



**Issue 5**  
**January 2011**

# EOP Newsletter

## **Alumni Corner – Where Are They Now?** **Featuring Louise Tyo '00, '02** **-by Nancy Brown**

Louise, even though you are widely known on campus, not everyone knows that you are a Potsdam EOP Graduate. Can you tell us about your time here?

As an adult learner who went back to college in my mid-30's, I transferred from SUNY Canton to SUNY Potsdam to pursue my bachelor's degree in Sociology and Women's Studies Minor in the fall of 1998. After earning that degree, I enrolled in the English and Communication Department's master's degree program in which I earned a master's in Communication and Discourse. From the time I was an undergraduate student here at Potsdam, I've held one job or another on campus, starting as a student assistant in the College Writing Center and in the Women's and Gender Studies Department, to then being hired by our Center for Diversity to open up the college's Campus Civility Center, in which I coordinated the "Students Teaching Tolerance" diversity awareness program. In January of 2002 I was hired as Director of First Year Transitions in our Student Success Center and I also teach as an adjunct instructor in our English and Communication Department.

Coming to Potsdam as a transfer and a Non-Trad what special circumstances did you encounter?

First and foremost, I struggled with this false-belief system that as the only female in my family to attend a four-year college and who was a single mom at the time, "I wasn't good enough to succeed." I know now, thanks to the EOP program and my EOP counselors, that this belief/myth had to be quickly smashed if I were to succeed, and thus I needed to adopt a more positive attitude that was more along the lines of "trust the process" and that I was "worthy of a college degree." I also realized that I probably wasn't going to graduate in the "typical" four year time frame as I had originally planned due to work and family obligations, so I quickly accepted the fact that I was going to be what we now call a "super senior" and was able to graduate proudly with honors in five years.

What do your duties as First Year Transitions/Orientation Director entail?

As Director of First Year Transitions, I coordinate our first-year and transfer orientation sessions in which I hire and train fourteen orientation leaders annually who work as great ambassadors for our college to help welcome over 850 new freshmen and 350 new transfer students ever year. I also oversee our First Year Success Seminars - the 1-credit extended orientation course to help our student's transition into college life. I hire and train instructors and supervise the student teaching assistants, in addition to teaching two-three sections of the course myself! My office also runs the Bear Bus program, an ever-growing bus service originally started to assist our EOP students who were in need of traveling home over academic breaks in a safe and economically feasible way. The program has flourished from 2 buses every break to doubling in size, where we now offer 4 buses to the Albany, Westchester, New York City, and Long Island areas.

In conclusion, thank you for setting the tone for our incoming freshman and all that you do here at Potsdam.



**Louise Tyo, First Year Transitions**  
**EOP Alumni**

### **Spring All-EOP Meeting**

**Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> - Fireside Lounge @ 1:30 pm**

\*Carolyn Corcoran will be available for financial aid question and answer.

**DO NOT forget to file your FAFSA!**

### Academic Calendar

- 1/24 – classes begin
- 1/28 – last day to add/drop
- 3/4 – spring recess begins
- 3/14 – classes resume
- 3/25 – last day to withdraw and to elect S/U
- 5/16-20 - finals

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## EOP Events!

- Kade Olasokan



EOP is back at it again with another semester of fun-filled community events, activities and educational workshops. If you missed out on last semester's events, here's a quick recap. We hosted the welcome back bbq, study abroad/career workshop, game, bowling and movie night, day trip to Burlington, comedy and subs and who could forget the 40<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebration dinner (just to name a few). This semester we promise you'll get quite the North Country experience! Guaranteed fun! Stop by the main office and check out this semester's list of events.



## Fall 2010 Honors Corner

### President's List

Carolina Batista  
Nicholas Hunt  
Karissa Jump  
Samantha Sharrow

### Dean's List

Donna Cappel  
Mariama Diallo  
Laneise Goggans  
Alexa Goolden  
William Govan  
Christopher Jenne  
Suprena Levy  
Julissa Lopez  
Eva Mastoras  
Brooke Morse  
Emani Patterson  
Elizabeth Pulsifer  
Nicole Saltis  
Maggie Stasko

### December 2010 Graduates

Elias Cox  
Juan Hernandez  
Michael Hernandez  
Suprena Levy  
Kayla Sylvia

## Ask Annie 1

Dear Annie,

I am freaking out. I always planned to go to college and become a teacher. I have been in the Childhood Ed major for three semesters and want to switch my major to Biology. I can't believe I wasted all that time and all those credit hours for nothing! What can I do? HELP! Freaking Out in Potsdam

Dear Freaking Out,

I am certain that many of the classes you have taken have fulfilled gen-ed requirements. Assuming that, a Biology Major requires a maximum of 38 credit hours. At this point, assuming an average semester load of 15 credit hours, you have completed 45 hours toward your graduation requirements. Those 45 hours plus the 38 hours for the major equal 83 credit hours. You still will need 37 more credit hours to graduate. Switching your major now will keep you on track for graduation. Besides, keep in mind that EOP is an approved 5 year program. If you need an extra semester or two, you will continue to receive aid. Everything is going to work out fine. Congratulations on your decision. Enjoy your time off! Annie ~



## What's the EOP Student Advisory Board?

The EOP Student Advisory Board (SAB) was established in the Fall Semester of 2009. The board was formed to provide student advisement to the EOP staff regarding things such as event planning. As time progressed, the group elected to become involved in independent projects as well.

The first completed project involved the polling of EOP students regarding recommended courses and professors. This information was compiled into a book for use by EOP students. Following this, the SAB became involved in an effort with SGA to reduce the cost of student printing on campus. Through the efforts of SAB and SGA, the cost of printing on campus was reduced and the students' free printing quota was increased.

The next task SAB undertook was the effort to contact alumni and create an alumni data base. This effort was in conjunction with fund raising and the planning of the EOP 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event for October 2010. Notably, alumni gifted EOP \$300 as a result.

SAB members have included: Latisha Fussell, Nichole Webber, Chris Jenne, Tanasia Betts, Paul Craig, Nick Hunt, Wil Facey, Alexa Goolden, Kanema Williams, Bruce Maine, Natalie Francis & Caitlin Scavone.

We are looking for new members now and have some new projects lined up for the semester. If you are interested in becoming involved and can commit to meetings on Fridays at 2pm, please contact Tanasia Betts.



## Message from the Financial Aid Office

We hope that you're enjoying a safe and restful semester break! In order to have a smooth start to your Spring 2011 semester, we suggest that you be sure to take care of the following important processes BEFORE the start of the spring semester on January 24th :

**\*#1.\*"Process" your spring 2011 bill by the deadline of \*1/15/2011 or as soon thereafter as you can. \*"Processing" the bill means:**

\*A.\*Going into your Billing Statement on BEARPAWS and checking the appropriate radio buttons to indicate whether you're accepting or declining the two 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 1/15/11 OR as soon as possible thereafter.

**\*#2.\*Check your Potsdam Email Account as you should have received an important email recently, directing you to BEARPAWS to COMPLETE THE ELECTRONIC CHECK-IN PROCESS for the spring 2011 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 2011 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 12:30 p.m. at (315)267-2162 or by email at [corcorcr@potsgdam.edu](mailto:corcorcr@potsgdam.edu).

**\*"Don't forget to re-file your FAFSA for the 2011-2012 academic year as soon as possible!"** 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 and accurately** gives you a better chance at these funds."\*\*\*

\*\*\*2010 family taxes do NOT have to be completed to complete the FAFSA, you can use an estimate! You just need to go back to your FAFSA at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) and update the tax filing status and income figures, once the 2010 taxes have been completed.

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

## Announcing the New Student Success Center GPA Calculator:

The Student Success Center announces the new GPA calculator for SUNY Potsdam advisors and students. The link can be found in the margin on the main Student Success Center webpage: <http://www.potsdam.edu/support/ssc/index.cfm>.

The calculator allows students and advisors to project semester GPA as well as determine the impact of projected semester grades on the cumulative GPA.

Using information from the BearPAWS course summary, simply read and follow the instructions to calculate current semester GPA and cumulative GPA.

We recommend using this as a motivational tool in goal setting by students and faculty.

### EOP Staff:

**Shaili Singh**

- Program Director

**Nancy Brown**

- EOP Counselor

**Nola Davey**

- EOP Counselor

**Charity Shoen**

- Secretary

**136 Sisson Hall**

**267-2335**

**eop@potsgdam.edu**

## New EOP Scholarship!

At our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event, we proudly announced the Lloyd DeShawn Osborne Memorial Scholarship. This \$1,000 award is designed to help EOP students undertake “transformational” experiences while enrolled at SUNY Potsdam. Such experiences can include: internships, study abroad, research projects, community service, or special creative projects. Who is eligible? Potsdam EOP students with:

1. At least three semesters at SUNY Potsdam completed;
2. At least a 2.75 GPA.

The first award winners will be able to use their scholarship during the 2011-2012 school year. If you are considering an internship or study abroad experience, please express your interest in the Osborne Scholarship to an EOP Staff member.



## EOP 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 we celebrated 40 years of the Educational Opportunity Program at SUNY Potsdam. As your program’s director I came away from the evening filled with so much inspiration that it would be impossible to highlight just one speaker or performance.

Numerous EOP students shared their tremendous musical and performance talents throughout the evening. EOP sophomore *Kanema Williams* and her fellow string quartet members performed a number of soothing classical pieces. Third-year students *Stephen Greenberg* and *Brock Kuca* were among a trio of guitarists who entertained us with their free-styling performance during dinner. First Year student *Laneise Goggans* and Junior *Kanzada Juste* (see below) were part of a skilled dance trio who performed a set of memorable dance pieces.



During the festivities, our speakers were especially dynamic and moving. SUNY Potsdam President John Schwaller announced the Lloyd DeShawn Osborne Memorial Scholarship with articulate candor. Recent EOP Alumnus *Elijah Foulks '10*, delivered an extemporaneous speech in which he encouraged us to make deep connections within EOP by, “making it personal”. Dr. Richard Del Guidice, also speaking without a script, eloquently shared important history regarding EOP students’ tumultuous integration of the College during the 1969-1970 school year. Principal *Larry Jenne '82* gave a vivid personal testimonial about the value of EOP, before senior *Chris Jenne* helped close our ceremonies with his own testimonial and an



important reminder to be vigilant during these financially difficult times.

So many wonderful performers and speakers blessed us on this memorable evening. For me, the highlight was the emotional speech from EOP Alumnus *Darryl Johnson '00* and Herbert Bennett. With *Lloyd Osborne's* passing, *Darryl* and *Nancy Johnson '00* had lost a good friend. Herbert had lost his supportive older brother. Both Herbert and *Darryl* helped us understand “Shawn” better and through them, we more fully realized the impact that Shawn made in Potsdam and in his life after college.

All in all, it was a tremendous celebration of 40 years of EOP at Potsdam. I was honored to help co-host the event with *Kade Olasokan '08*. The experience only added to my respect and love for our students, our college, and our program.

- Shaili



Pictured left to right: President Schwaller, *Darryl Johnson*, *Nancy Johnson*, Herbert Bennett and *Nancy Griffin*