State University of New York at New Paltz

Spring 2011 Volume 2, Issue 1





Message from the Director

Hello EOP Students, Alumni, and Supporters-

We are reflecting on the 2010-2011 academic year and relieved to see the end of a very long winter. We have a diverse new First Year class of 125 students chosen from the nearly 4000 applicants for this year. In this issue of the newsletter you will get a sampling of the many ways our students and program shine, but there are so many we cannot highlight them all! Our students are achieving across the board. For example, our continuing students Average Cumulative GPA is nearly a 3.0 and we are proud of <u>all</u> our students who work hard each semester to raise their GPA.

While our students strive in their academic development, the country and state continue to struggle economically, and our

program has not escaped unaffected. The economic climate has placed some restrictions on our numbers, this means the current students are benefiting from our program when many, many others are being cut put from Higher Education completely. We have encouraged our EOP students to take a hard look at the opportunity given to them and take advantage of the programs and resources we provide. Students need to take responsibility both on campus and at the state level by advocating for Opportunity Programs. Letting the legislature know how important education is would be an important place to start. The reality of our educational system is that Opportunity Programs such as ours ARE still needed to balance out the academic inequities across the state and country.



Antonio Bonilla, Director

We are looking forward to seeing our Alumni at the upcoming Alumni weekend September 23rd-25th of 2011. We had the highest attended alumni events the last two years and I know this year will be even better, so please mark down the date and plan on joining us. We will have food, music, and fun here waiting for you!

Antonio Bonilla, Director

Educational Opportunity Program

State University of New York at New Paltz

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See your EOP Advisor for:

- Adding or dropping classes
- Time Management ideas
- Mid-term evaluations
- Graduation Plans
- Internship Ideas
- Study Abroad Plans
- Advanced Registration Workshops

SPRING 2011: We were there...were you?

Congratulations!!

First World Graduation was on

proud to see so many strong and

and on the e-board. Great work!!

and we loved seeing all the family

students throughout their journey

here.

Registration for Fall 2011:

Registration was difficult for some first and second year stu-Saturday May 21st, 2011 and we were dents due to limited availability. REMEMBER: often departfocused EOP students in the line-up ments open up new sections over the summer! Stay in touch Our EOP Graduation Reception on with your EOP Advisor and Sunday May 22nd was a huge success they can help you find possible and friends who have supported our openings.

IMPORTANT!!

EOP Advisors held their Advance Registration Workshops according to their schedules. If you missed out contact your advisor!

Graduating students: Don't forget to check with your advisors to verify your graduation status.



"Travel! Go out and see what the world has to offer!"

-Clare Kelly Barra

Study Abroad - Clare Kelly Barra

Spring Gillman Scholarships:			
Alexander Depinto	Ēgypt		
Lana Solomon	Venezuela		
Perry Taylor	Egypt		
International Programs EOP Trav-			
<u>el Grant:</u>			
Laura Dardignac	France		
Melissa Saavedra Ecuador			
Jeffery Cifentes	Japan		
New Study Abroad Scholarship			
Opportunities!			

SUNY students interested in studving abroad in South Korea for the Fall 2011 semester. SUNY Oneonta is still accepting applications for the Chungnam National University Exchange program in

the city of Daejeon. CNU is a large research institution in one of the hubs of research and development in Korea and offers a selection of English-language courses in language, culture, and a variety of social science and science/

http://www.oneonta.edu/ academics/inted/chungnam2.asp

Study Abroad in Turkey Scholarships for Minority Students have 100 scholarships available for

For more information access their website: http://www.tcamerica.org/scholarship/ scholar_minority.html

Foundation For Global Scholars -Four foundation scholarships available:

Check out the website for more information:

http:// foundation for globalscholars.org/Scholarship-Details.htm

Helpful Study Abroad Scholarship Tips:

* Give concrete examples

* Apply only if you are eligible

* Complete the application in full and follow directions

* Neatness counts

* Proofread your application

* Have your EOP advisor or the study abroad liaison look over your application

* Watch all deadlines.

* Make sure your application gets where it needs to go

Source: Global Scholars Program.

A Student Abroad 2010: Britania Mallol



Studying abroad was a personal growing and learning experience. I remember packing and feeling anxious about studying in London, and the feeling persisted during my 7 hour long flight. At some point I realized that if I did not study in London I would later look back and feel like I let fear control and prevent me from experiencing new opportunities. I had to learn how to be on my own while adapting to a new environment, school, and transportation system. The vast distance from anything familiar is enough

to make one feel vulnerable and out of place. At first, exploring London felt overwhelming, but I eventually adjusted to my surroundings to the extent of viewing my host country as a second home. The most difficult part of assimilating into a new culture was doing so without the physical support of family or friends. Having left home for college was a stepping stone towards independence, but studying abroad has made me a truly independent individual. I attribute this to being thousands of miles away from anything or anyone familiar and having to adapt. Moreover, I am now aware of how little I know about foreign countries and how much of the world I have

not seen. I used to love the idea of traveling but was always too afraid of getting lost and the unknown. However, I have realized that getting lost is part of the experience and that you eventually find your way. In a sense studying abroad has made me a bit fearless and outgoing. Furthermore, I have learned that although everyone is from a different region or culture it does not prevent one from relating to others. Regardless of the various differing backgrounds, all of us share the common thread of humanity. For this reason, I believe being a world citizen means to be able to adapt and converse with people from all parts of the globe.

-Britania Mallol, Spring 2011

EOP First Year Students Found APU

Many of us arrived at SUNY New Paltz hoping to meet, work, and even befriend an array of people from all walks of life. Without realizing it, we have all surrounded ourselves with people who are similar to us through uncontrollable factors, such as ethnic backgrounds, social class/ financial status, and even religious and cultural back-

"We formed APU

as a means to

student body

through events

and programs

everyone on

-Kevin Cavanna

unite the

targeted

towards

campus."

grounds. We have become complacent with the fact that we can go about our college careers without really having to interact with anyone who differs from our own views and lifestyles. That is where the issue manifests, because we do not have to step out of our comfort zones. we choose not to. Be-

fore even the completion of our first semester at New Paltz, a handful of first year students, as well as myself, discussed this issue and agreed that something must be done to terminate this practice.

Each of us detailed our own experiences and how we have done the same without realizing it. We discussed the fact we would spend most of our time with the same people, be it during class time, sitting together eating lunch, on our free time, or even when attending events. Unlike the majority of the student body, we refused to remain complacent, and agreed that something must be done to meliorate this situation. Together we formed All People United, most popularly known as APU.

We formed APU as a means to unite the student body through events and programs targeted towards everyone on campus. Our

goal is to assure that students find the aspects of themselves that make them unique individuals and embrace it, while at the same time learn to interact, work, and even befriend those who are different from them. We aim to also unite student clubs, departments, and organizations in order assure the progression, lifespan, and student interest of each individual group.

SUNY New Paltz promises students the opportunity to make a difference on cam-

tunity to make a difference on campus by contributing their influences to the student body. Here, students are given the chance to find and develop their leadership skills that will be undoubtedly useful in the world outside of campus. We in APU want the students of New Paltz to know this and realize their potential to make a change on campus. We hope to inspire, work, and collaborate with anyone who wishes to propagate the idea of change, unity, and overall improvement of campus life amongst the student body. We hope to not only influence students to embrace these ideas, but also take action to make such changes manifest. APU aspires to empower the student body and make New Paltz a home for all.

Our mission statement is as follows:

As first year college students attending SUNY New Paltz, we have come to the realization that even though the ideals of unity, community, and diversity are popularly discussed the necessary actions to make these ideals manifest are not being taken. New Paltz is our new home, we live here, we learn here, and we grow here. Even though we are a "community" each of us as individuals seclude ourselves within our own comfort zones through cliques and specific groups of friends, alienating ourselves from everything else around us. We within APU would like to take action against this common practice that we as students and people do subconsciously. We aspire and aim to terminate these divisions, to unite the student body by executing programs that appeal to the entire student body, aimed to embrace our differences while at the same time revel in our unity and the fact that this campus is so diverse. We plan to inspire ideas as well as action that will assist us as individuals to break free of our comfort zones, with the hopes to really unite the community despite ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, nationality and any other classes we divide ourselves into.

BY Kevin Cavanna

Chi Alpha Epsilon Spring 2011 Induction Ceremony



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.

XAE Spring 2011 Inductees

Honorary inductee John Agnelli is currently the Dean of Campus Life at New York Institute of Technology. He holds an AAS in Restaurant Management from SUNY Delhi; a BBA in Hospitality Management from SUNY Oneonta; and an MPS in Humanistic Multicultural Education & Diversity from SUNY New Paltz.

In his current position as Dean of Campus Life at NYIT, he has performed complete departmental S.W.A.T. analysis on all departments he supervises. He



XAE E-Board (left-right): Honorary Inductee John Agnelli, Tanaisha Semidey, Courtney Cavanaugh, Britania Mallol, Jinnele Manohor, Joseph, Nussbaum



XAE Spring 2011 Inductees

has drafted a two year strategic plan that reflects the opportunities for development outlined in the Middle States Commission on Higher Education report while embracing the theme of social justice.

While at Pace, he provided leadership, vision and enthusiasm in building a team of devoted student affairs professionals in the Center of Student Development & Campus Activities. Together they developed a successful Setters Day Convocational event, Center for Peace & Social Justice, two-night student and family summer orientation programs, a Center for Spiritual Development, a student government led by, and elected by, students and a weekly collegiate level newspaper.

2011 Inductees Beta Omicron Chapter of Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society

John Agnelli*	Jin Sun Han	Natasha Porter	Petra Vega
Mili Ali	Jeannette Harris	Farshid Rahman	Alba Vera
Jaleesa Baulkman	Olivia Hazel	Daniela Rodriguez	Levi Verges
Shaquana Bell	Meghan Healy	Stacey Rymer	Dashawn Wilson
Jayson Brito	Elsa Ho	Sasha Santiago	Jada Young
Christopher Carlson	Youssouf Kouyo	Angela Santiamagro	Boguslawa Zebzda
Sheira Castillo	Liset León	Jacqueline Schiehsl	Jinru Zhang
Michelle Chavarria	Shuping Liu	Chantel Smith	-
Jennifer Chen	Emma Lynch	Millicent Soto	
Zhicheng Chen	Ismairy Muñoz	Yuka Suzuka	Undergraduate selection
Veraluz De León	Kenny Pan	Yu Nan Tang	criteria: Achievement of a 3.0 cumulative GPA for
Kaychell English	Erica Peña	María Tapia	greater for 2 consecutive
Keishla Feliciano	Cindy Pincay	Indira Tavarez	semesters of full-time course work.
Cherice Gude	Sandy Pincay	Drewnesha Thompson	

2011 Honorable Upgrades

Michael Barootjian – Ruby (S 10) Courtney Cavanaugh – Ruby (S 10) Caitlyn D'Apice – Diamond (F 10) Alexander Depinto – Diamond (F 10) Idelci Estrella – Emerald (SU 10) Edgar Garcia – Ruby (F 10) Wenqi Hou – Ruby (F 10) Maria Jayne – Ruby (S 10) Ke Jiang – Ruby (S 10) Dana Koresh – Ruby (F 10) Chelsea Ladue – Ruby (S 10) Daries Lindsay – Ruby (S 10) Jinnele Manohar – Ruby (S 10) Joseph Nussbaum – Ruby (S 10) Karina Pascual – Ruby (S 10) Thomás Pérez – Emerald (S 10) Kimberly Quiñones – Ruby(F10) Cassondra Roberts – Ruby (S10) Shahara Roberts – Emerald (S 10) Francis Rodriguez – Emerald (S 10) Tanaisha Semidey – Emerald (S 10) Stephanie Sierra – Diamond (S 10) Cyndhia Silverio – Ruby (S 10) Crysbel Tejada – Ruby (S 10) Nekaiya Trotman – Emerald (S 10) Jankaira Vargas – Ruby (S 10) Katherine Vidal – Ruby (S 10) Joshua Washington – Ruby (S 10)

Pin Upgrade Criteria

Alumni — Student Connections



EOP Advisor Robert Hancock

Dear EOP Students,

I am working on continuing our alumni-student opportunities, and excited about the most recent opportunity for a select few students to be mentored by one of EOP's very successful Alums, who works in the Music Management and Production industry. Roberto Noriega was a guest speaker for one of the workshops at the first EOP Conference on May 1st 2010. Roberto Noriega is the CEO of Media Center Entertainment Group and has produced platinum albums with the late Michael Jackson and Julio Iglesias among other accolades. Since Roberto lives and works in L.A. the majority of the communication would be through Linkedin email and when possible Skype. However Roberto was in NYC in September 2010 and an in person meeting was scheduled during his time in New York. Roberto is a busy professional who is willing to take time out of his schedule to offer valuable career advice and personal development tips. Students who attended the EOP Conference on May 1st 2010 were the first considered for this opportunity.

EOP FaceBook Fan Page added to our many ways to show "Once EOP, Always EOP"!



EOP Alumnus exchanging contact information at the most recent Alumni Dinner

In addition to the EOP Web Page and the Alumni and Alumni/ Student Network groups on Linkedin, there is now an EOP Fan Page on facebook. The EOP Fan Page has been established to inform current students, Alums, friends of the program, and potential incoming students about events that EOP sponsors. It is also a great place to view pictures of these events and EOPers in action. Recently uploaded are pictures from graduation and the Chi Alpha Epsilon Induction Ceremony. You can access the link to the EOP Fan Page off of the EOP Web Page.





2010–2011 EOP Students are offered the Student Initiative Program as a way to learn new information, provide opportunity for personal growth, and have fun with other EOP students and staff.

Program

The Fall Semester will offer thirteen initiatives for the students to choose from.



EOP Students and Advisors playing Volleyball at Tony's Tournament

Fall 2010 Initiatives

Tony's Tournament Huguenot Tour Resume Building Workshop Plagiarism Health & Sexuality HESC Shawangunk Rail Trail Study Abroad The Pact Documentary Graduate School What is Diversity? EOP Alumni Career Panel Nutrition & Wellness





EOP students and Advisors getting Ice Cream

Spring 2011 Initiatives

Spring Social FASFA and Budgeting your Money Study Abroad How to Find and Apply for Scholarships Dating and Relationships

EOP Week Spring 2011

Celebrate the EOP Family! Lots of fun and food !!

How to Change the World

Study Night

Scrapbooking

Interview Skills and Networking

Study Night

Chi Alpha Epsilon Induction

EOP Students and Advisors learning about historical Huguenot Street

Fall 2010 Alumni Dinner... Our EOP Family Meal

In the Fall of 2010 on October 16th we held our Alumni Weekend Event in the College Terrace. A wonderful sit-down family meal for our EOP Alums and staff, and a raffle to raise money for the EOP Fund and an Award Ceremony. Our Alumni weekend events the last two years have been the highest attend of alumni weekend and we are proud to have such a strong connection with our Alums. Several local businesses donated gift certificates and prizes totaling over \$2000.00 for the raffle. All the proceeds from the raffle went to the EOP Fund which helps provide support and services to our current students and aids with programmatic development.

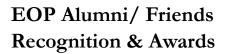
Several Alumni were honored for their continued support of our



Director Antonio Bonilla '87/ '95g addressing the attendees

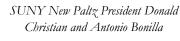
program during the award ceremony.

Alumni Weekend 2011 will be in September, and we are already planning to provide another fun evening! Check the website and save the date!



These EOP Alumni and friends of the program are being recognized for their continued support of EOP. They have maintained contact with their EOP family and given back in a variety of ways; including mentorship, discussion panels, funding, and presenting; all to support the next generation of EOP students.

> Anilsa Nunez '95 Acuati Abreu '03 Franky Perez '90 John Agnelli '02 Jubilee Mosley '03 Carl Pabone '94/ '97g Rossie Cardwell '92







The alumni dinner was a family-friendly event! (Atabey Abreu and family)

"EOP at SUNY New Paltz gave me all the support and guidance I needed to achieve my goals"

-Raquel Bonilla, '90/'97



Alumni Who Make a Difference!

Raquel Bonilla '90/ '97g and Ricaulte Pena '92



EOP Honors (From left to right) Carl Pabone '94/ '97g, Franky Perez '90, Acuati Abreu '03, Anilsa Nunez '95, John Agnelli '02, and Rossie Cardwell '92



Director Bonilla and his Raffle helpers



Elsa Batista '00/ '03g , Juliet Coxum '92, Johnny Coxum



Madeline Enriquez '07, Ivelisse Tuttle, Acuati Abreu '03, Katherine Rivera '06



Franky Perez '90, Ricaulte Pena '92, Carl Pabone '94/ '97g, Roberto Noriega '84



Elsa Batista '00/'03g and Ivelisse Tuttle



Director Bonilla and Christine Featherston, EOP Advisor, handing out raffle prizes



Ariel Cruz '97, Kendra Cortez '99, Victor Cairo '00, Elsa Batista "00/'03g

Volume 2, Issue 1

Students of EOP at **SUNY New Paltz are at** the forefront of achievement and leadership on campus

"You have to go away to college"- One of the most common heard things around the neighborhood in Harlem, New York. It was 4 years ago that I graduated from Central Park East High School, a school in the heart of Harlem, at the top of my class. That day was one of the most beautiful days of my life, seeing as how I always wanted to explore the outer "walls" of Harlem, and see what existed, and this was my big chance...

In the city, to be honest, it was rather difficult taking advantage of everything, because not a lot was offered to begin with. As a student, I didn't really have the best access to all of the books and technology that many students today take for granted. I always knew I wanted something more, as I walked the halls of my high school. In my mind, I really wanted certain things, so I fought for them through commitment and hard work. Through that hard work, It has opened new realms to once and a life time moments, such as walking inside the walls of the white house, becoming one of the four top essay writers in the New York State, and moving on to the next big step!...College.

I took an early liking to writing, and along my high school journey, I made sure I took advantage of what was given to me, such as internships,

college courses and leadership roles that could benefit me in the long run. As I made my transitions from grade to grade, I began to surround myself with others that possessed the same dedicated qualities as I did. In some exciting way, we created an unspoken "pact," which oddly happens again in my college career, which we'll get into later (J). But, one question came to mind, "How was I going to get into college?"

Where I Stand

- By Felipe Bonilla

I knew I had the potential to make it in college, but I really didn't have the money, and I knew that it was going to be really expensive. This is when I found out about EOP, (Educational Opportunity Program) and this is where the whole ball game changed. For those of you who don't know, (EOP) by definition, provides academic and financial support to New York State residents with a high school diploma or its equivalent, and students who do not meet general admission criteria, but have the academic potential to earn a college degree.

It's hard picking a place that you'll spend the next four years of your life, especially knowing that the college you choose can ultimately change your future, but in the months leading up to graduation, New Paltz kept popping up, as I found out some of my very own

family members, teachers, and even mentors, had gone there themselves. After I had been accepted into EOP, I knew for some reason, this was a choice that was going to change everything...and it did.

Felipe Bonilla

The car ride up was but the contrary. It was as if my whole life was packed in the back of a car, yet, at the same time, I was leaving my whole life behind. How this is possible, I have no clue, but it was definitely scary. It was a rainy day, and all that lied in front of the car was a road of trees, clouds, and a three day orientation in a brand new place. As the orientation began, I was a miserable wreck, trapped in a nervous shell, questioning everything, as I was first introduced to "orientation leaders." Though, as the final days ended, it was as if my whole world was turned upside down, and I couldn't see myself leaving from this place. Over the course of the three days, these students, known as orientation leaders, changed my whole outlook on the college experience, and I knew that I wanted to be standing right where they were, helping students break out of their own shells.

As my first year began, I roomed in a triple, which scared the heck out of me. Not only was I going to have to get used to living with an-



...Felipe Bonilla: Where I Stand...

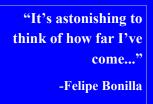
other person, but two at the same time. Plus, I had to get used to living on my own, and juggle five courses. How was I going to survive? I had no idea, and this is where the new pact came into my life. Being a part of EOP, we are given our very own advisors, and in the mandatory class, which they provide, my advisor created a "pact" in which we had to follow in our first semester. Basically, it states that we would make it onto "Deans List," and help one another, if we happen to feel lost in this new world of learning. This was a promise I knew I would strive to keep, and by the end of my first semester, I not only kept it, but walked away feeling stronger and more confident.

In my second semester, I continued to follow the pact, in efforts of being the best that I could be. One day, during the my second semester, I opened up my mailbox, and sitting there was a green sheet of paper that read, "Felipe!...I think you are Orientation Leader material!....Come to one of our interest meetings." As soon as I got the invitation, I darted to the meeting, and there stood a group of inspired students that wanted to do the same thing as I did. The orientation leaders spoke about their experiences, and how close they had become since the beginning, and once I heard about their wonderful interactions with students, it only solidified the fact that I wanted to take part in a journey just like this.

If you really want something, go for it...so I did. This is a term that we hear every day, and ironically, it's true in every aspect. This was something that I really wanted, so I went to the group processing, all of the interviews, and pushed for it because I knew I wanted to make a difference. I could still remember the day that I ripped open the letter that held the contents of my future. It was as if I was ripping open the letter for my admission to New Paltz all over again! I glanced at the p a p e r, and there read, "Congratulations on becoming an Orientation Leader." My first year had finished, but my new journey as an Orientation Leader had just begun.

That summer, I can clearly say that becoming an orientation leader changed my life in so many ways. I learned new things about myself, and accomplished tasks that I never thought I would do. I didn't gain friends...I gained a new family. I took part in lip syncs, helped people put together their own schedules, and with the help of my new orientation family, helped calm the nerves of over 1300 students. It's actually kind of funny when I think about it. I came into this trying to help others, and in the end, those people landed up helping me become the person that I am today. As a result of becoming an orientation leader, I now had the opportunity to mentor students in their first year. In addition, from the Orientation job, I got noticed for my efforts, and was hired as the new Program Assistant in my hall, and later a Resident Assistant in two different halls.

It's astonishing to think about how far I have come, but in all honesty, it is just the beginning. I'm a senior now, and in just that one year, I was given the opportunity to change the lives of hundreds. In my later years, I then worked as an EOP liaison for the next



two summers, and got to help and focus on other EOP students. I guess in the end, it boils down to how much you really want something. Today, I'm interested in majoring in Speech Pathology, and again, this is something I really want. Now, I'm graduating in a few weeks (how did that happen?). Perhaps in a few years I'll come back and do an update J, but I can tell you this...I'm not going to stop until I reach the "top", and the "top" is endless...

Felipe Bonilla (in red) with his Orientation group Summer 2007



Educational Opportunity Program

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"Once EOP ... Always EOP"



Questions, Comments, or submissions for the EOP Newsletter can be addressed to:

Jessica Purcell,

EOP Advisor and

Newsletter Editor

purcellj@newpaltz.edu

For more information about our program please visit www.newpaltz.edu/eop

EOP Staff...Here for YOU!!

Fall 2011 Dates to Remember:

August 24: Freshman Convocation

August 25: OFFICIAL FIRST DAY OF CLASSES

August 25 - August 31: Add/Drop

First-semester freshmen and firstsemester transfers do not have web access to change their schedules. They must have advisor's signature and must process add/drop during Records & Registration business hours.

September 1: Graduation Applications for December 2011 due in the Rec/Reg Office (Students participate in May 2012 ceremony).

September 1 - September 7: Registration or Add/Drop: Add requires electronic permission from the instructor (no fee charged).

September 5: Labor Day - No Classes

September 8 - November 4: Course Withdrawal Period. A student may withdrawal from a course that started at the beginning of the semester. (\$20 fee) September 8 - September 14: Late Registration/Add: First time registration(\$40 late registration fee) or add a course (\$20 course change fee) with electronic permission from the instructor & department chair (contact department). All course schedule changes must be done in Records and Registration (HAB 19).

September 14: FALL 2011 REGIS-TRATION ENDS