People You Should Know

Gabby’s Got It Going On

In each SSS Newsletter we want to put the spotlight on an alum or current staff member in our “People You Should Know” column. For our inaugural issue, we want to highlight Gabrielle (Gabby) Gray. Gabby graduated from Rufus King High School in 2008 and received her bachelor’s degree from Marquette this past spring and is now enrolled in a Master’s of Arts program in Educational Policy and Foundations. She is currently working on special evaluation and publicity projects for SSS and McNair as SSS’s first graduate assistant.

You are one of a few students to have participated in UB, SSS, and McNair. How does that feel?

I have been blessed to be a part of the EOP family and to have a strong network of support that I can depend on. My participation in Upward Bound, Student Support Services and McNair has guided me to discovering my passion in life, which is serving students like myself and ensuring that everyone has the equal opportunity to receive a quality education. EOP has also served as a motivator to help me realize my strengths, weaknesses and to hone in on my potential.

During your years at MU, you’ve seen your share of students succeed and your share of students fail. What advice would you give students to help them avoid the pitfalls of failure?

A larger part of succeeding at Marquette is realizing that you deserve to be at Marquette just like every other student on campus, and that you are more than capable of being extraordinary. In my experience, the majority of students that have succeeded at Marquette have been those that have the confidence to compete not only with his or her classmates, but with their self.

Continued on the back page

Gabrielle Gray is one of a few MU students who participated in Upward Bound, Student Support Services and the McNair Scholars Program.
As many of you know, EOP is the umbrella program that houses four federally funded TRIO programs. Our four TRIO programs, Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math Science, Student Support Services, and McNair, annually serve over 550 high school and college students. We receive funding from Marquette (a generous benefactor since 1968) but we also greatly depend on federal funds from the United States Department of Education.

What do I need to know?

Currently – TRIO programs nationwide serve almost a million students and will receive $839.9 billion in the next fiscal year. That sounds like a lot of money, right? Actually it only constitutes only THREE ONE-HUNDREDTHS (0.03) of the entire federal budget. If the federal budget was $100, Department of Education would be only $3 and TRIO would only be three cents out of 100,000 pennies.

Because of budget cuts, TRIO was unable to serve 9,300 students in FY 2012. 9,300 students! That’s the size of the entire Marquette student population. Services similar to the ones we offer here would not be provided to students like yourselves. Imagine no more tutoring, no more sessions with Dr. Lewis or Mr. Kranendonk, no more advising, no more refund checks from Jackie, no more hugs from Ethel.

Sometimes our federal representatives from both sides of the aisle only see numbers. However, it is important that they know the faces and the inspiring success stories that you bring to the table when they vote on these budget decisions.

What can I do?

Excel in your courses. There is no better way to promote TRIO than with your GPA. Your success reflects on the program. And using services like tutoring to get good grades is not a bad idea either.

Do something positive in the community and let people know that you are a TRIO student. If you volunteer, let people know that you are TRIO so that they know where their federal dollars are going.

Help get the word out about how important TRIO programs are. Send letters, emails, make phone calls to your legislators, to newspapers, to blogs, anywhere! We will ask for your help during specific calls to action but don’t let us limit you – you can be your best advocate. If you want more direction in this area, please let us know and we will be happy to help you!

Finally and most importantly – REGISTER and VOTE. Be an informed voter – what are the important issues to you – look at each candidate’s voting history and pledges and make a decision. Your vote, your voice, your opinions matter. One vote plus one vote plus one vote adds up really fast.

In her speech to EOP last May, Congresswomen Gwen Moore talked about “passing the rope down,” to help the next generation of TRIO students prepare for the challenge of college. Knowing more about TRIO and doing the activities noted above will help do just that.
Sande Robinson Emerging Leaders Network with MU/EOP Lawyers & Judges

On Thursday, September 20, EOP’s Sande Robinson Emerging Leaders invited other SSS and McNair students interested in the legal profession to join them at Marquette University Law School’s Multicultural Admissions Information Seminar. A reception followed the seminar at which students were able to meet and network with more than 100 lawyers and judges at the Annual Diversity Alumni/Student Reception.

Among the Law School alumni in attendance were many with EOP ties, including current law students, Griselda Aldrete and James Ferguson, and these EOP alumni: Judge Carl Ashley (MU LAW ’83), Judge Martin Donald, (MU LAW ’88), Anique Ruiz (MU LAW ’10), Athenee Lucas, (MU LAW ’05), and Pat McGowan, (MU LAW ’89).

Freshman Janise Tucker commented that the experience was valuable in a several ways: “I really enjoyed the reception. I was able to practice my own as well as learn new networking skills that will surely come into play in my career.”

Financial Aid Update

All students with outstanding Bursar balances should have submitted a signed EOP Payment Arrangement Agreement to our office and be making payments by the 15th of each month in order to avoid a Spring Term 2013 registration hold. See Kathy or Jackie immediately if you are receiving delinquent Bursar account notices via email.

All financial aid should be accepted or declined in your CheckMarq account by now. Review your status to make sure your award is correct. First time borrowers: Once you have accepted your loans, there are additional steps that must be completed such as promissory notes (Perkins and Stafford) and entrance counseling (Stafford) in order for your loans to be processed.

Now is the time to begin your scholarship search for the 2013-14 academic year. As you identify scholarships that may not have opened up yet, bookmark or print the webpage and file the printout in your scholarship folder for future reference.

Let EOP Financial Aid staff know if you need assistance with private scholarships you were supposed to receive if the funds have not been sent to you or Marquette yet.

Financial Literacy Resources

Mint Personal Finance and Budgeting: https://www.mint.com/
Kiplinger Budget Tools: http://www.kiplinger.com/tools/budget/
Free Credit Scores: http://www.creditkarma.com/
Free Annual Credit Reports: http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/freereports/index.shtml

SSS – Les Aspin – Washington DC Trip – Coming Soon!

In July/August 2013 – EOP staff will be taking a select group of McNair and SSS students to participate in 7-10 day visit to Washington DC. While in DC, students will visit graduate schools, attend field/major specific policy sessions, participate in various cultural activities, and stay in Les Aspin housing. Transportation, housing, and meal costs will be covered by EOP. Stay tuned for further details to apply for this great experience.
What is the biggest change that you have seen in your time at MU?

During my time at Marquette, both on a high school, undergraduate and now graduate level, the biggest change that I have seen at Marquette is that Marquette has become more accepting of a diverse student population. There are multiple programs and departments around campus that have become eager and welcoming to student participation.

Why should students know you?

Do you know other alumni that you think we should highlight? Let us know!