



AOP CONNECTIONS

AOP Initiatives Benefit the Entire SUNY Geneseo Campus

One of the most important aspects of programs such as AOP on campus, is helping students to develop the skills and confidence necessary to take on leadership roles within the department (via the AOP Summer Program; meeting with potential applicants, etc.), as well as throughout the campus community and abroad. What we highlight here are those programs and initiatives that serve to get students connected to each other, the campus and the outlying community. One of the main initiatives that the AOP department has taken on this year is the implementation of a Supplemental Instruction (SI) Program. This program is geared towards moving students away from the mindset of individualized tutoring, and moving them more into the concept of small group tutoring. As research has shown, when students participate in the process of discussing the material they are learning with their peers, their

retention of said material increases dramatically. As a result, test scores increase as well as confidence in test taking skills.



WLI participants, faculty and staff at the Fall Roundtable Discussion.

This year, the AOP department has also developed the first ever Women's Leadership Institute (WLI), which has as its mission the encouragement, development and training of young women to take on leadership roles both internal of the college as well as within their communities. The twenty-one (21) members of WLI have taken on a number of initiatives this semester, culminating with a Networking Dinner on March 30, 2008, which brought together area middle and high students, college students, and professional women leaders from Genesee, Monroe and Livingston Counties.

Another initiative taken on by the AOP department in the 2007-08 academic year was the establishment of the Minority Association for Pre-Health Students (MAPS). The MAPS program provides students with an interest in the health sciences an opportunity to gain valuable insight not only into the necessary preparation needed for

medical school admission, but also providing them with a greater understanding of issues of health disparities both locally and abroad. The group has been responsible for bringing to campus many representatives from area medical colleges to speak with pre-health students about a variety of careers and issues facing those who desire to enter the health field in the future. Members of this group, through sponsorship from the AOP department and the Office of the Provost, were also able to attend the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) National Conference in New York City from March 19th—March 21st.

These are just a few of the innovative programs the AOP department has initiated during the 2007-08 academic year. The greatest part of all, however, is that each of these programs were opened up to the campus community, so that all students could benefit from the wealth of information available to them. In order to do so, the AOP department has collaborated with the following departments on campus: The Office of the Provost, The School of Business, The Biology Department (Pre-Med Advisors), The GOLD Leadership Program, and a host of others. We look forward in the future to continuing to build bridges that provide all students with the foundation necessary to be leaders both at SUNY Geneseo and abroad.

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AOP STUDENTS MAKING NEWS



At AOP, we are always proud of our student's achievements. Many of our students don't try to meet expectations; they exceed them. In this issue, we highlight our students who have made good things happen - they didn't wait for good things to happen to them! They are an example of the initiative and drive that is typical of our AOP students.

Congratulations to **Pamela Reyes**,

who, as a second semester freshman, applied for and was accepted to the Summer Medical Dental Enrichment Program (SMDEP) at University of Washington Seattle for summer 2008. Pamela is a Biology major and she is interested in cardiology or pediatrics. She is a Dean's List student, freshman representative for the Latino Student Association, Hall Council treasurer, and a member of the Women's Leadership Institute. We are so proud of you, Pamela!



Pamela Reyes

Rejoyce Owusu

recently interviewed with INROADS, a non-profit organization founded in the 1970's by the late Frank C. Carr. The mission of INROADS is to develop and place talented ALANA youth in business and industry. The organization also prepares them for corporate and community leadership through development sessions and seminars, and provides mentors and internship opportunities. Rejoyce has made it past the preliminary round of inter-



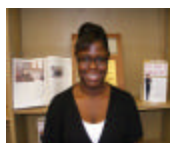
Rejoyce Owusu

views. She is a second semester freshman, business administration major, and a member of Women's Leadership Institute, as well as a lover of all things basketball! Congratulations, Rejoyce!

The resident assistant position is not an easy one, and we recognize the commitment, time, energy, and positive attitude it takes to be an R.A. Congratulations to **Patricia Bandy** and **Malissa Rivera**, who have been hired as resident assistants for the Spring 2008 semester! Both Patricia and



Malissa Rivera



Patricia Bandy

Malissa are sophomores. Patricia is a member of Women's Leadership Institute and works for the Admissions department as a lobby host. Malissa is the ACE representative for the Latino Student Association. We look forward to hearing about their accomplishments in this new position.



Tarik Kitson

Graduating senior **Tarik Kitson** is well on his way to a successful post-baccalaureate career. An anthropology major who plays for the Geneseo

Knights' basketball team, Tarik was recently named Athlete of the Week. Tarik has also been accepted into the Barbara Jordan Health Policy Scholars Program at Howard University. The Barbara Jordan Health Policy Scholars Program brings talented college seniors and recent graduates to

Washington, D.C., where they are placed in congressional offices and learn about health policy issues, with a focus on issues affecting racial and ethnic minority and underserved communities. Congratulations, Tarik!

Junior **Vanessa Estrada** obtained

an internship as an event coordinator with the Supporters of Main Street in the Village of Geneseo for the Spring 2008 semester. Vanessa is President of the Latino Student Association and a member of Women's Leadership Institute. Keep up the great work, Vanessa!



Vanessa Estrada

Freshmen **Mathé Kamsutchom** and **Mekal Ogbear** were student members of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration

Committee for 2008. They introduced Dave Dennis, the keynote speaker for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture held January 31, 2008. Mathé and Mekal are both members of Women's Leadership Institute and are very active on campus. We're proud of you!



Mathé Kamsutchom and Mekal Ogbear

If you are an AOP student and would like your news published in the next issue of *AOP Connections*, please contact Patricia González at gonzalez@geneseo.edu, and include a description of your accomplishments as well as a recent photo. We look forward to reading about your successes!

~ From the Director's Desk ~

Access to High Quality Academic Preparation Remains Uneven

I am often asked why students accepted through the Access Opportunity Program (AOP) are required to participate in an extended orientation, or worse, a multi-week summer program. A simple response to this question would be that they need the additional support prior to their full-time enrollment in college, but the issue is much bigger than this article will suffice to explain. No, it not because they are not talented, nor is it a punishment for a lack of academic success in high school. It is because the system of education in the United States is broken, and as a result, access to high quality academic preparation in secondary education for all students remains uneven.

The mission of the AOP summer program is to at helping students understand, in the most positive manner, that their lack of preparation in high school is not necessarily a result of their lack of effort. In fact, there are many students who excel academically in high school and appear prepared on paper. The difference that exists for many, however, is that they do not have access through their high school to advanced placement courses, SAT preparation programs, opportunities to travel abroad, parents who have

navigated the higher education process, nor necessarily the support of their academic nucleus (e.g. teachers, guidance counselor, college advisors, etc.) that they have what it take to compete in college. In essence, they are limited by what Bourdieu and Passeron (1997) and McDonough (1997) (as cited in Perna, 2005) refer to as the "habitus, or internalized system of thoughts, beliefs, and perceptions acquired from the immediate environment, conditions, and individual's expectations, attitude and aspirations" toward college success (p. 119). As such, the goal of the summer program (as well as the services offered to students throughout their career at SUNY Geneseo) is to re-invest in students and help them to reconnect (or in some cases recognize) their true academic potential.

Although this is the mission of the AOP department, it is not an achievable mission without the support of the wider college community. As such, the success of the AOP department remains interconnected to the success of SUNY Geneseo as a whole. The development of a support system that recognizes the need to support, mentor and encourage the development of all students will benefit from

the overall commitment of students in creating the community of learners that SUNY Geneseo desires. So, when you see a student connected to AOP, understand that these students are not only capable of doing great things, but that they are also attempting to combat, in some cases, educational systems that did not allow them the advanced preparation necessary to understand fully the community to which they are a part. As such, it is the mission of the entire college community to recognize as long as we have an educational system that does not educate all of its citizens equally; we have an obligation to support those who have made the commitment to overcoming this disadvantage. And, at SUNY Geneseo, we are committed to this endeavor.

Reference

Perna, L. (2005). The key to college access: Rigorous academic preparation. In W.G. Tierney, Z. Corwin & J. Colyar (Eds.), *preparing for college: Nine elements of effective outreach* (pp. 113-134). Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.

New Chi Alpha Epsilon Inductees for Spring 2008

Congratulations are in order for the fifteen new inductees of Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society. The students were inducted during a ceremony held on April 18, 2008, and will be pinned at the Annual AOP Recognition Reception on April 24, 2008.

The new members of Chi Alpha Epsilon are:

The Honorable Siu Yim Au Yeung

The Honorable Nabila Chaudhry
 The Honorable Anastasia Emerson
 The Honorable Ka Shun Ho
 The Honorable Songwoung Hong
 The Honorable Orel Katz
 The Honorable Yuki Kawae
 The Honorable Amy Lau
 The Honorable Guangyi Li
 The Honorable Dan Lin

The Honorable Myreli Lopez
 The Honorable Anupam Pandey
 The Honorable Malissa Rivera
 The Honorable Marc Rufa
 The Honorable Dennis Woo

These students have achieved cumulative grade point averages of 3.0 or above for two consecutive semesters. We are very proud of all of you!

Women's Leadership Institute's First Semester a Huge Success



Women's Leadership Institute's Class of 2008

In the fall of 2007, an initiative called the Women's Leadership Institute was implemented on the SUNY Geneseo campus. This program was the brainchild of Calvin Gantt, Director of AOP, as a response to the need to develop students, particularly young women, as leaders. Fonda Fair, Counselor Intern, and Patricia González, AOP Counselor, developed the program activities for Women's Leadership Institute, also known as WLI. After an informational meeting and the completion of a participation form, twenty women were selected to participate in WLI's Class of 2008.

The vision of WLI is threefold:

- To create an environment in which participants will explore, develop and share their skills, experiences, and resources,

- To promote leadership through mentor relationships, networking and professional development opportunities,

- Upon completion of the program, participants will act as exemplary models of leadership within their collegiate

and social communities.

To accomplish the vision of WLI, program activities were planned to assist the participants in assessing themselves as leaders and to learn from current leaders. The first development session was an opportunity for the young women to get to know each other and discuss their personality traits and skills with each other. There was also a Roundtable Discussion with women in faculty, administrative, and staff positions



Faculty, staff, administrators and students participate in lively discussion during a Roundtable held December 1st.

throughout the SUNY Geneseo community, which allowed the participants to get to know professors, administrators, resident directors, academic advisors and counselors on a more personal level, sharing experiences and obstacles that women may face in their respective career fields. The young women also participated in a successful community service event in conjunction with the YWCA of Rochester known as the Shoebox Drive, creating care packages for women in need during the holidays.

One of WLI's



SUNY Geneseo Faculty, Staff, and Administrators participated in a Roundtable Discussion held during the Fall Semester.

participants, Jenn Wheaton, describes her experience:

"I thought the first semester went very well. I think it was very inspiring as a woman entering the workforce to participate in events such as a roundtable with influential women on campus- where I learned a lot about the challenges women face in business America. I think it's a very important group to have on campus and to participate in."

Upcoming events include a discussion with male leaders on campus, "An Evening of Networking" event with women from surrounding communities as well as middle and high school students, and a community service event with the March of Dimes.

Participation forms for the Class of 2009 will be available early fall, and you don't have to be an AOP student to participate! To learn more about Women's Leadership Institute, visit our website at wli.geneseo.edu. If you are interested in supporting WLI in any way, please contact Fonda Fair or Patricia González at 585.245.5725, or email us at wli@geneseo.edu.



Jenn Wheaton

"[I]t was very inspiring as a woman entering the workforce to participate in events ...where I learned a lot about the challenges women face in business America."

-WLI Participant Jenn Wheaton



News You Can Use: Financial Aid Renewal Process

Students who receive any type of Federal or State financial aid (including Pell grants, Stafford loans and TAP) MUST reapply each year in order to continue receiving financial aid. Generally, you should try to get your FAFSA and TAP Renewal forms completed by March 1st of each year. However, if you've missed that first deadline, there's no need to panic, as you will still get the same amount of funds from Pell, TAP and Stafford Loans, even if your application is late. Many students and parents think they have to wait until their tax returns for the previous calendar year have been completed, but that is not the case. It is possible to estimate the total household income and taxes due, based on last year's figures and then return to the online SAR (Student Aid Report) once the tax returns have been completed and update the estimated figures with the actual ones.

There are two reasons, however, why you may want to get those applications in as soon as possible. The first is that the College receives a certain amount

of money from the Federal government each year in order to provide additional forms of financial assistance, such as the SEOG (Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant), CWS (College Work Study) and Perkins Loans. The funds are distributed to students based on need on a first come, first served basis. Once the money has been distributed, that's it; so if your renewal application information arrives after all the SEOG, CWS and Perkins Loan funds have been earmarked for other students, you're out of luck and may need to increase your Stafford loan if it's not already at the maximum level.

The second reason you may want to get that renewal information in ASAP is if you're planning to enroll in summer classes, either here in Geneseo or at another college back home. Unlike the fall and spring semesters, summer session tuition and fees must be paid by the first day of class, which doesn't leave a lot of time to arrange for summer school financial aid. Since you

must enroll in at least six (6) credits over the summer (not necessarily in the same summer session or even at the same college), those costs can vary greatly. Most students who need to obtain financial aid to pay for summer study must use part of their Stafford loan in order to have the funds available by the start of classes. If you enroll at another college, our Financial Aid Office will arrange a "consortium agreement" with the other college, so that the funds will be credited to your Geneseo account and then sent to the other college. This is not something that can be done a day or two before your class begins, so you need to plan ahead.

Your AOP counselor will be glad to assist you with the FAFSA & TAP Renewal process, so if you or your parent(s) have not already completed the process, please make an appointment to meet with her ASAP.

Education costs money, but then so does ignorance.

AOP Students Give Back Through Tutoring!

How many of you have been helped by an AOP tutor during your time at Geneseo? Did you know that nine out of our 60 plus tutors this Spring 2008 semester are AOP students themselves?! Every semester more and more AOP students apply to work as tutors and are hired if they fit our hiring criteria and if there is a need for their subject area. Not only is it a well paying college job, but it provides an opportunity to give back the knowledge and time to other students that someone gave to them, to further develop their academic learning, and to become more involved in the AOP family. We celebrate and are so grateful to the following tutors who are working hard at being successful Gene-

seo students, and who are also helping their fellow AOP students find that same success. Thank you so much for your dedication!

Brandon Crosdale – tutors Organic Chemistry, Music 110

Anst-Bidry Gelin – tutors Calc II

Jacqueline Hernandez – tutors Spanish, Psychology

Dan Lin – tutors Accounting 102

Deanna Long – tutors Math 112, Spanish

Myreli Lopez-Rodriguez – tutors Spanish

Cody Prugh – tutors History

Gary Ruane – tutors Physics

Sergio Spencer – tutors Accounting, Spanish

Can you be an AOP tutor?

The hiring criteria for AOP tutor positions include a 2.75 or above cumulative GPA, a B or above in the subjects you would like to tutor, good communication skills and a willingness to help others, and participation in a comprehensive tutor training. Hiring is dependent upon available openings and tutor requests for that semester. Please contact Teresa Walker, Coordinator of AOP Tutorial Services for details.

STUDENT SUBMISSIONS

My Impressions on the First Semester of WLI

By Rejoyce Owusu, Freshman WLI Participant

The Women's Leadership Institute is very helpful and it's unique on campus. I feel very empowered to gain the opportunity to interact with young women who want to influence the Geneseo campus with the basic idea of being a leader in academics, and sharing ideas based on what they already know. Nothing is more powerful than women collaborating on issues that affect us the most.

Not only do we gain a sense of what the rest of the world requires women to be but we learn from each other. The most important thing I learned from attending the round table in December was "you are not better than anyone nor is anyone one better than you".

This is my motivation everyday when I walk on campus. I always have in mind that I can do anything I put my mind to while acknowledging that I need to be humble at

the same time. This was a good point discussed at the round table because there were faculty members who are highly ranked on Geneseo campus present at the meeting and Ms. González made a point, saying that "at the end of the day we shared something in common with every single woman in the room". Which was that we were all women and there will be obstacles in our way.

I cherish that point because we do indeed have, and will be challenged mentally, physically and emotionally the same, just on different levels. It's important to know the steps those other women (who may be our role models) took in order for them to become what they are today. Althea Gibson said, "No matter what accomplishments you made, somebody helped you." Therefore, we need to help each other in becoming successful women in this modern age.

I like the outcome of the first semester of Women's Leadership Institute, I just wish us students would be involved with planning events than just attending the events without having our input on what would take place at the events. Also, if we would have a day just to express our ideas and expectation of the group or for us to set a goal for the group from all of us before we begin the spring semester. This way we will know at the end of the spring semester if we were able to accomplish the goals we made as a group or not.

Also, individual goals can be made as well and exchanged with other member of the group to help all the ladies in reaching high standards. I believe that everyone needs someone to encourage them to do well and that's where most people lack. The ability to find that person who will encourage you at home, school and workplace to continue to be your best!!!!!!



"I feel very empowered to gain the opportunity to interact with young women who want to influence the Geneseo campus..."

- Rejoyce Owusu

The Benefits of Geneseo MAPS

By Bilgehan Onogul, President of Geneseo MAPS

As a minority pre-medical student, I know how hard it can be to stay on track without a role model or any tangible goal. Before getting involved with MAPS/SNMA I did not know what medical schools really looked for in an applicant, nor the impor-

tance of making connections. The workshops and the conferences that MAPS has held and taken us to got me in contact with many different medical schools. Especially the workshop that Geneseo MAPS sponsored with University of Rochester actually

had the Assistant Dean of Admission there to tell us what specific things they looked for in a student. All in all, MAPS has allowed me to stay on track and keep my eyes on the goal.

STUDENT SUBMISSIONS

Geneseo MAPS is the Connection

By Jennifer Ortiz, MAPS Programming Chair

For the short time Geneseo MAPS has been a chapter on campus, the benefits have been unparalleled to any activity I have been involved in. All the events that I have attended enhanced my understanding of the medical field and how broad it truly is. From the mock interview at the University of Rochester Medical School, to the online conference with Dr. Flowers for MCAT Prep, to the Black Biomedical Technical Association meeting at Cornell University; the possibilities seem endless for me now. Through all these experiences I have realized how imperative it is to promote and encourage careers in health care to qualified minorities. Enthusiasm, confidence, competence, and responsibility are essential to any profession we pursue. However, we are missing one key ingredient... diversity. I have had the opportunity to meet minority doctors and health care providers of all degrees from some of the most prestigious medical schools in the United States. I was even reunited with the medical director of an intern-

ship program I participated in at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Besides all the colorful reading guides and



Geneseo students, seen here with Ms. Ali, attend conference at Cornell University.

pamphlets that were distributed, I was given emails, numbers, and applications. This led me to another powerful aspect of the medical profession; the importance of networking. Geneseo MAPS is the connection. I would encourage the entire Geneseo community to become members of this chapter and take full advantage of all the experiences that come along with it. Geneseo can gain insight on all the problems that continue to plague our society medically such as insufficient health care, in-

surance, and funds. Students can also apply their educational concentrations to this chapter and together devise effective methods to attack these ailments. Biology and Chemistry doesn't entirely define effective medicine. We need and wholeheartedly embrace all types of students: Business majors, Anthropology majors, English majors, even Art majors are welcome! Geneseo MAPS will continue to prosper and be successful if we can have participation from all Geneseo students. This program can also be utilized as a social resource. I have met so many wonderful people through this chapter and do not doubt success for one second. I am able to have this confidence because of the positive influence every single MAPS member has added to this diverse group. The backbone of our group has been the connections we have made with other people but most importantly each other. Geneseo MAPS is definitely an attribute to our community.



"[A]nother powerful aspect of the medical profession [is] the importance of networking. Geneseo MAPS is the connection. "

-Jennifer Ortiz

Aim for success, not perfection. Never give up your right to be wrong, because then you will lose the ability to learn new things and move forward with your life. Remember that fear always lurks behind perfectionism.

-- David M. Burns

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We're On the Web!
www.geneseo.edu/~aop

IMPORTANT DATES - SPRING 2008

March	1	Sa	Initial Deadline for completion of FAFSA for 2008-2009	April	1-9	T-W	Academic Advising Appointments for sophomores and juniors with less than 60 credits
	7	F	Mid-point of semester		10-18	Th-F	Academic Advising Appointments for freshmen
	15	Sa	Residence Halls Close at 10:00 a.m.		16	W	Last day for diploma applicants to verify name for Diploma/ Commencement Program in Records Office (Erwin 102)
	17-21	M-F	Spring Break		18	F	Chi Alpha Epsilon Induction Ceremony – Hunt Room (5:00 – 7:00 p.m.)
	23	Su	Residence Halls re-open at 10:00 a.m.		22	Tu	2 nd Annual G.R.E.A.T. Day – No Classes
	27	Th	Advance Registration for Fall 2008 and Summer Sessions 2008 begins on KnightWeb and continues until Friday, April 25th. Please Note: Check KnightWeb to confirm day and time you will be allowed to access on-line registration and to check on whether there are any holds on your account that will prevent Pre-registration. <u>All freshmen, students who have not officially declared their major, students on Academic Probation and ANY student with a cumulative GPA less than 2.3 MUST schedule an advisement appointment in order to obtain their Alternate PIN which is required for on-line registration.</u>		24	Th	Annual AOP Recognition Reception – College Union Ballroom (5:00 – 8:00 p.m.)
	24-28	M-F	Meetings for Mid-Term Grade Review and AOP Freshman Pass/Fail Decisions	May	1	Th	Deadline for submission of admission application to the School of Business (South 100)
	28	F	Last Day to Withdraw from Classes and receive a “W” on transcript Last Day to Select AOP Freshman Pass/Fail Grading Option		6	Tu	Last day of regularly scheduled classes
					7	W	Study Day
					8	Th	Final Exams Begin
					14	W	Final Exams End
					15	Th	Residence Halls close at 10:00 a.m. (Graduating Seniors may remain through May 18)
					17	Sa	Commencement Ceremony begins at 10:00 a.m.
				June	1	Su	Deadline for submission of admission application to the School of Education (South Hall 200)