

TRiO/SSS Gazette

SPRING 2012

Continuing Success: TRiO Class of 2012 Achieves 96% Graduation Rate

Carleton's TRiO/SSS program continues to maintain its strong record of high retention and graduation rates for our TRiO students, and this year's senior class cohort makes us extremely proud. Perhaps as high as or even exceeding the Carleton average for student retention and graduation, over 96% of TRiO students who entered in the fall of 2008 are still on campus and on track to graduate. In addition, our TRiO senior cohort includes students who have assumed various leadership roles around campus. Several of them are Mel-

lon Mays scholars, and 80% have traveled abroad through off-campus study!

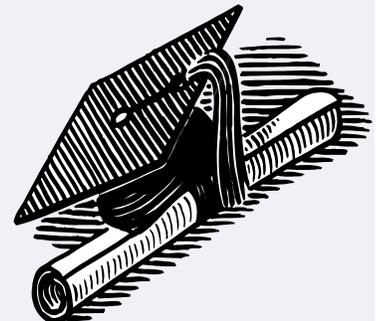
Our TRiO students are mostly low-income and the first generation to college, a group that makes up an extremely small percentage of Carleton's student body.

At a national level these students are least likely to enter and stay in college. We at TRiO are grateful to all the staff, faculty and administrators across campus who have worked hard to support our TRiO senior class over the years—you have helped our TRiO seniors succeed!

To honor and celebrate our amazing TRiO seniors

this year, we are featuring many of them in this newsletter and will host our annual TRiO Senior Recognition Luncheon event for them on Thursday, May 31st, 2012.

TRiO seniors, we are so proud of you and wish you the best in your future pursuits!



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Congratulations TRiO Class of 2012!



Mahal Burr
Political
Science

Mahal will be teaching high school math and history (and coaching soccer) in Memphis, TN as a member of Teach for America. She will miss her TRiO family and promises to visit!



Megan Braddock
Sociology/
Anthropology

Megan will be working with a youth organization in Minneapolis. She is excited to re-connect with family and friends and immerse herself in the Minneapolis social justice community. She is grateful to have met so many amazing people during her time at Carleton and is excited to see what the future holds for everyone.



Oumar Diallo
Sociology/
Anthropology

Oumar is deciding between a position at the Colorado I Have A Dream Foundation and jobs in healthcare. He plans to pursue a master's in public health.



Borr Vang
Psychology

Borr is waiting to hear if she will be a College Possible coach, math tutor, or after-school coordinator. She's certain she wants to work with school-age kids.



Beserat Kelati
Sociology/
Anthropology

After graduation, Bes will be working with the Schuler Scholar Foundation in Chicago helping under-resourced, high potential high school students.



Kayla Nygaard
Biology

Kayla will be spending the next two years in the Appalachia region of Eastern Kentucky in the Teach for America program. She may then pursue graduate school in biology, lab research, or something else entirely.



Kayla Kramer
Psychology

Kayla will be moving to Minneapolis to work as a product associate at Optum Health. She plans to spend time away from work with nieces and nephews, as well as running around lakes, reading books for fun, and planning adventures and vacations around the world.



Bao Vue
Asian
Studies

Bao will be teaching in China next year. She believes that Carleton helped her "to become the independent individual I am today."



Ray Nelson
Sociology/
Anthropology

For the next two years, Ray will be a paralegal in the Washington Lawyers' Committee in Washington, D.C. After that, he plans to attend either law school or graduate school. He hopes to continue traveling the world.



Hai Ngo
Philosophy

Hai will be assisting in two professional photography studios, while building his own portfolio. He plans to pursue an advanced degree in fine arts.



Puja Patel
Chemistry

Puja will be starting graduate school in optometry in Chicago this fall. She has been “honored to be part of TRiO because it has provided me with a great support group and allowed me to befriend some amazing people. I hope that I can remain active with TRiO in the future and help other students as TRiO has helped me!”



Tanya Bui
Psychology

Tanya graduated early to start work as a Corporate Recruiter at Epic, a health-care software company in Wisconsin. She “will always remember and appreciate the life lessons I have learned, the skills for success I have gained, and the amazing and bright people I have been so lucky to meet and get to know” at Carleton.



De'Angelo Williams
Political Science

De'Angelo will be seeking a job in urban development in the Twin Cities. He is thinking about pursuing a career in law or politics and will be exploring his options this summer by helping with 2012 state congressional campaigns.



Angela Kim
Biology

Angela will be teaching English in Korea or doing research at the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center.



Erin Jones
Mathematics

Erin will be working in Boston as a corporate financial analyst at EMC, a Fortune 500 company that focuses on data storage and recovery. Erin plans to work there for several years before pursuing an MBA.



Ally Shaw
Psychology

Ally will be in Israel for ten months on a fellowship teaching English and volunteering in the local community. Her long term goal is to pursue a Ph.D. in school psychology when she returns.



Isabel Rodriguez
Romance Languages and Literatures

Izzy will be working with the Schuler Program in Chicago for the next year. She has also been getting in touch with alums about translation opportunities and advice on opening up a restaurant, something that she hopes to accomplish one day.



Lor Vue
Psychology

After graduation, Lor will be taking a year off and working in the Twin Cities before going to the University of Minnesota for social psychology.



Three TRiO Sophomores Mellon Mays Winners

TRiO sophomores David Williams, Jennie Chu, and Tanwaporn Ohl have won the Mellon Mays Fellowship, which will support their independent research over the next two years.

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.

David's project, "Causal Determinism and its Impacts on Free Will," will examine the possibility of free will, particularly asking what socio-political as well as identity-based issues arise if freedom of choice proves impossible for human beings.

Jennie will research the chemical and petrographical

properties of the Columbia River Basalt Group in Oregon and Washington in order to better understand its origin and the earth's magmatic processes.

Taney's project will investigate the effects of media portrayals of beauty ideals on Thai women, particularly in regards to skin color. As part of her research, she will travel to Thailand to create a documentary on the subject.

Congratulations to David, Jennie, and Taney, on their achievement!



David Williams '13

Jennie Chu '13

Tanwaporn Ohl '13

Thank you to Steve Kennedy, Librarians, and Faculty Mentors!

Our TRiO program benefits from the generous support provided by staff and faculty from across Carleton's campus. This year, TRiO was delighted to have many supporters enrich our students' experiences here. Math professor Steve Kennedy continued to hold weekly office hours at TRiO and help students with their statistics, calculus, and other math courses. Additionally, Reference and Instruction Librarians Susan Hoang, Iris Jastram, Kristin Partlo, and Heather Tompkins have begun weekly hours at TRiO house to help TRiO students conduct research more efficiently.

Nearly two dozen faculty members have also signed up to participate in TRiO's growing Faculty Mentor program. Mentors meet with their students to discuss academic, career and personal issues in order to help students feel more confident in their connections to faculty.

Thank you Steve, Susan, Iris, Kristin, Heather, and all the faculty mentors for your commitment to helping TRiO students!



TriO Junior Megan Teplitsky Starts Social Networking Site for Health Care Professionals

In November 2011, I joined my sister, Bernice Teplitsky, and friend Franklin Drob, to create Inside Smiles, Chicago's first social network for the health and wellness community. The way we see it, three main obstacles exist for health care reform: myopia, negativity, and lack of affordability. Inside Smiles hopes to tackle all three issues.

Myopia: All too often, doctors prescribe their patients pills, powders, and injections in order to address the symptoms and not the problem. We host live and virtual networking events so doctors can get out of their offices and learn about other preventative health measures and providers. Instead of

merely treating the symptoms, doctors will be able to recommend nutritionists, personal trainers, life coaches, and others to ensure a complete health service.



Negativity: Negative emotions associated with dragging yourself to the gym or eating leafy greens are a major obstacle to getting healthy. By hosting live parties and events to spotlight the best provid-

ers, we make the journey to health fun and cool. When someone associates health care with something positive, they are more likely to achieve results.

Affordability: The health and wellness providers in our network are not purely profit-driven. All Inside Smiles providers offer discounts for Insiders Club members. For a small monthly fee, members can access a whole directory of positive alternative and traditional health care providers for a reduced rate.

We are currently putting the finishing touches on the website, insidesmiles.com, and expect to host a launch party in June. We hope to see you on the inside.

Kudos!

Congratulations to TRiO students who were recognized for their excellence this year!

Mahal Burr, who graduated in March, was awarded distinction on her comps in political science, which used community based participatory research to develop a child-abuse prevention program for teen mothers in her hometown of Memphis.

Oumar Diallo, a Sociology/Anthropology major, received distinction on his comps, "Les Jeunes Diabétiques de Bamako, Mali: An Examination of Self-conception and its Relationship to Social Change." Oumar interviewed diabetic youth in Mali to better understand their experience of diabetes and their potential to become agents of social change.

Junior **Allie Cardiel** has received a Patricia V. Damon Scholarship, awarded to students who exhibit a strong academic profile and accomplishment in extra-curricular activities. Recipients of this scholarship must be of high moral character, self-reliant, self-confident, and should display leadership ability.



Seniors Reflect on Four Years at Carleton...

Borr Vang

The past four years here at Carleton have been bittersweet, and even more so within these last few months. TRiO has definitely helped with making my time here a lot sweeter. To me, TRiO was always more than just the lending library or events with free food (although they are wonderful!). Through TRiO, I was introduced to an amazing community of people and experiences I would never have had otherwise, like having lunch with a professor or attending an opera. As I graduate, I will always remember having countless conversations at the TRiO house, the shared excitement of seeing horses and bonding at the sophomore retreat, drinking smoothies at Tropical Night, making a fool of myself playing Just Dance, and of course all the check-ins with Mitchell.

The people I've met and the opportunities available to me because of TRiO have greatly impacted my life at Carleton. The relationships I have built through TRiO have given me a sense of community and really helped me find my niche here on campus. To the staff and peer leaders (past and present), thank you for making the TRiO house so welcoming; to the juniors, sophomores, and freshmen, continue to work hard and utilize all the resources available to you and you will do great; and to the senior class, please remember me as you all become rich and famous.



Beserat Kelati

As I prepare to graduate, I can easily look back at the multiple experiences I have encountered and laugh. As I reminisce about my Carleton career, I often ask myself the same questions: "How did I get here? And what got me through?" Although I have read many books, written many papers and experienced many all-nighters, I feel it is more than just my determination that has gotten me through Carleton College.

Arriving at Carleton can be an intimidating process for anyone coming from a low-income neighborhood and school, and yet there was never a moment that I felt alone. I clearly remember my first week at Carleton and meeting my TRiO family. I was introduced to amazing individuals from different backgrounds and staff who were always motivating and encouraging me and to do better. Along with this wonderful support system, books from the Lending Library allowed me to successfully complete my courses. The TRiO program had me focused on my own success while providing me financial and social support.

Opportunity cost, "the basic relationship between scarcity and choice," is a huge factor for many students on campus. The TRiO program recognizes these issues and works with students to provide them the opportunity without the worry of other obligations. I therefore thank TRiO for everything. The mentorship, books, programming and support has literally made my experience at Carleton amazing and unforgettable.

Lor Vue

These past four years I have been glad and proud to be a TRiO student. TRiO was a big help in my adjustment to college life. My meetings with Mitchell have helped me deal with various challenges, ranging from roommate problems to deciding on a major. Without these meetings, I am sure that it would have been much more difficult for me to succeed at Carleton. What I really like about TRiO is the community. I enjoy being able to walk into the TRiO house and feel welcome. I also enjoy the company of TRiO people and the feeling of connection with them.





Dinner and the Opera: Madame Butterfly

An evening of fine dining and classical opera surprised and delighted the TRiO students who attended our annual Dinner and Opera event.

The evening started off at Forepaugh's Restaurant in Saint Paul, where seventeen students and three Carleton staff enjoyed a delectable five-course meal, along with plenty of good conversation and laughter.

The Ordway Theater was the next stop for the group, and the Minnesota Opera's *Madame Butterfly* kept students on the edge of their seats. Some students were familiar with the story, while the others kept their eyes glued to the actors and the subtitles, as the performance was in Italian.

The story of *Madame Butterfly* left some in tears, and others in shock. On the ride back to Northfield, students reflected on their social and cultural experience with their peers.

Mo Vue, a sophomore from Saint Paul, commented that "The opera and the nice restaurant were just as new to me as anyone else not from Saint Paul. I think the trip was a really great opportunity for me to experience the side of town that I would never have seen myself." Freshman LaSondra Kern said she was "definitely going to go to another opera if I ever get the chance again."



Pennies for Change: Camp Sol

This year's Pennies for Change donations will go to Camp Sol, a free, community-based day camp for underserved students in Faribault. The camp is run in collaboration with Growing Up Healthy and by Carleton and local high school students to bring science education, literacy skills and cultural celebration programming to 30-40 elementary students all summer long. Additionally, in return for their help as counselors, the high school students earn a small scholarship at the end of the summer and receive ongoing college access programming and support throughout the summer and into the school year.

Each year the TRiO/SSS program, in honor of TRiO's National Day of Service, sponsors a fundraiser to benefit those in need in our community. National TRiO Day is meant to focus the nation's "attention on the needs of disadvantaged young people and adults aspiring to improve their lives, to the necessary investment if they are to become contributing citizens of the country, and to the talent which will be wasted if that investment is not made."

Class Act: Class in the Classroom

Each term, TRiO sponsors a Class Act discussion to increase awareness about class issues on campus. At this term's Class Act, over fifty students, staff, and faculty members gathered to discuss how socioeconomic class affects the classroom learning environment. In both small and large group discussions, participants spoke candidly about their experiences in Carleton's classrooms. Students remarked about the often restrictive price of books and class supplies, and urged professors to put required readings on reserve at the library and outline any expected costs on the syllabus. Some students shared experiences of being discouraged by professors to explore an academic field due to lack of prior experience or comfort level with a subject. Many students felt that they are expected to know certain things when they enter Carleton, and if they don't, they often feel stigmatized for that disparity. As more than one student pointed out, these gaps in knowledge usually have nothing to do with intelligence, but are rather markers of a lack of prior access to course content. Carleton is full of tremendously bright students from many different class backgrounds, and as a community, Class Act participants urged, we need to encourage everyone to succeed and acknowledge the diverse strengths that everyone brings to the table.



May/June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 May	2	3 Faculty Mentor Luncheon	4 Class Act 4:30-6pm	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Financial Literacy workshop 12-2pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 TRiO Potluck 5-7pm	26
27	28	29	30	31 Senior Recognition Reception, 11:30-1 AGH	1 June	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Commencement 

Please be sure to return your books to TRIO house before leaving for summer break!

