

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2013

Developed by: Jennifer Walrath



EOP Shining Star

Tishawn Smith

“Committed” is the first word that comes to mind which best describes Tishawn Smith, EOP’s Shining Star Student for fall 2013. Tishawn is extremely committed to his education, having received Dean’s List Honorable Mention recognition for three consecutive semesters. During the EOP Summer Study Skills Program of 2012, Tishawn shared with us his desire to be “one of the most accomplished Educational Opportunity Program students to attend SUNY Cobleskill”. To date, Tishawn continues to strive to realize his earlier proclamation. Tishawn was inducted into Chi Alpha Epsilon, the Educational Opportunity Program National Academic Honor Society during a special ceremony held in December 2013. Tishawn serves as a willing role model for other students at SUNY Cobleskill. Tishawn is actively involved on campus, serving as a campus resident assistant and student technician for the SUNY Cobleskill ITS Help Desk Center. He is a proven student leader with a “go getter” disposition. Mrs. Josie Motyl, ITS Helpdesk Coordinator is quick to note, “Tishawn possesses a level of maturity, knowledge and humility that is extraordinary”.



Tishawn was born in Kingston, Jamaica and spent most of his childhood in Brooklyn, NY where he currently resides. He is pursuing a Bachelor of Technology Degree in Information Technology. Tishawn has often stated, “I will not let anyone or anything divert me from the goals I have set for myself”.

EOP director Derwin Bennett states, “Tishawn Smith’s achievements to date serve as the end result of an individual setting clear goals and expectations for himself and never wavering from his chosen path of success despite unforeseen challenges and/or hardships. Tishawn’s efforts serve as a viable path for all EOP Family members to perhaps follow”.

The EOP Shining Star for fall 2013 is a commendation Tishawn has earned and rightfully deserves. We are confident Tishawn possesses the mindset and work ethic to realize all of his dreams and aspirations. EOP congratulates Tishawn for being named the EOP Shining Star for Fall 2013. We are so proud of his accomplishments, and to have him as an EOP family member!



FRESHMAN ARRIVAL DAY 8/22/13

SUNY Cobleskill



The EOP staff was excited to welcome back the freshman that we had such a wonderful summer program experience with, and look forward to continuing to watch them grow and excel here at SUNY Cobleskill.

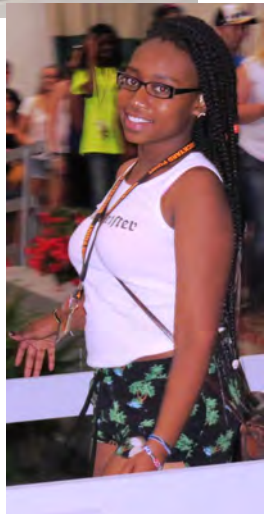
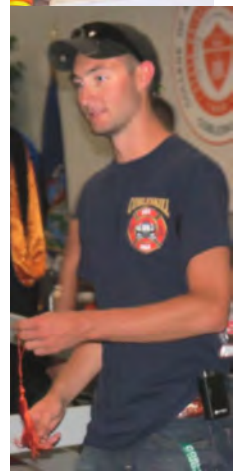
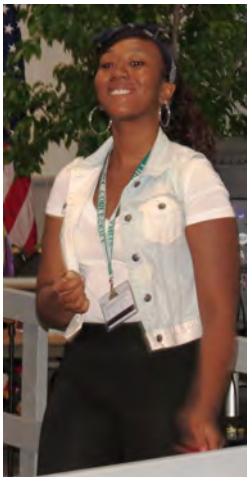
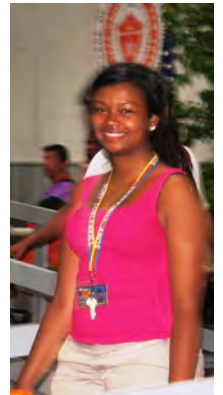
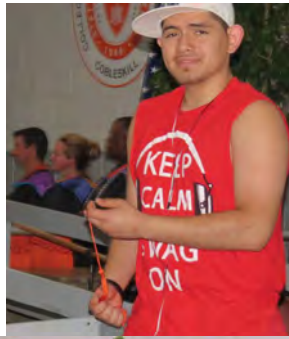
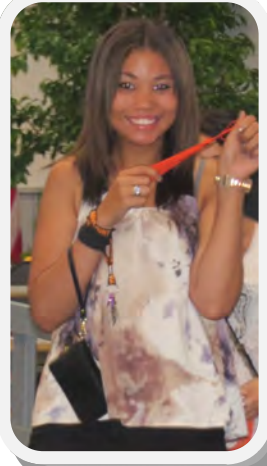


Upper-class EOP students Jimmy Hill, Jennifer Payano, Pedro Henriquez and Talehia McCants (shown in photo at right) served the campus in leadership roles on arrival day and were on-hand to welcome and assist their freshman family members.

TRANSITION CEREMONY



The highlight of orientation is the "Steps to Success" transition ceremony. Modeled after graduation, it helps new students understand what they will experience over the next two to four years. The students were officially welcomed to SUNY Cobleskill by the College Administration, and listened to a motivational speech by Professor Jason Evans. The ceremony concluded with students walking across stage, in the opposite direction of how they will walk at graduation. Vice President Ackerknecht (shown speaking at the podium in the photo at left) said "this signifies acceptance into the campus community and the opportunities that await upon graduation".





Educational Opportunity Program

On Thursday, August 29th, we held our full enrollment EOP meeting to welcome back all our students, and provide opening words of encouragement, and reminders to have a great start to the semester.



Andrew Lucas, Study Abroad Coordinator, gave a presentation announcing a variety of study abroad opportunities available for students to participate in.



Fall Semester 2013



SUNY Cobleskill



The Campus Engagement Fair, where over 30 service organizations were on hand to seek volunteers for future community service initiatives, was held at the beginning of the semester. EOP had a table/display, and talked to students regarding the opportunity to get involved and serve the campus on the annual MLK Day of Service.



Thanks to a generous donation from Stewarts, we were able to have an EOP ice cream social to welcome our students to the new semester, and give them an opportunity to meet each other. It was awesome to watch the freshman and upper class students bond together as EOP family members so quickly!





Oh The Places They Go!!!!



After completing an internship at the Green Beginnings Child care and Kindy in Bokarina, Queensland, Australia during the Summer of 2013, Sarah Kurland earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood from SUNY Cobleskill. She returned to campus in September and gave an excellent presentation highlighting her internship experiences. We are so proud of her accomplishments, and to have her as an EOP family member!



EOP family members, Anthony Echevers and Oscar Aguero (both in photo at left) participated in the Oswegatchie Leadership Retreat held in Croghan, NY the weekend of September 20-22.



"I had the most exciting experiences when I went to Camp-O! One of them was the obstacle course, which helped me overcome my fear of heights. The friends I made at Camp-O was another rewarding experience. I would definitely recommend others to participate in this leadership experience, you will have one of the best times of your life." -Oscar Aguero

EOP Alumni Showcase



Cheyenne VanCooten is a dedicated human resources professional, adjunct lecturer, non-profit leader and motivational speaker. A native of Brooklyn, Cheyenne is currently working as a Human Resources Business Partner at Nielsen Media Research—a global market research company where she oversees HR affairs for 970+ employees.

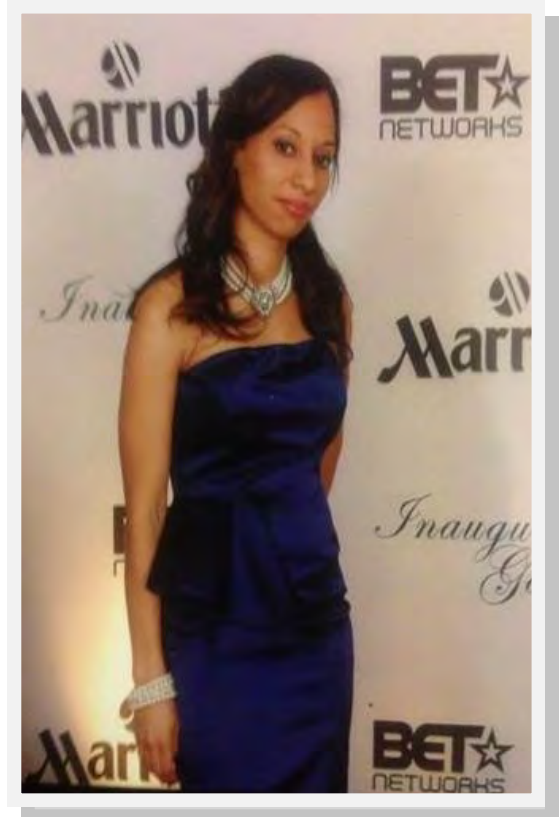
Cheyenne is a proud alumna of the Educational Opportunity Program at SUNY Cobleskill (A.A Liberal Arts '03) and SUNY New Paltz (B.A Sociology '07). To date, she accredits much of her undergraduate success to her EOP advisors who assisted and supported her during what she describes as challenging academic times. Eventually, Cheyenne would receive the SUNY Cobleskill Award of Outstanding Achievement in 2003, clearly demonstrating her ability to persevere despite hardship. In addition, Cheyenne was inducted into the EOP National Academic Honor Society, Chi Alpha Epsilon at SUNY New Paltz in 2007.

Encouraged by her EOP advisors, Cheyenne then applied to graduate school and attended the Teachers College at Columbia University. She graduated with a master's degree in Organizational Psychology and a 3.8 GPA in 2010.

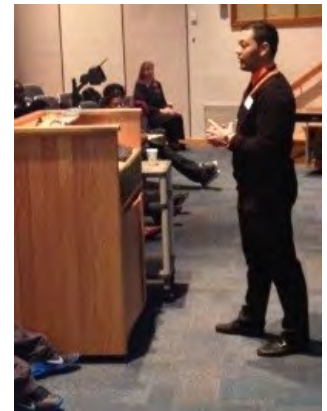
Cheyenne is still an avid supporter and advocate for EOP. She credits the program for laying the ground work for her to flourish as a leader and successful college graduate. EOP and dedicated counselors were instrumental factors throughout her journey in college, and the relative success she enjoys today. "It's amazing when I reflect on my humble beginning in the New York City Housing Projects, to now partnering on projects with global leaders in various Fortune 500 companies."

Cheyenne has a wealth of experiences in Human Resources having worked for MTV Networks, Nickelodeon, BET Networks and others. Cheyenne remains dedicated and heavily involved in community outreach programs and often returns to her neighborhood to facilitate an assortment of job readiness programs in collaboration with the Red Hook Initiative. Cheyenne serves as an adjunct professor at LaGuardia Community College and serves as a consultant for several non-profits. Cheyenne gives back to the program she believes has given her so much by volunteering her time to speak to incoming EOP classes at SUNY Cobleskill, and volunteers her time to facilitate workshops at SUNY New Paltz.

Cheyenne's favorite quotes that continue to guide her throughout her life's journey are "with hard work and determination anything is possible, and Aut viam inveniam aut faciam" (Latin: English translation- I will either find a way or make one).



Amauris Ortiz earned his Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from SUNY Cobleskill in 2013, and then began working for his Alma Mater in the Admissions Office as the New York City Regional Recruiter. The EOP staff was pleased to present alongside one of their "family member" alums during a fall Open House for a group of visiting potential students.





EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM



The following EOP students were recognized as scholarship recipients at the annual scholarship luncheon held on September 26th:

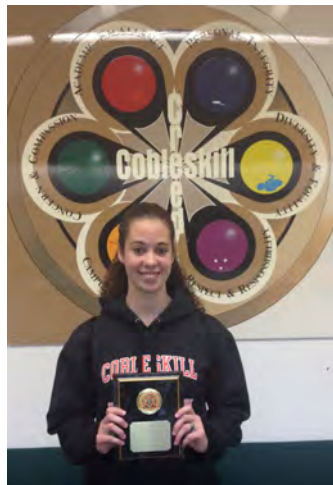
- Carrie Conklin
- Siera Ellis
- Pedro Henriquez
- Cesar Herrera
- Kelvin Mejia
- Natalie Moreira
- Alondra Nunez
- Marlene Pinales
- Tishawn Smith
- Karen Wagner
- Jessica Walker



Congratulations to the following students who were recognized as 2013 Fall Semester Students of the Month:



Anthony Echevers
September
Business Administration



Chelsea Valentine
October
Graphic Design Technology



Oscar Agüero
November
Information Technology

Homecoming Weekend 2013



The EOP staff were honored to be recognized at the **5th Annual Orange Carpet Employee Recognition Showcase** on Friday, September 27th, for the receipt of the \$1,000 grant in support of the EOP Summer Program Student Leadership/Decision Making Retreat, and for organizing the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service: "Make it a Day On, Not a Day Off".

Mr. William Dixon (in center of photo at right), a 1981 alum and EOP Family member, received the "Distinguished Alumnus Award" at the Alumni Award Dinner on Saturday, September 28, 2013. EOP staff and current family members enjoyed a conversational luncheon with him during his visit to campus. He spoke very highly of his experience as an EOP student at SUNY Cobleskill, and shared some great advice and words of wisdom with our current students.



EOP student Chelsea Valentine (in photo at left) participated in **Homecoming Weekend** by helping the Student Pastry Arts Club make and serve delicious donuts.

Peggy-Lynn Paffenroth enjoyed the fun events that were held on campus and a visit with her family. →



The **International Student Welcoming Reception** was held on September 30th in Upper Champlin Lounge to welcome SUNY Cobleskill's most recent International Students as members of the college community. Faculty, staff and students who attended all enjoyed a delicious sampling of international cuisine.



Several of our EOP family members spent quite a bit of time visiting with Dr. Thatcher, Acting President of the College, at the event.





Honors and Achievements

SUNY Cobleskill



Fall 2013 Inductees

- Jennifer Bates
- Tishawn Smith
- Mr. Paul Dunn (Honorary)
- Mrs. Jennifer Walrath (Honorary)



RECOGNITION DINNER HONOREES

The EOP Fall Academic Recognition Dinner was held on December 3rd, 2013 at the American Heritage Restaurant on campus. Honored during the evening were 7 students who made the Dean's List, and 21 students who earned Honorable Mention Dean's List status for the Spring 2013 semester. Congratulations to all of you!

Spring 2013

Dean's List 3.5 - 4.0 GPA

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Yosili Amador | Cesar Herrera |
| Jennifer Bates | Sarah Kurland |
| Carrie Conklin | Nathan Mastenbrook |
| Joel Guerrero | |



Dean's Honorable Mention List 3.0 - 3.49 GPA

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Jiordi Aristy | Jasseline Pena |
| Fidelfa Bailon-Bustos | Julian Pinto |
| Devora Barrios | Jasminn Ray |
| Ashley Benson | Majenda Reid |
| Natasha Casey | Brittany Sanford |
| John DeGrace | Tishawn Smith |
| Natasha Ede | Taymica Terry |
| Siera Ellis | Sarah Thompson |
| Pedro Henriquez | Karen Wagner |
| Yolanda Gallardo | Jessica Walker |
| Scott Parslow | |



Educational Opportunity Program



SUNY Cobleskill

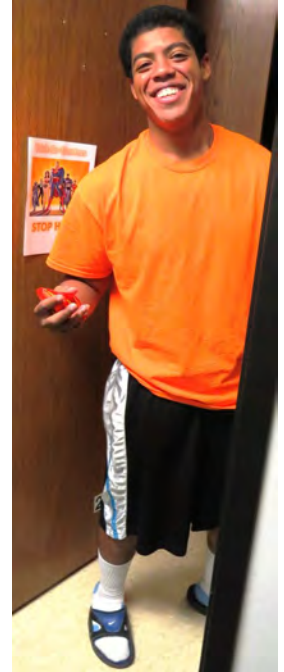
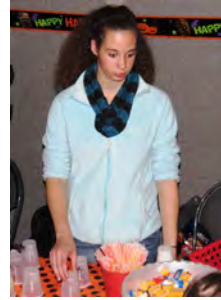


Jennifer Bates was honored to have her parents attend the dinner and participate in presenting her Chi Alpha Epsilon pin.





COMMUNITY EVENTS



Several EOP family members participated in the annual Community Trick-or-Treating event held on October, 24th. Several students led craft and game activities in Bouck Hall, while others helped to lead groups of families, held doors open, and handed out candy in the resident halls. (Photos Above)



Demitrius Simmons, a freshman Culinary Arts major, volunteered to serve soup at the Empty Bowls event that was held in Bouck Hall on November 17th, which was a fundraiser supporting the local area food pantries.



At the end of the fall semester, a great group of EOP students volunteered to organize and host what turned out to be a very busy craft table at the first annual Breakfast With Santa event sponsored by the Cobleskill Rotary Club.



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM



SUNY Cobleskill



Skip Zimmerman, Regional Director of Volunteer and Community Services for the American Red Cross of Northeastern New York, recently presented a plaque to the SUNY Cobleskill Educational Opportunity Program in appreciation for its participation in disaster recovery efforts. EOP was honored to be recognized for participating in the flood clean-up in the village of Fort Plain, NY during the 2013 Summer Program, and appreciate Mr. Zimmerman for taking the time to drive to SUNY Cobleskill to personally thank, and present us with a beautiful plaque.



Danyel Babcock, a Landscape Development major, made this beautiful fall-themed arrangement in one of her classes, then presented it to her EOP counselor, who proudly displayed it in the office. Nice work Danyel, and thanks for sharing it!



Students spent a lot of hours finishing up end-of-the-semester projects and studying for finals in the EOP office space.



In October, EOP Senior Counselor, Jennifer Walrath, traveled with a group of SUNY Cobleskill students to the National FFA Convention in Louisville, KY where they represented the College at a huge career show and recruited future students.





Educational Opportunity Program

Director's Note



EOP welcomed sixty-two, first semester freshman to the program this fall. The fall 2013, incoming class participated in a mandatory, four-week college preparatory program in July 2013. The program consisted of 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. We thank the many offices, individuals and organizations that contributed to the summer program's success.

EOP students, **Tishawn Smith and Jennifer Bates** were inducted into Chi Alpha Epsilon (Delta Zeta Chapter, est.2003) this fall. They were joined by EOP counselors **Jennifer Walrath** and **Paul Dunn**, both inducted as honorary members. 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.

This past fall was clearly a semester of discovery, transition and adjustment for our incoming class. We thank our upper class EOP family members, faculty, staff and administrators that partnered with us to mentor, advise and support our incoming class through a period of significant change and often uncertainty. We are grateful and proud of each student's efforts, and anticipate each having successful college careers at SUNY Cobleskill.

I extend a special thanks to EOP senior counselor **Jennifer Walrath**, counselor **Paul Dunn** and administrative assistant, **Cathy Krajewski** for their efforts to date. Collectively, they have demonstrated a high level of commitment, care and concern for students, and an unwavering passion for all that we do in support of students. We remain steadfast and relentless in our effort to support and effect students in a profoundly positive way.



EOP Scholarship Endowment Update

In September, the EOP office was thrilled to be notified by the Assistant Vice President for College Advancement, that one of the recent graduates of EOP had made a \$5000 donation to the EOP Scholarship Endowment. The donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, credits their academic success to being an EOP family member, and wants others to know that "it is important to give back". This gift is a true testimony to the Educational Opportunity Program, and we are so proud of, and thankful for the donor's generosity that will help provide opportunity to future EOP students in the form of a scholarship.

The 2013 EOP Summer Program Peer Counselors participated in a photo shoot for the Barnes and Noble Campus Bookstore, and now appear in promotional flyers.



Campus Leadership

Resident Assistants Fall 2013

Talehia McCants, Kelvin Mejia, Jimmy Hill, Tishawn Smith

Brickyard Point Student Union Fall 2013



Jimmy Hill
Jennifer Payano

Residential Life Night Hosts Fall 2013

Samantha Barone, Damaris Crawford,
Khadjah Forde, Jose Gonzalez,
Ruyert Parra, Jose Raposo

Fall 2013 Orientation Leaders

Jennifer Payano, Jasmynn Ray

Fall 2013 Peer Educators

Anthony Echevers, Ruyert Parra, Katherine Reisen

Athletics & Recreation 2013-2014

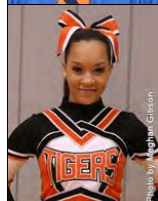
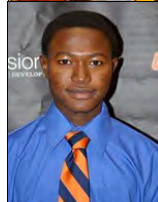


11/25/13

NUNEZ NAMED SUNY COBLESKILL FIGHTING TIGER ATHLETE-OF-THE- WEEK

The SUNY Cobleskill Department of Sport & Exercise announced today that junior Alexis Nunez, White Plains, N.Y., White Plains High School, a member of the men's basketball team has been named the athletic program's Fighting Tiger Athlete-of-the-Week.

The junior point guard scored a game high 23 points to go with four assists and three rebounds for the Fighting Tigers in the team's home opening 74-67 non-conference victory over Bryn Athyn College on Saturday at the Iorio Gymnasium. With the victory Cobleskill evened their overall record to 1-1 on the season.



MEN'S BASKETBALL

Alexis Nunez

MEN'S SWIMMING

Vamadi Golo

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Samantha Davis

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

Peggy-Lynn Paffenroth

MEN'S TRACK & FIELD

Jason Jackson

CROSS COUNTRY

Christopher Cancilla Jr. and Kelvin Mejia

MEN'S SOCCER

Musa Njie

CHEERLEADING

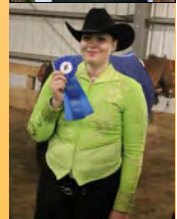
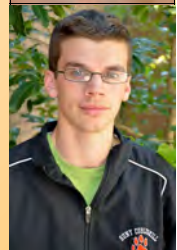
Alondra Nunez and Samarra Parker

EQUESTRIAN

Siera Ellis

BASEBALL

Oscar Aguero, Aneury Colon,
Dominick Jahrling, Omar Rodriguez





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