Goodbyes Are Hard!
By Ra’Shi Common

I once read a quote that went like this: "Why can’t we get all the people together in the world that we really like and then just stay together? I guess that wouldn’t work. Someone would leave. Someone always leaves. Then we would have to say good-bye. I hate good-byes. I know what I need. I need more hellos." Charles Schulz

This quote conjures up the mixed feelings I have about leaving the University of Mary. For many reasons its going to be hard to say goodbye, but primarily, I am most sad about leaving my TRIO students. From those of you I have spent a few years getting to know, down to my most recent group of lovelies.... I have been so blessed to be able to share in such an important part of your lives. Thank you for allowing me to walk alongside you in this part of your journey.

My husband and I will be moving at the end of November and we are very excited to be getting closer to our families. I have been fortunate enough to find a job with another TRIO program where I will get to do what I love...serve students! However, I am looking forward to staying in touch with my Bismarck TRIO family. So, if you are on LinkedIn please send me a request to connect: https://www.linkedin.com/in/commonra/

An Appreciation Reception will be held for Ra’Shi on Friday, Nov. 15 from 2:00-3:30 p.m., in Welder Library lower foyer area. Please join us!

She’s Back!
Gabby Moffitt will be working with TRIO as a Graduate Assistant. Gabby is from Monticello, Minnesota and graduated with an BA in Psychology with a Minor in Spanish from the University of Northern Iowa. Gabby is currently a graduate student in the Masters of Counseling Program with a concentration in School Counseling.

Director’s Corner

What a crazy month October has been—70 degrees one day and 16 inches of snow on another! It’s also hard to believe we are already beginning the process for registering for spring semester classes!

Friday, Nov. 15 will be a bitter-sweet day for our TRIO staff and students. Bitter for our staff and students as we say goodbye to a wonderful advisor and friend, Ra’Shi; sweet that she will be able to move closer to her beloved family and blessing other TRIO students in her new position. I encourage students to please stop by and connect with Ra’Shi before she leaves.

To help fill the gap before a new advisor is hired, Graduate student, Gabby Moffit, is going to be helping out. I also want to assure all of you that the entire TRIO staff is here to serve and we will be contacting all of you to give you direction in the interim.

Please be diligent about checking your email daily for information and notices.
By Reegin Kehn

This past May, I had the opportunity to attend the 2019 May term and medical mission in Peru. During my time over in Peru I was able to learn about so many different things. I learned about myself. I met new friends. I saw and experienced new places. I experienced a new culture and language.

The first part of my trip was the mission trip section. This lasted 10 days. Things that occurred during this time: arriving in Lima and exploring Lima; traveling to Cusco and exploring Cusco; traveling to Ayaviri and serving the community while staying at a young girl’s boarding school taught by sisters; hiking Machu Picchu; and hiking Rainbow Mountain. No matter the background, every person was put to use in finding a way to serve. Some built a playground, provided medical knowledge, took notes, ran errands, the list goes on and on in ways of which every person was of service. The people we had the opportunity to serve in this community opened my heart, eyes, and mind in unexplainable ways. The people of Peru have a rich deep faith. The love they poured out to each other and those of us who we were helping definitely did not go unnoticed.

The second part of the trip consisted of staying with a host family and going to school in Arequipa, while going on weekend trips to sand dunes, visit Cola Canyon, Lake Titicaca, and the floating islands. As a Umary group we had dance lessons and cooking classes (btw the food is so good!). During this part I really got a feel of what it was like to live in another country. I met so many new friends from all over the country but also developed deep friendships with people here from Umary.

I am so grateful for this experience, and I would recommend an abroad program to anyone. It puts you outside of your comfort zone and develops growth in unexpected places. Peru definitely has a large part of my heart. So much joy, smiles, and laughter was encountered. Do not pass up a cultural experience if it is something you are able to do and have a desire to attend. Do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions about my experience or the global studies program. I would love to tell you more!
By Jacob Gartner

Paris, a city of many wonders and memories! Hi, my name is Jacob Gartner and that’s me in the picture right there. Next to me is Genevieve Ricciardi, my beautiful bride-to-be, and yes, that is la tour Eiffel in the background. How did this come about? Well, that is a bit of a story, but if you have a couple minutes, I would love to share it with you!

Genevieve and I came to UMary as freshmen together and we became best of friends in a short period of time. Many of our dreams were similar as well, one of which was to travel the world. In the fall semester of freshman year, we started dating. Shortly after, we both put in an application to study abroad at the UMary Rome campus for a semester. Fast forward a year and a half to January 2019 (spring semester our sophomore year) and we boarded our plane to fly to Rome! Our love for each other had done nothing but grow and we were about to live out our dreams together. Little did Genevieve know, as we set out to chase our dreams, I had already ordered a ring. I didn’t know when or where I would propose, but I knew I wanted to do it while we were abroad. A couple months went by and our week of studying art in Paris fast approached us. That was it. What I had been waiting for all semester. I was going to propose in Paris, a city which Genevieve had dreamed of her whole life. I was going to make her dreams come true.

Saturday, March 30, 2019. A day I shall never forget. It was the last full day of studying art in Paris, and the day I proposed to the love of my life. After a long, yet invigorating, art week we had a free afternoon. I asked Genevieve if she would like to go on a special date with me that evening and she agreed. We took the Parisian metro, with some of our close friends, and headed off to the Eiffel Tower. However, when we arrived, we found a police brigade preparing to fend off the notorious Yellow Jacket protestors. Needless to say, we got out of there pretty fast and headed to the other side of the Eiffel Tower. I successfully looked for another spot to propose, and asked Genevieve if she wanted to break away from the group and go on a walk with me. I whisked her away to the new spot and before long, found myself down on one knee asking her to make me the happiest man in the world. She said YES!!!

Now we are back at the home campus, having grown in ways we never expected. We have both come a long way (literally and figuratively) since we were freshmen two years ago and we still have many adventures awaiting us in the years to come. I guess they mean it when they say that dreams really do come true. Thanks for sparing a few minutes to read about our story! Ciao!!

Jacob Gartner and Genevieve Ricciardi
TRIO’s Top 10 Test-Taking Strategies

- Get lots of sleep the night before an exam and be sure to eat breakfast on a test day.
- Bring a watch to class to help pace yourself (you won’t be able to check your phone).
- If you’re a student worried about “going blank” on specific points, quickly write down key info on the back of the test as soon as an exam begins. This will reduce anxiety.
- Always read the directions and questions carefully. Circle key words.
- Write legibly (especially your name).
- Answer the easy questions first to ensure more correct answers if you run out of time.
- Put a check next to questions you skip so you won’t forget to answer them later.
- Focus more time and energy on problems with the greatest point values.
- If you’re unsure about how to interpret a question, ask for clarification.
- Double-check all of your answers, but try not to second-guess yourself. Trust your gut.

SSC hosts Halloween smorgasbord

TRIO student Michael Waddell participated in the Captains vs. Crew Homecoming Basketball game Tuesday, Oct. 8

Strengths Finder

Nov. 19
6 p.m.-7:30 pm
Lower Level Welder 141
Discuss how to discover your own strengths and talents.
Snacks provided.

TRIO student Michael Waddell participated in the Captains vs. Crew Homecoming Basketball game Tuesday, Oct. 8