

THE MAGAZINE OF TRINE UNIVERSITY

# TRINE

SUMMER 2024



**Men's basketball  
wins national title**

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Trine University experienced the solar eclipse with many others around the nation on April 8. Though the Angola campus was outside the path of totality, students, faculty and staff still enjoyed an Eclipse Watch Party with Moon Pies as snacks and a playlist including songs such as “Total Eclipse Of The Heart” and “Here Comes the Sun.”

# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



It's a privilege to welcome you again to Trine magazine! I'm honored that the Board of Trustees has entrusted me with another opportunity to lead this great institution.

We continue to reach new heights at Trine University as I enter my 25th year of service. Last summer, our softball team won this university's first NCAA Division III national championship in Texas, playing back from two do-or-die situations. Our last magazine covered this momentous achievement in depth.

This spring, with legions of Thunder fans making up an NCAA Division III record crowd, our men's basketball team captured the national championship in Fort Wayne. It was appropriate, I think, that such an achievement should take place in and for a state that in many ways is synonymous with the sport of basketball. You'll get a closer look at what our Thunder basketball team accomplished in this issue.

It's not just our athletic teams that are making us proud. You'll read in this magazine about our engineering teams in competition this spring, several of which advanced to their own national competitions.

You'll also read about the first Artificial Intelligence Maritime Maneuver Indiana Collegiate Challenge (AIMM ICC), hosted by Trine University and the Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division. Created through a funding addition sponsored by Congressman Jim Banks (R-3rd), AIMM ICC not only allowed students from multiple universities the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with state-of-the-art technologies, it resulted in potential solutions for issues faced by those who defend our nation.

In this issue you'll read about several Trine alumni who have gone on to succeed, lead and serve, as well as many who have shared updates in our Alumni Notes section. Thank you for continuing to keep us updated!

We hope you enjoy this magazine. Whether on the field, in the lab or in the workplace, we are proud of everything our Thunder community is accomplishing!

Sincerely,

*Earl D. Brooks II*

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



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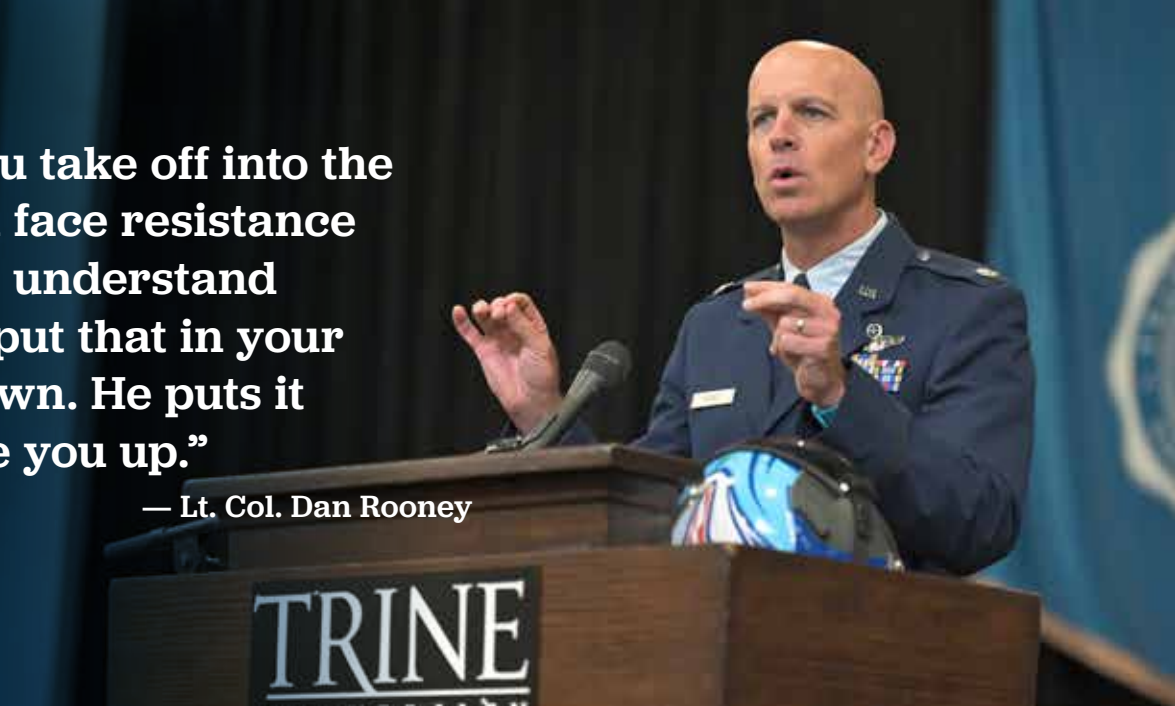
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Just remember, you take off into the wind, and you will face resistance and challenge, but understand that God does not put that in your life to keep you down. He puts it in your life to raise you up.”

— Lt. Col. Dan Rooney



## Unstoppable: Trine Commencements encourage growth, celebrate resilience

Beginning a new tradition, Trine University celebrated the accomplishments of one of the most unique undergraduate classes in history as well as its many graduate students.

The university hosted two spring Commencement ceremonies for the first time on May 4.

Graduates from undergraduate programs and the Brooks College of Health Professions received their degrees in the morning ceremony, while the afternoon celebrated graduate students in the university’s online and hybrid programs.

More than 8,000 people attended the two ceremonies, cheering on more than 1,200 graduates who crossed the stage in the Keith E. Busse/Steel Dynamics Inc. Athletic and Recreation Center.

### Remaining true to themselves



Promising “high speed and low drag,” PGA professional and fighter pilot Lt. Col. Dan Rooney presented a very impactful Commencement address, encouraging students to remain true to themselves.

“Passion, aptitude, impact. Do you love it? Are you good at it? Does it make a difference? That is the trinity of life,” said Rooney, who heads Folds of Honor, an organization providing scholarships to families of fallen or disabled veterans and first responders. “If you can identify those three things, you will live a full life. It will guide you to where you’re supposed to be.”

He also shared four lessons from his fighter pilot training: don’t face challenges alone; be prepared to face challenges; don’t let others discourage you from following your dreams; and recognize challenges as opportunities for growth.

“Just remember, you take off into the wind, and you will face resistance and challenge,” he concluded, “but understand that God does not put that in your life to keep you down. He puts it in your life to raise you up.”

The university presented Rooney an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree, then presented degrees to the graduates in attendance.

### Connections

Following a welcome to the new graduates from the Trine University Alumni Association, Christopher Ferguson, winner of the R.B. Stewart Award, given to the top graduating senior, offered a response from the Class of 2024.



Ferguson, a software and computer engineering major from Defiance, Ohio, recalled losing the track season of his senior year of high school to the pandemic and celebrating his high school graduation inside a car in a parking lot.

“Thanks to the tireless around-the-clock work of the Trine faculty, staff and administration, we were able to come to Trine our freshman year. Many of our former friends and classmates who attended other institutions didn’t even get to go away to college their first year,” he said.

Noting the athletic and academic accomplishments at the university since the fall of 2020, Ferguson encouraged his fellow graduates to continue forming connections, as they had at Trine, in order to succeed.

“Many big opportunities lie ahead,” he concluded. “After all, if the pandemic cannot stop us, what can?”

### Accept, adapt, focus, commit

Providing the keynote address for the afternoon ceremony, Vipul Shah, a 1996 chemical

engineering alumnus who is now a highly regarded wealth advisor, shared three principles for personal and professional success.

The first, he said, is to accept and adapt.



“When you get on an ascent, each peak you climb will allow you to see other mountaintops that are well within your reach,” he said. “Adapt to the environment on each mountaintop.”

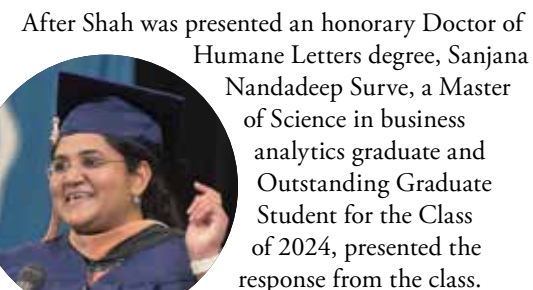
Second, he said, is to focus and be productive.

“You have no idea what lies in front of you, but it is your ability to focus in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles that will define your journey,” he said.

Third, he said: Commit and make a positive difference.

“We all want to be successful. Are you willing to commit the time, effort and energy it takes to get there?” he asked.

In closing, he said, “Go out and win with confidence. Be humble and have fun along the way.”



After Shah was presented an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree, Sanjana Nandadeep Surve, a Master of Science in business analytics graduate and Outstanding Graduate Student for the Class of 2024, presented the response from the class.

“Success isn’t just about hoping for the best. It’s about working hard, preparing for opportunities and never giving up, even when things seem impossible,” she said. “As we venture into the world, let us keep in mind the importance of determination and hard work in pursuing our dreams.”





# Fall Commencement celebrates diverse journeys of Trine University graduates

The scenes were typical, but the timing was new. Hundreds of graduating Trine University students plus their families gathered Dec. 16, in the Keith E. Busse/Steel Dynamics Inc. Athletic and Recreation Center for the first fall Commencement in many years.

The day featured the usual Commencement ceremony and address, with excited graduates snapping photos around campus in photogenic locations afterward, though the weather was a bit colder than May graduates typically enjoy.

Trine added the fall Commencement ceremony to accommodate growth in its student population, particularly in the College of Graduate and Professional Studies. The event honored more than 1,300 master's degree graduates from the college, with about 800 participating in the ceremony.

## Focus and flexibility

Welcoming the graduates, Tony Kline, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs, acknowledged the many international students who made up the group.

"We gather here today, coming from backgrounds of various nations, each unique in our educational and personal journeys. We embrace the beauty of the diversity seated here in this ceremony," he said.

V.K. Sharma, Ph.D., dean emeritus of what was Trine University's Allen School of Engineering and Technology when he served, encouraged the graduates to be flexible as they continued in the workforce.

"Learn to improve your skills continuously," he said. "Change is inevitable. Don't resist that change; use it to your advantage, whether you like it or not."

"Your Trine diploma will open up opportunities and new horizons of success and prosperity not only for you, but also your families and extended families and communities, wherever you decide to settle. I wish you all the success; you have worked hard and I'm proud of all of you. Don't change your dream. You are well equipped with it."

## 'Embrace your roots'

Following the presentation of degrees, Tim Raftery, president of Trine University's Alumni Association, inducted the new graduates into the association.

Yancy Hansford, a 2020 business administration and MBA and 2021 Master of Science in Business Analytics graduate, presented the response for the Class of 2023.

She encouraged those assembled to embrace their unique journey.

"Each of you has a story, background and a set of experiences that shaped who you are," she said. "Embrace your roots, for they are the foundation upon which you build your future."



## Packnett encourages BCHP graduates to practice service, humility, improvement

Mike Packnett, retired president and CEO of Parkview Health, encouraged fall 2023 graduates from Trine University's Dr. Earl D. and Melanie Brooks College of Health Professions to focus on others, practice humility and strive for improvement during a special hooding and pinning ceremony on Dec. 8.

Held in the T. Furth Center for Performing Arts on the Angola campus, the event recognized physical therapy, physician assistant and surgical technology students who completed their degrees at the end of the fall semester.

### Becoming their best selves

In opening his address to the graduates, Packnett acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath created a difficult environment for learning. He commended the graduates for persevering and encouraged them to become the best people they could.

"The best version of you is not just being a PT, or a surg tech or a PA but it's how you do your work: what you do every day, not just out at work but also especially at home and out in the world," he said.

He offered three pieces of advice to the graduates, drawing from his 45-year career in healthcare administration. First, he said, focus on others.

"If you have that mindset of service, and servanthood, it's just so important for the fields that you've chosen," he said. "It can change the tone of your workplace. It can change the tone of the company or the hospital or the outpatient clinic you might be part of, and it will change your heart as well."

Next, he told the graduates to practice humility. The best way to learn what humility is, he said, is to look for the trait in others and model it.

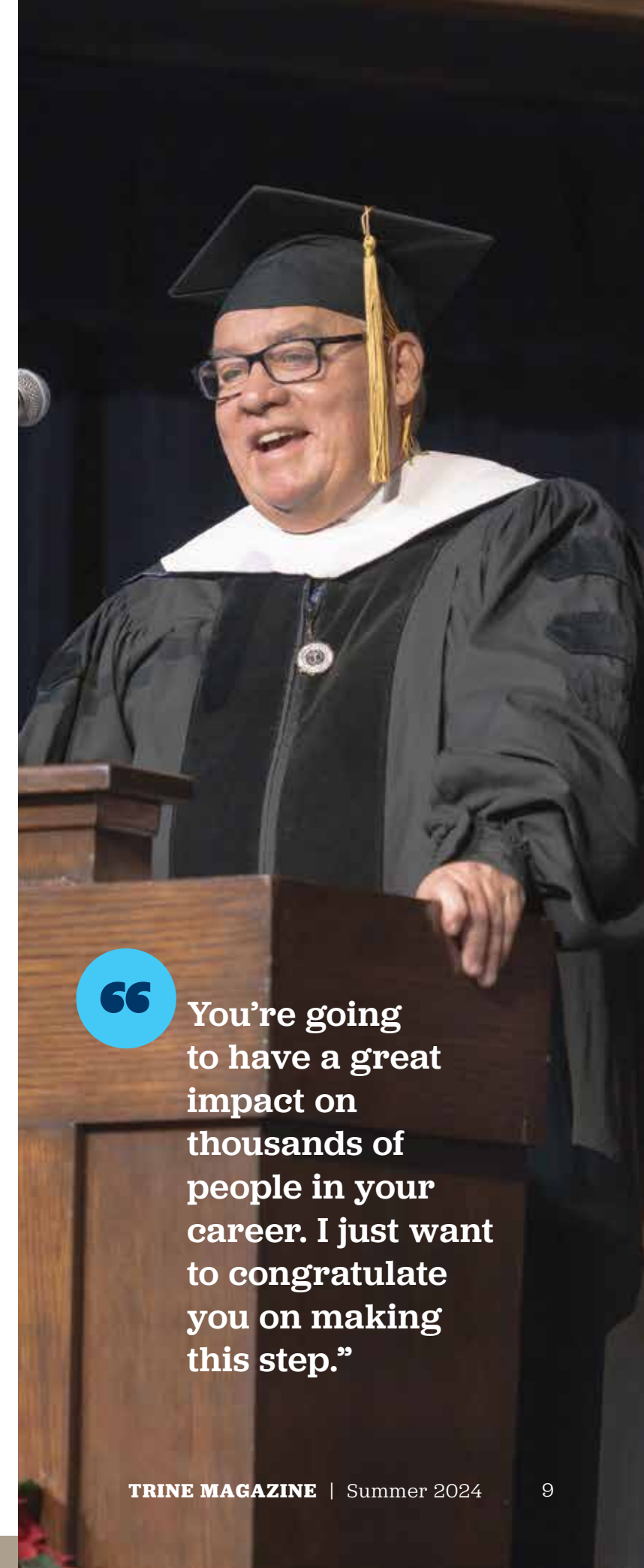
Finally, he said, keep getting better.

"Make sure you're surrounding yourself with the right people," he said. "Get a mentor or multiple people who can speak into your lives."

Another key part of bettering oneself is reading, he said.

"I've known a lot of very successful people, and I know that most of them are very voracious readers who read things outside of their expertise," he said.

"You're going to have a great impact on thousands of people in your career," he concluded. "I just want to congratulate you on making this step. ... And I want to thank God for blessing your time here and in the future as you go out into the workplace."



“You’re going to have a great impact on thousands of people in your career. I just want to congratulate you on making this step.”

# Trine University Scholarship

# GALA

It was a successful celebration for both Bo Jackson and supporters of Trine University as the annual Scholarship Gala raised nearly \$2 million on Feb. 10, the largest amount raised since the event's inception in 2004.

The renowned athlete left the event not only knowing Trine, but leaving a lasting impact on the university and on those who heard him speak.

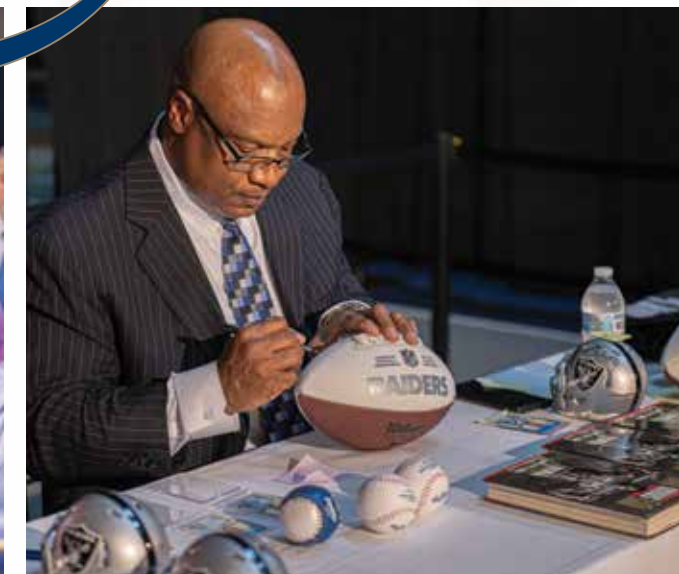
### Making an impact

Jackson, a famed multisport professional athlete, started his keynote address by acknowledging how touched he was by the words from the student speaker, Nevaeh Ortiz-Cruz, who shared her story of perseverance and how Trine University, and its generous donors, changed her life.

Jackson shared personal and heartfelt stories about childhood hardships, receiving his first pair of shoes, his path to professional sports, losing his mother, being a dad and grandfather and a question-and-answer session. He challenged the audience and students to always strive to reach the next level and encouraged them to live life to the fullest by giving back.

As Jackson concluded his speech, he energized the crowd by telling them the goal of the event was to raise money and that he wanted to do his part in contributing to Trine's scholarship fund. He unexpectedly added a live auction item: an overnight trip for four individuals to accompany him to a hunting lodge in Kenosha, Wisconsin. After the live auction started, he doubled it and two bidders left winners of the generous and unforgettable weekend.

The Gala also served as a reunion for many of the over 430 guests who gathered in the dashingly decorated Keith E. Busse/Steel Dynamics Inc. Athletics and Recreation Center.



### Generous support for Trine

Trine University's supporters made an influential impact contributing toward scholarships and Books and Beyond through sponsorships, donations, silent auctions, and a live auction conducted by Trine student and fourth-generation auctioneer, Michael Kruse.

The total raised included a \$300,000 matching gift toward Books and Beyond from Trine board chair and alumnus Dr. Rick L. James, his wife, Dr. Vicki L. James, and The James Foundation, Inc., as they have for a number of years. The Books and Beyond scholarship fund assists with books and other student expenses not typically covered by financial aid.

The Scholarship Gala has raised millions of dollars for Trine University student scholarships. Scholarship funds are a critical part of allowing students to attend Trine, as 99% of undergraduate students receive some form of financial aid.

### Adding Value

Video testimonials from Trine University students who received scholarship aid shared stories of how their Trine education and campus experience will help them add value to the community, workplace and the people around them.

Ortiz-Cruz, a senior majoring in athletics and recreation, also offered remarks prior to Jackson's speech. She inspired attendees at the event by speaking about the strength of family, courage and commitment.





# AIMM high: First competition shows off Indiana student ingenuity

The first Artificial Intelligence Maritime Maneuver Indiana Collegiate Challenge (AIMM ICC) may have been competitive, but everyone came away a winner.

Trine University and Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division (NSWC Crane) hosted the inaugural event from April 26-28 at Pokagon State Park. Six Indiana colleges and universities competed to see whose artificial intelligence-guided low-profile vessel (LPV) could best complete a series of tasks.

AIMM ICC not only allowed the students to work on a real-world challenge with potential applications for rescue and drug interdiction, it provided the opportunity to network with defense contractors.

In addition, about 130 area high school students attended the event to learn more about the projects and participate in STEM activities.

“Our state is leading the way in defense innovation and manufacturing,” said Rep. Jim Banks (IN-3rd), who sponsored funding for the partnership between Trine and NSWC Crane. “Programs like AIMM’s collaboration between Trine University and Crane are not only important for strengthening our national defense, but for attracting and retaining the best minds from around the country to study and work right here in Indiana.”

“For the United States to maintain technological superiority, the U.S. Navy must seek out diverse

input from a variety of sources, which includes academic partners like Trine University and all of our academic participants,” said Capt. Rex Boonyobhas, NSWC Crane Commanding Officer. “Maintaining this technological edge ensures Americans and our allies can enjoy the freedoms that come along with the freedom of the seas, like maintaining safe trade and travel while also providing security to undersea cables that provide 90 percent of transcontinental internet traffic.”

“It was great to see how the initial vision of AI for Maritime Maneuver played out with success at Pokagon State Park,” said Dan Cabel, deputy assistant secretary of defense for prototyping and experimentation. “The teams took on the challenge and made the vision a reality in a short time frame; true teamwork and collaboration. Seeing what the universities developed in such a short time frame was a true testament to what we do in the Department of Defense — rapid response development and experimentation. This experience is value added in our future DoD workforce.”

“What we’re really working toward is opening up a pathway for young individuals to see how making an impact for our nation’s defense can be an exciting opportunity and career path,” agreed Jason Blume, assistant vice president for Trine innovation1.

## At the top

In the competition itself, Trine University and the University of Notre Dame split first and second places between the four categories.

Trine took top honors in the technical design report and project presentation. The Thunder finished second in the course challenge and overall grand champion.

The other competing schools were Indiana University, Purdue-West Lafayette, Purdue-Fort Wayne and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

“Students demonstrated their expertise on a wide range of technologies,” said Andrea Mitofsky, Ph.D., professor of electrical engineering. “They designed and wired the electrical system to propel the boat. They planned out, performed stability analysis on and built a crane for picking objects out of the water. They developed and implemented a communication system using Bluetooth technology to communicate between the boat, a device on shore and a sensor buoy they designed and deployed. They also developed a neural net for image recognition of the different colored buoys on the course.”

“All of these technologies came together into their one successful boat.”

Trine University’s success in AIMM ICC went far beyond what happened over one weekend.

AIMM ICC began as a cooperative effort between NSWC Crane and the university, launched by Banks’ funding initiative. A team of Trine students worked with Crane to develop and manufacture the LPVs each university used for the competition, while a second team built a lab on campus to develop the AI controller.

As a result of their work on the project, five Trine students have been offered and accepted full-time positions with NSWC Crane after graduation.

## Ongoing efforts

Those involved with AIMM ICC said they are looking forward to its future growth and the innovation fueled by the competition.

“Our goal with participation was to inspire, engage, and educate the next generation of problem-solvers who will tackle some of our nation’s toughest challenges,” said Capt. Boonyobhas. “We hope to see the event grow every year to provide opportunities for more and more students to engage with science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics.”

“This is just the beginning of something I’m convinced is going to last for a long time to come,” said Banks. “I’m looking forward to doing whatever I can to support this partnership.”

“I was impressed to see the level of camaraderie and sportsmanship shared between all of the competing schools,” said Blume. “We emphasized from the beginning that yes, this was a competition, but each team was truly competing against the challenges set before them. The focus of AIMM was to advance design and programming for AI among our peer Indiana schools and to drive AI forward for the Department of Defense.”

“I solidly believe that the more than 70 faculty and students who participated in the inaugural AIMM ICC all grew professionally and learned how to design for real-world situations they will encounter in their professional careers. This was an outstanding showcase of how Indiana’s hard-working students can meet and address challenges that are evolving for our nation’s defense.”

The Office of Naval Research, the Applied Research Institute and Follet Bookstore sponsored the event.



# Trine engineers excel in spring competition

Trine University student teams took part in spring engineering competitions, with civil and chemical engineering groups advancing to the next level.

## ASCE

For the first time, a Trine team took the top place in the regional steel bridge competition hosted by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), qualifying for national competition.

Trine also won the concrete disc and mystery design competitions, finishing third overall at the event.

Trine civil engineering majors Thaiphi Austria, Kyle Baumgartner and Chris Parker completed Trine's steel bridge for their senior design project. They were assisted at the competition by Annalise O'Daniel, a civil engineering major, and Joey Schmidt, a mechanical engineering major.

The group did not place at the national competition.

The Trine team concrete disc team included civil engineering majors Ryan Hoak, Dillon Cooper, Derek Maag and Gage Ornduff.

Hoak also served as captain of the mystery design team, which included Cooper as well as Blake Dulle.

## AIChE

Sixteen chemical engineering majors competed at the American Institute for Chemical Engineering (AIChE) Northcentral regional conference.

The Trine team of Natalie Crowner, Madison Ruen, Dean Campbell and Travis Mersing topped a field of

14 in the ChemE car competition, qualifying for the national competition in October.

Alyssa Keptner won the research poster competition. Trine also placed second in ChemE Jeopardy, had another student place third for his undergraduate research poster, and placed third in undergraduate research technical presentations.

## NASA HERC

A Trine team of design engineering technology seniors received the STEM Engagement Award in the College/University division at NASA's annual Human Exploration Rover Challenge (HERC) competition. In addition, Trine's rover finished 12th out of 29 college and university teams.

Team members were RJ Anderson, Morgan Hinderliter, Emma Oslakovich, Grant Pickard, Adrienne Rosey and Chris Schuman.

## Cast in Steel

A Trine University senior design team placed third for "Best design and process" at the Cast in Steel competition. Teams were tasked with using modern metalcasting tools to design and produce a functioning Halligan bar, used by firefighters.

The Trine team was made up of Grant Whitham, Josiah Guerra, Brennen McNeil, Dane Robertson, Hayden Smith, Reed Ellis and Jonathan Stockwell.



## Combat Robot

Sporting a three-layer armor system, Trine's combat robot finished fourth out of 13 in the National Robotics Challenge (NRC) combat robot competition.

Trine's team was comprised of mechanical engineering majors Talon Gobel, Keaton Holmes, Charles Landis, Ian Macknight, Trevor Rice and Trevor Towghi.

## Design Build Fly

For the first time, Trine University's entry in the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Design Build Fly competition featured custom-manufactured carbon fiber components. Trine placed 55th out of 107 teams that competed in the event.

The team was comprised of mechanical engineering majors Zach Griffith, Ryan Harris, Gavin Hettler, Levi Peterson, Hayden Rader and Bailey Zurfice.

From left, Thaiphi Austria, Chris Parker and Kyle Baumgartner stand on the steel bridge they designed for the American Society of Civil Engineers regional competition.

# Parents Board formed; positions still available

Trine University has launched a Parents Board that will provide a new conduit for the university and families to work together to support student success.

Several Trine University parents have already stepped into leadership roles. Positions are still available.

Dennis and Laura Argyle will serve as chairs for the 2024-25 school year. They are the parents of Alyssa Argyle, who graduated in 2023 with a degree in science education and health and physical education, and Sophie Argyle, who is studying accounting and finance.

Co-chairs are Jeff and Jen Beery, parents of Chase Beery, who is studying exercise science.

Suzanne Orth and Amy Miller are the Freshman/New Parent Welcoming Committee coordinators. Suzanne is the mother of Kasey Priestley, who is studying English/language arts education, and Wyatt Priestley, who is studying marketing. Amy is the mother of Chase Miller, a mechanical engineering major.

Mary Piatt, mother of Kristine Piatt-Bakos, a business administration major, will be the Parents Association Sub Committee coordinator.

Board members are Maggie Ortiz and Shannon King. Maggie is the mother of Grace Ortiz, a nursing major, and Manny Ortiz, a social studies education major. Shannon is the mother of Alison King, a psychology and criminal justice major.

The Parents Board recognizes the significant role parents and family members play in the success of their students' education. The board is committed to fostering a partnership with parents and families to create a supportive environment that promotes student achievement.

By providing information, resources and tools, the board seeks to equip parents and families with the necessary knowledge and skills to support their students throughout their academic journey. The board also organizes purposeful events that aim to bring parents and families together with the Trine community to share experiences, learn from one another, and celebrate student successes.

In addition, the board offers opportunities for leadership and volunteerism, empowering parents and families to become active participants in shaping the Trine experience for their students and their peers. Through these efforts, the Trine University Parents Board seeks to create a community of engaged,

supportive parents and families who are invested in the success of their students and the university community.

The board meets twice a year, once during the fall semester and again during the spring semester.

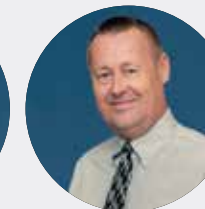
If you are interested in being part of the Parents Board, please contact Christine Miller, director of annual giving, at (260) 665-4404 or millerc1@trine.edu.



Dennis Argyle  
Chair



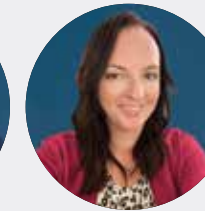
Laura Argyle  
Chair



Jeff Beery  
Co-Chair



Jen Beery  
Co-Chair



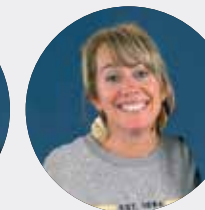
Suzanne Orth  
Freshman/New Parent  
Welcoming Committee  
Coordinator



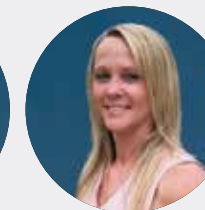
Amy Miller  
Freshman/New Parent  
Welcoming Committee  
Coordinator



Mary Piatt  
Parents Association Sub  
Committee coordinator



Maggie Ortiz  
Board Member



Shannon King  
Board Member





## Trine named Fort Wayne's Best College for third straight year

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

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

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



## Trine faculty receive annual awards

Trine University honored faculty members during its annual year-end awards ceremony, held prior to Commencement on May 4.

### 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.

The Helen Smith McKetta Excellence in Teaching Award was presented to **Jacqueline Delagrang, J.D.**, assistant professor and chair of the Criminal Justice Department. Delagrang also received the Professor Gerald H. Moore Overall Excellence in Teaching Award.

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

The recipient of the Merle J. & Anna Mae McKetta Thomas Excellence in Teaching Award was **Laurie Stockton-Moreno**, assistant professor in the Franks School of Education and director of The Center for Montessori Education at Trine University.

The recipient of the Charles William, Nelle Paris, & Mary Ann McKetta Excellence in Teaching Award was **Allen Beatty**, assistant professor, Ketner School of Business.

The recipient of the Charles & Sue Ragan Gelet Excellence in Teaching Award was **Max Gong, Ph.D.**, associate professor, Bock Department of Biomedical Engineering.

The recipient of the Steve & Mary Yacynch McKetta Excellence in Teaching Award was **Jeremy Rentz, Ph.D.**, professor, Reiners Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

The recipient of the Frank & Julia Gelet McKetta Excellence in Teaching Award was **Roberta Gagnon**, assistant professor, Department of Design Engineering Technology.

The recipient of the John J. & Mary Gelet McKetta Excellence in Teaching Award was **Maria Gerschutz, Ph.D.**, professor and chair, Bock Department of Biomedical Engineering.

### Additional awards

**Joanna Claudy** was honored with the Outstanding Adjunct Award for Angola Campus, in recognition of teaching excellence and exceptional service to the university.

**Melanie Beer**, administrative assistant for the Ketner School of Business, received the Service Award.

**Thomas "Gus" Almonroeder, Ph.D.**, associate professor in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program, received the Faculty Scholarship Award.

The Excellence in Teaching award for the Brooks College of Health Professions was given to **Jennifer Barube, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of nursing.

Two faculty were honored with the OER Excellence Award, presented to those who have shown outstanding commitment to effectively incorporate open, affordable education resources for students: **Andrea Mitofsky, Ph.D.**, associate professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and **Roberta Gagnon**, assistant professor in the department of Design Engineering Technology.

The university also honored two faculty with the VPAA Years of Service Award. **Carter Snider**, adjunct faculty in the Ketner School of Business, and **Marty Dygert**, lecturer in the Department of Mathematics, received the award.

The Barrenbrugge Award for Faculty Excellence was presented to **Angela Bojrab, Ph.D.**, professor in the Rinker-Ross School of Health Sciences.

The Jannen Renaissance Scholar Award was presented to **James Miller, Ph.D.**, assistant professor in the Wade Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.

The university conferred professor emeritus rank on two retiring faculty: **Vicki Moravec, Ph.D.**, and **John Wagner, Ph.D.** The honor had been awarded previously to Dr. Moravec, who passed away May 2.

## Eberts honored with Forty Under 40



**Keirsten Eberts**, vice president of online and international studies at Trine University, was selected to Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly's 19th annual Forty Under 40.

The group was celebrated at a special event March 28 at Ceruti's Summit Park Diamond Room, with more than 400 guests in attendance.

The 40 award recipients, who all had to be below age 40 by the date of the ceremony, were chosen from over 300 nominations sent in by the public. Nominees were judged on not only their work but also their community contributions.

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

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

## Trine University spring enrollment sets another record

Trine University has once again set a record for spring enrollment, with a nearly 40% gain from spring 2023 reflecting increases across all locations and platforms.

Trine had 12,891 students enrolled in all programs for the spring 2024 semester in its official headcount, compared to 9,263 a year ago.

The figure reflects increased numbers in undergraduate programs on its Angola campus; dual enrollment programs; programs at the Brooks College of Health Professions in Fort Wayne; TrineOnline; and hybrid programs in Detroit, Phoenix and Reston, Virginia.

## New esports arena opening this fall

To accommodate growth in its esports program and community partnerships, Trine University will open the new **Mark and Sarah Music/Ruoff Mortgage Esports Arena** in August.

The \$2.1 million project will transform a Best Hall auditorium classroom into a 5,600-square-foot arena. The facility will feature 60 state-of-the-art gaming computers equipped with cutting-edge technology to cater to a diverse range of gaming preferences and skill levels.

The arena also will include a spacious spectator area, dynamic competitive battle stage and fully equipped broadcast booth for live streaming and commentary.

The new facility will allow the university to expand its esports partnership with Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana as well as local schools with esports programs.



## 99.5% of Trine's Class of 2023 employed

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

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

Trine's Class of 2023 saw almost 65% of its graduates employed in Indiana, and more than 91% staying in the Midwest. More than 97% reported employment in their field of study.

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 12 straight years.

Events hosted by Trine University's Career Center, which play a significant role in connecting students with employers, continue to grow. The university hosted 290 employers at events throughout the 2023-24 school year.

### New degree programs coming

Trine University is launching three new undergraduate degree programs this fall and is taking applications for its new Doctor of Occupational Therapy (ODT) program.

Classes for the ODT program will begin in May 2025 at the Dr. Earl D. and Melanie Brooks College of Health Professions in Fort Wayne.

The program is designed to prepare students from diverse backgrounds for an occupational therapy career. Trine will offer several 3+3 direct-entry pathways from undergraduate programs on its Angola campus into the OTD program.

The Allen School of Engineering and Computing will launch degree programs in computer science and cybersecurity in August.

The Bachelor of Science in computer science is designed to provide students with a rigorous, comprehensive education in the principles and practices of computer science. The Bachelor of Science in cybersecurity equips students with industry certifications such as Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH) and CompTIA Security+.

The Rinker-Ross School of Health Sciences will introduce the Bachelor of Science in environmental science degree program this fall to equip students with the skills to understand and address the environmental challenges facing the planet.

For more information about these and other degree programs, visit [trine.edu](http://trine.edu).



### Golf outing raises over \$37K

Alumni and friends of Trine University contributed \$37,075 toward student scholarships at the 15th annual Scholarship Golf Classic and Alumni & Friends Reception, held Jan. 24 at The Resort at Longboat Key Club in Longboat Key, Florida.

Fifty-seven golfers, including 26 alumni, participated in the event. More than 60 attended the Alumni and Friends Reception held after golfing concluded.

The 16th annual Scholarship Golf Classic and Alumni & Friends Reception will be held Jan. 15, 2025, at the Resort at Longboat Key Club.



### Trine Day raises more than \$150,000

Trine University's annual Trine Day, a celebration of the university as well as an opportunity to support its mission, shattered its goals for number of donors and funds raised.

Held for 1,884 minutes from April 18-19, the effort raised \$151,852, given by 544 donors.

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.

To support Trine University and its students, visit [trine.edu/give](http://trine.edu/give)



### Zollner ranked among top collegiate golf courses

Trine University's Zollner Golf Course is ranked number 10 on the list of Top 25 College Golf Courses from the Golfers' Choice Awards 2024.

On Jan. 15, the GolfPass team released their Golfers' Choice lists for 2024. Zollner is no stranger to the list, ranking for its fifth consecutive year in a row.

The list rankings are decided based on GolfPass reviews and feedback. The site is home to over 1.5 million course reviews for over 15,000 courses. The Golfers' Choice lists recognizes top courses in a variety of categories, including America's Top 25 College Golf Courses.

Trine University's Zollner golf course was also featured on Golf Pass's Golfers' Choice: Best Golf Courses in Indiana in 2020 and 2021, as well as making an appearance in the article The Beauty of Playing College Golf Courses.



# Full circle: Trine comes to alumnus MacDonald in Reston

When Bill MacDonald heard Trine University was holding an open house at its new Reston, Virginia, education center, he jumped at the chance to attend.

“That center is probably two to three miles from my home,” he said.

It was an opportunity to come full circle for the electrical engineering alumnus, who graduated in 1967. And he liked what he saw at Reston.

“I’m very optimistic about it,” he said. “I think it should be very positive for the school.”

## His father’s footsteps

Bill’s interest in engineering began with his father, who was an electrical engineer with the DuPont Company. Young Bill also enjoyed building Heathkit stereos, TVs and other electrical equipment.

He started out at the University of Delaware as a physics major.

“After the first year, I realized that if you’re going to do anything in the physics area, you’re going to have to go on and get a Ph.D. And I said no, I don’t think I’m going to be doing that,” he said. “So I changed to the engineering field.”

He also decided to switch colleges. He heard about Tri-State College (now Trine University) from his family doctor, who was originally from Michigan.

He had started dating his eventual wife, Alice, at the University of Delaware, and the two were engaged before Bill left for Tri-State. The relationship endured despite the distance and they married after Alice graduated from the University of Delaware, finishing as valedictorian of her class.

Alice worked at the Northern Indiana Fuel and Light Company as a home service representative while Bill finished his degree.

“I studied hard, I stayed focused on the classwork and really concentrated on my studies,” he said. “I had the responsibility now of taking care of someone else eventually.”

The couple rented a trailer behind the Wise Stop Motel in Angola. A number of

Tri-State students rented at the park.

“We really had some fine times,” Bill recalled. “That’s where we brought in our very first Christmas tree. We used to have parties. Every time we heard there was a potential tornado, we would go outside with the other students and listen to see if we could hear it.”

## Post-graduate deferments

After Bill graduated, he and Alice were accepted into graduate school, but Bill was denied a student deferment from the military draft.

Not wanting to enter as an enlisted person with the Vietnam War raging, he tested into the Air Force Officers Training School. He also began interviewing for jobs in hopes of getting an occupational deferment.

He eventually accepted a job with Raytheon in Boston, serving as part of a team building the first digital display for air traffic control.

After about two years, Alice became pregnant. Bill received a fatherhood deferment from the draft, applied to graduate school and was accepted to Georgia Tech.

“There was some talk about my staying down there for a Ph.D., which would have taken another three years,” he said. “Economically, I would have lost three years of income.”

Instead, he accepted a job with the MITRE Corporation, a federally contracted research center in Washington, DC.

“We moved into the Washington area for that job, and that’s where we’ve been ever since,” he said.

A little over five years later, he went to work on data networks for a company called Computer Sciences Corporation. He helped install the very first data network for the federal government through a contract with the Department of Treasury.

Some of his co-workers from Computer Sciences Corporation started another company, Performance Engineering Company. They invited Bill to join them, but with two children heading into college he didn’t feel he could take the risk.

After a few years, they asked again, and Bill said yes.

“We grew from 50 employees to over 1,000 and we eventually went public. And shortly thereafter I retired from the corporate world and did consulting,” he said.

Among his interests are his two classic cars: a 1967 Oldsmobile Cutlass convertible (a vehicle he looked at while a senior at Tri-State) and a 1989 Jaguar XJ6 four-door sedan.

“My wife found the 1967 Oldsmobile in the paper when we got up to Boston; a 442, which was the muscle car of the day,” he said, “so we went ahead and bought it. It was her college graduation present from her parents. The car became a family item, bringing both children and a grandchild home from the hospital after birth.”

Bill also has enjoyed sailing the Chesapeake Bay for the past 40 years. In addition, he has been a member of a barbershop chorus competing in international competitions and coached Little League baseball up through all-star play.

Alice and Bill’s daughter and son have blessed them with four wonderful grandchildren.

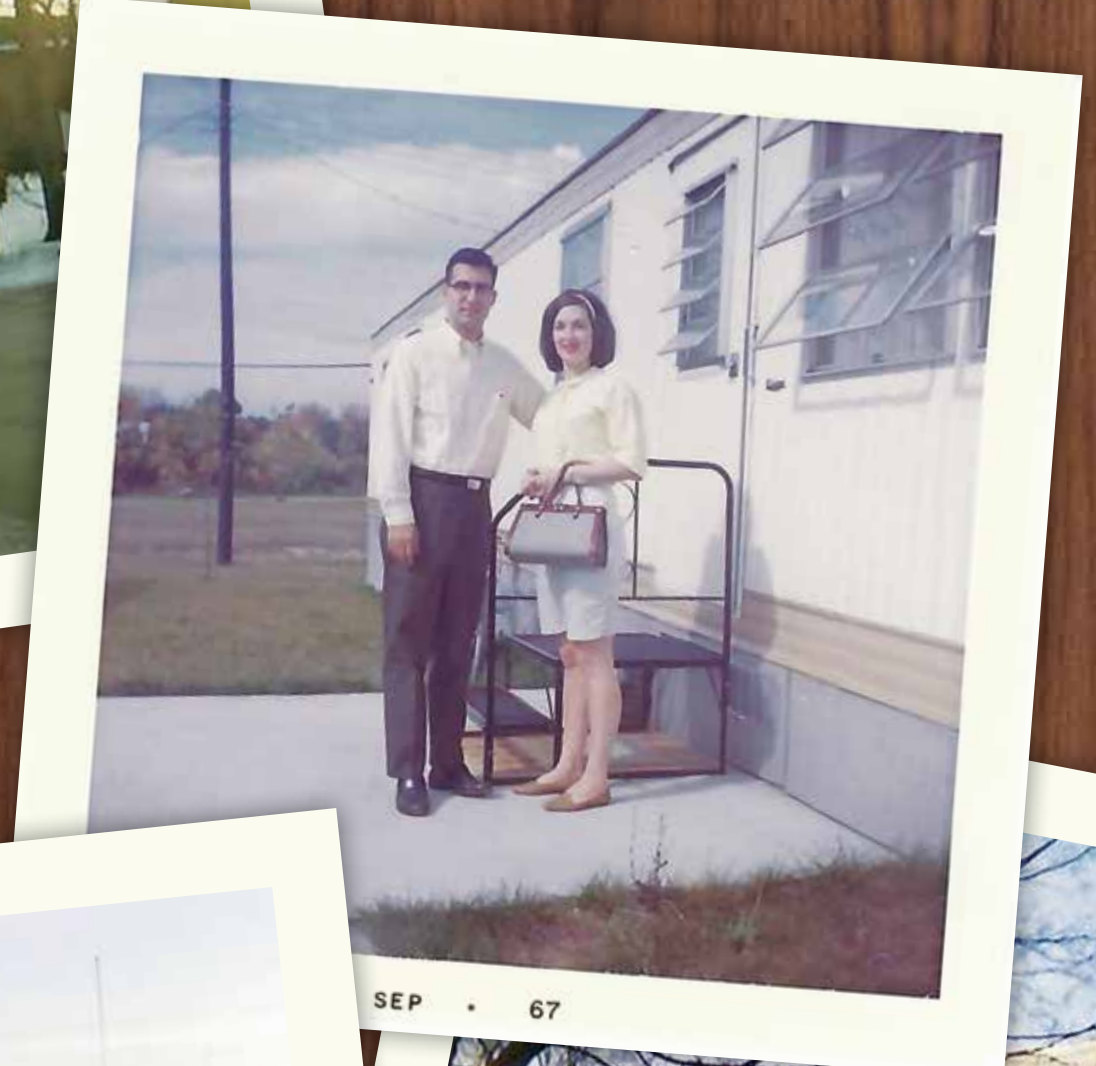
## Retirement

Bill’s life in retirement changed late last year with the death of Alice. The couple had been married 57 years.

He has visited the Trine campus a couple times since graduation. He said he and Alice traveled to every state in the U.S. and would stop when they were on the Indiana Toll Road headed west.

He’s hoping to instill the same work ethic he had as a college student into his four grandchildren, three of whom are already in college.

“What I’ve tried to instill in them is when you start off in college, really stay focused your first year,” he said. “You have to put in the time, and you have to work.”





“Going to Trine was probably the best decision I made educationally out of all the different levels of education I’ve been involved with. It set the foundation for everything I’ve done.”

# Maximum impact:

## Trine alum heads police for Indiana’s 2nd-largest city

Scott Caudill became a police officer because he wanted to make a positive impact.

Now, as police chief for Indiana’s second-largest city, the 2006 Trine University graduate impacts thousands of lives every day.

Sworn in to his new role at the Fort Wayne Police Department on Jan. 16, Scott oversees 500 officers and more than 100 civilian employees, and an \$82 million annual budget.

“It comes with a tremendous weight and responsibility,” he said.

### Lifelong learner

Scott, a native of the Fort Wayne area, joined the Marine Corps after graduating high school and returned to the city to join its police force.

A strong believer in lifelong learning, he started work on his bachelor’s degree.

He began at another university but found the criminal justice program offered at Trine’s (then Tri-State University) Fort Wayne education center was a better fit for his work schedule and career goals.

“The hardest part about completing a degree as a police officer is the shift work and trying to fit the classes in around your shift schedules,” he said. “I had other friends both in and out of law enforcement who had ties to Trine, which offered three-hour classes in the evening.”

“I liked the atmosphere and the culture of the university. Everybody I dealt with, students or staff, was extremely positive. Trine had a more personalized atmosphere because it was a smaller private university.”

He enjoyed learning from faculty who were practitioners in the field. One professor was an Allen County deputy prosecutor; another was Rob Wiley, who had become police chief in Kendallville after retiring from the Indiana State Police.

“There was a lot of real-world experience they could apply to me as a student that I was able to use later in my career,” he said.

His Trine degree also prepared him for additional education. He went on to earn a Master of Science in management with a specialization in organizational leadership from Johns Hopkins University and a certificate of executive leadership and management from the University of Notre Dame.

“Trine’s quality of education really gave me a great foundation to move on to the next level,” he said. “The basic core values instilled in the courses – being reflective and thoughtful in your decision making, especially in the criminal justice system, and learning empathy – it all applies. It was a very strong program, and I absolutely loved the university.”

### Natural progression

Scott, who has been part of FWPD since 1994, served as a sergeant for 18 years

and a captain for three years before being named a deputy chief in 2021.

“I really liked being a deputy chief in the area I was at, but when the opportunity to be chief came along, it seemed like a natural progression,” he said.

He said his first few months as chief have been “like drinking water through a fire hose,” but his experience and education, particularly from Trine, have prepared him for role.

“What attending Trine allowed me to do early in my career and then expand upon is to get a breadth of knowledge to understand how to ask the right questions of the right people, and understand if I’m getting the right answers back,” he said. “It gave me a good educational foundation to blend with my practical expertise from the training I’ve received within the department.”

As a Trine alumnus, Scott is excited to see the continued growth of the university. He would like to teach full-time after he retires, if the opportunity is available.

“It’s a way of giving to the future, the people who are going to get into this field,” he said.

“Going to Trine was probably the best decision I made educationally out of all the different levels of education I’ve been involved with. It set the foundation for everything I’ve done.”

# Return to campus inspires Bryans to give back

A return to Trine University's campus last September "sparked the fire" for Skip Bryan, a 1965 general business alumnus, and his wife Carol to fulfill 24 underfunded scholarships, along with starting a scholarship in their own name.

"We gave small donations now and then over the years, but not significantly. I had only returned to visit the Angola campus once in 1966 and again about three years later for a fraternity Spring Frolic," Skip recalled. "Last September, Carol and I were in Ohio on vacation and called ahead to set up a campus tour."

"Visiting the campus after all these years was the wonderful motivator for us to get involved. I wish we lived closer so we could attend sports games and other activities. I am so proud of what Tri-State has become and how

they are sticking to their core values, unlike most other schools and colleges. That is what our country needs now more than ever."

## Thriving in a smaller environment

A Reading, Pennsylvania, native, Skip started college at Penn State after high school, but said he was "not prepared and a bit lazy."

"After two years there and poor grades, I put college on hold and went back home," he recalled. "I worked while taking some correspondence courses to get my grade point average up."

A guidance counselor who was tutoring Skip suggested a smaller college might be a better fit. Skip thought Tri-State College (now Trine) was the best option, and he entered in the spring of 1962.

"The more intimate class size and personal relationship with the instructors made learning easier and more interesting for me," he said. "I made the Dean's List several quarters, which surprised and delighted my parents. The fraternity and campus clubs gave me a chance to become a leader and to learn how to plan, organize activities and motivate others."

## Painting a path forward

After graduating, Skip joined the Army Reserves, serving on active duty until the spring of 1966. He then started as a sales trainee with Glidden Paint Co. in Reading.

"They kept me on as a trainer, since I had worked there in the factory in different departments for five summers while going to college and knew the business,

from manufacturing to expediting to inventory control," Skip said.

He and Carol married in May 1967. The next year, Glidden moved the couple to Greensboro, North Carolina. Skip now had a sales territory including large painting contractors and facilities with their own in-house maintenance paint crews.

After three years, he took a job with a startup contractor that concentrated on painting water towers for cities and industry.

"I was their first salesman, which made my efforts look great," he joked.

Within three years, the company had grown from two paint crews to 11. The company eventually expanded to repairing dismantling and moving water towers, installing cell tower equipment on water towers, and providing maintenance service to hundreds of water systems around the United States.

By the time Skip retired in 2007, there were 42 salesmen and 500 painters and repairmen, with the company serving 40 states. He was the top-producing salesman for 22 of his 37 years there.

"It was fun to have a small part in that growth and provided me with the opportunity and freedom to excel and make a very good living with hard work," he said.

## 'Surprise and pleasure'

Skip recalls working summers in the paint factory to help his parents pay for his college education.

"We did not take out college loans back in the 1960s," he said.

He and Carol were glad when their financial adviser told them their Donor Advised Fund investment had grown enough to support the underfunded scholarships at Trine as well as an endowed scholarship in their name.



Skip and Carol Bryan not only created a legacy for their family to support future students, but gave part of their gift to assist in endowing these 24 funds at Trine University:

- Alison and Allan Young Endowed Scholarship fund
- Charles and Sonya Brown Minority Engineering Scholarship
- Charles Johnson Scholarship
- Class of 1965 Endowed Scholarship
- Class of 1966 Endowed Scholarship
- Craig W. Laker Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Cummins Scholarship
- D. Hubbard, M. Allcroft, M. Bloomfield Scholarship
- Elaine M. Kreitzer Memorial Scholarship
- Eugene Mallar Jr. Endowed Scholarship Fund
- George Ryan Student Fund
- Humanities Institute Endowment Fund
- Jannen Awards
- Jean Johnson Scholarship
- John and Martha Remington Endowed Scholarship
- John and Mary Gledhill Scholarship
- Jones Scholarship
- Larry Vickers Endowed Scholarship
- Michael L. Baker EE Scholarship
- RLS Endowed Scholarship
- Schnepf Scholarship
- Wayne A. and Agnes R. Nagel Scholarship
- Wickwire Biology and Science Fund
- Willis Scholarship

“Helping 24 plus eight students with a small annual scholarship is just the surprise and pleasure of a lifetime for us.”



# HOOP DREAMS

## Men's basketball goes all the way in first NCAA tournament

In its first NCAA Tournament appearance, the Trine University men's basketball team went the distance and won the program's first NCAA National Championship in Fort Wayne, Indiana, at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum.

The 29-4 Thunder defeated No. 1 Hampden-Sydney College in the NCAA Tournament Finals 69-61 in front of a crowd of 4,546, a new attendance record for the NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Championship game.

### Taking care of business at home

The road to a national championship ran through the Hoosier State, with Trine hosting the first four rounds of the event inside the MTI Center.

In the first round, the Thunder won 91-81 over Fontbonne University. In the second, they claimed a 76-70 win against Coe College.

An 86-65 triumph versus Washington University set up a battle with the University of Wisconsin-Platteville in the sectional finals.

Trine trailed for most of the game against the Pioneers and were behind 77-67 with just 1:41 left in the second half. An 8-0 run for the Thunder made it a two-point game with 17 seconds to go. After the Pioneers made 1 of 2 free throws following a foul, a turnover allowed Platteville to try to put the game away at the free throw line.

Down three with one second remaining, **Drew Moore** made the first of two free throws and purposely missed the second. He collected his own offensive rebound and was fouled again, earning two more free throws and sending the game to overtime.

In the extra period, the team relied on the heroics of **Cortez Garland**. The senior guard knocked down the game-winning field goal as time expired to send the team to the national

championship semifinals with an 88-86 victory. The Detroit native was named Fifth Team All-American by D3hoops.com, Second Team All-Region by D3hoops.com and Second Team All-District by the NABC following the season.

### On to the Summit City



Upon arriving in Fort Wayne for the National Championship Semifinal Round, sophomore **Evan Lumbrezer** was chosen as the Elite 90 Award winner.

The Elite 90 Award recognizes the true essence of the student-athlete by honoring the individual who has reached the pinnacle of competition at the national championship level in his or her sport, while also achieving the highest academic standard among his or her peers. The Elite 90 is presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average participating at the finals site for each of the NCAA's championships.

Lumbrezer holds a 4.0 GPA with a major in electrical engineering.

Trinity College out of Connecticut was the next obstacle for Trine and for the first time in the postseason it came on a neutral floor.

The Bantams, who finished the season 30-2 overall, were held to 30% shooting from the field by the Thunder defense in a 66-54 win.



Cortez and junior **Fred Garland** led the team in scoring with 12 points each, 10 of them coming in the final two minutes for the elder brother.

Junior **Aidan Smylie** recorded a double-double in the win with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

### Championship showdown

A win by Hampden-Sydney over conference rival Guilford College set up

the final game of the 2023-24 season between the Thunder and Tigers.

Hampden-Sydney threw the first punch in the championship game and led 19-10 thanks to a ten-minute stretch of time without a made field goal by Trine. A three-point shooting barrage sparked a 13-0 run just before halftime but a fadeaway three by the Tigers gave them a 25-23 lead at the break.

An 11-2 run leading up to the first media timeout of the second half gave the Thunder the lead and they never looked back. Three-point plays in multiple possessions down the stretch increased the team's lead and a 22-for-25 day at the charity stripe propelled Trine to the 69-61 victory.

Cortez Garland was named the NCAA Tournament Most Outstanding Player after leading the Thunder in scoring in the season finale with 22 points. Junior **Aidan Smylie** and sophomore **Nate Tucker** joined Garland as members of the All-Tournament Team.



"The first half of the game was an absolute war at both ends," Head Coach **Brooks Miller** said postgame. "I thought each team made the other work hard. At halftime, we had one plan, and that was to stick to what we were doing. You walk into our locker room and the looks on these guys' faces give you a lot of confidence as a coach. It's awesome to be a national champion!"



Coach Miller won national awards from three different organizations as the NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Coach of the Year. He was selected as the D3hoops.com National Coach of the Year, National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) National Coach of the Year and Glenn Robinson Award winner from collegeinsider.com.

For the third time in the last six seasons, the men's basketball team claimed a share of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association

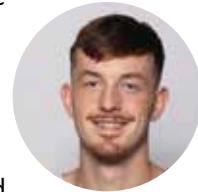


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You walk into our locker room and the looks on these guys' faces give you a lot of confidence as a coach.” - Head Coach Brooks Miller

(MIAA) Championship. Trine went 12-2 in the regular season and shared the title with Calvin University, but the Thunder won the tiebreaker to host the MIAA Tournament.

Trine led all teams with five members receiving postseason awards from the league. Senior Emmanuel Megnanglo was the MIAA Defensive Player of the Year, the second time he was won the award. Cortez Garland and Fred Garland were First Team All-MIAA honorees and senior **Brent Cox** as well as Aidan Smylie represented Trine as Second Team All-MIAA members.



In the regular season, the Thunder were undefeated over the course of their first eight games. The team went through their regular season schedule with a mark of 22-3.

Trine collected six wins against opponents that made the NCAA Tournament in that time and competed against Adrian College inside the Little Caesars Arena in Detroit. The Thunder were victorious on the floor of the Detroit Pistons, 69-65.

Trine led NCAA Division III in total attendance at 26,145.



# class notes

## keep connected with alumni and friends

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

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



### 1960s

When **Lellan (Mac) McFarland, 1963 BSASE**, graduated from Tri-State College,



he had 10 job offers. He accepted the highest from Goodyear Aircraft at \$780 per month. Mac was at Goodyear for seven years, during which

he obtained a master's degree in mechanical engineering from The University of Akron and got his private pilot's license. He then worked at Akron Standard, a manufacturer of tire molds and special tire testing machinery, as the mechanical design manager. While at Akron Standard, he held managerial positions in engineering, sales and marketing and earned an MBA from Kent State University. He served as Division Manager at Akron Standard and retired as President. After retirement, Mac taught marketing classes at Kent State University and became treasurer at MAC Aviation, an aircraft maintenance business owned by his son, David. He also volunteered as a tour guide at MAPS Air Museum, located at Akron-Canton Airport. Mac retired from MAPS in 2023 after serving 17 years as the treasurer. While at MAPS, Mac was able to fly a two-seat P-51 Mustang. Mac's wife, Carol, passed away from Alzheimer's in 2017 and in January 2019 Mac moved into an independent living facility. He currently dates a lovely widow and is taking life one day at a time. He spent some of his kids' inheritance to purchase a new C8 Corvette.

### 1970s

In December 2023, Penn High School (Mishawaka, Indiana) renamed its basketball court after former boys basketball coach **Alan Rhodes, 1975 BSMEEd**. Alan retired at the end of the 2022 basketball season following a 42-year coaching career, spending his last 15 seasons at Penn. Alan was the winningest coach in Penn boys basketball history. The new court name is displayed above the scoreboard.

### 1980s



In December 2022, Alpha Kappa Psi announced Eileen and Scott Howell pledged a \$1 million gift to the Alpha Kappa Psi Foundation. The donation went toward fulfilling strategic goals for principled business leadership educational programs and honored lifelong Alpha Kappa Psi volunteers, Dave and **Wendy (Noppenberg) Wendroff, 1982 BSBA**, with the naming of the new Alpha Kappa Psi headquarters, based in Noblesville, Indiana, as the Howell + Wendroff Professional Center.

### 1990s

**Greg Britton, 1992 BSASE**, was appointed chair of the SelectFlorida Board of Directors in December 2023. Greg is the State Director for the Florida Small Business Development Center Network. SelectFlorida serves as a catalyst for economic development by promoting Florida as a premier business destination and expanding the state's economic power through private-sector job creation. Greg most recently served as Chief Operations Officer of DEFENSEWERX and the Director of the Division of Strategic Business Development at the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

Albion College has named Hall of Fame student-athlete and accomplished administrator **Jennifer Rushton, 1997 BSBIO**, as its next director of athletics, following a national search.

Her appointment was effective June 1. Jennifer joins Albion after spending the last 27 years in athletic administration and coaching roles at NCAA division I, II and III institutions, as well as experience in the NAIA. In addition to her degree from Trine, Jennifer holds a Master of Science in sports management from Georgia Southern University. At Trine, she was an all-conference women's basketball player in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC) from 1995-1997, and served as team captain her sophomore, junior and senior years. In 1996, Rushton led the Thunder to the Elite Eight of the NAIA Division II Tournament



and was named an NAIA All-American. She became only the fourth woman at Trine to score over 1,000 points. She was inducted into Trine's Hall of Fame in 1998 and the Montrose Hill McCloy High School Hall of Fame in 2004.

### 2000s

The East Noble School Corporation's board of trustees approved the hiring of **Luke Amstutz, 2004 BSSSEd**, as East Noble High School's activities director at the board's meeting in February 2024. Luke had been East Noble High's interim athletic director since October 2023 and was also a strength and conditioning teacher at the school.

**Michael Dean, 2006 BASS**, accepted the role of Project Manager II at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in September 2023. Michael and his team manage projects in the Office of Student Financial Aid Programs (SFAP) with the goal of supporting institutions of higher education with the administration of state financial aid programs. Michael currently resides in Cedar Park, Texas.



**Jennifer Sharkey-Watkins, 2007 BSCE**, earned a Master of Public Administration

degree from Purdue University Global on Jan. 23, 2024. Jennifer is excited to apply her new knowledge through various public service opportunities.



### 2010s

**Christopher Anderson, 2010 BSCJ**, has been named deputy police chief of



Columbia City's police department in Columbia City, Indiana. Christopher has nearly 15 years of experience in law enforcement and joined CCPD in early 2023 as a patrolman.

**Adam Greiner, 2010 BSDET**, joined Sundt Construction's Florida office as an assistant project manager in September 2023. Adam is responsible for ensuring operations and quality for process and instrumentation and electrical work on Sundt's projects.

The Northeastern Center welcomed **Adam Kurtz, 2010 BSACC**, to its executive team as the new Chief Financial Officer in February 2024. He has worked as an auditor for Crowe in Indianapolis, focusing on not-for-profit healthcare organizations and cost report certifications. He also worked for Parkview Health as its finance manager for the departments of Emergency, Lab & Imaging, and Inpatient Providers.



**Brandon Cosby, 2012 BSACC/2023 MBA**, and **Heather (McIntosh) Cosby, 2012 BSEIEd**,

welcomed their second child, Grayson Edwin Cosby, in March 2023.



**Kyle Grimm, 2013 BSSM**, has been

promoted to Assistant Vice President, Special Assets Officer at Lake City Bank. In this position, Kyle works with loan officers and customers to resolve issues associated with commercial loans. He also works on risk management issues associated with the commercial loan process. He has been with the bank for nine years. Kyle volunteer coaches little league sports in the Ligonier community, and occasionally umpires little league baseball and softball games. He also volunteers occasionally with the bank's Reality Stores.



**Matthew Reinoehl, 2013 BSACC**, the former controller at their Operations Center in Berne, has been

named Chief Financial Officer at First Bank of Berne. He holds an advanced degree from the Graduate School of Banking at University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin.



A 15-year veteran of the banking industry, Matthew began his career by working as a teller in his undergrad years. Upon graduation from college, he diversified his skills by serving as an internal auditor and staff accountant for two well-regarded regional banks. In 2017, he chose to pursue his passion for community banking and accepted a position as controller at First Bank of Berne, where his financial background and knowledge of both business and agribusiness banking soon led to his promotion to CFO. Matthew is a resident of Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he enjoys spending time with his family.

Elkhart County Highway Engineer **Charlie McKenzie, 2014 BSCE**, was selected to receive the Indiana County Commissioner's "2023 Outstanding County Highway Engineer of the Year" Achievement Award. The award is in recognition of his contributions made to county government throughout his years of public service.



2010s

Ivy Joyce Reed was born to **Mikala (Freeland) Reed, 2015 BSGM**, and **Ronald Reed, 2014 BSME**, on Oct. 10, 2023, weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces, and measuring 20 inches long. Ivy joins big brother, Jett. The Reed family currently resides in Beaver, Pennsylvania, where Mikala serves as an Assistant Golf



Professional at Seven Oaks Country Club and Ronald serves as a Maintenance Engineer at Energy Harbor, Shippingport Nuclear Plant.

Sylvia Joyce Trine was born Oct. 19, 2023, to



**Alec Trine, 2017 BSMGT/2019 MBA**, and **Brittany (Winn) Trine, 2014 BSFS**. Sylvia joins big brothers Isaac and Eli. The family resides in Angola, Indiana.

**Cameron Aldrich, 2015 BSDET**, and his wife, Tailer, welcomed their daughter, Aurora



(Rory) Lee Aldrich, on Feb. 1, 2024, at 4:53 p.m. Rory weighed 9 pounds and measured 20.5 inches long. The Aldrich family resides in Howard, Ohio.

**Preston Cool, 2015 BSEXS**, was named assistant coach for Urbana High School Wrestling (Urbana, Illinois) in 2023. Wrestling collegiately at Trine, Preston was a four-year

starter for the Thunder and qualified three times for the NCAA Championship. His 93 career wins rank him seventh-most-winningest in Thunder wrestling program history.

**Trisha King, 2015 BSME**, was named Northridge High School's (Middlebury, Indiana) Boys Track and Field Head Coach in November 2023. This supplements Trisha's role as Girls Track and Field Head Coach, a position she has held since 2017.

**Stephanie (Carson) LaFlash, 2015 BSGM**, and **Nickolaus (Nick) LaFlash, 2015 BSDET**, were married Aug. 12, 2023,



at Goeglein's Homestead. Stephanie and Nick currently live and work in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Stephanie works in accounting at Brooks Construction and Nick works as a Production Manager at TWE Nonwovens US. They have a 3-year-old goldenoodle named Ace. **Breely (Schroeder) Taylor, 2012 BSSciEd**, owner of Tailored and Kind Photography, photographed the LaFlash wedding. **Miranda (Allen) Schroeder, 2014 BSMK**, owner of Thoughtfully Designed Co., provided the flowers.

**Mikayla (Janney) Waltermann, 2015 BPSY**, and **Anthony (Tony) Waltermann, 2016 BSINF**, were married



Sept. 30, 2023, near their residence in Indianapolis, Indiana. They met at Trine and were best friends until they began dating in 2019. Mikayla and Tony are eagerly awaiting construction on their new home to be complete!

Emmett Elise Auernhamer was born to **Taylor (Cole) Auernhamer, 2016 BSCJ/2017 MSCJ**, and **Kyle Auernhamer, 2016 BSDET/2018 BSEM/2019 MBA** on



Dec. 5, 2023. She weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces. Emmett joins her two fur siblings, Oakley and Mya! The Auernhamers reside in Utica, Michigan.

**Melissa (Tuttle) Brown, 2016 MSCJ**,



was among the three Trine University employees honored by the Private Academic Library Network of Indiana (PALNI) for their innovation and excellence in support of higher education, textbook affordability and student success.

Melissa was honored alongside colleagues Andrea Bearman and Lauren Decker. Melissa serves as an Academic Director for TrineOnline and resides in Hamilton, Indiana.

**Anna Bowers, 2017 BPSY**, was engaged to Josh Becco on Oct. 1, 2023, at Devil's Lake State Park in Baraboo, Wisconsin. They plan



on having a small courthouse wedding in July or August 2024 and then traveling to Italy for two weeks in September! After their trip, Mr. and Mrs. Becco plan to stay in the Waukesha, Wisconsin, area and hope to buy a house together in the upcoming year!

**Abby (Hoge) Marsh, 2017 BSCJ/PSY**,



was married to Austin Marsh on March 30, 2024, at The Charles Fort Wayne. Mr. and Mrs. Marsh call Fort Wayne, Indiana, home.

**Frank Vuocolo, 2017 BSME**, and **Ashley (Kretler) Vuocolo, 2017 BSMGT/2018 MBA**,



welcomed their firstborn son, Vinny, into the world in November 2023. Frank and Ashley met at Trine in 2014 where he was a Thunder football running back and she was a Trine cheerleader. They are excited to share their love for Trine football games with their son over the coming years! The Vuocolos currently live in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

**Madison (Hatkevich) Hina, 2018 BSBME**, and **Bryce Hina, 2018 BSSE/BSBME**, welcomed their second child, Ellora Kay, on Oct. 28, 2023, at 2:50 p.m. She weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces, and was 21



inches long. Their oldest daughter, Liara, is already in love with her little sister! The family of four resides in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, where Madison works as a quality engineering manager at Zimmer Biomet and Bryce is a Ph.D. candidate at Drexel University.

**Christina (Brinkmann) Lelito, 2018 BSFIN**, and Jordan Lelito, 2018 BSME,



welcomed their first child, Charlotte Luella Lelito, on Dec. 24, 2023. The Lelitos reside in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Katie (Lopshire) Warner, 2018 BSEXS**, and **Aaron (AJ) Warner, 2019 BSEXS**,



were married May 20, 2023, at Pokagon State Park. The Warners currently reside in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Katie works as a physical therapist at Indiana Physical Therapy and AJ works as a personal trainer.

**Evan Wyse, 2018 BSME**, and **Carly (Osinski) Wyse, 2017 BSMK/2018 MBA**, welcomed their daughter,



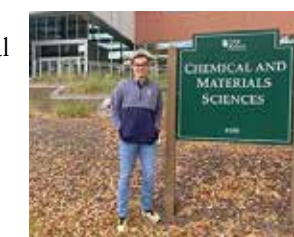
Wren Osinski Wyse, on March 2, 2024. She weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce, and was 20 inches long. Evan works as a mechanical engineer at Weiland Chase Brass and Carly works as a marketing coordinator and insurance agent at Andres O'Neil & Lowe Insurance Agency. The Wyse's recently started a side business called Studio EC where they do laser engraving.

**David Cox, 2019 BSMGT/2024 MSOL**,



was engaged to Ashlynn Meyer on Sept. 23, 2023. David and Ashlynn will be married July 27, 2024, in Greensburg, Indiana.

**Blake Trusty, 2019 BSChE**, graduated in 2023 with his Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Florida. He is now completing a postdoctoral fellowship at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, a facility dedicated to conducting impactful research and development, which leads to scientific discoveries and breakthroughs in energy and national security.



Corinne Cecilia Zak was born March 7, 2023, at 9:48

p.m. to **Hannah (Blystone) Zak, 2019 BSEXS/2021 DPT**, and **Nick Zak, 2019 BSCE**. She weighed 7 pounds, 8.8 ounces, and was 20 inches long.

She was quickly welcomed into the family by cat siblings (from left) Owen, Charlotte and Peter! The Zaks reside in Indianapolis.



2020s

**Emilie (Carter) Caldwell, 2020 BPSY**, and **Jacob Caldwell, 2021 BSME** were

wed Oct. 7, 2023, in Casstown, Ohio. Emilie and Jacob are high school sweethearts! The Caldwells reside in Mishawaka, Indiana, with their two dogs, Peach and Pepper. Emilie is a legal assistant at May Oberfell Lorber and Jacob is pursuing his Ph.D. in aerospace engineering at the University of Notre Dame.



2020s



**Jakob Layton, 2020 BSEIEd,** and **Madisen (Campbell), 2021 BSMEd,** welcomed their son, Grayson Zayne Layton, on Jan. 10, 2024.



**Emily Reif, 2020 DPT,** and Rob Haddix welcomed their daughter, Zoey Layne, on Oct. 23, 2023, at 9:23 a.m. She weighed 6 pounds, 3 ounces, and measured 19¾ inches long.

**Pauline Odambo, 2020 BSACC/2021 MBA,** took on the role of Senior Accountant and CPA at The ALG Group in late 2023.

Previously, Pauline was employed with Ernst & Young in Indianapolis. As Senior Accountant and CPA, Pauline leads audits, ensuring top-quality service.



**Alexa Ratkowski, 2020 BSEIEd,** was engaged to Zackary Murphy in early Aug. 2023 after the couple recreated their first date from 2019 in Coldwater, Michigan.



Alexa and Zackary will be married Aug. 31, 2024, in Sturgis, Michigan. Alexa works for Branch Intermediate School District as a special education teacher in her hometown of Bronson, Michigan, while Zackary attends Michigan State University with the goal of becoming a medical doctor.



**Brittani (Smith) Ritchie, 2020 BSME,** and Manny Ritchie were wed Jan. 20, 2024, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Carmel, Indiana. Their wedding reception was held at the Ritz Charles. Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie honeymooned in Cancún and currently reside in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

held at the Ritz Charles. Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie honeymooned in Cancún and currently reside in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

**Courtney (Reece) Wheaton, 2020 BSBIO,** and **Adam Wheaton, 2021 BSSM,** welcomed their daughter, Evelyn Jay Wheaton,



on Jan. 9, 2024, at 10:58 a.m. She weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces, and was 21½ inches long. The Wheaton family resides in Indianapolis.

**Mykaela Crowell, 2022 BSMK/MBA,** and **Drew Bradford, 2021 BSMGT/MBA,** were engaged at the onset of 2023 in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. They will be married Sept. 7, 2024, at The Rustic Barn in Wabash, Indiana. The future Mr. and Mrs. Bradford currently reside in Columbia City, Indiana. Mykaela is employed as a merchandising manager for Do It Best Corp. and Drew is employed through General Motors–Fort Wayne as a production supervisor.



**Kennedy Brough, 2021 BSEngEd,** was engaged to Matthew Gigli on Dec. 3, 2024, at the finish line of Kennedy's second half marathon race in Indianapolis! They will be married Feb. 8, 2025. The future Mr. and Mrs. Gigli closed on their first home in March 2024 and look forward to settling in Fort Wayne, Indiana, after their wedding. Kennedy currently serves as a special education teacher at Blackhawk Middle School and soccer coach at Bishop Luers High School, while Matthew serves as a marketing specialist at Federated Media and football coach at Bishop Luers High School.



8, 2025. The future Mr. and Mrs. Gigli closed on their first home in March 2024 and look forward to settling in Fort Wayne, Indiana, after their wedding. Kennedy currently serves as a special education teacher at Blackhawk Middle School and soccer coach at Bishop Luers High School, while Matthew serves as a marketing specialist at Federated Media and football coach at Bishop Luers High School.



The Franklin College Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program awarded **Tyler Corless, 2021 BSBIO,** his white coat on Dec. 14, 2023.

**Allyson (Ally) Dunn, 2021 BSBIO,** was engaged to Tyler Johnson on Oct. 27, 2023, at Wing Haven Park in Angola, Indiana. Tyler had Ally's sister fly in from California for the big surprise! Ally serves as the Assistant Director of Student Experience for Trine University's College of Graduate & Professional Studies and Tyler serves as an operator at Nucor Fastener. Ally and Tyler bought their first home together in Angola in April 2023. Their big day will be Oct. 19, 2024!



**Daniel Klaybor, 2021 BSMK,** stepped into a new role in early 2024 as a recruiter for Aerotek in South Bend, Indiana. Additionally, he plays professional hockey for the Kalkaska Battlers in the Michigan Independence Hockey League and coaches young goaltenders at hockey camps.

**Stacey Malinowski, 2021 DPT,** was engaged to Aaron Jacobson on Jan. 6, 2024, in front of the Christmas tree at Campus Martius Park in Detroit, Michigan. Stacey is a physical therapist in a sport-specific outpatient orthopedic clinic in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Aaron is an application engineer for Tyler Technologies. Stacey and Aaron reside in Royal Oak, Michigan, and will be married at Sweetest Heart of Mary Church in Detroit, Michigan, on Oct. 4, 2024.



Aaron is an application engineer for Tyler Technologies. Stacey and Aaron reside in Royal Oak, Michigan, and will be married at Sweetest Heart of Mary Church in Detroit, Michigan, on Oct. 4, 2024.



**Leeanna Knight, 2021 MSPAS,** joined Parkview Physicians Group (PPG) in September 2023. She is based at PPG's multi-specialty clinic in Peru, Indiana, and works as a family medicine physician assistant.

**John Roop, 2021 BSSM/2022 MBA,** and **Kenydee Otto, 2022 BSEXs,** were engaged March 26, 2024, at Forsyth Park in Savannah, Georgia. The future Mr. and Mrs. Roop have a special love story as they live 700 miles away from one another! John is employed at Trine University as the Director of Housing and Residence Life. Kenydee is currently attending Life University - College of Chiropractic and is anticipating becoming Dr. Kenydee Roop, DC, in March 2026. They are excited to officially become one through marriage and live under one roof come next fall.



**Marissa (Shaver) Fisher, 2021 BSBME,** and **Ryan Fisher, 2021 BSSM,** were married on Oct. 7, 2023, at The Mill District in Fremont, Indiana. Marissa and Ryan started dating their freshman year at Trine on Nov. 19, 2017. They got engaged at the Detroit Zoo on Dec. 30, 2021. The Fishers took a six-night cruise for their honeymoon and are enjoying life in their new house in Fort Wayne, Indiana. They don't have any pets yet but are looking forward to getting a four-legged friend soon! Marissa is an orthotic resident at Prevail Prosthetics & Orthotics and Ryan is an assembly operator at General Motors.



Marissa and Ryan started dating their freshman year at Trine on Nov. 19, 2017. They got engaged at the Detroit Zoo on Dec. 30, 2021. The Fishers took a six-night cruise for their honeymoon and are enjoying life in their new house in Fort Wayne, Indiana. They don't have any pets yet but are looking forward to getting a four-legged friend soon! Marissa is an orthotic resident at Prevail Prosthetics & Orthotics and Ryan is an assembly operator at General Motors.

**Brynn (Molter) Wills, 2021 BSCJ/2021 BPSY,** and Houston Wills were married Sept. 16, 2023, at Red Barn Acres Event Venue in Fremont, Indiana. Brynn and Houston currently reside in Angola, Indiana, and both are employed at The Bowen Center, where Brynn is a Skills Coach Level III and Houston is an IT staff member. Their fur children include three cats, Bean, Bubby and Shadow, and one dog, Remi. Brynn is a proud Alpha Sigma Tau sorority alumna.



**Nooh Aljabaly, 2022 BSSM,** was inducted into Coldwater High School's (CHS) Athletic Hall of Fame for soccer and wrestling in February 2024, the first Arab-American in CHS history to be inducted. Upon graduating from Trine, Nooh played soccer in Egypt and now serves as a police officer for the Coldwater City Police Department.



**Kaylee (Argyle) Huckebe, 2022 BSACC/MBA,** and **Alyssa Argyle, 2023 BSHPE,** became first-time aunts to their twin nieces, Elizabeth and Isabella Waller, on April 18, 2024. Elizabeth and Isabella have a third aunt, **Sophia Argyle,** who is expected to complete her BSACC from Trine University in 2026!



2020s

McKenzie (Brouk) Elkins, 2022 BSES, and Kole Elkins, 2022 BSME, were married



Doctor of Physical Therapy student at Trine University and Kole is a product function engineer with Michelin Tires.

March 29, 2024, at Union 12 in Columbia City, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Elkins reside in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in the home they purchased in 2023 with their cat, Daphne. McKenzie is a first-year



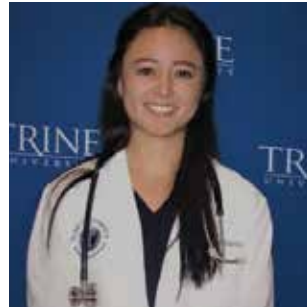
Haley Livingston, 2022 BSPSY, was accepted into The University of Toledo College of Law in December 2023.

Opal Polk, 2022 BSDET, accepted a new role as manufacturing engineer at Subaru of Indiana Automotive in mid-2023. She resides in Lafayette, Indiana.

Angel Sanchez, 2022 BSCJ, was sworn in as an officer for the Portage Police Department in November 2023. Officer Sanchez is a lifelong Portage, Indiana, resident and Portage High School graduate.

The Kosciusko Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting on Oct. 20, 2023, for its new member, Dines Mediation and Services, a multifaceted business founded by Amanda Dines, 2023 BSCJ. Amanda hopes to fill in gaps of need within the community.

Jasmine Miller, 2023 MSPAS, joined Franciscan Physician Network Neurosurgery & Pain Specialists in Lafayette, Indiana, in April 2024.



Samantha Weaver, 2023 BSBME, and Brett Kaylor, 2023 BSFIN/2023 MBA were engaged Feb. 25, 2024, in Anna Maria Island, Florida. They currently reside in Fort Wayne, Indiana.



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Belote, Syroka join Alumni Board of Directors

The Trine University Alumni Association Board of Directors voted to add Sarah Belote, 2013 BSBA/2017 MBA, and Ben Syroka, 2016 BAGS, to its membership at the board's December 2023 meeting.

Sarah lives in Clarkston, Michigan, and serves as the statewide campaign development director for the Leukemia



and Lymphoma Society. In that role, she recruits and coaches high-impact community leaders to raise money in support of the society's efforts to find a cure for cancer.

Sarah also worked at Trine for six years after graduation, serving in admission and as alumni director.

She was part of the women's softball team while a student at Trine and continues to play competitive softball.

Sarah holds seven individual game records, three of which are still NCAA Division III records: most home runs in a game (4), most runs batted in (14) and most total bases (19). She was named MIAA Most Valuable Player her senior year, earned two First Team All-Conference selections, one Second Team All-Conference selection, and a Second Team All-Region selection.

She was named to the Athletic Hall of Fame in 2019.

Ben lives in Toledo, Ohio, and works as an attorney for the United States Federal Courts.

In his role as a judicial law clerk, his responsibilities include legal research and analysis, case management, and preparation for various court proceedings.

He was honored with the 2023 Distinguished Pro Bono Service Award at the annual U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio ("NDOH") State of the Court Luncheon, and also received the 2023 "20 Under 40" Toledo Leadership Recognition Award.

He has been published in local and national periodicals on topics such as prisoner rights, recidivism, inflation/consumer protection and labor rights,



and is a frequent speaker on topics including American government, the Federal Judiciary, artificial intelligence and landmark Supreme Court cases.

He also teaches advanced legal writing at the University of Toledo College of Law and serves as volunteer counsel for the Reentry Realities anti-recidivism program.

A basketball player at Trine, Ben serves as a referee for NCAA and NJCAA men's college basketball. He refereed more than 100 games in 2023.

Members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors serve a three-year term and are eligible for elections to subsequent terms. Meetings are held in fall, winter and spring. If you are interested in joining the Alumni Association Board of Directors, please email [alumniboard@trine.edu](mailto:alumniboard@trine.edu).



## Trine alumnus, longtime trustee Bock passes away at 90



Trine University is mourning the death of alumnus, generous supporter and longtime member of the Board of Trustees **Jim Bock**, who passed away April 22 at age 90.

Jim Bock was born Oct. 26, 1933, to August and Audrey Bock in Elkhart. He graduated from Elkhart High School and went on to earn his Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from Tri-State College (now Trine University) in 1954.

He was a member of Tri-State's chapter of the Kappa Sigma fraternity and continued to support the fraternity for many years.

He met the love of his life, Joan Markley, at a YMCA dance and they were married Aug. 27, 1954. Joan passed away in 2023.

Jim served as an active member of Trine's Board of Trustees from 2003 until 2021, when he was named trustee emeritus. The Jim and Joan Bock Center for Innovation and Biomedical Engineering and the Jim and Joan Bock Department of Biomedical Engineering are both named in his and Joan's honor.

Jim was honored with the university's Pillar of Success award in 2011.

After graduating from Tri-State, he joined his family's business, known then as Elkhart Welding and Boiler Works. In 1966 he moved to Bock Products, where they manufactured pickup camper jacks, automobile haulers and RV transport trailers.

By 1969, Jim was involved at Bock Industries, manufacturing tubing and framing parts for the Mobile Home and RV industries. In 1984, the Bock brand became one of the steel industry's major manufacturers of structural steel tubing, serving the agricultural, architectural and transportation industries.

In 1988, Jim became president of the company, which was sold to Bull Moose Tube 1990.

He was an active member of the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce and served as Chairman of the Board in 1988. He served on numerous boards of directors including the Bashor Children's Home, The Better Business Bureau, the YMCA, Elcona and ADEC Board of Directors. Jim and Joan were members of the Notre Dame Snite Museum of Art Advisory Council and were active members at Trinity on Jackson Methodist Church for many years.

## Leo Glahn worked, traveled around the globe

Alumnus **Leo Millard Glahn**, 85, whose life included work and travels around the world, passed away unexpectedly Oct. 22, 2023.

Born in Kingston, Pennsylvania, on July 13, 1938, Leo enlisted in the US Navy after graduating high school. When his service concluded, he joined his older brother, William (Bill), at Tri-State (now Trine University), earning his electrical engineering degree in 1963. While taking his final exams in his senior year, Leo caught the attention of the Oasis oil consortium in Libya.

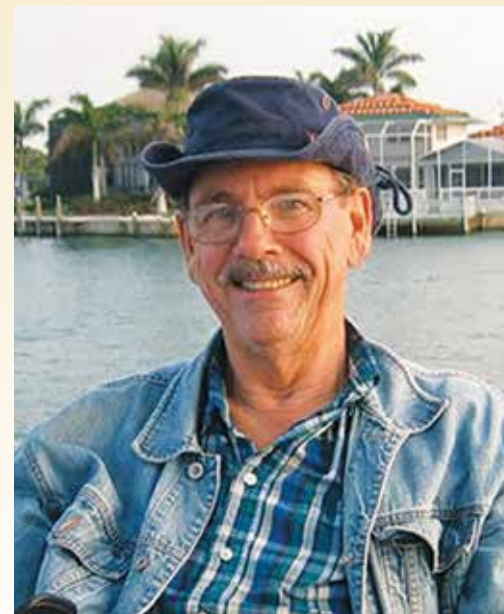
Leo went from working on microwave links alone in the desert to being integral in constructing what was the world's

longest Lenkurt 71F 2-GHz microwave communications system. Following the 1969 Libyan Revolution, Leo left Libya to join the Arabian American Oil Company (now Saudi Aramco) as a construction engineer.

In 1981, Leo married the love of his life, Sherry, beginning a 42-year journey together.

In 1994, Leo retired and relocated his family to Sarasota, Florida. In 2000, they moved to Bainbridge Island, Washington, where their maritime adventures included the San Juan Islands and navigating the canals of France.

Leo was accorded a Naval Burial at Sea, a tribute to his lifelong love of the maritime and dedicated military service.



## Alumnus Bill Becher helped restart university's amateur radio club

Trine University alumnus **William D. Becher**, 94, of Chelsea, Michigan, died peacefully Sunday, April 7, in Chelsea, Michigan, with his family by his side.

Born Nov. 26, 1929, in Bolivar, Ohio, Becher earned a radio engineering degree from Tri-State College, now Trine University, in 1950. He was employed as an electrical engineer in several industrial organizations while simultaneously earning MSE and

Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from The University of Michigan, after which he became a research engineer and professor.

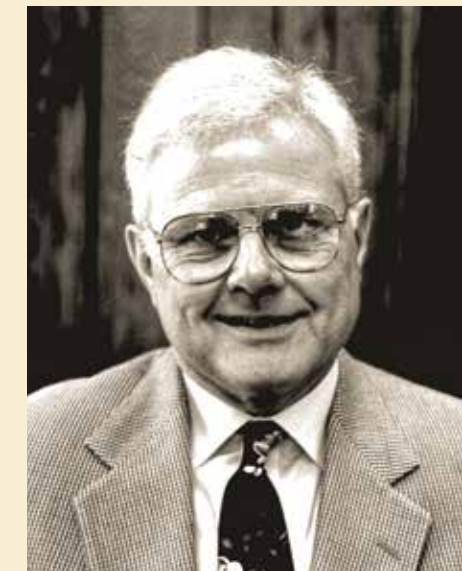
He served in the Indiana National Guard while at Tri-State and later in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

He maintained an avid interest in amateur radio throughout his life. He and his wife Helen donated equipment and provided

financial support to re-establish the amateur radio club at Trine in 2021.

He also served on the university's Electrical and Computer Engineering Industrial Advisory Board.

In retirement he enjoyed writing poetry and authored *An Ocean Between*, a historical novel based on British children who were evacuated to the North Canton, Ohio, area during WWII.



## Longtime faculty member Meyers passes away

**William G. "Bill" Meyers, Ph.D.**, passed away April 26 after a long battle with heart disease.

Bill was born to George and Thelma (Wynn) Meyers on January 19, 1941, in Rochester, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Midland High School, Pennsylvania in 1957.

Bill graduated from Tri-State (Trine) University with a Bachelor of Science in aeronautical engineering. Upon graduating, he enrolled in the University of Notre Dame and graduated with a Master of Science in aeronautical engineering. He later earned a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame.

Bill married Rebecca "Becky" Meyers on Feb. 4, 1967.

He worked as a performance engineer in the advanced concepts gas turbine group for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft and then returned to his alma mater, Tri-State, where he taught aeronautical and mechanical engineering for the next 30 years.

During his career at Tri-State, he was a full-time professor, Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering department chairman, Dean of the School of Engineering and served as acting president. He was proud that he was one of the only students that went on to become president.

## Vicki Moravec, faculty and chair, passes

The Trine University family is mourning the loss of faculty member, department chair and head of the honors program **Vicki D. Moravec, Ph.D.**, 53.

Vicki passed away Thursday, May 2, following a battle with cancer. She was surrounded by her family and friends at her residence.

Vicki was born Sept. 15, 1970, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, to the late Don Hullinger and the late Dorothy (Maliszewski) Hullinger. She was united in marriage to Craig F. Moravec on Sept. 20, 1997, in Fort Wayne.

She attended Crossbridge Community Church in Fort Wayne.

Vicki had taught at Trine since 2002, receiving the Robert Andrew & Anne Ewing Smith Excellence in Teaching Award in 2016. In addition, she launched the university's honors program in 2006 and led it until 2022. The program was recently named in her honor.

She was awarded emeritus status in April.

Vicki's interests were scrapbooking, crafting, and watching her kids play sports. She was very involved with the C3 Sports Soccer Program in various capacities and started a soccer program for children with special needs.



# THUNDER'S FINAL ROLL

(current as of Dec. 31, 2023)

## 1940s

**Pansy Allem, 1945 SecSci**, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, Feb. 23, 2015

**Phillip J. Raneri, 1947 BSRT**, Katonah, New York, Oct. 4, 2023

**Max C. Clouse, 1948 BSME**, McMinnville, Oregon, Sept. 23, 2023

**William Gettig, 1949 BSME**, Angola, Indiana, June 29, 2023

**Donald Greenman, 1949 BSChE**, Sebring, Florida

**Robert Sable, 1949 BSRT/1950 BSEE**, North Andover, Massachusetts, Sept. 6, 2023

## 1950s

**George L. Chakoian, 1950 BSME**, Lincoln, Rhode Island, Aug. 30, 2023

**Robert W. Deverell, 1950 BSChE**, Weedsport, New York, July 8, 2019

**Charles A. Martin, 1950 BSCE**, Jacksonville, Florida, Sept. 9, 2023

**Jimmie Caldwell, 1951 BSCE**, Eagar, Arizona, Dec. 26, 2020

**Edwin Graber, 1951 BSME**, Tempe, Arizona, March 10, 2020

**Gabriel Kassab, 1951 BSME**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Nov. 7, 2023

**Edward E. Wynsma, 1951 BSEE**, Kalkaska, Michigan, Nov. 2, 2023

**Bruce Emerick, 1952 BSME**, Covington, Louisiana, Oct. 30, 2023

**Arthur Huff, 1952 BSEE**, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Aug. 31, 2023

**Milford A. Reisert, 1952 BSEA**, Sarasota, Florida, June 13, 2023

**James Teng, 1952 BSCE**, Noblesville, Indiana, Nov. 28, 2020

**James T. Hamilton, 1954 BSCE**, Naperville, Illinois, July 14, 2023

**Mervyn O. Maxon, 1954 BSCE**, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, Aug. 28, 2023

**William E Patterson, 1955 BSBA**, Angola, Indiana, Nov. 27, 2023

**Roosevelt P. LaMotte, 1956 BSCE**, Downey, California, 2020

## 1950s

**Robert T. Miller, 1956 BSRT**, Warsaw, Indiana, March 10, 2022

**Robert M. Wilson, 1956 BSRT**, Sarasota, Florida, July 9, 2023

**James C. Church, 1957 BSDDT**, Camden, Michigan, Oct. 13, 2023

**Arthur E. Davis, 1957 BSChE**, Burlington, Washington, Nov. 18, 2023

**Wendell D. Horn, 1957 BSCE**, Babbitt, Minnesota, Oct. 2, 2023

**Jack H. Longacre, 1957 BSME**, South Bend, Indiana, Aug. 13, 2023

**James E. Schmitt, 1957 BSCE**, Pendleton, Indiana, Aug. 12, 2023

**Joseph E. Wagner, 1957 BSEE**, Eureka, Illinois, Aug. 20, 2023

**Eibert J. Bennett, 1958 BSCE**, Strongsville, Ohio, Aug. 4, 2023

**Richard C. Bordner, 1958 BSBA**, Lebanon, Pennsylvania, Oct. 30, 2023

**Pat DellaValle, 1958 BSME**, Silver Springs, Maryland, July 18, 2023

**Dale Demaray Jr., 1958 BSME**, Vacaville, California, Sept. 8, 2021

**Richard H. Harris, 1958 BSEE**, Fernandia Beach, Florida, Apr 8, 2023

**Kenneth Kuhn, 1958 BSME**, Danville, Illinois, July 11, 2023

**Edward M. Samson, 1958 BSEE**, Madison, Connecticut, Sept. 10, 2022

**Philip Shield, 1958 BSEE**, Burlington, Massachusetts, Nov. 1, 2023

**David Culp, 1959 BSME**, Canton, Ohio, Sept. 25, 2023

**Raymond P. J. Dong, 1959 BSEE**, Milpites, California, Nov. 30, 2021

**Richard Ellenberger, 1959 BSME**, Altoona, Pennsylvania, Dec. 30, 2016

**Lawrence (Larry) Franks, 1959 BSME**, Sturgis, Michigan, July 9, 2023

**Howard Hester, 1959 BSDDT**, Romeo, Michigan, Jan. 27, 2013

**William A. Schotthey, 1959 BSAE**, Muskegon, Michigan, Oct. 27, 2023

## 1960s

**Paul C. Kouts, 1960 BSEE**, Eddyville, Kentucky, Dec. 15, 2022

**Stephen Parker, 1960 BSBA**, Lancaster, Ohio, June 29, 2023

**Carl Poffenberger, 1960 BSCE**, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, Aug. 26, 2023

**Richard S. Thompson, 1960 BSBA**, St. Augustine, Florida, Oct. 9, 2023

**Alfred Bouda, 1961 BSEE**, Ludington, Michigan, Dec. 11, 2023

**Steven W. Blate, 1961 BSAE**, Canton, Ohio, Nov. 5, 2023

**Edward C. Counsell II, 1961 BSCE**, Peoria, Illinois, July 9, 2023

**Greg Dellinger, 1961 BSME**, Niles, Michigan, Oct. 26, 2023

**Rush M. Fritz, 1961 BSCE**, Washington, DC, Sept. 27, 2023

**Dale E. Good, 1961 BSME**, Columbia City, Indiana, Dec. 14, 2023

**James E. Johnson, 1961 BSME**, Dickson, Texas, July 25, 2023

**Calvin Parmiter, 1961 BSCE**, McConnelsville, Ohio, Oct. 2, 2023

**Alan Stoudinger, 1961 BSEE**, Angola, Indiana, Sept. 2, 2023

**Klaus Wuersig, 1961 BSEE**, Cuba, New York, Dec. 2, 2023

**Norris Carter Jr., 1962 BSME**, Oil City, Pennsylvania, July 3, 2023

**Joseph Jambro, 1962 BSEE**, Summersville, South Carolina, Aug. 14, 2023

**George Kitkowski, 1962 BSME**, Fort Myers Beach, Florida, Feb. 1, 2018

**Clellie R. Smart Jr., 1962 BSCE**, Washington, North Carolina, Sept. 9, 2023

**Francis J. Giacobbi, 1963 BSME**, Fayetteville, New York, Nov. 11, 2023

**Leo Millard Glahn, 1963 BSEE**, Bainbridge Island, Washington, Oct. 22, 2023

**Everett Harding, 1963 BSBA**, Ontario, Canada, Dec. 1, 2023

**Robert Irish, 1963 BSEE**, Lafayette, Indiana, Oct. 3, 2023

## 1960s

**Walter C. Schildt, 1963 BSME**, Carmel, Indiana, Aug. 14, 2023

**Bernard J. Konek, 1964 BSBA**, Ames, Iowa, Aug. 19, 2023

**Gary Schubert, 1964 BSBA**, Savannah, Georgia, Oct. 21, 2023

**Michael Sabbe, 1964 BSBUS**, Farmington, Michigan, Dec. 3, 2023

**Thomas J. Adams, 1965 BSBA**, San Jose, California, Nov. 8, 2020

**Thomas R. Carbery, 1965 BSCE**, Romeoville, Illinois, Aug. 9, 2023

**William E. Powell, 1965 BSEE**, Yorkville, Illinois, Nov. 6, 2023

**Thomas L. Taubken, 1965 BSCE**, Milford, Ohio, Aug. 19, 2023

**James D. Wills, 1965 BSME**, Canton, Ohio, Oct. 12, 2023

**Leon Wizorek, 1965 BSEE**, Williston, South Carolina, Aug. 21, 2021

**Rick B. Yunker, 1965 BSME**, Hinsdale, Illinois, July 11, 2023

**Lorne Cook Jr., 1966 BSBA**, Atlanta, Michigan, Aug. 7, 2023

**Thomas A. Laffey, 1966 BSEE**, Hamilton, Indiana, July 29, 2023

**Sandi Williams, 1966 BSBA**, Dayton, Ohio, Sept. 26, 2023

**Paul J. Yosick, 1966 BSCE**, Alpharetta, Georgia, Nov. 9, 2023

**Jim R. Smoots, 1967 BSBA**, Fishers, Indiana, Oct. 26, 2023

**James Hipsley, 1968 BSME**, Hamilton, Indiana, Sept. 28, 2023

**Paul W. Fishbaugh, 1969 BSME**, Bellevue, Ohio, Sept. 12, 2023

**Lance T. Olson, 1969 BSCE**, Jackson, Michigan, Aug. 10, 2023

**Gerd Wuersig, 1969 BSEE**, Greenville, North Carolina, Oct. 26, 2023

## 1970s

**Michael Bowling, 1970 BSCE**, Yorkville, Illinois, Nov. 13, 2023

**John T. Griffiths, 1970 BSDDT**, Franklin Furnace, Kentucky, Dec. 16, 2022

**Richard Morin, 1972 BSACC**, Snyder, New York, Oct. 28, 2023

**Stephen R. Turner, 1972 BSBA**, Marshallville, Ohio, July 25, 2023

**Timothy VonNeida, 1972 BSCE**, Elmira, New York, Oct. 15, 2023

**Walter L. Zinser, 1972 BSMDT**, Reading, Michigan, Sept. 8, 2023

**Michael W. Deragon, 1973 BSCE**, Lanesboro, Massachusetts, Oct. 16, 2023

**Harlan W. Kriete, 1973 BSEE**, Angola, Indiana, Dec. 14, 2011

**Michael G. Steffan, 1974 BSCE**, Amherst, New York, April 14, 2022

**Gary L. Strain, 1978 BSME**, Englewood, Ohio, Oct. 6, 2023

## 1980s

**Robert Patterson, 1982 BSCE**, Auburn, Indiana, July 1, 2023

**Kenneth Engelhardt, 1988 BSEE**, Grafton, Ohio, Sept. 23, 2023

## 1990s

**Patrick Rienks, 1992 BSChE**, Waxhaw, North Carolina, Nov. 9, 2023

**Larry Moore, 1995 BSEIEd**, Quincy, Michigan, Nov. 10, 2023

**Lacey Spearman, 1997 BSAM**, Leesburg, Georgia, Dec. 19, 2017

## 2000s

**Ward (Jeff) Brockman, 2005 BSAM**, Leo, Indiana, May 18, 2021

## 2010s

**Arthana Wilson, 2012 BPSY/BSCJ**, South Bend, Indiana, June 28, 2023

**Brandon L. Ketcham, 2019 BSAM**, Greensburg, Indiana, Nov. 16, 2023



# GLADIEUX SETS ALL- AMERICAN RECORD

**Jake Gladieux**, a senior hurdler on the Trine University men's track & field team, added to his impressive resume with four All-American awards and his second career national championship during the 2023-24 indoor and outdoor seasons. The Oregon, Ohio, native graduates from Trine as the most decorated student-athlete in school history with a record ten All-American awards in four different events as well as two individual NCAA National Championships.

After his first national title in the 2021 outdoor season, Gladieux repeated as champion in 2024, this time in the indoor 60-meter hurdles. Timing and scoring had to be broke down to the thousandth of a second to determine which of four runners won the race, but Gladieux's time of 7.96 seconds was enough to claim the title. In addition to his success in the hurdles, he would add a sixth-place finish in the 200-meter dash to secure a second All-American award at the event.

Trine's Assistant Coach for Sprints, Hurdles and Jumps, Seth Ware, has worked diligently with Gladieux to become a champion.

"Over the course of the weekend, Jake ran new school records in both events on the biggest stage and that is a testament to him as a competitor," he explained following the indoor national championships. "No moment is too large for him."

During the 2024 NCAA Division III Outdoor National Championships, Gladieux qualified for the event finals in the 110-meter and 400-meter hurdles. The 110-meter hurdles saw Gladieux place sixth overall for his ninth career All-American award. Due to injury, he had to withdraw from the 400-meter hurdle finals. However, by running in the preliminary races and securing his spot in the top eight, Gladieux was named an All-American by the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) in that event.

After his national title in the 400-meter hurdles in 2021, he went on to claim All-American honors in the 60-meter hurdles and 110-meter hurdles in 2022 and was All-American in all three hurdle races in the 2023 indoor and outdoor seasons.

Gladieux was tabbed as the Robert L. Greim Award winner prior to graduation, a title selected by the coaching staff at Trine University honoring the outstanding male senior athlete

each year. The nominations were based on athletic accomplishment, leadership, character, citizenship and scholarship. Gladieux led the men's Track and Field team to unrepresented success with nine consecutive Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) championships spanning from 2020 to 2024.

"Gladieux has been our most consistent and successful male track and field athlete since he arrived on campus. His legacy will last for decades, and his success will be what athletes strive to accomplish," said Head Coach Josh Fletcher. "Coach Ware and Jake's coach-to-athlete relationship is a special bond that will last long past graduation. I'm very proud to have been Jake's head coach and truly believe he's just begun to scratch the surface for what God has planned for him."

Gladieux has broken four school records during his time at Trine. He set new marks in the 60-meter hurdles (7.85 seconds) and 200-meter dash (21.53 seconds) during the 2024 NCAA Division III Indoor National Championships and was a part of the school record distance medley relay team during the indoor season (10:17.54). He also holds the school record for the 110-meter hurdles for the outdoor slate (14.05 seconds).

At the conference level, Gladieux has won MIAA event championships 14 times in his career.

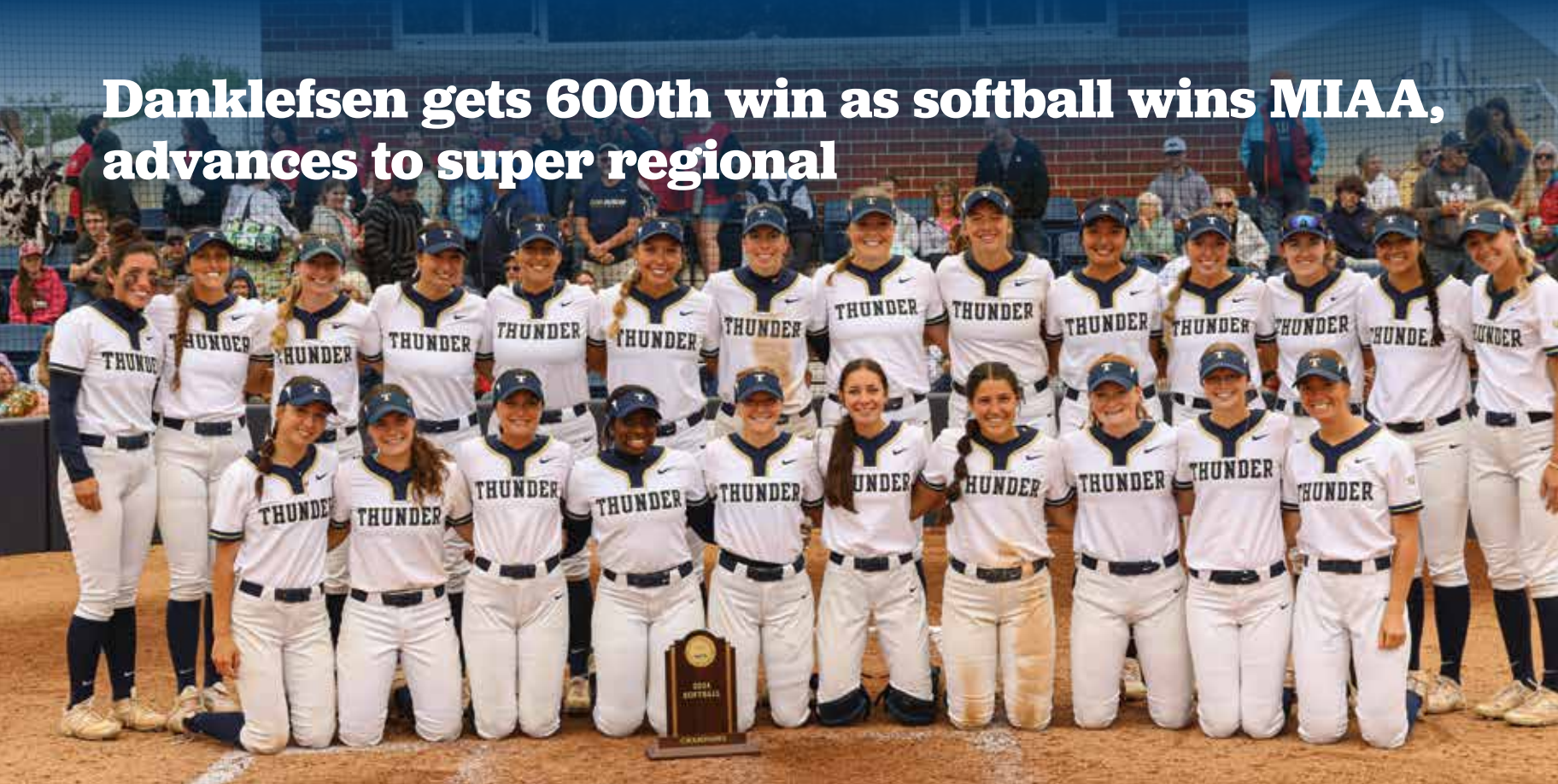
Thanks to the extra season granted from COVID-19, he became the first five-time event champion in the 60-meter hurdles. He won every season from 2020-24 and went undefeated during his senior season en route to a national title.

He won MIAA championships four times in the 110-meter and 400-meter hurdles during the outdoor seasons. Gladieux was an All-MIAA selection in all nine seasons where he was eligible and was chosen as the MIAA Track MVP in 2022 (indoor) and 2024 (outdoor). He was named the MIAA's Athlete of the Week 11 times and the USTFCCCA named him the National Athlete of the Week on April 8, 2024.

Along with his athletic success at Trine, Gladieux excelled in the classroom and was named to the Dean's List and President's List. After graduation, he plans to start a job with Shambaugh and Sons, where he can put the skills he learned as both a student and an athlete to good use as he makes a positive impact on the world around him.



# Danklefsen gets 600th win as softball wins MIAA, advances to super regional



The Trine University softball team opened the season with their spring break trip, returning home with a 12-1 record after a week and a half. During the stretch, head coach **Donnie Danklefsen** surpassed 600 career wins. He is the 48th coach in NCAA Division III history to reach the milestone, with 20 still active.

They extended the winning streak to 22 before dropping their next games, both to Calvin University during the conference season. The final losses of the regular season made the conference standings tighter, but the Thunder still took the top spot for their 13th overall and fifth straight Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) championship.

In the MIAA Tournament, the team won three straight for their third consecutive tournament title and an automatic berth to the NCAA tournament.

The NCAA awarded hosting duties to the 2023 NCAA Division III national champions for the regional round. The Thunder continued their winning streak with three shutout victories. The regional championship was the eighth for Trine and the third straight.

Once again serving as hosts, the Thunder faced off with the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in the super regional round. After a convincing opening win in the best-of-three series, the team

seemed primed to defend their national title. The Titans dashed those hopes with a pair of wins on the final day of the season.

Trine finished the year with a 43-5 record, tying for the second highest win total in program history, and with one of its most decorated rosters to date.

The Thunder placed eight members on All-MIAA teams, tied for second most in program history. **Debbie Hill, Tyra Marcum, Alexis Michon** and **Jo Trine** each earned first team honors with **Emma Beyer, Scarlett Elliott, Macy Rocha** and

**Ellie Trine** landing on the second team.

Six members of the team were named All-Region by the National Fa most in program history. Michon, Rocha, Jo Trine, Hill and Marcum each made the first team with Ellie Trine landing on the third.

Finally, the squad shattered the program record with five All-Americans, tying for most by a single team in the country. Michon, Hill and Marcum each made the first team with Jo Trine and Rocha landing on the third team.



Debbie Hill



Tyra Marcum



Alexis Michon



Jo Trine



Emma Beyer



Scarlett Elliott



Macy Rocha



Ellie Trine



## Men's track sets 7 records en route to 9th MIAA title

For the ninth consecutive time, the Trine University men's track & field team claimed the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) titles by winning both the indoor and outdoor championships as a team.

The Thunder brought home three event wins during the indoor season to secure the program's fifth straight conference title during that portion of the season. Junior **Ethan Spahr** was named MIAA Field MVP and was the event champion in the triple jump, while senior **Jake Gladieux** won the 60-meter hurdle race for the fifth time in his career and senior **Kimball Hughes** had the best weight throw of the conference.



Ethan Spahr



Jake Gladieux



Kimball Hughes

The outdoor schedule featured many split squad events leading up to the MIAA Outdoor Championships, where Trine was triumphant for the fourth straight spring. The Thunder had a pair of event wins from Gladieux. He set new MIAA Championship meet records in the 110-meter and 400-meter hurdles en route to the title of MIAA Track MVP, the second MVP award of his career.

In total, five new indoor program records and two new outdoor program records were set by the Trine men this season.



## Women's basketball falls in NCAA tournament's 2nd round

The Trine University women's basketball team made their third consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance in the 2023-24 season thanks to a Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) Tournament Championship and the accompanying automatic bid.

The Thunder upended Hope College by a score of 63-59 to claim the third MIAA Tournament championship in program history.

Trine was placed at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh for the first and second round contests of the NCAA Tournament. A 61-58 win in double overtime over Gustavus Adolphus University marked the third straight season with an NCAA Tournament triumph.

From there, the Thunder would fall to the host Titans of Oshkosh, 74-48.

The women's basketball team finished the year with a 22-8 overall record, but were 18-7 after the regular season. Their 12-4 mark in conference play tied them for second in the league standings.

For the second time in as many years, junior **Sidney Wagner** was a First Team All-MIAA recipient and a member of the D3hoops.com First Team All-Region. Wagner was a three-time MIAA Athlete of the Week selection for the Thunder. Junior **Sierra Hinds** was chosen as a Second Team All-MIAA honoree.



Sidney Wagner



Sierra Hinds

## Men's volleyball takes conference title

The Trine University men's volleyball team made their first NCAA Tournament appearance in 2024 thanks to winning the Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League (MCVL) Tournament Championship.

The Thunder traveled to Loras College to face the Duhawks in the NCAA Tournament First Round match and took the regional hosts to five sets, but ultimately came up short, 3-2.

To get there, Trine had to knock off Baldwin Wallace University in the MCVL Tournament Semifinals and the host Wittenberg University in the MCVL Tournament Championship match. Post-match awards included seniors **Hunter Haas, Nick Woolley** and **Kevin Boncaro** as All-Tournament Team representatives and Haas the MCVL Tournament MVP.

Trine set a new program record with a record of 19-7 overall, the most wins in a season in the NCAA Division III era. For the fourth time in his career, Haas was the MCVL's Defensive Player of the Year. Senior **Ted Hofmeister** earned the MCVL's Offensive Player of the Year award, while Boncaro was a member of the First Team All-MCVL and Woolley an Honorable Mention selection. The group won nine MCVL Player of the Week awards throughout the 2024 season.



Hunter Haas



Nick Woolley



Kevin Boncaro



Ted Hofmeister





### Men's hockey sets mark for wins

The Trine University men's hockey team turned in their best campaign yet during the 2023-24 season. The team finished 20-8 overall, the most wins in the program's history, while going 13-5 in Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA) play.

They finished third in the conference standings, another program best, to earn hosting duties for the opening round of the NCHA Harris Cup Playoffs. The Thunder swept visiting Lawrence University to reach the semifinals of the tournament for the third straight season. They forced overtime against St. Norbert College before falling 4-3 in the closest of their semifinal appearances.

While Trine began and ended the season in the receiving votes category, the team

spent most of the year nationally ranked, reaching as high as ninth in the USCHO.com poll.

Three members of the squad were recognized by the NCHA at the end of the season. **Sam Antenucci** was named an all-conference forward after leading the team with 22 points, ten goals and 12 assists during NCHA play. Over the full season he finished atop the points (32) and goals (14) columns on the stat sheet.

**Sean Henry** earned all-conference mentions as a defenseman. His steady presence helped the team allow just under 15 shots per game and only 2.64 goals. He was crucial on the offensive side, finishing third on the team with ten assists and tied for fourth with 14 points during conference play. **Michael DiPietra** rounded out the trio by earning all-freshman honors.



Sam Antenucci



Sean Henry



Michael DiPietra

### Men's tennis tops MIAA

The Thunder captured their first Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) Men's Tennis Championship this spring, finishing in a three-way tie atop the standings with a 6-1 record. Overall, the team posted a 14-5 record, the new benchmark for wins in a season.

The Thunder were the last remaining undefeated team in the MIAA after **Caleb Morris's** heroic singles performance against Calvin University. The junior battled through three match points to force a tiebreaker in the decisive No. 5 singles match. He then overcame a 3-0 lead to win 10-8 and give the team the 5-4 victory. After dropping the regular season finale, the team ended up in a tie atop the standings.

Three members of the team earned All-MIAA honors for their success. Freshman **Sammy Yin** was a first-team

selection while sophomore **Andrew Spurrison** and junior **Cole Goodman** both made the second team.



Caleb Morris



Sammy Yin



Andrew Spurrison



Cole Goodman

### Dubec named to MIAA 1st team

The Trine University women's golf team secured a sixth-place finish in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) standings for the 2023-24 season.

The Thunder were led by junior **Grace Dubec**, who, for the first time in her career, earned First Team All-MIAA honors thanks to a fantastic MIAA Championship. Dubec had the lowest score over the final two conference rounds by six strokes over second place to move into the top five in the conference at an 80.67 scoring average over the six league rounds.



Grace Dubec



### Acro and tumbling repeats as national runner-up

Under the direction of first-year head coach Alexis Harris, the Trine University acrobatics and tumbling team finished as runner-up in the 2024 NCATA Division III Tournament for the second year in a row. Along the way the team posted a 7-3 record, a new program best.

During the regular season the Thunder scored five wins to just two losses. Both defeats came against Division II opponents, while they were undefeated against Division III competition. The closest victory came by 14 points over Concordia University Wisconsin.

Trine cruised through the first two rounds of the NCATA tournament as well. They began by defeating Buffalo State University handily in the opening round before posting a new program record score in a rematch against Concordia Wisconsin. The semifinal score of 250.765 marks the first time the team has exceeded 250 points. The Thunder came up short against the top-seeded University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in the championship match despite another solid effort.

The program was well-represented on the all-tournament team. **Mel Low** and **Brayanna Kelly** were selected to first

team while **Sydney Jundt**, **Mia Giurini**, **Lauren Alexander** and **Mikayla Sutherland** were all named to the second team.



Mel Low



Brayanna Kelly



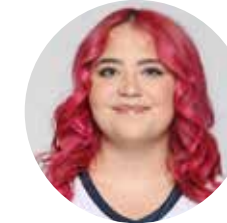
Sydney Jundt



Mia Giurini



Lauren Alexander



Mikayla Sutherland

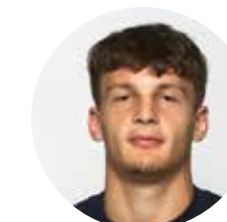


### Langeman advances to nationals

**Joseph Langeman** highlighted the 2023-24 men's wrestling season, becoming the first national qualifier in nine seasons.

The senior earned the trip to the 2024 NCAA Division III Wrestling Championships with a third-place finish at the Central Regional. Langeman made it to the quarterfinals before dropping to the region consolation bracket. From there he won three straight matches, including a 14-7 win in the third-place match to reach the national stage.

Two other members of the team also reached the second day of the regional tournament. Senior **Isaac Hawkins** secured a pin late in day one and then another to begin the second day. His second loss sent him to the fifth-place



Joseph Langeman



Isaac Hawkins



Lakin Webb



Philip Burney

match, where he scored a third pin to end his season on a high note. Sophomore **Lakin Webb** rounded out the trio by coming in eighth in the 165-pound weight class.

Langeman drew tough opponents for his trip to La Crosse, Wisconsin, for the national tournament, opening competition against the top-seeded grappler. After a well-fought loss, he dropped to the consolation bracket for a match with the eighth seed, who ended his season.

The three regional performers were joined by **Philip Burney** in earning National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) Scholar All-American recognition for their performance off the mats.





### Women's track 2nd in indoor, outdoor seasons

During the indoor portion of the 2023-24 season, the Trine University women's track & field program notched a runner-up finish at the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) Championships with three event wins. Junior **Mackenzie Miller**, sophomore **Bailey Puckett** and freshman **Emmaline Leatherman** were All-MIAA honorees after Miller was triumphant in the long jump, Puckett in the mile run and Leatherman in the triple jump.

The Thunder were also second at the MIAA Outdoor Championships. Miller and Puckett earned All-MIAA awards for their efforts in the long jump and 1500-meter run while sophomore **Abby Sanner** earned All-MIAA for the first time in the shot put. Seven new school records were set throughout the indoor and outdoor campaigns.



**Mackenzie Miller**



**Bailey Puckett**



**Emmaline Leatherman**



**Abby Sanner**



**Elina Locane**

### Women's tennis ends 10-10

After reaching as high as five games above .500, the Trine University women's tennis team finished the season 10-10 overall and 2-6 in Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) play.

**Elina Locane** was the star of the season, earning All-MIAA second team honors, just the fourth student-athlete in program history to do so. The sophomore finished the regular season 4-4 in MIAA singles, all in the top spot, and in doubles, also in the top spot.

### Women's lacrosse falls in MIAA championship

For the second time in program history, the Trine University women's lacrosse team made an appearance in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) Tournament Championship game. Despite coming up short against Hope College, the Thunder were able to defeat Kalamazoo College in the MIAA Semifinals 15-11.

Trine set a new program record with 12 wins on the year after completing 2024 at 12-6. Their 5-2 record inside the league tied them for second in the league standings.

A record five student-athletes were selected to All-MIAA teams for the Thunder. Juniors **Calista Richmond**, **Brooke Hoag** and **Maddy Kasten** were all First Team All-MIAA honorees while senior **Alyssa Keptner** and freshman **Evalyn Bellotti** were Second Team All-MIAA picks.

In total, Trine had five Athlete of the Week selections - three came from Hoag and two by Richmond. The duo is helping to rewrite the record book for the program, with Richmond tallying new season record for points (91) and assists (51) and Hoag a new program-best 40

caused turnovers in 2024. Richmond continues to add on to her career record for most points and assists in her career.



**Calista Richmond**



**Brooke Hoag**



**Maddy Kasten**



**Alyssa Keptner**



**Evalyn Bellotti**

### Men's golf 3rd in MIAA

In the 2023-24 Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) men's golf season, Trine University placed third in the league standings with a scoring average of 305.0 over six conference rounds.

The Thunder were led by senior **Mark Civanich**, who was second overall after averaging 74.67 in league play. He was selected as a First Team All-MIAA golfer for the fourth time in his career.

Sophomore **Carter Schnipke** and senior **Charlie Eriksen** were Second Team All-MIAA selections and the senior Eriksen won the league's Sportsmanship Award.

The team won three tournaments in 2023-24, highlighted by the first MIAA Jamboree event hosted by Albion College. Team members claimed four individual medalist honors at different events throughout the season, with two by Civanich and two by Schnipke. Civanich won the MIAA Athlete of the Week award three times on the year and Schnipke was tabbed once by the conference.



**Mark Civanich**



**Charlie Eriksen**



**Carter Schnipke**



### Women's wrestling notches firsts

The Trine University women's wrestling team had a few historic firsts during the program's fourth season of competition.

In just their second date on the mats, the Thunder defeated Alma College 29-20 for the program's first dual match victory. Senior **Riley Morrison** led the way for the team with a pin at 109. **Madison Small** and **Hailey Budney** also came up with wins in the match.

The Thunder added a second team win late in the season when they hosted Rochester Christian University for senior night. Morrison made the most of her final home contest with a quick 49-second pin at 166, leading the way to a 33-1 victory.

Small and Morrison finished the season with a bit more history with both finishing third at the NCWWC Region III tournament, the first time the team has had multiple grapplers qualify for the national tournament.



**Riley Morrison**



**Madison Small**

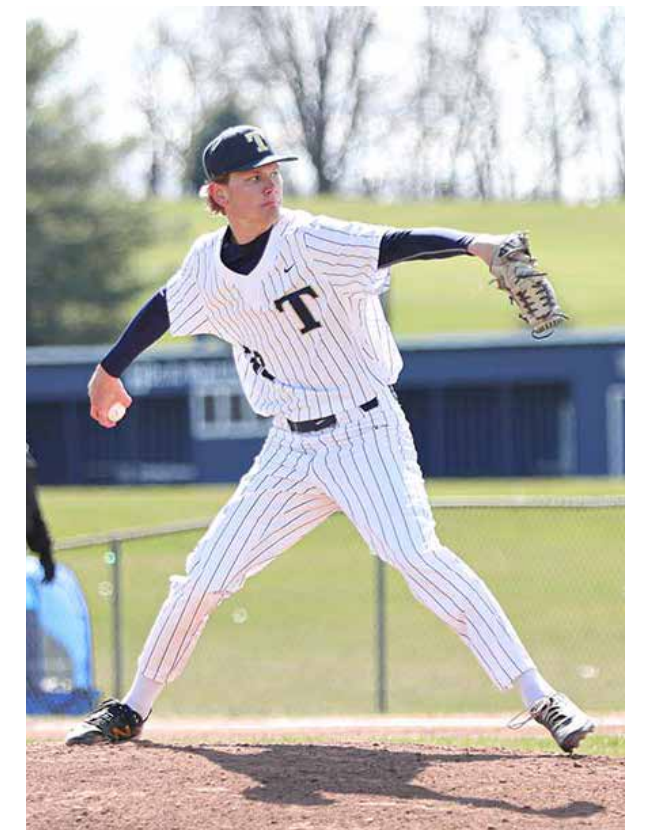


**Hailey Budney**

### Hoogewerf leads Thunder baseball

The Trine University baseball team concluded the 2024 season with a record of 11-27 and held a mark of 3-18 inside the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA). The Thunder went 7-1 on the team's spring break trip to Florida, highlighted by a doubleheader sweep of North Central University of Minnesota.

During the MIAA slate, Trine took two out of three from Calvin University and won the season finale against The University of Olivet. Senior **Josh Hoogewerf** set the program's new NCAA Division III record with 209.2 career innings pitched and had a 10-strikeout game in his final collegiate start to give him 159 for his career.



**Josh Hoogewerf**



**Men's lacrosse struggles after strong start**

The Trine University men's lacrosse team finished the spring with a 7-10 overall record while going 1-5 in Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) play. The season started with promise as the Thunder opened 3-1, including a hard-fought win against MSOE in the first days of March. They finished March on a four-game winning streak for a 7-5 record at the beginning of April.

The last win of the season was a historic offensive performance against Alma College. Trine won 30-4, turning in new program benchmarks in goals (30) and points (46) while tying the record for assists with 17.



**Women's hockey finishes 6-20-1**

The Trine University women's hockey team finished the season 6-20-1 overall while posting a 2-13-1 record in Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA) play. After a rough start to the season the Thunder posted three straight wins during the month of December, including a sweep of visiting Hilbert College.

After finishing seventh in the NCHA standings, the team traveled to second-seeded St. Norbert College for the opening round of the Slaats Cup Playoffs and nearly came away with upsets in both games. On Friday the Thunder held a lead in the third and then on Saturday they forced overtime. Trine ultimately lost both games 3-2.



**Upcoming Concerts**

T. Furth Center for Performing Arts

**Burning Red – Aug. 23**

Are you Ready for It? Join Burning Red: A Tribute To Taylor Swift - the Ultimate Live Band Taylor Sing-Along Party! A show BY Swifties and FOR Swifties, Burning Red plays the hits and fan favorites from every single Taylor era so you can Shake it Off to the songs you know All Too Well.



**Chicago Rewired – Sept. 14**

Chicago Rewired - The Premier Chicago Tribute Band is a tribute to Chicago - one the longest-running and most successful pop/rock groups in history. The band features a unique blend of talented, seasoned musicians joining forces with the common goal of accurately replicating the timeless music of Chicago.



**Mersey Beatles – Oct. 4**

The world's most authentic and only Liverpool-born Beatles tribute band, the Mersey Beatles have rocked sold-out audiences around the globe since 1999. The Mersey Beatles were the resident band for more than a decade at the world-famous Cavern Club, where The Beatles got their start.



Learn more and purchase tickets at [trine.edu/furth](http://trine.edu/furth)

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### ALUMNI

## Events

Join Trine University alumni at the following upcoming events to celebrate the university, enjoy activities together and support our students!

### **Trine Night at the Fort Wayne TinCaps**

Sept. 6 | Parkview Field

### **Homecoming & Family Weekend**

Sept. 27-29

**Find out more at**  
**[trine.edu/alumni](http://trine.edu/alumni)**

