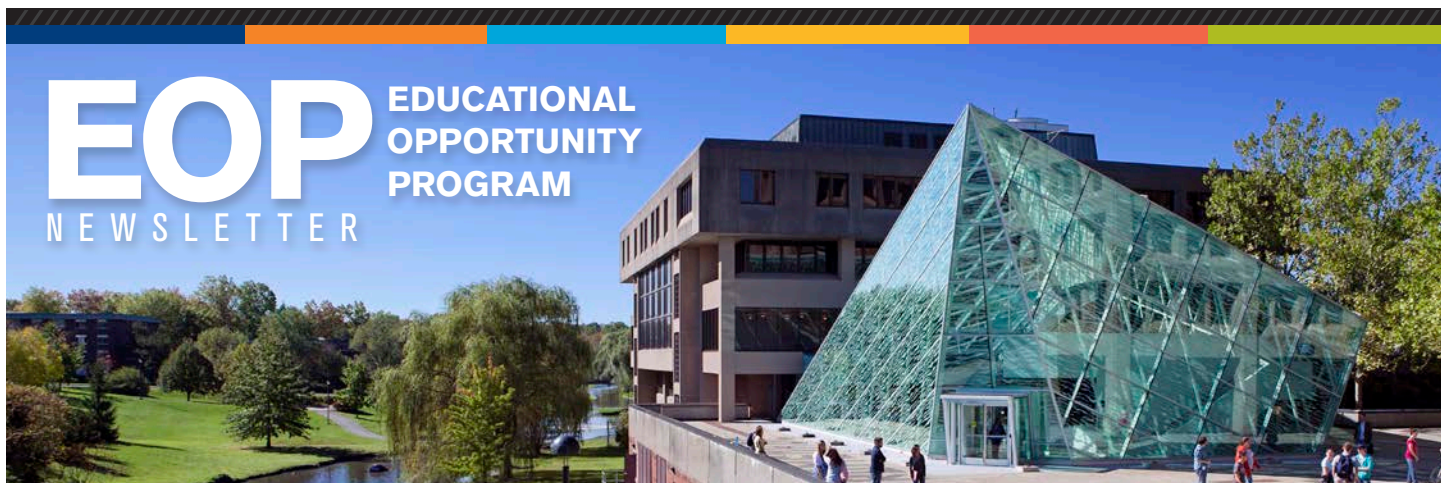


# EOP

EDUCATIONAL  
OPPORTUNITY  
PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER



Winter 2016

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## Hello EOP Family!

We are wrapping up winter and looking forward to another beautiful Hudson Valley Spring! Once again we have an exciting semester ahead, but I want to draw your attention to a few points of **EOP Pride**.

Your EOP family, in conjunction with the International Programs office, has been awarded the Heiskell Award. This international award recognizes our campus as one that sends a remarkable number of underrepresented and first-generation college students to study abroad. We have deep **EOP Pride** for Clare Kelly-Barra's passion and commitment to forging a strong working relationship with the international programs office and helping our students find scholarships and grants that help with the study abroad expenses. Our **EOP Pride** also goes to the students themselves, who take on the study abroad challenge and overcome all obstacles to achieve their goals. Look for the article about this award here: [www.newpaltz.edu/eop/awards.html](http://www.newpaltz.edu/eop/awards.html)

Speaking of **EOP Pride**, our whole EOP Family- staff, students and alumni- now have a place to share our achievements and special moments as they happen. If you use #npeop when posting on social media your post will be filtered to our EOP social hub on our website. We want to celebrate our EOP family and now we can keep up with your accomplishments and special moments as they happen.



Antonio Bonilla and President Donald Christian at the XAE Induction Ceremony.

We have a lot of great things in store for this academic year, enjoy reading about what we're doing and make sure to check out our website for more details and up-to-the-minute postings!

Remember, let your **EOP Pride** shine through!

"Once EOP...Always EOP!"

  
Antonio Bonilla

## 2015 Heiskell Award Winners



Clare Kelly-Barra and Christian Wilwohl received the prestigious 2015 Heiskell Award.

Due to efforts between the Study Abroad EOP Liaison, Clare Kelly-Barra, the EOP staff, Christian Wilwohl, Study Abroad Program Director, the Center for International Programs (CIP), and other campus offices, the Educational Opportunity Program Office and the International Program Office have been recognized by the Institute of International Education, and have received the prestigious 2015 Heiskell Award. Dean of International Education Bruce Sillner "attributes the growth of study abroad at SUNY New Paltz to a "team effort," undertaken by staff at CIP and EOP, the Offices of Student Accounts, Financial Aid and Records & Registration, and the diverse academic departments who help educate and prepare students for international study."

The award recognizes innovative and successful study abroad initiatives. The Institute of International Education noted "the Center for International Programs (CIP) has teamed up with the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), a SUNY wide program that serves academically and economically disadvantaged students, to reach out to students who may not have previously thought about studying abroad. The campus professionals who run these programs introduce students to international opportunities early on, and provide the customized services they need to take advantage of them. Staff members work closely together to advise students on financial matters, expectations, cross-cultural adjustment, and scholarship opportunities for study abroad by providing tutoring and financial resources."

This best practices program has resulted in an increase in scholarship funding, study abroad participation, and service learning opportunities worldwide. The EOP study abroad website highlights our EOP study abroad scholars through personal narratives about their study abroad experiences. Also an interactive prezi presentation highlights where our students have traveled and studied. EOP Study Abroad Liaison Clare Kelly-Barra notes: "Study abroad internationalizes students. It broadens their experiences. Our students continue to travel after graduation, and they share with their peers about the value of international study and service learning." Our EOP students are our study abroad ambassadors - they continue to make us proud!

## Fall '15 Gilman Scholarships put New Paltz on pace for best-ever year

Center for International Programs, Featured News, Student News

Eight SUNY New Paltz students will receive the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship for study abroad in the fall '15 semester, the largest single-cycle class of Gilman scholars in the College's history.

The Gilman Scholarship is a highly competitive, federally funded prize awarded by the Institute of International Education (IIE) to undergraduates for academic studies and internships abroad. A total of 860 American undergraduate students from 332 U.S. colleges and universities will receive up to \$5,000 each towards study abroad costs as Gilman scholars this fall.

"That SUNY New Paltz again leads all public universities in the State of New York in Gilman scholarships awarded is a testament to the caliber of our students, to our institutional commitment to preparing globally-engaged graduates and to the hard work of our study abroad staff," said Bruce Sillner, dean of the Center for International Programs (CIP).

The following students have been awarded Gilman Scholarships for the fall '15 and spring '16 semester:

**Jerry Cifuentes '15** (International Business/Marketing), who studied in Japan.

**Karl Eden '17** (Black Studies/Communication Studies – Public Relations), who studied in Kenya.

**Stephanie Fernandez '16** (Sociology – Criminology), who studied in Ecuador.

**Mishelle Gonzalez-Perez '18** (Latin American Caribbean Studies), who studied in Costa Rica.

**Cole Kitchen '16** (Asian Studies/International Relations), who studied in China.

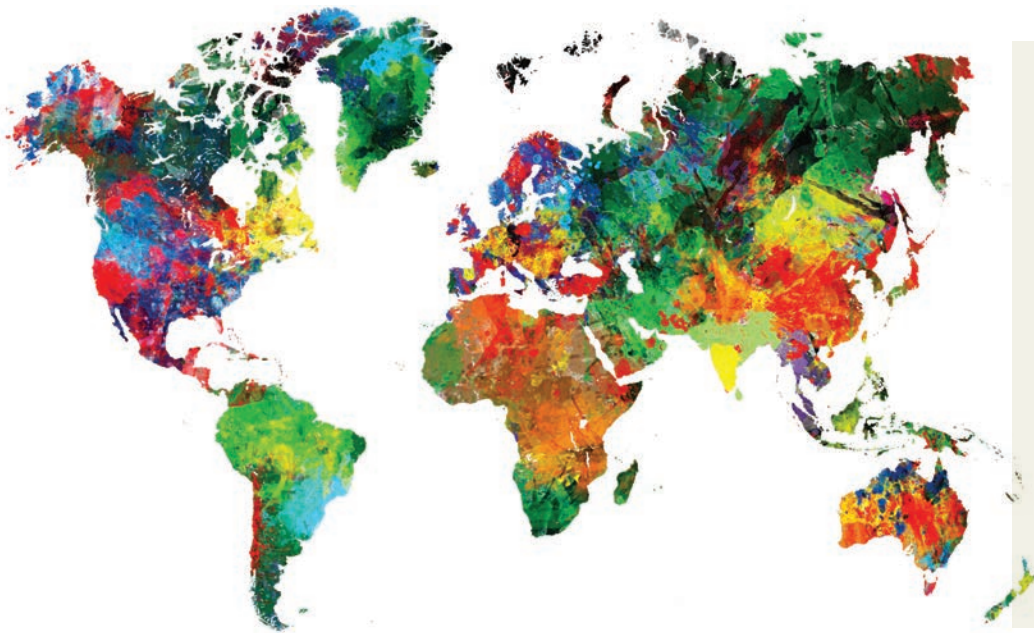
**Johnathan Olivencia '16** (International Business/Management), who studied in China.

**Luisanna Sosa '16** (Communication Studies – Public Relations), who studied in France.

**Kimberly Velazquez '17** (Psychology/Spanish), who studied in Ecuador.

The Gilman's mission of supporting international study for students of limited financial means makes it a natural partner with the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) and other similar institutions. At New Paltz, the CIP and EOP work closely together to identify and support candidates for the award. Six of the eight New Paltz students who will receive the Scholarship this fall are EOP students.

"The ongoing partnership between the CIP and EOP has greatly expanded the participation of underrepresented students studying abroad," said Clare Kelly-Barra, EOP advisor and study abroad liaison. "Our EOP students are our study



## STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPANTS

### Fall 2015

Trixy Biose	<b>Ecuador</b>
John Chan	<b>Japan</b>
Aileen Gonzalez	<b>Ecuador</b>
Samantha Lee	<b>Japan</b>
Nina Pena	<b>Korea</b>
Justina Rodriguez	<b>UK</b>

### Spring 2016

MIschelle Gonzalez Perez	<b>Costa Rica</b>
Arielle Ponder	<b>Scotland</b>
Isabel Guerrero	<b>Mexico</b>
Samantha Lee	<b>Japan</b>

abroad ambassadors, and they continue to make us proud.”

Gilman-eligible students at SUNY New Paltz have access through the CIP and EOP to advising regarding the application process, editorial feedback on application essays and outreach efforts before, during and after their international experiences, helping to ensure that each student gets the

most out of study abroad.

Earlier this year that work was recognized when SUNY New Paltz was honored with the 2015 Andrew Heiskell Study Abroad Award, a prestigious prize for which more than 1,400 colleges and universities are eligible.

Students with an interest in learning more about the Gilman Scholarship and

about study abroad can visit the Center for International Programs at [studioabroad.newpaltz.edu](http://studioabroad.newpaltz.edu). More information about the Educational Opportunity Program is available as well.

Additional details about the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship can be found at the website of the Institute of International Education at [www.iie.org](http://www.iie.org).

## Student Recognition

### Fall 2015 Awards & Winners

**Alexander Abreu Boria/UK**

EOP Travel Grants

**Stefany Batista**

Arthur O Eve Award

**Danielle Marine/UK**

Global Scholar Award

**Erica McNaughton/Australia**

EOP Travel Grants

**Karina Medina/Spain**

EOP Travel Grants

**Diana Metz**

Percy Sutton Award

**Nima Sherpa/Italy**

EOP Travel Grants

### Spring 2016 Awards & Winners

**Arielle Ponder/Scotland**

EOP Study Grant

**Mishelle Gonzalez-Perez/Costa Rica**

EOP Travel Grant



Stefany Batista



Diana Metz

## 2015 Peer Mentors



KARINA ALVARADO / Sociology w Concentration in Criminology / East Rockaway, NY  
JESSICA GOMEZ / Sociology w Concentration in Human Services / Brooklyn, NY  
MARSHA MORIAH / Psychology / Bronx, NY  
PAOLA RODRIGUEZ / Sociology w Concentration in Criminology / Bronx, NY  
YAVELLY VENTURA / Sociology / Bronx, NY  
TUSHA RAMNARINE / Economics / Schenectady, NY  
MISHELLE GONZALEZ PEREZ / Latin American & Caribbean Studies / Southampton, NY  
HYDIA HUNTER / Sociology w Concentration in Human Services / Brooklyn, NY  
JING LIN / Mechanical Engineering / Brooklyn, NY  
ELEANA MARTINEZ / Undecided / Bronx, NY

PAMELA REYES / Sociology w Concentration in Human Services / New York, NY  
LUISANA ROMAN / Education / Bronx, NY  
ANALIS SALCEDO PEREZ / Sociology w Concentration in Human Services / Brooklyn NY  
MELYSSA ARGUELLO / Spanish and Psychology / Far Rockaway, NY  
FOUSSENI BABA / Pre-International Business / Bronx, NY  
JACKLYN BORJA / Psychology / Bronx, NY  
GELIZA CASTRO / Sociology / Bronx, NY  
MARILYN GARCIA / Undecided / New York, NY  
JADE GILLIARD / Pre-Management / Bronx, NY





## Tony Bonilla '87 Named 2015 AVCA Assistant Coach of the Year

Ryan Novitsky, Assistant Sports Information Director



LEXINGTON, Ky. – Tony Bonilla '87, of the State University of New York at New Paltz men's volleyball team, has been named the 2015 American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Division III Men's Volleyball National Assistant Coach of the Year, announced on Friday.

Bonilla, a 2002 New Paltz Athletics Hall of Fame inductee, has helped head coach Radu Petrus guide the Hawks to a 26–5 overall record and the runner-up finish at the 2015 United Volleyball Conference (UVC) Tournament.

New Paltz earned an at-large bid into the NCAA Tournament as the No. 4 seed

and will take on No. 5 seed Kean (31–4 overall) on Friday, April 24 at 3 p.m. at Canavan Arena, hosted by Stevens.

Bonilla has guided the Hawks to the No. 3 national ranking and has coached a pair of AVCA First Team All-Americans this season, in juniors Christopher Husmann and Christian Smith.

In addition to being an assistant coach at New Paltz for the last four seasons, Bonilla has been at New Paltz for 16 years and currently holds the position of the Director of the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) on campus.

The EOP is an academic program designed for capable students, who because of inadequate financial resources and academic preparation, have not had the same opportunities as other students to realize their academic potential. The program at New Paltz has an enrollment of over 500 students and is one of the largest in the SUNY system.

The AVCA will formally present Bonilla his award at the 2015 Jostens Coaches Honors Luncheon in Omaha, Neb. on Thursday, December 17. The luncheon is held in conjunction with the 2015 AVCA Annual Convention.

## 2016 EOP Bi-Annual Conference



It's spring, which means it's time for another EOP Conference. The EOP conference serves many purposes. The EOP Alums are provided an opportunity to reconnect with the program and meet current students. Current students gain networking experience and benefit from mentoring of Alums.

The conference also provides information, educational materials, and a forum to showcase presentation skills for Alums and students.

All these aspects of the EOP conference serve to strengthen the EOP family connection and program as a whole.

### What is the focus of this year's conference?

This conference will focus on the concept of a strong foundation.

EOP has been on the SUNY New Paltz campus for 47 years and this conference will discuss our personal foundations, the program founding mission, and how we contribute to our future as individuals and as part of the community by building a strong foundations for future growth.

This year's Keynote speaker will be Janet Davis; Entrepreneur, Chef, and SUNY New Paltz graduate. Visit her website at [www.jadegrill.com](http://www.jadegrill.com).

Check our website [www.newpaltz.edu/eop/events.html](http://www.newpaltz.edu/eop/events.html) for more information about workshops and registration.

**Come join us on Saturday, April 30th, 2016.**

See you there!!

# “Strong Foundations, Strong Future”

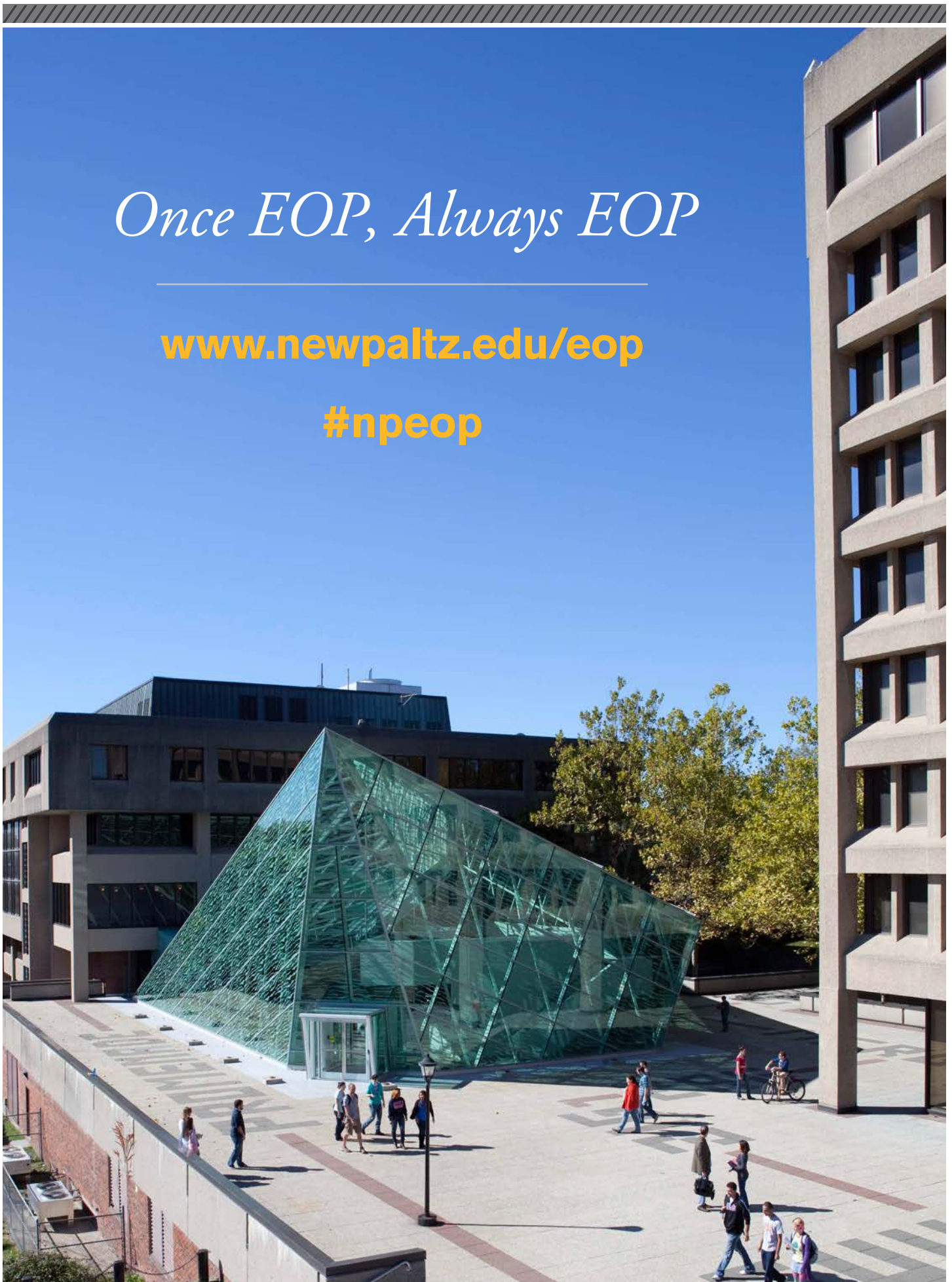
# 2014 EOP Bi-Annual Conference



*Once EOP, Always EOP*

[www.newpaltz.edu/eop](http://www.newpaltz.edu/eop)

#npeop



## Thanks & Congratulations to Our Spring 2015 Inducted XAE Members



2015–2016 XAE E-board Members

### 2015 – 2016 Chi Alpha Epsilon (XAE) Executive Board

*President Ashley Frazier* ▪ *Vice President Devorah Price* ▪ *Secretary Rosalina Lopez*

*Treasurer Stephanie Nuñez* ▪ *Public Relations Emily DeJesus* ▪ *Historian Victoria Espinosa*

### 2015 Inductees Beta Omicron Chapter of Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society ▪ May 1, 2015

Layla Abdullah

Alexandra Abreu Boria

Kimberly Aguilar

Karina Alvarado

Lissy Alvarez

Mamoudou Ba

Joshua Baldera

Andrew Caceres

Alyanna Camacho

Donald P. Christian  
(*honorary inductee*)

Luisa Cruz

Emily De Jesus

Woodjany Delice

Victoria Espinosa

Yorhely Garabito

Aileen Gonzalez

Joshua Gonzalez

Alexandria Griffiths

Francy Hernandez

Hui Li

Meng Ting Li

Emily Mateo

Erica McNaughton

Karina Medina

Avisha Mohabir

Terance Morgan

Andrea Peña

Tusha Ramnarine

Yaranny Reynoso

Shariah Robinson

Bryan Rodriguez-Guzman

Claiane Rojas

Kimberly Roman

Gina Rondon

Ashley Salgado

Maritza Sanchez

Paula Schulman

Nima Sherpa

Raquel Suarez

Edyaline Tejeda

Roniel Ureña

Samantha Vanderpool

Kimberly Velazquez

Ying Zhan

### Pin Upgrade Criteria

Ruby: 3.5–3.74 ▪ Emerald: 3.75–3.99 ▪ Diamond: 4.00



## 2014 Honorable Upgrades

Hillary Acosta — Ruby (F14)

Jacqueline Aguilar — Emerald (F14)

Rabih Ahmed — Ruby (F14)

Marielayne Baez — Ruby (F14)

Stefany Batista — Diamond (S14)  
(*Arthur Eve Award Recipient*)

Jenisse Bouret — Diamond (F14)

Charina Castillo — Ruby (F14)

Marie D'Apice — Diamond (F14)

Nearlyse Dandas — Ruby (S14)

Leah DeLeon — Ruby (S14)

Kimberly Difo — Ruby (S14)

Stephanie Fernandez — Ruby (S14)

Licelotte Fernandez — Emerald (S14)

Marfry Hernandez — Emerald (S14)

Yinan Hou — Emerald (F14)

Samuel Jimenez — Emerald (S14)

Kerry Kamrudin — Emerald (F14)

Joceline Nieves — Ruby (F14)

Tania Pastuizaca — Ruby (S14)

Danny Perez — Emerald (S14)

Devorah Price — Emerald (F14)

Adiana Rivera — Emerald (F14)

Paola Rodriguez — Emerald (S14)

Akeem Samuels — Emerald (F14)

Andrew Sanchez — Ruby (S14)

Jesus Silvestre Bonilla — Ruby (F14)

Aisha Sooknanan — Ruby (S14)

Juana Subi — Ruby (F14)

Mercy Vega — Emerald (S14)

Kintura Williams — Ruby (F14)

## The History of Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society

Founded at West Chester University of Pennsylvania in 1989 by Dr. Elbert M. Saddler, Chi Alpha Epsilon (XAE) was formed to recognize the academic achievements of students admitted to colleges and universities through Opportunity Programs. Dr. Saddler has been a counseling psychologist for Westchester University since 1985. XAE's goals are to promote continued high academic standards, to foster increased communication among its members, and to honor academic excellence. There are over 125 chapters and colonies within this organization.

The State University of New York at New Paltz Beta Omicron Chapter was chartered on May 9, 2003 with a record-breaking induction of 72 members (alumni & honorary members included). This was the largest chartering induction within XAE's history. Our chapter also bears the distinction of having one of the largest undergraduate memberships in the country.

## About our Keynote Speaker...

Donald P. Christian was appointed the eighth President at the State University of New York at New Paltz in June 2011 after serving as Interim President during 2010–11. Previously, Christian served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at the College in 2009–2010.

Prior to his arrival at New Paltz, Christian was dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire from 2004–2009, where he led campus, state, and national efforts to advance understanding of the value of a liberal education in a knowledge-driven 21st century society; strengthened student-faculty research programs; and supported projects to enhance equity and diversity on the campus. Previously (1997–2004), he was associate dean for the Biological Sciences at the University of Montana. Christian held many positions at the University of Minnesota-Duluth (1978–1997), including chair of Biology and director of graduate studies in the Biology Graduate Program. Christian has held appointments as professor of biology at all institutions he has served, including SUNY New Paltz. Christian is a member of the board of directors of Central Hudson Gas and Electric, Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, and the Mohonk Preserve. His other memberships include the Advisory Council of Historic Huguenot Street, the

President's Trust of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, and he is a consultant with Mohonk Consultations.

Recipient of numerous research grants and contracts, Christian has published widely in journals such as *Thought & Action*; *Journal of Wildlife Management*; *Wildlife Biology*; *Wetlands*; *Biomass & Bioenergy*; *Conservation Biology*; and the *Journal of Mammalogy*, and has presented his work at numerous conferences and other institutions. Christian earned a B.S. in Wildlife Biology, and M.S. and Ph.D. in Zoology from Michigan State University.

Christian and his wife Sandy, a psychotherapist, reside in New Paltz and have two children.

## Acknowledgements

EOP & the Beta Omicron Chapter of XAE National Honor Society would like to thank the following offices and individuals for their assistance in making this event a success: Office of Student Activities & Union Services; Nancy Mason & the Financial Aid Office; Linda Orth and the Office of Student Accounts; Jim Lyons, Jeff Baker and Printing Services staff; Inez Elkins, and Sodexo Campus Services; Maritza Lewis and all of our EOP clerical staff; and Honorable Rendesia M. Scott (Beta Omicron's Chartering Advisor).

# First World Reunion Weekend 2015







Left to right: Siuyim Auyeung, Jessica Purcell, Christine N. Featherston, Antonio Bonilla, Rita Celariste, Clare Kelly-Barra, Ivelisse Tuttle, Robert Hancock, Courtney McDermott

*Once EOP, Always EOP*

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