

TRiO/PROJECT ACHIEVE NEWSLETTER

September 2015



Welcome back!

Welcome back everyone! The staff and I missed you so much. There have been a few changes since we last saw you. For example:

1. Derek Boeckner is now assistant professor of Mathematics at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Derek really wanted to stay with us, but this new job is something he has always wanted to do. We wish Derek great success!
2. If you have not noticed, Cindy is now our newest advisor. Cindy has a Master's degree in counseling and as most of you will attest, Cindy was born to be an advisor.
3. ANNOUNCING!! Stephanie Parada is our new Office Assistant. Stephanie's Bachelor's degree is in English Literature with a Certificate in English teaching. She loves to read, travel to Ireland and Italy. She is also a cat lover.

Appointments Please

In order to better serve you - I need you to do something that will be part of your social skill set for the rest of your life. I need you to make "an appointment" if you need to see your TRiO/Project Achieve advisor about a specific issue. Yes, walk in advisor visits are welcomed, but you run the risk of a long "wait-time" if the advisor is with a student. By making an appointment we honor your time by ensuring your advisor is available just for you. Appointments please.

A Public Service Announcement: Sign Up/Show Up

This is the motto for Project Achieve: *"If you sign up for an event, show up for the event."*

Plans are made according to the number of people who have signed up; when you don't arrive, it costs many people valuable time and money. Project Achieve students are a generous and thoughtful group and we love that you sign up for many projects, but make sure you are really going to be able to attend if you do sign up. Be sure you always extend to others the common courtesy of keeping your word. When you sign up, show up.

Our students are the BEST!!!

Did you know that TRiO/Project Achieve students were all over the globe this summer? More and more of our students are taking advantage of the wonderful opportunities in other countries and in other states.

Allow me to enlighten you:

- *Nazaneen Rahmanzai* traveled to Turkey!
- *Diana Ortiz* traveled to Oman and Eastern Europe. She has been selected to serve as a UNO Global Diplomat for the coming academic year!
- *Jacques Musavyimana* traveled to London. He also traveled to North Carolina to study Swahili!
- *Melissa Ramos* traveled to San Diego to study Farsi!
- *Kim Duong* received the Nene Fields Scholarship and studied abroad in Switzerland this summer! She also had the chance to visit France, Germany, and Spain.
- *Esau Betancourt Horrizon* studied abroad this summer in Argentina, and was able to also travel to Uruguay, Brazil, and Chile as part of that experience.
- *Jacinta Christiansen* backpacked through Europe, and visited her family in Italy! She also visited England, Ireland, Spain, Hungary, Switzerland, and Denmark.



Oman



London



Argentina



Turkey

We have MORE!!

Yessenia Duran has been awarded the Nebraska Minority Justice and Nebraska Lawyers Foundation LSAT Prep Scholarship.

New Project Achieve student *Courtney Simmons Panasiuk* will be working with the Marmoset monkeys in the Biology Labs this semester.

Congratulations to:

Saynab Ali on receiving the Tammie Preston Scholarship.

The following students on receiving the Reaching Your Potential Scholarship:

- *Esau Betancourt Harrizon*
- *Blessing Kyaw*
- *Jacques Musavyimana*

Criminal Justice major *Fatah Mir* has been accepted into the Bellevue Police Department Citizen's Police Academy.

The list below indicates outstanding students who are new to TRiO/Project Achieve this fall semester. Be sure to introduce yourself and make them feel welcome when you see them in the office or around campus.

Emmanuel Ajayi
Achan Akol
Gabriel Akot
Allison Albano-Garcia
Gabriela Amador
Erick Arreola
Purni Biswa
Shae'Kell Butler
Norma Castro-Escobar
Elissa Chavez
Palaak Chol
Kerlin Cisneros
Julia Davis
Madisyn Dunagan
Brandy Griffin Clements
Cavonna Green-Debro
Maya Harper
Kataw Htoo

Kyrilos Iskandr
Antonio Jackson
X'Zavia Jones
Precious Kayode
Rheanna Klassen
Blessing Kyaw
Alina Lopez
Lizeth Paola Martinez
Matthew McManigal
Colin MacNabb
Ryan Merritt
Jimmy Nguyen
Gilbertine Nyunzima
Salmo Parre
Evelyn Perez
Jennie Rinabarger
Courtney Simmons-Panasiuk
Parker Smith

Kristen Steele
Maria Tapia
Kaeisha Taylor
Bryce Timm
Joel Wagman
Cenise Walker
Maria Zarazua Espino

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, Nebraska for the past eight years. Haifaa loves to travel. She told me if she could travel to 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. Another passion of hers is 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 Haifaas 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 was 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.

Coming Events:

September 9	Strategies for Success through Academic and Career Development Center 2:00 pm-3:00 pm 132D CPACS
September 15- October 15	Hispanic Heritage Month. Get involved!
September 16, 23, and 30th	Newcomers Program's
September 16	Degree Discovery Day 11:00 am- 1:00 pm Community Engagement Center



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