A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As another year comes to a close and we prepare to say goodbye to our 31 seniors, I find myself reflecting upon the 2016-2017 school year as a whole. In addition to continuing to support our students both in and out of the classroom, TRIO also partnered with a number of departments across campus in an effort to establish or reestablish relationships. Departments and offices we worked with this year include the Dean of Students Office, Career Center, Economics, Ed Studies, Math, Office of Health Promotion, Residential Life, Office of Intercultural and International Life and many more. TRIO will continue to build relationships across campus and beyond with our students' success in mind.

While I look forward to the possibilities of the coming year, I also say congratulations to our graduating seniors! We loved celebrating your accomplishments at TRIO’s Senior & Faculty Luncheon with many of the influential faculty and staff who have touched your lives these last four years. It has been a long road but hopefully one that you can look back upon and smile about. We look forward to seeing what the future has in store for each of you.

Trey Williams

Upcoming Events

♦ Comfort Food Friday: May 12, 2017
♦ TRIO End of Year Picnic: June 1, 2017
♦ Senior Open House: June 9, 2017
♦ Annual Alumni Reception: June 15, 2017
Class Act and ASD

On April 21st, TRIO and OIIL held a combined event of Class Act and Accepted Students Dinner. This term’s Class Act focused on the intersections between socioeconomic status and cultural diversity. Class Act started the evening with a trivia game to provide an interactive activity that gets everyone on the same page about facts pertaining to socioeconomic status and cultural identities at Carleton, and at large. The game was followed by stories that were either submitted from current Carls or TRIO peer leaders for the discussion portion of Class Act. Then, OIIL opened their event with a picture-based activity to show how our identities make our interpretations of the pictures different. The joint event culminated with a delicious BBQ dinner.

Canoeing Down the Cannon River

On the sunny day of April 22nd, a few TRIO peer leaders and CANOE (Carleton’s Association of Outdoor Enthusiasts) board members led the Canoeing Down the Cannon River trip. This trip was led to give underclassmen in TRIO a chance to go on an adventure with some of their peers and to entice a more diverse audience to attend CANOE events. Was this trip fun though? If seeing three bald eagles, racing down the river, and seeing Kha’s boat do a few 360 degree spins is fun, then yes! This trip was super fun!! If you’re interested in going on outdoor adventures like this, stay tuned for events like this next year and check out the CANOE meetings.

Spring Things To Do in Northfield

1. **Weeknight bike ride/stroll with a friend to Culver’s.**
2. **Hit up Northfield’s state-of-the-art YMCA and burn off those cheese curds.**
3. **Unleash your inner kid and take a break from college life at Central Park.**
4. **Volunteer with the CCCE at one of Northfield’s schools.**
5. **Watch the sunset from the Cannon River waterfront downtown.**
Shelby Jones, 2019
Disney College Program
The Disney College Program has honestly been an amazing experience for me. In terms of the day-to-day experience, I work in merchandise at Epcot and in many different locations throughout that park. Examples of locations I've been placed are the stroller section, pin central and a variety of gift stores. The main aspect of my job is guest interaction: I have to make sure every guest leaves satisfied with their visit.

Since winter term, I've actually moved up in my job. This specialized role means I get to train other cast members who come into our area. So now I can say that my program is now going to extend into the summer-- I could have ended in May, but I love it so much here that I am staying until August! I am really excited for this opportunity, as I've already made amazing friends and love my job here!

Elissa Koele, 2017
National Institute of Health
Well, after failing to get in to any of the 9 grad schools I applied for (yup, 9, it's okay to fail, they just know you want it bad enough if you apply again!) I began looking for gap year options. I wasn't sure where I wanted to be or if I wanted to do research or clinical work so I applied for anything I saw that seemed to even remotely interest me, and one of those things was the NIH.

The most important thing that I hope to take away from the NIH is whether or not research is even what I want to do, or if I really do want to pursue a clinical route. I've realized in the past year that we are so young, and there is so much unnecessary pressure to have to know what you're going to do with your life after college, but its not true, take your time. Life's too short to spend it doing something you're not sure you love. I also hope to gain many research skills and of course learn a bunch about the visual system and face cells!

Kayla Toney, 2017
Urban League of Nebraska
I just finished up my comps and I am excited to have a job after Carleton!

My comps consisted of two books: one for my grandmother and one for my baby cousin. I looked at the the idea of connecting myself to a family member I never met, and one family member I talk to most of the time.

I will be working at the Urban League of Nebraska in August. I will be working with the Marketing and Development team and I will be helping Omaha youth with their education goals!

Ahmed Abdirahman, 2019
Budapest Semester in Cognitive Science
This upcoming fall I plan on attending the Budapest Semester in Cognitive Science. I'm excited to study in Budapest because, first off, being in Hungary will be amazing (so many unique local cafes and places to try new cuisine!) and secondly, I'll be in a program that is specifically dedicated to my field of study. At the moment, I'm more experienced in Cognitive Psychology and some User Experience research. I want to expand my understanding of concepts in Human-Computer Interaction and on the flipside Neuroscience/Philosophy of the mind. Cognitive Science is interdisciplinary and encompasses many sub-fields, so I hope to hone in on more specific interests within CogSci and potentially come up with cool comps ideas by the end of the program.
When I first got here, I was a little nervous because I had never taken an art history class before. However, I’ve grown to love my History of Gardens and Landscape Architecture class! In class, we learn about how Japanese history has influenced garden design. Each week, we visit a new garden, which are often located in famous temples and shrines. I love travelling to new places and writing about beautiful gardens!

On April 21, 2017 we woke up at 4:00AM in the small tourist hub of a town Aguas Calientes to go to Machu Picchu. Let me be clear that when I say “woke up” I’m exaggerating a bit. In reality, that morning most of us were less like eager college students on a Carleton study abroad program and more like the cast of The Walking Dead. The humans or the zombies, take your pick. I remember waiting in a line to get on the bus: totally exhausted and covered from head to toe in insect repellent. I remember arriving at Machu Picchu -- 8000 feet over sea level -- only to have our guide Roland inform us that we’d be making the almost 2000 foot climb up a neighboring mountain: Huayna Picchu. According to him, only there would we get the most “panoramic view of Machu Picchu” available. As we scaled Huayna Picchu, I remember fantasizing about the circumstances of my untimely death at least a couple of dozen times. “Fell off the side of a mountain in Peru,” my gravestone would read. Well, at least it was a memorable way to go!

Our climb was marked by having to hug the ropes that snaked the trail for half of the hike, and having to climb steps like a monkey the other half of the way up. It was 9:00 AM when the fog cleared and Machu Picchu appeared in the distance. By 9:05 AM everybody in our group had started taking pictures. By 9:15 AM we’d reached the peak of Huayna Picchu. By 9:20 AM we’d become conscious of the fact that we’d just climbed a freaking mountain! As we stood up there for the next hour enjoying the view, I could not help but be astounded at how right Roland had got it.
Financial Literacy

All about Student Loans (Just kidding—this is just a brief overview!)

Did you know the average 2016 college graduate left school with $37,172 in student loan debt.[1] According to Student Financial Services, Carleton seniors graduating in 2016 had an average debt of about $22,641 for those taking student loans. Read up on some of the types of loans offered to make more informed borrowing decisions.

Subsidized vs. Unsubsidized[2]

Subsidized loans are available to students with financial need (with some time limits). Loan amounts cannot exceed your financial need. One big perk? The U.S. Department of Education pays your interest

- while you’re in school at least half-time,
- for the first six months after you leave school (referred to as a grace period), and
- during a period of deferment (a postponement of loan payments).

Unsubsidized loans are available for all students with dollar amounts determined by Carleton. You are responsible for paying interest. If you don’t pay the interest while in school, you’ll owe more on your loans because the interest amount is added to your loan and you’ll pay interest on the new total.

Federal vs. Private[3]

Federal loans are funded by the government and tend to be more affordable and flexible. Private loans can be funded by banks, credit unions, or even the college. Although you should always research the terms of the loan before you sign any agreements, this table (adapted from studentaid.ed.gov) can help you navigate potential differences between federal and private loans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federal Student Loans</th>
<th>Private Student Loans</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Repayment starts when you graduate, leave school, or change your enrollment status to less than half-time.</td>
<td>May need to repay while you are still in school.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The interest rate is fixed and often lower than private loans—and much lower than some credit card interest rates. View the current interest rates on federal student loans.</td>
<td>Private student loans can have variable interest rates, some greater than 18%. A variable rate may substantially increase the total amount you repay.</td>
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<tr>
<td>There is no prepayment penalty fee.</td>
<td>There may be prepayment penalty fees.</td>
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<tr>
<td>For subsidized loans, the government pays the interest while you are in school.</td>
<td>Private student loans are not subsidized. No one pays the interest on your loan but you.</td>
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<tr>
<td>You may be able to temporarily postpone or lower your payments if experiencing financial hardship or pursuing another degree.</td>
<td>Private student loans may not offer forbearance or deferment options.</td>
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<tr>
<td>There are several repayment plans, including an option to tie your monthly payment to your income.</td>
<td>Your repayment plan depends on your lender.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You may be eligible to have some portion of your loans forgiven if you work in public service. Learn about our loan forgiveness programs.</td>
<td>It is unlikely that your lender will offer a loan forgiveness program.</td>
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[1] https://www.debt.org/students/
Senior/Faculty Reception

On April 27, 2017, TRIO seniors joined TRIO for their annual Senior & Faculty Luncheon with a faculty or staff of their choosing. Students and their respective faculty/staff members were able to catch up and talk about plans or goals after Carleton while eating food catered from Maria’s Catering and Taco Hut. Additionally, Joshua Kwan and Susie Perez presented the attendees with a wonderful speech about their time at Carleton and the journey they have undergone. With a room full of laughter and great company, the luncheon was able to celebrate the achievements of all the seniors and thanked the faculty/staff that helped make the 4+ years at Carleton an easier transition. A special thanks goes out to Trey Williams, Melanie Cashin, Kathy Sommers, and Kristin O’Connell for planning and hosting a successful event!

Thank Yous

TRIO would like to thank all of those who made this year a great one. To our TRIO Peer Leaders, Lisa Cheung, Lisa Au, Paulina Hoong, Sabrina Velasco, Miguel Rincon Cervantes, and Kha Huynh: You are AMAZING and we owe you so much!

To the many partners who assisted with our workshops, Class Act, and other events, we thank you for your commitment to TRIO and the success of our students. Shout out to the Career Center, especially Abby Trout and Gabe Barela; the Reference Librarian team, including Claudia Peterson and Danya Leebaw; Marynel Ryan Van Zee; Drew and the SHAC team; the Office of Health Promotion; OIIL; SAO; Econ, Ed Studies, and Math faculty; the Academic Support Center; Carol Rutz; Kris Parker and the Student Financial Services team; Remi Abrams-Fuller, Brian Swann and Admissions; the Dean of Students Office, especially Joe Baggot; and TRIO’s alumni network.