TRIO/SSS TRIBUNE

AUGSBURG UNIVERSITY.

Spring 2019 Volume 7, Issue 2

Meet Annie Chen

TRIO/SSS Program Assistant & Academic Skills Tutor Coordinator

Annie Chen is the newest member to our TRIO/SSS team. Annie joined TRIO/SSS and the Academic Skills offices this past September. We asked Annie some questions to get to know her better. Please say hi when you see her around campus.

What is your educational background?

I have a BA from the University of Minnesota where I majored in Asian Languages and Literatures (focusing on Chinese) and minored in Global Studies and Second Language Studies.

What is your career background?

After college, I was in AmeriCorps for two years as a Promise Fellow at a Hmong charter school in North Minneapolis. From there, I worked at the YWCA Minneapolis in a program called Girls Inc. which focuses on working with youth 4th-12th grade on Leadership, Healthy Sexuality and STEM.

What attracted you to Augsburg and your current position?

One of my former coworker works for a TRIO program at a different institution and sent me the job posting at Augsburg. I was interested in working here because I knew of Augsburg's commitment to creating an accessible and diverse educational landscape. Also, since I went to the U of M, I was familiar with the West Bank and was excited to come back to the area. I was also interested in this position because I was looking for something that would give me supervisory experience as well as grow my technical skills in areas I was more unfamiliar with.

What have you enjoyed about your position?

I enjoy working with and training tutors, problem solving with my team and being able to think and dream about how this position can grow and change in the future.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Erika Idrovo-Cuesta2-3
Equipment Checkout3
Fall Semester Dean's List4
Spring 2019 Workshops5
Abdul Sharif6-7
SSS 50th Celebration8-11
New Term, New-ish You12
Job & Internship Fair13
Junior/3rd year Cohort13
Kitana Holland14-15
Contact Us16

TRIO/SSS STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Erika Idrovo-Cuesta '19, Political Science-Public Policy Major, TRIO Summer Bridge Promise Grant Scholar & TRIO/SSS Student.



I studied abroad in Southern Africa and had the honor of visiting South Africa and Namibia. I chose to study abroad through the Nation-Building, Globalization, and Decolonizing the Mind in Southern Africa program because of my interest in politics. I heard about this program through the Center for Global Education & Experience and the MSS office here at Augsburg.

Of the many things that I learned during my four-months abroad, I would like to highlight learning about the political development in Southern Africa. For my integrative project, I researched the poor governance in Namibia, and learned that the social, economic, and sustainability issues in Namibia stems from the abuse of power in the government. The research I conducted helped me better understand how government, politics, and law should work with the community in order to better create a fair society for all.

One difficult challenge to grasp from my experience abroad was the issue of racism. Due to my lighter complexion, many local individuals considered me as a white person because of their past history of the liberation struggle from the Apartheid System. Another challenge I encountered was the language barrier. Namibia has 26 different languages and the program prepared me for the basic of one dominant language, Oshiwambo; which was not enough to maneuver around places. The racism I faced was not a threat, it was actually a privilege, but an uncomfortable experience. I handled these encounters by explaining myself and informing others why it is problematic to generalize. Lastly, for the language barrier, I created flashcards through Quizlet and practiced Oshiwambo with friends or my co-workers at my internship site.

For me, the most surprising thing about my experience abroad was the amount of connections I made there. I did not expect to make that many close friends and be a part of a network of professionals. It was a rewarding experience to become friends with local artists and community leaders who are creating social change in this world.

My advice for TRIO/SSS students who are thinking about studying abroad is to do research on the program. I would encourage that they study in a program that is relevant to their major and not just for the location. It will not be as meaningful as studying in a subject that the student can evaluate, dissect, and be challenged from their studies.

It was very cold in Cape Town and Johannesburg. I wished I knew it would be freezing in South Africa because I would have packed more winter clothes. It is always good to pack for different seasons just in case the weather randomly changes.

Being part of TRIO/SSS helped me understand my purpose for gaining an education. I learned that I am a part of something greater through my support system and achievements. Currently, I am working as a Legal Assistant for Wilson Law Group in Minneapolis and taking classes at the University of Minnesota



through the College of Continuing Professional Studies. I was accepted into their interpreting program and will become a certified Spanish court interpreter. I also hope to do an internship this summer with the United Nations in Namibia.

I plan to continue my education and will be applying to law school or a graduate program. I also hope to apply for a Fulbright Fellowship and conduct independent research on immigration policies. Being bilingual is part of my identity and I want to gain legal experience before continuing my education, which I believe is a way to give back to my community while building experience in my professional career. My long term goal is to give back and serve those who are being marginalized, such as the immigrant community. I believe being a lawyer or a policy analyst will give me the tools I need to respond to the social injustices in the United States and internationally.

TRIO/SSS 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 Friday, January 18, 2019 starting at 10:40 am. 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 Checkout Schedule

Check out Date: Friday, January 18 @ 10:40 AM

Due: Friday February 22 by 3:00 PM

Check out Date: Tuesday, February 26 @ 11:30 AM Due: Friday, March 29 by 3:00 PM

Check out Date: Tuesday, April 2 @ 11:30 AM Due: Thursday, April 25 by 12:00 PM



All equipment are due back to the TRIO/SSS office on April 25, 2019 by Noon. Note: If equipment is returned after the due date without approval from the TRIO/SSS office, you can lose future checkout privileges and can possibly acquire fees charged to your student account.

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!

TRIO/SSS FALL 2018 DEAN'S LIST



Congratulations to the following TRIO/SSS students for earning a spot on the Dean's List for fall semester 2018. The Dean's list recognizes students who receive a 3.5 cumulative GPA or higher at the end of each semester. Good job on your hard work. We are very proud of you!

Zak Abdullahi	Estefani Guiracocha	N
Ahmed Aden	Frank Heenie	
Shamsa Ahmed	Julie Henderson	Kas
Adnan Ali	Moe Ibrahim	
Joe Amrhein	Erika Idrovo-Cuesta	Jazı
Loise Barhayiga	Elizabeth Ihekoronye	L
Bidhya Bhattarai	James Jensen	9
Aye Bo	Baoyia Kong	
Kiana Brown	Samantha Kong	
Taron Busby	Christopher Leathers	C
Mindy Chang	Kong Meng Lee	(
Emily Cherne	Bethany Lor	
Athena Cloud	Alma Lora	Da
Jasmira Colon	Pie Mai	J
John Dewitt	Kyra Mckissick	
Kiyya Emmanuel	Bonsa Mohamed	
Melisa Flores Jaimes	Ikram Mohamed	
Daijah Frazier	Janet Nguyen	
Davida Fuller	Teresa Nguyen	

Mohamed Omar Saul Patino ssie Quintero Diaz Simone Rask min Rosas-Torres Loni Rutherford Sulaiman Sesay Arooba Shahid Josie Slavik Chaiara Soydara Cassidy Strobl Yhia Thao ametre Thunberg Jason Totaram Juan Velesaca Yee Vue Billy Yang Mai Kia Yang Salena Yang

TRIO/SSS SPRING 2019 WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

January

Welcome Back Open House

Friday, January 18 11:00 am-2:00 pm Location: TRIO/SSS Office

No Mo' FOMO'

Wednesday, January 23
3:15 pm-4:15 pm
Thursday, January 24
3:3 pm-4:30 pm
Location: SVE 205

Job & Internship Fair Prep Sessions

Wednesday, January 23 @10:40 am-11:00 am Tuesday, January 29 @11:30 am-11:50 am Monday, February 4 @ 10:40 am-11:00 am Friday, February 15 @10:40 am-11:00 am Monday, February 18 @10:40 am-11:00 am Location: Strommen Center

February

3rd Year Renew, Review, Refresh

Tuesday, February 12 3:45 pm-5:00 pm Wednesday, February 13 3:15pm-4:30pm Friday, February 15 8:00 am-9:15 am Location: OGC 100

Plan to attend at least two workshops this semester! To register call: 612-330-1311 or email triosss@augsburg.edu or stop by the Gage Center in Lindell 201.

Job & Internship Fair

Thursday, February 21 9:00 am-2 pm Location: Mpls. Convention Center 1301 2nd Ave. S. Minneapolis

Alumni/Student Networking Event

Tuesday, February 26 6:00 pm-8:30 pm Location: Hagfors 150

March

Creativity & Calmness

Tuesday, March 12 3:45 pm-5:00 pm Wednesday, March 13 3:15 pm-4:30 pm Location: OGC 100

FAFSA Completion Workshop

Wednesday, March 27 3:15 pm – 4:15 pm Location: SVE 205

<u>April</u>

Life After College

Tuesday, April 2 3:30 pm-4:30 pm Wednesday, April 3 3:15 pm-4:15 pm Location: SVE 201

End of Semester Celebration

Friday, April 26 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Location: TRIO/SSS Office

TRIO/SSS STUDENT EXPERIENCE

By: Abdul Sharif '20, International Relations & Political Science-Public Policy Majors, TRIO Summer Bridge Promise Grant Scholar and TRIO/SSS Student.



This past fall semester I studied abroad in Arusha, Tanzania in East Africa. I participated in a program called African Flagship Languages Initiative (AFLI) Swahili through the Boren scholarship program. AFLI incorporates in-class and field-based experiences with a focus on maximum contact with the target language. For me, that means living with a Swahili-speaking Tanzanian family, taking courses in political science and history taught exclusively in Swahili, and spending time with Swahili-speaking Tanzanian friends. All that language contact has paid off. In just four months, I managed to develop

strong Swahili fluency in reading, writing, and speaking. I'm proud of myself for how much I've learned and I do my best to put it to great use each and every day.

While in Tanzania, I got to the point where I was comfortable navigating daily life: asking for directions, ordering food, reading the newspaper, and writing academic papers for classes. In learning Swahili, I've found that learning a language is much more than just a linguistic experience. It's cultural. It's historical. It's personal. If you can find a language that means something to you, learn it. It won't be easy, but it's worth the struggle. Language learning is a journey that will introduce you to new people, places, and things. It is a journey without destination, because there is always more to learn.

Besides gaining fluency in a new language, I also learned the value of connectedness. Tanzanians are very welcoming and friendly people. When I moved to my new neighborhood in Arusha, everyone was inviting me for lunch or simply wanted to know more about me. In Tanzania, greetings are very important so while walking around my neighborhood it is important for me to greet everyone I encounter especially if they appear to be older than me. Sometimes these greetings can be a simple "mambo" meaning "hello" in Swahili or it could go like "habari za maisha na shule na familia" meaning "how is life, school and family" this greeting can generally take almost 20 minutes because Tanzanians really want to know how you are doing especially if you are a guest in their country.

My initial adjustment to Tanzania was not that intense. Despite the language barrier, I slipped pretty quickly into the flow of my host home and was eager to start getting to know my family and other locals. But nevertheless, immersing myself to a completely different lifestyle was challenging because I needed to get used to the eating schedule, buying different things in the busy markets, the transportation, meeting new people, and attending classes everyday.

The language study is intensive: up to four hours of class time and two hours of conversational instruction per day. But these experiences helped me learn how to adapt to another culture and to be patient with myself and others. I think I have allowed myself to think more and accept the fluidity of life in Tanzania, especially when I really want to fully comprehend and understand Tanzanian culture and learn Swahili. Through this opportunity I've gained a lot of new skills and experienced immense growth.

My advice to TRIO/SSS students about studying abroad is the amount of growth you'll experience while pursuing a study abroad opportunity. Study abroad forces you to leave what you're comfortable with in exchange for new places and experiences. You've got to throw yourself out there and work with what you've got in the best way you can. In doing so, you learn a lot about yourself which helps you make decisions going forward in your life. A concern I had before studying abroad was affordability, considering study abroad can be expensive. Luckily, there are many scholarships such as Boren Award and Gilman scholarship that helped me fund my study abroad experience. My advice to my peers is to work with the TRIO/SSS and Center for Global Education & Experience (CGEE) to identify which programs best suits

your passions and seek out scholarship opportunities.



Maasai homestay, Mt. Kilimanjaro in the back.



Homestay with the Maasai tribe. Maasai people live in Tanzania and Kenya and they've largely maintained their way of life. But they also face many challenges/issues from the government & big companies who want to take away their land. Learning from them has been one of the most impactful experiences. Abdul, his host mom & brother.

TRIO/SSS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Augsburg University celebrated the 50th Anniversary of National TRIO/SSS Programs on Thursday November 29, 2018 by bringing together Augsburg TRIO/SSS Alumni, students, faculty, and staff. It was an amazing night of celebration that included keynote speakers Dr. Jennifer Brookins-King, who is the current MNTRIO President and Director of TRIO Starting Point/ Student Support Services at Minneapolis College; Awale Osman, Augsburg TRIO/SSS 2015 alumnus, and Felicia Zahner, Augsburg TRIO/SSS 2015 alumna. The celebration also included musical performances by Augsburg TRIO/SSS alumnus Shylee Drakeford and current Augsburg TRIO/SSS Junior Nancy Lor. We were also treated to a dance performance by current Augsburg TRIO/SSS Junior Jesus Guevara. The audience was kept entertained by our amazing emcees; current Augsburg TRIO/SSS Junior John Dewitt and current Augsburg TRIO/SSS sophomore Shevon Greene. Here are pictures and highlights from the celebration!





MORE TRIO/SSS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



BECAUSE OF TRIO/SSS.....



NEW TERM, NEW-ISH YOU

By: Kevin Cheatham, Assistant Director

Once again, here we are at the start of spring semester. I wish that I could say that things have changed, but one truth still remains: I will continue to hate this time of year. Let me clarify. Winter is not my favorite season (check out our old spring newsletters for my tirades about winter) and winter probably hasn't been my favorite season since I reached what may be considered "adulthood." It's cold and there's snow and ice. I have to clean off my car most every day before going somewhere. The air is dry and it makes my skin awful. There's not a lot of sun. People are crabby from cabin fever. And those crabby people are likely giving me their germs from being sick. It'd be great if we could just go right from fall to spring as far as seasons are concerned. I guess I could just move someplace else, but that's a whole other newsletter article. But one positive about the start of spring semester is that it's a chance for renewal and growth.

Since spring semester starts in January of each year, typically everyone returns to campus with a new attitude. There are resolutions in place about how things will be different this term or this year. For some, they have a goal of being healthier, with plans to eat better, or sleep and exercise more. For others, it may be to try something they've never done before or go places they've never been before. As I've been looking at grades this last week it seems that there are a few folks who need to resolve to do better academically this term. And even if you did well fall semester, it doesn't mean that you still can't commit to improve. So, what might that mean?

In order to do better, or to keep doing well academically, it means you need to commit to the process. In his opening address to first year students, President Pribbenow says there are three things that students should do to be successful. The first is "show up." You won't be successful if you don't go to class and in my many years of work with students, not showing up is, perhaps, their biggest downfall. Much is missed by lack of attendance. Treat this experience at Augsburg as your full-time job. You may not be getting a monetary paycheck, but you are being paid in other ways, and you're paying for this experience through your tuition dollars. And showing up, or being present stretches beyond the classroom, which is a nice segue to his next point.

Please pay attention. It'd be great if learning or other experiences could happen through osmosis, but the reality is that you do have to be cognizant of content in and out of class. There are a lot of opportunities passed along via physical proximity, email, or other mediums that aren't text or on a phone screen, yet they're missed because of a lack of attention. Look up and be in the moment.

And success isn't going to happen if you're not doing the work, also known as President Pribbenow's third point. I get it, it's a lot of work and some of it is hard. Boo-hoo, welcome to college. But you still have to get things done and participate if you want to be successful. Remember, this is what you signed up to do. Not sure about how to get some of the work finished, or how to set achievement goals? Ask for help. I know it may be intimidating to chat with your instructors, but ask them for help. Utilize the tutoring, writing lab, and speech lab that are available to you—for free! Folks from offices such as ours, Academic Advising, CLASS, Multicultural Student Services, and the Center for Wellness and Counseling are great resources. Help us help you keep your resolutions on track.

MN PRIVATE COLLEGES JOB & INTERNSHIP FAIR

Attention TRIO/SSS sophomores, juniors, and seniors! Minnesota's Private Colleges will host the annual JOB AND INTERNSHIP FAIR on Thursday, February 21 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. This fair stands out as one of the premier college/employer partnerships in the country. The exhibit hall is open from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm (You can stay for as long as you are able).

Why attend the fair?

- 1.) Explore opportunities in a variety of industries and majors.
- 2.) Chat with more than 260 employers-all under one roof!
- 3.) Get your free professional LinkedIn Photo taken at the fair!

Steps for participating in the Fair:

- 1.) Create a Handshake account through the Strommen Center website to access registration.
- 2.) The cost is \$12 per student (TRIO/SSS can sponsor the cost for TRIO/SSS students), however students must notify their TRIO/SSS advisor and come into the TRIO/SSS office to register.
- 3.) If students are able to pay the \$12 out of pocket, they can register through Handshake and pay with a credit card.
- 4.) Once registered, students must attend one of the following prep sessions:

Wednesday, January 23 @10:40 am Tuesday, January 29 @11:30 am Monday, February 4 @ 10:40 am Friday, February 15 @10:40 am Monday, February 18 @10:40 am Location: Strommen Center

COHORT WORKSHOP

Junior/3rd year cohort Renew, Review, Refresh (RRR) workshops will be scheduled on the following dates and times during spring semester 2019:

Tuesday, February 12 @ 3:45 pm-5:00 pm
Wednesday, February 13 @ 3:15 pm-4:30 pm
Friday, February 15 @ 8:00 am-9:15 am

Location: OGC 100

Attendance is mandatory for all TRIO/SSS third year/junior students to maintain your active status with TRIO/SSS. Students who are required to attend will receive an email from their TRIO/SSS advisor. Please attend one session that works with your schedule .

TRIO/SSS STUDENT EXPERIENCE

By: Kitana Holland '19, Sociology Major, TRIO Summer Bridge Promise Grant Scholar & TRIO/SSS Student.



This past fall semester, I participated in the Augsburg CGEE South Africa and Namibia program: Nation Building, Globalization, and Decolonizing the mind. I knew I wanted to study abroad during my last semester at Augsburg and I was deciding between the CGEE Central America and CGEE South Africa and Namibia programs. At first, the Central America program was my first choice because I wanted to get in touch with my roots where both sides of my grandparents are from in Belize and I wanted to research the presence of the African Diaspora in Latin America.

However, as a Black American being clueless to various African traditions, practices, cultural wear, and ways of

life, I felt that going to South Africa and Namibia was a better choice to learn about the impacts of colonization and the apartheid. I also wanted to better understand the complexity of the African Diaspora, be exposed to South African and Namibian culture, lifestyles, stories, similarities, and differences that would be shared with me during the program. I heard about the program from Augsburg TRIO alums Winnie Godi and Marquell Moorer and meeting Dr. Lamont Slater, the program manager and a professor of this program during a presentation at Augsburg.

During the program, we met many leaders, activists, organizers, and educators who have been imprisoned, in exile, forced to remove from their homes, had ancestors who have been enslaved, brutally beaten because of their preferred sexuality, and more. I asked each person I met, "how do they heal?" They responded, "By constantly sharing my story with others." That made me learn that despite the past trauma that all the individuals I met were experiencing, they had the courage to share their stories to contribute to their own healing journeys. This encouraged me to embark on my own healing journey to seek therapy, use art as an outlet, and engage in community spaces to really face my grief and mental health issues and fight through it!

Some challenges I encountered was being the sole African descent/black student in the program with predominately white students in predominately black countries. I thought that being in predominately black countries like South Africa and Namibia would scream liberation, freedom, and collectivism, which sometimes it did. However, other times I witnessed how much white-centric beauty and Europeanism was promoted, how tribalism existed between the ethnic groups, and experienced hesitancy from locals because I was Black American. These experiences left me feeling out of place in an environment that is welcoming yet shuts me down simultaneously.

Another challenge was the content we learned throughout the program, which was never lighthearted and always pertained explicit information. I learned about the effects of the apartheid, Nama and Herero Genocide, fight for independence, war, inequalities of education, high unemployment rates, my urban/rural homestay

family's lifestyles, and more. I remember particularly, the number of museums we visited non-stop and how every museum I had to take a pause and just take it in. I saw jarring images of black bodies fighting for independence for their country while being brutally killed. I saw splashes of blood smeared in images everywhere, on nooses and on top of walls to graves of leaders who were wrongfully killed under the system, to other things I will not disclose here.

The content seemed to touch me in ways that I was not prepared for. It triggered me, made me feel numb, made me cry, and most of all I did not know how to really share how I was feeling. Even though I had peers I could talk to on this program, to listen and empathize with me, all of that was not close to the peer support I could have had if other African/Black students were in the program. I worked through my challenges by talking to my professors, residential assistant, and peers when I was open to sharing, but most of the time it was an isolating experience no matter who I had around me. From this, I learned that having people who can empathize and listen is important but having people around you that can really understand your feelings can create a community that is needed, especially in these experiences.

The most surprising thing about my study abroad experience is becoming close friends with some of my peers which I was not close to in the beginning of the program. I also saw tremendous growth within my peers and my-self throughout the semester which was good to witness.

My best advice for TRIO/SSS students is to not be discourage about studying abroad before looking into it. Please rely on your TRIO advisors and peers to ask many questions, address concerns, and share your hopes. If I didn't see my TRIO peers taking on these opportunities, I would not have studied abroad. Also, depending on the program of choice, studying abroad could actually be cheaper. My best college experiences were studying abroad and I encourage each one of you to look into programs in the USA or out of the country! The biggest things I wish I knew about studying abroad was to pack less!



I am currently employed at St. Olaf College as a TRIO/Educational Talent Search (ETS) Academic Advisor. The goal of TRIO ETS is to increase the likelihood that participants from 6th-12th grade graduate from high school, gain admission to postsecondary education, and learn about financial aid. I work with students at Washburn and Humboldt High Schools and collaborate with the school counselors and teachers to identify qualified youth who have the potential for educational success at the postsecondary level.

TRIO/SSS helped me tremendously in achieving my dreams! Ever since my TRIO/SSS Advisor Kevin reached out to me about TRIO Summer Bridge af-

ter not receiving the ACT SIX scholarship, I felt like I was given a second chance at a 4-year education. TRIO/SSS helped me in achieving my career goals by providing me the stepping stool to be successful in my classes, learn about opportunities on campus, form relationships with faculty and staff, be involved, and have a community of TRIO students around me. Being supported by all the resources at Augsburg, I realized I could make a difference for students who are like me; first-gen and low-income. I am happy and fortunate to begin my professional journey as a TRIO ETS Advisor for high school students and hopefully one day I will work at the college level. I always knew this type of work was what I wanted to do, but the sky is the limit from here! Keep soaring Auggies despite any challenges you're facing, you will get through it!

CONTACT US

TRIO/Student Support Services

Augsburg University
Gage Center for Student
Success
Lindell Library Suite 201
2211 Riverside Avenue South
Campus Box 47
Minneapolis, MN

Phone: 612-330-1311 http://www.augsburg.edu/ triosss 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 University. The Minnesota Department of Education Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides additional funding for TRIO 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 University. Augsburg TRIO/SSS also selects 25 incoming first-year, TRIO-eligible students to participate in its Summer Bridge component.

LIKE & FOLLOW US @AUGSBURGTRIOSSS











PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE