After a long winter and late spring, it has been so refreshing to feel the sun on our faces the last few days. As we near graduation in just a few days, the apprehension over finals and excitement of being near the finish line is evident around campus.

It has been an amazing year for TRIO with record turnouts for many of our events. Kudos to all for your participation and the enthusiasm you share. The advisors and myself have been sharing how much we have enjoyed working with all of you. You make our jobs worthwhile and fun!

For those of you who will be on campus this summer, Advisor Ra’Shi will be here on a part-time basis, and I will also be in the office if you need assistance. There will be some limited tutoring services available and of course, you have 24/7 access to our online tutoring system, TutorMe.

I ask that everyone please complete the Monkey Survey that was emailed. Your input and the information we gain is invaluable and helps us to make positive changes for our program.

Have a wonderful and fun-filled summer! We appreciate you!

The University of Mary Student Leadership Awards Banquet was held April 5 in Founders Hall. Two TRIO students, Genevieve Say and Tessa Wickstrom were awarded the TRIO Elite Graduate Award. This award exemplifies all the attributes of a successful TRIO student by taking full advantage of the TRIO program, demonstrating outstanding leadership skills, exhibiting a positive attitude, and achieving a GPA of 3.5 or greater.

Genny hails from Napa, California and will be graduating with a degree in Social Work and minor in Philosophy/Theology. She is also enrolled in the Master of Science Bioethics Program and is applying for graduate school to continue her passion for Social Work.

When asked what TRIO has meant to her, she responded, “Over the course of my time at the University of Mary, TRIO has been a consistent support in both my academic and personal growth from helping me organize my classes as a lost freshman to guiding me with my post graduate plans. I’m grateful for the services and mentorship I have received from TRIO, and personally thank the advisors who have played a very personal role in supporting my academic ambitions and being a very loving presence in my life.”

Tessa is from the Denver, Colorado area. She is a nursing major who was nominated as the Nursing Student Association President for the 2017-18 graduating class. After graduation, she plans to remain in Bismarck to work as an RN on the Cardiology unit at Sanford Health.

When asked what TRIO has meant to her, Tessa responded that she first joined a TRIO program when she was a 6th grader. She has appreciated the way the UMary TRIO program welcomed her with open arms and provided stability, support and encouragement necessary to persevere. TRIO’s guidance allowed her to flourish at the University and become a catalyst for life-changing experiences. She attributes her success to all the wonderful advisors who have helped her along the way.
End-of-Year Awards, Entertainment, Food, Fun!

Left: Social Dance Club doing the Tango.

Below: David Alimo, Freshmen of the Year

Left: Rap artist, Marquell Evans

TRIO Student of the Year Jean Cruz

(Left) Freshmen of the Year Taylyn Kihle and Marquell Evans (Below)

Above: David Minor

Right: Most Determined: Stephen Tan

Overcomer: Deven Altenburg-Lasher

Most Determined: Rudy Guillen

Above: Angela Carter, Overcomer Award

Right: Peer Mentors Sarina Aamold and Elizabeth Turner
Luke Odegard and Allison Dion first met at the University of Mary. They had mutual friends and didn’t really start talking until a year later. The couple started dating on Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017. They became engaged this spring on April 14, here on campus. Luke and Allison are planning a March 2, 2019 wedding. Congratulations!
Congratulations to the Spring 18 TRIO Graduates!

Karmela Bachman, Respiratory Therapy, *Cum Laude*
Migel Bartolo, Business Administration
Brooke Benson, Psychology
Victoria Degenstein, Nursing, *Cum Laude & HSL Cert*
Allison Dehn, Early Childhood and Special Education
Allison Dion, Elementary Educ, Special Educ, and Early Childhood Development
Cory Dixon, University Studies
Sara Dorner, Radiologic Technology
Ashley Drum, Nursing, *Cum Laude*
Erika Fagerstrom, College Studies, *Cum Laude*
Chandra Geisler, Business Admin, Health Care Admin
MaryJo Guilbert, Elementary Educ and Special Educ, *Cum Laude*
Annie Hill, Communication Science Disorder, *Magna Cum Laude & HSL Cert*
Jered Keller, Business Administration
Kaelee Knoell, Communications
Nicole Miller, Nursing
Maycie Morgan, Nursing, *Cum Laude*
Luke Odegard, Accounting
Elizabeh Salazar, Chemistry
Genevieve Say, Social Work, *Cum Laude & HSL Cert*
Abigail Smith, Early Childhood, Special Educ and Elementary Educ
Kasandra Swift, Radiologic Technology
Elizabeth Turner, Criminal Justice
Tessa Wickstrom, Nursing