

The Right involvement On Campus

Chicken Soup for the Soul

“A well developed sense of humor is the pole that adds balance to your steps as you walk the tightrope of life.”

~~William Arthur Ward



Laverne Taylor-Johnson

Hometown: St. Thomas, Jamaica

Major: Criminal Justice

Laverne, who prefers to be called “Taylor” is the highlight of any day in TRiO. She is like a ray of sunshine when she enters the room. We enjoy the laughter Taylor brings. Having Taylor in TRiO is akin to having our very own stand up comedian and Lord knows she keeps us in check. Her facial expressions say what her words don’t or won’t. We love you Taylor!

FALL 2015 DEAN’S LIST

Congrats to the following TRiO Students who made the Fall 2015 Dean’s List :

- Shelby Stroud
- Madison Stancil
- Abbey Welch
- Cameron Cromer
- Amber Davidson
- Jakeem Hamilton
- Ayria Irby

- Brittany Shepard
- Brandy Whitmire
- Kayla Eison
- Daisy Duncan



Congratulations Abbey!

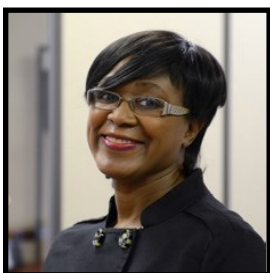
Congratulations to **Abbey Welch** for winning TRiO Support Services’ “Name Our Newsletter” contest. Please call the TRiO Office at 644-5126 to receive instructions on how to claim your award.

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Meet the Staff



Melissa Browning was hired as the Project Director of TRiO Student Support Services in October 2015. She was born Bainbridge, Georgia and is the third oldest of eight children. Melissa holds three degrees, an A.A.S in Graphic Design/Visual Communications from Monroe Community College (MCC), a Bachelor's in English Language and Literature from State University of New York (SUNY) College at Brockport, and a Master's in English Language and Literature from University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP). Currently, she is in her fourth and prayerfully final year of a PhD program with University of Phoenix, with a focus in Higher Education Administration.

Melissa is a TRiO alum. She was a participant in the Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program, otherwise known as McNair at SUNY Brockport during both her junior and senior undergraduate years. After earning her Master's degree she was hired as the Academic Coordinator/Advisor for the SUNY TRiO program.

Melissa is a dedicated TriO advocate. As an undergraduate Melissa tutored students in the TRiO Upward Bound Program at MCC. At Maryland she worked as a tutor and conducted workshops in the McNair program. She travels to Capitol Hill in Washington, DC every March to advocate for TRiO programs worldwide. Melissa volunteers every year at UMCP's McNair Conference, where undergraduates from around the nation come together to present their research.



Stephanie Rodriguez is no stranger to Southern Wesleyan. As an undergraduate student, Stephanie attended Southern Wesleyan University and was a member of the 2007 championship team. After graduation, Stephanie began working for Southern Wesleyan as an Admissions Counselor. She served in that role for seven years prior to joining TRiO Student Support Services as an Academic Advisor in November 2015. Stephanie earned a Masters degree in Public Health and Nutrition from Liberty University in May 2014. Stephanie is married to SWU's head soccer coach, Camilo Rodriguez, and the happy couple have a precious 10 month old son, Luca.



Sharde Young serves as the Secretary for Student Support Services. Sharde was born and raised in Columbia, SC. In 2013, Sharde completed her undergraduate studies at Clemson University. After receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology, Sharde began a career with the Child Protective Services Unit of the South Carolina Department of Social Services where she worked as a Foster Care Case Manager and Investigator. Sharde is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Public Administration. She participated in TRiO programs during middle and high school. One important life lesson Sharde learned from her TRiO counselors was the concept of "Sankofa" — which means going back to your roots before you move forward. TRiO Programs have made a huge difference in her life; hence, Sharde is dedicated to helping those from similar backgrounds.



Erica Caldwell joined Student Support Services February 1st as an Advisor for the program. Erica is a native of Greenville, SC. She received her Bachelors Degree in English from USC Upstate and a Masters in Human Resources Development from Webster University. Erica has two brothers Courie and Jeffrey and one precious Mini Schnauzer, Oscar. Erica joined Southern Wesleyan's Student Support Services Program to provide motivation and academic support to students as they work towards achieving their educational goals.

TRiO Scholar of the Month
Jarvis Johnson



As a first generation student at Southern Wesleyan University, my eyes have certainly been opened. I am a junior and my major is Early Childhood Education and Family Studies, with a minor in Human Services. No one on my mother's side of the family went to college

I am the first person in my family to attend college. That took a big leap of faith for me. I decided to take that leap of faith because I do not want to work in the factories like my great-grandparents, my grandmother, my mother, or my stepdad. Attending college was the only way out of my circumstances. I thought to myself, "who wants to work a minimum wage job for the rest of their life?" Not Jarvis Johnson. In the words of Kimberly "Sweet Brown" Wilkins, "Ain't nobody got no time for that!"

Thanks to Margaret Grady Turner aka Maggie Turner, I am currently

in the First Generation Program at SWU. Maggie is my spiritual mother. She has really helped me and others like me to understand what First Generation is. Ms. Turner took us on a trip to Clemson University to see the band play. She also took us to see Seneca, S.C. to see a play called "La Familia". Afterwards Ms. Turner invited us to her home to enjoy a meal that she cooked especially for us.

I knew about the Trio Program when I was at Tri-County Tech in Pendleton. I really like the people we have leading the Trio SSS Program at SWU. Melissa Browning (Project Director) is full of energy and always enthusiastic when she sees students walk in. Sharde Young (Secretary) is always willing to hook a student up. Students love hook ups. Stephanie Rodriguez (Advisor) was my admissions counselor when I first applied to SWU back in 2013. She used to email me all the time about transferring to SWU. To be honest, I did not want to come to SWU, but Stephanie made SWU seem like a great Christian school to attend. I am happy to be a part of TRiO because they do all they can to help students reach their full potential.

Scholar Highlight

Graduate School Bound!



Major: Religion - Bible

Favorite Book: *The Sword of Truth* series by Terry Goodkind

Favorite Movie: Lord of the Rings Trilogy

Hobbies: Reading, crochet, and knitting

Favorite TV Show: Hawaii Five-O

Favorite Food: Greek salad.

Dream Job: United Methodist Pastor and University Professor

Something unique about you: I am taking a trip to Greece with the History Department after Graduation.

Achievement: Associate of Science from Greenville Technical College, graduating in May with a Bachelor of Arts from Southern Wesleyan University. Accepted at Candler Theological Seminary for Graduate School.

Follow the examples of Christ, Paul, and Peter who were all hard workers. Work hard, pray hard, preach hard, and study hard.



TRiO SSS Scholars at the Career Fair



As I followed Mrs. Pate into the main entrance to the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, I expected to see a small room with a few people, mostly advertising their businesses. How wrong I was! I was surprised at how many suited people were there. I'd not seen that many suits since my last trip to the Men's Warehouse. The companies and agencies represented were well-known and welcoming. The obvious intent of the businesses were to source new talent from colleges, not to vaguely introduce themselves as individuals that may be hiring.

Though I wore business casual, I was met by potential employers with the same kind of professionalism displayed to all. My questions were met with eager responses in a matter-of-fact fashion, and I networked with agencies in which I likely would not have access to otherwise. Because of the downtown Columbia location of the facility, many of my fellow students joined me for lunch. This seemed to ease some of the general anxieties towards interviews and allowed us to unwind for a bit. Surprisingly, I had a great time! The day felt more like a field trip; although, I'm pretty sure I've made the right steps toward solidifying my future while making a few new friends in the process.

By Dustin Short



The career fair was a great way to experience what it is like to promote one's self to prospective employers. It was great interview practice. I was fortunate enough to land a job offer, which was indeed a blessing. Even without an offer

of employment, I would have still been happy. This opportunity allowed me the chance to see what employers require and what I need to do going forward to be fully prepared for the job market in my particular field of study.

By Shykeya Wimberly

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ABOUT TRIO

Our nation has asserted a commitment to providing educational opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, ethnic background, or economic circumstance. In support of this commitment, Congress established a series of programs to help low-income Americans enter college, graduate, and move on to participate more fully in America's economic and social life. These Programs are funded under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and are referred to as the TRIO Programs (initially just three programs). While student financial aid programs help students overcome financial barriers to higher education, TRIO programs help students overcome class, social, and cultural barriers to higher education.

WHO IS SERVED

As mandated by Congress, two-thirds of the students served must come from families with incomes under \$33,000, where neither parent graduated from college. More than 2,800 TRIO projects currently serve nearly one million low-income Americans. Many programs serve students in grades six through 12. 37% of TRIO students are Whites, 35% are African-Americans, 19% are Hispanics, 4% are Native Americans, 4% are Asian-Americans, and 1% are listed as "Other," including multiracial students. Twenty-two thousand students with disabilities and more than 25,000 U.S. veterans are currently enrolled in the TRIO Programs as well. For more race and ethnicity data for each TRIO Program (Upward Bound, UB Math/Science, SSS, Talent Search, EOC, and McNair), see "Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Federal TRIO Programs," a News You Can Use fact sheet from the National TRIO Clearinghouse.

Visit us on the web!

<http://www.swu.edu/academics/academic-support/trio-student-support-services>