



THE ADVOCATE

THE OFFICE OF MINORITY STUDENT AFFAIRS' NEWSLETTER

YOUR CONNECTION TO THE OMSA

The Office of Minority Student Affairs provides exceptional support services that enhance the academic achievement, personal development, and graduation rates of first generation, low-income, and historically underrepresented students at Illinois.

The Advocate, our semesterly newsletter, allows you to stay connected to the OMSA and discover the outstanding successes of our students!

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OMSA WELCOMES NEW STAFF

WELCOME



Greetings OMSA family and friends!

As we close our second semester of delivering in-person student support services amid the continuing pandemic, we have many reasons to be grateful. The University of Illinois has continued to lead the region

in mitigating the risks associated with covid and our entire campus community should be commended for their compliance with those public health and safety protocols. Our collective efforts have kept us safe and healthy.

The return to in-person classes is positively impacting the demand for OMSA tutoring and advising services as well. With only days left in the semester, our tutoring and advising numbers are out-pacing those from this time last year. Students are once again enjoying the full benefits of this great university's residential experience.

Resilience continues to be a core value for OMSA. We continue to overcome obstacles to help our students realize their dreams and I am delighted to report that OMSA students are excelling at Illinois. This edition of the Advocate will feature numerous students who are thriving across the spectrum of academic and preprofessional endeavors. Their inspiring stories demonstrate the true Power of I and offer a small window into transformative learning experiences that our students are engaged in at OMSA and across campus.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my very best wishes to the graduating class of 2022. I know that I speak for everyone in OMSA when I say we are incredibly proud of each of you. Serving you over the last four (or more) years has been our honor. Go and be GREAT!

Yours in Orange and Blue,

Domonic Cobb, Director of the Office of Minority Study Affairs & TRIO Programs

FAA '96 and EDU'01

In 2021, University of Illinois students had \$118,670,748 in **unmet** financial need. The **average loan indebtedness** for graduating seniors was **\$22,830** and **45%** of Illinois students borrowed money for school (UIUC Office of Financial Aid).

OMSA students are disproportionately represented among borrowers and students with unmet financial need. **Please help provide scholarships our deserving students by giving a tax-deductible gift. Visit www.omsa.illinois.edu/give and contribute today.**



Our featured scholarship fund is the **Greta Hogan Student Persistence Scholarship**. The Greta Hogan fund was created in 2018 on the 60th anniversary of Greta Hogan's arrival in our community. Greta, as she is affectionately known by her students, is a legendary U of I educator and administrator. She taught, mentored, and advocated for thousands of Illinois' first-generation, low-income, and historically underrepresented students across four decades. In honor of her amazing legacy to Illinois students, we are featuring her fund this school year.

We are well on our way to reaching the \$25,000 endowment level this school year! So far, we've raised \$10,275 or 41% of our endowment goal. Once endowed, the scholarship will provide a deserving student a \$1000 scholarship annually in Greta's name. What a wonderful tribute to Greta's legacy. Help us reach our goal by giving today.

Visit www.omsa.illinois.edu/give

NEWS BITES

In this section, catch up on quick highlights and updates from all across the OMSA! Have an update to share? Reach out to us at:
omsasocial@illinois.edu!

TRIO UPWARD BOUND SENIORS COLLEGE BOUND!

The TRIO Upward Bound Senior class of 2021 has a 100% acceptance rate into colleges! Upward Bound students have received over 60 college acceptances across the US as far Northwest as the University of Oregon and Northeast as the University of Connecticut.

TRIO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES 2022 RECOGNITION DINNER

TRIO SSS was delighted to be able to gather in-person for the first time in two years to celebrate our students' successes. SSS recognized all the hard work, dedication, and perseverance of all of their students, but were especially delighted to acknowledge our SSS seniors who are on the cusp of a significant milestone - attaining their bachelor's degree. We all join in celebrating this significant milestone in your lives!

NEW RSO FOCUSES ON RURAL STUDENTS

A Registered Student Organization

RURAL AREA STUDENT INITIATIVE



Are you from a rural area or interested in advocating for underrepresented groups in higher education? Rural Area Student Initiative (RASI) is a new RSO focused on providing support and resources to UIUC students from rural areas as they navigate the transition to higher education. Additionally, RASI strives to mentor, advise, and advocate for rural high school students interested in pursuing higher education. If you're interested our mission, or want to learn more, please fill out this short (1-2) minute form: <https://forms.gle/b8kvk7wtTw4nVN3D6>



TRIO SSS 2022 Recognition Dinner.

STUDENT SPEAKERS



Fredy Quevedo
Senior, AHS



Noah Muñoz
Sophomore, Gies



Roxanne Patino
Senior, AHS and ACES

STUDENT HOSTS



Jennifer Brown
Junior, LAS



Dayna Le
Senior, FAA



Ivie Osagiede
Senior, LAS

OMSA 54TH ANNUAL
MOM'S DAY
SCHOLASTIC AWARDS
CEREMONY

The Office of Minority Student Affairs was proud to host the 54th Annual Mom's Day Scholastic Awards Ceremony on April 3rd, 2022. The OMSA was thrilled able to return to honoring thousands of our students who excelled academically over the past two semesters in-person and to do so in our traditional home of the Illini Union. This year, in total, **5,907 students were eligible to participate, with 3,595 students earning Honors, while 2,312 students earned High Honors.**

We were joined by Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success and Engagement Dr. Jim Hintz who offered his congratulations and three student speakers who offered their remarks on the impact of the OMSA and a summation of their experiences at the University of Illinois.

We were also proud to acknowledge all of the wonderful Mothers who have sacrificed and helped our students (and staff!) with their numerous successes along the way. While we would love to have met in person, we were thrilled with the large online turnout and greater accessibility to the event!

See our group photo on the cover!

TRIO TALENT SEARCH SPRING BREAK COLLEGE TOURS



TRIO Talent Search students seeing a Broadway play called, "The Play that Goes Wrong."

When you think of Spring Break, you think of students taking time off from their education to relax or go on vacation. However, that was not what a group of TRIO Talent Search high school students did. Instead, they decided to attend a Spring Break College Tour!

Students had to the opportunity to tour 6 colleges and universities in the Chicagoland area and surrounding suburbs. Those colleges were Elmhurst University, Lake Forest College, Loyola University Chicago, North Central College, Trinity Christian College, and the University of Illinois at Chicago. Students received an admissions presentation, a college tour, and lunch on campus.

They also went to see a Broadway play downtown Chicago called, "The Play that Goes Wrong." They came home with bags full of college goodies, a new experience on Broadway, and a wealth of knowledge about colleges and what they can offer them in the years ahead.

TRIO SSS Mentor/Mentee Program

This year, TRIO Student Support Services began a new program in which upperclassmen from the program are paired with underclassmen to provide guidance and mentorship. After pairing up a mentor with a mentee, we encourage the students to meet up repeatedly throughout the year, in person, online, or over the phone, so that the mentors can share their knowledge and experience as TRIO SSS students with underclassmen. We have also hosted a number of events and meetings, including attending an Illini basketball game and a play at Krannert Arts Center, where all participants are invited to learn more about the program, have fun, and get to know other mentors and mentees. The students have very much enjoyed being part of the program and we have had great participation from our students. We plan to continue growing our program, alongside our students, as we plan for the next school year.



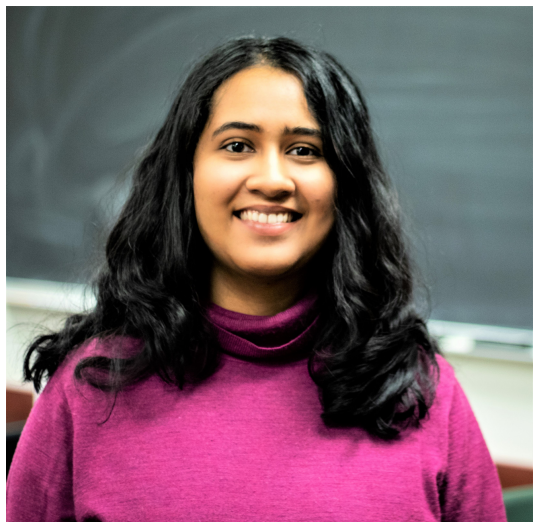
SSS Mentors and Mentees from our recent Painting Workshop!

OMSA RETURNS TO ILLINI DAYS!

After quite some time in a virtual sphere, the OMSA has been thrilled to meet our incoming Illini in-person via the annual Illini Days resource fairs! In the small span of several weeks, the OMSA team and I have had the pleasure of meeting over 200 incoming students and their parents as they explored the abundant resources Illinois has to offer! For our friends that could not join us in person, the OMSA hosted several virtual information sessions greeting over 50 additional incoming students! Having personally hosted a handful of these sessions and fairs, I can say without a doubt that our incoming class is filled with some of the best and brightest so on behalf of the OMSA, we cannot wait to meet you and **WELCOME TO ILLINOIS!**

OMSA NOMINATES TWO FOR TUTOR OF THE YEAR

For the past few years, the Office of Student Employment has hosted a Tutor of the Year competition as part of their Student Employee of the Year celebration. As the person who supervises the tutoring staff in OMSA's Academic Services Center, it's not difficult to select one (among our many wonderful tutors) to nominate for this award. In fact, this year, there were two tutors I just had to recognize for their hard work and dedication. **Malika Basu and Ivie Osagiede** will both be graduating this May and it was really important to acknowledge them for the exceptional service they have provided freshman students for the past two and a half years.



In the five semesters that **Malika** has worked as a tutor, we have seen tremendous growth, not just in her performance as a tutor but also as a student. If I had to describe her in one word, it would be “responsible” because she has always taken her responsibilities as a tutor very seriously. One of the things we consistently observe in her tutoring sessions is that she does an excellent job of setting the tone for her sessions by making sure everyone is well prepared and are keeping a positive attitude about the

course. Overall, Malika has good instincts when it comes to helping students. She is good at asking enough questions to keep the student engaged but is also perceptive enough to know when to interject by elaborating or summarizing if necessary. Malika is a great role-model for the students she tutors because she is so gifted at encouraging them to use their resources appropriately and incorporating them into study sessions. For instance, she will tactfully ask them to look through their lecture notes and other materials received in class as a way to demonstrate the importance and usefulness of these materials. She is unstinting in providing good tips on how to approach studying in general and will often recommend that the tutee try extra example problems that may not be necessary but will be helpful practice. It's a great way to get students to understand that they will really benefit from putting in the additional effort.

OMSA NOMINATES TWO FOR TUTOR OF THE YEAR CONT.

Ivie has worked for OMSA as a biology and chemistry tutor for the past two years and I really can't say enough positive things about her. She is a phenomenal tutor. She always comes to work prepared, ensuring that her sessions remain on-task and productive. She is very good at using open-ended questions instead of yes/no questions to make sure that her students fully understand the material. She frequently asks her students to elaborate on their thinking even if they've already gotten the



correct answer to make sure that they understand the process. Her sessions are always very much student-led. Ivie is also able to adapt and use whatever style is appropriate for the situation. If they are working online, sometimes she will annotate on top of the student's shared screen to lend visual support to her explanations. At other times, she will do an equally fine job of providing verbal feedback while allowing the student to do all the visual communication if that seems to be the student's preference. In any case, her tutoring sessions are always very interactive, allowing her students to extrapolate and connect the information more easily. If her students get mired in details or drift off topic, Ivie does an exceptional job of gently redirecting them back to the problem at hand without curbing their enthusiasm for connecting the material to outside information. One of her strengths as a tutor is in promoting effective learning habits. She sets and holds students to high standards for preparation, attendance, and performance. She has a knack for helping students identify the study methods or problem-solving processes that will work best for them. In doing this, Ivie is fostering growth and self-sufficiency in her students.

OMSA NOMINATES TWO FOR TUTOR OF THE YEAR CONT.

Ivie and Malika both clearly demonstrate a desire to help and see the progress of their students. They have been very responsive and adaptable employees who really show a desire to excel as tutors and are consistently open to advice and feedback. I cannot think of two more deserving candidates for Tutor of the Year.

The winner of the competition will be announced at the upcoming 2022 Student Employee and Tutor of the Year Recognition Event. The event will be held on Thursday, April 14, 3:45 - 5 pm in the Student Dining and Residential Programs (SDRP) building.

MCNAIR WELCOMES FOUR NEW SCHOLARS, AS NINE GRADUATE

The TRIO McNair Scholars Program is proud to announce we have accepted four new scholars and continue to accept applications to join the prestigious cohort honoring the rich legacy of Ronald E. McNair. We are equally excited to announce we have nine graduating seniors who will participate in graduation ceremonies across campus.

We will formally acknowledge their vast accomplishments during our Annual EMERGE Celebration that is scheduled to be held Tuesday May 3, 2022.

Additionally, as the semester comes to a rapid close, we are gearing up to provide our current scholars with an enriching summer experience through our Summer Research Institute (SRI) where they will travel to schools around the country and develop their research endeavors. We are immensely proud of our scholars who will become great intellectual contributors to the research community.

THE OMSA IS FULL OF NEW FACES!

It's been a while since we updated you on our new staff. Check out the new faces you'll see around the OMSA!



Sandra Carter
Office Manager



Shawn Hampton
Student Success Advisor
Advising & Mentoring



T'keya Hicks
Precollege Advisor
TRIO Upward Bound



Jordan Kuneyl
Precollege Advisor
TRIO Upward Bound



Holly Lovett
Office Support Specialist
SSS/Upward Bound



Amanda McGuire
Office Support Specialist
McNair/Talent Search



Dr. Eugene Moore
Interim Assistant Director
TRIO McNair Scholars



Courtney Valentine
Precollege Advisor
TRIO Talent Search



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Cover: 54th Annual OMSA Mom's Day
Scholastic Awards Ceremony
Back: Mural painted by OMSA Students, 1998