



Women's softball wins 2nd national title



From left, Larry Reiners, chair of the Campus Planning Committee for the Board of Trustees, Rick L. James, chair of the Board of Trustees, John Pellegrino Jr., Mary Pellegrino, John Pellegrino, Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D., university president, and Lynn Brooks, chair of the Finance Committee for the Board of Trustees break ground for the John and Mary Pellegrino Student Design Center on May 2. The Pellegrino SDC is one of the elements included in the new university master plan. See page 8 for details.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Trine University's mission statement says, in part, that we prepare our students to succeed and lead. The incredible accomplishments of our softball team are among the many examples of how we accomplish this, on and off the field.

This remarkable group of women, under the consistently excellent leadership of Head Coach Don Danklefsen, recently clinched their second NCAA Division III national championship in the last three years, becoming only the ninth team to win multiple titles. We're proud to celebrate the team and all they have achieved this year in this issue of Trine magazine.

We are not only an elite school athletically, but academically. In this issue, you'll read how our engineering teams continue to excel in regional and national competition.

This type of success doesn't come without significant planning and investment. With that in mind, our Board of Trustees recently endorsed a new master plan, encompassing more than \$120 million in building projects. You can read more details about projects that are already underway as well as some that will be coming soon.

I always enjoy the opportunity to celebrate our graduating seniors at Commencement. Thanks to the tremendous growth our university continues to experience, we now offer several ceremonies, taking place in both the fall and spring semesters. Details about each are inside.

You also can read about alumnus Richard Oeder, who has provided outstanding leadership as a member of our Board of Trustees for many years. In addition to being a trustee, a distinguished engineer and a dedicated community servant, Richard worked for 47 years as a firefighter, retiring recently as a captain with the Salem-Morrow Fire Department.

Trine University continues to equip our students for success, whether on the athletic field, in the classroom or in their eventual careers and community service. Thank you for your support as future generations of students benefit from learning, living and leading at Trine.

Sincerely,

Earl D. Brooks II

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

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2nd national title



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Scholarship GALA TRINE UNIVERSITY 21st annual

A hero on the battlefield and the gridiron, Rocky Bleier said many people supported him on his journey and encouraged those at Trine University's 21st annual Scholarship Gala to do the same for students.

"Individuals come together with a common purpose and a common goal," the Vietnam War veteran and four-time Super Bowl champion said.

"When that happens, the one thing that comes from it is a sense of hope that we can achieve something in our lives. Because the one business we are all in, no matter what we may think, is that we're really all in the hope business."

The Gala, held Feb. 15 in the elegantly decorated Keith E. Busse/Steel Dynamics Inc. Athletics and Recreation Center, raised more than \$1.8 million for Trine University scholarships and Books and Beyond.

Endowed funds honor Kurtzweg, Garland

In welcoming guests to the Gala, Trine University President Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D., shared a new avenue of support for the university's students, announcing that Board of Trustees chair Dr. Rick L. James and his wife Dr. Vicki L. James have established endowed funds in honor of Ben Kurtzweg and Fred Garland.

Kurtzweg, a junior from Fort Wayne, Indiana, majoring in actuarial science, died Sept. 18 from injuries sustained in an accident.

Garland, a senior from Detroit, Michigan, majoring in sport management, passed away Dec. 11 in a car accident.

"Their time with us was far too short, but their impact on this campus and in our hearts will endure," Dr. Brooks said. "These funds will ensure that Fred and Ben's love for Trine, their passions, and their impact continue through future generations of students."

Looking forward to giving back

Michael Pacer, president of Trine's Student Government, spoke to those in attendance about the impact scholarships have on Trine students in general as well as the impact financial aid and his Trine education has had on him personally.

"Without the generosity of the millions of dollars raised from the previous Galas, so many students would not have been able to focus on academics as well as their extracurricular passions," he said. "In my four years, I was fortunate enough to be able to land two great internship experiences right here in Angola, Indiana, with the Angola Area Chamber of Commerce as well as the Steuben County Economic Development Corporation."

Trine supporters come together to give more than \$1.8 million to scholarships

"I know that my heart is forever grateful, and once I am financially stable and able to give back to this university for the amazing four years that it gave me, I will. I want to be able to do anything I can to give a chance for every student to have the same amazing experience that I did."

Power to make a difference

Bleier, noting that it was appropriate he was speaking so soon after the Super Bowl — 50 years after his Pittsburgh Steelers won their first title — began by joking about the problem of how to wear four Super Bowl rings.

He said he wears the ring from Super Bowl XIII, the Steelers' second Super Bowl victory in a row over the Dallas Cowboys. That Super Bowl was the only one in which he scored a touchdown, catching a pass from Terry Bradshaw in the end zone on a broken play to take a lead that the team never relinquished.

"But that is not why I wear this ring," he said. "I wear this ring because it happens to be the largest and gaudiest of all four."

"These rings truly are a symbol, and they're important. ... All symbols in our lives are important because they're really constant reminders of the successes we've had, the failures we've experienced, the depths that we prevailed, the heights we've achieved, and the constant barriers that we were able to overcome."

He went on to discuss people and teams who were catalysts for hope along his journey:

- His undefeated Brennan Catholic high school football team, providing him the recognition to get a scholarship to the University of Notre Dame.
- Ara Parseghian, who coached the University of Notre Dame to a national championship in 1966, which helped Bleier get drafted by the Steelers.
- A Black soldier who carried him to a rescue helicopter when he was wounded in Vietnam.
- A soldier who was a triple amputee who encouraged Bleier during his recovery at a hospital in Da Nang.

• Steelers owner Art Rooney, who sent him a postcard while he was recovering, letting him know the team needed him.

• Steeler captain Andy Russel, who encouraged Bleier to stay with the team when he was discouraged about lack of playing time.

"That, ladies and gentlemen, is the power that we have, the power to make a difference, the power to impact, the power to change," he said, "because as William Jennings Bryan said, 'Destiny is not a matter of chance, it's a matter of choice.' "

Live and silent auctions

The evening concluded with silent auctions and a live auction conducted by Michael Kruse, a senior management major at Trine and fourth-

generation auctioneer from Auburn, Indiana.

Auction items included an Indianapolis Colts suite package and music autographed by Taylor Swift.

The Scholarship Gala has raised millions of dollars for Trine University student scholarships since the first event in 2004. Scholarship funds are a critical part of allowing students to attend Trine, with 99% of undergraduate students receiving some form of financial aid.

Top-level sponsors for the event were Drs. Rick L. and Vicki L. James and The James Foundation, Dr. Sheri G. Trine, Drs. Jerry and Jorja Allen, Dr. and Mrs. Tomas & Ema Furth, John B. Pellegrino Jr., Steel Dynamics Inc., AMI Investment Management and Dr. Keith E. Busse.





John and Mary Pellegrino Student Design Center

Trine unveils master plan featuring new, upgraded facilities

A state-of-the-art student design center, new residence, academic and dining facilities, expanded green space and upgrades to Zollner Stadium and Hershey Hall are highlights of a new master plan developed by Trine University.

The master plan, titled “Something Greater,” was endorsed by the university’s Board of Trustees at their winter retreat and will serve as the basis for Trine’s next capital campaign.

Costs for all the projects encompassed by the plan are estimated at \$120 million. That amount is in addition to more than \$100 million of facilities and improvements added to Trine over the last decade.

“We continue to invest in the future of Trine University and our students, providing leading-edge facilities and technology to support our growing academic programs, a vibrant campus environment and athletic teams that compete at the pinnacle of NCAA Division III,” said Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D., Trine University president.

“We know that these investments will pay dividends as students graduate from Trine equipped to succeed in their careers and make a positive impact on our community and the world around them.”

Housing, athletics, design

The new 200-bed residence hall called for in the master plan will be ready for occupancy this fall.

The university plans to demolish Cameron and Platt Hall to provide more green space on campus. Another residence facility in a new location will replace those buildings.

The university broke ground in May for the new John and Mary Pellegrino Student Design Center, which will offer expanded space and state-of-the-art design and fabrication equipment to better meet the needs of student

design teams and industry partners. The new center is being constructed on the west side of Best Hall.

Renovations to Zollner Football Stadium will be completed prior to football season. The project includes the renovation of the existing football locker room, conversion of the existing weight room into a team room, and construction of a new locker room and weight room in the west end zone.

The university is beginning construction on a storage facility and an additional parking area for its Campus Operations. The university’s old

power plant will be razed and parking will be expanded in that area.

The master plan includes extensive renovations and upgrades to Hershey Hall. These will include a new welcome center; new practice, competition and intermural spaces; premium locker rooms; and storage, office and support spaces.

The plan also includes a new facility to house the growing Franks School of Education, a new branded dining venue and additional campus parking.

“A key part of our success at Trine has been staying ahead of the curve by continuing to add to and upgrade our facilities as well as enhancing and expanding our academic offerings,” said Dr. Brooks. “We’re grateful for the vision of our Board of Trustees and the many supporters who make it possible for us to offer an outstanding learning and living environment for our students.”



New Residence Hall



Trine Family Training Center

FALL COMMENCEMENT

Gutwein encourages BCHP graduates to keep listening, learning



Thomas Gutwein, MD, Physician Executive at Parkview Health, encouraged fall 2024 graduates from Trine University's Dr. Earl D. and Melanie N. Brooks College of Health Professions to listen to others, share what they know and never stop learning during a special hooding and pinning ceremony on Dec. 6.

Held in the T. Furth Center for Performing Arts, the event recognized nursing, surgical

technology and physician assistant students who completed their degrees at the end of the fall semester.

Never stop learning

Gutwein, citing his experience as Allen County Health Commissioner, praised the graduates for choosing "a path that is both noble and necessary: the path of service in the health profession."

The speaker encouraged the graduates to listen to and be in-the-moment with their patients.

"Listening to the patient will make you a better clinician, help you understand and lead you to the correct answer," he shared.

To drive his point home, Gutwein recalled a time when he diagnosed a young man from Africa with malaria and offered him treatment.

"He politely turned down my offer and stated, 'I'm going back home where they know better than you how to treat malaria,'" Gutwein quoted. "I didn't feel offended at all. I felt happy that he was able to make his own healthcare decisions and do what he felt best."

"Sometimes we think we know what's best, but we still need to be open to seeing things through the perspective of others. Learn every

day. The day you stop learning is the day you stop living."

"The road ahead will not always be easy, but it will write your story. Make it a story you can be proud of," Gutwein urged. "The world is counting on your brilliance, your compassion and your unwavering commitment to the health of all."

New beginnings

Following the presentation of pins and hoods, Timothy Raftery, president of the Trine University Alumni Association, welcomed the graduates as Trine alumni.

In response, Ava Shamoon, a Master of Physician Assistant Studies major who was named the Outstanding BCHP Graduate of December 2024, told her fellow graduates that though the end to their journey feels bittersweet, it marks a noteworthy achievement.

"We became each other's family, sharing in the challenges and moments of joy and supporting one another through every obstacle," Ava said. "We will always share the memories of this experience and never forget what brought us here. Here's to a future of health, growth and endless possibility."

Fall Commencement graduates urged to keep faith, integrity



Reflecting on her own journey from Malaysia to serving as president, CEO and majority owner of western New York's largest manufacturing service provider, 1995 Trine University alumna Rupa Shanmugam told graduates at the university's Fall Commencement to keep faith in themselves and maintain their integrity no matter the path they travel.

About 900 graduates from the university's College of Graduate and Professional Studies participated in the ceremony on Dec. 14 in the Keith E. Busse/Steel Dynamics Inc. Athletic and Recreation Center.

A similar number of family and friends attended the event.

A long journey

Keirsten Eberts, vice president of online and international studies, welcomed those assembled by encouraging the graduates to cherish the relationships, achievements and education they gained during their time at Trine.

Shanmugam, an electrical engineering graduate who received Trine University's 2018 Outstanding Achievement Award, said her childhood in Kampar, Malaysia, was spent following her father around and watching him do repairs.

Her brother died at age 16 while studying electrical engineering, and Shanmugam decided to complete what he had started. She earned the equivalent of an associate degree and began working in Singapore before coming to what was then Tri-State University to complete her bachelor's degree.

After graduating, delays in processing for her Optional Practical Permit prevented her from taking a job for eight months. She said at the time she never thought she would lead a company.

"That's the reality of life: You never know where your path will lead you," she said. "But no matter where it takes you, have faith and believe in yourself and your abilities, because no one else is going to do that for you."

"Embrace what comes along; however, never feel that you need to change yourself to just fit in your new environment," she advised. "I'm not saying that you should not compromise or adapt to situations, but don't change your core personality of who you are."

"The only limit to your success is your own imagination. If you can dream it, you can achieve it."

Following the address, Tim Raftery, president of Trine University's Alumni Association, welcomed the graduates as alumni. Degrees were then presented to each of the graduates.



SPRING COMMENCEMENT



Forks in the road and faith in yourself: Trine University celebrates Class of 2025

Trine University celebrated nearly 2,300 graduating students in the Class of 2025 at its spring Commencement ceremonies on May 3.

During the morning ceremony, a packed crowd in the Keith E. Busse/Steel Dynamics Inc. Athletic and Recreation Center heard Indiana Gov. Mike Braun encourage graduates to make wise choices, embrace change and be willing to take risks.

In the afternoon event, distinguished alumna Kiruba “Rupa” Shanmugam shared her life story with graduates from Trine University’s hybrid programs in Detroit, Phoenix and Reston, Virginia.

Both speakers were granted honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees during their respective ceremonies.

Wise choice

Gov. Braun opened his remarks by encouraging the graduates that they had made a wise choice in coming to Trine.

“(Trine) does what you need to do in the educational world, what you need to do successfully in the entrepreneurial world, and that is listen to your customers — parents and students — and make sure you give them a good product,” he said.

He encouraged the graduates, as they prepared to transition into the next phase of life, to focus on faith, family and community. He also told them to be wise in the choices they make as they encounter “forks in the road.”

“You either go this way or that way, and it’s consequential, because if you don’t get that right, you end up in a cul de sac of life,” he said. “You can get out of them, but ... you’re circling around and then hopefully getting back on track.”

Probably even more difficult, he said, is adapting to change along the journey.

“It’s easy to get in a groove of where things are working, but ... things are going to change. You’ve got to adapt,” he said.

He also told graduates that “the good Lord wants you to stick your neck out.”

“He doesn’t want you to get comfortable. He wants you to embrace life fully,” he said.

The governor then shared examples of these principles reflected in his own life, as he made the journey from small-town Indiana to Wall Street, then back home and eventually to the governor’s mansion.

Resilience

Following the governor’s address, the university presented degrees to graduates from Trine University’s Angola campus, Brooks College of Health Professions and TrineOnline.

The presentations included a posthumous degree awarded to Fred Garland, who would have graduated with the Class of 2025 but tragically passed away Dec. 11 in a car

accident. Those in attendance gave a standing ovation when the degree was presented to his brother Cortez, a 2024 alumnus.

After the new graduates were inducted into the Alumni Association, Morgan Walz, the Robert B. Stewart Award winner for the Class of 2025, presented the response. Walz said if there was one word that defined her journey at Trine, it was resilience.

“Each of us has faced our own setbacks ... but we made it here anyway,” she said, “not because it was easy, but because we kept going. That’s what resilience is all about and that’s what we should celebrate as much as our academic achievements.”

“As we step forward into the next chapter, whether it’s graduate school, a new job or something entirely unknown, let us carry that resilience with us, because no matter what lies ahead, it is not our setbacks that define us, but how we respond to them that really counts.”

Afternoon Commencement

Shanmugam, a 1995 electrical engineering graduate who now serves as president, chief executive officer and majority owner of SoPark Corporation in Buffalo, New York, shared from her own life journey during the afternoon ceremony.

She said her life, which began in a small tin mining town in Malaysia, was, “a dynamic one marked by unexpected turns that have led to unforeseen opportunities. And yes, the occasional bump on the road that has provided invaluable lessons too.”

“As you venture out into your new journey, some day you will be able to share it with others and be proud of what you’re sharing,” she said in closing. “One of my favorite quotes that I want to leave you with today was by Gerard Way. It goes like this: ‘One day your life will flash before your eyes. Make sure it’s worth watching.’ ”

Engineering teams have another successful spring

Teams representing different Trine University engineering disciplines competed around the nation this spring, with several recording best-ever finishes.



Jeopardy champions

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Trine University’s McKetta Department of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering had a record-breaking presence at the AIChE North Central Regional Student Conference on March 29, held at Michigan State University. Twenty Trine students attended, the largest representation from any participating school.

Trine students participated in ChemE Car, Jeopardy, and Undergraduate Research Competitions. The Trine team of **Isaac Braun, Natalie Crowner, Alyssa Keptner** and **Caitlyn Glitsch** won the ChemE Jeopardy competition. Keptner earned first place in the Technical Research Paper Competition with her talk, “Media Optimization for Biofuels from Cyclotella Cryptica.”



Eco-marathon team first to pass inspection

INDIANAPOLIS — Overcoming obstacles from outdated parts to spring tornados, Trine University’s 2025 Shell Eco-marathon team became the first team to pass technical inspection in the Urban Electric category. The team took part in the regional competition held at Indianapolis Motor Speedway from April 2-6. Encompassing high school and college teams, the annual

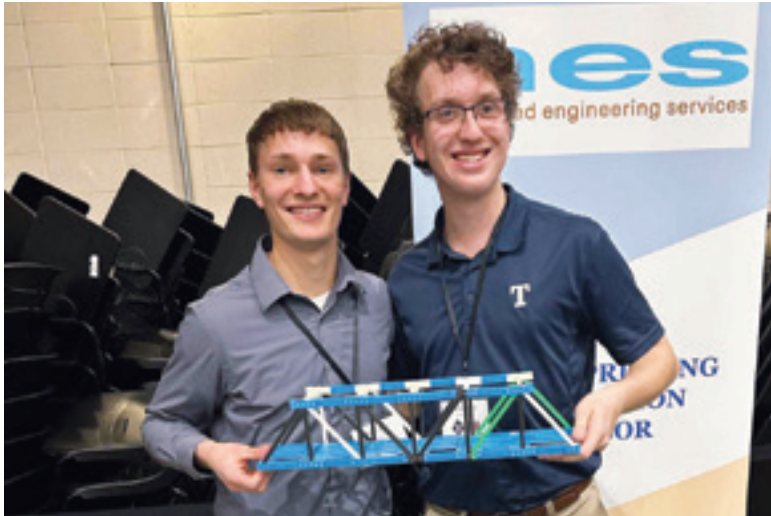
competition challenges students to build their own ultra-energy-efficient cars and take them out on the track in competition. Trine’s entry was the university’s first in the Urban Electric category since 2022. Trine’s team was made up of mechanical engineering majors **Evan Straske, Jonathan Sheets, Hunter Burke, Andrew Mackey, Drew Marry** and **Joshua Metcalf**.



Foundry of Freedom

ATLANTA — Trine University’s Cast in Steel team recreated a piece of history, earning national honors for their effort. This year’s challenge for the national competition was to produce a replica of one of George Washington’s swords, or design one based on his known preferences and needs. The Trine team, dubbed “Foundry of Freedom,” decided to create a copy of Washington’s cuttose sword. Washington acquired the sword, which sports a lion’s

head, in 1770, just prior to the Revolutionary War. The team earned second place in the “Best Authentic George Washington’s Sword” category and third place for “Best Casting” and “Best Design and Process.” The competition was held April 12 in Atlanta. The Trine team was made up of mechanical engineering majors **Nikolas Uhler, Rhett Laud, Reese Greene** and **Nathaniel DiRe**.



Annual ASCE Symposium

NOTRE DAME, Ind. — Students and faculty from Trine University’s Reiners Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering traveled to the University of Notre Dame for the annual American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Indiana-Kentucky Student Symposium, with two Trine teams finishing in the top three of their respective events. The university placed second in the 3D-printed bridge

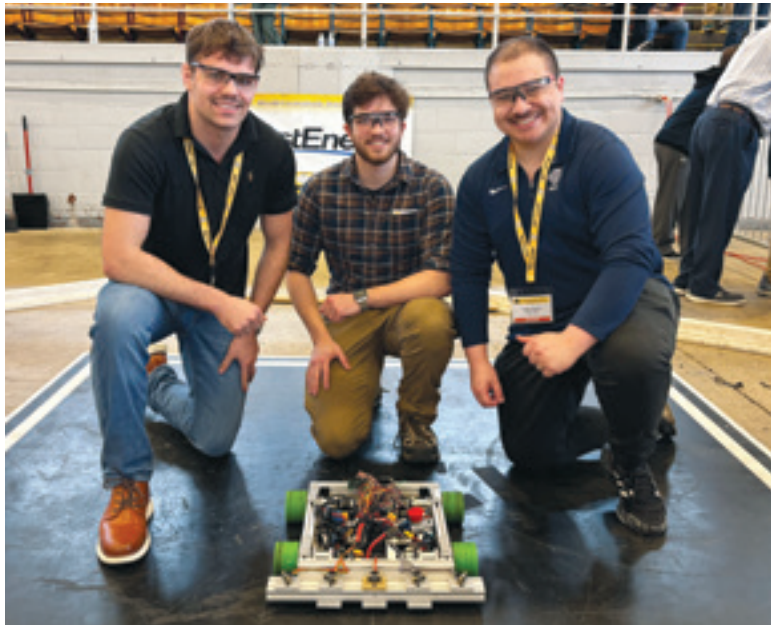
competition and third in surveying. Trine teams also participated in balsa bridge, mystery design, construction institute, Mead Paper, trivia and concrete cornhole competitions. The Symposium was held April 3-5. Eleven Trine students participated along with faculty members **Tim Tyler, Ph.D.**, professor, and **TJ Murphy**, assistant professor.



Trine team flies to best finish

TUCSON, Ariz. — Trine University had its best finish ever at the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) national Design/Build/Fly Competition, held April 10-13 at TIMPA Field in Tucson, Arizona. A team of senior mechanical engineering students placed 43rd out of 108 at the competition, a 12-place improvement from last

year. The Trine team was one of three recognized as “Best Senior Design Team.” This year also marked the first time a Trine team completed the second of three missions involved in the competition. Team members were **Hailey Budney, Dillon Dennison, Matthew Edison, Bryan Maida, Nathan Mast, Ryan McDonald** and **Cassidy Victor**.



Top sumo robot

MARION, Ohio — A Trine University team was the Yokozuna (grand champion) of this year’s National Robotics Challenge. A robot designed and built by **Malachi Henry**, a computer engineering major, **Philip Burney**, an electrical engineering major, and **Logan Martin**,

a computer engineering major, won this year’s Sumo Robot competition. Trine also competed in the Combat Robot division. The National Robotics Challenge was held April 3-5 in Marion, Ohio.

Dr. Tony Kline named executive vice president at Trine



Tony Kline, Ph.D.

Trine University has appointed **Tony Kline, Ph.D.**, to the new role of executive vice president, where he will serve as the principal aide to university President Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D. “Dr. Kline has provided outstanding leadership to numerous university-wide initiatives while guiding the growth, development and continued success of our academic programs,” Dr. Brooks said. “He is a collaborative leader who is always thinking ahead to what we can do to better meet the needs of our students, and I’m confident

he will continue to excel and help lead the university to new heights in this new role.” As executive vice president, Dr. Kline will oversee a wide range of matters of institutional importance, including management of staff, budgets, administrative policies and procedures. He also will serve as the president’s primary strategic liaison with the Board of Trustees on matters not directly handled by the president, as well as with university and community

constituencies on strategic and operational matters. “I am honored and very appreciative to be able to serve the university in this new capacity,” Dr. Kline said. “Thanks to the visionary leadership of Dr. Brooks and the Board of Trustees, Trine University has been and continues to be an amazing institution of higher learning that equips students to succeed in their lives and careers. I look forward to the opportunity to positively impact even more students in my new position.”

Trine names Lexie Staten as vice president for academic affairs



Lexie Staten

Trine University has named **Lexie Staten** as its new vice president for academic affairs. She succeeds Tony Kline, Ph.D., who recently was promoted to executive vice president. Staten becomes the university’s chief academic officer after serving as dean of its Rinker-Ross

School of Health Sciences, Trine’s second-largest academic school, since 2023. Prior to becoming dean, Staten served the university as chair of its Department of Exercise Science. She joined the department in 2019 as an assistant professor. “Lexie has an outstanding record of being a positive, well-respected collaborator who has overseen growth in existing academic programs while introducing new degrees and pathways that lead to successful careers for our graduates,” Dr. Kline said. “She has provided strong, thoughtful leadership as a department chair and dean, and I’m excited to see how the university’s academic programs as a whole will flourish under her guidance.”

Clemens named to 2025 Forty Under 40



Lisa Clemens, DMSc, PA-C

Lisa Clemens, DMSc, PA-C, dean of Trine University’s Brooks College of Health Professions, was among the professional and community leaders recognized among the Class of 2025 for the greater Fort Wayne area’s Forty Under 40 awards.

“Dr. Clemens is an innovative leader who has helped support the success of our Brooks College of Health Professions programs,” said Tony Kline, Ph.D., executive vice president. “She is selfless and creative, and demonstrates a strong commitment to excellence. We are grateful for her dedicated, passionate approach in all she does to positively impact the faculty and students at Trine University.” The Forty Under 40 is an evening of celebrating and recognizing 40 of Northeast Indiana’s best and brightest individuals who are doing amazing things in business and for their communities. Winners were selected from a pool of 300 nominations.

IN PGA recognizes Benson, Tilbury



Catherine Benson

The Indiana PGA (IN PGA) honored two Trine University golf management faculty for their contributions to the sport during its Annual Business Meeting, held Feb. 24 at Horizon Convention Center in Muncie, Indiana. **Catherine Benson**, who serves as dean of the Ketner School of Business and leads the university’s golf management program, was honored as the 2025 IN PGA Golf Professional of the Year. According to its website, the Golf Professional of the Year Award is the highest honor paid to a PGA professional within the Indiana Section PGA.



Christopher Tilbury

Christopher Tilbury, an adjunct faculty member, was recognized with the 2025 IN PGA Roger Lundy Youth Player Development Award. The Player Development Award recognizes a PGA professional for extraordinary and exemplary contributions and achievements in player development.

Trine names Pfefferkorn dean of Franks School of Education



Alecia Pfefferkorn

Trine University has named **Alecia Pfefferkorn**, an experienced educator and administrator who has served at several area school corporations as well as at the university, as dean of its Franks School of Education (FSOE).

She had been interim dean of FSOE since February. Pfefferkorn joined the Franks School of Education as an assistant professor in the fall of 2022. In addition to her teaching and advising duties, she created assessment tools to evaluate student performance and collaborated with colleagues on curriculum development initiatives. She also secured more than \$1 million in Lilly Endowment Planning and Implementation Grant funds to support Science of Reading partnerships between the university and area school corporations. Prior to coming to Trine, Pfefferkorn served for seven years as principal at Prairie Heights Elementary School, after serving five years as literacy coordinator and Title I coordinator at the same school.

Chris Carroll joins Trine as dean of Allen School of Engineering and Computing



J. Chris Carroll, Ph.D., PE

J. Chris Carroll, Ph.D., PE, a distinguished educator and experienced academic leader, has joined Trine University as dean of its Allen School of Engineering and Computing. He comes to Trine from Saint Louis University in Missouri, where he most recently served as associate professor and chair of

the university’s Department of Civil Engineering. “Dr. Carroll is an enthusiastic, proven academic leader whose background encompasses an outstanding body of teaching, scholarly work and research,” said Tony Kline, Ph.D., executive vice president. “He brings a commitment to personalized, hands-on learning, has demonstrated a creative, effective approach to recruitment, and is passionate about connecting industry to the classroom, all of which are trademarks at Trine University.” Dr. Carroll succeeds William Barry, Ph.D., who had served as dean of the school since 2021. Dr. Barry is returning to a full-time teaching role within the school.

Special moments highlight Trine’s annual faculty awards

This year’s annual year-end awards ceremony for Trine University faculty, held prior to Commencement on May 3, included two special moments of recognition for those who have served the university.



Ana Boman

Tony Kline, Ph.D., executive vice president, read comments from Brandy DePriest, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Humanities and Communication, honoring **Ana Boman**.



Gretchen Miller

Kline also presented a proclamation from the faculty to **Gretchen Miller**, senior vice president and chief of staff, recognizing her work at the university.

The proclamation praised Miller for her “remarkable leadership, steadfast

dedication, and lasting contributions to our university community.”

McKetta-Smith Excellence in Teaching

The McKetta-Smith Excellence in Teaching Awards were established for the faculty by Trustee Emeritus John J. McKetta, Ph.D., in 1989.



Gary Greene, Ph.D.

The recipient of the Charles & Sue Ragan Gelet Excellence in Teaching Award was **Gary Greene, Ph.D.**, professor in the Reiners Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Greene also

was the recipient of the Professor Gerald H. Moore Overall Excellence in Teaching Award.



Henry Yukevich

Henry Yukevich, assistant professor in the Department of Humanities and Communications, received the Helen Smith McKetta Excellence in Teaching Award.



Eric Goddard, Ph.D.

The Robert Andrew and Anne Ewing Smith Excellence in Teaching Award was presented to **Eric Goddard, Ph.D.**, assistant professor in the Department of Psychology and Social Science.



Hong Park, Ph.D.

The recipient of the Robert Ewing & Gail Stewart Smith Excellence in Teaching Award was **Hong Park, Ph.D.**, professor in the Department of Science.



Nicole Edmonds, DPT

Nicole Edmonds, DPT, associate professor in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program, was the recipient of the Merle J. & Anna Mae McKetta Thomas Excellence in Teaching Award.



Marek Kolar, Ph.D.

Marek Kolar, Ph.D., associate professor in the Ketner School of Business, was recognized with the Charles William, Nelle Paris, & Mary Ann McKetta Excellence in Teaching Award.



Allen Hersel, Ph.D.

The recipient of the Steve & Mary Yacynch McKetta Excellence in Teaching Award was **Allen Hersel, Ph.D.**, professor in the McKetta Department of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering.



Tom Trusty

Tom Trusty, associate professor in the Department of Design and Engineering Technology, received the Frank & Julia Gelet McKetta Excellence in Teaching Award.



Stephen Carr, Ph.D.

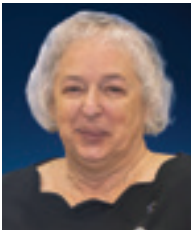
The recipient of the John J. & Mary Gelet McKetta Excellence in Teaching Award was **Stephen Carr, Ph.D.**, associate professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Additional awards



Brittany Winn

Brittany Winn was honored as the Outstanding Adjunct Award for Angola Campus in recognition of teaching excellence and exceptional service to the university.



Emily Chancellor

Emily Chancellor, administrative assistant for the Rinker-Ross School of Health Sciences, was named the winner of the Service Award, which recognizes an individual who has committed an extraordinary amount of time, resources and dedication to the betterment of Trine University.



Michael Smith

Michael Smith, assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics, received the Faculty Scholarship Award, honoring an individual who has gone well beyond regular duties and has dedicated much time and effort to produce quality scholarly work as a faculty member at Trine University.

The OER Excellence Award, presented to individuals who have shown outstanding commitment to effectively incorporate open, affordable education resources for students, was given to **Josh Lizardi**, assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics, and **Kelsey Walker**, instructor in the College of Graduate and Professional Studies.



Jeanette Goddard, Ph.D.

The Barrenbrugge Award for Faculty Excellence was presented to **Jeanette Goddard, Ph.D.**, associate professor in the Department of Humanities and Communication. The award is based on excellence in teaching, achievement in research or other scholarly endeavors, and service to the university.



Anna Glowinski, Ph.D.

The Jannen Renaissance Scholar Award, given for exhibiting a breadth of interest and accomplishment consistent with Renaissance ideals and encouraging students and faculty to aspire to such breadth, was presented to **Anna Glowinski, Ph.D.**, associate professor in the Department of Science.



Christopher Carlin

Christopher Carlin, Ed.D, PA-C, associate professor in the Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program, received the Excellence in Teaching award for the Brooks College of Health Professions.



Bill Barry, Ph.D.

Bill Barry, Ph.D., was recognized for his valued service as dean of the Allen School of Engineering and Computing as he prepares to transition back to a classroom role.



Catherine Benson

Catherine Benson, dean of the Ketner School of Business, was recognized for five years of service as dean.



Big Man on Campus

Contestants in the annual Big Man on Campus (BMOC) presented by Theta Phi Alpha perform during the pageant on Feb. 7 in the T. Furth Center for Performing Arts. This year’s competition raised more than \$40,000 for the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer.



Trine sets record for spring semester enrollment

Trine University’s spring enrollment has once again set a record, with more than 13,000 enrolled across all locations and platforms. Trine had 13,513 students enrolled in all programs for the spring 2025 semester in its official headcount, almost 5% above the 12,891 enrolled a year ago.

Among the areas seeing significant enrollment increases were programs offered through the Brooks College of Health Professions in Fort Wayne. The university also saw significant year-over-year growth in the number of new students starting at its Angola campus and in the number of dual enrollment students it is serving.



Career rate for Trine grads tops 99% once again

Trine University’s Class of 2024 saw 99.1% of its members obtain their desired career outcome within six months of graduation, continuing a 12-year streak of employment and graduate school placement averaging greater than 99%. Trine’s Class of 2024 saw more than 63% of its graduates employed in Indiana, with more than 90% staying in the Midwest. In addition to the overall figures, Trine’s Franks School of Education reported that 100% of its graduates seeking teaching positions have now been employed for 13 straight years. Almost 97% of Trine’s Class of 2024 reported employment in their field of study.



John Counciller



Crystal (Hardesty) Sattler



Sarah (Howe) Waidelich, JD



Dr. Sheri G. Trine

3 alumni named to Board; Dr. Sheri Trine rejoins

The Trine University Board of Trustees voted to add three distinguished university alumni to its membership at its January meeting. **John Counciller**, a 1969 mechanical engineering graduate, **Crystal (Hardesty) Sattler**, a 2002 chemical engineering graduate, and **Sarah (Howe) Waidelich, J.D.**, a 2010 mechanical engineering graduate, were named to the Board. “It’s always a pleasure to welcome fellow alumni to the Board of Trustees,” said Dr. Rick L. James, chair of Trine University’s Board of Trustees. “As beneficiaries of the quality education provided at Tri-State and Trine, I know John, Crystal and Sarah each bring a passion for the university to continue to grow and impact the lives of even more students.” “Each of these distinguished alumni has excelled in their professional career and personal lives,” said Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D., Trine University president. “We are proud of their accomplishments and honored that they have agreed to provide leadership and insight to guide the future success of Trine University.”

In addition, **Dr. Sheri G. Trine** rejoined the Trine University Board of Trustees in May as a full member, following a vote of affirmation by its membership. Dr. Trine originally joined the board in 2010 and was named trustee emeritus along with her husband, Dr. Ralph D. Trine, in 2020.



Trine Day tops \$100,000 raised

Trine University’s annual Trine Day, a celebration of the university as well as an opportunity to support its mission, raised more than \$100,000 in just 1,884 minutes. Held April 25-26, the event raised \$105,979.64. Money raised during Trine Day supports scholarships, academic and athletic needs, and student organizations at Trine University. The 1,884-minute time frame reflects the year 1884, when a group of visionary Angola, Indiana, residents founded Tri-State Normal College, the predecessor of today’s Trine University.

class notes

keep connected with alumni and friends

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

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

1990s

Jeff Lauber, 1990 BSME, was inducted into South Ripley High School's (Versailles, Indiana) Athletic Hall of Fame in February. Jeff dominated distance running at South Ripley, setting records in the 3200-meter and 2.5-mile runs. He was a three-time Ohio River Valley Conference and Ripley County champion and became an NCAA Division III All-American in both cross country and the steeplechase while competing for Trine University.



Matt Botsford, 1998 BSSSEd, ranked ninth nationally among active Division I coaches in career winning percentage, was named University of Central Florida volleyball's 10th head

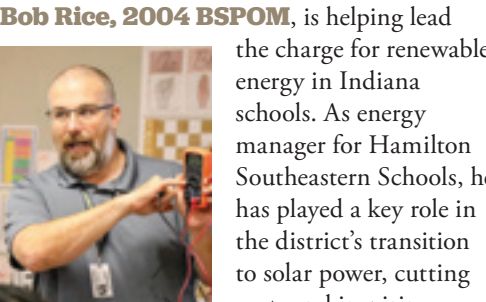
coach. Matt and his wife, Lindsey, have two children, daughter Harper and son Cache.

2000s



Matthew Hovermale, 2000 ABA, was appointed executive director of the Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce in January. Matthew and his wife, Kristen, live in Plymouth, Indiana, with their two dogs, Ferris and Bueller.

Jordan Gigli, 2003 BSMK, was named assistant football coach at Fresno State in January. Jordan joins the program as the defensive line coach from Northern Illinois, where he coached the same position group. He spent the 2019-24 seasons at NIU, his longest tenure at any stop in his coaching career. Prior to NIU, he was the defensive line coach at North Dakota from 2014-18 and Sacramento State from 2011-13.



Bob Rice, 2004 BSPOM, is helping lead the charge for renewable energy in Indiana schools. As energy manager for Hamilton Southeastern Schools, he has played a key role in the district's transition to solar power, cutting costs and inspiring students with sustainable solutions. Bob says, "Working with students to promote STEM and trade education is incredibly energizing. Their passion, awareness, and engagement far exceed what I experienced at their age, and I'm confident they're better equipped to address future challenges. This gives me real hope for the future of clean energy and sustainability."

Commonwealth Engineers, Inc. has promoted **Andrew Robarge, 2007 BSCE**, to vice president and member of the Board of Directors as of January. Andrew leads the Crown Point, Indiana, office. He has spent his entire career with Commonwealth, managing large-scale water resources projects across Indiana and Illinois.



2010s

Chris Kent, BAGS 2014, has been named assistant coach and director of player development for the Florida State University men's basketball team. In his new role, Chris will work closely with players to support their development both on and off the court. Previously, Chris served as the director of player development for the University of South Florida men's basketball team, where he played a key role in enhancing player growth and program success.

Haley (Agard) Ruby, 2016 BSCJ, and **Nicholas Ruby, 2016 BSCJ**, welcomed their daughter, Layla Brielle, on Dec. 5, 2024, at 5:46 a.m. Layla weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces, and measured 19 1/2 inches long. Layla joins proud big brother, Mateo Michael, born Sept. 5, 2022. The Ruby family resides in Lebanon, Indiana.



George Youpel, BSCJ 2016, was named the 2024 Indiana State Police Fort Wayne Post's Trooper of the District. The honor is given annually to troopers at each state police post in Indiana who exemplify "integrity, professionalism and a well-rounded work ethic." George works in the district's north zone, which includes Steuben and LaGrange counties.



Plymouth Community School Corporation appointed **Amanda (McPherron) Bender, 2017 BSGM**, as their new Human Resource



Specialist in March. A Plymouth High School alumna, Bender brings experience from roles such as accounting/HR manager at Swan Lake Resort and head gymnastics coach at Plymouth High School,

where she was named ICGSA District 1 Coach of the Year in 2022. In her new position, she will oversee employee recruitment, onboarding and benefits administration, aiming to foster a positive work environment within the district.

Richard Casen Kranze was born to **Bailey (Brown) Kranze, 2017 BSPSY**, and **Richard Kranze, 2018 BSDET**, on June 12, 2024, at 11:14 a.m. Casen weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces, and measured 19 1/2 inches long. The Kranzes reside in Crystal Lake, Illinois.



Maxwell David Marsh was born to **Abby (Hoge) Marsh, 2017 BSCJ**, and Austin Marsh on Sept. 24, 2024. Max weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce, and measured 21 inches long. The Marsh family resides in Fort Wayne, Indiana.



Amanda Abney, 2018 BSEXS, was named varsity girls volleyball head coach for Prairie Heights High School in February. "I am incredibly excited to take on this role at Prairie Heights," Amanda said in a press release. "Volleyball has been a significant part of my life, and I look forward to building a program that fosters both skill development and a love for the game. My goal is to help our student-athletes grow both on and off the court, preparing them for success at all levels of competition."



Two Trine University alumni were recently named to Conexus Indiana's Rising 30 Class of 2025. Rising 30 honors emerging leaders in advanced manufacturing and logistics — those bringing exceptional leadership and innovative thinking to bear on the industries' toughest challenges. **Spencer Brown, 2018 BSDET/MSEM**, is a design/product engineer at Ember Recreational Vehicle in Bristol, Indiana. **Ashley Jeffirs, 2019 BSME/2024 MSEM/2025 MBA**, is a manufacturing engineer at Zimmer Biomet in Warsaw, Indiana.



Peyton (Wilson) Birkenbeul, 2021 BSACC/MBA, and **Jackson Birkenbeul, 2019 BSDET**, were married Oct. 15, 2022. They welcomed their beautiful daughter, Olivia Louanne, on July 10, 2023. The Birkenbeul family calls Fort Wayne, Indiana home.



Sarah (Botts) Botts-Zion, 2019 DPT, and Matt Zion welcomed their daughter, Hattie Elizabeth, on June 25, 2024. The family resides in Fort Wayne, Indiana with their dogs, Maisey and Bobby.



Erika (Kasen) Munger, 2019 BSBME, and **Kyle Munger, 2019 BSME**, welcomed their son, Lincoln Reid, on April 26, 2024, at 7:44 a.m. Lincoln weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces, and measured 20.5 inches long. The Munger family resides in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Erika and Kyle both work as engineers.



Sarah Stewart, 2019 BSBME/2023 MSEM, and **Neil Orr, 2020 BSChE**, were engaged Aug. 15, 2024, while traveling the United Kingdom and Ireland. They plan to marry in late 2026 or early 2027. Sarah and Neil currently reside in the northern Chicago suburbs. Sarah serves as a senior quality engineer for AMETEK Engineered Medical Components and Neil serves as a quality engineer for Visual Comfort & Co. Neil has also continued his lacrosse career with the Chicago Portagers, a semi-professional box lacrosse team. Sarah and Neil have a golden retriever, Wilson, who is already three years old! They ran the Chicago Marathon together last fall.



2020s

Jack Beakas, 2020 BSCE, recently ran the Boston Marathon for the first time, finishing in 2 hours, 24 minutes and 5 seconds, 90th-best overall and 79th among male competitors. Jack serves as a volunteer assistant coach at Hamilton Southeastern. Feeling the youthful spirit of his runners and seeing their dedication helped motivate him to run the Boston Marathon.

Jake Chesney, 2020 BSFIN/MBA, was named Sheridan High School's head football coach in January. After serving as associate head coach during the 2024 season, he was unanimously chosen to take the reins following an extensive selection process.



Kaitlyn (Blankenberger) Gorman, 2020 BSBIO/2022 MSPAS, and **Robert (Rob) Gorman, 2020 BSCE**, were married Dec. 16, 2023, at St. Wendel Catholic Church in Evansville, Indiana. They welcomed twin daughters, Ivy Ruth and Murphy Rose, on Sept. 15, 2024. The Gormans reside in Hillsdale, Michigan.



2020s



Savannah (Day) Kennedy, 2020 BSMGT/2021 MBA, was married to Reis Kennedy on July 27, 2024, in Three Oaks, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy reside in Plainfield, Indiana.



Jacob Rheinheimer, 2020 BSSM, has been recognized with the prestigious 2024 Barasch Breakthrough Award from the United States Harness Writers Association. The award honors emerging leaders in the harness racing industry. Jacob serves as Racing Marketing Manager and Sponsorships Coordinator at Harrah’s Hoosier Park Racing & Casino. Having grown up immersed in the sport, his passion and dedication have driven his success, from coordinating track events to becoming a lead analyst on Hoosier Park’s broadcasts.

Brittani (Smith) Ritchie, 2020 BSBME, and Manny Ritchie welcomed their daughter, Cecilia Anne, on March 3 at 3:25 p.m. She weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce, and measured 21 inches long. Brittani serves as a medical device consultant at Project Medtech. The Ritchies currently reside in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

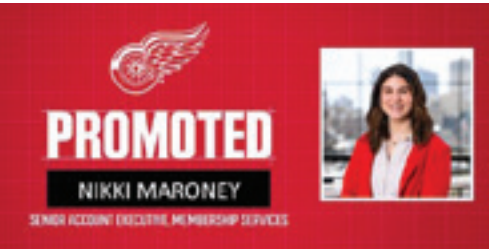


Kennedy (Brough) Gigli, 2021 BSEngEd, was married to Matthew Gigli on Feb. 8 at St. Peter’s Catholic Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana.



Theresa DiMaggio, 2022 BSSM, has been hired as the new head coach of Adrian College Women’s ACHA Division 2 hockey. Over the course of her professional career, Theresa has served as a program administrator for Suburban Ice in Macomb, Michigan. She was also promoted to assistant director of athletic communications at Lawrence Tech University and continues in that role.

Nikki Maroney, BSSR 2022, has been



promoted to senior account executive within the Membership Services Team for the Detroit Red Wings. In her new role, she will manage and cultivate relationships with high-value members, enhancing the fan experience.

Sydney Stephan, 2022 BAGS, was engaged to Tanner Muse on Dec. 1, 2024,



in their kitchen following a beautiful sunset bike trail ride. The future Mr. and Mrs. Muse reside in Belmont, North Carolina, and were married in North Carolina in July 2025. Sydney is currently working on her Master of Science through TrineOnline, and upon graduation will pursue part-time legal education in Charlotte, North Carolina, while working in Trust, Estate, and Business Law. Tanner is going into his sixth year as a linebacker in the National Football League. He is a Clemson University alumnus.

Kelsy Taylor, 2022 BSMK, has been named girls basketball coach at New Albany High School. Kelsy is a 2018 New Albany graduate.

Abbey Wang, 2022 BACOM, was awarded



the 2024-2025 APSAC Administrative Excellence Award at the Purdue-University Fort Wayne Employee Recognition Gala. This prestigious award recognizes administrative staff members for their excellence in job performance, outstanding contributions to the university and exceptional service.

The Wooster (Ohio) City School District recently announced **Joey Day, 2022 MSOL**, as its new director of athletics. Joey brings experience and a track record of success in athletic administration. He had previously served as director of athletics at Marysville High School for six years. Before Marysville, he held athletic director positions at Kenton High School and Harvest Preparatory School.

Sporting JAX, the United Soccer League (USL) franchise group bringing women’s and men’s professional soccer to Northeast Florida, has announced the continued expansion of its front office team with the addition of **Andrew (A.J.) Klimek, 2023 BSSM/MBA**, as an account executive. A.J. will drive ticket sales and membership growth initiatives. His background includes sales roles with the Indianapolis Colts and the Fort Wayne TinCaps, and previous experience in the insurance and education sectors.



The Macon Mayhem, proud members of the Southern Professional Hockey League, announced in February that the team acquired forward **Frank Trazzera, 2023 BSSM**, in a trade with the Peoria Rivermen in exchange for future considerations. Frank had 8 points in 35 games with Peoria in his first full professional season.



Elayna Hasty, 2024 BAGS, recently competed in her sixth Miss Indiana pageant. Elayna qualified for Miss Indiana by winning the local Miss Banks of the Wabash pageant in November.

Taylor Noll, 2024 BSMK/MSBAN, was named Queen for the 42nd McCartyville St. Patrick’s Day parade in Shelby County, Ohio. Taylor is employed at Clopay Garage Doors.

Abigail Yeager, 2024 BSMK, was appointed as marketing coordinator at the Community Foundation DeKalb County as of 2025. In her new position, Abigail will focus on managing the foundation’s digital and print marketing efforts, to enhance community outreach and communication.



Michael Kruse 2025 BSMGT/ MBA and Heidi Wilhelm 2025BSSciEd were married May 17. The couple resides in Auburn.

Refer a student to Trine

You can help a student benefit from a Trine education just like you did! Any new student who applies, is admitted and enrolls at Trine and is officially referred by an alum receives a \$500 award.

Learn more by visiting trine.edu/scholarships and selecting Alumni Referral Award.



Trine alum, trustee's 47-year firefighting career celebrated



Trine University President Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D., left, and Trustee Richard Oeder, 1965 BSCE, stand in front of an 1885 steam engine at the Salem-Morrow Fire Department in Warren County, Ohio. The fire department brought the engine in to celebrate the retirement of Richard Oeder and Ralph Blanton as captains and William Harrison as chief.



From left, Ohio State Representative Michelle Teska (R-District 55), Richard Oeder, Ohio State Sen. Steve Wilson (R-District 7) and Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D., Trine University President.



Ian Oeder, grandson of Richard Oeder, checks out his grandpa's locker area.



In 1978, **Richard Oeder, 1965 BSCE**, decided to take an emergency management course to help in the work he was doing with Boy Scouts.

Little did he know it would launch a 47-year career as a firefighter.

The Salem-Morrow Fire Department in Warren County, Ohio, recently honored Richard, who retired as captain, along with retiring Captain Ralph Blanton and retiring Chief William Harrison.

The three combined for 118 years of experience in firefighting and emergency medical services.

"It was a real honor for me to retire with Chief Harrison and Captain Ralph Blanton," Richard said.

Richard said he was pleased that Trine University President Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D., joined 300 others at his retirement celebration.

"My wife Kathy and I have great respect for Dr. Brooks," Richard said. "He has been a true friend and we have supported each other through the years."

Nights and weekends

After graduating from Tri-State College, Richard joined Columbia Gas as a junior district plant engineer. He held many positions throughout his 33-year tenure with the company.

One promotion involved relocating to Toledo, Ohio.

"While residing in the suburb of Perrysburg, I noticed the city was offering a new State of Ohio Emergency Management course," he recalled. "I decided it would be worthwhile to take this course; I had been involved with Boy Scouts, and the additional medical knowledge could come in handy."

The City of Perrysburg asked Richard to

join the local fire department in 1978, after he completed the course and passed the state exam. He accepted the offer, serving as a first responder on nights and weekends.

"I soon found after getting into the fire service field, that I very much enjoyed these activities and was capable of handling the various emergencies that would arise when the tone dropped," he said.

"Our family grew up on hard work and multi-tasking, and even though it was challenging to take on the additional responsibility with the Perrysburg Fire Department, I was able to handle it."

After relocating to the Upper Arlington community in Columbus, Ohio, in 1980, Richard left the City of Perrysburg Fire Department and joined the Upper Arlington Fire Department.

"This was another great match, as I could run with the full-time personnel on nights and weekends and participate in all their training courses," he said.

Richard had served as president of the Trine Alumni Association Board of Directors and joined the university's Board of Trustees in 1995.

Besides his service at Trine and his work for Columbus Gas and the fire departments, Richard was part of the Boy Scouts, Sigma Phi Delta Fraternity; American Society of Civil Engineers; Pioneers Engineers Club; Lebanon, Ohio, Chamber of Commerce; South Warren County Chamber of Commerce; Lebanon, Ohio Rotary; Fort Ancient Restored Machinery Club; United States Power Squadron; Pleasant Plain United Presbyterian Church; Farm Bureau; and Ohio State University President's Club.

For his extensive service the university honored him with the Pillar of Success

award in 2016. Kathy was named the university's Woman of Distinction in 2019.



Richard Oeder, left, and wife Kathy, right, with Indiana Governor Mike Braun at the 2025 Trine University Commencement.

Training future firefighters

In 1999, Richard retired from Columbia Gas to take care of his parents and relocated to the family home in Morrow, Ohio. He joined the Salem-Morrow Fire Department in 2000, where he served until retiring earlier this year.

He said his biggest accomplishment was training young cadets, several of whom now work as full-time firefighters and paramedics.

The ability of the next generation of firefighters to carry on the work gave Richard comfort to retire and concentrate on community involvements, coordinating events at the family's Oeder's Lake property, and managing rentals.

"I have very positive memories of being associated with all three departments and having the privilege of working with so many great men and women who provided service above self to our many customers day and night," he said. "From pediatrics to geriatrics, from search and rescue to vehicle accidents, to calling for the helicopter and facing burning structures, these were all memorable activities on a routine basis."



Sweet tradition: Burne Miller enjoys making syrup in retirement

"We do not sell it," Burne said. "It's the social thing, not a profit thing. This is easy stuff to give away. And people love the real thing!"

Passed down from his grandfather

Burne said his grandfather started making his own maple syrup around 1940.

"My Pop is not sure why his dad started doing it in on his six-acre woods, but they built up quite an operation, complete with an impressive 'sugar shack,'" he said.

Young Burne enjoyed helping out as a boy, and when he and Jody bought the 30-plus-acre property they now live on, making maple syrup was part of the plan.

He set up his own operation when he retired two years ago. Though he applies some of his engineering expertise to the process, he said it's decidedly low-tech.

Burne and Jody pour sap collected from the trees into a 150-gallon tub, where it is stored until it's time for boiling.

"It is all exposed to the elements, so we need the sun to be in the day's forecast, not snow — and definitely NOT rain," he said.

'Maple syrup machine'

Boiling takes place in the "maple syrup machine" as it was dubbed

by a nephew: cinder blocks with a smokestack that surround a wood fire and hold up racks for three restaurant warming trays that hold the sap.

The tray farthest from the fire lets the sap start warming before it's transferred to the "true boil ones."

"It's very basic, but it puts out gold!" Burne said.

The process of boiling out water and filtering impurities takes most of the day and finishes inside the couple's home on the stove.

"We just simply love to be outside when the sun is shining, it's something around 45 or 50 degrees out, and the birds are just chirping away," Burne said. "Cutting up or splitting a tree might also be on the agenda. Or we might just sit around and read a book, do some bird-watching, or converse with whomever is joining us at the time."

The season ends when the trees stop producing sap — usually after a few weeks, although a mid-March warm spell cut this year's season short.

But the delicious maple syrup lasts throughout the year.

"It definitely has a smoky flavor to it, and people say they love it," Burne said.

Retirement has offered **Burne Miller, 1984 BSCE**, the opportunity to carry on a delicious family tradition.

When winter begins to break but spring hasn't yet arrived, Burne and his wife Jody tap maple trees (35 this year) on their property to begin producing homemade maple syrup, which they enjoy and share with family and friends.

Trine alum receives DOD medal for anti-missile system work



Dr. Angie Lewis, left, technical director at NSWC Crane, and Capt. Rex Boonyobhas, commanding officer, present the Civilian Service Achievement Medal to Alex Ray.

A Trine University alumnus has been granted one of the highest civilian honors by the Department of Defense (DOD) for his work on an anti-missile defense system for warships.

Alex Ray, who graduated from Trine in 2015 with a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering, is chief engineer in the Maritime Electromagnetic Warfare Systems Division at the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), Crane Division.

The DOD recently honored Alex with the Civilian Service Achievement Medal (CSAM), given to "civilian personnel who are to be recognized for a sustained performance or a specific achievement of a superlative nature."

The medal is the fifth-highest designation a civilian can receive from the DOD.

Alex was honored for his work in bringing together various groups and stakeholders to improve upon the AN/SLQ-32, the primary electromagnetic warfare suite for US Navy surface ships.

Improving reliability

Alex began working on the AN/SLQ-32 early in his career at Crane, beginning with the AN/SLQ-32(V)6, which was undergoing field testing about that time.

The AN/SLQ-32(V)6 had several reliability and supportability issues.

"While this system brought updated technology, many of the system components were performing well below their expected reliability, leading to far more failures than anticipated," Alex said.

Charged with addressing those reliability challenges, Alex brought together teams from Navy Program Offices, other Warfare Centers, industry and internally at Crane to review the failure data and understand what parts were having the biggest impact on the overall system.

He then worked with industry partners and Crane's internal engineering team to redesign components that were causing issues.

"Modernizing the fleet is a process that typically takes a very long time to complete," he said. "I worked to consolidate all of our engineering improvements onto a single carrier strike group, which served as a much faster way to validate the changes, and this effort was largely successful."

Alex said he was very grateful and humbled to be recognized with the medal.

"This was a team effort, and so many others deserve recognition for the effort they contributed to making this effort a success," he said.

He also appreciates his education and experience at Trine, which he said gave him an incredible foundation for his work and graduate studies.

"As an alumnus, it has been great to see Trine continue to thrive," he said.

Miles of grit: Lydia Randolph's endurance race through engineering and marathons

Lydia Randolph arrived at Trine University not only with a passion for engineering, but also a dream: to run the Boston Marathon.

Like marathon training, Lydia's academic journey was not a sprint. Initially leaning toward pharmaceuticals, Lydia joined an undergraduate research group focused on mammalian cell culture. A new and unique opportunity presented itself when Lydia was offered an internship with Steel Dynamics following her first year of coursework.

At its LaFarga-Copperworks site, she worked on both process and quality engineering projects, sharpening her skills on the plant floor. The experience went so well that she was awarded an AIST Steel Intern Scholarship to return to Copperworks the following summer.

Disciplined training

Back on campus, Lydia trained with discipline both in and out of the classroom. During marathon prep, she sometimes ran 70 to 80 miles per week—juggling long runs with fluid dynamics and design projects.

She complemented her marathon training by excelling as a cross-country runner for Trine, earning several all-MIAA honors and ranking in the top 10 in program history in multiple events.

Lydia ran the Carmel Marathon in spring of 2024 and qualified for the Boston Marathon with a time of 3:00:17 on her first attempt.

That summer, Lydia made the decision to continue her healthcare track, accepting an internship position with a surgical device company. Despite a positive experience, something didn't sit right, and her mind kept drifting back to her SDI internships. With one year to go in her chemical engineering degree, Lydia ran down a new path.

"During my time at Copperworks, I discovered a strong passion for process engineering. Over time, I realized that this environment and type of work aligned more with my interests than the pharmaceutical path I originally pursued," she reflected.

With support from her advisors, she customized her education—meeting new faculty, engaging with different student groups and discovering new strengths.

Her new undergraduate research project brought everything full circle. Inspired by her love of microbiology and materials, Lydia designed and conducted a study on the antibacterial properties of copper alloys. Her results earned second place at the regional AIChE student poster competition.

Top 25%

With these new experiences in place, Lydia took the starting line for the 129th running of the Boston Marathon in April. She finished in the top 25% of all female runners.

"I gained the experience of my first world major ever with professional runners and a crazy 30,000+

competitors," she said. "I crossed the line with one of my hometown marathon runners that I had looked up to for years."

As she reflects on her recent graduation, Lydia has her sights set on new goals: a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Purdue University and a full-time role as a process engineer at Copperworks. She also hopes to complete all six World Marathon Majors someday, with Boston just the beginning.



From the alumni board

Dear alumni, current students, and prospective students,

As Trine University continues to soar, we'd be thrilled to have our amazing alumni join us for future events like Homecoming Weekend! (See back cover for more details.) These gatherings are a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends, network with fellow alumni and stay updated on the latest developments at our university. Your presence and participation are invaluable to us, and we look forward to celebrating our achievements together.

Additionally, I am proud to highlight the efforts of our Alumni Board in supporting an endowment

scholarship. This scholarship provides financial assistance to deserving students, enabling them to pursue their academic dreams.

Lastly, I would like to share a fun and memorable moment from the Alumni and Friends Golf Outing last fall. The Alumni Board members rolled up their sleeves and grilled hot dogs for everyone, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere. It was a fantastic day filled with laughter, camaraderie, and delicious food. We hope to see you at our next event, where we can create more wonderful memories together.

Thank you for your commitment and passion for Trine University. I look forward to seeing many of you

at future events and hearing your stories of success and inspiration.

Go Thunder!

Tim Raftery
President, Trine University Alumni Association



THUNDER’S FINAL ROLL (current through March 31, 2025)

1930s
Margaret L. (Hurt) Perrin, 1938 SEC, Portland, Ore., 2021

1940s
Arthur S. Ellis, 1942 BSEE, Pittsburgh, Pa., Nov. 24, 2024
Edward W. Tippenhauer, 1949 BSRT, Cincinnati, Ohio, Feb. 9, 2014

1950s
Charles E. Brown, 1950 BSEE, Houston, Texas, May 16, 2024
Bobby D. Wilson, 1950 BSEE, Greenwood, Ind., Sept. 12, 2024
Donald O. Kreitzman, 1951 BSCE, Jacksonville, Fla., Nov. 5, 2024
Joan W. (Baldwin) Morse, 1952 BSBA, Adrian, Mich., Nov. 17, 2024
Thomas U. Minch, 1952 BSACC, Dayton, Ohio, Jan. 25, 2020
John Shular, 1952 BSCE, Dixon, Ill., Mar. 15, 2025
Samuel L. Spooner, 1952 BSEE, Cleveland, Ohio, May 18, 2024
Richard L. Burge, 1953 BSME, Warminster, Pa, Mar. 4, 2025
Joseph E. Pinker, 1953 BSME, Pittsford, N.Y., Sept. 25, 2024
Gerald M. Ryman, 1953 BSACC, Laguna Woods, Calif., Aug. 9, 2024
Robert R. Snyder, 1953 DDT, Maugansville, Md., Feb. 24, 2025
Orville K. Jones, 1956 BSAE, Bethlehem, Pa., Sept. 18, 2024
Earl F. Loeffler, 1956 BSEE, Uniontown, Ohio, Dec. 8, 2024
Charles A. MacLaughlin, 1956 BSCE, Sonoma, Calif., July 18, 2024

Gerald H. Graumann, 1957 BSBA, Fallston, Md., Apr. 11, 2024
Donald B. Miller, 1957 BSEE, Lansing, Mich., Aug. 27, 2024
Richard G. Ressler, 1957 BSAE, Ballwin, Mo., Jan. 12, 2025
Joel D. Alwine, 1958 BSCE, Fort Wayne, Ind., Jan. 29, 2023
Dr. Duane L. Bidlack, 1958 BSChE, Chambersburg, Pa., July 18, 2024
Donald M. Brafford, 1958 BSCE, Wheeling, W. Va., Oct. 3, 2024
Arnold G. Brown, 1958 BSEE, Landing, N.J., Mar. 7, 2025
Loren L. Draear, 1958 BSEE, Groveland, Ill., Nov. 7, 2024
Richard R. Hushower, 1958 BSME, Coloma, Mich., Jan. 24, 2025
Kenneth E. Miller, 1958 BSChE, Demotte, Ind., Sept. 7, 2024
Edwin F Showerman, 1958 BSME, Burlington, N.C., Feb. 17, 2025
Franklin G. Sykes, 1958 BSAE, North Port, Fla., Nov. 4, 2024
Lewis A. Wing, 1958 BSME, Tonopah, Ariz., Dec. 29, 2011
Samuel S. Conte, 1959 BSME, Fort Wayne, Ind., May 28, 2021
Robert M. Garrett, 1959 BSCE, Sun City West, Ariz., Oct. 2, 2024

James H. Halliday, 1959 BSME, Auburn, N.Y., Nov. 19, 2021
Eleuthere T. Poumakis, 1959 BSEE, Boynton Beach, Fla., Aug. 15, 2024
John F. Sandusky, 1959 BSBA, Van Etten, N.Y., June 13, 2024
Gerald L. Stahlman, 1959 BSCE, Altavista, Va., May 30, 2023

1960s
Norman E. Begier, 1960 BSBA, Lakeland, Fla., July 6, 2024
Douglas L. Chambers, 1960 BSME, Hilliard, Ohio, Oct. 4, 2024
Gerald E. Eaton, 1960 BSEE, Norwalk, Ohio, Jan. 23, 2025
Edward M. Kavick, 1960 BSAE, Berea, Ohio, Oct. 30, 2022
Fredric M. Kirchhoff, 1960 BSBA, Hernando Beach, Fla., Aug. 15, 2024
Robert A. Olson, 1960 BSME, Brandon, Fla., Oct. 17, 2024
Willis J. Peacock, 1960 BSEE, La Porte, Texas, Dec. 1, 2024
William L. Plank, 1960 BSME, Tequesta, Fla., Aug. 9, 2024
Steven J. Semenchuk, 1960 BSChE, Duluth, Minn., Sept. 16, 2024
Ralph W. Smith, 1960 BSEE, Haslett, Mich., Sept. 13, 2024
Nicholas P. Stambula, 1960 BSAE, Oakville, Ontario, Canada, Dec. 13, 2024

Robert G. Trump, 1960 BSME, Hershey, Pa., June 20, 2024
Fred R. Verderber, 1960 BSCE, Jeffersonville, N.Y., Dec. 20, 2024
Richard D. Malson, 1961 BSCE, Cement City, Mich., Jan. 20, 2023
Arthur W. McClish, 1961 ADDT, Columbia City, Ind., Aug. 24, 2024
William J. McKay, 1961 BSCE, Margate, Fla., June 30, 2024
Ronald A. Rich, 1961 BSEE, Leesburg, Fla., Mar. 24, 2025
Dorin E. Sauerbier, 1961 BSEE, Camarillo, Calif., Oct. 29, 2024
Donald L. Stegemoller, 1961 BSME, Murray, Ky., Feb. 13, 2025
Dr. Ralph D. Trine, 1961 BSME, Angola, Ind., Aug. 14, 2024
Eugene Vincent Clemens, 1962 BSEE, Ely, Minn., June 14, 2022

Donnie E. Dickey, 1962 BSCE, Elkhart, Ind., Oct. 17, 2024
Richard H. Greaker, 1962 BSCE, Brooklyn, N.Y., Nov. 20, 2024
Stewart R. Haas, 1962 BSAE, San Antonio, Fla., Dec. 22, 2024
Richard E. Heisey, 1962 BSEE, Mint Hill, N.C., Jan. 20, 2025
William E. Higgins, 1962 BSCE, Albany, N.Y., Mar. 21, 2018
Gordon W. Hyatt, 1962 BSME, Three Oaks, Mich., July 15, 2022
Charles C. Pintner, 1962 BSChE, Trinity, Fla., July 12, 2021
William Stresz, 1962 BSME, Rochester, N.Y., Dec. 6, 2024
Charles C. Wedemeyer, 1962 BSME, Hampstead, N.C., Sept. 16, 2024
Jack P. Cunkelman, 1963 BSEE, Milford, Ohio, Oct. 14, 2024
Charles J. Denny, 1963 BSChE, Norfolk, Va., Jan. 1, 2025
Roy N. Envall, 1963 BSEE, Herndon, Va., July 27, 2024
Gerald E. Wells, 1963 ABA, Cornwall, Pa., Feb. 2, 2025
Frederick J Kerestesy, 1964 BSEE, Lexington, Ky., Sept. 17, 2024

Raymond A. Lemesh, 1964 BSAE, Pittsburgh, Pa., Jan. 16, 2025
Robert L. Schmitt, 1964 BSME, South Bend, Ind., Sept. 18, 2024
Richard G. Teagno, 1964 BSBA, Strongsville, Ohio, April 13, 2024
Galen C. Collins, 1965 BSCE, Cornwall, Pa., Feb. 17, 2025
William G. Emmertling, 1965 BSME, Elizabethtown, Ky., Feb. 21, 2024
Howard E. Gilliam, 1965 ABA, North Fort Myers, Fla., Jan. 15, 2025

Kimmy K. Melson, 1965 BSChE, Etowah, Tenn., Mar. 20, 2024
Robert G. Palmer, 1965 BSBA, Perrysburg, Ohio, Mar. 8, 2025
William H. Smith, 1965 BSEE/1966 BSEA, Charlotte, N.C., Jan. 14, 2025

Robert S. Bowen, 1966 BSAE, Shipshewana, Ind., Dec. 7, 2024
Sylvanus G. Denio, 1966 BSCE, St. Johnsbur, Vt., Aug. 30, 2024
Graham K. Jones, 1966 BSEE, Tyler, Texas, Nov. 30, 2023
Kenneth C. Strobl, 1966 BSME, Moseley, Va., Nov. 29, 2024
Dennis V. Vogel, 1966 BSBA, Chicago, Ill., Sept. 9, 2024
James R. Yeary, 1966 BSEE, Gunter, Texas, Jan. 19, 2024
Kent A. Denton, 1967 BSTRN, Bloomington, Ind., Nov. 11, 2024
James Van Eden, 1967 BSME, Jenison, Mich., Nov. 8, 2021
Henry T. Lisowski, 1967 BSCE, Lewiston, N.Y., Jan. 8, 2025
Andrew J. Altman, 1968 BSBA, Santa Rosa Beach, Fla., Jan. 9, 2025

Walter D. Johnson, 1968 BSBA, Spicer, Minn., Dec. 18, 2024
John M. Murley, 1968 ABA, Santee, S.C., Sept. 22, 2023
Aug. M. Riccono, 1968 BSEE, Fort Worth, Texas, Dec. 1, 2024
Robert D. Templeton, 1968 BSBA, East Lansing, Mich., Mar. 14, 2025
Howard H. Hake, 1969 BSAE, Massillon, Ohio, Dec. 3, 2024
Robert R. Hemp, 1969 BSBA, Ocean City, Maryland, Feb. 1, 2025
Thomas A. Kirk, 1969 ADDT, Defiance, Ohio, Dec. 26, 2024
David S. MacDonald, 1969 BSCE, Worthington, Ohio, Mar. 27, 2025
Robert Lynn Smith, 1969 BSACC, Tupelo, Miss., Oct. 31, 2024

1970s
Jeffrey L. Butz, 1970 BSCE, Sunbury, Ohio, Oct. 5, 2024
Nancy E. (Light) Brammall, 1970 BSBA, Angola, Ind., Sept. 4, 2024
William A. Moeller, 1970 BSBA, Burt, N.Y., Dec. 29, 2024
John E. Finch, 1970 BSCE, Boynton Beach, Fla., Dec. 15, 2023
Kaikhosrow B. Afarin, 1971 BSME, Tallahassee, Fla., Sept. 17, 2024

Thomas L. Josche, 1971 BSME, Aberdeen, Ohio, Mar. 16, 2025
Gregory L. Fifer, 1971 BSBA, Ashley, Ind., Feb. 27, 2025
Alfred W. Judd, 1971 BSBA, Cardale, Pa., Jan. 23, 2025
Barry C. Linnell, 1971 BSEE, Xenia, Ohio, Dec. 1, 2024
Ronald L. Pierce, 1971 ADDT, Anderson, Ind., Sept. 1, 2024
John F. Sullivan, 1972 BSME, Gloucester, Mass., Sept. 1, 2024
Robert L. Wagner, 1971 BSCE, Chambersburg, Pa., Nov. 30, 2024
Philip J. Amantia, 1972 BSBA, Buffalo, N.Y., July 29, 2024
Karl S. Anderson, 1972 BSBA, Erie, Pa., June 14, 2024
Jack F. Weed, 1972 BSME, Jackson, Mich., Mar. 25, 2025
Kenneth W. Ruge, 1973 ASM, Roscoe, Ill., Jan. 2, 2025
Robert J. Piganelli, 1974 BSBusEd, Carmel, Ind., Jan. 18, 2025
Thomas N. Turley, 1975 BSEE, Port Clinton, Ohio, Oct. 9, 2024
Dennis E. Daffron, 1976 BSBA, Anderson, Ind., July 7, 2024
Thomas J. Smith, 1977 BSEE, Saint Charles, Mo., Dec. 21, 2024
John N. Driscoll, 1979 BSBA, Brazil, Ind., Dec. 31, 2024

1980s
Douglas A. Herrick, 1981 BSBA, Syracuse, N.Y., Feb. 27, 2025
James M. Irwin, 1982 BSME, Youngstown, Ohio, July 27, 2024
Donna G. (Hawkins) Canupp, 1984 BSEIEd, Tucson, Ariz., Jan. 1, 2018
James F. Allman, 1985 BSEE, Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 15, 2024
Michael T. McKibben, 1986 BSME, Defiance, Ohio, Aug. 20, 2024
John S. Roberts, 1986 BSEE, Simpsonville, S.C., Aug. 28, 2024
Thomas A. Johnson, 1987 BSCE, Kendallville, Ind., Nov. 16, 2024
Jeffrey D. Pierce, 1988 BSME, Ellwood City, Pa., Oct. 13, 2024

1990s
Deana K. (Kidston) Rowland, 1993 BSEIEd, Pioneer, Ohio, Jan. 16, 2025
Nicole M. (Ashcom) Hoffman, 1995 BSME, San Rafael, Calif., Oct. 25, 2024

2000s
Lt. Commander Christopher K. Grabill, 2000 BAM, Jacksonville, Fla., Aug. 1, 2024
Michelle L. (Dirrim) Ankney, 2002 BSMGT, Pleasant Lake, Ind., Feb. 5, 2025
Donald R. Hall, 2003, BAM, Angola, Ind., July 29, 2024
Susan M. Brouse, 2004 BSEIEd, Milan, Ohio, June 30, 2024
Frederick J Garverick, 2007 BSCJ, Lake Placid, Fla., July 7, 2024
Mary J. (Parker) KanKamp, 2008 BAPSY, Angola, Ind., Mar. 8, 2025

2010s
Jaca M (Boxell) Story, 2012 MSL, Van Buren, Ind., Dec. 3, 2024
Jonathan Thomas Phillips, 2019 BSME, Fort Wayne, Ind., Jan. 10, 2025

2020s
Christopher Jennings Kenipe, 2023 BSMT, Franklin, Ind., Jan. 21, 2025

Spanish lecturer Boman passes away

Trine University is mourning the death of longtime lecturer Ana Boman, 61, who passed away April 16 at Indiana University Health Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis.

She was born July 13, 1963, in Mexico City, Mexico.

She had been teaching courses in English as a second language and Spanish language at Trine University in Angola for undergraduate students and College of Graduate and Professional Studies students since 2009.

She also served as advisor for the Alpha Beta Nu Hispanic Honorary Society. One of Ana’s favorite hobbies was traveling around the world with her husband. They visited more than 100 countries.

She was the president of the Indiana Foreign Languages Teachers Association in 2024,



Longtime professor’s contributions remembered

The Trine University family is saddened by the loss of longtime faculty member Tom Tierney, who passed away May 17, at age 81.

He was born in Lincoln, Illinois, on April 29, 1944.

Hired as assistant professor and later promoted to associate and full professor, Dr. Tierney was part of the faculty at Tri-State and Trine from 1974 until 2013, when he became professor emeritus. During his long career at the university, in addition to teaching English and literature courses, he developed courses in Architectural Appreciation; Art, Technology and Society; History of the Language; Humanities Honors Seminar; and Mythology.

Dr. Tierney was the founder of the Trine Humanities Institute and served as its director for a number of years. He initiated the proposal that resulted in the Charles and Nancy Taylor Hall of Humanities and also helped design the mural for the dome of the T. Furth Center for Performing Arts.

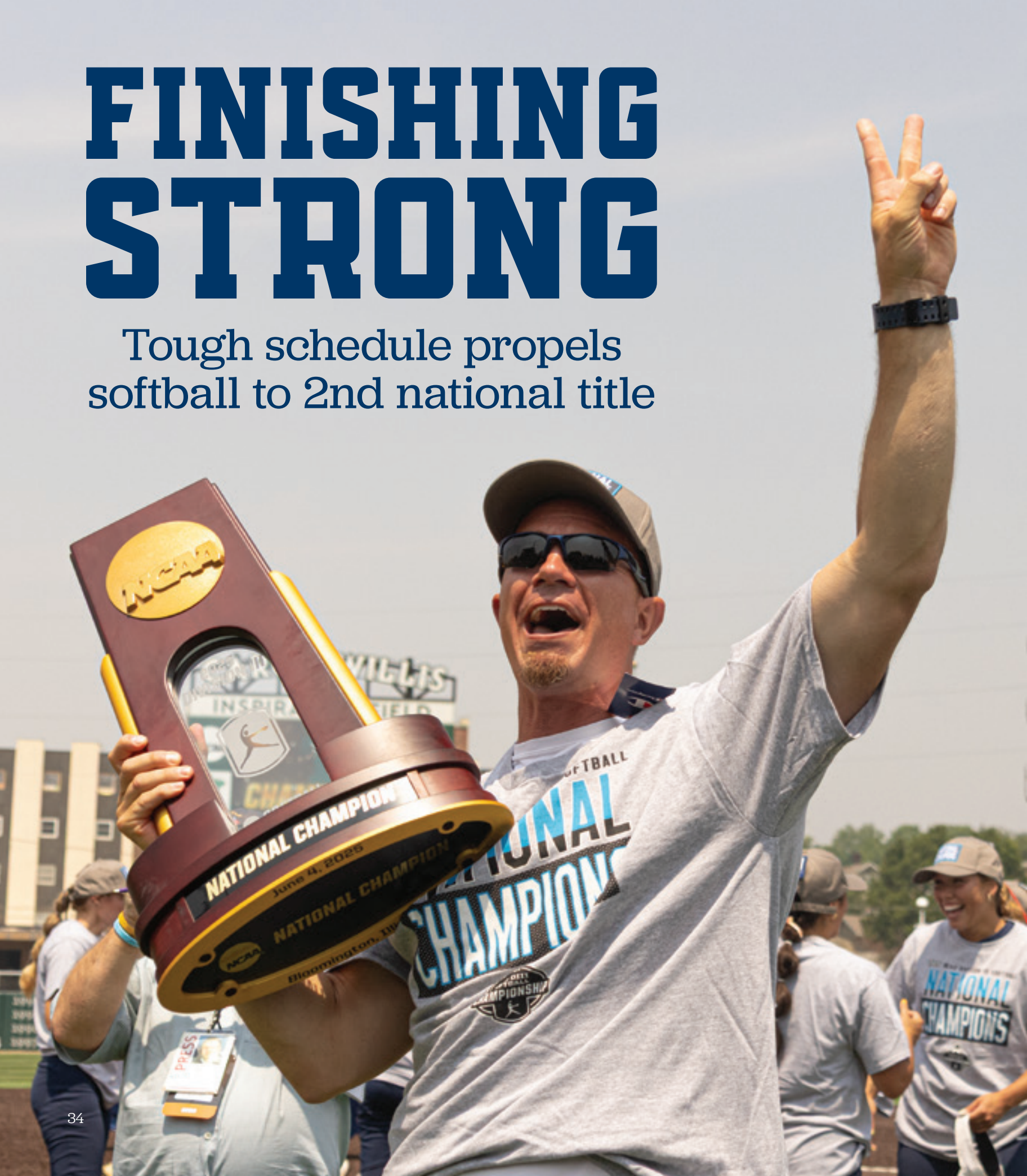
His dedication to teaching and the arts is reflected in his accolades: four McKetta awards and the Barrenbrugge award from Trine for excellence in teaching plus the Jannen Renaissance Scholar award. He also received the Mayor’s Arts and Humanities Award, given by the Angola mayor to citizens who have impacted area arts and humanities.

His community service includes being part of the board for the Indiana Humanities Council and Northeastern Indiana Public Radio, and serving on the Steuben County Community Foundation Humanities Advisory board and Angola Historic Preservation Commission.

He enjoyed working on events and projects that not only promoted the humanities but also brought the university and community together, such as Community Reads/Read Express, the Mayor’s Arts Award, Shakespeare Sonnet-a-thons, Bobby Burns Night, Shakespeare dinners, Noon Talks and an ongoing guest lecture series.

FINISHING STRONG

Tough schedule propels softball to 2nd national title



"Our goal this season was to get back to the championship," explained Head Coach **Don Danklefsen**, "We set up the schedule to challenge and prepare us for that goal."



Trine softball entered the season with one of the toughest schedules in the nation, a slate boasting seven preseason nationally ranked teams and 17 members of the 2024 championship field.

The team started the season 3-3, with all three losses coming to nationally ranked opponents. The Thunder responded by losing just one more game during the regular season, including a 28-game winning streak that ran into the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) Tournament.

Along the way, Trine won its 14th overall and sixth straight MIAA championship with a perfect 16-0 record. It is the third time in program history the team has finished undefeated in MIAA play and just the tenth perfect conference season by any team in MIAA softball history.

Trine alone has accomplished the feat since 2000.

The Thunder also entered the MIAA Tournament with a 29-game winning streak against conference opponents, which they extended to 30. Adrian College ended the streaks on day two, stunning Trine with an 8-7 loss.

The Thunder won the next three games, including twice against the Bulldogs, to capture the tournament championship for the fourth season in a row.

The team swept the MIAA's top honors and had seven members earn All-MIAA status.

Karley "Jo" Trine was the Most Valuable Position Player while **Alexis Michon** was named the Most Valuable Pitcher. **Emma Beyer**, **Tyra Marcum** and **Macy Rocha** joined their teammates on the first team while **Debbie Hill** and **Emma Lee** appeared on the second team.

Undefeated streak resumes

Trine hosted the first two rounds of the NCAA Division III Softball Championship. The Thunder opened regionals May 15 with an 8-3 victory over the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, leading the contest from start to finish.

The game against second-seeded Baldwin Wallace entered the fourth inning tied at one. With a pair of runners on base, Jo Trine was called on to pinch hit, her first at-bat since April 26, after an injury sidelined her for the end of the regular season and the MIAA Tournament.

She plated a pair of runs, giving the team a 3-1 lead and galvanizing the offense to a 9-1 victory.

Trine made quick work of Wisconsin-Eau Claire with a 9-1 victory in five innings for the Regional Championship. The

highlight of the contest was a three-run homer by **Kennedy Huckleby**, the first of her career. Michon was named the regional's Most Outstanding Player while **Whitney Duell**, Hill, Rocha and Huckleby were All-Tournament selections.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point stood between Trine and Bloomington, Illinois, the final site of the NCAA Tournament. Trine took game one of the weekend with a convincing 7-0 win before securing game two, 3-1.

Michon was again dominant, winning one game before earning a save in the other on her way to another Most Outstanding Pitcher award. Hill earned the other win for the series and racked up offensive stats on the way to being named Most Outstanding Player.

Following the Super Regional, the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) announced its 2025 All-American teams, with three members of the Thunder earning recognition. Michon and Marcum were first team selections, with Hill on second team.



Karley "Jo" Trine



Alexis Michon



Emma Beyer



Tyra Marcum



Macy Rocha



Debbie Hill



Emma Lee



Kennedy Huckleby



Whitney Duell



April Sellers



Dennis Smith



Zechary Huston

Back to nationals

The team opened competition in Bloomington with a pair of quick wins, taking down Redlands 8-0 and Rowan 5-1. Michon won both games for the Thunder, securing the program single season wins record along the way.

Rocha and Hill stood out offensively for the team, each recording a grand slam in the opening contest. Hill’s long ball was historic, breaking the program’s single season record for home runs and RBIs.

Linfield University gave the team their first big test of the finals. **April Sellers** scored the first runs of the game while making her first start of the tournament. The senior came up with just the second home run of her career to give the team a 2-0 lead.

The Wildcats scored the next five runs, but the Trine offense kept pace. Hill had a two-run homer in the third and Rocha came up with a two-run single in the fifth; both cut the lead back under two.

Even so, the team trailed 9-6 in the seventh. Down to their last three outs, Marcum recorded a two-run homer to cut the lead to one and then Beyer tied the game to force extra innings. Jo Trine came up with a sacrifice fly in the eighth, walking off the contest and sending the team to the championship.

The top-seeded team from Virginia Wesleyan University awaited them in the best-of-three series. Game one saw the Marlins get out to an early 1-0 lead. Huckleby came through again for the Thunder with a pinch-hit two-run single in the second inning. Rocha and Sellers each had home runs later in the game while Beyer had a sacrifice fly to secure the 8-1 victory.

After a 24-hour rain delay, the two teams took the field again. The Marlins scored on Michon in the first inning. Still trailing in the third, the senior hurler injured her foot during a pitch, walking gingerly to the dugout after the third out.

Fans needn’t have worried, with Michon fighting through the pain for a final spectacular performance. She ultimately allowed just the one unearned run on two walks and two hits, while striking out eight and recording the final out of the game on a tricky groundball.

“My team is the reason,” said Michon while reflecting on what got her through the game, “Every inning when I go out, I look at my teammates and I say this is the reason. No injury was going to keep me out of this game.”

The offensive hero of the contest was Lee. She came to the plate in the sixth and notched a three-run homer, giving the team the 3-1 lead that secured the national title.

“This wasn’t my best week offensively, but my teammates and coaches told me all week that I was ready,” said Lee, “I was nervous, but I just kept taking deep breaths and thinking of those words.”

The Thunder finished the tournament undefeated and the season 46-5 overall, tying the program record for wins while suffering one less loss than the 2023 national championship team.

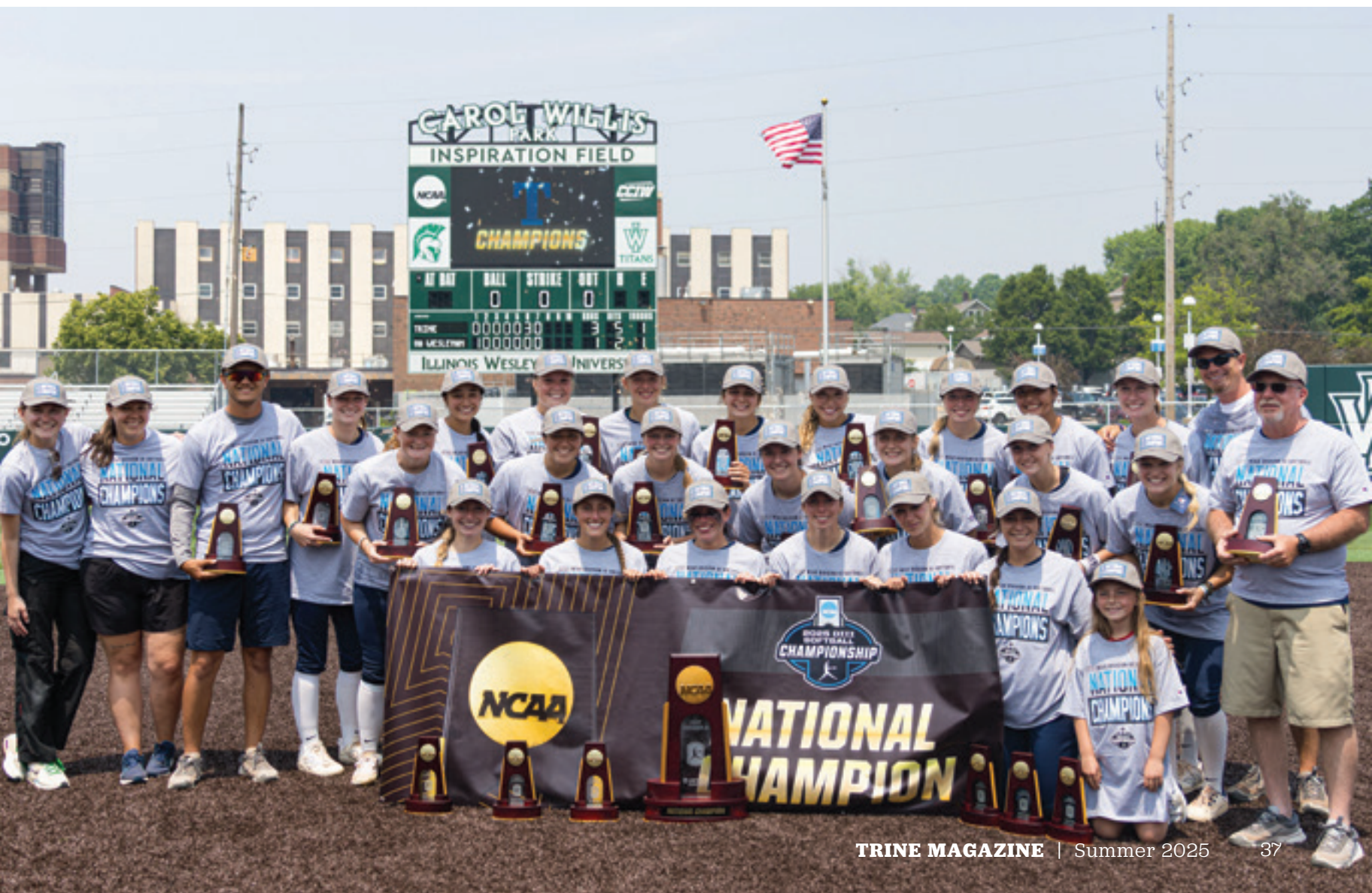
Michon was named the championship’s Most Outstanding Player while Rocha and Hill were All-Tournament Selections. Danklefsen and assistant coaches **Dennis Smith** and **Zechary Huston** were named 2025 NFCA National Coaching Staff of the Year.

“I’m just so proud this team,” reflected Danklefsen. “We had to learn to trust them to be them this season. With all their experience, we know that if they were relaxed and having fun, they were going to be dangerous. Now they’ve proved they are the best team in the country!”



“I’m just so proud of this team . . . they’ve proved they are the best team in the country!”

Head Coach Donnie Danklefsen





Women’s basketball makes 8th consecutive NCAA tournament

The Trine University women’s basketball team qualified for its eighth consecutive NCAA tournament this season, also extending an eight-year streak with a win in the tournament.

That win came against Transylvania University in an overtime thriller hosted by Illinois Wesleyan University with a final score of 81-74. **Sidney Wagner** proved her All-America status, posting a game high 27 points and 15 rebounds. The senior was named to D3hoops.com’s All-America third team and the WBCA’s honorable mention All-America team. She also became the first player in MIAA history to earn MIAA MVP, Defensive Player of the Year and First Team status in the same season.

The Thunder finished the season ranked 17th in the WBCA and D3hoops.com polls. Along the way, the team completed its first undefeated MIAA regular season and outright MIAA title since 2018.



Sidney Wagner

Trine fell to Calvin in the MIAA Championship Game but earned an at-large bid to the big dance. The Thunder concluded the regular season on a 15-game winning streak, winning just one of those games by less than 10 points.

The staple of the regular season came in Holland, Michigan, as the Thunder dismantled then-No. 15 Hope College 80-63 on their home floor.

Trine claimed three All-MIAA selections: Wagner and **Erin Sherwood** were named to the first team while **Katie Tate** was named to the second team. Head Coach **Andy Rang** earned MIAA Coach of the Year.



Erin Sherwood



Katie Tate



Andy Rang

Men’s basketball continues success in 2025

The Trine University men’s basketball team followed up its 2024 National Championship with a solid 21-5 campaign in 2025.

Drew Moore and **Emmanuel Megnanglo** earned first team All-MIAA recognition. Megnanglo was also named second team All-District by the NABC and third team All-Region by D3hoops.com.

Moore was named to the D3hoops.com All-Region team and **Nate Tucker** earned second team All-MIAA status.

The Thunder opened their national title defense ranked No. 1 in the country and a 7-0 record with resounding wins over Mary Hardin Baylor, Baldwin Wallace and Elmhurst.

Trine then opened MIAA play with a 7-0 record. The seventh win came in dominant 77-54 fashion against Hope and saw the Thunder climb back to second in the national poll.

Moore and Megnanglo collected seven MIAA Player of the Week awards throughout the season.



Drew Moore



Emmanuel Megnanglo



Nate Tucker



Brooks Miller



Jon VanderWal

Thunder announced the hiring of longtime Marietta College Head Coach **Jon VanderWal** to lead the program on April 30.

Continued dominance for men’s track

The Trine University men’s track and field team captured its 10th and 11th consecutive MIAA titles.

The 10th title came at the end of the indoor season, the team’s sixth indoor championship in a row. The 11th was the outdoor championship, Trine’s fifth outdoor title in a row.

The Thunder were led by senior two-time national qualifier **Ethan Spahr**, who qualified for the Indoor NCAA Championships in the heptathlon and the Outdoor Championships in the decathlon. Spahr set program records in both events as well as the indoor triple jump while setting the program record for career MIAA Championship points with 205. He earned MIAA Field MVP at both the indoor and outdoor championships.

Max Van Huis established program records in the indoor and outdoor 5000-meter runs and **Tyler Hartleroad** set a record in the indoor 800-meter run.

Zion Jackson joined Spahr at the outdoor NCAA Championships. Jackson set new program records in the 100- and 200-meter dashes during the outdoor season and teamed up with **Max Harris**, **Jayjouir Roberts** and **Braden Estep** to take down the 4x100-meter relay record



Max Van Huis



Tyler Hartleroad



Max Harris



Jayjouir Roberts



Braden Estep



Ben Markison



Ethan Spahr

Zion Jackson

in 40.81 seconds. He qualified for the championships in the 110-meter hurdles and went on to finish third, earning first team All-America status.

Trine earned 15 All-MIAA selections and first-year head coach **Ben Markison** was named MIAA Coach of the Year for both the indoor and outdoor season.



Hayden Hale

Bowling sees success at national level

The Trine University men’s bowling team made their second trip to the USBC ITC Championships in three years. The Thunder finished fifth this season, just one win shy of the final four, bettering their eighth-place finish in 2024.

Trine was led by **Hayden Hale**, who earned a spot on the USBC Team USA, becoming the second player in program history to achieve the honor. Hale was also named Honorable Mention All-America for his performance at the national tournament.



Women’s track has record-breaking 2025

The Trine University women’s track and field team set five new program records and qualified two athletes for the NCAA Championships while placing second as a team at both the indoor and outdoor MIAA Championships.

Olivia Andrews set the program record in the pole vault five times, twice indoors and three times outdoors, ultimately clearing 3.50 meters and winning the outdoor MIAA Championship.

Emmaline Leatherman cleared 1.52 meters in the high jump to establish a new record. The 4x100-meter relay team of **Sophia Peter**, **Emma Forker**, **Ariana Todd** and **Mackenzie Miller** took nearly a second off the old program mark in the event, crossing in 47.95 seconds.

Sidney Swick’s 10,000-meter run record of 35:07.37 qualified her for the outdoor NCAA Championships, where she finished 20th.

Bailey Puckett qualified for the NCAA Championships during the indoor and outdoor season. At the indoor championships, she finished 18th in the 1-mile run and at the outdoor championships she was ninth in the 1500-meter run and earned second team All-America status.

The Thunder earned 14 All-MIAA honors between the indoor and outdoor seasons.



Olivia Andrews



Bailey Puckett



Emmaline Leatherman



Sophia Peter



Emma Forker



Ariana Todd



Mackenzie Miller



Sidney Swick

Men’s hockey sets new standard in 8th season

It took just eight years for the Trine University men’s hockey team to reach their first NCAA Division III Championship tournament and to capture their first victory during the event.

The Thunder finished the NCHA season third, tying the program’s best from the 2023-24 campaign. They made quick work of their home series against Marian to open the NCHA Harris Cup Playoffs, making it five straight trips to the semifinal round.

In a battle of top 10 teams, St. Norbert came out on top, eliminating the Thunder from Harris Cup contention but not from a chance at an NCAA tournament berth.

In the first season of the tournament field being determined by the NCAA NPI, the team finished the season seventh in the crucial ranking, securing the second-to-last at-large bid to the tournament. They also earned the right to host their opening game, welcoming Oswego State to the Thunder Ice Arena and sending them away with a 4-1 loss.

The victory sent the Thunder to face the two-time defending national champions and top-seeded team from Hobart. Trine gave the eventual three-time champions all they could, taking a 2-0 lead into the third period before falling 3-2 in overtime.

The season was the winningest so far for Trine; the Thunder finished with a 21-7-2 record.

Two team members earned NCHA honors during the season. Junior **Sean Henry** was named to the All-NCHA team, becoming the sixth member of the program to do so. **Alexander Babich** was selected to represent the team on the All-Freshman squad.



Sean Henry



Alexander Babich



Women’s lacrosse makes 3rd MIAA championship game in 4 years



Alyssa Keptner

The Trine University women’s lacrosse team made its third MIAA title game in four years behind five All-MIAA selections.

Brooke Hoag and **Alyssa Keptner** earned first team awards, with three others making second team. Leading the way for the group was MIAA Freshman of the Year **Izabelle Dominski**; **Avelyn McCall** and **Elizabeth Larson** earned the other selections.

Dominski scored 37 goals in 16 games including a streak of six consecutive hat tricks. During the season, Hoag established a new career record for caused turnovers with 98.

The Thunder provided plenty of drama during the season, winning a trio of one goal-games. Keptner sent home a goal with just 34 seconds left to provide a win against Ohio Northern. She did it again against Calvin with only five seconds to spare.

The third came against Albion; the Britons secured a free position attempt with just two seconds left and a chance to tie the game, but the Thunder defense was up to the task, running the clock out before the Britons could attempt the tying shot.



Brooke Hoag



Izabelle Dominski



Avelyn McCall



Elizabeth Larson



Rylee Smith

Women’s golf has best season since 2008

The Trine University women’s golf team posted a second-place finish in the MIAA, its best since 2008.

Three members were selected to All-MIAA teams and first-year head coach **Mackenna Kelly** earned MIAA Coach of the Year.

Freshman **Rylee Smith** and senior **Grace Dubec** earned first team All-MIAA honors after each scored low rounds at an MIAA Jamboree. Smith closed the season with back-to-back-to-back MIAA Golfer of the Week awards. **Natalie Kulka** was the other

All-MIAA athlete, closing her sophomore campaign with second team honors.

The Thunder opened the season with wins at three of their first four tournaments; they added wins in the annual Brit-Thunder Cup and at the MIAA Spring Final. The Spring Final victory marked the Thunder’s first MIAA Tournament victory since 2015-16, but, despite the impressive performance, they couldn’t catch St. Mary’s College for the championship.



Mackenna Kelly



Grace Dubec



Natalie Kulka



Men’s golf has strong season



Carter Schnipke

The Trine University men’s golf team won seven tournaments this season. Four golfers earned All-MIAA status, including three who earned spots on the first team.

Juniors **Carter Schnipke** and **Garrett James** joined freshman **Jack Besner** on the first team. Freshman **Jake Bilby** secured his spot on the second team.

The Thunder won their first three tournaments of the year, including MIAA Jamboree #1 at Zollner Golf Course. They added another win at the Region V preview, topping 21 other teams. The Thunder then retook control of the Brit-Thunder Cup before adding wins at the A.C. Eddy Classic and the Calvin Knight Invitational.

A fourth-place finish at the MIAA Spring Final solidified the Thunder’s second-place MIAA finish. The Thunder were led by first-year head coach and 2023 Trine graduate **Mitch Lowney**.



Garrett James



Jack Besner



Jake Bilby



Mitch Lowney



Kevin Boncaro

Men’s volleyball solid in campaign

The Trine University men’s volleyball team made its fifth consecutive MCVL Tournament, led by four seniors who earned All-Conference honors.

Kevin Boncaro earned first team honors while **Ethan McLenon**, **Bryan Maida** and **Carter Steffgen** earned honorable mention status.



Ethan McLenon



Bryan Maida



Carter Steffgen

The Thunder shook off an 0-4 start with an eight-game winning streak before starting conference play 2-0. Trine closed the back half of the MCVL schedule 3-1 to earn their fifth straight MCVL Tournament berth.

Boncaro became the program’s all-time leader in kills and the first player to eclipse the 1,000-kill mark

Acro and tumbling 4th at nationals

The Trine University acrobatics and tumbling team placed in a tie for third at the NCATA Division III Tournament, falling to eventual National Champion Mary Hardin-Baylor.

In the event finals, the squad won twice. The first win came in the synchronized toss event with a season high score of 8.725. In the Quad Pass section of the tumbling event, another season best score of 7.650 helped the Thunder to the title.

Margaret Armintrout and **Mia Giurini** were named first team All-Tournament.



Margaret Armintrout



Mia Giurini



Men’s tennis makes MIAA semifinals

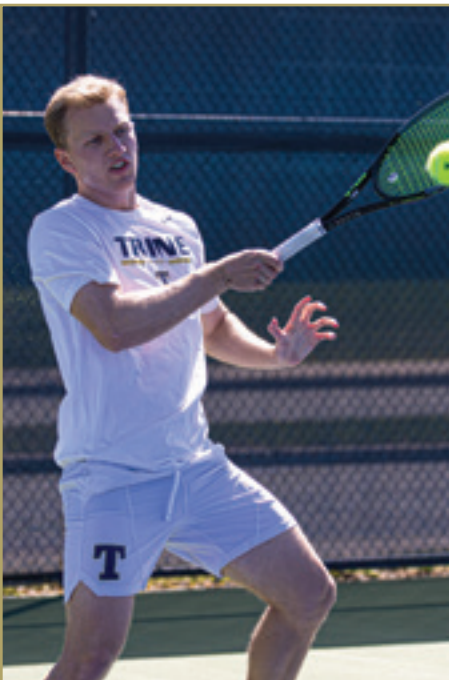
The Trine University men’s tennis team qualified for the MIAA tournament and took down Adrian 4-0 to earn a spot in the semifinals. The team fell to Kalamazoo in that match.

The Thunder earned three MIAA awards. **Drew Hackney** was named first team All-MIAA and **Andrew Spirrison** was named to the second team.

Senior **Elijah Schilthuis** received the Dr. Lawrence Green Award, given annually to the most outstanding senior scholar-athlete among MIAA men’s tennis teams. Schilthuis becomes the fifth Thunder student-athlete to win the award.



Drew Hackney



Elijah Schilthuis



Andrew Spirrison



Men’s lacrosse sees MIAA runner-up finish

The Trine University men’s lacrosse started the season 11-1 before struggling during the MIAA slate.

They finished conference play 2-4 and as the fifth seed for the MIAA Tournament. They showed their resilience, going on the road for a pair of impressive playoff victories.

They held off a late push by the fourth-seeded Calvin for the 10-9 win. Then they upset top-seeded Hope for the program’s first semifinal victory. The Thunder shut out the Flying Dutch in the fourth period, scoring four goals of their own to secure the spot in the championship contest.

The senior-laden team from Albion proved too much in that championship bout, leaving Trine as the runners-up. The 14-6 finish is by far the most wins in program history and **Ryan Kuhn** becomes the second-most winning coach for Trine.



Ryan Kuhn

A pair of Thunder were named to All-MIAA second team. Senior **Collin Custer** was selected as a midfielder while sophomore **Mason Levin** was selected as a defender.



Collin Custer



Mason Levin



Payton Hans



Annie Kindseth

Women’s hockey makes Slaats Cup playoffs

The Trine University Women’s Hockey team qualified for the NCHA Slaats Cup Playoffs for the fifth straight season. The Thunder took wins in five conference series to earn their bid.

Payton Hans broke the career record for assists in a win over Chatham and closed her career with 39. **Annie Kindseth** was named to the NCHA All-Conference team as well as the All-Freshman team. She made 791 saves in net for Trine.



Women’s tennis has excellent non-conference season

The Trine University women’s tennis team opened its season with a 9-1 mark in non-conference action.

The lone blemish came in a narrow 4-3 decision against Allegheny College.

The Thunder posted convincing wins over Manchester, Franklin and Webster and an impressive 4-3 win over Wartburg College.

Elina Locane was named to the All-MIAA second team and led the Thunder to an appearance in the MIAA Tournament.



Elina Locane



Phil Burney

Wrestling has strong dual season

The Trine University men’s wrestling team posted a 6-2 record through the non-conference dual schedule, taking wins over Heidelberg, Mount Union and Division II Thomas More.

Phil Burney highlighted the Thunder at the NCAA Central Regional by finishing fourth, just one spot shy of a trip to the NCAA Championships.



Cole Schmidhuber

Schmidhuber leads baseball in 2025

The Trine University baseball team earned its first first-team All-MIAA selection since 2018 in Cole Schmidhuber.

The junior centerfielder led the squad with a .362 batting average. Defensively, he was perfect in the field with no errors on 83 chances.

The highlight of the conference season came when the squad took their opening MIAA series over Hope College, with one win coming in walk-off fashion. Schmidhuber was the hero, hitting a walk-off, bases-loaded RBI single to give Trine the win.

Women’s wrestling sends three to regionals

The Trine University women’s wrestling team sent three wrestlers to the National Collegiate Women’s Wrestling Championship. Madison Small, Hailey Budney and Erin Scully qualified for the tournament.



Madison Small



Hailey Budney



Erin Scully



Trine student Wyatt Burton takes the checkered flag at virtual Indy 500

Wyatt Burton has attended the Indy 500 every year since he was 2, and now he has won a virtual version of the race.

Burton, a member of Trine University’s esports team, placed first at the event hosted by the Collegiate iRacing League (CiL) on Feb. 19, beating out Mario Merenda of the University of Oklahoma by 0.038 second.

It was the first full-length (500-mile) version of the race hosted by CiL.

“I was trying to decide whether I wanted to be the lead car or not on the last lap,” he said in a post-race interview with CiL. “The opportunity came so I kind of had to take it and hope it wasn’t the wrong move, and it turned out to be the right move.”

Multiple tracks

The CiL features virtual races on road courses and street circuits as well as short ovals and speedways.

Wyatt said the Indianapolis Motor Speedway is his favorite track, with speeds often exceeding 230 miles per hour.

“Racing at these speeds inches from other cars can provide adrenaline like no other,” he said.

“Overall, ovals are my favorite, and I typically excel at them when racing in competitions.”



Esports takes multiple national titles

Trine University esports picked up individual and team national titles in the spring semester and two national titles in the fall semester.

Playing in front of a packed Mark and Sarah Music/Ruoff Mortgage Esports Arena on April 24, Trine’s Overwatch team won its second ECAC national title in a row.

The team of Jonah Kyle, Logan Gault, Hudson Kelly, Elton Langley, Brockstan Tschannen and Nick Lauro had advanced two divisions after winning a national title in the fall semester as well.

Despite playing in the higher division for the first time and starting the group

stage 0-2, the team won the playoffs without dropping a single point. Trine defeated the University of South Florida 3-0, John Brown University 3-0, Army West Point 4-0 and Merrimack University 4-0.

On March 31, Ethan Watkins, a computer engineering major from Wabash, Indiana, won the national title for ECAC division B in Teamfight Tactics.

In the final, he faced players from Wayne State College, Penn State Behrend, Rochester Institute of Technology, St. Clair College, the University of Michigan-Flint, University of Idaho and George Washington, finishing first out of 46.

In TeamFight Tactics, players draft a team that battles automatically on their behalf.

In the fall semester, in addition to Overwatch, the League of Legends team won its ECAC National, held Dec. 13 against Florida Atlantic University, after defeating the University of Michigan Flint, Baylor University and Seneca Polytechnic.

The Thunder came back from an 0-2 deficit to defeat Florida Atlantic 3-2 after five hours.

Team members were Ryan Brown, Jake Doyle, Marshall Beebe, KJ Senetra and Gabe Wisnasky.



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