

# THE PERSISTENCE

## In-Focus: Vicki Phillips, Another TRiO Success

*Now and then its good to pause in our pursuit of happiness and just be happy.*

*-Guillaume Apollinaire*

Source: [http://www.famousquotes.com/show.php?\\_id=1011778](http://www.famousquotes.com/show.php?_id=1011778)



Vicki Phillips graduated with 13 other students from a small school above the Arctic Circle in 2005. Vicki was ready for a change, and since she liked teachers, school and learning in general, continuing her education was a logical next step. With the decision to come to Juneau made, Vicki tackled the problem of financing an education. With support from her school and community, Vicki applied for as many scholarships as she knew about. Her education at UAS has been

funded from a variety of sources including a University of Alaska scholarship, Preparing Indigenous Teachers and Administrators for Alaska Schools (PITAAS) scholarship, Indian Reorganization Act Scholarship, TRiO scholarship, Teck Cominco scholarship and a Robert Aqqaluk Trust scholarship. Vicki also works part time to help with her finances.

As a new student far from home, Vicki joined TRiO to help her adapt to her new environment. Not only did she readily adapt, she eventually became a TRiO mentor to help other new students from small, rural areas to adapt. At first, Vicki's interest was in environmental science, but as she learned more about the education program at UAS, she changed her major. Her goal is to teach 3rd or

4th grade in her home region.

Vicki's story exemplifies persistence and success. As a 4<sup>th</sup> year student she is academically outstanding as a UA scholar on the Dean's list. As a student worker for TRiO, she made such an impression that she was hired as the Administrative Assistant for the program. Vicki plans to return home for her student teaching in the fall, graduate with a BA in Elementary Education in May of 2010, and enter the MAT program (via distance). The TRiO staff has no doubt she will succeed. Vicki exemplifies persistence and success. She has been a great role model for our other TRiO students, including her little sister Lorena who just joined us last semester.

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## TRiO is No Longer in Jeopardy

As most of you may have known, the university recently made a decision not to re-apply for the grant through the federal government because they believed that TRiO wasn't meeting the federal requirements. This meant that TRiO would *not* have the opportunity to stay on campus for at least another 5 years. As a result, students were concerned about the future of TRiO. After re-addressing the issue and realizing that TRiO was meeting the federal requirements, the university reversed their decision and is now allowing TRiO to re-apply for the grant. TRiO is no longer in jeopardy with the university, but we aren't certain that the grant will be accepted by the federal government. We thank all our students for their support.



## FAFSA Frenzy!

The FAFSA Frenzy is now occurring until February 16, 2009. What is the FAFSA Frenzy and what does this mean? The FAFSA Frenzy is a period of time where the university promotes the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) during the month of February. To be eligible for the UAS and UA Foundation scholarships (which are also due by February 16<sup>th</sup>) you must have your FAFSA application submitted. Also, if you get your FAFSA submitted early you may be eligible for grant funding other than the

Pell Grant. You have a lot of opportunities for getting help with the FAFSA. The Financial Aid office is putting on a ton of workshops; here is a copy of their schedule:



01-23-2009	2:00PM	<b>FAFSA Workshop</b>	Egan 220
01-26-2009	10:30AM	<b>FAFSA Workshop</b>	Egan 114
01-29-2009	1:00PM	<b>Scholarship Workshop</b>	Egan 220
02-02-2009	9:00AM	<b>Scholarship Workshop</b>	Egan 220
02-04-2009	10:00AM	<b>FAFSA Workshop</b>	Fireweed Room
02-08-2009	2:00PM	<b>College Goal Sunday</b>	The Rec Center
02-10-2009	3:00PM	<b>FAFSA Workshop</b>	Egan 220
02-16-2009	All Day	<b>Last Day to Apply for Scholarships!</b>	UAS
02-16-2009	3:00PM	<b>Financial Aid 101</b>	Egan 220
02-18-2009	12:00PM	<b>FAFSA Workshop</b>	Egan 220
02-27-2009	9:00AM	<b>FAFSA Workshop</b>	Egan 220

You can contact the Financial Aid office at 907-796-6255 or [fi-aid@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:fi-aid@uas.alaska.edu). If you need additional assistance with getting your FAFSA submitted you can also make an appointment with TRiO by calling 907-796-6306. Now's the time to get your FAFSA done and over with!

## “The Battles of Fire and Water” at the Perseverance Theatre

TRiO is purchasing **20 tickets** for the play “The Battles of Fire and Water” that will be playing from March 1- April 5, 2009 at the Perseverance Theatre. The play will be about the battles between the Russians and Tlingits that occurred in Sitka in 1802 and 1804. The play is based on the book written by our local residents and authors Richard and Nora Marks Dauenhauer. “The Battles of Fire and Water” will surely be popular and will sell out quickly, so call or stop by the TRiO office to sign up for a free ticket if you are interested!

## Upcoming Math Workshops

The Native & Rural Student Center (NRSC), PITAAS, the Learning Center, and TRiO are once again working together to host math workshops this semester. The workshops will be where a time slot is reserved for students to stop by and get help from math faculty and tutors on homework problems and/or help with preparing for a test. Here is a list of the **Math-in-Motion** workshops planned so far:



- Tuesday, February 17 from 5:00-7:30pm
- Wednesday, February 18 from 5:00-7:30pm
- Tuesday, April 21 from 5:00-7:30pm
- Wednesday, April 22 from 5:00-7:30pm

Snacks will be provided at the workshops. If you are unable to make it to the workshop or need additional help with Math please stop by the office to request a tutor or stop by the Learning Center to receive help. We will also plan several Writing Workshops this semester and will let you know about them soon.

## Available Books to Check-Out

Thanks to a donation from one of our students, TRiO has the books for the following classes to check out:

- Astronomy 225
- Government 101
- Psychology 250
- History 105

If you're interested in checking out any of the books, stop by the office and let us know.

## Native Oratory Contest

The Woonen club and UAS are hosting the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Native Oratory Contest on Saturday, March 7, 2009. The contest is open to all high school and UA students who are **registered for at least 3 credits** and is open to **native and non-native participants**. There are four categories that you may compete in and they include:



- **Oratory:** A 5-15 minute speech from memory or limited notes that advocates a viewpoint related to Native Alaska using reasoning, elocution, and evidence to support the opinion.
- **Dramatic Declamation:** A 5-15 minute recitation from a historic Native American Speech.
- **Storytelling:** A 5-15 minute telling of an Alaska Native/ Native American tale from memory or limited notes.
- **Native Language:** A 5-15 minute presentation in Southeast Alaska Native Language followed by interpretation in English. (Tlingit, Haida, Tshimshian languages limited entry due to limited language support)

Please keep in mind that you may participate in more than one category. Scholarship prizes will be awarded to winners, who will also get to participate in the statewide competition in Anchorage. If you're interested or want more information you can contact Kolene James at 907-796-6454.

## Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

While attending UAS you have to follow the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy to receive financial aid. This means that you have to maintain a GPA of 2.0 and you must complete 75% of the classes that you take. The financial aid office checks the academic progress of students at the end of the spring term to make sure that they are in compliance with the SAP policy. The grades AU, DF, F, I, W, NB, or NP are unsatisfactory completion of courses in the eyes of the financial aid office so these are the grades you want to avoid. The SAP policy applies to **all** students on campus whether or not you receive financial aid or scholarships. If you fail to meet the SAP policy you will be placed on probation for a semester. If you still don't meet the requirements the financial aid office will suspend your financial aid. To get out of suspension you have to file an appeal. The point is that to avoid problems with financial aid we recommend that you follow the SAP policy. More information can be found at: [http://www.uas.alaska.edu/financial\\_aid/proc-policies/sap.html](http://www.uas.alaska.edu/financial_aid/proc-policies/sap.html)

## TRiO Scholarship Requirements

We know that the semester has just begun, but it is important to know what you need to do to be eligible for the TRiO scholarship between now and the deadline (which will be around April). A lot of people applied for the scholarship application last semester but didn't receive the scholarship because they didn't meet all of the scholarship requirements. As a reminder, keep in mind that you have to meet the following requirements to be eligible for the TRiO scholarship:

- Maintain active status with TRiO
- Be Pell Grant eligible
- Have a 2.5 GPA
- Access at least (5) services that may include: attending academic & cultural events, receive tutoring, checkout equipment, get academic counseling, or receive financial aid counseling. *Please keep in mind that if you've utilized a service more than once it will be counted more than once.* For example, you would be eligible for a TRiO scholarship if you've: Attended 2 events, checked out a laptop, checked out a graphing calculator, and received tutoring. This counts as utilizing at least 5 services.

If you have any questions about the TRiO Scholarship please let us know.

## TRiO Student Successes



TRiO would like to congratulate the 15 students who made the Chancellor's or Dean's list for the fall semester. Keep up the good work. We're proud of you!

We would also like to congratulate our TRiO student and tutor Kari Dammerman for receiving an EPScOR grant that will allow her to do research on sculpin in conjunction with the Marine Biology department here at UAS. TRiO wishes Kari good luck with her research.