

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM NEWSLETTER SPRING 2013

Developed by: Jennifer Walrath



EOP Shining Star

Marlene Pinales

Dedicated - That is the first word that comes to mind which most appropriately describes EOP's Shining Star Student for the spring 2013 semester. Marlene is extremely dedicated to her education, and consistently exhibits a strong determination to achieve all of the goals that she sets for herself. In the past two consecutive semesters, she has earned both Dean's List, and Dean's List Honorable Mention status. Because of that academic accomplishment, Marlene was inducted into the Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society during a special ceremony held in April, and also received a Certificate of Achievement Award in recognition of Outstanding Academic Performance from the SUNY Office of Opportunity Programs. Marlene also possesses and continuously demonstrates strong leadership qualities. She served in the position of Resident Assistant in one of our campus resident halls, along with working as a peer mentor during this spring semester in our EOP program. She was responsible for monitoring a semester-long mandated study hall period, which included managing the attendance roster and enforcing the expectations and rules. Marlene was also recently selected to serve as a Peer Counselor and Tutor for our upcoming 2013 EOP Summer Program.



Marlene was born in the Dominican Republic, raised in Brooklyn, and currently resides in Queens, New York. She is graduating from SUNY Cobleskill with her Associate in Arts degree in Liberal Arts-Social Science with a concentration in Psychology, and will be continuing her education at SUNY Oneonta this fall, where she has been admitted into the BS Psychology program. Marlene recently stated, "Throughout my Cobleskill educational experience, I have achieved many accomplishments that I am immensely proud of. I'm truly thankful and glad that I am a part of the Educational Opportunity Program because it has helped me grow into a responsible and dedicated young lady due to the amazing counselors and benefits that are provided for me".

Derwin Bennett, Director of EOP, recently made this statement in regards to Marlene; "Throughout her journey at SUNY Cobleskill, Marlene's passion was one of purpose, engagement and an unwavering drive to achieve. She has influenced many along her way in a very profound and positive way. Marlene has overcome many challenges and strife. Her perseverance stands as testament to her character in pursuit of excellence. Marlene's future is infinitely bright and has exceptional promise".

Congratulations Marlene on being selected as our EOP Shining Star for the Spring 2013 semester! We are so proud of your accomplishments, and to have you as an EOP family member!



Honors and Achievements

SUNY Cobleskill



Spring 2013 Inductees

Natalie Moreira
Marlene Pinales
Sarah Thompson
Karen Wagner



RECOGNITION DINNER HONOREES

The EOP Spring Academic Recognition Dinner was held on April 17th, 2013. Honored during the evening were 9 students who made the Dean's List, and 16 students who earned Honorable Mention Dean's List status for the Fall 2012 semester. Congratulations to all of you!

Fall 2012

Dean's List 3.5 - 4.0 GPA

Yosili Amador
Carrie Conklin
Joel Guerrero
Cesar Herrera
Natalie Moreira

Brittany Sanford
Paula Schulman
Sarah Thompson
Karen Wagner



Dean's Honorable Mention List 3.0 - 3.49 GPA

Jennifer Bates
Natasha Casey
Jordan Cross
John DeGrace
Joseph Galligan-Sowers
Isaiah Mathias
Talehia McCants
Kelvin Mejia

Amauris Ortiz
Marlene Pinales
Mecca Shabazz
Dennesha Simms
Tishawn Smith
Jessica Walker
Diamond Walters
Agata Wlodarska



Educational Opportunity Program



SUNY Cobleskill



The SUNY Cobleskill Awards Convocation was held on April 19, 2013. Congratulations to Cesar Herrera, Business Administration, BBA and Natalie Moreira, Child and Family Services, for each being recognized as the graduating senior with the highest earned cumulative GPA for their respective majors! That same evening, Pedro Henriquez (pictured at left with Mr. Bennett) was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. We are so proud of each of you!



Cesar Herrera



Natalie Moreira

The SUNY Empire State Diversity Honors Scholarship is awarded to SUNY Cobleskill students having demonstrated a high level of academic achievement (minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better required), two favorable faculty recommendations, a two-page essay describing their leadership and diversity experiences, along with demonstrations of good citizenship. Diversity indicators include physical or other disability, first generation college student status, non-English speaking background, etc.

Congratulations to the following EOP students who were among those selected as recipients of the 2013 SUNY Empire State Diversity Honors Scholarship:

*Carrie Conklin
Pedro Henriquez
Cesar Herrera
Natalie Moreira*

*Marlene Pinales
Tishawn Smith
Karen Wagner
Jessica Walker*

The SUNY Office of Opportunity Programs Certificate of Achievement Awards were presented to the following students (pictured at right at the spring dinner) in recognition of Outstanding Academic Performance:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| (standing L-R) | (sitting L-R) |
| Joel Guerrero | Diamond Walters |
| John DeGrace | Jennifer Bates |
| Kelvin Mejia | Natalie Moreira |
| Natasha Casey | Marlene Pinales |
| Sarah Thompson | Carrie Conklin |
| Jessica Walker | |





CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Spring 2013 Graduates

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Yosili Amador | Juleidy Martinez |
| Nicholas Banks | Jinette Mena |
| Samantha Barone | Natalie Moreira |
| Devora Barrios | Amauris Ortiz |
| Trevon Beckford | Tarik Payton |
| Ashley Benson | Kevin Pearson |
| Autumn Bratcher | Terrance Phinney |
| Natasha Casey | Marlene Pinales |
| Carrie Conklin | Majenda Reid |
| Robert Dawson | Brittany Sanford |
| John DeGrace | Taymica Terry |
| Tyler Delisle | Karen Wagner |
| Justin Ezell | Jessica Walker |
| Fanny Fabre | Naomi Walker |
| Joel Guerrero | Diamond Walters |
| Cesar Herrera | Alexandra Weir |
| Sarah Kurland | Agata Wlodarska |

Fall 2012 Graduates

- Elizabeth Bell
 Elaine DeVargas
 Noel Estevez
 Kayla Martin
 Isaiah Mathias
 Paula Schulman
 Samah Vargas



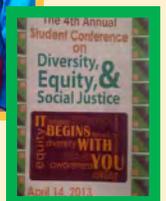
Graduates and Leadership Events



SUNY Cobleskill



On April 14th, a large group of enthusiastic students left the campus bright and early in the morning and traveled to SUNY Cortland to participate in the 4th Annual Student Conference on Diversity, Equity and Social Justice. We each had the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of educational workshops and enjoyed a delicious lunch while listening to two dynamic keynote speakers.





Educational Opportunity Program

We made it "A Day On,
Not A Day Off!"



Martin Luther King Jr.
Day of Service
January 21, 2013



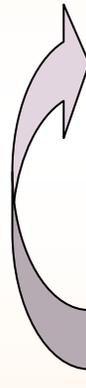
The Evolution of Civility



Student Pedro Henriquez, along with Mr. Steve Ackerknecht, Vice-President for Student Affairs (photo at right) and Mr. Bennett, Director of EOP, (photo above) assisted with meal preparation for other students in Champlin Dining Hall.



Dr. Susan Zimmerman, Interim Dean, School of Business, Liberal Arts and Sciences, helped swipe students' meal cards.



Susan London, Adjunct Instructor, assisted in the making of fruit smoothies to serve students.



Ed Asselin, Assistant Vice-President for Student Affairs/Director of Residential Life, happily served on pizza duty.



Michael Cobbins, Associate Director for Transfer Admission Affairs, and Sr. EOP Counselor, Jennifer Walrath, were on table clean-up, and napkin re-stocking duty in Champlin Dining Hall.



Spring Semester 2013



SUNY Cobleskill



We celebrated Black History Month by setting up various displays around campus, provided support for dining services in preparing a delicious Soul Food dinner for the college campus to enjoy, and served as hosts for two Black History Trivia contests on campus.



EOP participated in the annual campus clean-up event on Wednesday, April 17th. Students Jennifer Bates and Nathan Mastenbrook are shown here happily helping out.





Oh The Places They Go!!!!



Sarah Kurland, shown in the photo to the left with a “peep project” that she recently completed and entered in a Library-sponsored contest, will be leaving just days after this spring semester ends, and traveling to Australia. She will be doing an internship at the Green Beginnings Child care and Kindy in Bokarina, Queensland, and satisfying the final requirements to earn her Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood.

EOP student Amauris Ortiz, shown in the photo at right during a weekend snowboarding trip, has spent this semester studying abroad in Turkey. He is currently taking 4 University courses to satisfy the requirements to complete his Bachelor of Business Administration degree this May from SUNY Cobleskill. In a recent email update from Amauris he stated, “ Everything is amazing here. Each day only gets better and better.”



While studying abroad in Turkey last fall, EOP student Samah Vargas traveled to Cairo, Egypt to visit with SUNY Cobleskill International Students whom she had become friends with during their time on our campus.



EOP Student Showcase



SUNY Cobleskill



“Hi ya’ll, I’m Alexandria Weir. I’m from Shokan, New York, a small little town located in the heart of the Catskills. I am graduating, May 2013, with an Associate in Applied Sciences EMT-Paramedic Degree. I have an internship for this summer with Mobile Life Support Services out of Kingston, New York. I look forward to getting out on the ambulance and working as a Paramedic. I came into EOP the summer of 2011. My EOP family has helped me grow into a much stronger and wiser student. EOP has helped me in more ways than I could ever put into writing. Thank you to all that have helped me succeed in achieving this accomplishment that I consider to be my greatest one yet!!! And to the EOP family; keep up the hard work, and keep your heads up. You most certainly can graduate too, if you just put in the time and effort. It will pay off!”

“I started off doing my internship at the Animal Shelter of Schoharie Valley in January and for the next 2 ½ months I spent every day working with the animals. The shelter manager offered me a job after the second week of my internship and I accepted the job right away. I come into work every single day and help out as many animals as I can. Being at the shelter for 3 months now, I have nursed dozens of cats back to health, socialized over 23 cats that had no people skills, fostered seven 5 week old puppies, and observed how to train dogs and much more. I am looking forward to the upcoming months and years that I will work at the shelter and the many animals and people I will meet and help.” ~Agata Wlodarska



Ashley Benson is currently completing her Child and Family Services practicum with the Schoharie County Head Start. She is shown here with a poster model of an educational bulletin board that she created during her experience this semester.



Danyel Babcock is a second semester transfer student in the Landscape Development program, shown here with a recent design project she completed. Danyel is looking forward to putting her newly developed skills to work during her upcoming summer job that she has already secured in her career field.





EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM



EOP welcomed 6 new students into our “family” this semester:

- Sam Bindler
- Simon Davis
- Taylor Drake
- Marilyn McIntyre (in photo at left)
- Scott Parslow
- Terrynce Wilson (in photo at left)



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 precede you. Let your efforts be your voice, and persistence be your resolve. Let your hopes and dreams, and those of your family, be realized through you.

Fulfill Your Promise! - EOP Director

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



Tishawn Smith
February
Computer Information Systems



Siera Ellis
March
Animal Science-Equine



Fidelfa Bailon Bustos
April
Liberal Arts



SPRING 2013



EOP participated in SWAG Week which was held April 22-27. Mrs. Walrath attended the Inaugural Agricultural Council Banquet along with student Siera Ellis, both pictured at left. They enjoyed eating a delicious dinner and listening to a dynamic keynote speaker. Several EOP family members had a blast competing in various events at the "Agricultural Olympics". (See pictures below) The week ended with a village-wide clean-up, Maple, and Fish & Wildlife Festivals.



Professor and EOP Math tutor, Kurt Verderber, shown in pictures below, was among the contestants in the milk chugging contest, along with Mr. Dunn, in photo with "cow", and Musa Njie, shown in photo at right also competing in the pedal tractor pull contest.



Lauren Iacovano and Fidelfa Bailon Bustos (both pictured above L-R), along with John DeGrace (missing from photo) were among the many student volunteers who participated in the village-wide clean-up and festivities that followed in the park .

EOP students Juleidy Martinez (above) and Musa Njie, both participated in the pulp wood throwing contest. Both demonstrated incredible strength and determination. Great job!



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM



The Cultural Diversity Committee in partnership with EOP held an early Cinco De Mayo festival on May 1st featuring a Mariachi Band performance. Festival attendees enjoyed delicious ethnic food prepared by EOP family members and had a great time in the beautiful sunshine dancing and singing along with the band.



Students Fidelfa Bailon Bustos, Lauren Iacovano, and Natasha Casey (L-R) helped coordinate the festivities.



Student Jennifer Payano, shown here with Mr. Dunn & Ms. Cathy, helped to organize the event and with food preparation.

FIESTA 2013!



SUNNY Cobleskill



Steve Ackerknecht and Lois Goblet dancing to the festive music.



Dr. Debra Thatcher, SUNY Cobleskill Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs, enjoyed the festivities, shown here with EOP Director Derwin Bennett.





Educational Opportunity Program– Spring 2013



EOP held a Hoola Hoop Contest May 3rd on the Prentice Patio, in conjunction with the Student Affairs sponsored Zen week, a fun way to help students relax and prepare for finals!



EOP student Juleidy Martinez sang with the college choir during the Veterans Plaza Dedication Ceremony on 4/26/13.



Several EOP students participated in the SUNY Cobleskill fashion show (photo below) that was held on April 26th, hosted by the Red Carpet Couture student club, advised by EOP Counselor, Paul Dunn.



Photos below of additional Academic Achievement Award Recipients:

Joseph Galligan-Sowers

Tishawn Smith

Yosili Amador

Karen Wagner

Agata Wlodarska





Campus Leadership

Resident Assistants 2012-2013

Talehia McCants,
Jennifer Payano, Marlene Pinales



Brickyard Point Student Union Spring 2013

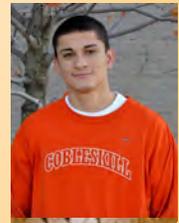


Elaine Devargas
Jimmy Hill
Jennifer Payano

Residential Life Night Hosts Spring 2013

Nyiboul Akol, Delilah Diaz,
Ruyert Parra, Jasseline Pena

Intercollegiate Athletics 2012-2013



MEN'S Basketball

Alexis Nunez, Christian Ruiz

WOMEN'S Basketball

Samantha Davis, DaMaris Crawford

MEN'S Track & Field

Mukhtar Barros

MEN'S Soccer

Brandon Waight

CROSS COUNTRY

Christopher Cancilla Jr., Gaddiel Ruiz, Agata Wlodarska

EQUESTRIAN

Siera Ellis



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**The EOP office is excited to introduce our
2013 Summer Program
Peer Counselors/Tutors!**

**Standing, left to right– Gaddiel Ruiz, Talehia McCants, Fanny Fabre and Marlene Pinales
Kneeling, left to right– Jordan Cross and Jennifer Payano**