



TRiO/SSS Tribune

Fall 2013

Volume 2 , Issue 1

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Letter from the Director

by Aly Olson

I am delighted to welcome new students and welcome back continuing students to Augsburg College and TRiO/SSS for the 2013-14 academic year! I hope you all had a nice, boring summer that left you so well-rested that you just craved doing some research for a paper or digging into a nice problem set. If so, you're in luck. Check the syllabi for all your courses, there are sure to be some fat, juicy assignments just waiting to be tackled.

And if tackling assignments or trying to find time for Everything I Have to Do seems like a scary prospect, come see your TRiO/SSS advisor to create a plan for a successful year, including requesting any tutoring. It's a good idea to meet with your TRiO Advisor early in the fall for this kind of check in, and to then follow up with meetings at least once a month.

Many of you will notice in Records and Registration that your TRiO Advisor is your assigned staff advisor-- here to assist you with all manner of academic course selection, academic counseling, financial literacy and the whole Business of College gamut of needs. One of the advantages of participating in TRiO/SSS is that you have easy access to your TRiO Advisor and that he or she gets to know you well.

In a few weeks, all first year students at Augsburg will be contacted to set up a First Year Advising Check-In to make sure you are settled in for fall semester and ready to start planning for spring semester. Since most first year TRiO students will have already met with their TRiO Advisor by the time you get this notice, the First Year Advising Check In is a great topic for your second TRiO advising meeting, probably in October.

Sophomores, juniors and seniors, you know the drill: check ins with your TRiO Advisor are important to make sure you make timely decisions about current courses, academic skill development or tutoring, your major and degree planning, college debt management, and post-college planning. Current seniors will be contacted about Graduation Advising during the academic year: an excellent way to assure your plans for degree and college completion are on track and good to go.

See you soon!

Aly O

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Message from Melody: Make a Plan to Graduate in Four Years

by Melody M. Geiger, Academic Advisor

It is no secret that the cost of not graduating in four years is increasing every year, but the percentage of students entering four year degree programs who graduate on time is decreasing. TRiO/Student Support Services exists to help students stay in college and graduate on time. One way that TRiO/SSS advisors do this is by working with individual students to complete a Long Term Academic Plan (LTP). Have you worked with your advisor to begin working on this? Even if you are a freshman, you should be planning for your four year completion.

So you may be asking "Why is this so important? It isn't rocket science. I made it into college. I can look at a checklist and register for classes."

Well, there are many things to consider when planning your classes and your TRiO/SSS advisor is trained to assist with this

Your advisor will take the time to help coordinate the Augsburg Core Curriculum requirements with your major /minor requirements. We will make sure you are aware of any necessary prerequisites for future courses and plan for study abroad and internship opportunities. Oh, and did you know that some classes are only offered every other year? We work closely with the Augsburg Advising office to make sure you have the information you need to plan well.

Time is money. A student that extends college by just a year at a

private college like Augsburg will pay an additional year's tuition, fees, books, and room and board (currently about \$43,000 but will likely increase over the next four years and vary with different housing, meal and book costs) and will also lose potential earnings that he/she could be making in an entry level job in the field of interest. For this example, I will use \$30,000, a lower level entry salary in today's market. By taking one extra year to graduate, this example shows a cost of \$73,000!

Come to our October workshop to learn more about this and to get started on your LTP. Also, schedule an individual appointment with your TRiO advisor. Even if you have a plan, it should be updated regularly.

FALL 2013 Workshop Schedule and Other Events!

Join fellow TRiO/SSS Auggies at one of the various workshops offered throughout the year. Every month, we will explore a new topic related to your academic, financial, personal and career goals. We will hold two sessions for each workshop unless otherwise noted. TRiO students should attend at least two workshops per semester. Sign up at the TRiO/SSS Office!

SEPTEMBER

Gilman Intl. Scholarship for Study Abroad*

September 17, 2013

3:30 – 4:30 pm

Location: Riverside Room

*Co-sponsored by Augsburg Abroad and TRiO/SSS

Scholarship & Leadership Opportunities

September 24, 2013

3:45 – 4:45 pm

Location: Lindell 202

September 27, 2013

12:30 – 1:30 pm

Location: Lindell 301 – bring your lunch!

OCTOBER

Long Term Planning: The Key to Your Graduation

October 15, 2013

3:45 – 4:45 pm

Location: Lindell 202

October 18, 2013

12:30 – 1:30 pm

Location: Cedar Room-bring your lunch!

Strommen Center

Career and Internship Services

Learn about upcoming job fairs, employers visiting campus, internship opportunities and more at

<http://www.augsburg.edu/strommen/>

NOVEMBER

Choosing a Major: Help Me Decide!*

November 7, 2013

3:45 – 4:45 pm

Location: Strommen Center

November 8, 2013

12:30 – 1:30 pm

Location: Cedar Room-bring your lunch!

*Co-sponsored by the Strommen Center for Meaningful Work and TRiO/SSS

DECEMBER

End of the Semester Celebration

December 13, 2013

2:00 – 4:00 pm

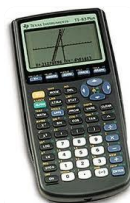
Location: TRiO/SSS Office, Lindell 201

Check Out Equipment from TRiO/SSS

Each semester, our office has equipment available for check-out, including:

- **Laptops**
- **Graphing calculators**
- **Smartpens**

As advertised in the weekly e-mail update, these items are available on a first-come, first-serve basis to currently-enrolled active TRiO/SSS students only.



While laptops may be borrowed month-to-month, calculators and Smartpens can be checked out for the entire semester. Equipment goes fast!

REMINDER

Laptops are due Thursday, October 3 by 3 pm, and will be available for check-out again on Tuesday, October 8 at 8 am.



Three Little Words...So Much Angst

by Kevin Cheatham, Assistant Director

Hello and welcome back to the start of another year! If you are new to the College we hope you are ready to work hard and are up to the challenges and new experiences that Augsburg and TRiO/SSS have to offer. And if you are not so new, we hope that you will continue to do the great things that have kept you moving toward college graduation.

"What's your major?" is one question that is heard frequently this time of year. For juniors and seniors, we hope that (by now!) you can confidently answer this question. You may even extend your answer with your post-graduation plans—or not. But for first-year students and even some sophomores this question may not be so easily answered. You may have started the school year thinking, "My major is biology" until you took that first or second biology class and

realized, "Yeah, definitely *not* biology." You thought that you would make a great elementary education teacher until you realized, "Um, I don't really like being around little kids that much." Well, now what? How do you now answer that question, especially when your parents or other loved ones have had their hearts set on you being the next (fill-in-the-blank) in the family? Bet you didn't realize that such a seemingly innocent little question could cause you so much grief. Welcome to college and adulthood!

Keep in mind that it's perfectly fine and normal to be undecided about some of your academic and life plans right now. I certainly did not have a clue how things would play out when I was 18. If you had told me then that I would be working with students I probably would have rolled my eyes and called you some unpleasant

name. And if I had a \$1.00 for every time a student with whom I work has changed his or her major I would have a lot of dollars!.

However, you do have to put on the big kid britches and make decisions at some point. And how does your major factor in to what potential employers look for in job applicants? Does it even matter what major I choose? What other skills or things should you consider as you work toward your diploma?

These are all good questions and ones that your TRiO/SSS advisor will gladly help you manage. These are questions that our friends Keith, Maggie, Ana, and Sandy at the Strommen Center also address with students on a regular basis. Keep an eye out for workshops offered by both our departments this year to help you get prepared for your current and post-Augsburg life.

Congratulations 2013 TRiO/SSS Graduates!

TRiO/SSS Fast Facts

Mary Godi

2013 Commencement speaker and
TRiO/SSS graduate

91.1%

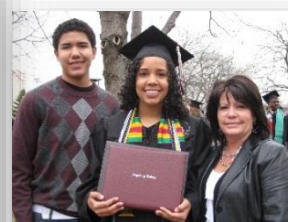
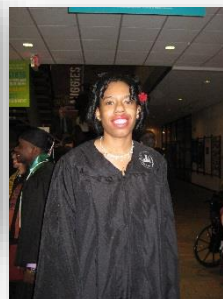
The retention rate of TRiO/SSS
students at Augsburg College
from 2010-2011 to 2011-2012

39

2013 Commencement speaker and
TRiO/SSS graduate

80%

The percentage of TRiO/SSS students
who graduated in 2013 in 4 years





Meet the 2013 Summer Bridge Class

Augsburg TRiO/SSS allows **25 admitted first-year students** to get a head start on their Augsburg education. During this **five-week residential program** students take **two college courses for credit** and attend **academic support seminars, workshops and other activities** to help provide for **a smooth transition to Augsburg in the fall**. Summer Bridge participants will also participate in the academic year component of TRiO/SSS while enrolled at Augsburg.

TRiO/Student Support Services Staff

Aly Olson – Director

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Kevin Cheatham – Assistant Director

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Melody M. Geiger – Academic Advisor

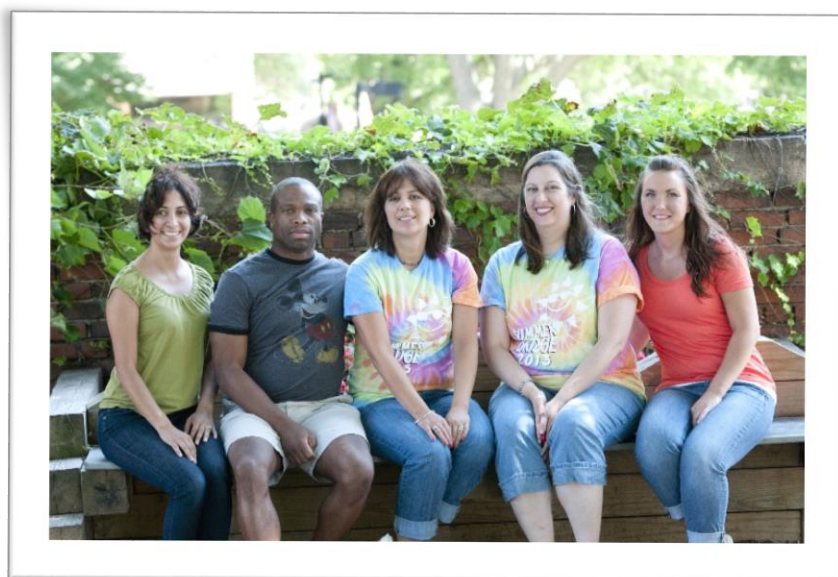
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Kim Bestler – Administrative Assistant

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From left: Dulce, Kevin, Melody, Aly O and Kim

Student Workers at The Front Desk

Hassan Sankoh '15 TRiO/SSS

Brad Marcy '15 TRiO/SSS

Ashley Olson '15 TRiO/ASO

Bao Xiong '16 TRiO/ASO

Mai Choo Yang '15



STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The Student Support Services (SSS) program is one of the three TRiO programs originally funded under the Higher Education Act of 1965. SSS helps students overcome class, social, and cultural barriers to complete their college education.

Augsburg TRiO/SSS started in 2001 and is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and Augsburg College. The Minnesota Department of Education Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides additional funding for Summer Bridge. Augsburg TRiO/SSS annually provides individual and group services to 160 students.

All Augsburg TRiO/SSS services are provided at no cost to program participants. Students participate in TRiO/SSS throughout their enrollment at Augsburg College.

Augsburg TRiO/SSS also selects 25 incoming first-year, TRiO-eligible students to participate in its Summer Bridge component.

Augsburg College **TRiO/Student Support Services**

Gage Center for Student Success, Lindell 201

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Campus Box 47

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<http://www.augsburg.edu/trioss>