

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM NEWSLETTER FALL 2012



EOP Shining Star

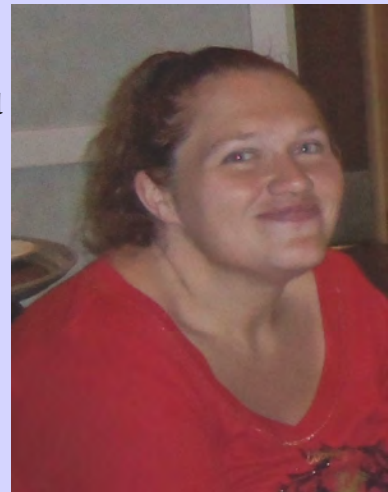
Jessica Walker

Determined. That is the first word that comes to mind that best describes Jessica. Jessica is a very determined, conscientious, hard-working student who has successfully managed to balance being a wife, mother, and a full-time student, currently with a cumulative GPA of 3.30, while also working two different part-time jobs! Jessica joined the EOP family in the fall of 2010 as a part-time student at first. After completing her first two semesters, she decided she was ready to attend full-time to work towards earning her degree in Early Childhood.

Jessica was born in Schenectady, and grew up in the Capital Region of New York before moving to Schoharie County and graduating from Schoharie High School. She is the proud mother of three children, and appreciates how supportive her husband has been of her desire to attend college. Jessica has earned Dean's List, or honorable mention list status for three consecutive semesters, and has recently been inducted into Chi Alpha Epsilon (XAE), the National Academic Honor Society for Educational Opportunity Programs, in recognition of that accomplishment. She was also a recipient of a Merrill Family Foundation Scholarship for the 2012-2013 year, and looks forward to applying for it again next year, as she plans to continue her studies in the bachelor degree program here after completing her associate degree in May, 2013.

Jessica states, "I am really proud of my accomplishments. I feel that EOP has played a big role in my success. My goal is to continue my education. I would like to go to grad school and pursue a career in Special Education. I have chosen math as my concentration because I really enjoy mathematics."

Congratulations Jessica on being selected as our EOP Shining Star for the fall 2012 semester! We are so proud of your accomplishments, and to have you as an EOP family member!





Honors, Achievements & Scholarships

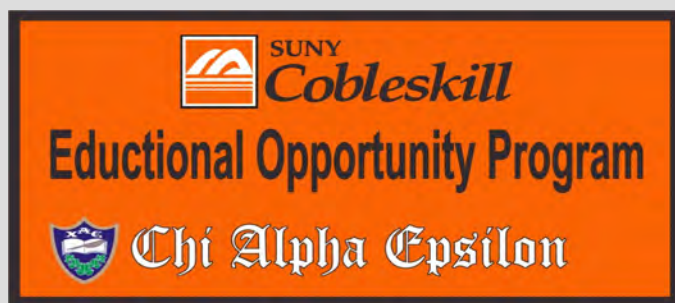
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Congratulations to the following EOP students who were awarded scholarships for the 2012-2013 academic year: Travon Clarke, Cesar Herrera & Pedro Henriquez (In photo at right along with Mrs. Walrath and Mr. Bennett). Also receiving a scholarship were; Nancy Cordova, Carrie Conklin and Jessica Walker. (Missing from Photo)



Fall 2012 Inductees

- Pedro Henriquez
- Cesar Herrera
- Jessica Walker



RECOGNITION DINNER HONOREES

The EOP fall Recognition Dinner was held on September 18th, 2012 at the American Heritage (culinary student run restaurant on campus). Honored during the evening were 13 students who made the Dean's List, and 14 students who earned Honorable Mention Dean's List status for the Spring 2012 semester. Congratulations to all of you!

Spring 2012

Dean's List 3.5 - 4.0 GPA

- Tanayzha Augustine
- Elizabeth Bell
- Carrie Conklin
- Breeze Cooke
- Nancy Cordova
- Pedro Henriquez
- Cesar Herrera

- Michelle Jimenez
- Natalie Moreira
- Amauris Ortiz
- Marlene Pinales
- Sarah Thompson
- Samah Vargas



Dean's Honorable Mention List 3.0 - 3.49 GPA

- Trevon Beckford
- Natasha Casey
- Colton Cappiello
- John DeGrace
- Sarah Kurland
- Amy Meyer

- Kevin Pearson
- Brittany Sanford
- Paula Schulman
- Karen Wagner
- Jessica Walker
- Agata Wlodarska



Educational Opportunity Program



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The Cultural Diversity Committee Wildlife Festival & Dinner was held during the Spring 2012 semester. EOP students Hunter Lawrence and Tyler DeLisle are pictured to left.



Wild Game Dinner – Venison sliders w/ topping bar, wild boar bbq ribs, rabbit cacciatore and wild rice w/ cranberries

An International Welcoming Reception, hosted by the Cultural Diversity Committee and Office of International Education, was held on Friday, September 21st. The event was well attended by students, faculty, and staff, who joined together to celebrate the arrival of the most recent international students and scholars, and welcome them as members of the SUNY Cobleskill community.

(right– EOP student Nyiboul Akol and EOP counselor, Paul Dunn)



EOP Counselor Mrs. Jennifer Walrath (top row-far right, in photo at left) recently traveled to the National FFA Convention held in Indianapolis, IN on October 24-27, along with Professor and PAS Advisor, Mr. Terry Hughes, and 12 current SUNY Cobleskill students. The students participated in career development & collegiate events, and all actively recruited future SUNY Cobleskill students while interacting with the thousands of convention attendees from all over the United States and Puerto Rico.



Director's Note

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

FALL 2012

A Note From the Director.....

EOP welcomed fifty-four, first semester freshman to the program this fall. The fall 2012 incoming class participated in a mandatory, four-week college preparatory program this past summer. The program is an intentional array of educational and social experiences developed to improve academic preparedness for college work, social adaptation and communal integration. Each 12 hour day presented students with a series of unique experiences and challenges. The students demonstrated a high level of competence, cooperation and enthusiasm. EOP appreciates their efforts and dedication, and we believe each participant is better prepared for the rigors of college life after having participated in that very unique experience. I would like to thank the many offices, individuals and organizations that contributed to the summer program's success. Special thanks is extended to Onondaga Community College EOP director, Corey Hudson and his summer program participants who accompanied our summer program participants at Minekill State Park for an unforgettable joint leadership retreat.



The EOP office has relocated to the upper floor of the Van Wagenen Library this fall. The library presents EOP with a wonderful opportunity to improve and enhance all of its efforts in an academic-centered setting conducive to study, instruction and research. Our students have embraced our new location and we are grateful for their cooperation, and the cooperation of the personnel and offices we call our "close neighbors". Our most recent move provides us with an excellent opportunity to collaborate with the library and the Center for Academic Support and Excellence in a purposeful and significant way. We are excited and appreciative of the collaborative possibilities.

The Educational Opportunity Program welcomed its newest professional staff members this fall. EOP senior counselor **Jennifer Walrath** and counselor **Paul Dunn** joined the EOP family bringing with them a wealth of counseling, advisement and admissions' experiences. We truly feel fortunate to have both Jennifer and Paul serve our students. To date, both Paul and Jennifer have demonstrated a genuine care, concern and commitment to our students, program and mission. We are confident Jennifer and Paul will make significant contributions to enrich the services of the office with their respective skill sets.

In spring 2012, thirteen students received Dean's List honors and fourteen students received Dean's List honorable mention recognition. EOP students, **Pedro Henriquez, Jessica Walker and Cesar Herrera** were inducted into Chi Alpha Epsilon (Delta Zeta Chapter, est.2003) this fall. Chi Alpha Epsilon is an academic national honor society for educational opportunity programs. Students receiving a 3.0 or better for two consecutive semesters while maintaining a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better are eligible for induction.

EOP remains committed to providing an assortment of quality support and primary services. We will be relentless in our pursuit to develop young responsible adults and instill in each "EOP Family Member" its primary values of **Scholarship, Service, Leadership, Diversity, Persistence, Focus, Dedication and Excellence** as they pursue and achieve their academic and social goals.

Derwin Bennett
Educational Opportunity Program Director

Graduates and Leadership Events



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Congratulations to our Spring 2012 Graduates

Colton Cappiello
Amanda Gossman
Michelle Jimenez
Lavon Johnson
Lloyd-Christoph Jones
Nancy Stephens
Laurence Wong



Several SUNY Cobleskill students attended the Diversity Student Summit, which was held at the SUNY Institute of Technology on Saturday, October 27th. Those students in attendance along with Mr. Bennett were:

Nyiboul Akol
Dionaise Carty
Andre Goodman
Christina Hanson
Talehia McCants
Samarra Parker
Christine Shoukralla
Tishawn Smith
Bedour Soliman
Thomas Weiss



Two of our EOP family members, Dennesha Simms and Christian Ruiz, (both pictured below) participated in the Oswegatchie Leadership Retreat held in Croghan, NY the weekend of September 21-23.

"The experience I had at the Leadership Conference at Camp O was nothing I anticipated. Being the type of person I am, who hates the outdoor life I thought a weekend at a boot camp would be torture. However, it turned out quite differently. I met some well-rounded individuals like myself who had a key interest in education and being good leaders. The activities developed our leadership abilities, improved our willingness to trust and value the opinions of others. Some of the activities included rope climbing, human maze, zip lining, etc. I guess it's safe to say my preconception of Camp O was not in fact accurate, for it was not a boot camp, but rather a safe place where you meet amazing people who share the same values and outlooks as yourself. The people I met, and the experience I had will be something I will remember and treasure for a very long time." ~Dennesha Simms

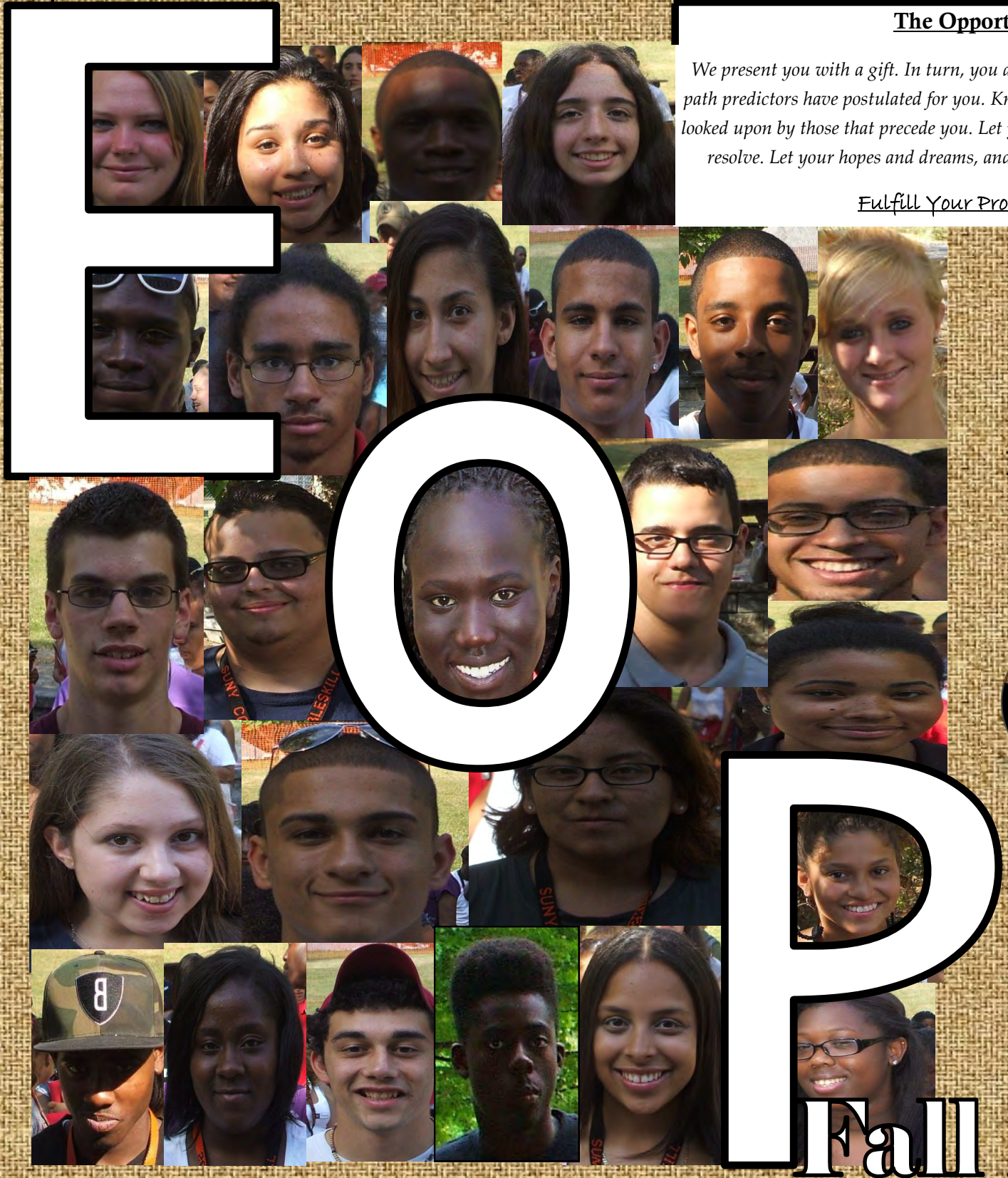




The Opportunity to

We present you with a gift. In turn, you are charged with the responsibility of living up to the path predictors have postulated for you. Know that you are being looked upon by those that precede you. Let your efforts be a source of inspiration and resolve. Let your hopes and dreams, and those of your family, be fulfilled.

Fulfill Your Promise!



OPPORTUNITY



OPPORTUNITY



To Achieve

ed with creating a path, transposing the
the path you map out for yourself will be
ts be your voice, and persistence be your
your family, be realized through you.

. EOP Director



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Summer Program 2012

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Summer Program 2012



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Visit with Assemblyman Lopez in the Legislative Chamber at the Capitol Building in Albany.





Oh The Places They Go!!!!

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Samah Vargas and Rebecca Sturn are studying abroad in Turkey this fall.



Several EOP students have recently completed, or are currently out of the country participating in Study-Abroad experiences as part of their SUNY Cobleskill degree program.



“THIS WEEKEND I WENT TO LONDON AND **ABSOFREAKINGLUTELY** FELL IN LOVE!!! HERE ARE SOME PICTURES THAT YOU MIGHT ENJOY, I didn't want to leave!! I CAN'T BELIEVE I ACTUALLY WENT! I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE I AM HERE! I went to Buckingham palace, London Eye, Big Ben, Piccadilly circus, and House of Parliament! I went so many places and saw so many things! I had to make sure you saw firsthand me make my dream turn reality!! “
~Nancy Cordova

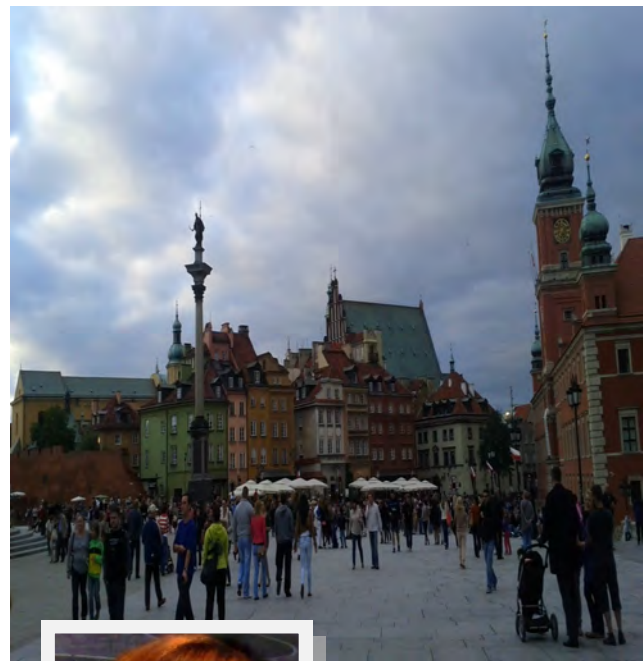


International Experiences



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“I studied abroad in **Canada** for three weeks with Professor McMaster, her husband, and ten other SUNY Cobleskill students. The course was a 300 level Ethics class which took place in many different places because we were traveling around in the school van. We started our trip by leaving from campus and getting to Niagara on the Canadian side within the first night. From the first day we roamed around lots of big cities and other small places but all quite different from one another, for example Montreal and Quebec are both big cities, but Quebec was different because their main language is French. This trip changed me in so many ways that I can’t even begin to say, but what I can say for those that haven’t thought about doing something like this is, I see people differently, I feel that I know an entire culture and all I want to do is learn more. Why do they do some things just like we do, or why don’t they? What are other cultures like? If I go somewhere else in the world will people be even more different than Canadians? I want to answer all these questions and ask even more and hopefully whoever is reading this will too.” ~ Amauris Ortiz *Amauris will be studying abroad in Turkey during the Spring 2013 semester. (EOP students Amauris Ortiz & Sarah Kurland are pictured in the photo below)



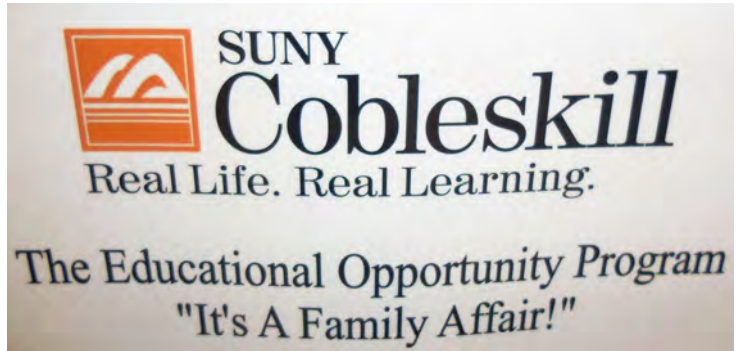
“Being able to visit my family after 8 years and get to know my culture was an amazing experience. The streets are filled with many people going to work, jogging, riding their bikes and selling merchandise. Almost everywhere you go you will find huge square markets that have everything you need. Cuisine is very popular among the Polish people and saying no to the freshly baked goods is impossible. Apart from all the food, I did go to many historical places in **Poland**. Among them were the Old Town, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Royal Castle, National Museum of Warsaw and the Palace of Culture and Science. The Old Town is the most popular attraction in Warsaw. It was completely destroyed during World War 2, and reconstructed with supreme care afterwards.” ~ Agata Wlodarska (Agata visited her native Poland during the 2012 summer break)





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Congratulations to Dennesha Simms, in photo at left, who was selected to be honored as EOP Student of the Month for October.



SUMMER/FALL 2012



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EOP Summer Peer Counselors





Campus Leadership

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Resident Assistants 2012-2013

Marlene Pinales, Talehia McCants,

Jennifer Payano, Amauris Ortiz



Brickyard Point Student Union Fall -2012



Elaine Devargas
Fanny Fabre
Jimmy Hill
Jennifer Payano
Dennesha Simms

Residential Life Night Hosts Fall -2012

Jasseline Pena, Nyiboul Akol,
Dennesha Simms, Delilah Diaz

Intercollegiate Athletics Fall-2012



MEN'S Basketball

Alexis Nunez, Christian Ruiz

WOMEN'S Basketball

Samantha Davis, DaMaris Crawford

MEN'S Track & Field

Mukhtar Barros, Gaddiel Ruiz

MEN'S Soccer

Jonathan Zapata, Brandon Waight

WOMEN'S Softball

Kasey Morel

CROSS COUNTRY

Christopher Cancilla Jr., Gaddiel Ruiz, Agata Wlodarska

SWIMMING & DIVING

Madalyn Griffin

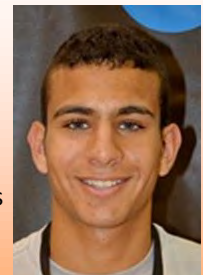
EQUESTRIAN

Siera Ellis

Athlete of the Week

Jonathan Zapata Men's Soccer 9/24/2012

The SUNY Cobleskill Department of Sport & Exercise announced today that freshman Jonathan Zapata, Middleburgh, N.Y., Middleburgh High School, a member of the men's soccer program has been named the department's Fighting Tiger Athlete-of-the-Week. Zapata led the Fighting Tigers to a dramatic 3-2 overtime North Eastern Athletic Conference (NEAC) road victory on Saturday over Penn State Berks in Reading, Pa. when he scored on a breakaway 42 seconds into overtime to give Cobleskill the win. The talented freshman also scored the team's lone goal on Sunday in a 4-1 conference loss Sunday to Penn State Abington in Abington, Pa.





EOP STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION



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EXCELLENCE	FOCUS	PERSISTENCE	DEDICATION	SCHOLARSHIP	LEADERSHIP	SERVICE	DIVERSITY



SUNY Cobleskill
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