



SSS Counselor Kylie Evans and the Peer Mentors (pictured above) gathered in December to celebrate the end of a successful Fall semester and to reflect upon their service and mentorship experiences in the SRVL 293 course.

WVU SSS Students and Staff Honor Fall 2016 Graduates at the Recognition Reception

On Thursday, December 1st, WVU SSS students and staff gathered to acknowledge the Fall graduates' tremendous achievements. According to the Higher Education Research Institute, only 40% of first generation college students graduate college within 6 years. This makes graduation an astounding accomplishment and a reason to celebrate!

Graduates Samantha Jones, an Accounting major, and Cecily Flight, an International Studies major, attended the reception. Cindy Drumm, the SSS Director, took the stage to recall fond memories of both students, while emphasizing the significance of achieving their bachelor degrees.

SSS students also had the opportunity to share in the joyous occasion by addressing their graduating peers. Sophomore participant Destiny Jackson commented that she found Samantha to be a personal inspiration, and highlighted Samantha's kindness and sense of humor.

When speaking with Samantha, she expressed her appreciation for SSS - how the staff members were always helpful, how she made so many friends through the program, and how she had her first job as a student worker in the SSS office. She also explained that she was feeling sentimental about graduating, but was excited to start her Master's degree in accounting at WVU in Fall 2017.

Cecily was a recipient of the Gilman International Scholarship that allowed her to study abroad in Morocco for one year. She was also a member of the McNair Scholars program, another TRIO program at WVU that helps prepare students for doctoral studies. Cecily is currently completing an internship with US Senator Joe Manchin at his Washington, DC office.

Other SSS students who graduated in December 2016 include: Renzo Diaz, Myra Dean, Nicole Hedrick, Cody Lester, Alyssa LoVerso, Anna Ruddle, and Samantha Thomas.

This edition of the SSS Newsletter was written and developed by MSW Intern Whitney Lawrence

The aSSiStant

Student Support Services
February/March 2017

The Student Support Services/TRIO (SSS) program supports WVU and Undergraduate Education as a student-centered environment by providing individualized services to students, who are first-generation, income eligible, and/or have a learning or physical disability. Based on their needs and goals, SSS assists them with academic accomplishments, as well as social and cultural enrichment so they may successfully complete baccalaureate degrees.

TRIO
WORKS

SSS Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 8am – 7pm

Fridays: 8am – 5pm

Phone: (304) 293-6629



SSS Director Cindy Drumm poses with Samantha Jones (top) and Cecily Flight (bottom) at the December Graduation Reception.

Time for Taxes!

Are you feeling stressed about taxes? Are you unsure how to go about filing? Fear not! There are resources in the Morgantown area that can assist you for FREE!

VITA is an IRS sponsored program that provides free tax preparation and in-person assistance. You have the option of having your returns prepared for you, or a certified volunteer can walk you through the process so you can learn to do it yourself!

There are two locations in Monongalia County:

Catholic Charities – Morgantown

827 Fairmont Road, Suite 203
Morgantown, WV 26501
304-292-6597 *By Appointment*

Scott's Run Settlement House

41 Lady Bug Drive
Osage, WV 26543
304-599-5020 *By Appointment*



Alternatively, you can receive help over the phone at **1-855-698-9435**

For more information, check out the website at http://www.wveitc.com/eitc_vitasite.html

SSS Graduate School Prep Seminar

This 3-part series is designed to help you understand all aspects of the graduate school application process.

Topics include: Test prep, interview skills, application process, choosing the right program/school, how to pay, and more!

The seminar consists of 3 sessions, 1 hour each.

Seminar dates and times will be based on student availability.

See your SSS Counselor to register



Vicki Cooper (pictured above, right) is a senior Women's and Gender Studies major. She plans to attend graduate school at WVU for Master's degrees in Social Work and Public Administration. She participated in the SSS graduate school preparation seminar last year (Spring 2016). In her own words, Vicki shares about the experience below:

"I really appreciated SSS's grad school prep seminar because it gave me a good idea of what I would be going through while looking at and applying for schools. I think that it would have been a shock and panic if I had gone into the application process with no prior information. The timeline handout the SSS staff provides is a great tool to have! I also liked researching the options for my program, because applying outside of WVU had never occurred to me before. I'm glad that I got the tips for writing a personal statement, too. I think it is important to take this seminar even if you aren't 100% positive that you will be attending graduate school, because it is better to have the information in case you decide to apply later."

SSS Participants Perform in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

This year, four SSS students had the opportunity to experience the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade with the WVU Marching Band. Capri Yancey and Miranda Aman are both first year students and members of the WVU Color Guard. Miranda Cook and Vanessa Kelly also attended and performed in the parade. Not only was this the first time WVU's marching band was included, but WVU was the first in line to perform.

Miranda shares her experience below:

"Macy's was amazing and just a completely mesmerizing experience. There were so many Mountaineer fans, I didn't expect the love we all have for our state to show up so much during the parade."



Social Work major Capri Yancey (above, left) and Pre-Nursing major Miranda Aman (above, right) pose for a photo after the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

National TRiO Day of Service: Volunteering with Empty Bowls



Saturday, February 25th
1:00pm-3:00pm
Mylan Park Community Center



This year SSS will be celebrating National TRiO Day by volunteering at The Empty Bowls Soup and Bread Luncheon. The funds raised at the luncheon will be used to support food pantries and local meal programs in Monongalia County.

SSS TUTORING SCHEDULE

DROP-IN TUTORING

Subjects covered: Math, Chemistry, Physics, Time Management and others!

- Mondays from 10:30am to 1:30 pm
 - Location: Cacapon Room, on the second floor of the Mountainlair.

To Request an Individual Tutor: Schedule an ISP appointment with your Counselor and complete a Tutor Contract. Tutors are available in most academic subjects.

Sign-up for your ISP appointment today!

Stop by the SSS office or call (304) 293-6629 to schedule your Spring 2017 ISP appointment with your SSS counselor.



Vivian Cespedes (left) and student Jennee Maxwell (right) are pictured meeting for their Spring ISP appointment.



SSS student Servando Arredondo (left) is a sophomore Social Work major and SSS office worker. He is pictured studying hard in the SSS office.

Spring 2017 SSS Events

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	SIGN-UP	NOTES
Craft Night	Tuesday, February 7	5 - 6:30 pm	Kanawha Rm, Mountainlair	Tuesday, January 31	Show your creative side and get crafty with Kylie and your SSS friends! Craft project TBA.
Grad School Prep Seminar Series	Weekly Sessions February 20- March 17	TBA- each session will be 90 mins. in length	TBA- Downtown Campus	See your SSS Counselor to sign up before Friday, January 27	This 3-part workshop will prepare you for the graduate school application process. Topics include: finding the right school for you, personal statements, financial aid, and more. Highly recommended for sophomores and juniors considering grad school!
National TRIO Day of Service: Empty Bowls Monongalia	Saturday, February 25	1 - 3 pm	Mylan Park Community Center	Immediately	Help us celebrate National TRIO Day by volunteering at the Empty Bowls Soup Luncheon that benefits food insecurity programs in our community. Transportation will be provided.
WV TRIO Student Leadership Conference	Friday, March 10 - Sunday, March 12	March 10, 3:30 pm - March 12, 2 pm	Flatwoods, WV *Transportation provided	Friday, February 10	This three-day conference will provide students with opportunities to develop and refine their leadership skills, network with other TRIO participants from around the state, and learn valuable skills for personal and professional growth.
Community Service Event: Caritas House Sweets for the Sweet	Saturday, March 25	7 - 10 pm	Erickson Alumni Center	Friday, March 17	Caritas House is a local non-profit agency which provides comprehensive support services to the homeless and individuals with HIV/AIDS. Join us in assisting with their annual dessert-competition fundraiser.
Relax Your Mind: Stress Management Program	Wednesday, March 29	4:30 - 6:30 pm	Mountaineer Room, Lair	Wednesday, March 22	Learn how to better manage the stress you experience as a college student.
Theater Performance: <i>The Pirates of Penzance</i>	Thursday, April 6	7:30 pm	Creative Arts Center	Thursday, March 30	Performance by the WVU School of Theater & Dance. Spaces are limited.
End of Year Reflection Picnic	Thursday, April 20	5 - 7 pm	Cooper's Rock State Park	Thursday, April 13	First-year students who participated in the Fall service learning class and Peer Mentors will enjoy an evening around the campfire for reflection, food, and friendship. Transportation available if needed.
Cultural Trip: Tygart Flyer Train Excursion	Saturday, April 22	9 am - 5 pm	Elkins, WV	Friday, March 3	Come and celebrate the end of the semester with a 4-hour train excursion on a diesel powered locomotive. Our trip will run from the Elkins Depot to the High Falls of Cheat, an 18 ft waterfall in one of the most pristine regions of WV. Transportation and lunch will be provided.
Graduation & Recognition Banquet	Friday, April 28	5 - 7:30 pm	Gold Ballroom, Lair	Friday, April 21	Dinner & Recognition program. Guests \$10.

SSS drop-in tutor David Mersing (right) has been accepted into the WVU Chemistry Ph.D. program for fall 2017. In addition, he has been offered full funding as a Graduate Teaching Assistant. Way to go, David!



Thank You to our Donors

Many thanks to **Rod and Linda Smyth** for their generous donation to our Smyth Family Scholarship fund!

Thank you to the **Flowers Family** for their donation of school supplies and gift cards to our program!

Thank you to the **WVU Women's and Gender Studies Department** for the Alma and Claude Rowe award. Funds have been used to support our Peer Mentor program.

Many thanks to **Jackie Dooley** and the **RACK Food Pantry** for the donations of snacks for our events.

Last but not least, thank you to **Michael and Deborah Flowers** for their kind donation to our Student Assistance for Emergencies (SAFE) fund.

We appreciate all of your support!!



Welcome to our New SSS Participants!

- Trevor Brison
- Miranda Cain
- Kristian Cooper
- Brianna Cunningham
- Kevin Herrera
- Carlton Howard
- Caitlin Williams
- Travon Anderson
- Skylar McNeely
- Stevie Miller
- Ashleigh Shannon-Flemion
- Austin Snider
- Levi Ferrebee
- Kyle Price

Welcome to the Semester Social!

SSS students were welcomed to the Spring semester with some friendly competition at Game Night! Students played a variety of board games including Jenga, Bingo, Sorry and Scrabble. Everyone enjoyed pizza, drinks and visiting with friends and staff.



Pictured above (from left): Alexa Taylor, Vanessa Kelley, Davey Ratzler, Carlton Howard, Miranda Cain, and Lance Rhodes share some laughs while playing board games.



Carlton Howard (above) gets some free pizza before taking part in the big Bingo game, where he won a \$10 gift card to Panera!



The Scrabble competition was intense with this group! Pictured from left to right: Travon Anderson, Chase Swick, Bryan Swauger, Austin Spolan, Ashley Robinson, and Bella Shi.

Student Support Services Philosophy

The Student Support Services/TRiO (SSS) program at West Virginia University provides high quality programs and services while holding to the values of honesty, integrity, compassion, fairness and Love. We encourage growth of our students through personal responsibility and respecting the dignity of all people.

Contact Information

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