

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- The newsletter has a new look for the new year!
- Special articles by counselors written just for YOU!
- Updates on WLI's second year
- News about MILES - Men Incorporating Leadership, Empowerment, and Service
- Financial Aid and Summer Classes Info

INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:

The Repetition of History...	2
New Year, New Way of Being	2
Asking for the Help You Need	3
Everyone's a Professor	4-5
Financial Aid/Spring Workshops	6
Chi Alpha Epsilon/AOP Tutors	7
WLI and MILES Updates	8-9

# AOP Connections

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

SPRING 2009



Calvin Gantt, AOP  
Director

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 is 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 help 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

## Access to High Quality Academic Preparation Remains Uneven

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 takes 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 of which they are a part. As such, it is the mission of the entire college community to recognize that, 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 overcome this disadvantage. 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.

From the Director's Desk



*“[T]he good thing about history is that it is in the past, and that you have some control over how future history is written.”*

*- Mr. Gantt*



## The Repetition of History - Both Good and Bad

*by Mr. Calvin J. Gantt, AOP Director*

One of the recognized joys of starting a new year is the opportunity to put to rest that which happened the previous year. It gives those who believe in this philosophy the opportunity to right wrongs and to start afresh with renewed energy and passion. The problem with this opportunity, according to Douglas Adams, is that, “Human beings, who are almost unique in having the ability to learn from the experience of others, are also remarkable for their apparent disinclination to do so.” This is especially true of college freshmen in their first semester of college. Although many come to college with ideals about what the “college experience” will be like, they soon find that like high school, their college experience

will be determined more by what they choose to do (or not do in some cases), than what is done to them. The good part about this however, is that college students have the opportunity to “re-invent” themselves twice in one academic year.

As we start the spring 2009 semester, students who did not fare as well as they would have liked are beginning to examine how they can turn things around; while their peers who did do well are examining what they did right so that they can duplicate it again. Regardless of what side of the experience you fell into as a student, the same opportunity to right the course applies to both groups equally. The distinction that exists, however, is that those who excelled have a little room

to “slip-up”, while those didn’t perform to their best will have an uphill climb. Remember, however, that the good thing about history is that it is in the past, and that you have some control over how future history is written.

So, as we begin the spring semester, make a commitment to yourself to accept nothing but your best effort. The AOP staff and the support services provided are only a small part of what it takes to be successful in college. But, when combined with your own determination and effort, you cannot help but achieve greater academic success. We look forward to joining you in achieving the success we know that you are more than capable of achieving. We know this to be true because the history of the program tells us so!

### New Year, New Way of “Being” *by Ms. Patricia Gonzalez, AOP Counselor*

Every year, I find myself making resolutions and setting goals that never seem to get accomplished, leaving me feeling disappointed, yet again, at the end of another year. As I reflected on the ups and downs of 2008 and what I want to happen in my life in 2009, I realized that our destiny is not always determined by what we do, but by who we are. With that in mind, I set some new goals for 2009—not things that I need to DO, but things that I would like to BE.

1. **Be committed.** I will keep

my promises to myself. I will give 100% to what I commit to do.

2. **Be positive.** I will change my thoughts so that they are more affirmative, and my life will follow in the direction of my thoughts.

3. **Be genuine.** I will be my authentic self, which will engender authenticity in my relationships.

4. **Be accountable.** I will do what I have said I would do. I will let others know what

my goals are, and will seek help in achieving them.

5. **Be grateful.** I will enjoy the present. I will focus more on what I have than on what I want. When I am grateful for what I have, I am demonstrating that I can be trusted to receive what I want.

In sharing these goals with you, I hope to inspire you to set your own goals, and to reflect on a new way of “being”! Happy 2009!

# Asking for the Help You Need in a Budget Conscious Geneseo

by Ms. Teresa Walker, AOP Counselor

So you are attending college at SUNY Geneseo and are a member of the AOP program. You have heard about the services that AOP provides (for example Tutoring) and also what is available on Campus (for example the Math Learning Center). You may have even used these resources for some of your classes. The question you may have is, does it make a significant difference and is there a pay off? This article will address how seeking the help you need does indeed increase your chances of success, and that even with the current atmosphere of severe and scary budget cuts, it is still one of the most important things you can do for yourself as a successful college student.

The AOP department continuously strives to assess our program and make changes to improve what services we provide to our students. Therefore we recently collected data and studied AOP tutoring services (number of hours being tutored, subject, dates requested and assigned a tutor, final grade earned etc.) that students received during the 2007-2008 academic year. Although the findings were not a clear cut landslide towards the effectiveness of tutoring, there were definite factors that stuck out. In general, students who received five hours or more of tutoring earned grades of a C- or above (and many with B's and A's!). On the other hand, students who earned failing grades or withdrew from a course usually had very low amounts of time with a tutor. Other circumstances that need to be considered include the student's skill level and ability in a subject, the time when a tutor was requested and assigned (early or late in the semester), and the effort and study time put in by the student outside of tutoring sessions. We should also remember what individual students self report when asked about their tutoring experience. The majority of the time, we hear that it has assisted students in a positive way.

If our records and self reports point towards increased success with tutoring, then why do many students still resist asking for help or using other resources available to them at Geneseo? Is it our fast paced, materialistic culture which show-cases and holds up on pedestals the super successful, rich, attractive, athletic, famous and smart individuals that we compare ourselves to, but who we never hear about what help or assistance they used to reach their goals? Is it the pressure we all feel to be better or the best that makes us feel less than or embarrassed to say we are having trouble and need assistance? Or maybe it is the independence that many of us strive for which prevents us from leaning on others, even if for a little while. Whatever it may be, it stops many young people from admitting difficulty at the start and seeking assistance through tutoring, supplemental instruction, seeing a teaching assistant, and going to a professor's office hours. Many students tend to wait until they are really struggling before asking for assistance, and then it may be too late to save a grade.

Well, what is the pay-off of not seeking help versus seeking help when difficulty first arises? Does it come down to saving face and pride compared to more understanding and admitting some weakness? Everyone may have their own personal answer to this. But please keep perspective that a college diploma, job resume and even college transcript which demonstrates success, does not contain a footnote that says "tutoring received" or "student went to office hours often". And a graduate student or future employee who is open to learning and growing, who is not a "know it all" and who can ask questions and learn from others besides showing their strengths, can be very attractive indeed. Perhaps the pay-off of seeking assistance then is doing all you can to get where you want to be, and being aware of both your strengths

and weaknesses and embracing both.

With the current atmosphere of budget cuts which will affect the number of resources available to students at Geneseo, it is extremely important that students both stay flexible and take the initiative to seek assistance in a variety of forms at the beginning of any difficulty. Even though things will change, help will always remain. Please see the following suggestions and think through what you can use to positively impact your success.

## **Budget Friendly Resources**

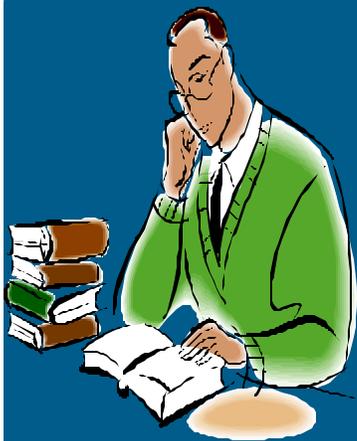
### **on Campus:**

- Professors and their office hours
- Group tutoring and Supplemental Instruction provided by AOP
- TA's that are available
- Department tutoring hours
- Math Learning Center
- English Department- Writing Center
- AOP Writing Walk-In
- Class Mates- to compare notes, to form a study group, and to support one another
- On-line quizzes/study guide that may be provided by your course text book
- RA's and RD's- they are in that position because they are successful students
- Library staff for help with research
- Facebook to find fellow students that are willing to assist you with a class, and you can assist them with one as well
- AOP Advisor!

Best wishes for a healthy, happy and successful spring semester!

# Everyone's a Professor

by *M. Gabe Iturbides, AOP Counselor*



*"No one looked like me. No one talked like me. I felt like I had a huge bull's eye on my back."*

Ten years ago, I started a journey that would take me farther than I could have ever imagined. I decided to go to college! I was one of the few people in my neighborhood that had ever made it that far in education and everybody was proud of me. I was excited! As I was preparing for the HEOP five week program, all I could think about was how new everything was going to be. I was also nervous that I wasn't going to be smart enough, or handle being away from NYC and my predominantly Dominican neighborhood.

I drove up to the campus, which was, and still is, beautiful, and couldn't stop smiling at the excitement. Just like many HEOP/EOP summer programs that were happening around New York, ours was intense inside the classroom. We worked non-stop, and spent a minimum of three hours in the library almost every day. I learned a lot in the classroom, but learned so much more outside of it.

I never realized how different the world was outside of NYC. The people were different. They listened to the weirdest music, dressed differently, and danced funny. This summer taught me a lot about people who grew up in smaller towns and cities. Most of them had lived in houses their entire lives, but I have always lived in an apartment. Their lives were

very different, yet, we were very alike. We all grew close, sometimes uncomfortably close. All in all, it was a great summer. The actual school year would be much different.

August 1998. I walked onto my campus and realized something. No one looked like me. No one talked like me. I felt like I had a huge bull's eye on my back. I was a very rare breed on a campus far away from not only my city, but any relatively big city. The school only had 4% students of color. For the first week of school, I hardly ever left my dorm room. I hung out only with the other New Yorkers, because they were in the same boat as me. After sometime, I realized that there was no danger in my presence. Time proved to me that no one really cared. After a while, I simply became another member of the community. We all cared for each other. Life was great! Until... well until, one of my friends from my neighborhood, Jay, was called the "N" word by a drunk student. Life became a little uncomfortable for all the students of color.

Tension! There was tension in the air so thick it was like a cloud on our campus. We could feel it as we walked to the dining hall, to class, to the gym. It was just everywhere. Some people wanted to retaliate, some wanted to protest, and some wanted to

hurt somebody. Instead, the young man that was called the "N" word knocked on the door of the young man that called him that awful word. No one knew what was going to happen. We all expected the worst. Was my buddy Jay going to do something crazy? Was there going to be a fight? What was going to happen? RA's were called, but when the door opened the young man that said that awful word sent them away and said "everything is fine" and gently closed the door. Had Jay scared him so much that he turned away any authority? Thirty minutes later, the door opens, and we all here laughter. We all thought the same thing and that thing was... "huh?"

Jay calls to me and says, "Let's buy some pizza and wings." I agreed. Not knowing what was going to happen. As soon as we ordered pizza in my room, the rest of the "New Yorkers" knock on my door. They are all asking what Jay said. Did he threaten to hurt him? What? Jay simply says, "I taught him." Jay, was known to be quick tempered, and quick to fight, but he had never been attacked with such a word. So he said he sat and talked to his former track coach. His track coach said to teach him.

*Continued on next page*



## Everyone's a Professor *continued from page 4*

Teach him what that awful word really meant. He also said something that I remember to this day and I truly believe. His coach said, "Racism does exist, but not all ignorant acts are racist. Some people are just plain ol' ignorant and don't know any better, so teach them who you really are. Life is too short to be bitter about someone's ignorance. Just teach them... teach them in a humble matter." I heard Jay say this and it stuck in my head forever. The four young men, including myself, that were in my room hearing Jay speak that day, we were never the same.

Throughout my college career, I learned to think and sometimes educated a person on what my culture was all about

whenever they said something that wasn't right. I too was called a hurtful word or two, but I now knew better. Rap and meringue were no longer all I listened to. I started to like a band called The Dave Matthews Band. Weird huh? To be honest, I had the best four years of my life at that college. I was friends with everybody and everybody respected me and anyone who was like me. There were some sour apples in the mix, but no one ever cared what those people had to say. Jay's coach was right; Life is too short to be bitter about ignorant people. Just teach them and keep living your life. That ignorant young man and Jay became friends. That young man told us that he started to teach what he learned

from Jay, and from simply being in our company all the time, to his friends. That little lesson on life that Jay taught that young man and us was paid forward to many, many people.

Why did I just tell you this story? Simply because it influenced who I am today. I understand that not everyone will be as fortunate as me and those young men in my room, but I also understand that ignorance is around us. I too have been very ignorant in my past. Sometimes I still am. Be careful not to misinterpret racism for ignorance. Teach ignorant people the true story of who you or any other culture is really like. Teach it to them humbly and do it wisely. Be the professor outside the classroom.

## Preparing to Take Summer Session Classes *By Ms. Helana Nardell, AOP Counselor*

Planning to take summer classes either here in Geneseo or at another college nearer to home? If so, there are several considerations to take into account and actions you should take at this point in the semester to ensure that the process goes smoothly.

First, consider WHY you want to take summer classes. The reason(s) most students sign up for summer session classes is usually one of the following:

- 1) You need to repeat a course that is a prerequisite for another course you want to take in the fall semester. Geneseo's academic regulations allow you to repeat a course in which you earned either a "D" or "E" and have only the higher of the two grades included in your cumulative GPA.
- 2) You would rather take a course you think you might have difficulty with in the summer when you'll only have one or two courses to focus on.

Contrary to popular belief, summer classes are NOT easier than classes offered in the fall or spring semester. You still meet for the same number of hours, have the same amount of assigned reading and the same number of tests and/or papers. Geneseo runs two six-week long summer sessions as well as a three-week session (for a very limited number of classes) that runs concurrently with the first full summer session.

3) There are two classes you want to take in the fall, but they meet at the same time and one of them is being offered in the summer.

4) You've discovered it is a lot easier to keep your cumulative GPA up when you take four rather than five classes in a full semester and so you'd rather take classes in the summer than struggle with 15 or 16 credits in the fall and/or spring semesters.

5) You've withdrawn or failed a number of courses and need to increase the number of credits you've earned and/or your cumulative GPA in order to retain your eligibility for financial aid.

6) Your parents are being really unreasonable and expect you to either take summer classes or GET A JOB this summer!

Now, if you're satisfied that you have a sound rationale for taking summer classes, you need to ask yourself – WHERE? Consider the fact that classes taken at other colleges must be pre-approved by the Office of the Dean (ask your AOP counselor to help you with the paperwork) and **only the credits** (not the grades) will transfer onto your Geneseo transcript. For instance, if you take the equivalent of PSYC 100 at another college and earn at least a C minus, you can transfer the 3

credits to Geneseo but your grade will have no effect on your cumulative GPA. The course will also fulfill the requirement for taking any other course for which PSYC 100 is a pre-requisite. One other thing you need to be aware of is that you cannot transfer credits from another college if your Geneseo cumulative GPA is below 2.0.

Please set up a time to meet with your AOP counselor to discuss your plans for taking summer classes. Do this as soon as the schedule of summer classes is made available (generally mid-March) by the college you wish to attend. You can view information about Geneseo's Summer School Program by logging onto The Dean of the College's web page, selecting the Scheduling and Registration link on the left hand side of the page and selecting "Summer Session."



## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 or, even better, the 2008 W-2s (Wage and Earnings Statements) that employers are required by the Federal government to mail out to employees by January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. Once the actual tax returns have been completed, you can return to the online SAR (Student Aid Report) and update the estimated figures with the actual ones. The only other information you must have in order to complete the renewal process is

your Department of Education 4-digit PIN, which you may access by logging onto: [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov) and answering a few questions.

There are two reasons why you may want to get those applications in as soon as possible. The first is that the College receives a finite 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 (see article on p. 5). 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 hour long appointment with your AOP counselor ASAP.

### Spring 2009 Workshops

AOP workshops have already been underway for the Spring 2009 semester. If you have not been attending AOP workshops, here is a sample of what you are missing:

- So I messed up last semester...Can I do better? Yes I can! How?
- FAFSA Renewal Process
- Frugal Living on a College Budget

Upcoming workshops include:

- Facebook. "I like it. I love it. Now I can't get a job..."
- I want to go to graduate school!

Most workshops are held during the all College hour. Please check your email for workshop dates, times, and locations.

## Record Number of Students Eligible for Chi Alpha Epsilon Induction



AOP students had a spectacular 2007-2008 academic year, on many levels. Most impressive were the academic standards achieved by fifty-two (52) students who maintained a 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA for both semesters of the academic year. As a result, these students received a formal letter of invitation from the President of the Alpha Psi Chapter of Chi Alpha Epsilon (XAE), Ms. Dan Lin, to participate in the formal induction of new members. The ceremony will take place on Saturday, April 4, 2009 in The Hunt Room, located on the ground floor of the College Union. This is a private ceremony, open only to current and incoming members. The newly inducted members will be officially presented and "pinned" at the Annual AOP Recognition Reception in the College

Union Ballroom on Thursday, April 30, 2009, which is open to the entire College community.

XAE is a national honor society established in 1990 at West Chester University of Pennsylvania by Dr. Elbert Saddler. It was created in order to recognize the academic achievements of students admitted to colleges through opportunity programs such as EOP, HEOP and TOP. There are eighty-three (83) chapters nationwide. Geneseo's chapter has inducted 115 students since its establishment in October, 2000.

We offer our warmest congratulations and best wishes for continued academic success to the following AOP students who have been invited to join Chi Alpha Epsilon this year:

Jamie Abreu  
 Jihyeon Ahn  
 Melissa Antonio  
 Courtney Carney  
 Amy Chan  
 Vipul Chandhok  
 Qin Chen  
 Ulyses Colon  
 Lauren Crispino  
 Trishana Crooks  
 Senia Cuevas  
 Stephanie DeRico  
 Callie Eidler  
 Jasmine Frye  
 Xun Gao  
 Anst-Bidry Gelin  
 Ronnia Girgis  
 Calvin Goldman  
 Yolanda Gonzalez  
 Fiona Harvey  
 Jacqueline Hernandez  
 Sungyong Hong  
 Jin Tae Kim  
 Anita Lau  
 Curtis LeClair  
 Kyu-Ree Lee  
 Guangchong Li  
 Jinzhi Lu  
 Deanna Long

Lucas Machado  
 Eunice Maeng  
 Andre McDuffie  
 Kevin Murphy  
 Warren Niu  
 Mekal Ogbeab  
 Danielle Orsini  
 Haisu Qu  
 Pamela Reyes  
 Jacob Roa  
 Hely Rodriguez  
 Gabrielle Rowland  
 Garreth Ruane  
 Daniel Schreier  
 David Schweizer  
 Margot Terc  
 Catherine Veytia  
 Derek Weng  
 Sylest Williams  
 Wei Ting Wu  
 Aishah Zainol Rahim  
 Magdalena Zambrano  
 Chen Zhou

## Thank You AOP Tutors!

A big thank you goes out to the 14 AOP students below who are not only successful students, but who also gave back to the program and worked as tutors during the Fall 2008 semester. Out of 71 total tutors, 14 is the highest number of AOP student/tutors supporting and assisting other AOP students we have ever had! By giving to others, you give to yourself by reaffirming your knowledge, making connections, growing personally and socially, and knowing that you have helped an-

other person. Please thank these students when you see them.

Brandon Crosdale  
 Anst-Bidry Gelin  
 Calvin Goldman  
 Yolanda Gonzalez  
 Curtis LeClair  
 Dan Lin  
 Myreli Lopez-Rodriguez

Vishal Makhija  
 Anthony Nica  
 Haisu Qu  
 Gary Ruane  
 Sergio Spencer  
 Margot Terc  
 Derek Weng



## Women's Leadership Institute in its Second Year

The fall and spring semesters have been very exciting for the Women's Leadership Institute (WLI). The twenty participants have been able to take advantage of development sessions such as "Dress to Impress", "Networking", and "Leadership Skills". During the spring, WLI members will participate in a gender development session with MILES (see p.9), and will learn the basics of the game of golf.



Networking Session

As its community service component, WLI participated in the Adopt-A-Family program, as well as the YWCA Shoebox Drive, where over thirty shoeboxes were filled with personal care items for women in need.

They will also participate in the American Cancer Research Society's Relay for Life in April.

This year, support sessions were added to enhance the personal development aspect of the program.

These support sessions are known as "Woman II Woman", and are held twice a month on Friday after-



Dress to Impress Session

noons. Topics include "Strengths and Weaknesses", "Relationships" and "Stress Management".

The highlight of the year was the Women's Expo. The theme for the Women's Expo was Women in Leadership: I Am Superwoman, based on the popular song by Alicia Keys. This full-day conference included four workshops conducted almost entirely by SUNY Geneseo alumni, entitled "Power Couples", "Breaking the Glass Ceiling", "Women and Diversity", and "Financing Your Life". The workshops were followed by an open forum on "Being a Superwoman", where students were able to ask questions of all of the workshop presenters. After the open forum, WLI members were able to network and mingle with SUNY Geneseo faculty, staff, administrators, and alumni during a Networking Mixer and Dinner. The day culminated with keynote speaker Laurie Baker, Senior

Vice President and COO of the Summit Federal Credit Union. This amazing event gave WLI members an opportunity to display the skills they learned throughout the year, and was planned in conjunction with the Geneseo Opportunities for Leadership Development (GOLD) program, the Klainer Center for Women & Business, and the Office of Institutional Advancement.



Program Development Team Members with Laurie Baker '85.

In its second year, the Women's Leadership Institute has experienced much growth and success. As Katy Arroya, a junior History major with adolescent education certification, writes:

"WLI has given me a support system of great women and young ladies who listen when I talk, watch when I act and help to lead me to where I want to go. WLI has benefitted me in my community, recharged and motivated me in my workplace, and most of all, helped me to discover what kind of leader I am."



WLI Members & Supporters at the Women's Expo

# MILES Makes its Debut in 2008-09

2009 has been a very busy year for everyone so far! It has been and still is a very busy and important period in the short life of Men Incorporating Leadership Empowerment and Service (MILES). If you are a man on the SUNY Geneseo campus, MILES is for you! This semester, MILES has started off on a strong foot. MILES meets every Thursday from 6pm to 7pm. Food is often provided! The meetings are held in the Student Union Room 319. Please join us!

On February, 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009, four of the MILES men, Timon Aikawa, You Lin, Greg Weerasinghe, and Scott Snowden, accompanied by Mr. Iturbides, all drove down to Albany, NY for the Annual NYS Opportunity Programs Lobby Day. The men drove down to Albany and talked to actual NYS Assemblymen to show them how important the opportunity programs and state/federal aid are for our students. They talked from the heart and were very professional when they did so. These men are perfect examples of what MILES is supposed to be all about. If you receive financial aid of any sort, be thankful that those men went down to Albany to help keep your financial aid coming in.

MILES will be working with Susan Norman's young men

from the Rochester Young Scholars Academy at Geneseo (RYSAG). On April 25th, we will have a young men's leadership day where the MILES men



*MILES posing for a group photo.*

will travel to Rochester to teach the young men from RYSAG. This gives the men of MILES the opportunity to teach the young men about what life in college is all about and give them a first-hand experience of what the college life is all about and, more



*MILES on a trip to Niagara Falls.*

importantly, how to be positive males in their community.

On April 3<sup>d</sup>, 2009, the men of MILES and the women of the Women's Leadership Institute (WLI) will be meeting to have a "Conversation between Genders." The men and women will have the opportunity to respond to gender stereotypes, such as

why "all men are dogs," or why "all women are needy" and many other stereotypes. Both of these stereotypes are not true, but some people believe that they always are. Come and show everyone what a man, more importantly a MILES man, is all about.

The MILES men have an event brewing that they hope becomes an annual event. The MILES men want to start an outdoor 3-on-3 basketball tournament. They hope to get this off the ground and running by the end of April. Please keep your eyes peeled and join when the event is advertised!

EVERY MAN is welcome to be a MILES man. For those men who have been committed to MILES and have exemplified what a MILES man is all about, they will receive a huge reward at the end of the semester. MILES is designed to make every MILES man better every day. The MILES man will carry himself as a strong, mature, professional man. For those of you that own a suit, there's a feeling of maturity and professionalism that empowers a man when wearing a great looking suit. We want to empower the man that exemplifies a MILES man with that feeling; therefore, the MILES man of the year will receive a suit as a reward for his efforts. You can be that man!

## ALUMNI NEWS

Trish Liang '08 was accepted to the DMD class of 2013 at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. Trish writes, "Without all [the AOP staff's] help, I would not have the chance to attend Geneseo and therefore I would not have the chance to go to dental school today."

## STUDENT NEWS

Tonisha Clinton, a sophomore Psychology major, participated in the Annual Juried Exhibit at the Lederer Gallery. Her sculpture, *Two Circles Entwined*, was specially selected by Professor Eugene DeZarn. This is Tonisha's first exhibit. Congratulations, Tonisha!

## SUNY Geneseo

Isom E. Fearn Access  
Opportunity Programs  
S.U.N.Y. College at Geneseo

Phone: 585-245-5725

Questions? Feedback? Please Contact:  
Patricia González  
[gonzalez@geneseo.edu](mailto:gonzalez@geneseo.edu)

We're On the Web!

[www.geneseo.edu/~aop](http://www.geneseo.edu/~aop)

### IMPORTANT DATES - SPRING 2009

<b>February</b>	<b>1-28</b>	<b>Meet with AOP Counselor to complete FAFSA/TAP Renewal for 2009-2010</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Sa</b>	<b>Chi Alpha Epsilon Induction Ceremony @ 11:00 a.m. in The Hunt Room (College Union)</b>
	<b>6</b>	<b>F Last Day to Select Pass/Fail grading option for all students (except freshmen)</b>		<b>6-17</b>	<b>M-F</b>	<b>Academic Advising Appointments for freshmen</b>
	<b>17</b>	<b>Tu Sign up for EOP Cash Advance #2 (off-campus students only) Please Note: This is a ONE DAY ONLY sign up!</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>Last day for diploma applicants to verify name for Diploma/Commencement Program in Records Office (Erwin 102)</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Su Initial Deadline for completion of FAFSA for 2009-2010</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>Tu</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Annual G.R.E.A.T. Day - NO CLASSES</b>
	<b>6</b>	<b>F Mid-point of semester</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>Advance Registration for Fall 2009 Ends</b>
	<b>8-13</b>	<b>M-F Freshmen meet w/ AOP Advisor to discuss mid-term grades &amp; Pass/Fail Decisions</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>Th</b>	<b>Annual AOP Recognition Reception - College Union Ballroom (5:00 - 8:00 p.m.)</b>
	<b>16-20</b>	<b>M-F Spring Break</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Fr</b>	<b>Application deadline for admission to the School of Business (South 100)</b>
	<b>23-27</b>	<b>M-F Freshmen meet w/ AOP Advisor to discuss mid-term grades &amp; Pass/Fail Decisions</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>Tu</b>	<b>Last day of regularly scheduled classes</b>
	<b>27</b>	<b>F Last day to withdraw from class &amp; receive a "W"</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>Study Day</b>
		<b>AOP Freshman Pass-Fail Decision Deadline (3:30 p.m.)</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>Th</b>	<b>Final Exams Begin</b>
<b>March 30- April 3</b>	<b>M-F</b>	<b>Academic Advisement Meetings for Upperclassmen (NOT FRESHMEN) who:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- have earned less than 60 credits AND</li><li>- have not officially declared a major.</li><li>- are on Academic Probation.</li><li>- have a cumulative GPA below 2.3</li></ul>		<b>13</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>Final Exams End</b>
				<b>14</b>	<b>Th</b>	<b>Residence Halls close at 10:00 a.m. (Graduating Seniors may remain till May 17)</b>
				<b>15</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Graduation Rehearsal at 1:45 p.m.</b>
				<b>16</b>	<b>Sa</b>	<b>Commencement</b>
				<b>18</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Summer Session I Classes Begin</b>
			<b>June</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Application deadline for admission to School of Education degree programs (South Hall 200)</b>

Please NOTE: Advanced Registration on KnightWeb for Fall 2009 and 2009 Summer Sessions begins on Tuesday, March 31st on and continues until Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**HAVE A GREAT SEMESTER!**