



EOP Newsletter



The Educational Opportunity Program has been hosted by SUNY Potsdam since 1970 and has assisted thousands of students with their educational goals. While the EOP programs throughout NYS share a common philosophical base, each is operated differently. At Potsdam all of our student services are designed with one thing in common – helping you to succeed, through personalized attention and a strong sense of community

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Spring 2010 Book Cards

Just a heads-up to everyone- given the timing of the Bear Bus return (Sunday evening, the 24th), there will be NO ALL-EOP Meeting to begin the Spring Semester. Please stop by the office upon your return to set a counselor appointment, update your contact information, and collect your \$600 Book Card. Book cards will be available Wednesday, January 20th.

Books go on sale to EOP students and early arrivals starting Thursday, January 21st from 12-4pm and Friday, January 22nd from 10-2 pm, Saturday January 23rd and Sunday January 24th from 1-5 pm. The Book Store will be open Monday through Thursday 8 am-7 pm and Friday 8am -4:30 pm.



From the Director

As we approach our 40th Anniversary at Potsdam, our program continues to gain momentum. This past fall featured the continuation of student groups such as BLACK, Women's Group, and the Student Advisory Board. In addition, new staff member Kade Olasokan implemented an ambitious community event schedule while building toward a mentoring and admissions effort. A healthy number of students again made the honor roll, but special recognition must be given to a stellar freshmen class, which may soon have as many as 20% of its members in the Honors Program! Quite simply, there are too many changes to talk about. We welcome your return and the great energy you will bring with you. Welcome too to our new secretary Charity Shoen! Stop by and help us "show her the ropes".

-Shaili





Spotlight on EOP Alumni

“Where are they now?”

An Interview with Xi Guevara, Class of 2004

By Nancy Brown



President's List

*Andrea Ashley
Ashley Baylor
Michael Brockway
Nicholas Hunt
Christopher Jenne
Jason Matice
Charlotte Phippen
Durrriya Pierce
Lucia Rojas
Nichole Webber*

Dean's List

*Tanasia Betts
Danielle Currier
Amanda Klosner
Juan Olivo
Patricia Portes
Elizabeth Pulsifer
Alishia Russell
Maridee Rutledge
Caitlin Scavone
Itzel Simon*

So, Xi, what was your best memory at Potsdam?

My best memory at SUNY Potsdam was choreographing and dancing in the Dunn Dance studio for 5 years. Although I wasn't a dance major, the Student Choreographer's concert was always a way for me to showcase my dance skills and also show how people artistically express themselves in New York City and the Bronx. It was in that studio that I met three great people that I still call friends until this day.

How about your EOP experiences?

I think that everyone that entered in my class in 2000 would all agree that playing "A Warm Wind Blows" in our first couple of days in EOP was extremely fun. It was a great way for all of us to connect with each other and have fun. We really bonded after that night.

What do you do on a typical day?

In a typical day, I work a full time job in the movie industry. I spend a lot of time on the phone and the computer calling and e-mailing universities across the country and contacting foreign distributors that are looking for shorts (films that are less than 30 min long). Aside from that, I draft many proposals and negotiate prices with buyers all in an effort to preserve, revitalize and promote African American cinema. Additionally, from that, the production end of the company may sometimes ask me to assist in film shoots.

Outside of that, I volunteer when my schedule permits for LIFEbeat, the Music Industry Fights AIDS and I am involved in a program called Rock The Era in my spiritual organization. It fuses the arts with spirituality and encourages young people to be involved in global causes. On the weekends, I try to finish my thesis, read, write poetry, write songs, write scripts and have fun with friends.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Professionally, 5 years from now, I want my films to dominate the box office, my songs to be heard everywhere and to have a national best seller. I want to be the go to person for everyone in entertainment.

What final words of advice or shared knowledge can you give our EOP stars of tomorrow?

It's great that so many students are interested in music business and production at SUNY Potsdam. I applied to SUNY Potsdam because I wanted to do the same thing. My advice is to do what you feel is your craft. Don't try to sound like anyone else. Find your inner voice as a singer, musician, producer, etc. That is what makes you special.

Once you know what makes you special, challenge yourself. Try a sound you never thought you would use. Use an instrument you never thought you would use. Collaborate with people you never thought you would collaborate with. Sing in a language that you never thought you would sing with.

Know the business. You might not be rich enough to hire a lawyer but maybe a friend or family member might have run into the same issue in the music business. Always ask questions. You don't have to get specific and reveal too much information but you can even Google questions you might have about the music industry. That will save you a headache and heartache in the future.

Have fun making music. Music is not supposed to make people bored. Make people smile in the process and have a good time.

Finally, know that music changes. Be open to change in styles and flexible to different trends.

40th EOP Reunion/Anniversary – Alumni Weekend 2010

July 9	3:30-4:30pm EOP Welcome Event
July 10	11-2pm Lehman Park – attend with current students 6pm EOP Reception/Formal Dinner – Main Event
July 11	Farewell Brunch or Breakfast

**“From the Financial Aid
Office Corner”
Assistant Director of
Financial Aid, Carolyn
Corcoran**



We hope that you're enjoying a safe and restful semester break! In order to have a smooth start to your Spring 2010 semester, we suggest that you be sure to take care of the following important processes BEFORE the start of the spring semester on January 25th:

#1. “Process” your spring 2010 bill by the deadline of 1/15/2010.

“Processing” the bill means:

- A.** Going into your Billing Statement on BEARPAWS and checking the appropriate radio buttons to indicate whether you're waiving the **OPTIONAL FEES AND**
- B.** Checking the “Balance Due” on your Billing Statement on BEARPAWS. IF the balance due is a negative number, you owe no money on your spring bill and therefore do NOT need to send any payment. IF the balance due is a positive number, that amount needs to be paid to the SUNY Potsdam Student Accounts Office by 1/15/10 OR as soon as possible thereafter.

#2. Watch your Potsdam Email Account as you will receive an important email around January 11th, directing you to BEARPAWS to COMPLETE THE ELECTRONIC CHECK-IN PROCESS for the spring 2010 semester.

Follow the directions in the email and complete the Electronic Check-In as soon as you can.

If you have concerns about your financial aid and/or billing charges for the spring 2010 semester, feel free to contact **Carolyn Corcoran, Assistant Director of Financial Aid in the Financial Aid Office**. Carolyn is typically available by phone Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at (315)267-2162 or by email at corcorcr@potsdam.edu.

"Don't forget to re-file your FAFSA for the 2010-2011 academic year as soon as possible after January 1, 2010!!! The sooner you file an accurate FAFSA, the more you increase your chance of being offered LIMITED federal aid funds like federal Work-Study, federal SEOG Grant and federal Perkins Loan, which are all types of aid that are very limited (the money runs out early!) and for which you compete with all needy Potsdam students. We cannot guarantee that any student aid applicant will be offered these funds but filing the FAFSA early gives you a better chance at these funds."

****2009 family taxes do NOT have to be completed to complete the FAFSA, you can use an estimate!!!!**

See you in late January and safe travels back to Potsdam!

Bear Bus Info

**PLEASE NOTE NEW
ROUND TRIP PRICES:**

**To Albany: \$95.00
To New York City:
\$105.00
To Long Island: \$125.00**

NOTE: To guarantee a seat you have to put down a \$10.00 deposit. The EOP and First Year Transitions offices will cover the balance of the deposit - \$30.00

Spring Recess 3/5-15

Departs SUNY Potsdam: Friday March 5th at 4 pm and returns Sunday March 14th at 9 am from New York and Long Island and 1:00 pm from Albany. Questions? Visit www.potsdam.edu/student_success and click on “Discount Travel” or call Marta @ 267-2580.

For those interested in traveling to Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo areas, please check on the “Discount Travel” website for updates, as we might not be offering this service any longer due to lack of student interest.

To reserve a seat fill out the online form on the Discount Travel campus website: <http://www.potsdam.edu/current/bearbus/index.cfm>

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EOP Spring 2010 Semester Events

Recruitment & Retention Specialist Kade Olasokan

Just in case you missed it! EOP is recapping all of the events of the fall semester. The first on the list, the welcome back BBQ! Boy was the food, music and games loads of fun. Next up, who could forget 'Game Nights' in the ELU which were held every other Thursday? Board games, video games, card games, and much more! Only a handful experienced the wild life with EOP on the hike through Stone Valley but it was quite the experience! Dinner at Sergi's and then a movie at the Roxy Theater!! Doesn't get any better than that. Or does it?? Hmmm let's see. Oh yea! How about that day trip to Syracuse? Horseback riding, IMAX movie, dinner at Applebee's with dessert and to top it off, a hockey game!!! That just about tops it off. But wait there was more! If you were feeling a little bit stressed over papers, exams and assignments, Comedy & Subs was the right event for you. Free sandwiches, cold beverages and a movie that had you laughing your butts off! And for the grand finale, we had to end the semester off with a bang and the Holiday Party did just that! Sure did. Tons of home cooked food, drinks, cookies, cake, music, games and spending time with each other like one big old EOP family. Ahhhhhhh!!! What a fall semester!

Happy 2010! We're going to do it even bigger and better this semester. Nothing but breathtaking exhilarating events all throughout the semester! Some of you will experience things you never thought you would do in a million years. Some of you will be rewarded for you continuing academic achievement. Some of you will be stressed over your course load but will feel at ease after attending one of our stress management workshops. And last but not least, ALL of you will be a part of each EOP event in one way or another! See you when you get back!

*A friendly reminder that you are expected to attend at least ONE event throughout the semester. But why stop at one?! There's a special something for anyone who attends EVERY event this semester! Just wait and see what it is. You'll wish you attended every event. Guaranteed!

Spring Semester Events:

- Game Nights: 2/11, 2/27, 3/18, 4/1, 4/22, 5,6
- Day Trip to Canada: 2/13
- Horror Movie Night: 2/19
- Ski Trip: 2/27
- Bowling & a Movie: 3/16
- Ice Skating: 3/21
- Awards Banquet: 3/31
- Stress Management 'Yoga': 4/6
- Day Trip (TBA): 4/24
- Comedy & Claire: 5/7

More information will be provided on each event. Check your mailboxes and emails.

Check out our EOP Facebook Group at:
www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=50042890109

