

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM NEWSLETTER SPRING 2012

Shining star



Africa Harper

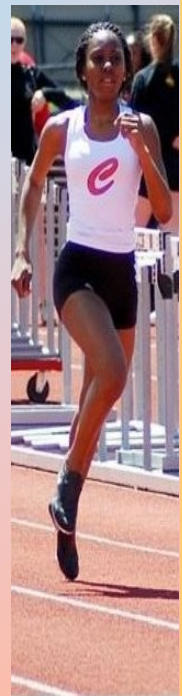


Africa is a well-rounded, student athlete who has managed to maintain a high level of academic achievement while demonstrating her prowess in track & field. She maintains a 3.31 cumulative grade point average and has successfully left her “impressional” footprint on SUNY Cobleskill Athletics.

Africa is originally from the Bronx, NY and is a graduate of John F. Kennedy High School. She began her college career at SUNY Cobleskill in the fall of 2010. Among her many achievements at SUNY Cobleskill, Africa is a member of Chi Alpha Epsilon (XAE), the National Academic Honor Society for Educational Opportunity Programs. She serves as a member of the Residential Life staff as a resident assistant and served as a summer peer counselor for the EOP Summer Study Skills Program in 2011. Africa credits EOP for the opportunity to pursue a higher education and her grandmother for being her number one fan.

Africa has served as a member of the SUNY Cobleskill Indoor/Outdoor Track & Field Teams for the past two years. She has received Fighting Tiger Athlete-of-the-Week honors on two separate occasions and holds several indoor track and field records at SUNY Cobleskill. Africa won the first league individual event championship in program history by winning the 400-meter dash in a time of 59.52 seconds at the New York State College Track Conference (NYSCTC) Indoor Track & Field Championships in Clinton, NY in February of 2012.

Africa is scheduled to graduate this May. She wishes to pursue a bachelor of science degree in athletic training. Although accepted at SUNY Cortland, she is keeping her options open in hopes of receiving an athletic scholarship. We congratulate Africa for all of her accomplishments and predict that each incremental “trek” forward will secure her a bright future.





fall 2011 graduates

Daquan Coleman is from Schenectady, NY and has completed his AA degree in Graphic Design Technology. While at Cobleskill, Daquan was on the Track and Field team. Daquan is currently at SUNY Oswego working towards his bachelor's in Graphic Design. He was recently named First Team All-SUNYAC for Indoor Track and Field.

Carrie Conklin is from East Worcester, NY. Carrie graduated with her AAS in Accounting. Carrie is currently working on her BBA in Financial Services.

Leah Marie Ellers is from Amsterdam, NY. Leah received a Bachelor of Technology degree in Agricultural Equipment Technology.

Samuel Haile is from Oneonta, NY. Sam graduated with his associate's degree in Social Sciences.

Damion Longmore is from the Bronx, NY. Damion received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. Damion was a member and captain of the Men's Varsity Basketball Team.

Barbara Quick is from New York, NY Barbara received a BBA in Technology Management.

Adolfina Rodriguez is from the Bronx, NY and graduated with her AS in Child and Family Services.

College.

Olga Rivera is from the Bronx, NY . Olga received a BT degree in Information Systems. Olga served as a resident assistant and varsity cheerleader.

Katherine Vegas is from completed her AAS degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Technology. She is from Corona, NY. Kat is now pursuing her bachelor's degree in Biology at Brooklyn College.

Laurence Wong is from Rosedale, NY received an AAS degree in Animal Science. Laurence is presently pursuing a BT degree in Animal Science at SUNY Cobleskill.

Congratulations!



honors, achievements, awards



suny cobleskill



Recipients: Michele Jimenez, Cesar Herrera, Nancy Cordova, Brittany Sanford, Lawrence Wong, Carrie Conklin, Jessica Walker, Africa Harper, Stiven Maldonado, Elizabeth Taylor, Pedro Henriquez, Majenda Reid, Karen Wagner, John DeGrace



EOP SPRING RECOGNITION DINNER HONOREES



The EOP Spring Recognition Dinner was held on March 28, 2012 to recognize 6 students receiving Dean's List honors and 14 students receiving Dean's List honorable mention recognition in fall 2011.

Fall 2011

Dean's List

Carrie Conklin
Cesar Herrera
Michelle Jimenez
Paula Schulman
Sarah Thompson
Jessica Walker

Honorable Mention Dean's List

Yosili Amador
Devora Barrios
Katora Brown
Africa Harper
Pedro Henriquez
Lloyd-Christopher Jones
Raphael Mpinga
Majenda Reid
Olga Rivera
Nancy Stephens
Rosalia Tavarez
James Virola
Laurence Wong



director's note

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

SPRING 2012

A Note From the Director.....



I am very happy to announce EOP expanded its “family” by nine this spring. For the first time in recent memory, we facilitated a three day mini-orientation experience for our Spring 2012, primarily to orientate new admits. Students and parents alike expressed thoughts of appreciation as a result of having the opportunity to move into the residence halls a few days early, complete check-in obligations and most importantly acclimate to our campus. We extend a special thanks to a special group of faculty and staff members who open there hearts and extended their hands in support of our efforts. EOP appreciates the support of the following faculty and staff members who were essential to the spring 2012 orientation effort:

- ◆ Master Advisors—**Christina Trees and Dave Thompson**
- ◆ Lead. Systems/Networking. Technician.- **Josie Motyl & Staff**
- ◆ CobyCard Office Director —**Nina Pleuss**
- ◆ Complex Coordinator— **Mary Connor**
- ◆ Admissions Office
- ◆ Financial Aid Office
- ◆ Resident Assistants—**Fake/Ten Eyck Staff**
- ◆ Registrar
- ◆ University Police— **Lt. Tom Rehberg**
- ◆ Brickyard Point Director—**Michael Wacksman**
- ◆ Residential Life Associate Director—**Matt Lalonde**
- ◆ Head Campus Caterer—**Vinnie Garuffi**
- ◆ “EOP Family” members— **Africa Harper, Jennifer Payano**
- ◆ The EOP Professional Staff

EOP welcomes the newest member of the professional staff, Cathy Krajewski (“Ms. Cathy”). Cathy joined our program in early January an serves as administrative assistant. Cathy has been embraced by our students.. We appreciate her commitment to the students and the program.

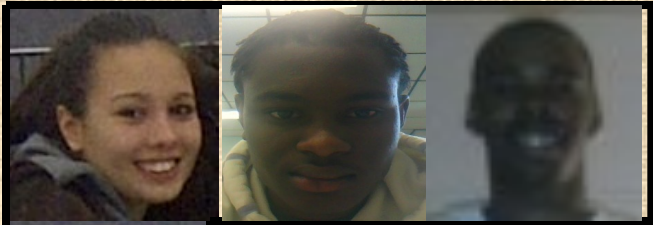
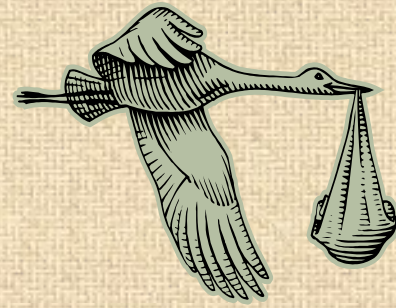
I cannot emphasize enough how appreciative we are for the continued support we receive from the various people and offices on our campus. A special thanks is to **counselors, Stacey Reyes and Elizabeth Weir**, for their efforts **and tutors, Ralph Falco, Dick Young, , Liz Weir and Cesar Herrera.**

“It is through the sum of all its parts the Educational Opportunity Program at SUNY Cobleskill will achieve and sustain success!”

The Educational Opportunity Program at SUNY Cobleskill will continue to explore innovative ways to support, inform, develop and elevate its students.



Derwin Bennett



The Opportunity to Achieve

We present you with a gift. In turn, you are charged with creating a path, transposing the path predictors have postulated for you. Know that the path you map out for yourself will be looked upon by those that proceed you. Let your efforts be your voice and persistence be your resolve. Let your hopes and dreams and those of a family be realized through you.

Fulfill Your Promise!

Derwin Bennett



Spring 2012 EOP Orientation Program—Howe Caverns Field Trip



suny cobleskill

potluck



Educational Opportunity Program



suny
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Equine Interests

“ An unfamiliar path of destiny”

When asked about my background, who I am and where am I from, there's an inevitable question that I'm asked very frequently; It's the “how in the world did a black girl from lower Westchester County get so into horseback riding”? It's a very valid question, and the answer is circumstantial being that I come from an area and a family that has almost no knowledge of the horses or the sport.



It all started with a dance company I was a member of. I was at the time about 11 years old, and every year at the end of the school year my dance company gave a huge benefit, complete with thousand dollar contributors and silent auctions of every sort. It's very common at these benefits for the parents of the dancers to participate in the silent auctions and this particular year my mom and her friend (the mom of my friend Kayla who is also a dancer) decided to jump in on the auctioning of a reduced price admission to a beautiful tucked away all girls summer camp in New Hampshire. The outcome of the tickets was apparently not in my mother's favor because Kayla's mom had a higher bid and purchased the summer camp experience for her daughter. My mother and I weren't too upset about our loss at the auction because it was a tad out of our price range

even though the price was reduced to \$2,000 dollars. My mother and I congratulated our friends and humbly headed home.

even though the price was reduced to \$2,000 dollars. My mother and I congratulated our friends and humbly headed home.





SHOWCASE



SUNY Cobleskill Equestrian Team

The next day after dance class my mom met me near my clothes closet as I was removing my dance

shoes and asked if I would be comfortable being away from home for a month in the summer. I replied “yes, but why are you asking? You’re not about to pay full price for that camp are you?” She looked at me and said “No, Kayla didn’t think she was ready to go away so far from home, her mother is willing to offer you the ticket”. We immediately called the director and he agreed to work out something financially to make it affordable. Needless to say I was ecstatic. Being the wanderlust type I was more than ready to leave the nest, make new friends, and try new things. Later while looking at the packing list and brochure we noticed that the camp also had a little horse barn among all the other things it offered. That was about all I needed to hear. I figured horse-back riding would be more than cool being that up to that point the closest I’ve ever come to horse riding was a pony ride at the fair.

During my time at camp I learned all the basics. I went from a leaded walk to cantering on my own. I soon learned this sport was not only fun, but I was actually good at it. I returned from summer camp with a passion for horses and when I told my mom I even loved the smell of horses, she immediately began looking into affordable lessons. We soon found a small privately owned farm about 45 minutes upstate and I began taking grueling lessons, and soon learned a variety of horse related sports and activities including jumping and driving.

I soon began to branch out and find more and more barns, each one offering a different and unique experience. I’ve learned so much from each and every barn I’ve ever rode at, and I’m very grateful to be able to continue to work with horses every day as an Equine major at SUNY Cobleskill and as a member of its equine team.



by Mecca Shabazz

Workshops/Conferencing



suny
cobleskill

EOP “Springs” Into a Healthy Semester!

EOP kicked off the semester with a Health and Wellness workshop series on January 30th, 31st and February 1st. Workshops started with stress management in the Draper Hall Basement Lounge. Yoga instructor Bonnie Fayssoux, from the Fit To Be Tied Yoga Studio in Cobleskill, facilitated a one hour stress management/ yoga workshop for students.

On Tuesday Lt. Rehberg, of our very own University Police, EOP students about substance use. And on Wednesday, EOP the long walk to Frisbie Hall were rewarded with fresh fruit Reyes and Miss Weir walked the campus the previous week and distances and calories burned to Frisbie Hall. This information our “Take a Hike” smoothie program. Our English tutor, Mr. participated and loved the strawberry/ banana smoothie. And FA/TE to Frisbie Hall is almost one mile!

Throughout the week, health and wellness information was provided to all Brochures and self care books were provided by the Bassett Healthcare Creek, NY. Thank you to everyone who participated!



provided a workshop to students who made smoothies! Mrs. calculated the was provided during Young even FYI, roundtrip from

students who participated. Healthworks Program in Fly

Liz Weir

EOP Well Represented at Conferences

The 2nd Annual STEM Conference: “Building Toward Equity & Excellence” November 3rd & 4th 2011



The 2nd Annual Stem Conference was a two-day conference, sponsored by SUNY’s Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI). The conference brought together experts from around the United States to discuss, share and provide guidance to faculty, staff and administrators as to the best practices to increase the enthusiasm of diverse students for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) disciplines and professions, as well as provide programs that demonstrate success in increasing access, retention, and graduation of diverse student populations in STEM majors. **Margaret Liberti**, an EOP Summer Program faculty member, tutor and developer of the SUNY Cobleskill EOP STEM Summer Experience presented in the opening day poster presentations.

The 2nd Annual Multicultural Student Leadership One Day Conference-Student Training



On Saturday, December 3, 2011, eight program students were among the seventeen SUNY Cobleskill students represented at the 2nd Annual Multicultural Student Leadership at SUNY Oneonta. The conference was a day of *engaged* workshops developed to increase each participants’ level of awareness as it relates to issues of multicultural affairs on a college campus and a student’s maturation as a future leader in this regard. SUNY Cobleskill students were partnered with students SUNY-Wide. This presented a great opportunity to develop lasting relationships, enhance leadership and seek higher learning regarding issues of cultural diversity and student leadership development. The conference was developed, produced and facilitated exclusively by SUNY Oneonta students.

The 3rd Annual “Our Hope for Tomorrow” EOP and HEOP Conference



On Saturday, April 14th 2012, eighteen program members will attend the 3rd Annual OHFT Student Leadership Conference. The conference is a collaborative effort developed by the EOPs of Onondaga Community College, SUNY Oswego and HEOP at Syracuse University.



leadership



suny cobleskill

Orange Key 2011-2012

Amauris Ortiz, Jackie Steria, Jason Jackson

Resident Assistants 2011-2012

Africa Harper

Jennifer Payano

Brickyard Point Student Union Spring 2012

EOP Advisory Council Spring-2012



Mirvia Coipel

Miguel Paulino, Jackie Steria,

Elaine DeVargas

Laurence Wong

Agata Wlodarska, Keith Buerker, Mary Connor,

Paul Dunn, Zhongchun Jiang

Jennifer Payano

Intercollegiate Athletics Fall-2011



MEN'S Basketball

Tarik Payton

Alexis Nunez

MEN'S Indoor/Outdoor Track & Field

Taylor Drake, Justin Ezell,

WOMEN'S Indoor/Outdoor Track & Field

Africa Harper

MEN'S Cross Country

Kelvin Mejia

MEN'S Lacrosse

Dan Schwartz

MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

Steven Blundell

EQUINE HUNT SEAT TEAM

Mecca Shabazz





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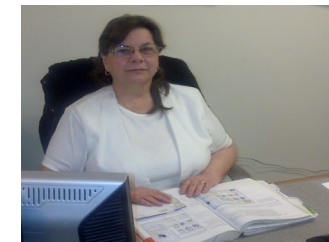
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EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM



“EOP Summer Program Sun & Fun”



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Cobleskill, NY 12043

