TRIO Publishes A Book

On November 1st TRIO Student Support Services held a book launch in the classic ballroom to celebrate the publication of “Every Student Has a Story.” This book includes personal essays from 20 TRIO SSS students about what it’s like to be a first-generation college student at IPFW. Student authors Kristin Costello and Miranda Hall were featured by our local NBC news station for their contributions to the project.

While no two situations are alike, the book shows how IPFW’s TRIO students have persevered through challenges and overcame obstacles in their path to graduation. Students learned that they are not alone and that northeast Indiana is full of first-generations students just like them. The book is available for sale on Amazon now.

The second volume of this project is under production now. All TRIO SSS students are invited to writing circles this spring to craft stories for the upcoming book. To learn more, come to meetings in KT G49 from 12-1 p.m. on January 23, February 20, March 13, and April 17.
Every year over Fall Break, TRIO Student Support Services students have the opportunity to travel to a nearby city and experience new sights. This year thirty-eight students went to Chicago. The morning was spent at the Art Institute of Chicago, famous for Grant Wood’s *American Gothic*, representing a farmer with a pitch fork and his daughter, and George Seurat’s *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*.

Another famous exhibit is the Thorne Miniature Rooms which depict European and American interiors scaled down from one foot to one inch. Freshman Bailey Berndt commented, “As an interior design major, I really enjoyed the miniatures displays. I was able to recognize a lot of the time period decorating styles that we studied in my Foundations to Interior Design class. The building was really cool, too, with the contemporary style staircases and finishes.”

The afternoon was spent at the Adler Planetarium, located on Lake Michigan.

One of the most popular parts of the trip was the movie, *Planet Nine*, which showed a close-up view of the dwarf planet Pluto and introduced the concept of the newly discovered (but yet-to-be-mapped) planet nine that lies beyond the Kuiper belt. “The planetarium IMAX movie was definitely my favorite part,” said computer science major, Joe Shell. “It was so realistic, I almost fell out of my chair!”

Cherry Aung, Lorenzo Catalan, Cristina Sanchez, Joe Shell and Guerda Julien learn more about a Buddhist artifact at the Art Institute of Chicago.
TRIO Welcomes New Advisor: Anita Vannatta

My First-Gen Story:

I went to high school in a town of about 28,000 named Lewiston, Idaho. Growing up my dad worked at the lumber mill and my mom worked at the school as a cook. We never had a lot of money growing up and I remember hearing often “no, we can’t afford that”. For me this gave me motivation to make my future different. I wanted options when I grew up. Mom said I could do anything I wanted and both parents supported the idea of me attending college from a young age.

My grandfather attended Huntington University in Huntington, Indiana and often informed me that I would attend Huntington University as well. I do not know why he chose me but I was the only grandchild he ever said that to! I started college 2,000 miles from home in 1988- without knowing a single person here in Indiana. The first semester was extremely difficult and the long distance phone bill averaged about $100- a month!

The financial challenges were there; I had to find ways to pay for much of my own education and relied heavily on the money I could save from my job at Burger King, the paper mill, gifts, and scholarships. The first semester was extremely difficult. Quitting was not an option: my plane ticket was not taking me home until December and I was starting the track team in January.

I learned through this experience to be strong on my own, never give up, to surround myself with positive and uplifting people, and the value of hard work. I learned that success comes when you are willing to do the things others are not willing to do.

Fast-forward a “few” years and I am here at the TRIO office as a new Academic Coordinator.

I am so excited to be here where I get to work with students on a regular basis, offer assistance and build relationships that can make a difference. I have always loved the educational setting and have wanted to be a school counselor since high school. I earned my masters in school counseling here at IPFW in 2010. I cannot think of a better way to use my degree! I have two children; Abby 15, and Benny 14, and one springer spaniel named Daisy. I am looking forward to getting to know the TRIO group here on campus and cannot wait to see the growth and success of our students.

Please join us in welcoming Anita to the TRIO family next time you’re in the TRIO office!
I went to high school in a town of about 28,000 named Lewiston, Idaho. Growing up my dad worked at the lumber mill and my mom worked at the school as a cook. We never had a lot of money growing up and I remember hearing often "no, we can't afford that". For me this gave me motivation to make my future different. I wanted options when I grew up. Mom said I could do anything I wanted and both parents supported the idea of me attending college from a young age.

My grandfather attended Huntington University in Huntington, Indiana and often informed me that I would attend Huntington University as well. I do not know why he chose me but I was the only grandchild he ever said that to!

I started college 2,000 miles from home in 1988- without knowing a single person here in Indiana. The first semester was extremely difficult and the long distance phone bill averaged about $100- a month! The financial challenges were there; I had to find ways to pay for much of my own education and relied heavily on the money I could save from my job at Burger King, the paper mill, gifts, and scholarships. The first semester was extremely difficult. Quitting was not an option: my plane ticket was not taking me home until December and I was starting the track team in January. I learned through this experience to be strong on my own, never give up, to surround my self with positive and uplifting people, and the value of hard work. I learned that success comes when you are willing to do the things others are not willing to do.

Fast-forward a "few" years and I am here at the TRIO office as a new Academic Coordinator. I am so excited to be here where I get to work with students on a regular basis, offer assistance and build relationships that can make a difference. I have always loved the educational setting and have wanted to be a school counselor since high school. I earned my masters in school counseling here at IPFW in 2010. I cannot think of a better way to use my degree! I have two children; Abby 15, and Benny 14, and one springer spaniel named Daisy.

I am looking forward to getting to know the TRIO group here on campus and cannot wait to see the growth and success of our students.

**TRIO STUDENT UPDATES**

**Britten Friar to Serve in Peace Corps in Kosovo!**
Britten earned a Bachelors in Elementary Education in December 2016 and has accepted a two-year position as a primary education teacher with the Peace Corps in Kosovo starting June 2017.

**Ei Ei Oo Working Towards a Masters!**
Ei Ei Oo earned her bachelor’s degree in biology in December 2016 and now is pursuing a Master’s degree in public management with a health systems administration and policy concentration.

**From Co-op Student to Regulatory Engineer!**
Nathan Seelye, a TRIO mentor, graduated with an Electrical Engineering degree in December, 2016. Nathan has accepted a position at Regal Beloit in Fort Wayne as a regulatory engineer. He had worked at Regal as a co-op student during his schooling at IPFW.

**Gaby Goes to Medical School!**
Biology major, Gaby Romo, was accepted into medical school at Wright State University in Ohio and IU Medical School! Congratulations Gaby, we cannot wait to see where you choose to go!
TRIO Mentors Make a Difference!

Remember that awkward feeling of being new. The feeling like everyone is looking at you and you don’t know what to do? Ever wish you had someone you could call for guidance and help? That’s what TRIO peer mentors do! Peer mentors are here to show you the ropes, give you a heads up, and encourage you when you need it.

Freshmen accepted into the TRIO program are assigned a peer mentor so they have someone to talk to, study with, and help them adjust to college life.

Students in good academic standing who are interested in becoming a TRIO mentor next year should let their TRIO Academic Coordinator know. This is a good way for students to help others and get professional experience. All positions are paid.

Mentors meet once a month as a group with mentees for lunch and fun! Mentors lead the group in an activity focused on engaging interaction and support opportunities for TRIO students. Be sure to join your mentor and other mentees for this special event. Upcoming events: January 30, February 27, March 20, and April 3. All events are at noon in KT G49.

TRIO Coffee Hour
Wednesdays
9:00-10:00 a.m.
Kettler Hall Room G83

2016-2017 TRIO Peer Mentors
Front row: Emily Salisbury, Jessica Camarena, Cherry Aung
Back row: Kristin Costello, Miranda Hall, Joseph Shell, and Lorenzo Catalan
Not pictured: Colby Flye, Nathan Seelye, and Rebecca Eby
TRIO SSS is excited to offer a new discussion group this fall for TRIO students who would like to talk more about culture and identity and current issues facing different cultural groups.

These discussions are designed to allow students to express their experiences and insights into their own diversity while learning from others about different cultures.

As a part of this project, students will also get to visit the ACPL Genealogy Center to learn more about their heritage. Students who actively participate in the on-going meetings will also have the opportunity to have their DNA analyzed to find out what areas of the world their DNA comes from. Interested students should attend the first meeting for more information and details. Feel free to contact Shubitha with any questions.

All meetings are Mondays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in KT G30: January 30; Feb 13, 27; March 13, 27; and April 17, 24.

TRIO CLUB is an IPFW student organization that volunteers in the local community aiming to make a positive and lasting difference in the lives of those in Fort Wayne. Come to the next meeting if you are interested in finding out more about TRIO Club and upcoming volunteer events. All meetings are from 12-1pm. *TRIO Club is open to all IPFW students.

- January 18’ KT G-83
- February 15’ KT G-83
- March 1’ LA 160
- March 15’ LA 160
- March 29’ LA 160
- April 12’ LA 160
- April 26’ LA 160

TRIO SSS will have a BIG EVENT group this year. If you’d like to be a part of IPFW’s big day of service as a part of the TRIO SSS team, please sign up in the TRIO office. The Big Event will be on Saturday, April 8, 2017.
TRIO Student Karla Silva Attends Florida Conference

Since I am a human services major, I desire to learn more and more about my profession. I attended a National Organization for Human Services conference in Fort Wayne in April of 2016 and enjoyed my experience very much. That conference made me realize that I needed to learn more about my future career. Therefore, I went online to browse for other conferences and came across the flyer for the national conference. At the time, attending the conference was just something I thought would be a cool idea. . .until I talked to other TRIO members at The Big Event and found out about how IPSGA will pay for IPFW students to go on trips (educational ones, of course!) After stressing about having a near perfect presentation to present to a board of 13 members, I was approved to go to Florida under IPFW money.

On October 18, I flew from Fort Wayne to Tampa Bay, Florida for the conference that would last several days. I hoped that in the following days I would learn things I never thought existed as well as meet new people. October 19 was the first day of the conference which was called, “The New Realities in America: Preparing for the Challenges Ahead.”

Educators and students from all over were able to come to this conference. At first I thought it was only for those in the U.S., but there were even people from different parts of Canada attending! I would say that there were about 250 people that attended, most of them were Florida residents.

My whole time at the conference was amazing. I learned more about domestic violence, about using snakes as therapy for children with autism, and even sad facts about the adoption system.

If I could go back in time, I would not change a thing about how I got to this conference. I traveled alone and enjoyed my time meeting other students with the same heart as me. I will try to attend as many conferences as possible to extend my knowledge and be a better human service provider. In addition, I will support and inform any other students who do not know about the opportunity to apply for student travel funding through IPFW. It seriously was an amazing experience!

If you are interested in getting funds to attend a conference, talk to your TRIO Academic Coordinator for help or visit the IPFW Travel Funding Website: http://www.ipfw.edu/travel/ Eligible IPFW students may request funds from the IPFW Student Travel Funding Committee to pay for eligible educational events.
TRIO Staff:

Shubitha Kever
Program Director
Email: kevers@ipfw.edu
Office: (260) 481-6881
Cell/Text: (260) 403-4190

Karen Lenfestey
Academic Coordinator
Email: lenfks01@ipfw.edu
Office: (260) 481-0223
Cell/Text: (260) 452-9648

Anita Vannatta
Academic Coordinator
Email: vannaj01@ipfw.edu
Office: (260) 481-0221
Cell/Text: (260) 402-5828

Tiffany Lackey
Office Assistant
Email: lackeyt@ipfw.edu
Office: (260) 481-0220

TRIO Leaders 2017

Every year, upperclassmen in TRIO have the opportunity to develop their leadership skills as part of the TRIO Leaders Program. Students learn about their leadership habits, habits of good leaders, and how to incorporate habits of good leaders into their everyday lives. Students must be recommended for this program by a TRIO staff member. If you are interested in applying for next year’s class of TRIO leaders, talk to your TRIO Academic Coordinator now.

TRIO Spring Workshops

How to Win Scholarships Workshop:
Monday, Feb. 13, 12:00-1:00 p.m. in KT G49

Financial Planning for College Students Workshop:
Monday, March 27, 12:00-1:00 p.m. in KT G49

Home Buying & Credit Card Workshop:
Monday, April 24, 12:00-1:00 p.m. in KT G49

TRIO Awards Luncheon

Monday, April 10, 2017
12-1pm in Walb Ballroom
Lunch provided. RSVP in the TRIO office.