSMGT/2016 MBA**, and **Samuel Margulis, 2016 BSDET**, welcomed Charlotte Rose Margulis on Aug. 3 at 6:01 p.m. She weighed 5 pounds, 12 ounces, and measured 19 inches long. The Margulis family resides in South Bend, Indiana.



**Kelsey (Pierce) Wertz, 2015 BSSciEd** and her husband, Brent Wertz, welcomed their first child, Raylee Joan, on Aug. 18 at 11:49 p.m. She weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces, and was 20 inches long. The family of three resides in Auburn, Indiana, where Kelsey serves as an innovation coach at DeKalb Central Schools and Brent serves as a landscape architect at LML Estate Management.



**Nicholas Harrison, 2016 BSME**, was wed to Erin Harrison on Aug. 26 at Wea Creek Orchard in Lafayette, Indiana. In their families, Nicholas and Erin are both identical twins and each older than their twin siblings by three minutes! The Harrisons reside in Lafayette, Indiana, where they recently purchased and renovated a home.



**Taylor Kaminski, 2017 BSDET**, and



Dillon Kaminski welcomed their daughter, Emma Rae Kaminski, on June 29. Emma weighed 5 pounds, 13 ounces. The family of three lives in New Carlisle, Indiana.

2010s



**Erica (Hoot) Drerup, 2018 BSEXs/2021 DPT**, and **Bo Drerup, 2019 BSDET/2021 MBA**, welcomed identical twin daughters on Aug. 15. Susannah Jane Drerup weighed 4 pounds, 8 ounces, and Virginia Christine Drerup weighed 4 pounds, 1 ounce. The Drerup family resides in Wolcottville, Indiana.



**Austin Clutinger, 2019 BSDET**, and his wife, Reagan, welcomed their daughter, Charlie Jo, on July 12. The family resides in Wilkinson, Indiana, with their two dachshunds, Benson and Rosie.



**Nicole Litchfield, 2019 BSEXs/2021 DPT**, and **Mathew Litchfield, 2020 BSMK**, welcomed their first child, Andrew Scott Litchfield, on July 9. The family of three resides in Clayton, North Carolina.



2020s

**Savannah Day, 2020 BSMGT/2021 MBA**, and Reis Kennedy were engaged Memorial Day weekend 2023 during a sunset beach walk in New Buffalo, Michigan. Savannah and Reis will be married July 27, 2024, in Three Oaks, Michigan, a small, Lake Michigan beach town. Savannah and Reis both reside in Indianapolis. Savannah works remotely in human resources for the California-based technology company, Celigo. Reis serves as an area manager at Amazon.



**Anna (A’Hearn) Douglass, 2021 BSEXs**, and **Joseph Douglass, 2021 BSMK/MBA**, were married Sept. 2 at the Grand Ol’ Barn Wedding Venue in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. Anna is pursuing her Doctor of Physical Therapy at University of Saint Augustine and is anticipated to finish in 2024. Joseph serves as a financial advisor.



**Brooke Hardy, 2020 BSChE/2022 MBA**, married Justin Mourguet on July 18 in Napa Valley, California, as part of a cross-country road trip. On their way to the wedding, Brooke and Justin visited Arches National Park, and on their way from the wedding, the newlyweds visited Yosemite National Park. Brooke and Justin currently reside in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where Brooke serves as a senior process engineer at Pfizer and



Justin is pursuing his Ph.D. in economics from Western Michigan University. The couple is currently fostering a poodle named Anouke, who is the sweetest girl and available for adoption through Kalamazoo Animal Rescue.

**Maria (Rohr) Stoffel, 2021 BSEXs**, and **Benjamin Stoffel, 2023 BSCE**, were married Aug. 19 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The couple has settled into their new home in New Haven, Indiana. Maria is a nursing student at Manchester University Fort



Wayne and Benjamin serves as a civil engineer at DLZ Corporation.

**Evan Gustin, 2022 MBA**, and his wife, Bekah, welcomed their first child, Peyton Ann, at 4:35 p.m. on May 23. She weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces. The family of three resides in Fort Wayne, Indiana.



**Colin Hinkle, 2022 BSMK/MBA**, joined Hendricks County Bank and Trust in May as a credit analyst, focusing on project and data management aiding projects that increase lending efficiency. Previously, as a sales representative with SupplyKick, Colin was tasked



with research and cultivating relationships with potential customers. Colin has achieved Lean Six Sigma Greenbelt certification. A lifetime resident of Hendricks County, Colin currently lives in Brownsburg, Indiana. He is actively involved in CCA Social Sports, an adult recreational sports league.



2020s

**Kaylee (Argyle) Huckeby, 2022 BSACC/MBA** and **Jackson Huckeby, 2022 BSCE**, were married July 29 at The Mill District in Fremont, Indiana, surrounded by multiple members of their Trine family. The Huckebys live in Noblesville, Indiana, with their 10-month-old chocolate lab, Indy. Kaylee



works for a small accounting firm called Teipen CPA Group and coaches girls' basketball at Lapel High School. Jackson works at Walsh Construction on the I-69 Finish Line job.

**Chloe (Behm) Snyder, 2022 BSMGT/MBA**, and **Dakota Snyder, 2022 BSCJ**, were wed in Columbia City, Indiana, on April 22. Chloe and Dakota met their freshman year at Trine and got engaged the day they graduated from Trine in 2022! Says Chloe, "Trine



holds a SPECIAL place in our hearts!" The Snyders reside in Butler, Indiana.

**Amanda (Baker) Wallisch, 2022 BSBIO**, and **Alec Wallisch, 2022 BSChE**, were married May 18, 2022, at Big Cottonwood Canyon near Salt Lake City, Utah. Shortly after their wedding, Amanda and Alec moved to Huntsville, Texas, with their dog, Oliver. Amanda is pursuing a master's degree in forensic science



at Sam Houston State University while Alec is employed as a technical sales engineer.

**Frank Trazzera, Jr., 2023 BSSM**, signed with the Huntsville Havoc, a professional ice hockey team in the Southern Professional Hockey League, in August for the 2023-2024 season.

Kovich's NASA dream soars to reality

By Lydia Roop, English '24

**Christine Kovich**, who graduated from Tri-State (now Trine) University in



1993 with a mechanical engineering degree, wanted to work for NASA for as long as she can remember.

"I always wanted to work for NASA, but I never dreamed it would become a reality," she said. "August 2024 will be my 30th anniversary where I have had the great fortune to have all of my career thus far serving as a contractor for NASA."

Women's soccer pioneer

Applying to colleges was a stressful time for Christine. After speaking with a Tri-State representative at a college fair, she was intrigued by the small, private university outside of her home state of Ohio and took him up on his

offer to tour the campus over the summer. "My parents and I drove to Angola, and from the first moment I arrived on campus, I knew this was where I wanted to attend college," she said.

After committing to Tri-State, Christine was offered the opportunity to play on the first women's soccer team. Christine said she "will never forget the feeling of playing in our first home game."

"We were in our home white uniforms playing in the rain. I played forward, so I got pretty muddy and many of us were slipping as we slushed our way toward the goal," she recalled.

Despite having a rough first season due to lack of playing experience, Christine said they still "really bonded as a team."

Outside of athletics, Christine served as Chapter President of the local sorority Zeta Eta Theta and helped solicit the organization of a Panhellenic Sorority Council on campus "to make sure sorority sisters had representation much like the fraternities did on campus."

"Serving as an President of my local sorority as well as President of the Panhellenic Sorority Council helped me to become more focused and helped pave the way for entering the workforce after college," she said. "I treasure the memories I made over my years on campus, and reflect highly on my Greek Life experiences."

"Trine will always hold a special place in my heart."

Taking flight

In July 1994, one year after graduating, Christine was offered a job in Houston, Texas, at Lockheed Martin, a prime contractor for NASA. By mid-August she moved to a suburb in Houston to begin her career as an engineer.

Christine worked for Lockheed Martin for over 10 years, mainly in Extravehicular Activity (EVA) Development Testing. The EVA hardware was proposed for flights on both the space shuttle and International Space Station (ISS). Christine wrote test plans, developed procedures, and served as the test conductor for the EVA Testing.

While serving as a test conductor on the KC-135, where they evaluated the different methods of tile repair, Christine

received her NASA Silver Snoopy Award from an astronaut.

"That was a highlight in my career and something I will always remember," she said.

After Lockheed, Christine worked in the science and engineering departments at Wyle Laboratories (now Kellogg Brown & Root (KBR)) for more than 12 years. She is currently a systems engineer at The Aerospace Corporation, where she has served for the last six years.

In addition to the space shuttle and the ISS, Christine has been involved with developing a new space suit for NASA and certifying two flight EVA tools for the space shuttle. She is now working on NASA's EVA and Human Surface Mobility Program (EHP), part of the project to return humans to the moon.

She also was part of the Best Red Campaigns at Galveston University of Texas Medical Branch Hospital, a 90-day simulation study testing blood work, cardio, functional motor skills, etc., similar to what a crew experiences when returning to Earth after a mission. She emphasized that the project "was a unique portion of my job experience as I was able to see the medical side of science and have new experiences."

Necessary support

Christine accomplished her childhood goal of working for NASA, but said she couldn't have done it without support along the way.

"I think that Trine is an important part of who I am today," she said. "I learned a lot in college, not only from my education, but also from the friends that I made along the way. It is important to make the most of the time you have in each facet of your life, and

college is really the springboard for learning how to succeed in your career path."

# Florida Scholarship Golf Classic

Help support Trine student scholarships! Alumni and friends reception follows in the evening.

To register or for more information, visit [trine.link/golf-outing](https://trine.link/golf-outing)

Jan. 24, 2024



# Dr. Larry Franks, namesake of Franks School of Education, passes

Trine University is mourning the loss of **Dr. Lawrence A. (Larry) Franks**, alumnus and member and former chair of the university Board of Trustees.

Dr. Franks, the namesake for Trine’s Franks School of Education, died Sunday, July 9. He was 89.

Following four years of service in the United States Air Force, Dr. Franks enrolled at Tri-State College, now Trine University, graduating with his Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering in 1959. Soon after graduation, he became the first design engineer at his family’s business, Burr Oak Tool and Gauge Company.

His Tri-State education helped him design and market new equipment for the HVAC industry. He holds 10 patents.

Ten years after he was hired, the company workforce had grown from 19 to 120 and the company had become a world leader in the production of machine tools for the HVAC industry. In 1985, Dr. Franks took the helm of the company, serving as president for more than 20 years.

By the time he retired in 2010, the company had machines in more than 70 countries, many of which were sold directly by him. The Oak companies by that time had a combined 400 employees.

Today, Burr Oak continues to manufacture machine tool product parts at its operations in Sturgis, Michigan. Through the years, the company has employed many Trine graduates.

### Distinguished Alumnus, Pillar of Success

In 1981, Trine University recognized Dr. Franks with its Distinguished Alumnus Award, given each year to an alumnus/ae who has performed outstanding service to society in his or her profession, personal achievement or community; and who has manifest interest in Trine University and has supported it by contributions of time, talent and money; by recruitment of students; or by placement of graduates.

He had served as a member of the university’s Board of Trustees since 1984 and served as chair from 1999-2000. The university awarded him an honorary doctorate in engineering in 2001.

In 2005, Trine University recognized his and his family’s support of education by naming the Franks School of Education in their honor.

In 2007, the Franks Conference Suite inside Sponsel Administration Building was named in his honor.

Dr. Franks received Trine’s Pillar of Success Award, which recognizes individuals for their achievements and accomplishments, leadership, service, philanthropy, commitment to their community and profession, and to Trine University, at the 2010 Homecoming celebration.

### Extensive community involvement

His community memberships included the Sturgis Chamber of Commerce, Sturgis Historical Society, Arden Park School Parent-Teacher Association, Sturgis United Fund and the United Methodist Church Board of Trustees. As a dedicated member of Kiwanis International, he served as



president and division lieutenant governor. In addition, he was a member of the feasibility study that recommended the building of Glen Oaks Community College.

He was the retired chair of the Sturgis Bankcorp Board and served on the Burr Oak Tool and Press Systems boards until his death. A world-class big game hunter, he owned Kikuyu Lodge Game Reserve in South Africa.

# Trine mourns loss of alumnus, longtime trustee Dr. William Gettig

Trine University is mourning the loss of **Dr. William A. Gettig**, alumnus and former chair of the university Board of Trustees.

Dr. Gettig died Thursday, June 29, at Cameron Woods Senior Living Community in Angola. He was 97.

Dr. Gettig’s connection to Tri-State College, later Trine University, spanned around 90 years. George Niehous, who founded the School of Engineering and later served as the college’s seventh president, assisted Gettig’s father, who worked for Shelby Tube Company in Pennsylvania, with issues reported in the company’s products.

The younger Gettig often accompanied his father to campus, meeting Tri-State’s eighth president, Burton Handy, at age 13.

He came to Tri-State as an engineering major in 1943, then enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving in the some of World War II’s most intense fighting in the Pacific theater aboard the U.S.S. Pennsylvania.

He returned to Tri-State after the war. He met his beloved wife, Loene, at a dance in downtown Angola, and the couple married in 1948.

Loene preceded him in death in 2011.

Dr. Gettig completed his mechanical engineering degree in 1949. By 1952, he and family members organized Gettig Engineering & Manufacturing Company, a supplier of high-volume audio, radio frequency and convergence cabling and connections.

Growth and expansion led to the formation of Gettig Technologies, which oversaw Gettig Engineering, Gettig Pharmaceutical (formed in 1960 to manufacture disposable hypodermic assemblies and cartridges), GPI Aviation (formed in 1978), Stelrema Corp. (acquired in 1982) and Beacon Tool (acquired in 1983).

He joined Trine University’s Board of Trustees in 1984 and served until his death. During his tenure as chairman from 1994-1996, he and members of the board spearheaded the return of football to the university. He and Loene outfitted the initial 120-member football team.

In 1980, the Gettigs established the Gettig Scholarship Endowment Fund. The Gettig Fitness Center and Gettig Carillon bear the family name in recognition of their continued support.

He sponsored the Bill Gettig Golf Invitational each spring, attending every tournament for 28 straight years, handing out trophies he personally designed for the event to each of the winners.

He was awarded the university’s Distinguished Service Award in 1984, an honorary doctorate in 1986 and the Pillar of Success in 2008. He also was inducted into Trine’s Athletic Hall of Fame in 2019.





Trine mourns death of longtime professor John Morin



Longtime Tri-State University professor **John Evan Morin**, 90, of Angola, Indiana, passed away on June 10 at Autumn Trace Assisted Living Facility in Seymour, Indiana.

Born March 27, 1933, in Lovett, Indiana, he was the son of Harold Leroy and Agnes (Gardner) Morin. He married Marjorie Jane Marling on Nov. 13, 1955, in Jennings County; she preceded him in death.

Prof. Morin joined Tri-State University as an instructor of social sciences in 1966. He wore many hats during his tenure at Tri-State. Administratively, he was chair of the School of Education, where he spearheaded the first full accreditation of the teacher education program. Subsequently, he served as the chair of the Social Sciences and Humanities Department until 2002. In addition, he served on the board of directors of the Indiana Council for Social Sciences and as director of Indiana’s Academy of Social Sciences.

While serving the faculty, Prof. Morin also nurtured university students, serving as an academic advisor, mentor and supporter of student activities throughout his tenure at Tri-State University. He is known as the “Father of Criminal Justice.”

Prof. Morin also served his community well. He was a member of the Steuben County Sheriff’s Merit Board for 21 years, serving as president for 18 years. He was an active participant in local politics. He was the first individual to complete an in-depth study into the university’s economic impact on the community.

Although his accomplishments are numerous and outstanding, it is his teaching and pedagogy

which will be most remembered. The students at Tri-State University, past and present, have revealed on many occasions how Prof. Morin was an exceptional teacher with superior insight into his subject matter.

Prof. Morin’s award and teaching honors include the Jerry Allen Excellence in Teaching Award, Barrenbrugge Award, Jannen Renaissance Scholar, Sears Foundation for Teaching Excellence Award and two McKetta-Smith Excellence in Teaching Awards. Prior to coming to Tri-State University, he received the Eli Lilly Secondary Teaching Excellence Award while a high school teacher for the Metropolitan School District of Steuben County.

He was honored as professor emeritus in May 2004.

Prof. Morin served in the United States Army from 1953 until 1955. He was also a member of Angola Christian Church and the American Legion.

Prof. Morin enjoyed go-kart racing and watching car races. He loved teaching and driving, especially tractor trailers and trains.

Alum, faculty member Stoudinger passes

**Dr. Alan Ramon Stoudinger**, of Angola, Indiana, former professor of electrical engineering and former chair of Trine University’s Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, died on Sept. 4.

Alan was born in Battle Creek, Michigan, on April 16, 1938, the son of Lester and Ethelda Stoudinger.

After graduation from Battle Creek Central High School, Alan was a member of the charter class of Kellogg Community College. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from Tri-State University, the Master of Science degree from Colorado State University, and the Doctor of Philosophy degree from Utah State University.

He served on the faculty of Tri-State University for more than 30 years.

He received many grants and awards, and was active in Eta Kappa Nu, the international honor society of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering.

He is survived by the love of his life and high school sweetheart Marjorie. Alan and Marjorie were married for 61 years. He is also survived by his four daughters, Diane, Mary, Jane and Kimberly; two sons-in-law, Frank and Mark; nine grandchildren, David and his wife, Kelsey, Aaron and his wife Aubrey, Alex, Kathryn, Taylor, Alexis, Lauren, Tanner and Jensen; and sister, Susan Northcutt.



THUNDER’S FINAL ROLL
(current as of June 30, 2023)

1940s

- John A. Ingham, 1946 BSRT, Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, May 16, 2023
- Harry Y. Eng, 1947 BSME, Seattle, Washington, Feb. 14, 2018
- Harlin H. Baden, 1948 BSRT, Westerville, Ohio, Feb. 10, 2023
- Norman Haas, 1949 BSME, Mendon, Michigan, Feb. 6, 2023
- Carl Peterson, 1949 BSBA, Rockford, Illinois, June 13, 2023

1950s

- E. Dale Cobble, 1950 BSACC, Hobart, Indiana, May 9, 2023
- James E. Gaffney, 1950 BSME, Malvern, Pennsylvania, April 4, 2023
- Ladislaus W. Hanzel, 1950 BSEE, Fort Wayne, Indiana, March 3, 2023
- James Snyder, 1950 BSME, Elkhart, Indiana, Dec. 27, 2022
- John B. Breckenridge, 1951 BSBA, Chevy Chase, Maryland, April 17, 2023
- Jack W. Holt, 1952 BSBA, Estero, Florida, Nov. 2, 2022
- Nis H. Juhl, 1952 BSEE, Austin, Texas, Feb. 27, 2023
- Irving E. Gray, 1953 BSAE, Arlington, Texas, Jan. 11, 2023
- George L. Karr, 1954 BSRT, Davenport, Iowa, Feb. 10, 2002
- Robert C. Kinsel, 1954 BSRT, Cincinnati, Ohio, May 7, 2023
- Joseph A. Rockwell, 1954 BSME, Huntington, Indiana, April 4, 2023
- Lloyd E. Dixon, 1955 BSCE, Springfield, Illinois, March 27, 2023
- Terry R. Bishop, 1956 BSCE, Prophetstown, Illinois, March 30, 2023
- Paul L. Kenny, 1956 BSEE, Munson, Ohio, Jan. 1, 2023
- Irving G. Hansen, 1957 BSEE, Toledo, Ohio, April 3, 2023
- Charles R. Waterman, 1957 BSEE, West Suffield, Connecticut, March 13, 2023
- Allen Anderson, 1958 BSEE, West End, North Carolina, April 22, 2023
- Cullen L. Dubose, 1958 BSCE, Okemos, Michigan, Nov. 13, 2022
- Jerry W. Richards, 1958 BSME, Marion, Indiana, April 20, 2023
- Edward Weilhoefer, 1958 BSEE, Naples, Florida, Dec. 26, 2022
- Edmund Wallens, 1959 BSCE, Willowbrook, Illinois, Jan. 21, 2023

1960s

- Marlin Bowers, 1960 BSAE, Bluffton, South Carolina, Jan. 13, 2023

1960s

- Richard G. Dewey, 1960 BSCE, Valparaiso, Indiana, Dec. 20, 2022
- Robert G. Drake, 1960 BSME, Stow, Ohio, Jan. 17, 2023
- Robert K. Sweeney, 1960, BSChE, Worth, Illinois, July 1, 2020
- Robert Bencene, 1961 BSME, Johnson City, Tennessee, Jan. 4, 2023
- John R. Krueger, 1961 BSEE, Crossville, Tennessee, Feb. 5, 2023
- Donald S. Miller, 1961 BSBA, Mishawaka, Indiana, Feb. 23, 2023
- Tony A. Rebuck, 1961 BSEE, Williamsport, Pennsylvania, March 7, 2023
- Thomas J. Price, 1962 BSME, New Braunfels, Texas, June 14, 2023
- John (Denny) Siebler, 1962 BSME, Gainesville, Florida, Dec. 28, 2022
- William V. Yost, 1962 BSCE, York, Pennsylvania, Feb. 17, 2023
- Bernard T. Hawickhorst, 1963 BSCE, St. Louis, Missouri, March 27, 2023
- Lewis H. Newnam, 1963 BSBA, Angola, Indiana, April 26, 2023
- George A. Oxenham, 1963 BSAE, Morrow, Ohio, June 6, 2023
- John J. Twarog, 1963 BSAE, Maricopa, Arizona, March 11, 2023
- Louis D. Arthur, 1964 BSCE, St. Louis, Missouri, April 10, 2023
- Carmen J. D’Agostino, 1964 BSEE, Portland, Oregon, Feb. 14, 2023
- Robert W. Hussar, 1965 ABA, Phelps, New York, March 4, 2023
- Charles C. Jennings, 1966 BSAE, Cadillac, Michigan, Jan. 15, 2023
- Richard May, 1966 BSBUS, Englewood, Colorado, June 10, 2022
- Phillip C. Staley, 1966 BSME, Denver, North Carolina, March 31, 2023
- Carl T. Philipp, 1967 BSChE, Hot Springs, Arkansas, May 11, 2023
- Raymond R. Glenn, 1968 BSEE, Harwood, Maryland, May 14, 2023
- James Shriver, 1968 BSME, Wabash, Indiana, Jan. 7, 2023
- Robert R. Gleason Jr., 1969 BSBA, Alexandria, Virginia, March 17, 2023
- Gary Justice, 1969 BSME, Easley, South Carolina, June 15, 2023

1970s

- Andrew J. Fellinginger, 1970 BSME, Sugar Land, Texas, March 27, 2021
- Wilson G. Haller, 1971 BSDDT, Tarentum, Pennsylvania, April 9, 2023
- James D. Kelly, 1971 BSMDT, Calabash, North Carolina, March 25, 2023
- Karl S. Anderson, 1972 BSBA, Erie, Pennsylvania, June 14, 2023
- Franz J. Bachmann, 1972 BSBA, Crestview, Florida, March 26, 2023
- Jerry Bonacorsi, 1972 BSME, Rockford, Illinois, Jan. 7, 2023
- William W. Bryan, 1972 AMDT, Angola, Indiana, March 17, 2023
- Jon D. Liechty, 1972 BSBA, Sayre, Pennsylvania, Feb. 10, 2023
- Anatole M. Nasobkow, 1972 BSBA, New Castle, Pennsylvania, Feb. 15, 2023
- Mark L. Painter, 1972 BSBA, Royersford, Pennsylvania, March 9, 2023
- Philip C. Walker, 1972 BSBA, Peru, Indiana, Feb. 28, 2023
- Kenneth R. Birkemeier, 1973 BSGAS, Angola, New York, June 24, 2018
- Robert Moore, 1973 ABA, Butler, Pennsylvania, April 3, 2023
- F. Florian Cripe, 1976 BSCS, Angola, Indiana, May 26, 2023
- Michael R. Young, 1977 BSBA, Zanesville, Indiana, May 12, 2023
- Mark J. Millbern, 1979 BSBA, Crawfordsville, Indiana, Jan. 30, 2023
- Michelle Stockberger, 1979 BSBA, Angola, Indiana, Jan. 20, 2023

1980s

- David W. Bonney, 1986 BSSSEd, Camden, Michigan, March 28, 2023
- David D. Detar, 1987 BSEE, Flint, Indiana, Feb. 16, 2023
- George E. Blissett, 1989 BSMGT, Wolcott, Indiana, Feb. 11, 2023

2000s

- Christopher M. Vanderpool, 2002 BSDDT, Adrian, Michigan, June 3, 2023
- Megan Fry, 2003 BSENV, LaGrange, Indiana, May 24, 2023
- Robbin M. Spade, 2005 BSBA, Leo, Indiana, Jan. 18, 2023

2010s

- Joseph R. Biedenweg, 2011 BSBA, Louisville, Kentucky, March 13, 2023



# THUNDER SOFTBALL WINS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



After their best finish in program history in 2022, the Trine University softball team entered 2023 as the second-ranked team in the country and favorite to win the MIAA.

In addition to the normal influx of freshman talent, the Thunder added three transfer students, all coming from East Connecticut State University: reigning pitcher of the year Alexis Michon along with NFCA All-American Cassie Woods and catcher Carolyn Biel.

"We loved the talent that they brought, but more important was the experience," said Coach Don Danklefsen. "They came to win a national championship and they chose us as the team to do that with."

What became quickly apparent was that the freshman class was special. From nearly day one, three freshmen started seeing time in the lineup. The standout was freshman phenom Debbie Hill, who opened the season as the four-hitter for the team as well as one of the team's starting pitchers. In addition, Emma Lee and Karley "Jo" Trine immediately saw playing time in the outfield as the coaching staff looked for the best lineup.

"The freshman class was huge. Jo Trine and Emma Lee came up big every time they were in the lineup during the season and Debbie Hill was everything we thought she could be sooner than we expected," Danklefsen added. "You would never know that they were freshmen. They played like seniors."

The team started the season with a nearly annual spring break trip to Florida, winning all eight of their games. The Thunder then took a short flight to Virginia to the "Cross Bay Bash," a classic co-hosted by Virginia Wesleyan University and the defending national champs from Christopher Newport. Trine began the weekend by defeating Berry College in extra innings before losing their first game of the season to the Marlins, 3-2. A convincing victory over Pfeiffer University set up the 10-1 Thunder for a national championship rematch against the 4-2 Captains. Trine took a 5-4 lead into the bottom of the seventh inning, but the home team worked a pair of runners on to the

basepaths before walking off the game with a three-run home run.

"We saw that we belonged with the best teams," explained Danklefsen. "I heard the team saying that we should have beat Newport. I was a little frustrated that it took a loss to figure that out."

Over the final 24 games of the regular season, the Thunder dropped just two more games. They won their fourth-straight, and 12th overall, MIAA Championship. The team never left the top six of the NFCA national coaches' poll.

The pitching staff distinguished themselves as one of the best in the country. The rotation finished third in the nation in walks plus hits per inning pitched (WHIP), while going fifth in earned run average (ERA) and strikeout-to-walk ratio. The team was first in the country with 23 shutouts. Pitchers posted back-to-back perfect games at the start of the MIAA season with Lauren Clausen getting the first and Hill securing the second. Michon added a no-hitter late in the season.

Atop the rotation was senior Anna Koepl, who saved her best season for last. She eventually finished the season with a 0.51 ERA, the best in the nation. She was named MIAA pitcher of the year and eventually secured both second team NFCA All-American and first team CSC Academic All-American status.

Offensively, the Thunder relied on a deep and consistent lineup that included ten student-athletes with 20 or more hits and with at least one home run. The team ended the season with the second-most doubles and total runs in the country. They were seventh in home runs, tenth in scoring and 11th in home runs per game, on-base percentage and slugging percentage.

Hill took the nation by storm. In addition to her pitching, the freshman was quickly recognized as one of the best hitters in the country. She became the first member of the team to earn national player of the week honors since 2015. She was selected first team All-MIAA and was named the TUCCI/NFCA Division III Freshman of the Year and first team NFCA All-American.

The Thunder were selected to host a four-team regional bracket to open the national tournament. If there had been

any doubt the team was set for the playoffs, they quickly put it to rest by recording their fourth no-hitter of the season in their opening game. Hill and Michon combined for the effort.

The next weekend saw the Falcons of Concordia University Wisconsin come to town for a best-of-three super regional. With an All-American pitcher of their own on the roster, everyone expected a pitching duel.

For the first part of the opener, they weren't disappointed. Neither team scored through four innings of play. But then the bottom part of the lineup put four runs on the board for Trine.

"We really just had to trust our bats," senior Amanda Prather said as explanation for the team's mindset in the contest. "She's a really good pitcher; she's going to get us a couple of times. We continued to go up there with confidence and trust in each other to pass the bat along."

With the bats warmed up, the second day went more soundly in favor of the Thunder. The team pulled away in the later innings to win 7-2 and earn a spot among the final eight teams in the tournament and a trip







to Marshall, Texas, on the campus of East Texas Baptist University.

It looked like it might be a short trip. Trine was upset by Rowan University in their opening game, sending them to the elimination bracket, one loss away from going home.

In the bottom of the eighth inning of game two against Linfield, Lee came to the plate after receiving her first start since early May. The freshman came through to give the team their first win in Texas. The second came quickly after with a five-inning 12-4 run-rule victory over Moravian University.

The Thunder faced down two more elimination games against Coe College, earning a spot in their second-straight championship series, where they would face the number one team in the country, Salisbury University.

Salisbury recorded a walk-off home run to take the first game of the series.

"I thought we outplayed them in every category during the game, except for the score," a frustrated Danklefsen explained. "I think the other team thought it was over after the game and that got to our team. They were dialed in and ready for the challenge. We just needed our Koepl to come back."

Koepl had struggled with her control since arriving in Texas, with the humid conditions playing havoc with the precision pitcher. But the coaches went back to their senior for the final game.

"The coaches told me that you might not trust yourself right now, but we do," explained

Koepl in the final press conference of the season. "I knew this was my last day and I wanted to win it for this team."

She took a perfect game into the top of the sixth inning, leading the way to a 6-2 victory and forcing a decisive final game. Michon took the circle for that final game and pitched a beauty, allowing just two hits and two walks. But the offense for the Thunder had dried up and the game was scoreless heading into the seventh inning.

Biel made the play of the tournament in top of seventh, by jumping onto the backstop wall to record the third out. She came up to bat in the bottom half of the inning as the nine-hitter with a runner on third. Her fifth hit of the season won the Thunder the first NCAA team championship in Trine University history.

"Some days it still hits me as new," finished Danklefsen. "Some days the trophy still surprises me. It's going to be one of the best moments of my life for a long time. It's still a dream come true."



**Alexis Michon**



**Cassie Woods**



**Carolyn Biel**



**Debbie Hill**



**Emma Lee**



**Karley "Jo" Trine**



**Lauren Clausen**



**Anna Koepl**



**Amanda Prather**







## Acro and tumbling finishes 2nd in nation

In a season that started with the Thunder hosting Baylor University, the premier acrobatics and tumbling program in the nation, the program took massive strides. Not only did Trine finish with their first winning record, but they also reached the championship match of the NCATA Division III National Tournament.

The team started by hosting the Bears in the MTI Center. Baylor, the reigning NCATA Division I National Champions for the past eight years, ran away with the match, but Trine immediately showed that they were a team to be contended with. They posted multiple program record-

breaking event scores on the day, something that became a theme for the season.

The Thunder finished the regular season with a 4-3 record, but went 4-1 against Division III opponents, and entered the NCATA Division III Tournament as the second seed. They easily won their opening match to advance to the semifinal round. Trine faced off with East Texas Baptist University in a thrilling match that saw the teams separated by less than half a point through much of its duration, and ended in favor of the Thunder by the score of 243.075-241.880. After winning the Quad Pass Event final, Trine finished its season with a loss in the championship match, finishing second in the country with a 6-4 overall record.

## Men's track wins 3rd straight MIAA title

The Trine University men's track and field team won their third consecutive Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) championship at The University of Olivet in 2023. There were two All-MIAA team members on the men's side: **Jake Gladieux** in the 110-meter hurdle and 400-meter hurdle races, as well as **Theodore Samra** in the shot put. Gladieux ran a time of 14.84 seconds in the 110-meter hurdle event and 53.53 seconds in the 400-meter hurdle to earn All-MIAA for the third time in his career. Samra secured his first career All-MIAA award with a best toss of 15.62 meters (51' 3.00") in the shot put, just missing a personal best in the event.



**Jake Gladieux**



**Theodore Samra**

These two were also named All-Region by the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCA). Gladieux's times were good enough to qualify for the NCAA DIII Outdoor Track and Field Championships for the third straight year. He became a six-time All-American in his career by finishing runner-up in the 110-meter hurdles event with a new school record time

of 14.25 seconds and placed fourth overall with a time of 52.16 seconds in the 400-meter hurdles.



## Men's golf finishes 2nd

After a third-place finish at the MIAA Fall Championships, the Trine University men's golf team competed in the MIAA Automatic Qualifier (AQ) and competed for an opportunity to play in the NCAA DIII Championships. The Thunder hosted the first of the three-round event at Glendarin Hills Golf Club and traveled to the Wuskowhan Players Club for the final two rounds. Trine was second overall with a team score of 904 in the 54-hole event, and all four scoring members — **Mark Civanich** (70), **Charlie Eriksen** (73), **Mitch Lowney** (74) and **Carter Schnipke** (74) — were inside the top six on the final day of competition in the AQ.



**Mark Civanich**



**Charlie Eriksen**



**Mitch Lowney**



**Carter Schnipke**

## Women's track 3rd in MIAA

The Trine University women's track and field program secured a third-place finish at the MIAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships for the second consecutive season. The team had two All-MIAA recipients in **Brianna Medcalf** and **Madelyn Summers**, both earning the award for the first time. Medcalf was victorious in the 800-meter race with a time of 2:15.99 in the event finals. Summers took home the crown in the hammer throw; her best toss was 45.21 meters (148' 4.00").



**Brianna Medcalf**



**Madelyn Summers**

## Men's lacrosse repeats at 9-5

The Trine University men's lacrosse team completed the 2023 season with a record of 9-5 overall and a



**Ryan Kuhn**

1-5 mark inside MIAA action to place sixth in the conference. Under head coach **Ryan Kuhn**, the Thunder were able to rattle off nine straight wins to start the season, the best start to a year in program history. With back-to-back seasons at 9-5 overall, Coach Kuhn has strung together the best two-season stretch in program history as well. The team was explosive on offense and broke the school record for most shots as a team in a single season in 2023.

## Four women's golfers named All-American Scholars

The Trine University women's golf team closed the 2023 season with a team win on their home course in the Trine Spring Classic. The Thunder won by 18 strokes over second-place Grace College, with **Calley Ruff**



**Calley Ruff**



**Bailey Bravata**



**Grace Dubec**



**Regan Guthrie**



**Maire Sullivan**

highlighting the day with a career-low round of 78 to claim individual medalist honors. In addition to their success on the course, four women's golfers were tabbed Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) All-American Scholars: **Bailey Bravata**, **Grace Dubec**, **Reagan Guthrie** and **Maire Sullivan**.

## Thunder advance to MCVL postseason



**Hunter Haas**

The Trine University men's volleyball team ended the 2023 campaign with a 14-13 overall record, making the Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League (MCVL) postseason for the second straight year. The Thunder went 5-3 in league play to enter the MCVL Tournament as the four seed. Trine was ousted by the number one seed, the University of Mount Union, 3-1. For the third consecutive season, **Hunter Haas** was named the MCVL's Defensive Player of the Year, serving as a defensive specialist and libero. Haas was a member of the First Team All-MCVL as well as outside hitter **Kevin Boncaro**. Fellow outside hitter **Ted Hofmeister** found himself on the Second Team All-MCVL.



**Kevin Boncaro**



**Ted Hofmeister**





Richmond, Kasten nab MIAA honors

In 2023, the Trine University women’s lacrosse team held a record of 5-7 overall and were 4-2 at their home field. Inside the MIAA, the Thunder finished in sixth place with a mark of 2-5. Trine had a pair of student-athletes named to the league’s All-MIAA teams. Forward **Calista Richmond** represented the Thunder as a First Team All-MIAA recipient and goalkeeper **Maddy Kasten** was on the Second Team. Richmond’s 26 assists on the year was first in the MIAA. Kasten made a total of 127 saves this season and held a 46.5% save percentage. Both of those values were good for third in the conference.



Calista Richmond



Maddy Kasten

Morales earns conference honors

The Trine University women’s tennis team finished the 2022-23 season at 11-7 overall and wrapped up the MIAA schedule with a mark of 3-4 to place fifth. The Thunder narrowly missed an opportunity to play postseason tennis, ending the year one match out of the postseason tournament.



Eva Morales

**Eva Morales** was named to the Second Team All-MIAA after competing as the top singles competitor. Overall, she finished the season with a 6-12 record in singles matches while going 7-11 in doubles with multiple different partners. She is just the third to be named All-MIAA in program history.

Thunder men’s tennis earns postseason berth

In the MIAA portion of the Trine University men’s tennis program’s season last spring, the Thunder went 3-3 en route to a postseason appearance for a third straight year. Trine squared off with the eventual conference champions Kalamazoo College in the MIAA Semifinals and fell 5-1. At year’s end, Trine men’s tennis held a



Aaron Streit



Andrew Spirrison



Cole Goodman

record of 10-8 overall. A trio of student-athletes received honors from the MIAA. **Andrew Spirrison** and **Cole Goodman** earned spots on the Second Team All-MIAA while **Aaron Streit** received the Dr. Lawrence Green Scholar-Athlete Award, given to the outstanding senior scholar athlete among MIAA men’s tennis teams.

Kortas named 2nd Team All-MIAA



Robert Kortas

The Trine University baseball team finished the 2023 season with a record of 15-24 and wrapped up MIAA play with a mark of 6-15, good for seventh in the conference. The Thunder received one Second Team All-MIAA award in senior **Robert Kortas**. He led the team with a .361 batting average (39-for-108) and .509 slugging percentage and was tenth in the conference in batting average among qualifying players. Kortas accumulated a team-high 11 doubles, one triple and one home run in 2023.

Make an IMPACT today!



By supporting the Trine Fund, you can help Trine University provide much-needed scholarships to deserving students.

- Trine awarded more than \$43 million in scholarships this fall.
- 99% of Trine students receive some sort of financial aid.

Make an impact on a student or students by giving today to the Trine fund. Your contribution, no matter the size, will make a meaningful difference in the lives of current and future Trine students.

Give today at [trine.link/trinefund](https://trine.link/trinefund)







One University Avenue  
Angola, Indiana 46703

Change Service Requested

20th annual  
Scholarship  
**GALA** TRINE  
UNIVERSITY

**Saturday,  
February 10, 2024**

Keith E. Busse/Steel  
Dynamics Inc. Athletic  
and Recreation Center

Enjoy a special guest speaker, live and silent auctions, wine tasting, live music, a gourmet meal and more as we gather to provide scholarships for Trine University students.

Learn more, register or give now at **[trine.edu/gala](https://trine.edu/gala)**