I want to extend a big “welcome” to all new TRIO students and a “welcome back” to all the familiar TRIO faces. It is so wonderful to have you all back on campus. I’m always amazed how fast time flies—it seems like we just finished the spring semester!

For you newcomers, it is a time to develop new relationships, adjust to different living arrangements and become familiar with the academic environment.

Student Support Services is fully staffed and ready to help you learn to manage your daily schedules, provide you with time management and study skills as well as other helpful information. As well, your personal TRIO advisor is here to help you with any questions or difficulties you may have with academics, finances, career/major choices and personally. They are able to provide you with assistance and referrals as well.

Please be diligent about checking your email as this is the method many offices on campus use to inform you of information that may be very important for you to respond to.

While we know the education you receive at University of Mary will prepare you for life, it’s also the fun activities, friendships, and memories that you will cherish. So get out there, get involved, and have some fun!

Your TRIO Team: Ra’Shi Common, Maureen Moriarty, Brenda Nottestad and Kristi Wanner. As part of this year’s “TRIO Serves” initiative, the team volunteered time at Liberty Elementary School electronically filing and categorizing books in preparation for the start of their school year.

TRIO has come up with a service project initiative this year to bring more attention and encourage our students to become servant leaders on campus and in the community. Our goal is to reach 1,000 hours as a program by Valentine’s Day! On Valentine’s Day, we will discuss “Love as Service” and have a guest speaker come in to talk! We figure if each student completes 6 hours, we will reach our goal! Together We Can!

Whether you volunteer through an organization or simply help your roommate with homework for an hour, come down and record your time given to others! Each TRIO advisor has a list of each student’s volunteer hours in their office. The Day of Service is coming up on October 10th! Hours for this can also be recorded for our TRIO Service Project. To sign up for the Day of Service, please follow the instructions below. There will be no classes held on October 10th for the Day of Service.

To sign up for the Day of Service:
1. Go to: www.volunteerbisman.com
2. Create an account if you do not already have one from previous years
3. After creating the account, click the tab on the left panel named “University of Mary Day of Service”
4. Find the project that best suits your interest and availability of the day
5. Click the project, and select respond in the right hand corner.
6. Answer questions, such as if you will be riding the bus and if you will be eating lunch on campus provided by Dakota Community Bank and Trust.
By Abby Hill

I recently attended the 2018 May Term in Rome this summer. During my time over in Italy, I learned much, much more than just the Life of Saint Benedict. In just five short weeks, I was able to see Papa Francesco, visit tombs of saints and popes, celebrate mass in many different churches and locations, experience the unorganized traffic in Rome, learn a little Italian, eat a ton of gelato and pizzas, try a lot of new foods such as duck hearts, goose liver, veal, and veal intestines. I was also able to visit other really cool places—Sofia, Bulgaria; Sardinia, Italy; Orvieto, Italy; Florence, Italy. It was an amazing experience getting to see the history of the church and the saints in person.

After the May term in Rome, I traveled on my own to Barcelona, Spain, Prague, Czech Republic, and Milan, Italy. After my adventurous travels there, I met up with my fellow peers, alumni, and professors in Tel Aviv, Israel. We stayed five nights in Nazareth and five nights in Jerusalem as our “home base” while we traveled all around Israel during the day, visiting Cana, Mount Zion, Capernaum, Sea of Galilee, Dead Sea, Jordan River, Judean Desert, and so much more.

During my time abroad in the Holy Land and Rome, I learned so much about my faith and the history of the church, it’s impossible to measure. Everywhere we went together, whether in Rome or Israel, there was something to teach us. I was able to see the works of the most amazing saints still standing and thriving. I was able to walk in the footsteps of Christ and see the Bible come to life with my own eyes. How could it get any better than that, right? I have made so many meaningful friendships that will last forever and I have grown exponentially in my faith from just two short months, thanks to University of Mary’s Global Studies Programs. And I can’t forget about the amazing and endless support I received from TRIO, who helped me prepare for my exciting adventures that I was going to encounter on my journey abroad.

If you are interested in hearing more about my journey overseas, are interested in studying abroad yourself, or know someone who is, please feel free to reach out to me and I would love to tell you more! ...Arrivederci!... Shalom!

We’re excited to introduce our TRIO Peer Mentors for 2018-19. The mentors will be serving other TRIO students this year by helping create a supportive system to help develop academic and leadership skills for TRIO students. Participating and utilizing the TRIO Peer Mentor program can positively contribute to your academic experience and success.

Katlyn “Peach” Arens hails from Detroit Lake MN. She is a senior majoring in Psychology and competes as a member of the UMary Swim Team.

Mary Montoya is from Parker, CO. Mary is a senior majoring in Communications with a concentration in Public Relations.
About five months ago, I climbed on my first plane ever and began the trip of a lifetime. I went with the University of Mary on their medical mission down to Peru. Our adventure began in Lima, Peru where I got to see the ocean for the first time. After experiencing Lima, Peru, we headed to Cuzco, and then higher into the Andes mountains to a village called Ayaviri.

While in Ayaviri, we stayed with some Sisters who housed about 25-30 children, so that they could attend school. It was really interesting. Every morning they would get up and practice some dances they were learning for a celebration that was coming up. The children and Sisters were all so friendly, even though we didn’t speak the same language very well. Their generosity and kindness were definitely felt. While in Ayaviri, we went to a health clinic nearby where our group did everything from take X-rays, to physical therapy, physicals, and more. I was put in the pharmacy, where we had some fun adventures and lots of laughs. We were working with Peruvian nursing students who did not speak any English; there were times when we had to translate from English to Spanish, and then they had to translate from Spanish to Quechua, a popular dialect in Peru. We also worked with a school for children with disabilities that was located next door to the home of the Sisters in Ayaviri. Also, we bagged up some food for the people that we were going to be working with. Some of the people in our group did home visits. A group of us also did some work for the Sisters. We even had a March for Life through the streets of Ayaviri. It was a great experience.

One thing that really struck me while we were there was how happy the people were. Another highlight for me was getting to experience mass in Spanish. I did not understand most of it, except that we are all friends, and that Jesus loves us all. While it was not much, it was meaningful all the same. While we did a lot of service while in Peru, we also had a lot of fun. We got to see Machu Picchu, which was honestly amazing. We were able to climb Huayna Picchu, one of the mountains directly behind the city. Even though I am terrified of heights, I have to admit that being in the middle of the clouds was something I will never forget.

Overall, I loved the experience. I loved learning about Peruvian culture and getting to experience what life is like for them, altitude and all. All I can say is that one day I really hope to be able to return to Peru, because it will always have a special place in my heart.

By Samantha Wiechman

Exploring the European Capitals

TRIO students Alex Lopez Diaz and Varun Doshi pose with a Russian woman as they visited Red Square during the 2018 soccer World Cup in Moscow, Russia. Alex and Varun are holding flags representing their Mexican and Indian heritage. They were part of the UMary group who traveled to Vienna, France and Russia for a faculty-led program this summer. They were studying history, politics and religion of these European nations as well as the excitement of being able to be a part of the Soccer World Cup.
A real Peach!

TRIO student and Peer Mentor, Katie Arens, AKA Peach, was the special guest speaker for the ecumenical chapel service at Our Lady of the Word on Monday, Sept. 24.

Katie inspired the attendees with her heartfelt message and down-to-earth style as she spoke about using your God-given gifts and talents.

Fall 2018 Book and Merit Grant Awards

We are pleased to announce that 97 TRIO students received a $50 book grant for their spring academic performance. Sixty-four students received Merit awards of $250-$500 for spring GPAs of 3.0 or greater. Those receiving a $500 Merit Award for a spring GPA of 4.0 were Sarina Aamold, Jean Cruz, Jane Dukart, Erin Heidrich, Cody Klamm, Hannah Meier, Kiersten Salazar and Samantha Wiechman. Congratulations!

Supplemental Grants will be awarded in the near future.

UPCOMING OCTOBER WORKSHOPS

Mon., Oct. 1: Killin’ It. LVUC Student Organizations Conference Room, 11:00-11:30 a.m. Bring a friend.

Wed., Oct. 3: Killin’ It. LVUC Student Organizations Conference Room, 2:00-2:30 p.m. Bring a friend.

Wed., Oct. 10: TRIO Day of Service

Tues., Oct. 30: Day of the Dead Celebration. TSB Butler Hall, 7:00-8:00 p.m. Learn about the Day of the Dead Celebration with TRIO presenters Dora Cantu and Mary Montoya. Bring a friend.
The TRIO Kickoff Event was held the evening of September 26 in the Butler Hall. Nationally recognized speaker, Joshua Fredenburg, was the guest speaker. Joshua is author of five books, a TedX speaker, television guest expert, and President of the Award-winning Circle of Change Leadership Experience.

Joshua challenged students to strengthen their personal and leadership skills as he talked about GRIT and resilience.

September 26th marks the day all student account balances are DUE! After this day, if you are not on a payment plan, you will be accumulating late fees (if your account is not paid in full). You will also show a student account hold on your account. This hold will not allow you to register for spring classes. Please see the Student Account office and/or Financial Aid office with any questions or concerns about your account. You can also visit with your TRIO advisor first, to discuss how to be prepared to visit with the student account and financial aid office.
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