Greetings SSS students,

Blustery November greetings as we bid farewell to Fall beauty and brave the upcoming winter temperatures. Time for those longer pants and warmer jackets!

Just a reminder that the staff in the ARC serve as your SSS counselors/advisors. We can help and support you as you continue to move toward the end of a successful semester. While we are not your official academic advisors, we will work with you as you build your SEM II schedules and can brainstorm and discuss classes with you. Make certain you are scheduling appointments with your academic advisor also. The schedule of classes can be found at: http://www.viterbo.edu/uploadedFiles/administration_and_services/registrar/Spring%20Undergrad%20Schedule.pdf.

If you have not met with your SSS counselor this semester, please respond to invites to briefly meet with him or her. Also, I encourage you to get to know your SSS mentor if you have one. We are here to help you succeed. We don’t want to take up much of your time but if we build a relationship with you, we can assist you more effectively.

Enjoy this issue of TRiO Tribune and here’s to a successful end of the semester!

Jane Eddy

LETTER FROM JANE:
On October 15th, 2014, six brave SSS students and two SSS advisors went on a beautiful, fall hike through a bluff trail just off of Easter Road in La Crosse. It all began when they boarded the Viterbo mini-bus parked outside the student union on a warm, sunny afternoon. Spirits were high; snacks and water were plentiful.

As the Viterbo minibus wound its way through a busy afternoon in La Crosse traffic, music and conversation filled the air. Some of the students had never met, but by the end of the hike, everyone seemed to get along famously.

Upon arriving at the trail head, the group exited the mini-van and was greeted by the woodsy trail and all the colors of changing leaves—most especially, a flood of yellow on the ground and in the air. One student wrote that it was a “Great time of year! The colors were beautiful.”

The group approached a walk-around fence to begin the hike and soon came across a wood bridge over a small stream. They soon hopped over a large tree crossing the path, and then there were the hills. And a few more hills. As the group neared the top of the bluff, they passed out of the woods and into a clear opening of tall grass. At the end of the trail, the aerial landscape of La Crosse appeared. Pictures were taken, the beauty unfolded, and folks tried to pick out different buildings in the city. Finally, a welcome descent awaited the group, as they were thankful to climb no more hills.

While it can be difficult for students to attend the fall and spring hike (since they take place on Wednesday afternoons), students will want to consider going on the spring 2015 hike. On a scale of 1-5 (5 being the highest), every survey respondent rated the outing a 5! Finally, a student noted on the survey: “I loved going on the hike in general and just being around a great group of people! It was really a lot of fun and I wish we could have spent more time just walking around. One student wrote: “It was a fun way to meet new people! Another echoed her comments, writing, “I liked the people.”

That comment says it all...well almost. One of the survey questions asked: “Do you have any suggestions for future hikes or activities?” One respondent stated: “More hikes.”

Student Support Services Staff
FINANCIAL LITERACY ICE CREAM SOCIAL

SSS students were recently invited to participate in a $$$ Financial $cavenger Hunt on Moodle to learn more about loans and loan re-payment. (Please note that there are links to a variety of resources about finances on the SSS Moodle page under Financial Resources.) Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the quiz; everyone who did so was then eligible to win a $50 pre-paid VISA card. Congratulations to our winner, Ammie Jergenson! There was also an ice cream social on Friday, October 24, where students had an opportunity to complete the scavenger hunt and enjoy time with other SSS students (and ice cream, of course!).

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES — TRIO

Program Description
Through the United States Department of Education a national grant competition is offered for post-secondary education. Funds are awarded to institutions of higher education to provide opportunities for academic development, assist students with basic college requirements, and to motivate students toward the successful completion of their postsecondary education. Viterbo’s Student Support Services program reaches out to offer assistance to students who are first generation college student and/or who come from low income families.

Goals
The goal of SSS is to increase college retention and graduation rates of its participants.

Viterbo’s Student Support Services Program
Viterbo has 200 students and individuals in the program are assigned a mentor and a staff advisor. Being a member of the SSS program gives the participant one more person on campus to advocate for them. We hold regular social gatherings, match new members up with mentors from their discipline of study and offer a number of services to individuals. Student Support Services are housed in the Academic Resource Center.

Staff of the SSS Program and the Academic Resource Center wish you A Very Happy Holidays

I'm Thankful for You
Thanksgiving is the appointed time for focusing on the good in our lives. In each of our days, we can find small blessings, but too often we overlook them, choosing instead to spend our time paying attention to problems. We give our energy to those who cause us trouble instead of those who bring peace. Starting now, Let's be on the lookout for the bits of pleasure in each hour, and appreciate the people who bring love and light to everyone who is blessed to know them. You are one of those people. On Thanksgiving, I'm thankful for you. Happy Thanksgiving!

By Joanna Fuch
Kylee Boardman—Social Work

Danielle Elland—Sociology
I hope to eventually be able to work in a diversity center or continue to open diversity centers. I have enjoyed working with faculty to find material and talking to community members to find information to have available for students in the center. If I don’t end up working with a diversity center I would like to help ex-offenders receive a second shot in life, help them achieve the skills they need to get a shot at making it in today’s society.

Jamie Lee—Social Work
I plan to take my State and National exam to get my S.W. license. I have been looking for Social Work jobs in the area. I am very lucky to say my internship last semester at La Crosse County Aging unit, have been calling me back to help co-facilitate and run workshops for family caregivers. I plan to volunteer as much as I can until I get a social work job in the area. My job did offer me a supervisor position so, I am considering that as well. Through all the rough patches that I have to go through to get to where I am today, I had to keep reminding myself to be proud of each step I took to reach towards my goals. Also, the beauty was believing in myself.

Margaret Miller—Studio Art

Ben Pfiffner—Psychology
Currently I am exploring options in the Wisconsin Air National Guard. I am prior active duty Air Force and am hoping to get back in to the swing of things on a part-time basis. I have also applied to the graduate program in mental health counseling at Viterbo and I am keeping my fingers crossed I can continue my education here!

Kabau Vue—Visual Communication

Megan Wagner—Elementary Education

Dear Graduates,
The Student Support Services staff would like to congratulate you on your forthcoming December, 2014 graduation date. We hope that you find yourselves in jobs both fulfilling and rewarding.

Best wishes and good luck,
Jane Eddy, Melissa Growt, Beth Gaedy, Andy Moore, Christy Kabat, Judy Ulland and Anne Ellefson

* No photo available for Jamie Lee