

# TRiO/PROJECT ACHIEVE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2015



## Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

You won't want to miss this!

**TRiO/Project Achieve's 22nd Annual Honors Luncheon**  
**Thursday, April 16 12:00-1:00 P.M.**

Bring a guest and join us in celebrating the achievements of many of our Project Achieve students!

Contact [skilleen-brown@unomaha.edu](mailto:skilleen-brown@unomaha.edu) as soon as possible to see if seating is still available.

## Ladies and Gentlemen, Introducing Our Outstanding May Graduates:

**Martha Alcantara**

**Edna D'Souza**

**Alisha Floyd**

**Jodie Heitmann-Dadzie**

**Joseph Italia**

**Jamie Lam**

**Zach Maharaj**

**Shaista Mir**

**Datrell Morgan**

**Roman Panyathong**

**Yanira Paola Perez Flores**

**Jonathon Queen**

**Gatluak Ramdiet**

**Casey Riesberg**

**Ibrahim Saad**

**Yen Tran**

**Rita Washington**

## TRiO/Project Achieve Students Are Busy!

**Melissa Ramos** will study the Persian languages in San Diego this summer for ROTC.

**Nazaneen Rahmanzai** will study abroad in Turkey this summer.

**Kim Duong** recieved the Nene Fields Scholarship and will be studying in Switzerland this summer.

**Diana Ortiz** will be undertaking TWO study abroad excursions this summer, the first in Oman and the second in Eastern Europe.

**Samantha Quitl** will be serving her social work practicum with the Nebraska Family Collaborative in the upcoming fall semester.

**Zhomontee Watson** has joined the UNO Student Chapter of Habitat for Humanity as Fundraising Co-Chair.

### Special Note:

Tutoring will not be available for summer school 2015. Please consider using the summer resources listed below:

### Summer Hours:

Project Achieve Office: 7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Writing Center:

M/W 10:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.

and T/TH 2:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

Math/Science Resource Center:

Check website for summer hours

Library:

M-TH 7:00 A.M.-9:00 P.M.,

F 7:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.,

SA 12:00 P.M.-5:00 P.M.,

SU 12:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.



# Someone You Should Know

**Haifaa Al-Saadi**, who is new to UNO, is a proud member of TRiO/Project Achieve for 2015. Haifaa's family is from Iraq but she was born in Saudi Arabia. With family traditions and roots in the Middle East it would surprise you to know that Haifaa grew up in Dearborn Heights, Michigan and Erie Pennsylvania. Her loving family consists of her mother, two brothers and one sister. Haifaa and her family are U.S. citizens who have lived in Lincoln, NE for the past eight years. Haifaa loves to travel, she told me if she could travel any place in the world she would travel to Rome, Dubai, Hawaii and Canada.

Growing up in Lincoln, Haifaa was active in a variety of high school clubs. She enjoyed knitting, art and cooking classes. She was also a member of the Middle

Eastern Club and enjoyed learning Henna techniques. Other passions of hers are soccer and sports cars. If Haifaa could select any sports car as her very own, she would love to have a Maserati or a Bugatti. I did a little research and found a nice used 2006 Bugatti Veyron with 11,000 miles on it for a mere \$800,000. Haifaa has expensive taste in cars.

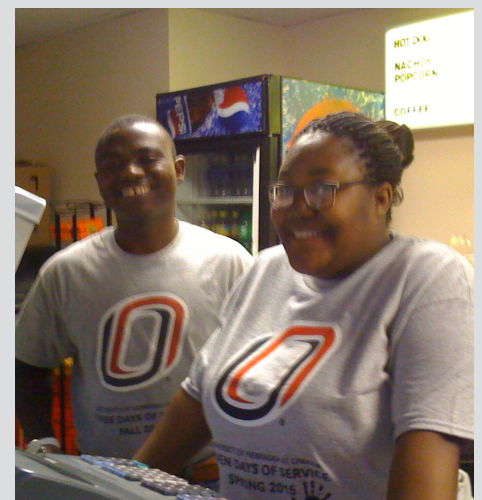
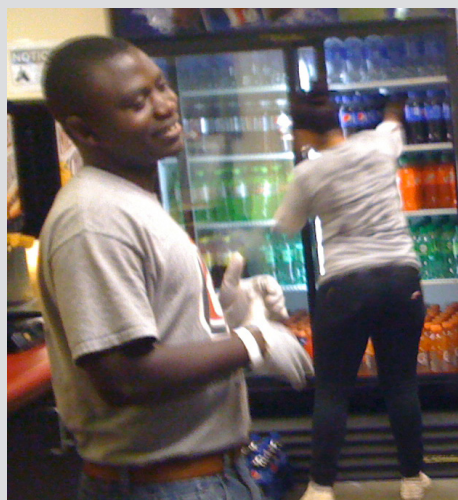
Haifaa is Muslim by faith; she dresses in a modest manner and wears a hijab (the traditional covering of the hair and neck worn by some Muslim women). In high school a few uninformed students tried to touch her hijab (which is most disrespectful). Haifaa understands this is not the behavior of most students – simply the behavior of a few uninformed individuals. In Haifaa's home she

was allowed to "question" her faith and to explore its rich principles. This "questioning" led her to accept the Muslim faith as her own and not just because her parents are Muslims. Haifaa told me that Ramadan is a very interesting and intriguing aspect of her faith. She enjoys this time of fasting, praying and self-reflection. She uses this time to reflect on the needs of the poor and others who are less fortunate.

Haifaa is a Psychology major who wants to "find a job after graduation." The last book she read for pleasure was, 'Lord of the Rings'. One thing she wants to accomplish before she dies is to "save a life". Fellow TRiO/Project Achieve students, Haifaa is someone you should know.

## Project Achieve Student Habitat for Humanity Partners with UNO Athletics

The UNO Student Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, led by Project Achieve students, teamed with UNO Athletics to raise funds and awareness on March 21. Students worked concessions for a take of the profits at a day-long martial arts tournament. Those stepping up to help vend hot dogs, pizza and popcorn included: **Katherine Esquivel, Abel Rodriguez, Zhomontee Watson, Nisha Tangirala, Jacques Musavyimana, Dominique Riggs, Natalie Wilson, Diana Ortiz and Apoko Zekpa.**





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