From the Director

August has arrived already. In the office, we are making plans for a new class of students and a new school year. But while every summer brings change, this year, we are preparing for extraordinary changes. First, and foremost, the size of our EOP Roster is growing. For the past six years, we have had funding to serve 133 students per year. This year, we are funded for 143 and that number will grow to 153 for 2016-2017. In addition, beginning this fall, we will see an infusion of campus support for our program and students. This will benefit our students in a variety of ways. For example, the Winter and Summer Academies, which for the last three years have been funded by a special state grant, will now be more permanently funded by SUNY Potsdam.

At our end-of-the-month, All-EOP meeting, I will describe everything more fully.

Another welcome change that I must trumpet is the extraordinary performance of our amazing students. This spring, our students broke their previous performance marks, earning a collective 2.83 semester grade point average and an average of nearly 14 credit hours each. Moreover, EOP students are taking the place among the finest students at our venerable college, as evidenced by 39 students earning a spot on the Dean’s List or President’s List this past term. Our students’ efforts are inspirational and we, their staff members, are blessed to support them.

~Shaili
1. Why did you choose to go to college? It was never a choice. I always knew that I wanted to go. My parents instilled in my brother, sisters and myself, the importance of education. They had the vision and foresight to know that it would lead to a better life.

2. Why did you choose SUNY Potsdam? I didn’t know anything about SUNY Potsdam and I had already settled on attending Brooklyn College because of my financial situation. A guidance counselor at my high school (Sheepshead Bay) suggested a list of colleges (Potsdam was one of those colleges). I did apply and promptly forgot all about it. So in early August 1971, to my great surprise, I received a call that I was accepted to SUNY Potsdam. I was elated and sad at the same time, because I knew I couldn’t afford it. The next week, I received a second call and this time I was told that I was offered a full scholarship under the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). The decision was easy. It was bye, bye Brooklyn College, here I come SUNY Potsdam. The rest is history.

3. What was your major and minor (if applicable) at SUNY Potsdam? My intention was to be a Biology major because I wanted to go to Med school, but I ended up with a degree in Interdisciplinary Natural Science with the concentration in Biology.

4. What is your current work position? I am a systems engineer for Lockheed Martin.

5. Did you have any fears about graduating? If so, what were they? No. I wouldn't say I had fears about graduating. I was just unsure of what I would do with the degree I had just earned. I didn't know what resources were available from the career office. I didn't have a job lined up and I didn't know where to begin looking. I returned to New York City and after six months in a temp job as an analyst for Bankers' Trust, I decided to join the Air Force. That was a turning point and it solved two problems -- a permanent job and a way to finance my continued education.

6. In what extracurricular activities did you participate? I played collegiate basketball. I was a walk on and played all four years (1971-1975). I was also a member of the Afro-American Society and I volunteered to assist with the new student’s orientation program for two fall seasons.

7. What leadership roles did you hold? I was co-captain of the Women's Basketball Team from 1973-1975.

8. What was a lesson you learned while you attended SUNY Potsdam? The most important lesson I took was: don't let the label "minority" define you or define what you can or cannot do. There was very little diversity when I attended SUNY Potsdam, and once it became known that you were part of EOP, there were assumptions made about who you were. That forced most EOP students to stick together. There was strength in numbers and you didn't feel so alone or isolated.

9. Please provide words of advice to current EOP students based off your experience. Seek out a mentor or advisor to help guide you along the way and don't be afraid to ask for help from their professors--don't let their pride get in the way. A mentor will become very important throughout their future careers. As for post-graduation, I would say to the EOP students, if you want to be happy, you have to love what you do, whatever you choose.

10. Please provide any additional information that you feel comfortable sharing. I am a 1991 inductee into the Potsdam Sports Hall of Fame. I served faithfully for 20 years in the United States Air Force and had the wonderful opportunity to work in three different subject areas (medical, meteorology, and Military-Politics). I was also able to travel to places such as Albania, Belarus, Poland, and Hungary, and I even made it to Potsdam, Germany (that was way cool). My biggest accomplishment has been to establish a scholarship in honor of my parents. I am a proud beneficiary of the Educational Opportunity Program and I couldn't be more grateful to all those who were instrumental in the administration and execution of the program. It changed the course of my life.
Spring 15 President’s List

- Ricardo Bauzile
- Tammy Bush
- Mariam Cisse
- Shantel Clothier
- Jaylin Cole
- Alberto Correa
- Sandra Cruz
- Jamal Daniels
- Melissa Downing
- Ricardo Espinal
- Melisa Fernandez
- Jordan Garcia
- LaNeise Goggans
- Zhuiyi Lin
- Katthia Loriston
- Samuel Lucas
- Calixto Mariano
- Joseph Muir
- George Nunez
- Olivia Sheppard
- Lina Sinisterra
- Felicia Thompson
- Kedwin Ventura

Spring 2015 Dean’s List

- Rosemary Alubankudi
- Ajanee Biggs
- Zachary Bower
- Steven Dominguez
- Jennifer Fernandez
- Jordan Garcia
- LaNeise Goggans
- Zhuiyi Lin
- Katthia Loriston
- Samuel Lucas
- Calixto Mariano
- Joseph Muir
- George Nunez
- Olivia Sheppard
- Lina Sinisterra
- Felicia Thompson
- Kedwin Ventura
- Richard "Rich" Charters

Spring 15 President’s List

Congratulations!!

One Last Thing

-Alexis Nuffer

A little over nine years ago, I sat in the band room at my high school warming up for my last ever concert performance. It was a bittersweet moment, recognizing that the end of high school was nearing. On this night, our band instructor, Mr. Woolschlager, would always give the same three pieces of advice to the graduating class before we took the stage. Though I had heard this same speech in the three years previous, they never really held any meaning until this particular warm, June evening. Now as I sit in my nearly empty office getting ready to embark on my next journey in life, I want to leave you with these three lessons in hopes they will challenge you here at Potsdam and in your lives moving forward.

The grass isn’t greener on the other side, it’s greener where you water it.

People are usually confused when they first encounter this statement, but it holds a lot of truth. If you think about planting a garden, it is not enough to simply plant the seeds and expect they will grow without any nurture or care. You must continually water and sow your crop in order to produce something worthwhile. In the same respect, in life you will be presented with a number of opportunities, but it is not enough to simply say "yes" when they come along. The real test of your character is what you will do with those opportunities and how you will grow as a result.

Surround yourself with good people.

You will meet a number of people in your life at every stage who will teach you something about the world and about yourself. Similar to the garden analogy, you want to surround yourself with those people who will help you grow and flourish without detracting you from your life goals. The people you will create lifelong friendships with are those individuals who will not only celebrate your accomplishments, but who will also hold you accountable when you make a mistake while encouraging you to always embrace good character qualities above personal gain. One of the most difficult things to do in life is to cut ourselves off from those people who are not fruitful to our well-being, but life is so much more enjoyable with a select group of friends than a handful of acquaintances.

Make everywhere you go and every person you come in contact with better.

Many of you may have heard me say over the past few years that wherever you go, always try to leave a place better than you found it. Part of growing and maturing is not only recognizing our own strengths and talents, but encouraging others to do the same. Learning from your mistakes and admitting when you are wrong is equally important. Use those important educational moments to make the world a better place, not to tear someone down and make them bitter. Get involved in your community, wherever that may be, and make those important connections that will help you prosper.

My life has been forever changed by working with the Educational Opportunity Program at SUNY Potsdam, and certainly for the better. Thank you for embracing me as part of your community! I will miss everyone very much, and I hope life brings you all kinds of success and happiness.

Dates to Remember

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
<td>Monday, August 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Day to Add/Drop</td>
<td>Friday, September 4</td>
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<td>Early Alerts Due</td>
<td>Friday, October 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Recess Begins</td>
<td>Friday, October 9 (10 p.m.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classes Resume</td>
<td>Wednesday, October 14 (8 a.m.)</td>
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<td>Last Day to Withdraw</td>
<td>Friday, November 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Day to Elect S/U</td>
<td>Friday, November 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Recess Begins</td>
<td>Tuesday, November 24 (10 p.m.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classes Resume</td>
<td>Monday, November 30 (8 a.m.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Day of Classes</td>
<td>Friday, December 11</td>
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<td>Final Examinations</td>
<td>Mon.-Fri., December 14-18</td>
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Potsdam Community

Educational Opportunity Program
EOP Events Update!

During the Spring 2015 semester, we offered a grand total of 31 academic and community events with 23 of those events planned directly by the EOP office. For some reason, we had a stronger turnout at our events towards the end of the semester (hmmm, I wonder why that was?! Pizza and wings? Or trying to squeak in some events at the end of the semester? Or both? 😊).

The events with the most attendance included the Awards Ceremony, Financial Literacy Workshop, MLK Marade, Cosmic Bowling, Internships Workshop, and BINGO! We also had a great day trip to Burlington, VT, where a small group went to the Echo Aquarium and Science Center, biked along the waterfront, and walked the pedestrian mall on Church Street.

Our attendance winner was Lina Sinisterra, who attended 12 events! Our runner up with six events was Holanda Hernandez! And then Angelo Bellerice, Ricardo Espinal, Amy Gaye, Salim Magane, Adelin Pimenel, and Nelson Torres attended five events. A huge congratulations for your attendance as it shows your dedication and commitment to the EOP program and your peers. You are role models!

Look out for educational and fun events this coming fall. Tentative events include workshops on the basics of citations in research papers and major/career exploration, as well as game nights including BINGO (back by popular demand!). We hope to plan another off campus event(s), such as hiking and/or horseback riding. So, stay tuned!

~Jodi
**The first five students who bring a correctly completed puzzle to the EOP office will get a “welcome back packet.”**
Summer Academy 2015 featured 25 students, including three new transfer students. Students chose either Modern U.S. History with Dr. German and Natalia Veinott or Statistics with Dr. Bugg. In addition, all students enrolled in a fitness course, including either Jogging and Conditioning with Ken McLaughlin or a broader PE Activities course with Intramurals Director Bill Beauchamp. All students participated in two hours of tutoring each afternoon. After dinner, PAs Samuel Lucas, Jamaul Daniels, and Kathia Loriston led our residential effort.

Their effort was intense, but once again, our students shined! In just three weeks, each and every student earned 4 credit hours toward graduation, many earned needed Gen Ed credits in a small, supportive environment, and nearly every student improved his/her grade point average.

Congratulations to this hard-working and spirited group! You found a “second wind” to finish an extended school year in style!
Photos, Photos, Photos