

# TRIO

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

2101 East Coliseum Blvd  
Kettler Hall G25  
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

## TRIO Club Visits Puerto Rico



*Britten Friar, Emily Salisbury, Kristin Costello, Nathan Seelye, Colby Flye and Taylor Talamantes went to Puerto Rico over Spring Break*

Planning for the TRIO Club trip to Puerto Rico started months ago when students made a budget and requested funds from IPSGA. After much anticipation, students spent three days on the island where they volunteered at the manatee conservation center at the University of Puerto Rico-Bayamon. They also met with TRIO SSS students at the University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras.

“I had never been on a plane before, never seen the ocean,” senior

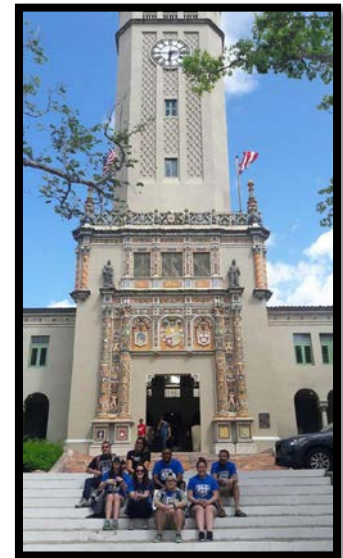
Taylor Talamantes said. This trip inspired her to travel across the



United States immediately after graduation this May.

TRIO president, Britten Friar, added, “It was an opportunity I never thought I would have because traveling is expensive. We went there with a mission and we accomplished something. We all came back better people for it.”

*If you're interested in joining TRIO Club, contact Lorenzo Catalan at [catals01@students.ipfw.edu](mailto:catals01@students.ipfw.edu)*



*Above: TRIO students visiting the University of Puerto Rico*

*On Left: Taylor Talamantes gets up close with a manatee at the rehabilitation center*

**STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES AT IPFW**

INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY FORT WAYNE  
OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS  
A TRIO PROGRAM



# TRIO Student Rachel Edwards

## Photographs Dominican Republic



The hot, sticky humidity of the Dominican Republic hit me like a brick wall as I stepped out of the airport after traveling all day. The wind felt refreshing as we headed to our hotel in the late night. As 13 of us crammed in a van that was made for only 10, I gazed out the window to brightly-lit buildings, signs, and crowds of people.

My name is Rachel Edwards and I'm a junior at IPFW studying graphic design and digital imaging. I was chosen by my department to travel abroad for an educational experience in a third world country. For a week I was able to document the country's culture, architecture, and landscape. With this experience

I was able to further my photography skills and learn how to interact with people that don't speak the same language as I do. I traveled alongside a non-profit organization, Barnabas Task, so that I could not only document photos for school, but also document the medical clinic and prayer support the Barnabas Task provided.

I also worked in the medical clinic during the day to help out any way I could. On the first morning, around 20 people were lined up outside the door waiting for us to open the clinic so that we could treat them. As we unloaded tubs of equipment, more and more people began to come and watch as we set up the clinic. Over the course of the week, we treated a little over 600 people who were given toothbrushes, vitamins, and other various medicines to treat common injuries and sicknesses. Because I don't have a medical background, I spent the majority of my time connecting with the kids and exploring the area. We brought tubs of toys with us to give to the kids after they had been to the clinic. Hundreds of toy cars, dolls, stuffed animals, and puppets were given to the children.

Since I couldn't walk anywhere alone due to safety reasons, I explored with a local translator and another IPFW photography student who was selected by our department to

document Cien Fuegos. I focused my photos on the people, documenting their stories behind a lens the best I could. The buildings were another area I focused on documenting. The bright buildings and unique shape were intriguing and so foreign compared to houses that I am familiar with seeing in the United States. Most of the houses were single story and didn't have central air or running water within the house. Since it's so hot during the day, most people sat on their porch so it gave us the ability to meet more people and take their photos.

With this humbling experience, I take away more than just good photographs. It opened my eyes to how other people live and it made me appreciate my life even more. My time in the Dominican Republic was short-lived, but my memories will last me a lifetime.





# TRIO Graduates Have Big Plans



Twenty-eight current and former students in TRIO Student Support Services graduated with bachelor's degrees in 2016. In addition, one associate's degree and one master's degree was awarded to TRIO SSS students.

**Chelsea Allen:** B.S. in English Education. Currently working as a substitute teacher for East Allen schools, Chelsea plans to move to Ohio to teach in the fall.

**Brandon Buckley:** B.A. in Spanish. Brandon teaches Spanish at Horizon Christian Academy.

**Gladys Calderon:** B.A. in psychology. Named one of IPFW's Top 50 students, Gladys works as an academic specialist for IPFW's TRIO Upward Bound program to encourage high school students to pursue higher education. She is an alumna of both TRIO Upward Bound and TRIO Student Support Services.

**Mark Cullnane:** B.S. in public affairs. Mark is employed as a research assistant at

Community Research Institute and is pursuing a master's degree in public management.

**Seja Culpepper:** B.S. in chemistry. Seja plans to pursue a career working in either a hospital or corporate lab.

**Rachel DeFord-Dunn:** B.S. in human services. After being named Intern of the Year in 2015, Rachel was hired by her internship site, Hope House, where she helps women overcoming addictions.

**Danielle "Dee Dee" (Dukes) Sanchez:** B.S. in general studies with a minor in Human Services. Dee Dee works at Three Rivers Credit Union and has a passion for helping people.

**Sarah Dustman:** B.A. in English. After interning with the IPFW English department, Sarah is looking to work in business/professional writing or advertising.

**Jada Gordon:** B.S. in criminal justice. Jada plans to work with the Allen County

Sheriff's Department and eventually wants to be a probation officer.

**Shakeira Jefferson:** B.A. in psychology. Shakeira is planning to work as a case manager for children in Indianapolis.

**Salisha (Hill) Keller:** B.A. in psychology. Salisha has been accepted into IPFW's master's in counseling program.

**Tiffany Lackey:** Bachelor's in general studies with minors in psychology, sociology and women's studies. Tiffany plans on training to be a school counselor.

**Thet Mar:** B.S. in marketing and B.S. in management. Thet plans to travel to Thailand and Japan. She hopes to work as a management trainee for Cintas.

**Casey Meadows:** B.A. in anthropology. Casey has been accepted to DePaul's graduate program in sociology.

**Elysia Smallwood:** B.S. in organizational leadership and supervision. Elysia works in case support for the office of the prosecuting attorney, child support division, city of South Bend.

**Bria Steele:** B.S. in health services administration and a minor in organizational leadership and supervision.

**Taylor Talamantes:** B.A. in psychology. After driving across the country, Taylor hopes to work with juvenile offenders in Allen County either as a probation officer or guard.

**Kayla Wasson:** B.S. in organizational leadership and supervision. Kayla works in human resources for Dolco Packaging in Decatur, IN.

**Jonnie West:** B.S. in hospitality management. Jonnie has been promoted to Banquet Captain at Swan Lake Resort in Plymouth, IN.



*Chelsea Allen*



*Gladys Calderon*



*Mark Cullnane*



*Seja Culpepper*



*Sarah Dustman*



*Jada Gordon*



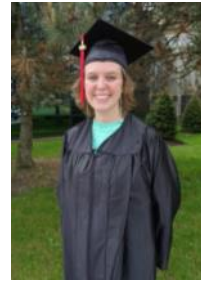
*Shakeira Jefferson*



*Salisha (Hill) Keller*



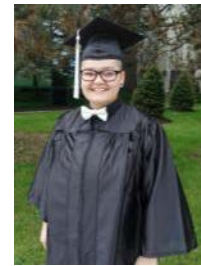
*Tiffany Lackey*



*Elysia Smallwood*



*Bria Steele*



*Taylor Talamantes*



*Kayla Wasson*

## TRIO Student Lorenzo Catalan Wins Scholarships to Study Abroad in Spain



When Lorenzo Catalan found out he was one of fifteen TRIO Student Support Services students from across the country selected to go to Spain this summer, he was “ecstatic.”

He immediately started writing scholarship essays in order to fund the trip. His diligence paid off because he has been awarded three study abroad scholarships: \$100 from IPFW, \$500 from Indiana TRIO and \$1,000 from the Educational Opportunity Association (EOA). Lorenzo is spending the month of June attending the EOA Keith Sherin Global Leaders program at the University of Salamanca learning more about the Spanish culture and language.

“I believe this experience will help me by exposing me to situations where I need to be flexible and able to adapt, but also will help me in my career goal to become a bilingual doctor. In this career, I will need to properly communicate with my patients and appreciate cultural differences. Most people do not understand medical terminology as it is and for its delivery to be in a foreign language only makes it more difficult to interpret. I want to be that bridge of understanding and studying in Spain will help me do that.”

### TRIO SSS Holds its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Awards Banquet

On April 12<sup>th</sup> TRIO SSS held its second annual awards banquet to celebrate its graduating seniors, student volunteers and those who completed TRIO Leaders training. Mark Cullnane won the TRIO Excellence Award for the top GPA of a graduating senior and Tiffany Lackey was named TRIO Student of the Year. Students who completed the Indorsed Career Ready certificate were also recognized. Congratulations to all of our student winners!



*TRIO students enjoyed a summer picnic in early June. Pictured left to right, sitting: Taylor Henderson, Breanna Putt, Monica Kaufman, Guerda Julien; standing: Riley Friar, Miranda Hall, Cherry Thu, Colby Flye, Emily Salisbury and Joe Shell.*



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*As Big Event volunteers, TRIO SSS students helped prepare the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo for its opening weekend*

We wish TRIO academic coordinator, Buck Jordan, the best of luck in his new position working for IPFW's School of Business as an academic advisor!