



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER 2014-15 Academic Year

Developed by: Jennifer Walrath



EOP Shining Star

Siera Ellis



Determined— That is the first word that comes to mind which most appropriately describes EOP's current Shining Star Student.

Siera is a very determined, conscientious, and hard-working student. She has earned either Dean's List or Dean's List Honorable Mention status for 5 of her past 6 semesters on campus. She was inducted into Chi Alpha Epsilon, the National EOP Academic Honor Society, and is a past recipient of both the Merrill Family Foundation Scholarship and the Derwin and Annie R. Bennett Scholarship.

Siera owns, rides, and loves horses along with a German Shepherd dog, and has even become certified through Therapy Dog International, along with her dog, to do canine therapy. During the college academic year, she actually travels to local Adult Care facilities and elementary schools with her dog, while also being a successful full-time student. Siera is also a member of the SUNY Cobleskill Stock Seat Equestrian Team, and works part-time at a local equestrian facility.

Siera has been employed as a Peer Tutor in the Center for Academic Support and Excellence for the past 2 years and has also served as a Mentor and Peer Counselor for the MERITS Academy. Siera is extremely passionate about and dedicated to her education, and consistently exhibits a very strong determination to achieve all of the goals that she sets for herself and holds herself to a very high standard.

Congratulations Siera on being selected as our EOP Shining Star! We are so proud of your accomplishments, and to have you as an EOP family member!





EOP Summer Learning Academy



The Summer 2014 Peer Counselors are ready to greet and assist our new students on arrival day. Standing from left to right are: Oscar Aguero, Hernesha Florestal, Olaide Owolabi, Francesca Carvajal, Jose Gonzalez and Katherine Reisen.



Arrival Day - Sunday July 6th, 2014



Our first "family" meeting!



Professors Liberty and Verderber also greeted students as they arrived. (L-R in photo below)

Saying goodbye to family for a couple of weeks is always a little difficult, but we quickly developed into a new EOP family!



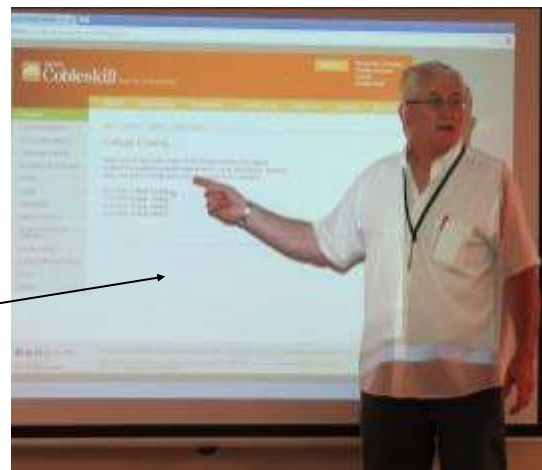


2014 EOP Summer Program



What to expect from an advisor

- 1. The role of the faculty advisors
- 2. To help students in advisement
- 3. To be available and accessible to students
- 4. Guide students with curriculum planning
- 5. Assist students in career, educational and in advisement



Professor and Master Advisor Dave Thompson talks to students about course selection and teaches them how to use the College catalog.



Donna Pesta introduced the students to the services provided by the Student Success Center. (Shown in photo above)



Professors Christina Trees and Kathy Johnson (L-R) discuss the role of the Academic Advisor with students.



Kathy Diamond from Key-Bank came in to discuss the topic of Financial Literacy.



Orientation Seminar Series

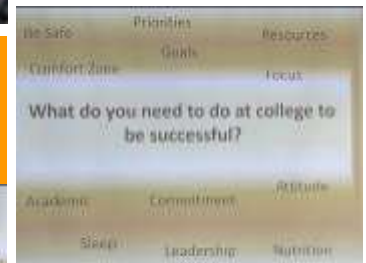


Jill Brinkman, Assistant College Registrar, introduced the students to DegreeWorks.



Louise Biron and Rebecca Burton (L-R in photo below) from the Financial Aid office, gave an informative presentation about the cost of college, and assisted our students in making sure their aid packages were complete.

Wellness Center staff spoke to the incoming freshmen about all of the services they provide and shared tips on staying healthy in college. (shown in photo above)



Matt LaLonde spoke about Judicial Affairs and Residential Life. (Photos at left) University Police Department Officer McPherson spoke about student conduct. (Photo below)





SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT 7/12/14



After enjoying a continental breakfast together, projects were explained, tasks were assigned, and the students grabbed work gloves and tools and began their campus community service project. Picnic tables were painted, weeds and overgrown shrubs were removed, and new mulch and grass seed was placed. Planting the seeds of campus pride.....



The project supervisors; Mr. Dunn, Mr. DeJong, and Mr. Bennett. (L-R)



CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION





CAMP HUNTINGTON



The Peer Counselors worked hard, and really well together, getting all of the final preparations complete for our first ever EOP experience in the Adirondacks!



After enjoying a continental breakfast on campus, we loaded into the bus and vans, and began our journey north into the Adirondack National Park. We arrived at Raquette Lake, met our boat captains, and began the process of transferring all of our luggage and EOP family members onto the boats for the last leg of our journey to Camp Huntington.



JULY 18-20, 2014



We arrived to Camp Huntington just in time to enjoy our first meal there together, and learn about "KP" (kitchen patrol), which everyone took turns participating in during our stay.



One blow from the camp horn announced each meal and signaled us to enter the dining hall.



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM



Mr. Dunn &
Mrs. Walrath

2014 EOP
Peer Counselors



What an excellent location to learn valuable life lessons, focus on team building, and develop leadership skills!



Biology 101 students working on their group presentation projects.



Instructor, Margaret Liberti, introduces a presentation group.



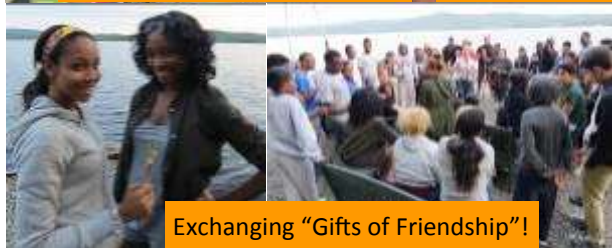


CAMP HUNTINGTON



Ready to roast marshmallows!

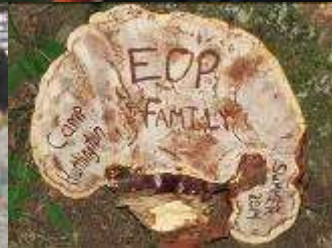
Our peer counselors did a great job leading a panel discussion about student leadership and college “survival” skills. The freshman listened, and hopefully learned from the life lessons that were shared.



Exchanging “Gifts of Friendship”!



A wonderful crew wearing their COBY gear, proudly representing their future Alma Mater!



What an awesome setting for some serious small group discussions.





EOP Goes to the Opera! July 26th, 2014



All dressed up and ready to go!





Carousel at the Glimmerglass Festival



On Saturday, July 26th we dressed to impress and traveled to Cooperstown to attend the performance of Carousel. What an amazing experience for all of us!





Campus Candids

Educational Opportunity
Program

Pajama Day!



The lucky winners of the Smart Trak gift cards! Students who successfully completed the financial literacy program conducted by our financial aid office were all entered into a drawing to win a gift card to the campus bookstore.



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM



Closing Ceremony 7/31/14



Most of our summer faculty members, and even a couple of parents, attended the closing ceremony sharing final words of wisdom and encouragement, then cheered for the students receiving their certificates of completion.



Peer Counselors lead the students in reciting the "Promise to Myself". After the oath was taken, it was time for more celebratory hugs and goodbye tears.





The Opportunity

We present you with a gift. In turn, you are choosing the path predictors have postulated for you. Your choice for yourself will be looked upon by those who love you. Your voice and persistence be your resolve. Your future, of your family, be realized.

Fulfill Your Promise!

Fall 2012

to Achieve

charged with creating a path, transpos-
you. Know that the path you map out
that precede you. Let your efforts be
Let your hopes and dreams, and those
zed through you.

~ EOP Director

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2014

SUNY Cobleskill
Real Life. Real Learning.



NEW STUDENT ARRIVAL DAY 8/21/14



Mr. Dunn, Mrs. Walrath, Mr. Bennett, and Ms. Cathy were all excited to welcome our freshman class back to campus just a few short weeks after their summer program ended, to officially begin their first semester of college.

(photos below)



Several of our upper-class EOP students served as Orientation Leaders and Peer Educators during Arrival Day and Orientation weekend. (photos above)



FALL 2014 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"**.



Thanks to a generous donation of ice-cream sundae kits from Stewarts Corporation, we were able to host a welcome to the fall semester EOP ice-cream social and bonfire on August 28th. It was a wonderful opportunity for upper-class students to meet and mingle with their new freshman EOP brothers and sisters!





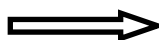
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The following EOP students were recognized as scholarship recipients at the annual scholarship luncheon held on September 25th:

Oscar Aguero
Ashley Benson
Cody Cheung
Anthony Echevers
Siera Ellis
Vamadi Golo
Pedro Henriquez
Katherine Reisen
Tishawn Smith
Jessica Walker



Our Merrill Family
Foundation Scholarship
recipients shown with
Mr. and Mrs. Merrill.



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



September 2014
Juliane Vazquez &
Manuela Ortiz



October 2014
Shannon Perrone &
Terrell Rose



November 2014
Jumirna Alcober



February 2015
Valeria Leon &
Jessica Rivera



March 2015
Jerome Shepherd &
Jihnay Lewis-Williams



April 2015
Naja Shabazz &
Randlle Tudor

Oh The Places They Go!!!!



Jose Gonzalez spent his Fall 2014 semester abroad studying in Turkey.



EOP family member, Ebony Palmer, spent her Spring 2015 semester studying abroad in Costa Rica.



EOP was well represented at the annual International Student & Staff welcome reception held on 10/7/14 in upper Champlin. Guests enjoyed sampling foods and visiting with peers from different cultures.





Honors and Achievements

2014-15

XAE Inductees

Katherine Reisen
Ashley Benson
Jose Gonzalez
Cody Cheung
Jiordi Aristy
Chelsea Valentine
Pedro Henriquez
Vamadi Golo
Anthony Echevers



RECOGNITION DINNER HONOREES

The EOP Fall Academic Recognition Dinner was held on October 2nd, 2014 at Justine's Restaurant. Honored during the evening were 10 students who made the Dean's List, and 17 students who earned Honorable Mention Dean's List status for the Spring 2014 semester. The Spring Semester Academic Recognition Dinner was held on April 23rd, 2015, also at Justine's. That evening we honored 10 students who earned Dean's List, and 17 students who earned Dean's List Honorable Mention status during the Fall 2014 semester. Congratulations to all of you! Your EOP family is so proud of your outstanding academic accomplishments!

Spring 2014 Semester

Dean's List 3.5-4.0 GPA

Aneury Colon
Taylor Drake
Siera Ellis
Vamadi Golo
Jose Gonzalez
Pedro Henriquez
Scott Parslow
Elizabeth Rawlings
Katherine Reisen
Tishawn Smith



Dean's List Honorable Mention 3.0-3.49 GPA

Jiordi Aristy
Samantha Barone
Ashley Benson
Cody Cheung
Anthony Echevers
Hernesha Florestal
Taina-Fe Landron
Socorro Marin
Nathan Mastenbrook
Amy Meyer
Peggy Lynn Paffenroth
Jennifer Payano
Julian Pinto
Victoria Rodriguez
Khalif Thompson
Chelsea Valentine
Jessica Walker



Fall 2014 Semester

Dean's List 3.5-4.0 GPA

Jennifer Banker
Siera Ellis
Vamadi Golo
Pedro Henriquez
Jallah Lahan
Alexis Nunez
Elizabeth Rawlings
Jessica Rivera
Chelsea Valentine
Jessica Walker



Dean's List Honorable Mention 3.0-3.49

Sam Bindler
Jordan Cross
Danielle Diaz
Delilah Diaz
Anthony Echevers
Derika Edwards
Valeria Leon
Asia Garris
Jihnay Lewis
Amy Myer
Musa Njie
Manuela Ortiz
Jasmin Ray
Katherine Reisen
Jerome Shepherd
Sarah Thompson



Educational Opportunity Program





EOP In The Community



Many EOP family members were once again involved in the campus/community Halloween event held on campus 10/30. Some of our students performed as zombie dancers, and some ran fun carnival games, while others handed out candy to community children trick or treating in the resident halls.



Mrs. Walrath and a group of EOP family members had a blast helping to run the Halloween dance at the local elementary school on 10/24. EOP students helped by serving snacks, assisting with craft activities and even leading dances!



For the 2nd year in a row, EOP helped out at the annual Cobleskill Rotary Breakfast with Santa event held at the local high school on 12/7. Our craft table was a big hit with all of the visiting children and their families!

Several EOP students and staff members donated blood on 1/28. Oscar received a 1st time donor pin! ➡



Our students once again made the CREST Winter Carnival at the local elementary school a success by running carnival games, craft tables, painting faces, and being photographers at the annual event held 1/24.



Educational Opportunity Program



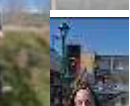
Mr. Dunn & Mrs. Walrath were both honored to be selected to receive SUNY Cobleskill "You Rock " awards in October, 2014.



EOP was well represented at the annual Volunteerism conference held at SUNY Oneonta on 11/14.



MLK Day of Service 1/19/15



Congratulations Anthony for being recognized with an Excellence in Student Leadership Award on 3/30. Your EOP family is so proud of you!



4/25/15

EOP Students & Staff participating in the annual campus clean-up 4/28.



Campus Pep Rally 3/5

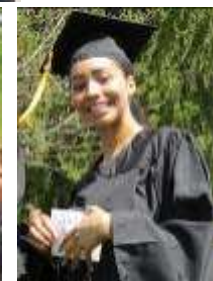




Congratulations Graduates 5/9/15



Congratulations! Today is your day. You're off to Great Places! You're off and away! You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose.
~Dr. Seuss, "Oh, The Places You'll Go!"





Campus Leadership



Resident Assistants Fall 2014

Anthony Echevers, Demetrius Simmons, Tishawn Smith



Brickyard Point Student Union Fall 2014

Residential Life Night Hosts Fall 2014



Oscar Aguero, Jennifer Payano,
Demetrius Simmons

Demetrius Bourne, Ashley Clarke, Josh Davis,
Asheley Goubboth, Salaam Hargrove,
Lawale Nagnango, Terell Rose

Fall 2014 Orientation Leaders

Oscar Aguero, Christopher Nunez,
Katherine Reisen

Fall 2014 Peer Educators

Davon Azubike, Anthony Echevers,
Hernesha Florestal, Socorro Marin, Katherine Reisen



Athletics & Recreation 2014-2015



EOP family member, Alexis Nunez, was named the men's basketball team's Most Valuable Player (MVP) for the 2014-15 season, during which he also scored his 1000th career point. During this final season for the graduating senior, in 28 appearances, including 27 starts, Alexis averaged 15.8 points, 3.4 assists, 4.1 rebounds and 1.6 steals per contest while shooting 42.6% from the field, including 40.5% from three-point range, and 78.1 % from the free throw line. He will leave the program as its all-time leader in career points, career games played, career steals, career minutes played, career field goals made and career free throws made. Your EOP family is so proud of your achievements, both on the court, and in the classroom, and have enjoyed watching you excel in both!



MEN'S BASKETBALL

Alexis Nunez, Christian Cooper



MEN'S SOCCER

Christian Cooper, Randle Tudor

MEN'S TRACK & FIELD

Randle Tudor

WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

Simona Goode, Alicia Newman



LACROSSE

Josh Brown

CHEERLEADING

Naja Shabazz

EQUESTRIAN

Siera Ellis





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