TRiO Upward Bound Alumnus Named Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania Student Trustee by Governor

*From Bloomsburg, The University Magazine, Fall 2010*

From Mahanoy Area High School to Bloomsburg University’s Board of Trustees, **Raylene Brill** ’06 certainly makes an impression. As a strong academic achiever and an active member of the campus community, it’s no wonder the university found her to be the ideal representative of the student body.

Raylene Brill is the new student member of BU’s Council of Trustees. A senior social worker from Mahanoy City, Brill replaces Terrell Garrett (*a TRiO alumnus from a Philadelphia Upward Bound program*) who graduated last spring. Brill wanted to become a student trustee to represent BU, as well as to bring a unique perspective to the council. During her tenure, she hopes to involve more students with the university so they can express their own ideas and concerns. “I want to play a larger role with making decisions that represent and positively affect the student body and university as a whole,” she says.

In addition to the Trustees, Brill is president of Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society, secretary of Phi Alpha National Honor Society for Social Work Students and a member of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, the Social Work Club and Board of Governor’s Advisory Board. She volunteers at the Women’s Resource Center, is service coordinator for the TRiO Upward Bound Alumni Association and is both a student participant and student employee for TRiO Student Support Services. Last summer, she was a program assistant for the R. Benjamin Wiley Partnership Program (*formerly known as the Harrisburg Project*).
Spotlight on TRiO UB@BU Target Schools

Bloomsburg

Milton

Mt. Carmel

Mahanoy

Berwick
Spotlight on TRiO UB@BU Target Schools

Shamokin

Pottsville

North Schuylkill

TRiO UB@BU
32 Years of Bounders...

Shikellamy
TRiO UB@BU Celebrates Success

Regatta – TRiO Upward Bound Style!
by: Tia JL Dreckman

TRiO Upward Bound is not your typical extra-curricular activity. We do not have a “season” like a sport or a single identifying factor like chess or Spanish club. TRiO Upward Bound requires students to be active participants year round! This creates a unique challenge.

How can we compete with the draw of other clubs/organizations and the sometimes jaded opinions of friends who may not see the full value of TRiO Upward Bound? After all, hanging around after school to do even more work may seem like a little much and Bounders sometimes struggle. Helping them to realize that year round participation in TRiO Upward Bound is key to achieving optimum college readiness can sometimes be challenging.

We are fortunate to have wonderful support in place for all of our students at their home high schools but sometimes Bounders still need just that little extra incentive to make their way to afterschool center meetings. So, we’ve started a Regatta ~ the TRiO UB@BU B.O.A.T Race. The idea is simple, come to center meetings and get credit for your attendance. The center who can boast the Best Overall Attendance Total at the end of the semester has their center’s name engraved on a traveling plaque (think Stanley cup – just a bit smaller and not made out of silver!). The plaque is theirs to keep… until another center wins it away! In addition to the traveling plaque, winning centers receive a pizza party and visit from the TRiO Upward Bound office staff – it’s a win/win for everyone!

To date we have completed three races and are in the middle of our fourth. North Schuylkill was the two time BOAT Race Champ before the Bloom Center took it away in a tight finish during the fall of 2009!
Shamokin Area TRiO Upward Bound Students Receive Award
by: Jennifer L. Cughan

SHAMOKIN – Students from Shamokin Area High School were recently honored for their high academic standing within Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania’s TRiO Upward Bound program. On hand to celebrate with them were Chris Venna, principal, and Matt Weller, school counselor. Shamokin Area High School ’09 graduates, Marissa Herb, currently a student at Penn State University, and Kaitlyn Sienkiewicz and Samantha Vanhentenryck, now students at Bloomsburg University, assisted the group in earning the academic honors.

Shamokin Bounders earned the first Academic Achievement Award by boasting an overall grade point average of 3.35 for the 2008-2009 school year. Their goal is to earn the traveling plaque next year by increasing their GPAs from last marking period.

Bloomsburg University’s TRiO Upward Bound program serves nine target schools within Columbia, Northumberland and Schuylkill counties. Participants are selected based on their academic potential and need, demonstrated enthusiasm toward learning and other eligibility requirements as determined by the U.S. Department of Education.

TRiO Upward Bound at Bloomsburg University is in its 32nd year and is composed of two parts: a summer residential program and an academic year program. During the summer, the high school students attend a six-week residential program designed to simulate a college experience, from classroom experiences to meeting new roommates and eating in the campus cafeteria. It combines concentrated academic work plus structured activities, both on campus and in the community.

During the school year, TRiO Upward Bound students work with an academic tutor at their high school. Shamokin’s academic tutor, Darren Dusick, is a high school math instructor. Along with TRiO UB program faculty, Dusick is responsible for weekly meetings with the students to provide individualized tutoring, homework assistance, guidance and counseling in academic, career, college or personal matters.

(News Item, Shamokin, PA)
Worcester Wheels to Water Program
by Martina Burns Jasiewicz (Shamokin ‘85)

Last summer I was named Director of the Worcester Wheels to Water Program. This program was initiated by the Worcester City Manager because the public city pools had closed due to budget cuts and they all fell into severe disrepair. The lower income inner city children and their families needed transportation to the local state ponds and beaches and the non-profit agency pools in the city. The Wheels to Water provided daily bus transportation to and from these swimming areas from various areas in the city. We had 13 stops that ran any time between 9:00am and 5:30pm. This program also had four stops on the weekends as well. It was a very successful first year and we had over 400 participants.

I, along with my husband (assistant director), was responsible for selecting stops, scheduling buses, hiring and training 18 employees, getting applications out and promoting the program, along with reporting the demographic statistics at the end of the program to the cooperating agencies and the City Manager's Office. It was a lot of work, but all worth the while.

This program was wonderful, it brought the city together and promoted all the non-profit agencies as a whole. Many people, who were not aware of the various help that was available in the city of Worcester, discovered that there was something in their area where they could get assistance if it was needed. Some of the low-income people did not even know what help was available in their own neighborhood.

I have been blessed to be asked to direct this program once again this summer. It was a lot of work, but we really enjoyed it. It is a 24 hour seven days a week job for about 8 weeks, our reason for not being able to visit UB during the summer.

The below testimonial from a young participant says it all!
Bloomsburg University Celebrates National TRiO Day
by Kate Bauman

What is National TRiO Day you might ask? “National TRiO Day is a day of celebration, reflection and action around increased access to higher education for disadvantaged students. Allowing us the opportunity to; CELEBRATE the positive impact of federal TRiO programs in our communities and throughout the nation. REFLECT on the importance of educational opportunity programs in creating a fairer society for all Americans and ACT to protect and further promote access to higher education for first-generation students.” (content taken from the National TRiO Clearinghouse)

To celebrate, each year Upward Bound and Student Support Services, the TRiO programs hosted by Bloomsburg University, combine forces to host a campus open house. This event allows us to create an awareness of TRiO programs in both our campus and local communities. Staffed by TRiO Upward Bound students from Bloomsburg Area High School and TRiO Students Support Services students attending Bloomsburg University, there were plenty of experts on hand. Throughout the day student participants answered questions and shared their TRiO experiences over cookies and hot cocoa with prospective students and peers, as well as campus staff, faculty and administrators.

Recently, a number of TRiO Upward Bound alumni have opted to pursue their degree at a college or university hosting a TRiO Student Support Services program, thus enabling them to stay in the “TRiO Family” throughout their college career. In addition to the many Bounder alumni joining TRiO SSS at Bloomsburg University, Ashley Lopez (Shikellamy ‘09) Leslie Cope (N. Schuylkill ‘08) Jennifer Cope (N. Schuylkill ‘09) Sam Vanhentenryck (Shamokin ‘09) Kaitlyn Sienkiewicz (Shamokin ‘09) Jorge Maldonado (Bloomburg ’07) Dave Hummel (Mt. Carmel ’09) and MaryKate Davis (Mahanoy ‘09), Stephanie Klock (Shikellamy ‘08) joined Temple’s SSS program, Brianna Sienkiewicz (Bloomburg ‘09) joined Kutztown’s SSS program, Kayla Eberth (N. Schuylkill ‘09) joined Mansfield’s SSS program, Richard Rhodes (Bloomburg ’09) joined Penn State University’s SSS program and Jasmine Iddings (Mt. Carmel ‘09) joined UPitt—Bradford’s SSS program. Let’s hear it for our TRiO Achievers!!!
Class of 2009 Bounder Awarded PATRiO Scholarship
by Kate Bauman

Chryssi Laughlin, Mt. Carmel High School ’09, was recently awarded the Pennsylvania TRiO annual scholarship in the high school division. Each fall, five TRiO Upward Bound graduates from across the state are selected to receive this honor and TRiO UB@BU was fortunate to once again have one of our own recognized. Chryssi further received recognition for this honor in the form of a certificate from local congressman, Paul E. Kanjorski.

Ever since Chryssi visited Arcadia during the summer 2008 UB college tour, she had her heart set on attending the “castle” on the hill. After a successful Bridge summer at Bloomsburg University, lots of scholarship searching and constant contact with Arcadia’s financial aid office, Chryssi made her dreams a reality! She is currently a physician assistant major at Arcadia, who just so happens to now LIVE in the castle and serve as a castle tour guide. Chryssi wasted no time getting involved on campus and is an active member of the Arcadia community.

Bloompa University Bounder Alumni Awarded Textbook Scholarships
by Kate Bauman

Thanks to the generosity of TRiO UB@BU Alumni, our scholarship fund has grown, allowing us to now award not one, but two Bounder alumni bookstore scholarships each fall. Fall 2009 recipients included, Stacy Booterbaugh, Pottsville ‘06 and Karisa Hite, Bloomsburg ‘04.

Stacy is an accounting major and participates in both the TRiO UB@BU Alumni Association and Helping Others Club. In her local community, Stacy is an active member of the Mt. Carbon Fire Company. She anticipates a May 2011 graduation.

Karisa is a secondary education Spanish major and previous member of Bloomsburg University Student Theatrical Educational Drama (BUSTED), Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), Pennsylvania Student Educators Association (PSEA) and Heightening Awareness By Learning About Spanish (HABLAS). She is also a reservist in the United States Army, having recently served on active duty in Kuwait. Karisa is currently studying abroad and anticipates a May 2010 graduation.

Chryssi Laughlin, pictured during her summer 2009 Bridge experience, earns a $500 scholarship from our state association, PATRiO.
Bridge Students Dine for Success  
*by Kate Bauman*

Have you ever attended a formal dinner and found yourself frantically wondering which roll plate and water glass belonged to you and which belonged to your neighbor? Or what to do with any of the three forks found at your place setting? The Bridge Class of 2009 wonders no longer. While the traditional Bounders were on a college visit tour, Bridge students navigated the rules of dining etiquette from soup to dessert!

They learned…
- how to twirl pasta
- how to eat soup without slurping
- how to tackle a grape tomato in a salad
- how to appropriately eat and butter bread
- how to use a cloth napkin
- how and when to cut their food
- and much more…

And a tip for our readers, when in doubt as to the owner of a bread plate or drink... Place your hands on your legs under the table and form a lower case “b” with one hand and “d” with the other. Your lower case “b” side (on the left) will always signal the side of your bread plate, while the lower case “d” side (on your right) will always signal the side of your drink!

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TRiO UB Alumnus Shares Her College Experience With Others  
*by Jennifer L. Cughan*

On Monday, March 29, 2010, Ms. Ashley Lopez accompanied Academic Coordinator, Jenn Cughan, to Shikellamy High School. While at the center meeting Ashley shared her experience of transitioning to life in college. A freshman at Bloomsburg University, Ashley had just declared her major that day as Radiology Technologist with a minor in Spanish. Students Amanda Benfer and Andrew Ramos, both of the Shikellamy class of 2011, were on hand to ask questions and learn about life in college. The topic that made the most impact was when Ashley shared her method for staying organized. Ashley showed them her tablet wherein she writes the date, assignments or readings she needs to complete, and what club meetings she plans to attend. By utilizing this notebook, Ashley stated, she is better able to keep a handle on her time management. She was quick to point out to those in attendance, that “if you can do the summer study schedule, and stay on top of your work then, you’ll be able to do that in college no problem!” (Kudo’s to all the TC’s who ever assisted staff in helping summer Bounders maintain their study schedules!)

Mr. McHale, Academic Tutor at Shikellamy, was delighted to have Ashley speak to the students. His input and reinforcement of the need for time management and study partners assisted the Bounders in their understanding of life after high school.

A big thank you to Ashley for giving up her Monday afternoon to spend time ‘giving back’ to TRiO Upward Bound at her high school alma mater!
Local Environmental Preservation Partnership Project Set for July 11th in Bloomsburg Area  
**By Bob Manbeck, Public Affairs Manager, United Water of Pennsylvania**

United Water Pennsylvania will partner with TRiO Upward Bound at Bloomsburg University, the Fishing Creek Watershed Association and United Water customers to preserve the environment at three locations along the banks of Fishing Creek, near Bloomsburg, on Saturday, July 11. More than 75 participants will canvass the creek banks between 9 a.m. and noon.

Forty-seven high school students taking part in TRiO Upward Bound at Bloomsburg University will participate as part of their third annual Service Day, along with members of the Fishing Creek Watershed Association and United Water’s Bloomsburg Operation Customer Advisory Council. The project was organized by Jennifer L. Cughan, academic coordinator TRiO Upward Bound, the council, whose members include 15 residential, commercial and industrial United Water Pennsylvania customers. The largest group of volunteers will be stationed at Kocher Memorial Park, near Lightstreet. The volunteers will join members of the Fishing Creek Watershed Association to assist with ongoing beautification that includes seeding and mulching a newly-restored creek bank. They will also place drought-resistant plants in a nature garden. The association is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Commission to beautify the park and creek bank.

Two other groups will be positioned between Boone’s Dam and the Rupert Covered Bridge at the confluence of Fishing Creek and the Susquehanna River to collect debris. The Town of Bloomsburg will assist with collection of recyclable items.

The environmental preservation project is the second annual event facilitated by United Water Pennsylvania in Columbia County. “We’re delighted that nearly 50 TRiO Upward Bound high school students from Bloomsburg University will join us for this educational venture,” said Bob Manbeck, the Company’s Public Affairs Manager. “They will learn the value of keeping water sources free of debris that has the potential to pollute. They will also have the opportunity to work alongside Fishing Creek Watershed members who are passionate about protecting drinking water sources.”

The TRiO Upward Bound service project follows this summer’s “green” theme, according to Program Director Kate Bauman. “TRiO Upward Bound provides high school students with opportunities and assistance in exploring their potential for academic, social and personal growth,” she said. “Its purpose is to provide equal access to post-secondary education for high school students by giving them adequate preparation.” BU’s program serves students in following high schools: Bloomsburg, Berwick, Mahanoy Area, Milton, Mount Carmel, North Schuylkill, Pottsville, Shamokin and Shilkellamy.

United Water Pennsylvania’s first environmental clean-up project was held near Bloomsburg in October 2008. More than 25 people volunteered, including local government officials and watershed association members.

**ABOUT UNITED WATER**

United Water Pennsylvania provides water service to a population of approximately 160,000 people in eight counties encompassing portions of 40 municipalities. Nationwide, United Water provides water and wastewater services to about 7.3 million people in 26 states through the dedication of its 2,600 employees. In addition to owning and operating 20 regulated utilities, United Water operates 240 municipal systems through public-private partnerships and contract agreements including three of the nation’s largest water and wastewater contracts: Indianapolis, IN, Gary, IN and Jersey City, NJ. The company’s affiliate, Utility Service Company, has 4,000 long term water tank management contracts with municipal and industrial clients. Founded in 1869, United Water...
RECYCLE

PRESERVE
TRiO Upward Bound Hosts Graduate Assistant

by Joel Heintzelman

Joel Heintzelman has joined the TRiO Upward Bound program as a Graduate Assistant. He is currently pursuing a Master’s degree in Secondary School Counseling here at Bloomsburg University. Joel graduated from Dickinson College with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.  

Upon graduation, he utilized his psychology degree to pursue a career in Human Resources. He spent 8 years working as a recruiter with several Fortune 500 companies in the Philadelphia area. His primary responsibilities were reviewing resumes, conducting interviews, and helping college students obtain positions. Joel has been a Graduate Assistant with TRiO Upward Bound since Fall 2009. He has attended center meetings at each high school and continues to develop activities for TRiO UB from his counseling courses.

Joel Heintzelman, TRiO UB@BU GA, will teach this summer’s elective course, “Real Men Read Books”. In addition to Joel’s graduate work at Bloomsburg University, he serves as an assistant football coach for Crestwood High School in Mountain Top, PA. Joel is also an alumnus of Crestwood High School.

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What I’ve Learned…

by Joel Heintzelman

While working as a Graduate Assistant with TRiO Upward Bound I have completed most of my courses through Bloomsburg Master’s in Secondary School Counseling program. The UB Program has been an integral part of my study at Bloomsburg. I have been able to meet most of our Bounders, and have had an opportunity to attend center meetings at all nine schools. Many of my courses have discussed issues our Bounders are currently facing. TRiO UB@BU has been a practical experience which has supported many theories presented in my master’s program.

Through my Career Development course, I was able to introduce Dr. John Holland’s RIASEC model of occupations to the Bounders. Students completed an individual survey which gives them an idea of careers which match their personal interests. This course also discussed the importance of high school students setting and obtaining goals. Through this initiative students learned the SMART method of goal setting and were able to adjust their Yearly Academic Plans.

I was able to explore factors which affect high school students through a research project in a Research & Design course. This paper focused on factors associated with “at risk” students. This research helped develop a pilot program which focuses on finding alternative ways to help students who are struggling academically.

Group Counseling class has provided me with a number of “icebreakers” and group activities for our students. This course has helped to facilitate center meetings and help students learn to discuss serious issues. Students often provide feedback on “icebreakers” and help create alternative activities which are beneficial for future lessons.

The TRiO program has been a wonderful experience. I have worked with many students on their college prospects, career decisions, and personal choices. I am anxiously looking forward to participating in my first summer program here at Bloomsburg. The students have been fantastic to work with, and I will look forward to hearing about their future success!
TRiO UB@BU Takes on Student Employee Appreciation Week

Karen Klinger, Tia Dreckman, Stephanie Golden, Leslie Cope, Jennie Cope and Dave Hummel represented Team TRiO UB@BU during Student Employee Appreciation Week April 2010. You would never miss this team in a crowd — for those participants from summer 2007 — these bright t’s may look familiar. The competition was followed by a picnic lunch on the patio of the Warren Student Services Center. Leslie ‘08 and Jennie ‘09 are TRiO UB@BU alumni from North Schuylkill HS and graduates of the Bridge program. Dave Hummel ‘09 is a TRiO UB@BU alumnus of Mt. Carmel and is also a Bridge program graduate.

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TRiO UB@BU Staffer Selected as Student Employee of the Year Runner-Up

Stephanie Golden, NY, was honored at a recognition luncheon this past April for her work in the TRiO Upward Bound Office. With this honor came a $200 gift certificate to the University store. She was nominated for the award by Tia J.L. Dreckman, assistant director, and accompanied at the luncheon by Karen Klinger, department secretary. Golden, a speech pathology major at Bloomsburg University is scheduled to graduate in May 2010. Her long term plans include graduate school.

TRiO UB@BU 13
Dr. Jen Reed Fry (Shamokin ’90) pictured during her January 2010 hooding ceremony at Temple University (at left) and with her mother upon receipt of her PhD in History (at right). Congratulations Dr. Fry!!!

Amy Duffy Holland (Minersville ‘00) and daughter Mallory, pictured in October 2009 at Disney.

Nicole Zeisler Coady (Berwick ‘00) lounging with her best buds, Roxy (front) and Bailey (back).
BOUNDER BUNDLES

Kate Bauman, director, and Mark, welcomed Gus on October 27, 2009. Although scheduled to be a Thanksgiving baby, Gus was apparently anxious to celebrate his first Halloween!

Jo’nelle Smith Fetzer (Milton ‘03), and husband Clyde, welcomed Arianna Paige, on January 4, 2010. For those who know Jo’nelle we think you will agree that Arianna looks just like her mom!

Mallory, age 5, daughter of Amy Duffy Holland (Minersville ’00) gets swept away in the magic of Walt Disney World, October 2009.

Paige Lea Horn, daughter of Jana Long Horn (Shamokin ’95) and John, can’t quite seem to decide on the perfect pumpkin—perhaps she’ll have better luck with the mums.

Crystal Kriskie Taylor (North Schuylkill ’99) welcomed Easton David on November 8, 2009. Easton weighed 8lbs. 12 oz. and measured 22 inches in length.

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TRiO Upward Bound at Bloomsburg University is a federally funded grant program through the United States Department of Education at $411,478 for 2009/2010.

Learn more about TRiO through the Council for Opportunity in Education:
www.coenet.us