

TRIO News

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A Message to TRiO Students

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Hello, from one of the newer members of the College of Coastal Georgia community! I began my job in Academic Affairs on December 1, 2010 and I am excited to join you and all of the other CCGA students, faculty, and staff members.

Congratulations on your decision to attend college. I am pleased that you chose the College of Coastal Georgia for your academic home and that you applied and were accepted to our TRiO Student Support Services Program.

As a member of the TRiO Program, you are also a member of a new unit of the College called **Academic Services**. Along with TRiO, the other Academic Services are Learning Support (which also includes some TRiO students), the Center for Academic Advising, and The Attic (formerly the Learning Center), located just across the Academic Commons (Library) from the TRiO home.

I urge you to take full advantage of the special services you receive as a member of the TRiO Program - academic advising, tutoring, and other programs. All of these are designed to do one thing - help you become and remain a successful student. Successful students are those who seek help when needed, study hard, earn good grades, make progress toward their degrees and continue to be in Good Academic Standing.

I welcome the chance to meet and get to know you. Feel free to e-mail me and we will find a time to get together and talk about your academic goals and challenges and any other aspect of life at the College of Coastal Georgia you wish. Finally, as a student at CCGA, I hope you will always strive to put your **Dreams in Action**.

Ann R. Crowther, Ph.D

Assistant Vice President for Academic Services

acrowther@ccga.edu



Dr. Crowther presents a TRiO recognition certificate and TRiO pin to Melanie White, CCGA graduate.

From the Director...

I would like to begin my message by directly speaking to current TRiO students. If you are new to TRiO Student Support Services, I am sure you are still navigating through all the available services and resources and getting to know our staff. Our services are what you need to succeed in your classes, and our staff members are both your friends and mentors. As program participants, you must have already realized the benefits of using TRiO services and the costs of not utilizing them when they are available.

If your academic needs are identified and appropriate remedial plans are put in place for you by your TRiO advisor, you are required to complete that program. If you fail to do that, your status as a TRiO participant will be in jeopardy. TRiO services are for those who need them and are willing to use them. If you do not use them, you do not benefit from them.

If you are serious about achieving your educational and career goals, you need to seek TRiO services actively and use them until you successfully overcome identified difficulties.

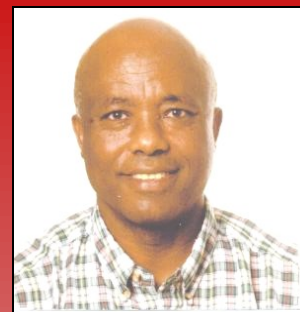
If you are a continuing participant, you are a TRiO ambassador and advocate who can successfully carry our TRiO message to all potential low-income, first-generation, and disabled college students. As you

know, you are brought into TRiO because you have demonstrated one or more academic, social, economic or cultural needs in your background that can be addressed through our services. TRiO has services and resources to address those challenges, and we need your cooperation. All of this is to help you overcome the barriers that stand between you and your goals.

To date more than 2,000 students who would have not otherwise been adequately served by the traditional educational pipeline have benefited from TRiO Student Support Services on this campus.

TRiO contributions are multidimensional. TRiO funds pay salaries and benefits for four employees and seven student peer-mentors. Over \$120,000 of federal money is injected into the local economy through TRiO every year. Most of all, over 140 hours per week of direct tutorial services are provided to our students both in Brunswick and Camden.

At this juncture of change and excitement, TRiO's role is to provide adequate and quality services to eligible students in a timely fashion. The College of Coastal Georgia provides the TRiO program everything that is necessary to be effective and to remain connected to all aspects of the college's activities. Using these opportu-



Belete Muturo
Director, TRiO Student Support Services

nities, TRiO staff participates in all activities of the college through various committees, workshops, and training seminars. Our talents, commitments and expertise are utilized to promote student learning, and to create and promote collaborative efforts while remaining compliant to the terms of the grant.

TRiO Student Support Services will continue to serve the college as a catalyst in pursuing new TRiO programs that will open doors for new opportunities to our students.

Belete Muturo
Director
TRiO Student Support Services

Services Offered by TRiO Student Support Services

After completing your application, submitting all the paperwork, attending an interview and proving to be committed to our program, you have been accepted into the TRiO Student Support Services program. Congratulations! Now what?

TRiO Student Support Services offers a variety of services to increase retention and graduation rates of college students who have a documented disability, come from low-income families or are first generation college students.

1. **Tutoring:** Our program offers free tutoring in subjects like English, Math, Biology, Accounting, Statistics, Computer Concepts, Economics, and many more. Students can schedule appointments to meet with tutors for a specific subject, or they can simply stop by our center to get immediate assistance if the tutors are available.
2. **Computer Assisted Learning:** TRiO has nine computers available exclusively to our students. Computers can be utilized on a “first come, first served” basis. Lab hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 PM – 5:00 PM.
3. **Academic Advising:** Tutoring is just one part of the program, TRiO SSS participants are offered additional academic and financial aid advising as well as counseling. In order to receive these services, students need to schedule an appointment with the Academic Advisor to discuss registration, career plans or counseling.
4. **Workshops:** TRiO Student Support Services also conducts workshops and seminars designed to increase the student’s knowledge in topics such as financial aid, career awareness, basic banking and more. Additional

workshops will be planned for the future in topics such as public speaking, dressing for success and interviewing.

5. **Grant Aid:** TRiO students may apply for supplemental grant aid, if they have unmet financial need with the College of Coastal Georgia. Grant aid is competitive, and GPA will be taken into consideration. A student may only receive grant aid from the TRiO program one time per year.

Aside from TRiO official services, by being a part of this program, students are able to create long-lasting relationships with other participants who share the same commitment and drive.

We again congratulate you for being accepted; at the same time we remind you that this is just the beginning. It is only your responsibility to take advantage of all these opportunities.



TRiO graduates enjoy a recognition party, May 2011.
(L-R) Mills Briggs, Teresa Wilson, Carrie Gossett, Ryan Rodriguez, Dayton Ireland, Jessica Mobley, Jennifer Jacobs, Felicia Sutton; (kneeling) Amy Dusenberry

Academic Services – The ATTIC

The Academic Tutoring and Instruction Center, “The Attic” (formally The Learning Center) is TRIO’s neighbor and shares many of the same ideals. The staff at The Attic is committed to enhance student retention by helping students develop positive attitudes and confidence in their ability to learn. The Attic’s mission is to support learning and help students achieve their potential by providing help and encouragement in a friendly, safe environment.

The Attic offers free, drop-in tutoring service, to ALL College of Coastal Georgia

Students. Located in the library on both the Brunswick campus and Camden Center campus, we offer something for everyone. In an effort to help students succeed in college we provide:

- Tutoring in most academic subjects
- Help preparing for the Compass and Regents tests
- Areas for group study
- Assistance in study skills such as time management, note taking, & test taking

Schedules are posted at The Attic. Peer tutors are trained and certified through the College Reading and Learning Association. **Niki J. Schmauch** is the ATTIC Coordinator.

If you are off campus use Tutor.com on-line live tutoring service available 24/7 access at <http://www.ccg.edu/LearnCent/Tutoring.asp>



Academic Services – Learning Support

Learning Support courses are designed to prepare students for college-level course work. The College of Coastal Georgia offers Learning Support courses in English, reading, and mathematics. Students placed in Learning Support courses, either by Compass Scores or choice, will work closely with a Learning Support advisor to develop an appropriate program of study for successful and timely completion of Learning Support Courses.

Following is a list of the Learning Support Advisors for 2010-2011. If an advisor is not available to see you, please come to the Learning Support Office, AB 116.

Learning Support Coordinator – Ricky Ann Weaver, AB 114, 279-5958

Learning Support Dept. Coordinator – April Davis, AB 116, 279-5950

IF YOUR LAST NAME:

(continued)

Begins With	Your Advisor Is	Begins With	Your Advisor Is
(A-B)	Sheila Ledford SB 271	(N-O)	Chuck Sterner SB 267
(C-D)	Sharon Bartkovich SB 164	(P-R)	David Nentwick SB 162
(E-F)	Anna Dewart AB 118	(S)	Rebecca Sharpe AB 112
(G-H)	Elizabeth Wurz AB 108	(T-V)	Ricky Weaver AB 114
(I-J)	Ellen Flournoy AB 124	(W-Z)	Peter Cho SB 263
(K-L)	Meribeth Fell AB 120		
(M)	Melissa Canady SB 272		

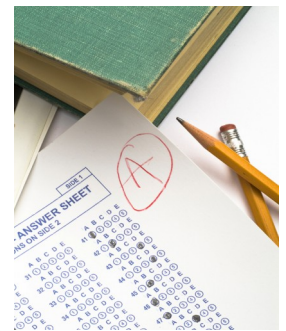
Academic Services — Academic Advising

The Center of Academic Advising is a unit of Academic Services. In keeping with the institution's mission, The Center of Academic Advising strives to empower exploratory students to develop and implement sound academic plans that are consistent with their personal values and educational goals. Academic Advisors will help facilitate academic progress by helping students create a (MAP), My Advising Plan, which will allow them to navigate through coursework that leads to degree completion.

In addition, The Center is involved with advisement, registration, orientation, and coordinates on-campus academic programs that help guide students in choosing a major. The Center of Academic Advising strives to help exploratory students reach their professional career goals through career exploration with The Center of Career Services.

Located in the Andrews Center, The Center of Academic Advising is open from 8:00am-5:00pm Monday through Friday. Schedule your appointment with Coordinator of Academic Advising, **Stacy**

Howe or Academic Advisor, **Georgia Lynn Wessinger** today! Please contact our office with any questions at our website www.coga.edu/advising or call us at 912-279-5717.



TRiO Students Make the Grade

Congratulations to our TRiO students who excelled in their courses this past semester and earned a place on the President's List and the Dean's List in Fall 2010. You set a wonderful example to all students through your hard work and dedication. We are proud to share your accomplishments! "That some achieve great success, is proof to all that others can achieve it as well." — *Abraham Lincoln*

4.0 Cumulative GPA (President's List)

Wanda Campbell
Dayton Ireland
Michelle Kroupa
Ryan Rodriguez
Sidonia Serafini
Felicia Sutton

3.5 – 3.9 Cumulative GPA (Dean's List)

Alexious Aldridge
William Boutwell
Patrice Bradley
Kyle Coleman
Karen Graves
Megan Guy
Matt Hartenstein
Bri'anna James
Rebecca Miller
Jessica Mobley

Olivia Morton
Arzoo Patel
Brian Thomas
Mary Trussell
Shanan Usher
John Vigilante
Sharita Williams
Teresa Wilson

Habits of Highly Skilled Students

Are you achieving your full potential as a student? The answer is probably not. Could you obtain better results in school? Probably yes. Only a few students maintain a 4.0 GPA through their whole academic career, and even they may think there is always room for improvement. The question, then, is how can you adjust your habits to become the best you can be?

First, take a look at your studying habits. It is important to recognize the difficulty level of your classes. Doing so, you will be able to prioritize and assign a specific number of weekly hours to each class. Attending college requires commitment, not only to attend classes regularly, but also to dedicate extra time to review the material learned in class.

Second, pay attention to the way you read. When reading class material, it is very important to pay close attention to definitions and concepts. Find the best way to internalize what you have read. Some students write summaries, others use index cards; find the method that works best for you. Highlighting your book is also a good exercise, but make sure that you are really marking the most important aspects of the material rather than the whole article.

Third, be organized when doing your homework. Take your homework seriously; use it to find questions that you wouldn't know how to answer. Look for the most difficult exercise, and try to solve it. It will help you discover what you know and what you need to learn. When turning in your homework, think of it as your academic resume. It will describe not only your knowledge of the subject, but also what type of person you are.

Fourth, be proactive regarding your research activities. Internet has changed the way learning is approached. The age of technology has brought new tools in every aspect of our life, including education. Successful students take advantage of those tools and access information through every method possible. Even though Wikipedia cannot be used as an academic source, there are many online resources that could be used. The Col-

lege of Coastal Georgia provides students with access to Georgia Library Learning Online (GALILEO). Through this interactive tool, students have access to more than 100 databases to obtain academic material.

Fifth, recognize when you need help. Good students don't have to know all the answers; they have to know where to find them. There will always be certain classes that require extra time and attention. Recognize and accept the fact that there is someone out there who knows more than you do, and that someone might be willing and able to help you. When meeting with professors or tutors, be open minded and positive about the experience. Always remember that they want to help you succeed.

Finally, struggle. Give yourself some time to think about the situation at hand. The path to excellence is not a smooth road. You will always find that exercise that seems close to impossible, or that project that has no beginning or end. Don't give up on it; just give yourself some time to struggle looking for the answer. The more time you spend contemplating it with an open mind, the easier it will get. Eventually just two things could happen: you either find the answer, or you don't. If you do, you will feel proud of your accomplishment. If you don't, you will have more knowledge of the problem, and it will be easier to look for help on how to solve it.

Academic success is attainable. It requires perseverance and discipline, but the results are always rewarding. Try to implement these steps into your daily routine, and you will see your academic performance improve. Remember that TRIO is here to help you. Use our services and give us an opportunity to be a part of your achievements.



Diana Leal
Coordinator of Tutorial Services

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Coordinator of Tutorial Services

Lunch & Learn Series: Money Smart

TRiO Student Support Services held an April Lunch & Learn series titled "Money Smart." Developed by the FDIC, this interactive series presents the basics of financial education to adults, giving them the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to manage their finances in the real world.

For the Spring 2011 semester, TRiO Student Support Services focused on the following topics:

1. **Borrowing Basics** — an introduction to credit;
2. **Pay Yourself First** — why you should save, save, save;

3. **Charge It Right** — how to make a credit card work for you.

Students unable to attend one of the Lunch & Learn sessions can check out the individual DVDs for use in the TRiO computer lab. Money Smart has a total of eight learning modules and will continue into the Fall 2011 semester.

TRiO Student Support Services is committed to providing our students with effective information to increase your financial knowledge and to promoting education to assist in making important financial decisions.



Workshops Promote Financial Aid Literacy

In February and March TRiO Student Support Services organized educational workshops on Financial Aid Literacy, presented on the Brunswick and Camden campuses by **Marsha Miller** and **Kimberly Wimpey** of the Office of Financial Aid and Veteran's Affairs. Topics covered the basics of how to apply for financial aid; the diverse opportunities available to students through various financial aid, including the Federal Pell Grant and numerous Foundation Scholarships; state aid (HOPE scholarship); Federal Stafford student loans and TEACH grants.

Additionally, students received news of the proposed changes to the Pell Grant

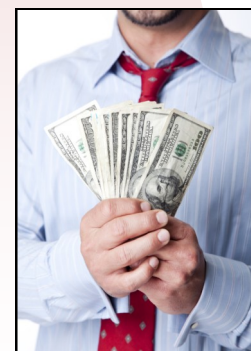
program, and the minimum requirements for Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).

Each workshop concluded with an informative question-and-answer session.

Financial aid is competitive, and TRiO encourages all members to utilize our services and take advantage of our support.

Your TRiO staff can assist you in filling out financial forms and applications. In addition, the Office of Financial Aid and Veteran's Affairs counselors can meet individually with students to go over the many financial opportunities and options available.

"TRiO Student Support Services is committed to providing our TRiO students with effective information...so that they can be educated when making important financial decisions."



Picking the Right Classes

Picking which college classes to take has always been one of the most important factors in ensuring one's success in college. You are in college to earn a degree. Selecting the right classes, in the right sequences, and at the right time, is key for many successful students. Here are several basic tips.

REGISTER EARLY

One of the most obvious things to consider when choosing college classes is to register early. Registering early assures you a better chance of getting the day and class times that will meet your individual needs. Classes that are taught on the web are always popular and, at times, are at capacity within a few hours after registration begins. Popular classes or classes taught by popular instructors often fill up quickly as well.

MEET WITH YOUR ADVISOR

Your advisor is often one of the most important people on campus. Being successful in college requires planning. It is not your advisor's responsibility to plan, it is *your* responsibility. Your advisor can help keep you on the right track. When planning to meet with your advisor, set aside adequate time to talk about your educational needs and desires. Both your advisor's time and your time are valuable. It is always a good idea to write down questions and/or class selection you want your advisor to address.

SELECTING THE RIGHT CLASS(ES)

The "right" class can vary from person to person. If you have not, take a few minutes and think about the classes you have enjoyed or the ones in which you have had the greatest success. You must take the responsibility of recognizing the type of classes

SELECTING AN ONLINE VS. CLASSROOM CLASS

Deciding whether to take a class online rather than in the traditional classroom is often not given serious consideration by students. Many students believe there is very little difference. In fact, there are advantages and disadvantages. Traditional classes provide hands-on learning that is required for most of us to succeed. You have more flexibility with your time when enrolled in online classes; however, efficient time management is important. Enrolling in an online class does not mean it will be easier and/or require less work.

Linny Bailey

Academic Advisor/Retention Specialist



Linny Bailey
Academic Advisor/Retention Specialist

facebook

Did you know?

TRiO is now on Facebook!
Check out our Group Page at "TRIO Student Support Services—College of Coastal Georgia."

TRiO Student Success — Ryan Rodriguez

Ryan Rodriguez is one of the true TRiO success stories. A native of Belfast, ME, Ryan was home-schooled until he was accepted to East Central Technical School, where he studied Automotive Mechanics. He then decided to pursue a college degree by enrolling in the College of Coastal Georgia, and he was received into TRiO Student Support Services. With the help of TRiO's staff and advisor, Ryan was able to find a career that will match his abilities and fulfill his expectations.

As a TRiO participant, Ryan utilized TRiO's study area regularly. He became noticed for his math skills and was approached to become a TRiO Mentor. In the Spring of 2010 he started working in the TRiO Computer Lab, where he quickly became regarded as the "go to" mentor for mathematics and science.

Ryan will be graduating in May with an Associate's Degree of Science, after which he plans to transfer to Georgia Tech in

the fall to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering.

Ryan enjoys living on St Simons. He loves the laid-back atmosphere of the Island. Although Ryan is very excited to start this new chapter in his life, he will miss his family and friends when he moves to Atlanta. He promises he will come back to visit his friends from TRiO and to see the new face of our campus.

We congratulate Ryan on his continuing college success and value his participation in TRiO Student Support Services at the College of Coastal Georgia. We wish him the best in his future endeavors.



Ryan Rodriguez

TRiO Works with Career Services

In March, TRiO students had the opportunity to attend a Career Services Seminar presented by **Christopher Meshanko**, Director of Career Services. The focus of the seminar was to discuss the assistance that the Career Services department provides to students. A newly-enhanced area of Student Affairs at the College of Coastal Georgia, Career Services exists to ensure that students at the College are well informed of the career options available to them and are prepared to enter the professional arena once they graduate.

During the seminar, Mr. Meshanko showed TRiO students how to navigate through the upgraded Career Services portion of the CCGA website and how to make a career development plan utilizing the "Focus 2" program. Focus 2 is an online, comprehensive career and education planning tool available to all students and alumni. This interactive, self-paced system assesses students' career planning status,

personality, values, skills, and interests. With FOCUS 2, students can discover the right major, explore over 1,200 career profiles (300+ with videos), and create a personalized career portfolio.

Mr. Meshanko talked about factors that influence decision-making during job interviews and how to overcome career barriers. Career Services can also assist in preparing students by setting up mock interviews (individual or panel style) with members of the business community. He reminded the seminar participants to be involved in the College's Spring Career Fair, held at the end of March at the Southeast Georgia Conference Center.

Career Services counselors are available for career counseling appointments and work in conjunction with TRiO advisors to ensure that our students are on track to achieve their long term career goals.

Summer Semester Academic Calendar

June 1	Full and Second Session Classes Begin
June 1-3	Late Registration for Summer Semester classes (\$50 fee charged for late payments)
June 3	Last Day to Drop/Add for Summer Semester and receive a 100% refund
June 10	Last Day to apply for Summer Semester graduation
June 28	Last Day of Second Session
June 29	Mid-Term (Last day to withdraw without academic penalty)
June 29	Final Exams for Second Session Classes
June 30	Third Session classes begin
July 4	Independence Day Holiday (no classes)
July 6	Regents Exam – Brunswick - 10:00 am Camden – 2:00 pm
July 7	Regents Exam – Brunswick – 6:00 pm Camden – 10:00 am
July 8	Regents Exam – Brunswick – 9:00 am
July 27	Last Day of Classes
July 28 - 29	Final Exams for Full and Third Session Classes
Aug. 1	Grades Due

*Don't Forget:
Registration for
Regents Exam is
June 20 — Sept. 5.
Register online at
www.ccg.edu.*

Fall Semester Academic Calendar

July 15	Financial Aid Priority Deadline – Students who have incomplete financial aid files after July 15, 2011 should plan on paying for fall semester classes during registration with their own funds.
July 15	Application deadline for new applicants
June 20	Registration for Regents Exam Begins (Register On-Line)
July 1	First Day to Pay For Fall Classes
Aug. 5	Payment due for all pre-registered students
Aug. 11	New Student Orientation on Brunswick & Camden campuses. Attendance is required.

Fall Semester Academic Calendar (cont'd.)

Aug. 11-12	Last minute registration. Payment is due at the time of registration.
Aug. 15	Full and First Session Classes begin
Aug. 15-19	Late Registration for Fall Semester and First Session classes (\$50 fee charged for late payments)
Aug. 19	Last Day to Drop/Add for Fall Semester Full and First Session Classes and to cancel courses/schedule for a full refund
Aug. 26	Last Day to Apply for Fall Semester Graduation. Attendance Verifications Due.
Sept. 5	Labor Day Holiday (no classes)
Sept. 6	Early Alert Grades Due
Sept. 9	Mid-Term, 1st Session Classes (Last day to withdraw from 1st Session Classes without academic penalty)
Oct. 6	Last Day for First Session Classes
Oct. 7	Final Exams for First Session Classes
Oct. 7	Mid-Term, Full Session Classes (Last day to withdraw from Full Session Classes without academic penalty)
Oct. 7	Registration for Second Session Classes
Oct. 10	Last Day to add/drop Second Session Classes and receive a 100% refund
Oct. 10	Second Session classes begin
Oct. 14 & 17	Fall Break (no classes)
Oct. 24 – 28	Regents Exam – Brunswick - 6:00 pm Camden – 2:00 pm
Oct. 24	Pre-Registration begins for Spring Semester
Nov. 2	Mid-Term, Second Session Classes (Last day to withdraw from Second Session Classes without academic penalty)
Nov. 23-25	Thanksgiving Break (no classes)
Dec. 9	Pre-Registration Payment Deadline
Dec. 5	Full and Second Session Classes End
Dec. 6-9	Final exams for Full and Second Session classes
Dec. 12	Final Grades Due at 10:00 a.m.

Spring Semester 2011 TRiO Lab Usage

In addition to workshops and advising, TRiO is proud to offer the benefits of concentrated study opportunities within the TRiO offices. The following chart shows TriO student usage for independent computer study, peer mentoring and self/group study, from January 1st – May 5th, 2011:

Service Rendered	Student Contact Count	Total Activity Time
Computer Use	142	200 hours
Peer Mentoring	448	562 hours
Self/Group Study in Lab	1,578	2,256 hours



TRiO Student Support Services is a federally funded educational pipeline designed to increase retention and graduation rates of college students who come from low-income families, and/or are first-generation college students, and/or have a documented disability by providing designated services and resources. For more information about TRiO Student Support Services, come by the office on the CCGA campus (located within the Library) or call 912.279.5795.

TRiO NewSSS is published twice yearly, Fall and Spring/Summer Semesters. For questions regarding this newsletter, contact Debbie Banks, TRiO Program Assistant, at 912.279.5795.