

TRINITY LUTHERAN COLLEGE

ADVANCE

VOLUME 71 | ISSUE 1 | Fall 2014



GETTING RESULTS

ON THE COURSE,
IN THE CLASSROOM
AND IN LIFE

A Place of Transformation

Recent graduate Frank Casillas shares how Trinity made all the difference

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Eagle Athletics

Three programs head to Nationals this fall

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Kelly Miller

New VP for Advancement talks faith and goals

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GIANCARLO SOPRANO

International student excels in the business program

PAGE 8

A close-up portrait of a young woman with long, dark, wavy hair styled in a braid. She is smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a light blue cardigan over a dark purple top and a simple necklace with a small pendant. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

“BEING ABLE TO ATTEND A PRIVATE SCHOOL WITH SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES IS IMPORTANT TO ME, AND TRINITY OFFERED AN AMAZING EDUCATION WITH GENEROUS SCHOLARSHIPS TO HELP ME ALONG THE WAY.”

—JUDITH ORTIZ

Judith Ortiz is a junior at Trinity Lutheran College majoring in psychology. In her time at Trinity, Judith has had opportunities to grow and excel as a scholar and a leader.

Like all students at Trinity, Judith enjoys a foundation of biblical studies courses that prepare her for a life of vocation with service as a key focus.

She also receives an unparalleled education in her field of study. With an 8:1 student-to-faculty ratio, Judith and all Trinity students benefit from an intimate learning environment that results in a 95% placement rate either into a job or graduate school after graduation.

“After studying at Trinity, I feel very prepared to take the next step into a successful professional career in psychology,” Judith said. “My time here has opened my mind and heart to so many things.”

Judith and many other students are able to study and pursue their future goals at Trinity because of a generous scholarship awarded by the college. The Annual Fund supports students as they prepare to impact the world around them.

Your gift to the Annual Fund will help ensure students like Judith are able to use their God-given talents to serve through leadership to impact their communities.

Make a gift to the Annual Fund today

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Trinity Gala raises over \$106k

The Trinity Gala: Forming Leaders, Forming Community was held Sept. 27 in the Brammer Chapel. Designed to reach members of the local community not yet familiar with Trinity, the event was attended by 150 and raised over \$106,000 for student scholarships. Alumnus David Francis ('81), above with current students Bello Dondja (left) and Davis Goslin (right), served as emcee. Author W. Paul Young, below, was the featured keynote speaker.



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

EVERYONE IS TRYING TO GET RESULTS. WE ARE ALL LOOKING FOR ANSWERS TO HELP US ARRIVE SUCCESSFULLY AT THE RIGHT OUTCOME.

GOD WALKS
WITH US IN OUR
LIFE'S JOURNEY,
WHISPERING
ENCOURAGEMENT,
SURROUNDING US
WITH PEOPLE TO
CHEER US ON, AND
GIVING US A SENSE
OF GOD'S CALLING
AS WE SERVE JESUS
IN OUR WORK
TOGETHER.

Last week I was reviewing a piece I had written about a book authored by Robert Fulgrum. I stumbled across one of my favorite words of all time: praxis. Praxis means *activity or practice as opposed to theory*. I love this. I'm attracted to the term because my desire is that my life model this definition. Words, ideas and concepts are important, but if they don't lead to action, to a result or to an improved process, to meaningful change, then I tend to become disappointed with myself and with those who engage in work alongside me.

The older I get, the more I believe that this idea of moving from theory to action is the key in life. I believe many of us know what we must do to be our best. We know how we should treat others. We know how we should take care of ourselves. Moving from the shadow of good intentions to the bright light and power of daily action is easier said than done, both for individuals and for organizations.

I am proud of Trinity Lutheran College in this area. We tend to address issues and tackle problems quickly and aggressively. We are very committed to helping our students get the results they hope to achieve by being a part of our community.

Results are a by-product of a good process, of clear goals and of detailed focus on execution. Results don't usually come easily, and they also don't come by surprise. Achieving results can be a grind; results come with devotion, attention and, at times, a tough challenge. Every day I see this process of achieving results in the work we do to help Trinity grow and thrive. I am very pleased with our results, and I hope you are too. And I thank so many of you for your support and prayers as we continue on our journey of furthering the mission of Trinity Lutheran College.

In this issue of the Advance, you get to read about RESULTS as we tell stories about our wonderful students. The students whose stories are shared have arrived at their destination in a different way, but they share a common sense of success. We are grateful they have allowed the culture and community of Trinity to participate in their successes and results.

One other thing we know is true: Our successes and results are never achieved on our own. God walks with us in our life's journey, whispering encouragement, surrounding us with people to cheer us on, and giving us a sense of God's calling as we serve Jesus in our work together.

John W. Reed

CAMPUS NEWS

Compiled by Anne Reinisch, Graphic Designer

Trinity welcomes 102 new students to campus

Trinity kicked off its 71st academic year by welcoming 102 new students to campus, the largest incoming class for the college in its current home in Everett.

With a nearly 13% enrollment growth from last academic year, Trinity's total enrollment reported 225 students at the end of the first week. The college continues its multi-year growth trend, showing a 30% increase in enrolled students over the past three years.

80% of current students come from Washington and another 8% come from states west of the Mississippi River. The remaining students hail from the southern and eastern United States, as well as several international students who join the college from countries in Europe, South America and Asia.

Continuing to be a campus that is diverse both ethnically and socioeconomically, Trinity's student population this year is comprised of 52% students of color and reflects a wide variety of socioeconomic backgrounds. Several students are also among the first in their families to attend college. The varied backgrounds of the students contribute to Trinity's diverse and rich learning environment.

Certificate Program in Children, Youth & Family Ministry equips leaders to thrive, space available in upcoming classes

This January, Trinity will once again offer a certificate program in Children, Youth & Family Ministry. The program, offered for the fourth time, is a three-week intensive leadership training for children and youth ministry staff, Christian educators, pastors and active volunteers.

Facilitated by professors Mark Jackson, Sue Houglum and David Ellingson, the certificate program provides a unique opportunity to receive focused, intensive training in skills necessary for ministry with today's young people and families. Participants are equipped with professional skills to lead effective ministry programs in their home churches.

Nikki Rud, Director of Youth & Family Ministries at Zion Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids, Minn., says the training was invaluable.

"I was new in the field of youth ministry—and very green! This field of work can sometimes be very challenging and without



this program I would not have been as equipped to thrive in it," Rud said.

Topics covered during the training include:

- Biblical and theological foundations for faith formation
- Methods for biblical study
- Programming ideas for children, youth, family, and intergenerational ministries
- Overview of human lifespan development, including children, adolescents, and adults
- Basic pastoral care skills
- Tips for program planning and administration
- Strategic planning, including creation of a long-range program plan to share with your congregation

Class sizes are kept small, with only 10-15 students, providing an intimate, discussion-rich environment. Sessions are facilitated by multiple faculty in an engaging, discussion-rich environment where students can freely ask questions and dive deep into issues that matter to them most.

"I enjoyed studying the Bible—the open discussion, questioning, fact checking, and using the library. It was a growing and learning experience from the moment I got there," said Kathleen Fisher, Director of Intergenerational Ministry Programs at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Mercer Island, Wash.

Classes will be held Jan. 5-23. The cost of the program is \$2,500, which includes all program materials, books, instructional costs, a noon meal and lodging. Classes will primarily be held on Trinity's campus with an overnight adventure experience at Camp Lutherwood, near Bellingham, Wash.

Participants receive a Certificate in Children, Youth & Family Ministry, noting completion of 125 hours of instruction. Staff and volunteers working in children's and youth ministry are encouraged to attend. For more information and registration please visit TLC.edu/cyfcenter.



**FRANK CASILLAS SHARES
HOW TRINITY MADE
ALL THE DIFFERENCE**

A PLACE OF TRANSFORMATION

Photo by Dana Van Etten

Written by Annemarie Russell, Director of Communications

Frank Casillas ('14) came to Trinity in the fall of 2011 because he longed for an academic setting where he would receive one-on-one attention. A generous soccer scholarship and the recommendation of a fellow soccer buddy "sealed the deal" for him, and in August of that year he moved from Los Angeles to Everett to study Communications and play soccer for the Eagles.

"I had never been to campus when I moved up here so honestly, I didn't know what to expect," Casillas said.

What he found was a college that shaped his life in significant ways. Both in the classroom and on the field, Casillas experienced a transformation he wasn't expecting.

"When I first came to Trinity, I wasn't a studious person at all. I came with a pretty low GPA. People would ask me, 'What do you like to do?' and my answer was 'Nothing, I just want to play soccer.'"

Casillas's turnaround came about because of interactions with a few key staff members at Trinity. In his first term at the college, Casillas had a couple of discipline infractions that put him in front of the Dean of Students, Andrea Ide. It wasn't anything big, but he remembers feeling badly that he was called to task for his behavior.

Later that fall, the men's soccer team headed to the playoffs in Canada, but five seniors were left behind because of disciplinary issues. Casillas was one of the Eagles who had to stay home.

"I was so mad at myself about that situation. Then I was called in to talk with Andrea Ide and President Reed, and they told me straight up, 'you need to get serious about your life, Frank. You're here to get an education, not just play soccer and party.' For some reason I was finally ready, in that moment, to hear what they were telling me. They were right."

The next spring, Casillas took COMM300 Media Writing & Analysis. The students were asked to write feature articles, and Casillas was assigned to interview Andrea Ide. When Casillas talked with his professor about his reluctance, considering his past disciplinary history with Ide, the professor encouraged Casillas to use the interview as an opportunity to show Ide a more responsible, studious side of him.

It worked. Ide herself recalls a shift in Casillas during their interview.

"Frank spent a considerable amount of time asking me about myself. I believe it allowed him to see me as a human being—he saw me outside of the 'discipline box' and instead saw



Dr. Dave Ellingson congratulates Casillas at the 2014 commencement reception.



Casillas working at the Acorn Learning Center, Trinity's on-campus preschool and childcare.

me as a real person who wanted to teach him and help him grow," Ide said.

Casillas began putting more effort into his studies. He took advantage of the mentoring offered by professors, especially Dr. David Schulz, Professor & Chair of Communications. He didn't pull straight A's, but he applied himself and did quality work. He showed up to class and gave considerable effort. With the support of the faculty and through his own determination, Casillas saw his life take an about-face.

"All of a sudden I noticed that professors were talking to me like an adult. I realized I wasn't a little kid anymore and my professors were people who were there to help me and wanted to see me succeed," Casillas said.

Casillas's life took another surprising turn when he began working at the Acorn Learning Center, Trinity's on-campus preschool and childcare.

"I signed up for Acorn for my Service Learning Practicum because a girl I liked worked there. But after only a few days, I realized that I really cared for the kids. I found myself nurturing them, helping them grow, and a side of me began to develop that I didn't know existed," he said.

The connections Casillas made while a student at Trinity and the support he received from faculty, staff and peers all contributed to his success.

Sue Houglum, Professor & Chair of Early Childhood Education, played a significant role in Casillas's development as a person and a caregiver of children. So did Residence Life Director Jessica Corral, who supported and mentored him. Last May, as Casillas walked across the stage to receive his degree, he realized just how much the small school culture of Trinity and the close relationships he formed had impacted his college experience.

"It's easy, when you're someone like me, to lose yourself in college. But at Trinity, people care for you and help you stay on

the right track. Not just students, but professors, too—teachers who helped me in the classroom and then also mentored me in their offices, who cared about me and encouraged me in life," he said.

Trinity distinguishes itself from other small Christian colleges in the northwest by its commitment to welcoming students who have potential but very little opportunity. A Trinity education takes young people who may not have been at the top of their class but who show promise and gives them opportunities to develop and thrive. Students like Casillas come to Trinity and achieve academic success because they are heard, known and supported in the college's intimate learning environment.

"Trinity definitely developed my character by opening up my mind to different ideas. I learned that with a little extra support, I could be a successful student. I also became more ambitious," Casillas said.

Today Casillas is back in his home state of California working full time for United Parcel Service. He's also training to become a human resources representative. Most importantly, Casillas has built the skills to be successful—both personally and professionally.

Did you know?

With an 8:1 student-to-faculty ratio, Trinity students benefit from an intimate learning environment that results in a 95% placement rate either into a job or graduate school after graduation.

STUDENT PROFILE

Giancarlo Soprano

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND
ALPHA CHAPTER CO-FOUNDER
EXCELS IN THE BUSINESS PROGRAM**

Written by BreAnn Inglesby, Communications Intern

JUNIOR GIANCARLO SOPRANO CAME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN COLLEGE FROM CARACAS, VENEZUELA AFTER BEING RECRUITED FOR THE MEN'S SOCCER TEAM.

Since then he has begun preparation for Certified Public Accountant (CPA) certification, co-founded the Trinity chapter of the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting (ALPFA), and has received offers to sign with Deloitte, JP Morgan Chase, and Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

ALPFA is a nationwide organization that connects the largest accounting firms in the world with ambitious college students.

When Stuart Webber, Professor & Chair of Business, Leadership & Management, received word about ALPFA, Soprano was one of the first people he thought of to pursue the opportunity.

"Giancarlo is very enthusiastic and so upbeat all the time. I knew he would be a good representative for Trinity," said Webber.

Along with classmate sophomore Rolando Robles, Soprano has co-founded the largest ALPFA chapter in the Pacific Northwest with 26 members at Trinity. Both have received ALPFA's Convention Scholarship.

"ALPFA is a great organization because it allows business students to network with big companies from around the world and land internships or big jobs with them," said Soprano.

Soprano and Robles recently flew to Orlando, Fla. for an ALPFA event in which they networked, interviewed and were made offers from several international accounting firms.

"Competition between the Big Four is huge," said Soprano.

Having received offers from Pricewaterhouse Coopers, Deloitte (two of the top four accounting firms in the world) and JPMorgan Chase & Co., Soprano has signed with Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

Receiving scholarships and job offers from international businesses hasn't made Soprano feel any need to slow down. He continues to keep his skills sharp.

"He has been one of the most enthusiastic accounting students I've ever had," Webber said. "He's shown up in my introductory accounting classes just to refresh himself on the material. It's remarkable he takes the time to sit through these classes a second time."

When he isn't busy leading the ALPFA club or helping students as one of Trinity's library assistants, Soprano can be found aiding his friends in everything from schoolwork to life problems.

"I've known Giancarlo for almost two years," said Robles. "He sort of took me under his wing and encouraged me to keep on



the right path and stay positive about school when I was having a lot of personal troubles last year."

Soprano spends much of his time helping others. At the moment he assists a handicapped community member, as well as tutors students in accounting for free in his own time.

"Giancarlo likes to see others succeed," said Karen Buehlmaier, Professor of Business, Leadership & Management. "He's more than happy to assist people reach success."

At the moment Soprano continues to prepare for CPA certification. This includes a four-year bachelor's degree plus one extra year of college, a big exam and work experience in accounting.

While busy helping his friends, his community and his future, Soprano has never forgotten his love of soccer or how it has impacted his life.

"Soccer is the reason I was able to come to Trinity. It began as a way to get to college, but Trinity has given me everything," said Soprano.

Having begun as a freshmen soccer player from Venezuela, Giancarlo Soprano has worked to take advantage of every opportunity and has made the most of his time at Trinity.

"Giancarlo comes from a tough background," said Robles. "He knows what it takes to be a hard worker and that motivates him to keep moving forward."

Soprano is excited to begin working and gaining experience at Pricewaterhouse Coopers and hopes one day to open his own accounting firm.

"I'm working hard toward my future," said Soprano, "and I want to help others."

Did you know?

This year, Trinity's student body comes from 12 states and five countries.



EAGLE ATHLETICS

Written by **Matt Koenigs, Athletic Director**

The 2014-15 academic year looks to be a big one for Trinity Athletics. With new swimming and track and field programs to go with our established golf, soccer and cross-country teams, student-athlete enrollment has more than doubled in the last two years. There are now 96 student athletes enrolled at Trinity. Big news as well for the Eagles was the move to associate NAIA membership. The college began its inaugural year of NAIA membership on August 1. A lot has happened in a short time with Trinity Athletics.

Scholar-athletes honored

Five Trinity athletes were honored as NCCAA Scholar-Athletes this fall: Christoffer Lindal (men's soccer), Emmanuel Contreras (cross-country), Giancarlo Soprano (men's soccer), Kayla Bunderson (women's soccer) and Phung Vuong (women's cross-country). To be eligible for the award, students must be of junior academic or athletic standing and have maintained better than a 3.4 GPA.



Golf Teams. Top row: Alyssia Lucas, Stephanie English, Makaela Hayward.
Bottom row: Joseph Gallagher, Alexander Raynor, Anthony Guerrero.

Golf sends freshman to national tournament

Men's and Women's Golf, pictured bottom left, competed last month at the Border War golf tournament hosted by Oregon Tech. Three men and two women represented the Eagles in a tournament that also served as the NCCAA Western Region National Qualifier.

The top individual and top team from the NCCAA schools participating in the tournament earned a berth to the National Championships hosted at Hombre Golf Club in Panama City Beach, Fla. Trinity freshmen Anthony Guerrero won the individual berth by taking the top spot among NCCAA individuals in the tournament.

Women's Soccer concludes season with a win

Women's Soccer won its first game of the 2014 season in a nail biter at home against a strong Everett Community College team. The team is 1-2-1 in their last four games after starting the season 0-8.

The team has given a herculean effort this fall. Only 10 players have been on the pitch at any given time this season, leaving the team down one player in all of its games and without substitutes. Despite the numbers disadvantage, the team has played phenomenally. Thankfully, help is on the way as the Eagles already have two transfers here from other colleges who will be available after this season.

Cross-country teams qualify for nationals, runners break school records



Photo by Gary Paulson-garypaulson.net

Senior cross-country runners Justin Yoke and Emmanuel Contreras cross the finish line at the Sept. 13 Central Washington Invitational in Ellensburg, Wash.

Cross-Country advances to Nationals

Men's and Women's Cross-Country teams have taken a big step forward as a program this year. The roster has grown from five to 12 to 20 over the course of the last three seasons.

The Trinity men's and women's teams have both qualified for NCCAA Nationals. The national meet will be contested at Houghton College in New York.

Senior Emmanuel Contreras set a new school record in the 8k this fall with his 25:55 performance at the Willamette Invite. David Castillo broke the school's freshman record with his time of 27:00.

Track and Field thrower awarded Athlete of the Year



Track and Field athlete Janell Alyea, left, fresh off her NCCAA National Title in the discus last spring, was honored by the Snohomish County Sports Commission as the Snohomish County Female College Athlete of the Year last month at the Snohomish County Sports Hall of Fame induction. The track and field roster has exploded from 20 to 51.



Men's Soccer shows strength on the field

Men's Soccer has represented Trinity well in a tough non-conference schedule taking on quality opponents like Western Washington University, University of Puget Sound and Pacific Lutheran University.

The Eagles are 1-1-1 at home this year and have been on the road much of the season. They returned for one more home game, against Multnomah University, at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 1 at Everett Memorial Stadium.

The Eagle track and field team hosted a pre-game BBQ that evening. The game also served as senior night for 13 Trinity seniors from both men's and women's soccer who have given a phenomenal effort in helping to build their programs.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



The true measure of spiritual impact

Written by Rev. Erik Samuelson, Campus Pastor

At Trinity, we are known for making a difference in the lives of our students, but how we can measure our spiritual impact? Congregations joke that you measure “nickels and noses”: the money that comes in and the people who attend worship are signs of a congregation’s impact.

In higher education we measure things like student retention, graduation rates and job placement. We can also measure things like “biblical knowledge,” but assessing our spiritual work is more challenging. I suggest there are three factors that indicate the spiritual impact of Trinity, and they are all tied to our mission statement.

Developing Leaders: Core to our mission is the development of leaders—leaders who work closely with Christian faculty and staff members as they grow and develop in a community that takes formation seriously. In my four years here, I have seen a marked increase in the number of students stepping into leadership roles, taking on new challenges and serving our community. When they leave, students take that leadership with them, multiplying the impact our work together has on the wider world.

Service in the Community: One of our central values as a Lutheran Christian community, and a hallmark of Trinity throughout our history, is our commitment to service of neighbor. Recently Dr. Joyce Stewart, Associate Superintendent of Everett Public Schools (and newest member of our Board of Directors) shared the impact we are having on the Everett community as well as her dream that in a few years, our students are serving in every possible organization in the city. Already it’s hard to go anywhere in Everett and not find our students serving. If Dr. Stewart’s dream becomes a reality, the whole city will experience Christian service directly from the impact of our students.

Faith Formation: Students come to us from a range of faith backgrounds (some with no faith background), bringing different understandings of God and varied experiences with Jesus’s teachings and the ways of Christian Community. And yet, in this amazingly diverse community, we all witness and

participate in amazing stories of spiritual formation. Some students come with a clear sense of call, and Trinity is the place where they are equipped for ministry. Some come with little experience of faith and leave strengthened. Others come with uncertainty or hostility to Christianity, but through life in this Christian community, leave with a better understanding of what it means to follow Jesus. And others still, at any point in their spiritual journey, encounter the God of creation, revealed in the Word and embodied in life together, and their lives are forever transformed by the experience.

For me, however, the true measure of our spiritual impact comes in those moments when it’s clear that while we create the space, the power of the Holy Spirit transforms lives.

I have been meeting regularly with a student taking one of our CRUX classes who is challenged by the way his reading of the Bible has opened up a new dimension in his faith, leading him to dig deeper into his Christian identity. He came to me looking for support and advice. He was struggling because an increasing number of students had been looking to him to pray with them and for them. He wasn’t sure he knew how to do that, and he didn’t feel confident in his skills and abilities. We talked about prayer and what it means, and how one might do it—and I shared some resources with him. I encouraged him to see these requests as people recognizing leadership gifts in him and suggested he pray about how he might respond. He left my office with renewed energy and confidence as a leader and has been seeking out ways to engage these other students in prayer.

He is growing as a leader, engaging in service to his fellow students, and through it all being more deeply formed in his faith. And this happens again and again among our students. While many of us at Trinity certainly have a part to play in this student’s development, this integration and spiritual transformation can only be the Spirit at work. Trinity not only opens up renewed faith in our students but also provides opportunities for leadership and mentoring that helps our students really take their faith to another level—and to share those gifts with others.



"FOR ME, HOWEVER, THE TRUE MEASURE OF OUR SPIRITUAL IMPACT COMES IN THOSE MOMENTS WHEN IT'S CLEAR THAT WHILE WE CREATE THE SPACE, THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TRANSFORMS LIVES."

-REV. ERIK SAMUELSON

Ashleigh Fraser is a freshman majoring in Business, Leadership & Management.

NEW FACULTY NEWS

Compiled by **Mark Jackson, Professor & Chair of Children, Youth & Family Studies**



Mario Guimaraes began August 1 as Professor & Chair of Computer Information Systems. His teaching and research interests include video gaming and database security, and his professional experience includes working with multidisciplinary teams to design both games and education software. Guimaraes most recently taught at Zayed University in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, with previous appointments at Texas A&M University and Kennesaw State University. He holds a Ph.D. in computer science from the Pontifical Catholic University, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



Ryan Torma has been named Professor & Chair of Graphic Design & Visual Communications and Associate Dean for Learning Design & Technology. Torma brings a vast background as a learning designer, web designer, print designer and photographer to his courses. As associate dean, he will work with faculty to integrate learning theory, teaching practices and technology to deliver effective courses and programs. Torma holds a master's degree in educational leadership from Luther Seminary and is completing a doctorate in higher education leadership through Bethel University.



Kirsten Sundberg Lunstrum has been named part-time Lecturer in English to teach courses in English composition. She holds an M.A. in English and Creative Writing from the University of California, Davis, and has previously held teaching appointments at several colleges including Purchase College SUNY. Her published works include *Swimming with Strangers* and *This Life She's Chosen*, both collections of short stories. Her short fiction has appeared in *One Story*, *The American Scholar* and *Willow Springs*, among other journals, and she's also a Pushcart Prize nominee.



John Patella joins Trinity as part-time Lecturer in Psychology to teach courses in clinical and health psychology. His academic and professional interests include personal and career counseling, school counseling, family systems and community mental health. He holds a Doctor of Education from Seattle Pacific University, where he studied the relationship between parenting styles and academic achievement. He has taught courses at both Central Washington University and Lake Washington Institute of Technology.



Mark Barnum, who served the past year as Program Coordinator to inaugurate the Computer Information Systems major, will continue as part-time lecturer in the program. Barnum also serves Trinity as IT Administrator.



Photo by Heather Natterstad

FROM THE ACADEMIC DEAN'S DESK

Written by **Michael DeLashmutt, Academic Dean**

ONE OF THE MORE SIGNIFICANT SHIFTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION OVER THE COURSE OF THE LAST 15 YEARS HAS BEEN THE RISE OF THE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME.

Those of you who have read a course syllabus recently probably can recognize the genre: 'At the end of this course, students will be able to ...<action verb> <something>.' Through these pithy statements, instructors articulate for students (and themselves) the intended skills, knowledge or capacities students will develop as a result of their courses. More than aspirational statements, student learning outcomes function as a road map for both instructor and student. Careful instructors design their courses and their assessments in order to reinforce these outcomes and thereby support, nudge or guide students along the windy paths of learning. Wise students learn to assess their own learning against these outcomes, so that at the course's conclusion they can identify how their confidence and competence has improved over time.

At the Spring Faculty Workshop, Trinity's faculty spent a day thinking about the kinds of outcomes we would like to see in our students after they completed their degrees at Trinity. This wasn't the first time that we had discussed these matters; in fact it was the most recent expression of several years of conversation, tended in particular by Dr. Betsi Little (Psychology) and Dr. David Schulz (Communications) as they steered development of our General Studies curriculum. At the conclusion of our workshop, the faculty developed the following language:

Upon successful completion of their studies at Trinity Lutheran College, students will be able to:

- Engage in critical thinking
- Demonstrate collaboration in their approach to problem solving
- Apply and evaluate effective communication skills
- Demonstrate an enduring intellectual curiosity
- Exhibit character modeled by virtues of compassion, respect, humility and wisdom, in life, work and vocation.

In the months and years ahead, the faculty will develop tools and procedures for assessing the development of our students (and thereby our own effectiveness as educators) against these stated learning outcomes. Results, for us, will come in the form of students who as a result of their time at Trinity have demonstrably grown in their capacities for critical thinking, collaboration, communication skills, curiosity and character, and through these capacities, are able to more effectively serve Jesus Christ in church and society.

Did you
know?

Our student body has become increasingly diverse in age, ethnic background and religious affiliation, bringing a richness to our conversations in and out of the classroom.

KELLY MILLER

Trinity's new VP talks faith, mission and goals

Written by Mallayana Bradley, Communications Intern

This past July, Trinity welcomed Kelly Miller as Vice President for Institutional Advancement. Miller has spent the last three months restructuring, supervising and providing leadership to staff in the Office of Development.

Miller spent a large portion of his early career in the "business world" in sales and marketing. Years into his career he had an epiphany that his sense of mission would be better expressed in the faith-based non-profit sector.

"It impacted me profoundly, helping me see that we all have a choice to make about how we will use our time. It was obvious that I was designed to impact people's lives positively," Miller said. "My personal mission statement is to impact and empower individuals' lives to move forward spiritually and in education."

As a result of his epiphany, Miller left the for-profit sector to pursue a career that fit better with his mission statement. Miller worked for World Concern, an international Christian relief and development agency, for 11 years. Then he spent a few years working with another faith-based nonprofit, Lift Up America.

"I have always enjoyed working with youth, be it mentoring or coaching, so I started working with Lift Up America's Ambassadors of Compassion program. The primary focus was character and resiliency building in young people," Miller said.

Last spring, a mutual friend who was familiar with Miller's passion for youth brought Miller and Trinity President John Reed together to discuss the vision of the college. At that meeting, Miller realized Trinity's vision aligned closely with his own. The job at Trinity was also an opportunity to connect his experiences in business and faith-based non-profit organizations perfectly.

Miller's vision for Trinity is not a small one. He describes the goals of the development office in three parts.

The first is to continue what is already being done, growing to



a scale that makes sense without losing a sense of communal or individual impact.

The second goal is to impact the greater Everett community.

"We want to build more partnerships with people in the community who know and appreciate us. We do this in part to pave the way for more opportunities for our students. Students should leave Trinity with a sense of service in life regardless of what vocation they choose, that their hearts hold service first," he said.

The Trinity Gala: Forming Leaders, Forming Community is a recent fundraising event that exemplifies this vision. The Gala introduced over 80 new faces to the college. The Advancement team, overseen by Miller, exceeded their financial goal of \$100,000 by raising over \$106,000 toward scholarships for Trinity students.

"Very few had been to Trinity before and that is something we want to remedy," Miller said.

The third goal is to build up alumni relations. The Office of Development is a bridge between the current Trinity students and those who invested their time at the college in its earlier years.

"It's important that Trinity is able to reengage with alumni whom we have not had as much engagement with, so they know they're part of the family. We want those who were here during our LBI days to recognize that they are still here with us."

Miller's passion for this college is evident, even after only three months of employment. His work at Trinity flows seamlessly into his life's mission, which is, not surprisingly, closely aligned with the college's mission: to be a good steward with the life given by God and to spend his life and ministry serving Jesus Christ and the surrounding world.



Alumni Spotlight

STEVE DITTOE

Written by Aimee Furrie, Development & Alumni Relations Assistant

Many people have a special place that provokes both emotions and actions. For Steve Dittoe, one of those places is Trinity Lutheran College.

Dittoe's story started off similarly to many students beginning their freshman year of college. He was young and eager to learn, and in 1979 he enrolled at the Lutheran Bible Institute of Seattle. Although funding did not come easily, he was able to make ends meet. That is, until a car accident forced him to leave LBI. Several years later, Dittoe had an opportunity to study at Seattle Pacific University. But a coinciding job offer was too good to pass up, and Steve's life once again steered away from education.

The new job proved a very good career move for Dittoe, who now serves as Lieutenant with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office. And in 2012, with the college in his hometown, Dittoe returned to Trinity to complete his undergraduate degree.

The result that we seek is not always the one that we find. Steve had an incredibly unique experience returning to college.

"I couldn't have come back to Trinity if it hadn't been in Everett," he said. "It was an opportunity for me to return to school and an opportunity to return to Trinity. I wanted the opportunity for Trinity, not just completing my degree."

While at Trinity, Dittoe was able to create lasting relationships with his fellow classmates.

"Relationships were easy to make here," Dittoe said.

This is evident in the many greetings Dittoe continues to receive from students and faculty alike as he walks around campus.

In addition to the relationships he has with the people, Dittoe emphasized the relationship he has with his school itself.

"Trinity stretched me. People were talking into my life and I was able to speak into theirs as well. There is a tradition of this being a Bible school, and it is turning into a liberal arts school. I think there is a very healthy balance, and I have seen it on both sides."

He continued to expand on his experiences, bringing to life the transition of this institution as it has grown and changed over the years.

"Trinity brings in kids from around the world and brings them to a Christian environment. I think the relevancy of being in a community like this and providing a solid Christian education is important."

Earlier this year, Dittoe stood with his fellow classmates and graduated with a degree in Business, Leadership & Management. He is currently completing a certification program at the University of Washington in Information Assurance. In addition to using the knowledge he learned at both LBI and Trinity in his current place of work, he has even passed on his books to his daughter, as the information he learned in class crosses generational gaps. She is now able to pass that knowledge on to her peers. Trinity clearly has created a ripple effect through Dittoe.

Today, he has the opportunity to go out into the mission field each day and be a light to the world around him.

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

1960s

Bob Olsen ('61) and his wife Kaye celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 16. Among the guests who celebrated with them were LBI family and friends Les and Connie (Studebaker) Foss, Gary and Gerry (Fadness) Hagen, George and Norma (Stenerson) Larson, Doug Mjorud, Pat Ness, Jim Olsen, and Don and Karen (Olsenius) Roppel. Bob recalled that he and Karen had shared a campus mailbox (alphabetical order), but didn't remember seeing the Roppels since their student days. In the 1960s, none of them thought they would be as old as they are now.

Call for class notes

What's happened in your life recently? Did you get married? Celebrate the birth of a child or grandchild? Change careers? Move? Share your journey with us by contacting Aimee Furrie, Development & Alumni Relations Assistant at Alumni@TLC.edu or 425.249.4758.

Audit classes for FREE

Trinity offers alumni and former students who have taken 30 or more semester credits the opportunity to audit two courses per year at no charge.

Travel courses not included. For details please visit TLC.edu/alumni.

Lelvis and Rue visit with Midwest alumni

Pat Lelvis, ('51) and Arlie Rue ('59) were guests of honor for a Trinity/LBI breakfast gathering in Fargo, N.D., and Moorhead, Minn., in August. The Rev. Kirk Miltzer organized the event, attended by 13 former students.

"Arlie was on staff at LBI for 40 years and I was on faculty for 25 years," said Lelvis. "These students represented a number of decades! Though they live in the greater Fargo-Moorhead area, many hadn't seen each other 'for years.' What a special time we had."

"Bill Tweten showed up on his Harley. They insisted I get it on it for a photo-op! Getting my 81-year-old leg over the seat was the hard part!" said Lelvis.



Class Reunion: 1968, 1969, 1970



The classes of 1968, 1969, and 1970 held a reunion on Oct. 11. Jacque Schweiss and Arlie Rue were special faculty guests. What a wonderful occasion of fellowship! They shared memories, new stories and a meal on campus. Additionally, Vespers was held in Brammer Chapel and the "Jesus Only" sign from the Greenwood campus was hung in the Remembrance Room.

"I cannot put into words the deep and rich ways my time at Trinity shaped my life. I had this opportunity because of the generosity of others and now have a chance to give back."

—John Schraan

John and Katie Schraan met on the Issaquah campus and fell in love. Neither knew exactly what they were called to when they first came to Trinity, but through the personal interaction with their professors and the community, and some meaningful activities—choir and student government, for example—they graduated engaged and prepared for the next steps in the path God had for them: John to seminary and Katie to work for a church leadership organization.

The Schraans are now parents to Henry (6) and Lillian (3) and belong to Christ Lutheran Church in Yakima, where John is pastor. Katie continues to do consulting work in a variety of ways.

John and Katie began regularly supporting Trinity shortly after they graduated, and in recent years named Trinity Lutheran College as a beneficiary in their retirement plan.

"God called us to Trinity and changed our lives. We hope that others will be transformed in mind and spirit as we both were," Katie said.

They approach their stewardship as an expression of gratitude to God for all that's been given to them, one learned both from their parents and through study, and challenge themselves to yearly increase their giving.

You are a part of our story. Help us write the next chapter by making a planned gift to Trinity Lutheran College.

For more information on how to begin the process, please contact Lance Georgeson, Associate Director of Development at Lance.Georgeson@TLC.edu or 425.249.4752.

Address Service Requested

A CLOSER LOOK



Each year, several current students are hired to serve as Student Ambassadors for the college's Office of Admissions. Student Ambassadors connect with prospective students, host them on campus visits, text and email them, and work hard to share Trinity's story with the many students who are interested in studying with us. Pictured here are three current Student Ambassadors (from left to right): senior Megan Knibbe, sophomore Deyana Willis and junior Kristin Gonzales. Their enthusiasm for Trinity (and for life!) is contagious.