This fall we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the TRiO/Student Support Services (SSS) program at Carleton College. Begun in 1981, our TRiO program has been located in various places on campus and has been managed by many different staff. Continuously grant-funded through the US Department of Education, Carleton’s TRiO/SSS program has remained one of the smallest in the nation, serving fewer than 100 students for many years. In recent years, our TRiO program has grown to support over 120 participants, with retention and graduation rates at or very near the Carleton average of over 90 percent.

The success of our TRiO program and participants can certainly be attributed to a diverse array of support people that include staff, faculty, students, and administrators who believe in supporting low-income and first-generation students, and students with disabilities. To express thanks to all of the people who have supported our program and to celebrate our 30 years at Carleton, TRiO staff hosted a 30th anniversary celebration event on Friday, September 6th. More than 130 students, faculty, staff, and alumni attended to help us celebrate. We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to the numerous people who have given their time and energy to help the TRiO program succeed over the years!

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**Introducing Alena Rivera**

We are delighted to welcome Alena Rivera as our new Assistant Director of TRiO/Student Support Services.

Originally from Marshall, MN, Alena is no stranger to TRiO/SSS; she says she found her true passion for working one-on-one with students through her position as the Assistant to the Director of Student Support Services at Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU) in Marshall.

Alena earned her BA in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Spanish, as well as her MS in Education with an emphasis on Teaching, Learning, and Leadership from SMSU. A former TRiO student herself, Alena says she is familiar with the challenges students from underrepresented backgrounds face in higher education, and she is dedicated to helping students succeed throughout their college experience.

Since joining the Carleton TRiO staff, Alena has already brightened up TRiO house with her enthusiasm and sense of humor. Alena notes that her favorite part of her Carleton experience thus far has been meeting the students. “I love that I get to work with students from all over the world,” she says, “and I love learning from all of them!”

Outside of work, Alena is also a talented DJ, a great cook, and a fan of dancing. Most important to her, however, Alena is the proud mother of two amazing daughters, 12-year-old Arianna and 2-year-old Jazlyn.

Alena looks forward to making lasting connections with TRiO students. She and Mitchell Madson, the current Director of TRiO, are brainstorming new ways to reach out to students and connect them to resources and to each other.
TRiO/SSS GAZETTE

TRiO Favorite Faculty Lunch

It is an often repeated piece of advice that students at Carleton should actively engage with their professors. TRiO aims to help students accomplish this with its annual Favorite Faculty Luncheon. TRiO sophomores are encouraged to invite a professor who has made an impact on them during their time here at Carleton.

Carleton students’ appreciation for their professors was evident: the house was packed full of faculty and their admiring students. Students and faculty alike enjoyed the chance to discuss academic and other shared interests.

Students and professors spoke about topics such as classes, research, and how they spent their summers. Faculty had the opportunity to enjoy TRiO house and learn more about the TRiO program. Thanks to all the faculty who attended!

Class Act: How We Prioritize Spending at Carleton

In financial times as tough as these, fiscal responsibility is an issue that comes to the fore of many discussions. As the college considers its developing strategic plan, TRiO invites the campus community to join in a discussion about spending priorities at this term’s Class Act.

Staff from different offices have been invited to speak about budget, admissions, financial aid, and building projects. Our discussion will consider how Carleton has spent funds in the past and how money is being spent currently. Following some information sharing, you will be given the opportunity to discuss how you feel Carleton ought to be spending its money. Should Carleton continue current spending patterns or should it focus on other areas? Should more scholarships be awarded? Come help answer these and other questions at TRiO’s Class Act on Friday, October 14th from 4:30-6:00. Dinner will be provided.

TRiO’s New Peer Mentoring Program

With the beginning of the new school year, TRiO/SSS welcomed 31 new students, who we hope to provide with the support they need to excel at Carleton. This year, with the help of TRiO Peer Leaders, we have created the TRiO Mentorship Program, which matches first-year students with volunteers from the TRiO sophomore, junior, and senior classes. One of our aims is to bridge the social gap between upperclass students and the first-years in TRiO, since often there are not many opportunities for them to interact. Another benefit is the support first-years can receive from their mentors.

One of the many events planned for this year was a game night in which mentors and mentees teamed up against other pairs. If a mentor/mentee pair won a game, then they both earned points toward winning a gift certificate for dinner at Chapati. Stay tuned for more fun events for mentors and mentees, who are also encouraged to meet up on their own to foster a stronger connection.

We are looking forward to seeing how the program works out over the next year. It’s important to help first-year students transition into Carleton, and we hope that this program makes that transition easier.
Introducing Our Peer Leaders!

"Hello! My name is Meg Braddock and I am a senior sociology/anthropology major with a double concentration in Education and Women’s and Gender Studies. I love cooking, hiking, and spending time with friends and family. I am happy to be back as a peer leader this year and I am so excited to get to know everyone in TRiO!"

Hi! My name is Michael Massad, and I'm a sophomore from Austin, TX. Among many other things, I love watching and playing sports, eating food and having a good time with friends. This is my first year as a TRiO Peer Leader and I'm excited for an awesome year!

Hey there! I’m Ray Nelson and I’m a senior sociology/anthropology major with a Latin American Studies concentration from Cleveland, Ohio. It’s great to be working with TRiO students again this year! In my free time, I love to dance to hip-hop and salsa music. I also enjoy meeting new people and eating. My advice for freshmen is to write down your goals for the year. It’s the first step to making your goals and dreams a reality. Also make sure you take study breaks!

Hey Peeps! I’m Mahal Burr. I’m a senior political science major, but my heart is in education. I love eating good food, playing anything, hanging with friends, having a good time and doing work I am proud of. This is my third (and last) year as a TRiO peer leader. I’m really happy to be back and I can’t wait to get to know everyone!

Hey everyone, I'm Angel Solis from Las Vegas! I'm probably going to be a biology major and I love music (especially playing music). I look forward to interacting with all the members of TRiO in some way. Say hi if you see me!
### October/November

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**Happy Winter Break!**

Please make sure that you return your books to TRiO house before leaving for winter break!

TRiO’s Lending Library will be open Saturday, November 19th and Sunday, November 20th from 12-4pm.