

# TRIO/SSS TRIBUNE

Fall 2019

Volume 8, Issue 1

## Welcome Seth Rueter to the TRIO/SSS Team!

This summer TRIO Student Support Services welcomed a new Advisor to our team. Seth Rueter joins us from his previous position as a Residence Hall Director for Mortensen Hall at Augsburg. Seth brings a wealth of knowledge working with Augsburg students and TRIO student populations. We are very excited to have him join our team! We asked Seth some questions so TRIO/SSS students and staff can get to know him better.

### *What is your educational and career background?*

I attended the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire for my undergraduate degree (where I was a TRIO student!) and graduated with a B.A. in Criminal Justice and Psychology. The original goal was to become a Forensic Psychologist - in fact, I sent all my test scores and applications out to schools already before I realized the thought of attending more school right after I graduated sounded terrible! So, I decided to take a gap year where I worked for College Possible. That gap year turned into two because I realized that I was really passionate about combating educational inequity. This led me to pursue a Master's degree in Higher Education in Student Affairs at Iowa State University with a certificate in Social Justice for Education. While getting my degree I worked two years in the Financial Aid Office as a graduate assistant, The Academic Success Center as an Academic Skills Coach, and also did an internship at Brown University in Providence, Rhode

Island. After completing my Master's I took a job as the Mortensen Residence Hall Director at Augsburg University. After two years in the housing realm, I was lucky enough to find myself in this new TRIO/SSS Advisor role at Augsburg!



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### *What attracted you to the TRIO/SSS Academic Advisor position?*

I got into higher education because I wanted to do my part in helping eliminate educational inequity and I feel like this is a direct action role helping folks who are historically underrepresented on college campuses to be successful. Also, I knew that I wanted to work more as an advisor. My favorite part of my previous positions was getting to know students on a personal level and helping them navigate roadblocks to their success - whether that be personal, institutional, or interpersonal. There were so many things I didn't know about college as a first generation, low-income student. This position is a great way

for me to give back and continue helping students who might run into many of the same barriers I ran into. *Continued on page 2.*

***What were your first impressions of Augsburg's TRIO/SSS Program?***

My first interaction with TRIO/SSS was Summer Bridge (since it was housed in Mortensen) and I remember thinking - Dang, I wish I had something like this when I was starting college - college credit and jump start to learning campus! And then when I started working with TRIO and found out there was a scholarship attached, I again thought - DANG! I wish I had something like this when I was starting college!

***You completed your first Summer Bridge Program as a TRIO/SSS Advisor and REL 100 SI Instructor, how did that experience go?***

It was a whirlwind! I was a strange mix of confidence and nervous-wreck. I think I was worried, as a new advisor and SI Instructor, that I was going to tank all of these student's grades - even though I was confident in my abilities. It was definitely that, "what if" kind of scenario, you know? Overall, I had a blast with the Summer Bridge students and they always kept me on my toes. It was also fun to be in the classroom as a student again, taking the REL 100 course with them, since it's been a decade (yikes) since I took my first Religions course in college.

***What are some goals that you have as a TRIO/SSS Advisor for fall semester?***

A professional goal I have for myself is to learn more about the best practices for advising within our field - whether that be through professional conferences or learning from peer advisors. Another goal I have is to let go of some of my perfectionist tendencies and be patient with myself - since I've been at Augsburg for 2 years now, I feel like I should have all the answers, but I'm in a completely different division now. So I think giving myself the grace to not know things is going to be important to my mental and professional health. Don't worry advisees, if I don't know the answer to something, I will definitely use my resources and find out the right answer for you.

***What are some things you are looking forward to in this position?***

I'm looking forward to getting to meet new students and get to know students I've worked with before in a new context!

***Is there anything you are nervous or anxious about as a TRIO/SSS Advisor?***

I think it's every advisor's worry - misadvising someone. But, I have fabulous colleagues here that are willing to help me navigate my first year as an Academic Advisor.

***If you didn't have to work, what would you be doing?***

This is super cliché, but probably traveling around the U.S. and world. We didn't really have the money to travel when I was younger (like, I had been to 3 states outside of Wisconsin - and two were neighboring - until I was 19. That's how little we traveled). Since then, I've gotten to see a lot more of the U.S, but there are so many different countries I'd love to visit. Top 3 places I'd like to visit right now are Portland, Oregon, England (to watch Serena Williams win Wimbledon, obviously), and Japan.

***What do you enjoy doing in your free time?***

I'm a pretty big gamer - I enjoy playing board games and video games. When I'm not playing games with friends, I enjoy playing or watching tennis and volleyball. Otherwise you can find me watching a good show on Netflix or Hulu. Oh! I also really enjoy true crime podcasts - remember, I was going to be a forensic psychologist.

***Anything else you would like to share?***

I feel like I've rambled enough, but I will share that I have a dog named Chewbacca and a cat named Theodore. They're really cute. Also, fall is my favorite season because the fashion, the temperature, and pumpkin spice lattes.

# TRIO/SSS Fall 2019 Workshop Schedule

## September

### *Welcome Back Open House*

Friday, Sept. 13  
1:00 pm-3:00 pm  
Location: TRIO/SSS Office

### *Thrifty Traveler*

Tuesday, Sept. 17  
3:45 pm- 4:45 pm  
Wednesday Sept. 18  
4:30 pm-5:30 pm  
Location: OGC 100

### *Boss Up & Change Your Life*

Tuesday, Sept. 24  
3:45 pm-4:45 pm  
Location: Riverside Room

## October

### *Kondo You Harmful Learning Habits*

Wednesday, Oct. 2  
3:15 pm-4:15 pm  
Location: OGC 100  
Thursday, Oct. 3  
3:45 pm-4:45 pm  
Location: LIN 301

### *2nd Year RRR! Renew, Review, Refresh*

Tuesday, Oct. 15  
3:45 pm-5:00 pm  
Location: OGC 100  
Wednesday, Oct. 16  
3:15pm- 4:30 pm  
Location: Riverside Room  
Thursday, Oct. 17  
8:00 am-9:15 am  
Location: OGC 100

### *Don't Just Survive College, Thrive!*

Wednesday, Oct. 23  
3:15 pm-4:15 pm  
Location: Center for Wellness & Counseling

## November

### *Internship Palooza*

Tuesday, Nov. 5  
4:00 pm-6:00 pm  
Hagfors 150B

## December

### *End of Semester Celebration*

Friday, Dec. 13  
1:00 pm-3:00 pm  
Location: TRIO/SSS Office

To sign up for workshops; you can stop by the TRIO/SSS office, email us at [triosss@augsborg.edu](mailto:triosss@augsborg.edu), call our office @ 612-330-1311, or schedule online through our website under "Upcoming Events & Workshops" using the ScheduleOnce link.

# Equipment Checkout

Each semester, the TRIO/SSS office has equipment available for check out, including: **Laptops, Graphing calculators, and Smartpens.** These items are available on a first-come, first-serve basis to current enrolled, active TRIO/SSS students only. Items can be checked out in the TRIO/SSS office starting on **Tuesday, September 10 @ 11:30am.** Laptops may be borrowed month-to-month, but Graphing Calculators and Smartpens may be checked out for the entire semester. Please stop by the TRIO/SSS office if you're interested in checking out an equipment.

## Laptop Monthly check out schedule



Check out date: Tuesday, September 10 @ 11:30 am

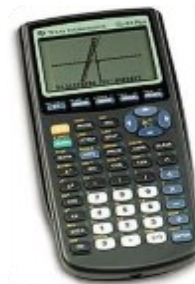
Due: Friday, October 11 @ 3 pm

Check out date: Tuesday, October 15 @ 11:30 am

Due: Friday, November 15 @ 3:00 pm

Check out date: Tuesday, November 19 @ 11:30 am

Due: Thursday, December 12 @ Noon



All equipment are due back to the TRIO/SSS office on **Thursday, December 12 by Noon.**

Note: Failure to return clean and working equipment to the TRIO/SSS Office by the specified due date will result in suspension of check-out privileges for one lending period and possible charges. Failure to return equipment within FIVE days after due date may result in replacement cost charges to your student account and suspension of check-out privileges.

TRIO/SSS also has limited school supplies such as notebooks, folders, pens, pencils, and notecards available for free to TRIO/SSS students. Pick up in the TRIO/SSS office!



# Student Experience



**Augsburg TRIO/SSS junior student Zak Abdullahi with U.S. Senator Tina Smith**

This summer, I had the opportunity to do an internship with the Office of U.S Senator Tina Smith in St. Paul, MN. I got connected with the position this past spring while I was doing a study away program in Washington D.C. I met one of the legislative assistant at Senator Smith's D.C office and he urged me to apply for the internship position. Through this experience, I learned so much about how congressional offices work and how it can help the community. Something I noticed during my internship is that offices (not just Senator Smith's office) are vastly in need of diverse voices. Nearly all the policy calls that we received were from older white people voicing their opinions. I feel that more people, especially people of color need to reach out to their elected officials and demand answers.

Some challenges that I encountered were learning how to respond to constituent's concerns. At the beginning of my internship, it was really hard providing effective services to constituents because there was a lot of information to know and the environment was really fast paced. However, after a couple of weeks, I got used to the pace and was more confident in my ability to talk to constituents whether it was helping them with a case or responding to policies. Some things that surprised me about my internship was the amount of calls that congressional offices receive each day and all the services that congressional offices provide to the community. I knew that they provided immigration help, however I didn't know about all the other resources that they provided to constituents. If you ever have an issues with federal agencies, call your congressional office!

Some advice I would give to other TRIO/SSS students who are interested in politics or public policy work is to make sure that you are connecting with people in your field. A lot of political jobs aren't posted and are found through networking with individuals. Also, do a wide range of internships in all political spaces so you can figure out what you like and don't like. The highlight from my internship experience was getting to work with Somali constituents on visa and immigration issues and seeing how happy they were to have someone that could actually understand them on many levels. If you are interested in politics and would like to grab coffee or tea, I would love to connect either through email: [abdullaz@augsborg.edu](mailto:abdullaz@augsborg.edu) or on Facebook.

# Student Experience



Kong Meng Lee at the top of Lion Rock Mountain in Hong Kong

I studied abroad in Hong Kong during the 2019 spring semester. I chose to study in Hong Kong because when I was young, I have always dreamt of visiting the city. I grew up watching and listening to movies and music from Hong Kong, so I made it a goal to visit the city someday. Thankfully, Augsburg's Center for Global Education and Experience (study abroad office) offered a direct student exchange program with Hong Kong Baptist University.

From my experience in Hong Kong, I learned that I should be grateful for my living condition and the helpful study guide that my Augsburg professors provide. In Hong Kong, people live in small spaces. A 2-3 bedroom apartment in Hong Kong is way smaller and narrower compared to a 2-3 bedroom apartment in the United States. The majority of the population lives in tall apartment buildings located throughout the city (I felt super short). The mega-rich lives by the suburb where they can purchase land to build a house. For those who are not able to afford an average apartment, they settle in an apartment that is run down and poorly maintained.

Professors expect students to study all of the materials on their own, therefore they do not give out a study guide. I had to review all of the chapters because I did not know what was going to be on the test. This was stressful because I did not know what to focus on. Thankfully, I only needed a C- or better for the credits to transfer so I didn't have to study as hard as the local students.

Hong Kong is a city that never sleeps. Whether it is daytime or nighttime, there is always something to do. Also, Hong Kong is small, so getting from place to place is fast and convenient. Thanks to the ultra-fast subway, I never worried about being late as the next train is only a minute away. There are a lot of highlights from my experience in Hong Kong, I cannot say enough. Some of the most memorable are the night markets and convenience stores (7-11, Circle K, etc), my first time climbing a 495 meters hill on a 20 Fl Oz of lemonade, and the abundance of tropical fruits.

You can't visit Hong Kong without visiting the night market! Night markets are great places to taste local foods, purchase souvenirs, and a gateway to relieving stress. My favorite local food to eat or grab on the go is pork and shrimp sui mai (traditional Hong Kong dumpling) and curry fish balls. I always buy these two snacks as a carry away so I can munch on them while I explore the city. Convenience stores are super popular in Hong Kong. So popular that there are two to three of them in one block! Although they are relatively expensive, they saved my life a lot of times. They have cooked foods that can be purchased to eat on-site or carry away, and they also have a variety of ramen noodles and drinks to choose from.

I climbed a mountain that is 495 meters tall without knowing that I was climbing an actual mountain. On that day, I had no intention to climb a mountain. I was just going to see what was around so I brought a bottle of lemonade to accompany my thirst. I remembered climbing a lot of stairs that didn't seem to reach the end. As I got towards the middle of the hike, I saw hikers with their backpacks and walking sticks. That was when I knew I was hiking instead of 'just looking to see what was around'. I did not give up as I walked too far to do so, I continued until I got to the top. It was a rewarding experience as I got to see most of Hong Kong from the top and be near the clouds.

I love eating tropical fruits. In Hong Kong, I can pretty much find the fruit that I wanted to eat in any night or grocery market. I love eating mangosteen, jackfruit, and durian. Except for durian (because of the smell), I always had man-

gosteen or jackfruit once or twice a week. It was food and fruit heaven! The number one challenge that I encountered was being mistaken as a local. Because of my facial features, it was an automatic assumption that I am a local Hongkonger. People would speak to me in Cantonese, and I would reply in English, telling them that I don't speak Cantonese. 99% of the people that I bumped into spoke English along with Cantonese, so it was easy to communicate with them and fix the misunderstanding.

The most surprising thing about my study abroad experience was the classes. In Hong Kong, each class was only once a week for three hours. So, if your schedule fits, you can take all of your classes in a day or two. During group presentations, professors don't require students to stay after they presented, they can just leave. I always stay until the very end because I felt too awkward to leave. On top of that, grading is mostly based on tests and group projects. So, if you did badly on all three of them, likely, you wouldn't be able to pass the course.

If you are thinking about going abroad, just go! Studying abroad exposes you to a new culture and a different part of the world. It will have an impact on how you view life and the differences between the United States to that of the country you are visiting. Your study abroad experience is based on how outgoing, open-minded, and adventurous you are. For example, if you study abroad and stay in your room every day, chances are you probably won't have a great time.

I went to Hong Kong alone and I was able to meet people and had a lot of fun. Although I love Hong Kong a lot, I also saw disheartening things. For example, I couldn't bear to see elderly people who are in their 70's and 80's out in the streets collecting cardboards to make a living. It almost seems like that was part of everyday life or the norm as people walked by without paying attention to them. All in all, I wouldn't change a semester abroad for a semester at Augsburg.

Some of the things that I wish I knew before studying abroad are to pack lightly, shirt sizes can be different between regions, my space bubble will be invaded, and to be ready to represent my country. I went to Hong Kong with one suitcase fully packed. When I settled down in Hong Kong I realized that some of my clothes were just sitting in the closet/drawers. I wasn't wearing them. I mostly wore the clothes that I bought there instead of the ones I packed with me. Because of this, I ended up having to purchase another suitcase when I came home. So, pack light because you are going to come back with more.

American shirt and pant sizes are not the same as in other parts of the world. I wear size small for shirts, so I purchased a bunch of small shirts in Hong Kong. Checking the tag and overall size, they seem to fit but after the first wash, they shrank. I wasted a bunch of money for the wrong size as I later found out Asian clothing is one size smaller.

In the US, people have a personal space bubble. We don't want people to come too close to us because it is uncomfortable. In Hong Kong, I got my personal bubble broken several times. This is especially true when I go out to eat because I will be seated with a stranger if the tables are full. The tablespace is small, so you are sitting really close to the other person.

Lastly, when local students know that you are an exchange or international student they will ask you to tell them about your country. They are excited to know more about you and where you are from so be prepared to answer questions. This is also a great way to get to know the local students!

**—Kong Meng Lee '20, Management, Marketing & International Business Majors**



## Student Experience



This summer, I conducted research with Dr. Leon van Eck through Augsburg's McNair Scholars program. My research project was characterizing aphid resistance in three accessions of *Hordeum spontaneum*, a wild relative of cultivated barley.

I was surprised to see that there was a large gap in reproduction of one type of wild relative compared to the other two including the cultivated barley. In addition, the speed of reproduction of the aphids were unexpected.

The highlight of my summer research experience was getting results for each of the four genes I tested for resistance to the aphids and noticing the differences between them.

The most challenging thing about my research was isolating the aphids with a clip-cage that I made and following their reproduction for over 40 days. Aphids are small and their nymphs(babies) are smaller. Counting and removing them every day is very time consuming and tough to not harm the mother aphid.

One advice that I would give to other TRIO/SSS students who may be interested in participating in a summer research program is to be open to many opportunities and don't be afraid to share your own ideas. My career interests are animal based, however, the plant biology research I did this year was amazing. It opened my mind to new ideas of different career paths to take.

—Quentin Smith, '20 Biology Major

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Instagram



# Dean's List

**Congratulations to the following TRIO/SSS students for earning a spot on the Dean's List for spring and summer 2019 semesters. The Dean's List recognizes students who received a 3.5 GPA or higher at the end of each semester. Great job on your hard work!**



## Spring 2019

Ahmed Aden  
Coda Aitkin  
Joseph Amrhein  
Annabelle Arns  
Loise Barhayiga  
Bidhya Bhattarai  
Aye Bo  
Kiana Brown  
Taron Busby  
Mindy Chang  
Nou-Chee Chang  
Jasmira Colon  
Agatha Dennis  
Davida Fuller

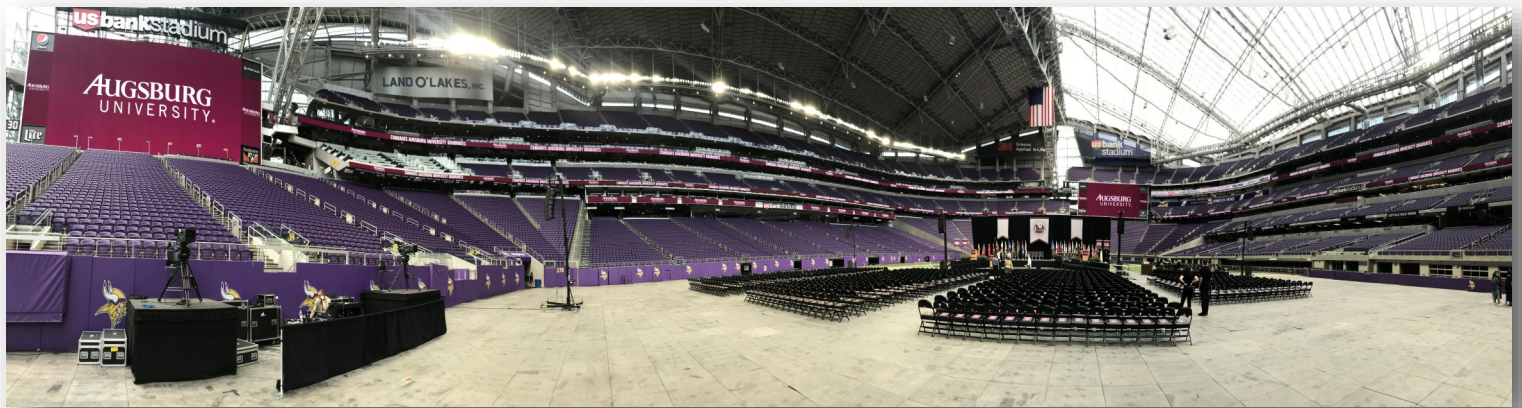
Mihret Geleta  
Noah Greenfield  
Estefani Guiracocha  
James Jensen  
Samantha Lopez  
Thomas Moua  
Biftu Negawo  
Teresa Nguyen  
Saul Patino  
Josie Slavik  
Yhia Thao  
Dametre Thunberg  
Jason Totaram  
Anthony Villagrana  
Salena Yang

## Summer 2019

Pamela Fue  
Yomiyu Gafesu  
Brooklyn Jones  
Miisko Poupart-Chapman

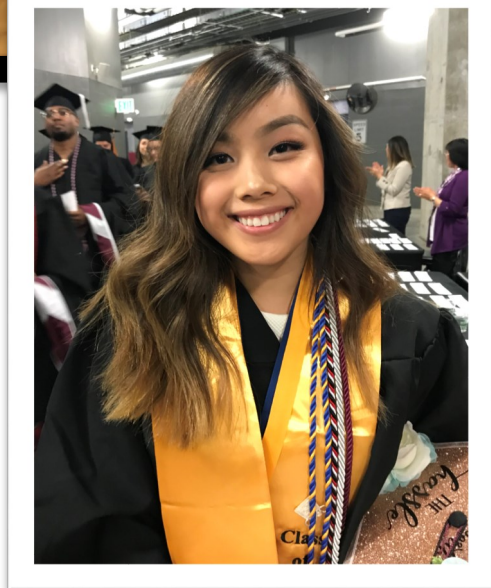
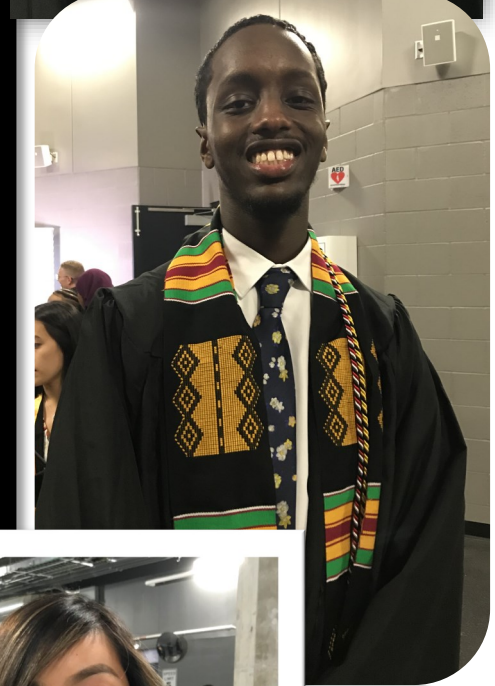
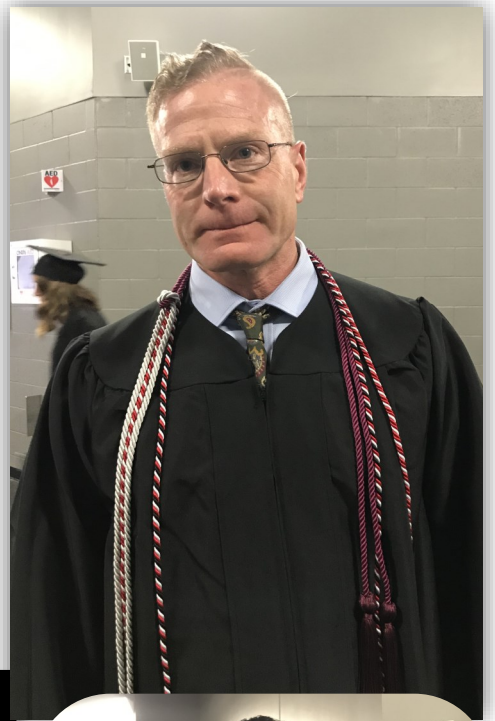


# 2019 Commencement at US Bank Stadium





# TRIO/SSS Graduates





# TRIO/SSS Graduates









# Student Experience

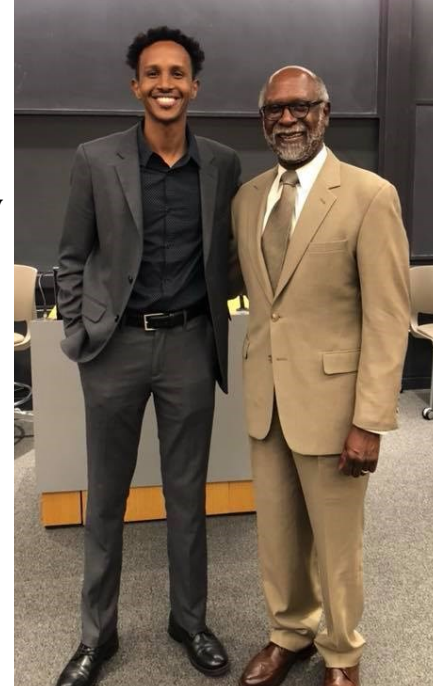
After spending my second semester of junior year abroad in South Africa and Namibia, I flew to New Jersey to participate in the Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) Junior Summer Institute (JSI) program at Princeton University. The goal of the seven-week program is to prepare students from historically underrepresented, diverse backgrounds for graduate study and careers in public policy. Through rigorous, high-level academic courses, I got to experience how a master's degree in public policy can help me become a future public service leader. I got connected to this program through the Office of Undergraduate Research and Graduate Opportunity (URGO) in Hagfors. I worked closely with Dixie Shafer and Kirsten O'Brien in applying for this fellowship.

As a participant, I took courses in writing, statistics, microeconomics and international relations, all of which are essential for the explanation, evaluation and development of public policy in domestic and international affairs. As part of the international relations policy analysis class, my classmates and I produced a Joint Report on the Trans-Atlantic Relationship between the United States and the EU. Specifically, my topic focused on the security relationship between the EU and the U.S. We presented our report to senior international affairs practitioners who scrutinized our arguments and recommendations. It was amazing because I never thought I'd present my work in front of career Ambassadors and senior State Department officials. Receiving strong feedback reassured me why I'm passionate about this work and that my voice is valuable and needed in policy making.

Through the program, we had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., to meet with policymakers and experts working in the U.S. Department of State and the Foreign Policy Institute of the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. Through briefings, presentations and discussions, I gained context on the international policy issues we were analyzing in our course. While in D.C., I met with former program participants while networking with graduate students at a graduate school fair hosted by PPIA at The George Washington University.

The highlight of the program for me was the relationships that I was able to develop with my fellow peers. It was affirming to be in the presence of a talented group of individuals from across the country and around the world who similarly were passionate about making change in their communities and globally. I fondly reflect on all the times I engaged in lively debate with my classmates on topics ranging from development aid to health disparities in the U.S. In total we were 28 fellows each representing various majors and career interests. Whether it was spending long-nights studying for an econ exam or going to Philly to celebrate July 4th- it was these memories that'll never forget!

I have also been challenged academically and intellectually in ways I never thought possible. In any given week, I was balancing a combination of problem sets, quizzes, policy memos, midterms, readings, and finals. However, each of my instructors, as well as the Princeton staff, were always there to support us by holding



*Ambassador James Gadsden, former U.S. Ambassador to Iceland and the PPIA Junior Summer Institute International Relations Policy Instructor.*



daily office hours and providing individualized feedback. Learning new concepts such as STATA is never easy but having support from faculty and fellow classmates made the experience deeply collaborative. These courses also taught me the importance of understanding statistics and the quantitative side of policy. I realized how in many ways statistics can be misused to form policies that negatively harm diverse communities. That's why it's essential for people who understand and lived in their

communities be at the center of policy making.

Another challenging aspect for me was transitioning back into the U.S. after being abroad for almost an entire year. I spent my fall semester in Tanzania and then participated in the Center for Global Education and Experience (CGEE) Southern Africa program in South Africa and Namibia. Both programs were heavily experiential. We were traveling to new sites and meeting speakers almost every week so I felt anxious about returning to a traditional learning system in the U.S. Luckily there were several other students who were also returning from their time abroad in the JSI program. Having that support from my peers was crucial to my first few weeks of readjusting back into the U.S. Moreover, I felt inspired to become more involved in global issues and pursuing more social justice work upon my return. I also had the opportunity to share my experiences abroad in all of my JSI classes because we were discussing things I saw first-hand. Overall, my abroad opportunities supported my capacity to analyze foreign and international affairs and helped me to effectively contribute to JSI since I was in the international relations track.

In addition to coursework and the workshops, we also had a faculty and policymakers lunch series, which gave us a chance to speak with high-level professionals at Princeton University and gain advice from their experiences in the field. I particularly enjoyed hearing from Matthew Desmond author of *Evicted*. I recalled reading his book during my sophomore sociology class with Professor Lars Christiansen. At the lunch series, he discussed how evictions really can lead to a downward spiral that is almost impossible to escape from for poor communities. After his talk, I introduced myself and told him how much his book opened my eyes to the housing crisis we are facing as a country.

For TRIO/SSS students, the PPIA Junior Summer Institute is an incredible and demanding opportunity if you are interested or thinking about careers in public policy, public administration or international affairs. PPIA helped me hone my plans for graduate study and future career aspirations. My advice to TRIO students is to always seek opportunities that help you supplement your academic coursework at Augsburg University. Whether it's an internship, fellowship or studying abroad these experiences will make your college years unique and rewarding. My second piece of advice is to build strong relationships with your TRIO/SSS advisor and other TRIO students. When I first heard I got accepted into the program, I reached out to former TRIO/SSS student Erika Idrovo'19 who participated in the program a year before me. She was able to answer my questions and offered her network of other PPIA alumni to further assist me. The TRIO community is your biggest asset on campus.

—Abdul Sharif '20, Political Science & International Relations Majors

# Student Experience



This summer I participated in the Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) Junior Summer Institute (JSI) program at the University of Minnesota, Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs. I got connected to the program through the Undergraduate Research and Graduate Opportunities (URGO) office at Augsburg which recommended that I apply to this program! PPIA gives an option between five schools around the country and I chose the University of Minnesota because of their emphasis on qualitative research methods and diving into the importance of race centered policy making.

PPIA taught me everything from applying to graduate schools to drafting policy memos for grand problems to learning a statistics program in a lab. By the end of 7 weeks, I truly learned what graduate school is going to be like and the tools that I need to do well in grad school.

Because the University of Minnesota has a long history and is very much set in their ways of how to create policy; like any large institution, I struggled a lot with bureaucracy, elitism and classism that exists in higher education. However, I did not despair and found ways to work within the system while stretching the boundaries of the institution. Finding allies in my cohort as well as professors who were mandated to teach a particular way or felt the same plight as I did was helpful in combating these challenges. To be honest, I may have been naive because I did not expect to be faced with as much of these institutional barriers as I did. This took me a little off guard as I built up expectations of my experience that ended up not becoming true.

My advice for anyone thinking about applying to the PPIA program is to apply! It's never a bad thing to put your name out there. The application process is rough, but what's needed to go into the application can be used in many other areas of your life to get jobs or other internships. Secondly, you need to come prepared. If you are thinking about doing a master's program in public policy then you need to take economics, statistics, research methods, and have a well-tuned grasp on policy issues currently facing our world. This program is extensive; and to make it through, you need to be prepared.

Throughout my Augsburg career, with the help of my TRIO/SSS Advisor, Alyson Olson, I was very much prepared for this type of program. I had taken economics, statistics and research methods before attending this program which helped me tremendously. One thing I wished I would have known before starting the PPIA program is that just because you create policies and come up with a clear memo does not mean that it's going to be picked up and used. Politics is not that simple.

There were many highlights from my experience with PPIA, but the most important one is meeting all of the wonderful leaders and hardworking people in the program. My trip to Chicago was also really great!

—Noah Greenfield '19, Political Science Major



# What if...???

*By: Kevin Cheatham, Assistant Director*



I am almost one-third as old as Augsburg University. So, if Augsburg is celebrating 150 years on Earth this year, that means that I am...well, do the math. Regardless, we are both preserved pretty well. As I approach a milestone birthday, I sometimes think about whether there are things that I would have done differently when I was in college. Join me as I take a trip in the WABAC Machine (look it up if you don't get that reference) and ponder a do-over, my, "What if...?".

First, and this pains me to say as an extreme introvert, what if I would have been more involved in campus life? Considering my personality, I think I did okay on the social side of college interacting with peers both in and out of the classroom. But I could have done a much better job taking advantage of the many opportunities available to me. What if I had spent more time in our career and internship office beefing up my resume and strengthening my networking skills? Perhaps I should have attended a job fair or two. Besides our campus' multicultural student group, were there others clubs or organizations where my voice and involvement would have made an impact? What else did I miss out on or not do during my time as an undergrad that would have really enhanced my college and post-college life?

Second, even though I was set on my major when entering college, what if I would have opened my mind and explored other interest areas a little more? Completing a liberal arts degree means you take many classes outside of the primary area of study. One basically learns a little bit about a lot of stuff, which also means one learns and develops skills that are applicable across many disciplines and areas outside of the academic environment. I enjoyed the writing and literature classes I had my senior year and maybe would have taken a few more of those courses sooner in my academic career. My sociology and psychology classes were very interesting. I even enjoyed my education course! In addition to a different major or even a minor, what more could have come from these classes or others available to me had I kept options open?

And finally, what if I would have spent more time figuring out the finances? Considering I attended a four-year private institution my loan debt was not actually that high upon graduation. However, that debt could have been even lower had I looked into scholarships or other financial opportunities that would have driven down that cumulative debt total. As a low income and first generation student myself, I should have spent more time on the financial literacy pieces since that knowledge, or lack thereof, impacts one greatly.

The beauty of fall as it relates to the school year is that regardless of whether this is the beginning of your first year or the start of your last year at Augsburg, you are in a position to still explore, be involved, and figure things out. And there are many resources here at Augsburg to help you. As I have said to students before, you all pay a lot of money to the University to leave with nothing in return; and that includes a diploma. Use your available connections so that years from now you are not writing a newsletter article wondering, "What if...?".



## Summer Bridge 2019

We welcomed twenty-four incoming first-year students into our Summer Bridge Program this past July. This was our 18th Summer Bridge class! During this intensive five-week residential program, students got a head start on their Augsburg education by taking two free college courses for 8 credits. In the COM 111: Introduction to Public Speaking, students learned research skills and honed their speaking abilities by presenting individual and group speeches. The class concluded with students competing in a speech tournament in which groups presented on different topics. The competition gave students a chance to highlight what they had learned and a chance to support as well as challenge their classmates. In REL100: Vocation and the Search for Meaning I, students reflected on the meaning of vocation and how having a vocation impacts the way we see the world and live our lives. Through both lecture and discussion, they learned the basics of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam and received an Engaging Minneapolis credit by visiting a nearby synagogue.

Summer Bridge participants also received a Summer Bridge Promise Grant which covers full tuition up to four years. In addition to classes, students also attended academic support seminars, workshops, and other activities that help provide a smooth transition to Augsburg in the fall. Summer Bridge students also participated in the TRIO/SSS Amazing Hunt in which they visited various departments on campus. The Amazing Hunt challenged students to work together with their teammates as well as taught students about the different resources on campus. Summer Bridge students also participated in fun activities such as painting, karaoke, making jewelry and attending the musical "Mamma Mia" at the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre. It was another successful and great summer with 24 talented students. Congratulations to the 2019 Summer Bridge Class!



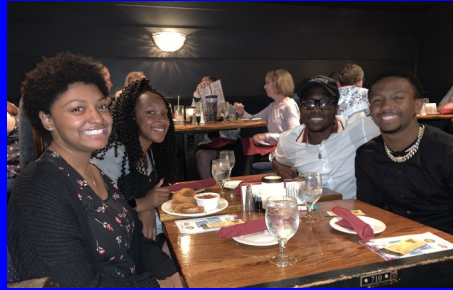
# Summer Bridge

All we have to do is wear it



Summer Bridge 2019

"Our crown has been bought and paid for.  
All we have to do is wear it." —James Baldwin





# TRIO Student Support Services Staff



**From left: Annie, Aly, Seth, Kevin & Xia**

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