

FALL 2012

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Dear Students, Alums, Colleagues and Friends,

In many of our lives, the Educational Opportunity Program has played a significant role. The program has helped shape lives and promote the growth needed to impact social change. Our students pursue excellence in the classroom and in their communities.

I feel blessed and honored to be associated with the EOP program, and to work side-by-side with an incredible staff. Last year we added two new members to the EOP family: Ankur Kumar and Amy Van Pelt. They are passionate in the work we do and I am confident in their success as EOP advisors.

This past year, the EOP program at SUNY New Paltz received many accolades and recogni-

tions based on the success of our students. These can only be attributed to our students' commitment to higher learning and personal growth. In the summer of 2011, SUNY New Paltz underwent a Middle State Accreditation review. SUNY New Paltz received five commendations and the EOP program received two of those five. One commendation highlighted our program services and high retention rates.

EOP students are leading the way in international experience. The EOP Program and the International Programs Office won the 2011 Innovation Award, conferred by the Diversity in Global Education Network. This honor recognizes New Paltz as a leader among the nation's colleges and universities for implementing

creative, practical strategies that bring study abroad opportunities to the cohort of diverse and under-represented students. http://bit.ly/lJ6ecS

Alums, EOP strives for excellence amidst these difficult economic times. I feel that it is time to give back to a program that made it possible for us to achieve our goals. Through the college, we have a foundation account where you can donate to EOP directly. These funds will be used to enhance the EOP student experience at SUNY New Paltz. Please contribute: http://bit.ly/ll4tEq

I value your collaboration and efforts in making the EOP program a continuing pillar of student opportunity and enrichment at SUNY New Paltz.

·Co

Thank you!

Antonio Bonilla

Director of EOP

EOP Advisors

Welcome to the EOP family, Amy O. Van Pelt and Ankur Kumar, who are starting their second year as EOP Advisors!



Amy O. Van Pelt

Amy earned her B.S. in Mathematics from Saint Joseph College in West Hartford, Connecticut. She came to SUNY New Paltz in 1995 to work for the Department of Residence Life as the Resident Director for Gage Hall. During this time Amy gained experience training and supervising a resident assistant staff. She also served as co-advisor to the Residence Hall Student Association and presented workshops at regional and national conferences. While working as a Resident Director, Amy completed her Master of Professional Studies (MPS) degree in Humanistic Education at SUNY New Paltz. Her master's thesis included research on student leadership. Amy has taught as an adjunct instructor in the math department here for 11 years. She is married and has three daughters. She has served as president of the elementary school PTA as well as girl scout leader for her daughters' girl scout troops. She is also a past member of the Taconic Regional PTA Board and currently volunteers as the Service Unit Manager for the Sojourner Truth Girl Scout Community. Amy is thrilled to be a part of the EOP staff. She is also very excited to serve as Peer Mentor Coordinator.



Ankur Kumar

Ankur earned his Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Higher Education Counseling from the University of Southern California (USC). Ankur worked in Student-Athlete Academic Services at USC, the Counseling Department at Fullerton College, and in Career Services/Community Engagement at Mount St. Mary's College, a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) with a focus on social justice and womens' leadership. He is a Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society inductee. He earned his B.A. in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Ankur benefited from a UCLA retention initiative which markedly improved his academic engagement and campus experience, laying the foundation for his fulfillment as an EOP Advisor. He also co-leads the EOP Males Initiative.

Career and Student Development

Christine N. Featherston, EOP Advisor



The Educational Opportunity Program has many ways of providing valuable assistance to our students that will enable them to successfully complete their academic careers and embark on their professional careers. Career development counseling is one of many services we provide our students that keeps them abreast of many different opportunities.

As the Career Development Advisor I research, review, disseminate, and maintain information pertaining to internships, scholarships/ fellowships, employment, as well as graduate and professional school opportunities. In addition, I also serve as a liaison to The Career Resource Center, The Graduate School, The Scholarship Office, and other career development agencies.

If you have questions concerning graduate school, internships, scholarships and/or career inquiries, please visit the EOP website http://bit.ly/PTQ6g8 or feel free to contact Christine Featherston at featherc@newpaltz.edu.

City Year

City Year is an education focused, nonprofit organization that unites young people of all backgrounds for a year of full-time service to keep students in school and on track to graduation. At City Year's 23 locations across the United States, teams of diverse young people called corps members serve full-time in schools for 10 months, working to improve student attendance, behavior, and course performance in English and math. Apply here http://bit.ly/IWuRCp and stay abreast on their latest news via Twitter @CityYear.

Corps members working in New York City include several SUNY New Paltz EOP students, who are highlighted by City Year Regional Recruitment Manager Emmanuel Paul Sterling. His guest blog, "Collaboration Plus Innovation Equals Success," can be viewed at: http://bit.ly/M604JL

Scholarships

Katzenberger Foundation Scholarship – Available for EOP students who are independent and/or a ward of the court.

The Selina R. Delgado Scholarship – Available to full-time EOP students with a 3.0 GPA or better.

The Peg Leg Bates Scholarship – Available to incoming freshmen minority students with high financial need.

The David & Irma Goldknopf XAE Scholarship – Available to members of Chi Alpha Epsilon who have earned an upgrade in one of the past two semesters, and are full-time matriculated students.

Extensive resources on applying for scholarships are available through SUNY New Paltz at: http://goo.gl/cUYG9.

Graduate Study and GOPW eligibility

GOPW Tuition Waiver Program offers a graduate tuition waiver to EOP/HEOP/SEEK students seeking to complete graduate study at a SUNY institution. Criteria include verified EOP/HEOP/SEEK status and a 3.0 GPA or better upon completion of undergraduate degree. More information is available at: http://bit.ly/PKdl6V

Congratulations to the following SUNY New Paltz EOP students who earned GOPW eligibility, and a list of the graduate programs they are commencing in Fall 2012:

Michael Barootijan - Master of Professional Studies in Humanistic/Multicultural Education (MPS)

Ana C. Gonzalez - Master of Science in School Counseling (MS)

Damion Herring - Master of Professional Studies in Humanistic/Multicultural Education (MPS)

Emma K. Lynch - Master of Business Administration (MBA)

Sandy E. Pincay - Master of Science in Second Language Education (MS)

Francis Rodriguez - Master of Science in Second Language Education (MS)

Student Initiative Program

Fall 2012 Initiatives

Wed. 8/29 Tony's Tournament - 4th Annual!

Elting Gym 2:00pm - End

Advisor's student teams will play volleyball against each other for fun, prizes, and bragging rights!

Wed 9/12 Plagiarism

LC 102 4:30pm-6:00pm

What is Plagiarism? How can I use sources without stealing them? Discuss the proper use of sources and quotations. Hands-on practice and feedback will ensure you don't plagiarize without realizing it.

Wed 9/19 Resume Building Workshops With Christine! Christine N. Featherston, EOP Advisor

LC 110 10:00am-11:00am,11:00am-12:00pm

The two separate one hour time slots will be open for students to actually start building and/or revising their resumes with and Christine's assistance. This workshop will be interactive and will also include cover letters and recommendation requests (do's & don'ts).

Wed 9/19 A Man's Perspective: Part 1

Antonio Bonilla, EOP Director, Robert Hancock, and Ankur Kumar, EOP Advisors

SUB 418 2:00pm-4:00pm

Take this opportunity to have a conversation about what matters to YOU, as a male and a part of the campus community! This first of three males-only discussions will focus on the issues and questions that matter most to you.

Sat. 9/22 Huguenot Tour

Tour Guide and EOP Advisors

HAB Circle 10:30am-12:00pm

Enjoy the fall weather and get to know your new "hometown!" New Paltz is a town filled with interesting places and history. Join us to walk through some of the coolest old stone houses in town!

Wed. 10/3 Majors Exploration Panel

LC 102 12:00pm-3:00pm

Representatives from several academic departments will be presenting on their major and answering questions.

Wed. 10/10 LinkedIn – Get Your Network Started! Robert Hancock, EOP Advisor

LC 110 11:00am-12:00pm

Start networking online with this workshop on building your LinkedIn profile, and making it your best professional commercial.

Wed. 10/10 HESC and Financial Aid - Camille Suckie, Financial Aid Advisor, and HESC staff

LC 102 1:30pm-2:30pm

Representatives from HESC and Financial Aid will be on hand to discuss your \$\$\$ and how to make sure you are getting the most aid available to you.

Wed. 10/17 Study Abroad

Clare Kelly-Barra, EOP Advisor

CSB AUD 12:00pm-1:00pm

See the world! Adventure! Earn college credits while you travel! Clare and a representative from the Center for International Programs will discuss the "dos and don'ts" of choosing where to study and how to plan your trip.

Wed. 10/17 Communication: Make it Good Chanel Ward and Claudette Aldebott

LC 102 2:00pm-4:00pm

We will outline some of the basic tools necessary in good communication and give real-world examples of how to incorporate better communication in your daily interactions.

Sat. 10/20 Health and Sexuality

Dr. Ordway, Director of Student Health Services at SUNY New Paltz, and Jessica Purcell, EOP Advisor

LC 102 4:00pm-6:00pm

Students will be able to ask questions, anonymously, a week prior to event, and Dr. Ordway will answer those questions at this session. Students will then have an opportunity to speak in a group to ask questions specifically about male or female sexuality.

Sun. 11/4 What is Diversity?

John F. Agnelli III, Dean of Campus Life at New York Institute of Technology

LC 100 5:00pm-7:00pm

Presenter will discuss many diverse issues regarding race, gender, ethnicity, class, etc. What role do you play in diversity? Male and female oriented breakout sessions will be provided.

Wed. 11/7 Graduate School? Yes! - Aaron Hines, Director of MBA Program at SUNY New Paltz

LC 108 3:30pm-5:00pm

Mr. Hines will discuss the graduate school possibilities, options, and how even a first and second year student can prepare for continuing their education!

Tues. 12/4 Stress Relief: Come Relax and Get Ready for Finals – EOP Staff

SUB 100 3:00pm-6:30pm

Have some fun! Deal with your stress and find ways to stay healthy! Get ready for finals by relieving stress and learning how to take care of your body during stressful times.

Student Initiative Program

Student-Centered Programs

EOP assesses each initiative, reviews all student feedback, and shapes each year's initiatives considering staff and student input.











Studying Abroad

New Opportunities Around the World

Clare Kelly-Barra, EOP Advisor



Last Fall semester 7 EOP students studied abroad in Italy, Morocco (2), Wales, Argentina, Thailand and New Zealand. Each of them received scholarships which helped fund their international education pursuits. Loretta Young also won the International Programs Spring 2012 photo contest. Her winning photo can be seen on her study abroad blog: http://bit.ly/NBjulc

Since Spring 2007, 76 EOP students have studied abroad. They visited: Tanzania, Egypt, Morocco, Virgin Islands, Jamaica, Israel, Argentina, Venezuela, Peru, Spain, Mexico, Ecuador, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Japan, Czech Republic, Italy, France, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, England and Semester at Sea (various countries around the world).

New Study Abroad Opportunities

For next summer? <u>Summer Program in Brazil Program: Deadline</u> <u>Early March</u>

SUNY students attending this program are eligible to receive grants through a special partnership between SUNY Oswego, the SUNY Office of International Programs, and Santander Universities that will cover most of their program expenses. No separate application is required. SUNY students who have been accepted to this program will automatically be eligible for the grant.

Students on this program will engage directly in hands-on research projects in Brazil under SUNY Oswego faculty guidance. Students in the natural sciences, technology, engineering, math, and related fields will engage in 4 to 6 week residency-based laboratory and research experience in Brazil at select universities and other locations, working alongside notable scientists and engineers. The program is designed to promote international understanding of global problems and development of local solutions by enabling students and faculty to participate in scientific research while advancing collaborative projects between scientists from the United States and Brazil. Students will earn 3 to 6 credits. For more information visit their website: https://bit.ly/Nfpxwh

For additional information about scholarships, visit the International Programs Office webpage: https://bit.ly/HLHvbE

Volunteering and Study Abroad

"Volunteering abroad means offering your knowledge and services to assist others who have unmet needs in a different country. This gives you the opportunity to work with local people from the host culture. Since you are donating your time, most volunteer positions are not paid. They may or may not be related to your academic interests.

Generally, volunteer positions do not require previous experience. Academic credit is not available unless a volunteer experience is done as part of a directed study or research project. Depending on what kind of experience you are seeking, there are different types of international volunteering that students may want to consider. Some examples of projects you can expect to find on our program include: developing small business enterprise, teaching English, working on women cooperatives, promoting healthcare in rural villages, constructing a school or clinic, supporting human right efforts, etc.

Source: SUNY New Paltz International Programs Office.

Finally, if you need help thinking about or planning your study abroad experience, meet with your EOP and major advisors, and feel free to stop by and ask me questions! Also please attend one of our student initiatives and hear directly from EOP students who have studied abroad.

Fall 2011 Gillman Scholarships

- Juan Abreu Italy
- Soleil Bent Morocco
- Ruth Pujols Argentina
- Kimberly Quiñones -Morocco
- Loretta Young Thailand

International Programs EOP Travel Grant

- Emma Lynch - New Zealand

Global Scholars Grant

Anthony Luxor

This is his second time being awarded this grant. He initially earned the Global Scholars Grant in Fall 2010 when he attended Middlesex University, London.

My Study Abroad Experience

Soleil Bent



1. What's it like to live and study abroad?

Living and studying abroad has been a very fascinating experience. I have met interesting people on and off campus. In Morocco, English is considered a third language, and therefore isn't used very often. Despite the language barrier, a smile is universal. The culture of Morocco is quit unique and abundant throughout the country. Their traditions, customs, and values are different from my own. I enjoy learning about their culture, and experiencing their world.

2. What were the classes like?

Al Akhawayn University (AAU) is an American based institution. All classroom instruction is done in English, and many of my professors are English native speakers. Classroom sizes are generally small, with about 15-20 students. The classrooms are modernly equipped with white boards, computers, and projectors.

3. What is it like getting to know new people from a different culture?

I thought getting to know people from another culture would be difficult, due to cultural differences and language barriers. After getting to know many students at AAI, I learned that we are all the same in regards to being college students. Many of us share things in common, and enjoy the same activities. My roommate is a Moroccan female. We often share thoughts about our cultures, and talk about what life is like for us back home.

4. What else was enjoyable about your experience (ex. Did you work or go on any special trips?)

I think traveling has been the most enjoyable aspect of my experiences while in Morocco. I enjoy going to villages, cities, and places along the coast. Morocco has many primitive villages that are still in need of development. I enjoy traveling to these places the most because it gives me a sense of peace, and a better idea of what life is like according to social status. I also participate in community service organiza-



tions that are on campus. I have volunteered in the village of Ifrane, distributing school bags and note-books to underprivileged children. I am currently volunteering at a community center in the village of Azrou, where I teach elementary students the English language. I am also employed in the writing center.

5. What about family and friends back home?

I keep in contact with family and friends back home through Skype and email. I miss everyone, but I believe that traveling abroad is an experience of a lifetime.

6. Saying goodbyes and returning home?

When I leave Morocco, I will miss my roommate, new friends,

professors, and all of the other amazing people whom I have encountered while abroad. I am looking forward to returning to my home university, and completing my senior year.

7. Any advice for other students?

My advice for other students who are interested in studying abroad is, "Go for it!" regardless of financial or academic limitations. Studying abroad is a life-changing experience that every student should have as an option. For students who are preparing to go abroad, I would also advise them to volunteer as much as possible because it makes the experience more meaningful.



Alumni & Student Connections

Robert Hancock, EOP Advisor

2012 marks the 45th anniversary of EOP. The continued success of our program has earned its members and supporters a great deal of pride! EOP students continue to succeed because of the access to comprehensive services the EOP program provides. We would like to uphold this tradition of providing opportunities to so many EOP students but need your help. Please contribute the legacy of EOP success, via the EOP Support Fund: http://bit.ly/sirtsX.



Once EOP, Always EOP!

Linked in.

Join us on LinkedIn

An effective way to meet alums, fellow EOP students, keep up on timely news concerning your career(s) of interest, and to find work opportunities!

http://linkd.in/lb3kT4 - New Paltz EOP Alumni Student Network http://linkd.in/K9Wbge - EOP Alumni from New Paltz



Facebook

EOP fan page – Keep up on EOP-sponsored events and upcoming happenings! http://www.facebook.com/EOP.at.SUNY.N







EOP Conference

Leading into the Future



President Donald Christian and Harry Bonsu



Alumn and students

The 2012 EOP Conference brought together SUNY New Paltz EOP alumni, current students, and faculty/staff to celebrate EOP's history, accomplishments, and excellence moving forward.

This year's conference hosted three times as many guests as last year! SUNY New Paltz EOP alumnus Harry Bonsu opened with an inspiring keynote address (pictured). Harry spoke eloquently about the concept of being a leader, sharing powerful anecdotes from his experiences, notably answering one's calling to lead and act in challenging times. Video of his keynote address will soon be available.

Harry K. Bonsu is the Senior Vice President for Administration at Independence Care System, a Manage Long Term Care Program in New York City, which serves over 2000 adults with physical disabilities and seniors with chronic illness.

Prior to coming to Independence Care System, Mr. Bonsu was the Chief Financial and Administrative Officer for Safe Space New York, which offers a wide range of integrated family support and youth focused programs, including community and mental health services designed to help families build a more hopeful future for themselves and their children.

In keeping with the spirit of business and leadership, in 2007 Mr. Bonsu founded Golden Shores Financial Group, an insurance and tax services company currently operating in the Mid-Hudson Valley and New York City area.

A proud 1990 graduate of SUNY New Paltz, Mr. Bonsu earned his Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Business Administration. He then earned his MBA in Business Finance from the University of Phoenix.

Presenters included Diones Adorno, Claudette Aldebot, Carolina Gonzalez, Nicole Pacheco, and Cheyenne VanCooten. A special thank you goes to Impacto Sensuale and Members of Urban Lyrics, for their prodigious performances!



Claudette Aldebot and Diones Adorno



Students



Maritza Lewis and Students



Antonio Bonilla and Students



Students

XAE – Chi Alpha Epsilon

Honor Society

10th Annual Induction Ceremony

The State University of New York at New Paltz Beta Omicron Chapter was chartered on May 9, 2003, with a recordbreaking 72 member induction (alumni and honorary member included). This was XAE's largest chartering induction. The chapter also bears the distinction of having one of the largest undergraduate memberships nationwide.



Keynote speaker: SUNY New Paltz Director of Advising for the School of Business and former EOP Advisor, Rendesia Scott, delivered the keynote address. She is a Charter Member of XAE at SUNY New Paltz.

Rendesia Scott earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut in Humanistic Development with a double concentration in Counseling and Adolescent De-



velopment. She then earned her master's degree in Educational Administration from SUNY New Paltz.

Rendesia is a member of the Mid-Hudson Association of Women in Higher Education, the Association of Black Women in Higher Education (ABWHE), NYC Chapter, the National Education Association and the National Academic Advisement Association (NACADA). On campus, she has served as the Advisor to First World Graduation, SHADES (SUNY New Paltz Step team), the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) and of course, Chi Alpha Epsilon (XAE). She is a member of the Scholar's Mentorship Program Task Force and has served as a Faculty Mentor for the program since she began at the institution.

Dr. Tomas D. Morales, EOP alumnus of SUNY New Paltz and President of California State University, San Bernadino (CSUSB), also inspired the audience with his address. He commended EOP student achievements and emphasized the important role of EOP services in higher education.

Born in Puerto Rico and raised in the South Bronx, Dr. Morales came to SUNY New Paltz as an

EOP student. He then served as an EOP counselor, and later as the EOP director. He holds a BA in History from SUNY New Paltz, he earned his MS and PhD in Educational Administration and Policy Studies from SUNY, Albany. He is one of the few higher education administrators in the United States who has held senior administrative positions at the three largest public university systems in the nation: the California State University (CSU), The State University of New York (SUNY), and The City University of New York (CUNY).

From 2001 to 2007, Morales served in various capacities at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (Cal Poly Pomona) including Vice President for Student Affairs, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. professor of education and Principal Deputy to the President. He established a University Honors College, realigned the division of Academic Affairs and played a key role in completing a \$23 million expansion of the Student Center. In addition, Morales helped faculty to secure a \$3.5 million National Science Foundation ADVANCE grant to create a university-wide program for the recruitment and development of diverse faculty in the STEM fields. Morales also served as a principal investigator of a six-year \$12 million comprehensive teacher reform grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

From 1994-2001, Dr. Morales was Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students at CUNY. He provided strategic leadership, restructured the Student Services Corporation, and implemented a new student-centered model for the Division of Student Affairs. From 1992 to 1994, he served as Assistant Dean of the School of Education at SUNY New Paltz.

A special thanks to our hardworking executive board members from last year, and welcome to our 2012-2013 XAE Executive Board:

President: Michelle Chavarria

Vice-President: Máliqua Fisher

Secretary: Sandra Arellano

Treasurer: Kelly Rodriguez

Historian: Arisa James

Polemarch: Bermary Maria

Parliamentarian: Joskary Diaz

Public Relations Rep: Emma

Lvnch

XAE Spring 2012

Inductees and Upgrade Achievers

Inductees:

Jeremy Acevedo
Esmeralda Almonte
Sandra Arellano
Deanna Baker
Sindy Baldayaque

Denecia Charles Corina Corado

Ashton Coverdale

Sabrina Cruz

Jennifer Cuffari Joskary Diaz

Teniola Faloye

Ashley Finger

Maliqua Fisher Carolina Frias

Yanela Hernandez

Kondwani Jackson

Arisa James

Eva Jimenez

Koral Liriano

Christie Logroño

Xavier Luna

Vanessa Mack

Bermary Maria

Dianna Mendez

Gabriela Minueza

Theresa Park

Vicki Quiñones

Mariel Ramirez

Jason Ramos

Escarle Raposo

Guillermo Restrepo

Genesis Reyes

Kelly Rodriguez

Paola Rodriguez

Destiny Saldivar

Ashley Sanchez

Liza Shapiro

Lana Solomon

Yumary Valenzuela

Diana Velez

Kally Vieira

Terrese Young

Zhe Zhu

Upgrade Achievers:

Soleil Bent-Ruby (F 11)

Brittney Centeno—Ruby (S 11)

Michelle Chavarria—Ruby (S 11)

Cherice Gude—Ruby (F 11)

Olivia Hazel-Ruby (F 11)

Elsa Ho-Emerald (S 11)

Ke Jiang-Ruby (S 11)

Dana Koresh-Emerald (S 11)

Fiona Lee-Ruby (S 11)

Linda Lee-Ruby (S 11)

Liset Leon—Ruby (F 11)

Diana Nudelman—Emerald (F 11)

Sandy Pincay—Ruby (F 11)

Natasha Porter-Emerald (F 11)

Kimberly Quiñones—Diamond

(S 11)

Francis Rodriguez—Emerald (S 11)

Jacqueline Schiehsl—Diamond (F 11)

Millicent Soto—Ruby (F 11)

Toni-Ann Stevens-Ruby (F 11)

Yu Nan Tang—Ruby (S 11)

Petra Vega-Ruby (F 11)

Alba Vera—Diamond (S 11)

Marissa Ward*—Diamond (F 11)

Dennis Yu-Ruby (S 11)









Ruby: 3.5-3.74

Emerald: 3.75-3.99

Diamond: 4.00

3.0+ cumulative GPA for 2+ consecutive semesters of full-time coursework.





(Left to right) Ankur Kumar, Jessica Purcell, Amy O. Van Pelt, Robert Hancock III, Clare Kelly-Barra, Christine Featherston, Rita Celariste, Ivelisse Tuttle, Antonio Bonilla



Maritza Lewis EOP Administrative Assistant



Once EOP, Always EOP

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For feedback, questions, or content submissions for the EOP newsletter, please address:

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More information about our program: www.newpaltz.edu/eop