



Carleton College TRIO/SSS NEWSLETTER Winter 2022

Features:

- ◆ First-Year Spotlight — 2
- ◆ PL Spotlight — 3
- ◆ OCS Highlights — 5
- ◆ Scavenger Hunt — 6
- ◆ New Staff: Jessica! — 8

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ **Saturday, March 12
12-2pm**
TRIO End of Term
Celebration
- ◆ **Wednesday, March 16**
Finals End
- ◆ **Thursday, March 17**
Spring Break Begins

A Note From The Interim Director:



Brrrr it's COLD! As we continue to work together to get through this pandemic, this winter term has been full of adjustments for TRIO. As usual, our students adjusted quickly to the changes as we shifted over to hosting virtual workshops and re-scheduled larger events.

In December, the TRIO staff grew as we welcomed Jessica Zick.. The newsletter includes an interview with Jessica, giving everyone an opportunity to learn more about them and their role within TRIO/SSS.

This term we were able to continue to provide regular Fiesta Friday events for our first-years, with some being open to all TRIO students. Our goal was to continue creating opportunities for community-building and teaching the first-years that winter can be just as fun! By collaborating with CANOE we were able to offer some really fun outdoor activities - even with the cold weather.

A big shout-out to the TRIO Peer Leaders and interns who have done an outstanding job at engaging with the TRIO students and college community through social media and events this term. Be on the lookout for the next updates on "Student of the Week", where anyone can nominate any TRIO student. I hope everyone has a safe and relaxing spring break.

Best,
Karina

First-Years Spotlight

Zaria Kelly '25 (she/her/hers)



My name is Zaria Kelly and I am originally from Orlando, FL. Long way from home, right? I was so worried about how I was going to adjust to the weather here in Minnesota, as I've never really experienced temperatures below 50 degrees. I'd conjured up scenarios of trekking through 18 feet of snow and a Category 5 blizzard to get to my 3a. Although it does feel like that some days, I will say that I adjusted pretty well! I was also worried about the transition from a public school system to a top 20 liberal arts education that Carleton provides. Without a doubt, it has been a challenge. The intense rigor of academia here has forced me to reflect upon and revise my usual routine, and to better myself as a student and person. The kind professors and plentiful resources here on campus have definitely helped with this a lot! With mental, emotional, and academic support at Carleton, I have been able to see more of

what the world has to offer. It is the experience of newness that makes me excited for all of the discoveries I will make here at Carleton, both about the world and myself.

Bladmir Contreras '25 (he/him/his)

Bladimir Contreras (He/Him) is from Houston, Texas! Bladimir is a prospective American Studies or Political science major. In his free time, when he is not engulfed in academics, Bladimir enjoys exploring the Arb, hanging out with my friends, cooking, listening to music, going to the rec, studying in my room, slipping on ice, and hating Minnesota weather. In addition to being a part of TRIO, Bladimir is a Posse scholar and is involved in OIL and LASO organization.

Bladimir appreciates TRIO because he "gets to hang out with people from similar but different backgrounds, and enjoy all the activities they create for us (Comfort Food Friday's/ Study Breaks/ Information Sessions)." Something that affected us all and our time during Carleton is the pandemic. For Bladimir, when talking about Covid, he always says to stay positive. Some positive things Covid has brought Bladimir "are seven pandemic puppies (yes, seven), stimulus checks (thank you, America), and the opportunity to visit my family in Virginia (for a funeral)".



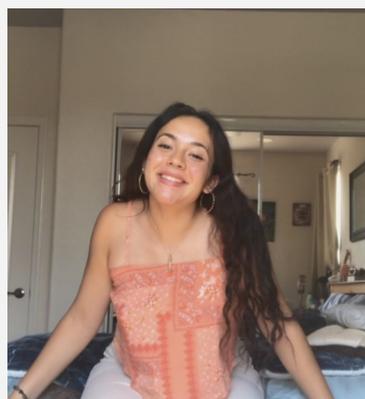
Peer-leader Spotlight

Weiland Wang '23 (he/him/his)

Hello everyone! My name is Weiland Wang. I'm a junior chemistry major and biochemistry minor on the pre-med track. I'm part of many organizations and clubs on campus including Men's Volleyball, Firebellies Cooking Club, and Carleton Pre-Health Association. This marks the 2nd year I have been a part of TRIO Peer Leaders and it has been a blast the whole way. Being a part of such a wonderful community has allowed me to experience and cherish many amazing memories, even during a global pandemic. I especially enjoy watching my mentees grow and thrive, working with an amazing group of coworkers, and being under superb management. TRIO has been a constant pillar of support for me, and I am sure that is true for others as well. Being of service for students that come from similar backgrounds has allowed me to develop a better sense of myself and appreciation for the work being done here. #TRIOstrong



Tatiana Jimenez '23 (She/Her/Hers)



Hi all! My name is Tatiana Jimenez and I am a Junior chemistry and studio arts major here at Carleton. In addition to being a TRIO student, I participate in FOCUS, the Latin American Student Organization (LASO), and women's lacrosse. As a new Peer Leader this year, I have had the amazing opportunity to take a more active role in my TRIO community. Although life at Carleton is not business as usual due to the persisting pandemic, I have enjoyed finding creative ways to build our TRIO community. My favorite part about being a peer leader is supporting my mentees as they forge their own unique paths at Carleton. All of my mentees are so motivated, brilliant, and creative and it has truly been an honor to work with them this year. Moreover, being a part of the supportive TRIO Peer Leader team has been an amazing learning experience that has allowed me to develop my leadership, organizational, and communication skills. I am excited to continue to grow as a Peer Leader and to find new ways to support my TRIO community!

Senior Spotlight



Clarissa Guzman (she/her)

Hi, my name is Clarissa Guzman (she/her) from Sunnyvale, California [aka the Bay Area] and I am a SOAN major with an Ed Studies minor. I love listening to music and I'm currently watching Euphoria (so if you want to talk about Euphoria let me know!). I am excited to finish up my comps project this term.

Maya Rogers (she/they)

Hi, I'm Maya and I am a senior psychology major originally from Tulsa, OK. I'm ~very~ involved with most things Carleton (like, maybe too many things) and I really love everything TRIO does and getting to hang out with TRIO people. This school year I have applied for and am working on choosing a social psychology Ph.D. program to attend, as well as working on my 5th quilt!



Liz Antunez (she/her)

Liz is a senior psychology major from Round Lake, Illinois. She recently submitted my comps and now has no idea what to do with her free time. Hobbies include hanging out with her dog, making Spotify playlists, and placing Robert Pattinson's pictures around the house.

OCS Highlights

Abdisalan Hawadle '23 (he/him/his)

Biology Major — Europe

Abdisalan Hawadle is currently in Europe in the Carleton Architectural Studies program, where he has had the opportunity to explore European architecture. The program emphasizes frequent visits to buildings, historic districts, contemporary developments, archaeological parks, and other cultural heritage sites. In his free time, Abdisalan explores the different cities they are in. He has had the opportunity to develop his observational drawing skills through practice sketching buildings on location. He has really enjoyed his trip so far, one interesting thing he has done was seeing the Alhambra and the Great Mosque of Córdoba. He also visited a small Italian city called Tivoli and went to Villa d'Este and Villa Adriana. At the end of his time in Tivoli, he and his group watched the sunset from a hill. Abdisalan would like our readers to know that he is, "extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to study and learn about architecture in multiple European countries. I strongly encourage anyone who is thinking about studying abroad to do so and to look into this program if they are interested in architecture or want to do a program outside their major."



Elena Ea '24 (she/her/hers)

Statistics Major — London, UK and Seville, Spain



Elena Ea is spending time in London and Seville with the Carleton OCS program called "Sport and Globalization". Participants in this program are running a sports camp for the kids at the Lora Tamayo School, the local elementary school. They are leading activities such as baseball, basketball, English-learning activities, and floor hockey. Elena has really enjoyed spending time with the kids and learning lots of new Spanish words from them. In her free time, she tries to go sightseeing as much as possible. So far, she has been to a bunch of free museums in London and has walked around the neighborhoods and cathedrals in Spain. Prior to applying to this program, she was a little nervous but "so far the experience has been exceeding my expectations. After researching and speaking with my advisors and Carleton OCS, I felt a lot more confident about applying for OCS programs."

Jayti Arora '23 (she/her/hers)

Computer Science Major — University of York, UK

Jayti Arora is a student at the University of York studying Interactive Media. At York, she gets to focus more on the design aspects of Computer Science. In the UK she has been conducting research and designing a prototype for a new online learning tool. In her free time, Jayti explores the city center and visits museums in town. She has walked along the city walls, created during Roman times, to get a 360 view of the city. She has also visited other cities in the UK due to the easily accessible transportation systems in Europe. Jayti really appreciates how integrated she has become with the students who attend York full time. In her own words, "As a TRIO student, it was definitely difficult at first adjusting to the lifestyle here since it is a Non-Carleton led program and the same support system of TRIO was not there for me. However, as time has gone on, it has gotten significantly better and my confidence to handle new situations definitely grew."



Comfort Food Friday

On Friday February 25th, TRIO hosted Comfort Food Friday with food catered from Gran Plaza. Despite COVID restrictions lifting earlier in the week, the TRIO staff and students observed prior masking policies and got food to-go to be extra safe. It was another term of an abnormal Comfort Food Friday, but that did not stop students from coming in to grab a bite to eat before their end-of-term studies began. While eating, the students chatted around the house in small groups, played board games, and listened to music together! The TRIO staff and peer leaders hope that next term it will be safe enough to have all students gathered unmasked in the house and enjoying the food together.



OIL, ISL, and TRIO Scavenger Hunt

On the 6th weekend, TRIO, OIL, and ISL came together and did a collaboration event for the first year students! We held a scavenger hunt around campus and students were tasked with finding a pineapple, tropical bird, palm tree, beach/sand, a coconut, and a dolphin. The groups were encouraged to be creative when trying to locate these specific items seeing that it is Winter term and a lot of these items may not be an obviously found on campus. The intended goal of this event was to gather students from different cohorts and promote socializing and fun while searching for seemingly impossible items on Carleton's campus. The "Ice Licking USA Team" won the best team name and photo for the event! This event was a great way to relieve some of the stress that may have been built up from midterms and offered students a way for them to take their mind off of school work for a few hours! Overall, this event was amazing and it was wonderful to see peer leaders from different offices come together with their first year mentees to have a great time together despite the extremely cold weather and academic pressures that come along with 6th week!

**ICE LICKING
USA TEAM**



First-Year Retreat

This winter term had our first years participate in taking the Strong Interest Inventory (SII). Each student completed an involved questionnaire that asked students a number of questions related to their interests. The SII then compares their answers with those of working professionals and creates a packet that helps individuals identify their work personality by exploring their interests in six broad areas: realistic, artistic, investigative, social, enterprising, and conventional. Rachel Leatham, Associate Director of the Career Center, joined us on zoom to help students go over and reflect on their results. This event created a space where first year students could begin to think through what traits they have/favor and how that can connect to possible future careers.



Fiesta Fridays

The cold weather of this winter term did not stop TRIOs interactions with its community during our Fiesta Fridays. In fact, the snow led to wonderful winter wonderland themed events! Fiesta Fridays were created as a way for peer leaders to connect with first years and allow for these new TRIO students to come together in a space where they can interact with each other and the wider TRIO community. Beginning in week 2, peer leaders spent some quality time with their mentee groups with some fun individual activities. Week 3 had all class years invited to enjoy the start of winter term with ice skating on the bald spot. This event was a fun way to see a variety of class years together bonding (and falling) on the ice. A virtual game night occurred during 4th Friday where students signed onto zoom to play rounds of Among Us and Skribbl.io. Week 5 saw us back outside again as we partnered with CANOE to have a fun day of sledding down the fresh snow on Bell Field and warming up with hot cocoa. In week 6 Black House hosted an in-person game night mentee event. During week 7, students were invited to the OIL Kickback movie night where there was a screening of "Remembering Nokutela". Our final Fiesta Friday landed on 8th week where we had gran plaza cater nachos for Comfort Food Friday.



Black History Month Movie Night

In collaboration with OIL and the Africana Studies department, we hosted a movie night on Week 7 Friday. French professor, Cherif Keita's, award-winning film Nukutela Dube was played during this showing while also commemorating him as a notable black professor.



Meet TRIO's Newest Team Member!

Jessica Etta Zick (they/them & she/her)

We are excited to welcome Jessica Etta Zick to our TRIO team! Jessica lives in Northfield with their partner and two cats. Jessica grew up in Prior Lake, which is about 45 minutes northwest of Northfield and received her AFA in creative writing at Normandale Community College in Bloomington. While in school, they worked in their mom's restaurant and as a Writing Center Tutor. Jessica discovered their love for writing and helping others write and realized they wanted to go to school to teach creative writing. Following her passion, Jessica transferred to Hamline University in St. Paul in 2019 and got their BFA in Creative writing during the height of the pandemic. After graduating, Jessica decided they wanted to explore a different kind of career path before applying to graduate school.



On a whim, Jessica applied to Carleton "not thinking I would ever get the job due to my lack of previous office administrative experience", but by "the grace of a great cover letter and lots of interview prep", they were offered the job! Jessica started at Carleton on December 6th and works in the TRIO house and library as an Administrative Assistant. So far, Jessica feels that their jobs in TRIO and the Library are very different from one another, although they complete similar tasks in both positions. Jessica describes her role as an Administrative Assistant as an "information organizer and support person to other staff". They assist with clerical work that helps the workplace function efficiently, like scheduling, ordering supplies, running reports, organizing both physical and digital information, and doing things to help others. At TRIO, Jessica has been learning how to use TRIO specific software programs and has been helping organize the Lending Library. Jessica tells shared with us that "The term has gone great so far! I've enjoyed meeting the Peer Leaders and students when they come to check out books at the start of the term". As they start the transition to spring, they look forward to getting more involved with the Lending Library process. Jessica encourages students to reach out to her if they have any lending library questions or suggestions! Being an Administrative Assistant requires a good deal of adaptability as tasks are fluid and situationally depended and we are so happy to see Jessica thrive in her new position!

Outside of work, Jessica has two cats named Valerie (right) and Huckleberry (left). Valerie was named after the Steve Winwood song "Valerie" and her kitten was named Huckleberry after Huck Fin because he "looked like a trouble maker". Jessica claims that he lived up to his name sake. Jessica also has an extensive collection of stationary, enjoys bullet journaling, passively collects cheap crystal skulls.

We are so excited to have Jessica join our TRIO community and we look forward to seeing all the amazing this she will do!



Financial Aid/Literacy

For all returning students: Financial Aid Deadline Dates for 2022-2023

Round 2: March 28, 2022 (first day of Spring Term) First batch of notifications going out mid-May and the on a rolling basis after that

Please visit the Financial Services page for important information for [Returning Students](#) who will apply for financial aid. Visit The Hub to view the current status of your financial aid application documents

After you log in, look under Tuition > Fees > Financial Aid > Financial Aid Application Status.

TRIO is offered a **tax preparation workshop** with a Certified Public Accountant on **February 15th from 5-7pm**. **If you missed this session and have questions concerning tax preparation, please contact Karina to connect you with Ann Etter for free help.**

Seniors: If you plan to attend graduate school for the 2022-2021 academic year check with your prospective school(s) for deadlines for financial aid. May vary by institution and department.



Kudos

TRIO wishes to thank everyone who collaborated with us this winter term. We appreciate your support!

Special thanks go out to the following individuals and offices:

Carolyn Livingston, Sindy Fleming, Trey Williams and RJ Holmes-Leopold for all their support for TRIO. [First Year Workshop](#), Rachel Leatham, Associate Director of the Career Center. [Writing Portfolio Workshop](#): George Cusack, Director of Writing Across the Curriculum, and Melanie Cashin, Assistant Director of the Writing Center. [Senior Workshop](#): Jon Onnen, Program Director for Career Leadership, and Maya Rogers '22. [Internship Informational Session](#): Luke M. Klefstad, Program Director for Experiential Learning, and Maya Rogers '22. [Lunch & Learn: Resume Building Workshop](#): Jessica Castellanos, Program Director for Career Foundations [Financing OCS](#): Naomi Ziegler, Associate Director of Off Campus Studies, and Tina Kukowski, Assistant Director of Student Financial Services. Bryn Battani with [The Carleton Association of Nature and Outdoor Enthusiasts \(CANOE\)](#). Kris Parker from the Student Financial Services. [St. Olaf TRIO/SSS Board of Leaders](#), for their continued support and collaboration. The Division of Student Life for their support and collaborations with TRIO.