

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

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TRIO Student-of-the-Year: Abigail Pease

Every child has a hero—sometimes from a comic book or television series—but some lucky kids have a hero right in their own home. Abi Pease was that kind of lucky. Abi's hero, her dad, has played a huge part in shaping her life and has given her a unique perspective on fortitude and tenacity.

Abi grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana. As a child, Abi recalls always being aware her family functioned differently from others—and her closeness to her dad was not something she took for granted.

Abi's dad was a helicopter mechanic from 1980-91 and served in the Gulf War. During his time in the service, he developed a severe form of arthritis that drastically challenged his mobility. This took a toll on him and Abi's entire family. Feelings of frustration at not being able to do things others thought dads should do was something that he felt early on; however, the story doesn't end there. When Abi's dad was unable to work traditional jobs, he pivoted his whole life and channeled all his energy in another direction. He restructured his life to stay at home and raise Abi while Abi's mom worked outside the home. And according to Abi, he did such a great job at it. Abi says having him at home helped shape her as a young adult and gave her a very special "built-in best friend" many of her peers didn't have.

Watching her dad struggle but persist taught Abi a lot about the kind of person she wanted to be and the line of work she'd like to do after college. Watching her hero overcome obstacles helped Abi learn compassion, empathy, and unconditional



love early on. All things Abi leans on in her work with others today. It is of no surprise to those who know Abi that she aspires to a career helping others one day.

The close bond Abi has with her parents influenced her decision on what college to attend. Abi chose Purdue Fort Wayne specifically because it was close to home and she could easily help her parents out when they needed her while being close to her hero best-friend.

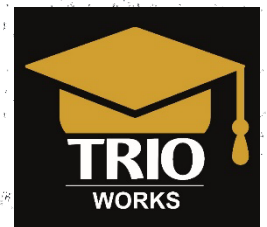
According to Abi, "I don't let what anyone else says about me define who I am. I am a first-generation college student graduating with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. I couldn't have gotten here without the support of my friends, family, and TRIO staff." While at PFW, Abi was an active student participating in TRIO SSS, Delight Ministries, and Student Activities Board. Abi graduated in May. She plans to continue at Purdue Fort Wayne toward a Master's degree in Counseling.

2022-2023 GRADUATES



CELEBRATING TRIO STUDENTS

Lillian Bailey – Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership
Bryan Bankson – Bachelor of Science in Music
Bay Ti Ja Be – Bachelor of Science in Business
Ma Ri Jan Be – Bachelor of Science in Education
Olivia Boehme – Bachelor of Science in Education
Brianna Bowman – Bachelor of Science in Biology
Austin Brandenberger – Bachelor of Science in Physics & Mathematics
Hailey Casto – Bachelor of Science in Human Services
White Dove – Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
Alex Ferrer – Associate of Science in Electrical Engineering
Monica Fox – Bachelor of General Studies
Devin Hence – Bachelor of Science in Music
Keytron Johnson – Associate of Science in Organizational Leadership
Aleah Langley – Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art & Design
Yar Lar – Bachelor of Science in Education
San Lin – Bachelor of Science in Human Services
Madison Marsh – Bachelor of Science in Music
Nicholas Miller – Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering Tech
Juma Mohamad Harun – Bachelor of Science in Marketing
Oswaldo Montiel Fuentes – Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Mathematics
Ro Za Na – Bachelor of Science in Education
Key Paw – Bachelor of Science in Business
Elijah Paulk – Bachelor of Science in Psychology
Abigail Pease – Bachelor of Science in Psychology
Britney Pennington – Bachelor of Science in Biology
Alan Pham – Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry
Brianna Priebe – Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs
Zwa Ra – Bachelor of Science in Business
Carlos Rodriguez – Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering
Deidra Roth – Bachelor of Science in Communication Science & Disorders
Eduardo Ruiz Ruiz – Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering Tech
Nicholas Shatzer – Bachelor of Art in Political Science
Alyssa Sherman – Bachelor of Art in Anthropology
Stephanie Spotts – Bachelor of Art in Theatre
Loren Stukey – Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership
Renae Wallace – Bachelor of Science in Education



HAPPY CAMPERS ATTEND CAMP TRIO



CAMP TRIO 2023

TRIO is heading back to camp for fall 2023. To sign up for a spot, email trioss@pfw.edu or stop by the TRIO office.

When: Saturday, September 2 thru Sunday, September 3

Where: Camp Potawatomi, Wolcottville, Indiana

Who: Open to all PFW TRIO SSS students (spaces are limited-sign up early)

What: Come enjoy teambuilding activities, s'mores at the campfire, boating, swimming, archery, and meeting new friends

Costs: There is no cost for this event- lunch and dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday included

Camp Gear: T-shirt, s'more kit, and other fun camp gear provided

CAMP TRIO 2022

This year, TRIO students went to camp! In September, students spent the night at Camp Potawatomi for two days filled with teambuilding, friend-making, and fun. While at camp, students participated in volleyball, kayaking, swimming, teambuilding activities, and s'more-making. Students gave this experience such rave reviews that we will be returning to camp for fall 2023. Interested students should sign up for this experience early as spaces are limited.



TRIO ♥ NYC

In June, TRIO traveled to New York, New York for a fun filled four day trip. Day one was an early morning with students arriving at 4:30 am to check-in and load the bus. The group traveled throughout the day and arrived in New York around 5:00 pm where they their tour guide and headed to Times Square for dinner at the Hard Rock Café. The rest of the evening was spent unwinding from the long bus ride. On day two, students traveled by ferry to Liberty Island to see the Statue of Liberty. Students had pedestal access to see Lady Liberty from above. There are 215 steps—or approximately 10 stories to climb to get to the top of the pedestal. Students also had access to the Statue of Liberty Museum to learn about the history surrounding the sculpture and to view the original torch. Afterward, students traveled to neighboring Ellis Island for lunch and to visit the Ellis Island National Immigration Museum to learn about the history of American immigration. Students toured the great hall, baggage room, and viewed historic records of those who journeyed from far away in search of a new life in America. To finish the evening, students attended the Broadway musical, *Wicked*, a retelling of The Wizard of Oz, at the Gershwin Theatre. Day three students toured historic Radio City Music Hall and got the opportunity to meet a Rockette. Students were able to go sightseeing in Lower Manhattan, Little Italy, Chinatown, and SoHo before heading to the 9/11 Memorial and Museum. On their final day, students walked through Central Park viewing the Alice and Wonderland sculpture and the Strawberry Fields memorial. Students toured the American Museum of Natural History learning about indigenous cultures, zoology, and outer space before heading back to Fort Wayne. TRIO student, Victory Paw, summed up her experience traveling to New York City as something “many of us never thought we would get the opportunity to do” and Alicia Kingsberry echoed that visiting the sights with “some old and new faces was better than anything I would have experienced by myself.”



NATIONAL TRIO DAY 2023



National TRIO Day 2023 in February featured a joint event between TRIO students from Purdue Fort Wayne and Ivy Tech. At this mixer celebrating TRIO, students were able to mingle and meet others while, learning about the creation of TRIO programs and how to advocate for TRIO more broadly in the community. Mark your calendar for National TRIO Day 2024 on February 22 from 2:30-4:00 pm in Walb Student Union Room 222. This year's event will feature a cocoa bar and networking!

TRIO Student-of-the-Year 2023: Eli Paulk

Eli Paulk is one talented man who has always been keenly focused on building community.

According to Eli, he never thought a lot about college growing up. Most of his time was spent playing football or basketball until it got too dark outside to keep playing. In fact, it wasn't until his senior year in high school when his high school guidance counselor urged him to consider college, that he started taking some real steps toward applying.

College also didn't always come easy for Eli. He began college in 2015, dropped out, and even changed his major three times. But something changed for Eli in 2020 and he decided to fully commit to finishing his degree.

Eli has always been motivated to succeed. In fact, according to him, he "thrives in situations with a lot of pressure" because he does not like the feeling of failure. Instead he accepts it as a challenge that propels him to push forward no matter what life throws his way.

While a student, Eli was a part of TRIO, Green Action Club, and helped lead and organize PFW's Chess Club for three years. He also volunteered at Erin's House for Grieving Children and ran the Fort Wayne (Community) Chess Club from 2020-22—helping plan and execute a number of community chess-in-the-park events.

While at Purdue Fort Wayne, Eli was a top 50 student, received an Auer Scholarship, and was a TRIO Persistence Award winner.

Eli graduated in 2022 with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. After graduation, Eli would like to continue focusing on chess and hopes to continue inspiring others while bringing chess to more diverse audiences.



National First-Gen Day

Did you know first-generation college students are celebrated nationally every year in November? National First-Gen Day is celebrated nationwide on November 8. This date was chosen to commemorate the anniversary of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and its creation of the term "first-generation college student." This same Act created TRIO programs! Each year, we celebrate the vibrant and thriving first-generation students, faculty, staff, and graduates on campus. Mark your calendar for Tuesday,

November 8, 2023 for this year's celebration. From 11 am-1 pm, all campus can stop by Walb Student Union Ballroom to take photos, enjoy lunch, network, and hear from a first-generation student panel about what being on campus as a **first** is really like. Hope to see you there!



OTHER NEWS



THE WINDY CITY

In October 2022, TRIO explored Chicago, Illinois. Students visited the Adler Planetarium to watch a Sky Show and learn about moon exploration. At the Art Institute of Chicago, students were able to see pieces of work from Vincent van Gogh, Diego Rivera, and George Seurat. For dinner, students ate at Fogo de Chao, a Brazilian Steakhouse that served a collection of delicious meats and sides. To finish the evening, students took a River Boat Architectural Cruise where they learned about the city's architectural history and experienced the city from a whole new view. TRIO student, Johan Esparza, shared that he enjoyed riding a boat for the first time and he enjoyed "experiencing the atmosphere of a big city." Taiwo Oladapo enjoyed seeing a different view of the city from the river boat cruise. It was cold that day and TRIO student Aurea Nazaire Alconera stated that "that day the city really proved itself as the Windy City."

TRIO Achiever 2023

Hugo Alberto Mata Jr.

Each year, TRIO recognizes an outstanding TRIO Alumni Achiever who has shown exceptional achievement since graduation in the realm of business, philanthropy, and/or service. This year's recipient of the 2023 TRIO Achiever Award is Hugo Alberto Mata Jr. Hugo is a licensed nursing home administrator for Dynasty Healthcare in Austin, Texas. In his role, Hugo oversees marketing and community relations, staff, budgets, and acts as coordinator to ensure high quality resident services. Hugo graduated from PFW with a bachelor's degree in Public Policy-Healthcare in 2019 and his master's degree in Public Administration in 2020. While a student at PFW, Hugo was active in TRIO SSS, Hispanos Unidos, Black Student Union, the Resource Center, and Diversity/Multicultural Affairs. Hugo's advice to current TRIO students is: "Don't let imposter syndrome influence you negatively. Utilize all the campus spaces, resources, and connections."



TRIO FALL BREAK TRIP 2023

Save the date! TRIO is heading to Cincinnati, Ohio on Monday, October 16, 2023 (during Fall Break). Attendees will visit the Natural History and Science Museum then explore the Ohio River on a dinner boat cruise. This trip is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow TRIO peers while touring museums. This trip is free for TRIO students and includes transportation, t-shirt, tickets to museums/experiences, lunch, and dinner. Sign-up by emailing trioss@pfw.edu. Spaces are limited, so sign up early!



TRIO STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



Hailey Casto

Hailey Casto completed her Human Services internship at School Care Team. For her capstone project, she compiled a list of mental health resources for children and adolescents under the age of 18 as well as therapists who provide services to adolescents and children. Hailey is now employed at Goodwill as an Employment Specialist and is working with individuals with disabilities.



Hai Nguyen

Hai Nguyen began an internship at Forvis, LLP in spring 2023. Forvis is a national CPA and advisory firm that is ranked top 10 in the country. Hai connected with Forvis through a campus event hosted by the Career Development Center. His internship has been extended twice and he plans to stay with the company after graduation and passing the CPA exam.



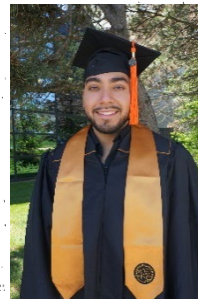
Stephanie Spotts

Stephanie Spotts participated in the Student Research Symposium for a second time this spring. Stephanie's project analyzed the costume and set design of PFW's fall play *Eleemosynary* by Lee Blessing. Stephanie states that "Costume design is a great communication tool to provide insight on a character's personality. Costumes give designers the opportunity to fly and reveal their voice." Stephanie earned a Dean's Choice Award at the Symposium for her work. She plans to attend graduate school next year at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Nicholas Shatzer

Nicholas Shatzer recently graduated from PFW with a degree in Political Science focusing on Peace and Conflict Studies. His next steps include studying international law in law school. During his time at PFW, Nicholas spent time on an esports team. What he enjoyed most about being on the esports team was finding a place where he fit in and was able to have fun away from coursework.



Alex Ferrer

Alex Ferrer's journey is a testament to dedication and achievement. Having proudly graduated in the spring with an associate degree in Electrical Engineering Technology, Alex is now thriving as a valuable asset at ATKORE—a national electrical conduit and fittings company. He plans on returning to PFW to complete a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering Technology in the near future.



Brianna Priebe

Brianna Priebe graduated this May with a bachelor degree in Public Affairs (concentration in Criminal Justice and minor in Sociology). She has accepted a position at Oak Lawn as a Mental Health Case Manager. In this role, Brianna will help youth live healthier and more fulfilling lives through identifying and supporting their needs in a residential setting.



San Lin

San Lin received her bachelor's degree in Human Services this spring and showcased her senior capstone project at the Human Service Student Showcase. San worked at Amani Family Services designing a welcome packet for immigrants relocating to the Fort Wayne area. San has secured a position with Aging and In-Home Services of Fort Wayne after graduation.

RECENT & UPCOMING EVENTS



Welcome New TRIO Students

September Events

- 2-3 – Camp TRIO
Join your TRIO friends for an overnight camp adventure!
- 11 – TRIO Goals Workshop- 12-1pm, KT G40
- 13 – TRIO Coffee Hour-8:30-10am, KT G30
- 13 – TRIO Cultural Conversations – 12-1pm, KT G40
Learn about topics on diversity, equity, & inclusion.
- 18 – TRIO Mentor-Mentee Event –12-1pm, KT G40
Participate in teambuilding activities with TRIO peer mentors!
- 20 – TRIO Coffee Hour – 8:30-10am, KT G30
- 26 – TRIO Study Smarter Workshop –12-1pm, KT G40
- 27 – TRIO Coffee Hour – 8:30-10am, KT G30
- 27 – TRIO Cultural Conversations – 12-1pm, KT G40
Learn about topics on diversity, equity, & inclusion.
- 28 – TRIO Family Dinner – 5:30-7pm, Housing Classroom
Eat dinner and play games with other TRIO students.

RSVP to events in the TRIO office or by emailing trioss@pfw.edu

TRIO is Publishing Book Three



The third volume of TRIO's book, *Every Student Has a Story: Personal Narratives from First-Generation Students* will launch this fall. Life as a first-generation college student can come with many challenges and obstacles. Through this project, students are able to express how they persevered to make it in college. Students interested in becoming a published author and submitting a story for the next volume of *Every Student Has a Story* should email trioss@pfw.edu for more information. Mark your calendar now for our Book Launch on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 from 6-8pm in Walb Ballroom.



Annual TRIO Picnic

Each June, TRIO hosts a picnic for current students, alumni, campus allies, family, and friends. Attendees enjoy lunch, games, music, and fun while catching up with TRIO friends. The next TRIO Picnic will be on Thursday, June 20, 2024!

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