On Thursday, October 9, TRIO/SSS held its annual Favorite Faculty Luncheon during common time at TRIO House, 216 College Street. This event is a favorite for students and faculty alike because it’s a great opportunity to get to know professors outside of the classroom, and is a chance to recognize faculty for their dedication to teaching.

Every year, TRIO sophomores invite faculty members they have encountered at Carleton who stand out as special. This year was no exception as students and their favorite professors flooded into TRIO House to lunch and mingle while becoming more familiar with the Carleton TRIO/SSS program. Several faculty guests had been invited in past years and were excited to have the opportunity to come again. There were also some professors invited by multiple students, a testament to their connection with their students. Some students had difficulty choosing just one professor and asked for another luncheon later this year!

Enjoying the sophomore and faculty luncheon are (left to right): Justin Perkins, Jasmine Boudah, Professor Harry Williams, and Catrice Carter.
Class Act Discussion: Classism at Carleton?

For many years there has been debate about the Carleton campus climate and whether or not it is a welcoming place for everyone. Some believe it is while others disagree, but perhaps now we can move forward from this discussion with the results of the Campus Climate Survey, a substantive collection of student, staff and faculty experiences across the community. The survey states that “twenty-seven percent of students reported experiencing harassment on the basis of their socioeconomic status and that the most common source of that harassment were other students” (Executive Summary of the Carleton College Climate Assessment Project, Rankin & Associates Consulting, Sept. 2008). Rankin’s report states, “the first challenge [for Carleton] is institutional classism, which was a source of difficulty for many students and staff members.” The survey collected data regarding campus climate and Rankin & Associates wrote a report about it, but it is now our responsibility to make the necessary positive changes in the larger community.

Addressing these challenges is no easy task, especially with busy schedules and during a period of global financial instability. Much of the Class Act discussion centered on identifying main sources of discomfort regarding socioeconomic class at Carleton; what makes students, staff and faculty feel the harassment described in the Campus Climate Survey report? A common source identified was the notion of the “typical Carleton student” and how hurtful the assumptions that all Carls are from affluent backgrounds can be for students who identify with different socioeconomic statuses. Attendees recognized that the issue of classism isn’t only problematic for people of lower incomes, but can also cause discomfort for more affluent people. Many ideas for addressing classism were discussed, including efforts to increase socioeconomic diversity within the student body. Just as important is how to affirm that socioeconomic diversity is highly valued at Carleton, one challenge among many on the road to a warmer and more inclusive campus climate.

Events and Academic Calendar

Nov 19: Last day of classes; Late Drop and S/CR/NC for 10-week classes deadline at 4:30 pm.

Nov 21: TRIO De-stress Event, 3-5 pm, TRIO House

Nov 20-21: Reading Days

Nov 22-24: FINALS

Nov 25: Residence Halls close

*Reminder: return all books to TRIO by 4:30 pm on Nov 25th!

November 2008

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While upperclassmen were awaiting replies from jobs and internships, I was determined to go home and work for the summer. I spontaneously decided to apply for a program named Breakthrough. Breakthrough Collaborative is a program in which high school juniors, seniors and college students teach middle school students. The mission is to place the younger students into college preparatory high schools and eventually colleges and to encourage their teachers to pursue jobs in education. I completed the application and forgot to submit it before the deadline. I thought the opportunity was lost, but it seems fate had something else in store for me. I received an email stating the Breakthrough Miami site was opening a new site and they were continuing to accept applications. I edited my application, and a few weeks after my phone interview I was accepted into the program as a science teacher. I bought my ticket and boarded the plane to Florida about two months later.

When I landed in Miami, it seemed like a different world. It was sunny, humid and much like a paradise. I had to snap back into reality because I was here to work. I attended orientation for a week, participated in team builders and got to know the individuals at my site. During this first week one of the teachers had to leave the program, so I decided to take over one of the Pre-Algebra courses. Now I was going to teach two classes of Earth Science and one class of Pre-Algebra. I could not wait for the students to come.

It was exhilarating that the students enjoyed coming to the program and completed their homework everyday. I was in control of the atmosphere and tempo of my classroom. The more activities that I brought into class, the more engaged my science students became. I could not believe that I was a “real” teacher; I made lesson plans, tests, quizzes, activities and projects for my students and was evaluated once a week in each class to assist me with my teaching skills. The students were very attentive and excited to learn.

I learned so much about myself during this time. I know how far I can push myself to work long hours grading papers or creating PowerPoints and still come to work the next day as if I got thirteen hours of sleep. I could communicate with my co-workers and my boss thoroughly enough to organize events for the program. At the same time I could act a total fool; I did anything that would make my students’ light bulbs turn on. I also learned how big a role I played in my students’ lives. Many of them still call me to ask math questions or simply to talk.

Obviously, all work and no play is boring, so I enjoyed the times that I spent visiting members from other sites, having faculty dinners and lunches or beach weekends. I would recommend this program to someone who is willing to work long hours, can take constructive criticism and has a sense of humor.

For more information about opportunities at the Breakthrough Collaborative, see www.breakthroughcollaborative.org
Meet the TRIO Peer Leaders!

Catrice Carter ‘11

Hometown: Trenton, New Jersey
Possible Major: Physics or Math
Possible Concentration: French and Francophone Studies
Hobbies: Reading, listening to music, writing poetry, contemplating the significance of the universe
Dream Job: Event planner
Future Job: Cell phone engineer
Advice: Make sure you utilize all opportunities that are available. No one is going to hand you a sheet of paper with scholarships, fellowships or internships, but they are out there.

Alissa Morson ‘11

Hometown: Lafayette, MN
Possible Major (Concentration): Geology (ENTS, German)
Hobbies: Adopt-a-Grandparent, Carleton Symphony Band (flute), camping/canoeing/hiking, exploring the environment
Favorite Carleton Tradition: Late Night Breakfast! I love breakfast foods and it’s fun to be served by faculty. The primal scream is also great.
Dream Job: observing and studying Arctic wildlife and environments, especially polar bears (they are so cute!)
Advice: Don’t sweat the small stuff: one small disagreement with your roommate, one bad day in class or forgetting to set your alarm clock. It will be okay and most of the time will work itself out. And, pick out 2-3 things you would like to improve over the year and strive to do so. Maybe it’s to be more outgoing or improving your study skills; anything is a good idea. If you need help in reaching these goals, make sure to ask for support from someone, whether a friend or a faculty member.

JJ Locquiao ‘11

Hometown: Chicago (but lived in the Philippines until the age of 15)
Possible Major (Concentration): Biology (Biochemistry)
Hobbies: playing tennis and volleyball, listening to iTunes (alt. rock, Broadway, and choral) library, sleeping, traying on Bell Field in the winter
Dream Job: field work on the Great Barrier Reef with a glass-walled lab that is submerged by the reef
Advice: For the Class of 2012, I suggest that you pre-scrunch a class every term, introduce yourself to your professors early in the term, and go traying at Bell Field next term.

Maija Sipola ‘09

Hometown: Embarrass, MN
Major (Concentration): Geology (Archaeology)
Hobbies: Reading news magazines, being goofy, representing Finnish-Americans from Northern Minnesota, and dancing to Whitney Houston and Michael Jackson
Activities on campus: BSA, Symphony Band (oboe), Women’s Ice Hockey
Dream Job: Geologist/Archaeologist and photojournalist for National Geographic Magazine
Advice: Don’t be afraid to ask for help at Carleton! Also, make connections, seek out opportunities, travel as much as you possibly can, and apply for things you’d never dreamed of winning (my guess is you’ll be more successful than you expected!)