TRIO Class of 2011
Setting Proud New Record: 100% Retention and Graduation Rate!

With the mission of Carleton's TRIO/SSS program aimed at supporting student retention and graduation for students who are either low-income, the first generation to college, or with disabilities, there can be no prouder moment for us to celebrate than senior graduation. Carleton's TRIO/SSS staff are always proud of our graduating TRIO seniors, who have in recent years been graduating at rates of 90% or higher, similar to Carleton averages.

As under-represented students who reflect an extremely small percentage of Carleton's student body — only 4-5% of Carleton students are both low-income and first generation — our TRIO students often represent the most educationally vulnerable college student populations according to vast amounts of educational research on college retention. However, as Carleton's TRIO program gets ready to celebrate its 30th anniversary on this campus in the fall of 2011, this year's graduating TRIO senior class is getting ready to set new retention and graduation records for our TRIO program. For the first time in Carleton's TRIO history, all 27 TRIO students who entered Carleton in September of 2007 are still on campus and on track to graduate this year, marking a perfect 100% retention and graduation rate!

To honor and celebrate our proud seniors beyond their record-setting statistics, we are featuring many of them in this newsletter and will host a TRIO Senior Recognition event for them on Saturday, May 28th, 2011.

TRIO seniors, we wish you all the best in your remaining time at Carleton and in your future pursuits!
This summer Yer will research her spiritual belief with Shamanism and explore its practices among Miao tribes in southwest China. In July, she will be starting her position as a Language Assistant in the city of Fen Yang, through June of 2012.

Pa Lor
Political Science
Pa wants to work in education to help youth achieve their dreams and combat stereotypes. Though she is still making her post-Carleton plans, she knows that these are the issues she wants to work on.

Matthew Fink
Political Science
As a winner of a Watson Fellowship, Matt will travel to Sweden, Germany and South Korea, where he plans to work with disabled gamers to study how technology is changing the nature of competition for people with disabilities.

Morgan Holmes
English
Morgan doesn’t have definitive post-Carleton plans yet, but she knows that they will include continuing to explore her passion for theater, writing, and community-based art.

Michele Cruz
Psychology
Michele is going back to Chicago and getting a job while she studies for the GRE and applies to doctoral programs in psychology.

Ana Vang
Geology
Next year Ana will attend the University of Vermont to get her M.S. in geomorphology, studying how the interstate system affects landscapes. She is thankful for all the opportunities she has had at Carleton and says that he has “grown and changed as a person as a result of [her time] here.”

Bobbi Greenfield
Spanish
Bobbi will pursue a master's in linguistics at UC Davis next year. After she graduates, she plans to either obtain a master's in teaching or a teaching license so that she can teach Spanish to high school students. She may then pursue a doctorate and teach college Spanish.

Ashley Dinzey
American Studies
This summer Ashley will intern with Midwest Academy, a school for community organizing. She is grateful for the opportunities Carleton has given her and “to everyone who makes Carleton more than just an educational institution.”

Jasmine Boudah
American Studies
Jasmine will join the Boston Teacher Residency program, an alternative teacher certification program. She is proud to be the first in her family to graduate from college and hopes to give back to communities like the one she grew up in by promoting social change in education. “Carleton has opened up a world that seemed unavailable to the community in which I was raised.”

George Zeon
Political Science
George is still working on his post-graduation plans, but he is thrilled he achieved his goal of graduating. He is grateful to Carleton for the “endless opportunities to volunteer, participate in athletics/school organizations (like TRIO) and most importantly [for] some very cool people [he met] in the process.”

Jack Timmons
Biology
Jack plans to work as a research technician immediately after graduating from Carleton. Ultimately, he plans to pursue an MD/PhD and hopes to care for patients while contributing to science.
Les Miles
Political Science
After graduation, Les will either volunteer with the Peace Corps for two years (likely teaching English in Asia), or he will continue pursuing a position as a Foreign Service Officer at the State Department.

Catrice Carter
Physics
Catrice plans to take a year off after graduating from Carleton before pursuing her master’s in either material science or engineering.

JJ Locquiao
Biology
Next year, JJ will be joining a research team at the University of Minnesota Immunology Lab testing an HIV vaccine. JJ eventually plans to pursue a PhD in biology. He is thankful for the professors and staff and friends in TRIO who supported him at Carleton.

Alissa Morson
Geology
Following graduation, Alissa plans to spend lots of time with her family and gain professional experience in water management. She then plans to pursue a master’s degree in water management and policy. She is grateful for the doors Carleton opened to her, especially the opportunity to do so much hands-on learning and scientific research.

Molina Tang
Political Science
After graduation, Molina is hoping to work for Admission Possible. She plans to attend graduate school in political science and education.

Adonius Lewis
Economics
Doni will be teaching high school math in Oklahoma City with Teach for America next year. He aims eventually to help create policies that address educational inequities in the United States. His time at Carleton has been “character-building and rewarding,” and he believes the skills he gained here will help him excel in these pursuits.

Tenzin Nordan
Biology
This summer Tenzin will implement a Career Exploration Workshop for high school students and intern with the Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota. In September, she will join Admission Possible or the Peace Corps. She plans to become a doctor and work for an NGO.

Nimo Ali
Sociology/Anthropology
Next year Nimo will work for the City Year organization in Philadelphia. She is “looking forward to the challenges and triumphs to come as I enter a new chapter of my life.” For her, Carleton “has been educational—academically, emotionally, and socially, and for that I will always be grateful.”

We are very proud of you ☻
Recognizing Excellence: Mahal Burr

Mahal Burr, a TRIO Peer Leader since Fall of 2009, has involved herself in a truly astonishing number of activities in her time at Carleton, and this year she has received a number of awards that honor her impressive efforts to make the world a better place.

Mahal has been selected as one of three recipients of the 2011 Minnesota TRIO Scholarship for her outstanding commitment to TRIO and her work as a TRIO peer leader. Her success with numerous community service projects—ranging from working with Cannon Falls middle schoolers on letters to children in Iraq and Afghanistan to her leadership of the Alternative to Violence Program—led to her winning Carleton’s Diversity Achievement Award.

Her latest endeavor, creating a curriculum to reduce the incidence of child abuse in her hometown of Memphis, won her the Independent Research Fellowship, which will enable her to spend the summer implementing the curriculum and working to train a group of teenage mothers to become child advocates.

Mahal wants one day to advocate for the children of Memphis and hopes this summer she gains valuable experience that will move her closer to achieving that goal.

Dennis Ea — Service Internship in Uganda

As one of eight students to win a Service Internship in International Development, Dennis Ea will be traveling to Uganda this summer to help equip orphanages with medical supplies. Dennis will accompany a volunteer medical team from the University of Minnesota’s Medicine for Sick Children Foundation as they show directors of orphanages how to use the supplies. The team aims to improve children’s health with this low-tech, but high-impact approach. Dennis will assist in analyzing data to measure the effectiveness of the work the team does.

Dennis’s work in the Bone Marrow Transplant/Hematology/Oncology lab at the University of Minnesota caught the eye of one of the lab’s lead researchers, who asked him to join the team this summer. The Service Internship will fund Dennis’s travels and give him valuable experience in what he thinks might be a career in international pediatric care. Dennis looks forward to his trip as “an exciting, transformative introduction to international pediatric medicine.”
Larson Winner Hai Ngo to Photograph Vietnam

This summer, TRIO junior Hai Ngo will use his Larson fellowship to travel to Vietnam and explore Vietnamese culture through photography. Hai’s parents left Vietnam shortly before his birth, and he has traveled there only once, several years ago. A philosophy major, Hai uses photography as a vehicle for self-exploration in what he describes as “a delicate balance of asserting control and embracing the uncontrollable.” Using his camera, Hai will endeavor to better understand the culture of his homeland and its connections to himself and to share his explorations with others.

The Larson Fellowship was given to seven juniors to “provide a significant international experience for students with strong leadership potential.” An accomplished photographer who aspires to a career in fine arts photography, Hai plans to exhibit pictures of his time as a Larson Fellow at Carleton in the winter of 2012.

Congratulations, Hai, and have a wonderful summer photographing Vietnam!

Matthew Fink to Study Gaming Culture as Watson Fellow

TRIO senior Matt Fink is one of only 40 students nationwide to win the Watson Fellowship, which supports international independent exploration for the year following college graduation.

A political science major, Matt will travel to Sweden, Germany and South Korea to explore gaming culture. He particularly wants to investigate how “how technology is changing what it means to be competitive as a person with a disability.”

He will work on his project, “Disability, Technology and Pro-gaming in Europe and Asia,” for an entire year, during which time he will not be allowed to return to the United States. As part of his research, Matt will live and train with gaming teams and attend competitions.

Kudos, Matt for winning this prestigious fellowship!
TRIO Alumni Panel on Life After Carleton

At TRIO’s first Alumni Panel, eight recent TRIO graduates returned to tell current TRIO students about their pursuits after Carleton. Sulani Perera ’06 went directly into a PhD program in counseling psychology and discussed the choices she made in choosing her career track. Five alumni from the class of ’08—Rafael Estrella, Fue Thao, Margarita Herrera, Erica Martinez, and Monica Diaz—described the wide variety of things they have done since leaving Carleton: Rafael teaches art at an elementary school in Farmington, Fue is in law school, Margarita works as an educational counselor at a charter school, and Erica and Monica have recently returned to graduate school in public health and sociology, respectively. Chai Lee ’09 now works in the St. Paul Mayor’s office, and Savannah Steele ’09 has taught in a number of educational settings and is now at a charter school in Minneapolis.

In addition to describing their career paths thus far, panelists offered general advice to current students. Chai recommended that students who find themselves unemployed or underemployed volunteer at organizations related to their career aspirations. Erica urged students to take the GREs before they graduate, while they are still used to taking tests. Several participants suggested changing direction if a job turns out not to be fulfilling. All panelists agreed that Carls should take full advantage of the alumni network as well as the opportunities Carleton offers for internships and studying abroad.

Current students made the most of their time to ask questions about career and graduate school planning and to network with TRIO alumni. Alumni enjoyed sharing their hard-earned wisdom and getting to know current TRIO students. Thanks, alums, for coming back to visit and telling us your stories!

Yonas Hailu Named Mellon Mays Winner

TRIO sophomore Yonas Hailu has won the Mellon Mays Fellowship this year. As a Mellon Mays Fellow, Yonas will conduct independent research supported by a faculty member. Yonas’s project, “Evangelism and Western Culture,” examines the challenges western missionaries face doing ministry in non-western countries.

Mellon Mays Fellowships aim to increase the numbers of scholars of color in doctoral programs and in the professoriate of American higher educational institutions. Fellows work on research projects of their own design through their junior and senior years, and a term stipend often replaces work study. A summer stipend allows students to devote full summers to their work and travel to conduct research, and they receive up to $10,000 toward undergraduate loan repayment if they pursue a doctoral degree. Students may apply in the spring term of their sophomore and junior years.

Congratulations to Yonas on his achievement!
Annual Dinner and Theater Event: Ethiopian Food and Avenue Q

Dressed in ties and heels, 16 TRIO students enjoyed a night of cultural exploration in the Twin Cities this April. The first stop was The Red Sea, an Ethiopian restaurant. Most participants had not eaten Ethiopian food before and were delighted to try this delicious cuisine.

Likewise, Avenue Q was a new experience for most who attended. Avenue Q is a musical inspired by Sesame Street that tackles issues of racism, sexism, and classism. TRIO students, like the rest of the audience, greatly enjoyed the play’s whimsical approach to thought-provoking issues.

When the play ended, the entire group was buzzing about their favorite characters and songs. Everyone left the event full of delicious food, laughter and good memories.

Class Act: How Do Socio-economics Affect Your Experience?

Please join TRIO for our Spring term Class Act, a TRIO event developed to increase discussion about class issues on campus. This term’s discussion will look at how socio-economic status affects student experience at Carleton. We will begin with activities that ask participants to think about their own experiences and then have small group conversations to share how socioeconomic status affects our lives at Carleton and in Northfield. We hope the discussion helps us strategize about how we can make our campus more inclusive so people from a wide range of socioeconomic classes can feel comfortable here.

TRIO Giving Back: College Access Panel for High School Students

TRIO students at Carleton didn’t get here alone. They were encouraged by teachers, inspired by role-models, and guided by those who had been through the process and cared enough to reach out to them. Realizing this, TRIO, in collaboration with a college access program at Faribault High School, put on a panel for high school students about college access. Panelists Jamal Adam ’13, Mahal Burr ’12, Beserat Kelati ’12 and Nimo Ali ’11 discussed how to apply and how to pay, what college is like and why it’s worth going. The enthusiastic high school students asked about everything from dorm life to choosing classes, and Carleton students shared their combined wisdom and encouraged students to explore programs like TRIO.

Thanks to Our Volunteer Math Tutor, Steve Kennedy!

Math professor Steve Kennedy has been holding office hours at TRIO for the last three years, helping TRIO students with their statistics, calculus, and other math courses. Students appreciate the opportunity to get extra help from Steve in the comfort of the TRIO lounge, and they find Steve immensely helpful. Says one student: “He makes math interesting and works at your pace, which isn’t always the pace of the class!”

Thank you, Steve, for your commitment to helping TRIO students with math!
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**Please make sure that you return your books to TRIO house before leaving for summer break!**

**TRIO’s Lending Library will be open Saturday, June 4th and Sunday, June 5th from 12-4pm.**