



Introducing AOP's New Director – A Message from Ms. Diedre DeBose



My name is Diedre DeBose. I was born and raised in Buffalo, NY. I hold a Bachelor of Science in Social Work from SUNY Fredonia and a Master of Science in Social Work from SUNY Buffalo. I offer over 15 years of experience working with a diverse group of students in mental health, substance abuse, and educational and career counseling. Most of my experience has been working with disadvantaged, high risk and *first generation* College Students. For the past 8 years I have worked with a TRIO Program at the post-secondary level. Although my previous position as the Assistant Director of the Canisius' Opportunity Programs for Education (COPE) was very rewarding, I was excited and eager to expand my personal and professional development, as well as take on a new challenge. Most of my higher

education experience has focused on enrollment, recruitment, and student retention with a focus on counseling and addressing the needs of diverse student populations.

My message to the students is "The sky is the limit". I believe it is critical to let students know the power they possess. We all have the power to be great. If we have an understanding early on of what we can



accomplish, and if we utilize our supports, then we can accomplish any goal we set forth. My passion, as well as my responsibility as the new director is helping students to excel. I am dedicated and committed to servicing the needs of all students. I go above and beyond the call of duty because I believe in what I do. As a former EOP recipient, I am elated to now serve as a director and to be a part of a legacy that has helped so many students to reach their goals of academic success.

I am passionate about empowering and motivating others towards greatness. My focus is on minimizing barriers and

implementing change in efforts of helping students to maximize their full potential. My responsibility is to continue to develop and foster relationships with other departments on campus, as well as within the Geneseo community. I am also responsible for developing strategies for program success. My mission is to strive for excellence and to ensure that students are successful.

I hope to gain new initiatives for program and student success. I also hope to identify and remove barriers. I hope to continue to foster relationships with students, faculty and staff. My focus is on providing quality services for students. Within the short amount of time I have been here, I have learned a lot. I have learned that students truly value AOP. Our students are assertive and they understand they have a voice concerning the services in which we provide. Students are very much connected to this department. I have watched the interaction students have with their counselors and the relationships they have are amazing. I have learned that the AOP staff is absolutely remarkable. All AOP staff members are committed and dedicated to every student and they go above and beyond in efforts of ensuring students are successful. I have also learned that Geneseo is a place of community. Everyone has been very welcoming. I have learned that although we are small, we are strong. We are fighters and no matter what, we will prevail. Because of what I have witnessed from faculty, staff and students, I am honored to be a part of such a strong and resilient community.

**"WE ARE FIGHTERS AND
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WILL PREVAIL."**

From Interim to Assistant Director: The Journey of Mr. Gabriel Iturbides

2015 was a very different kind of year for AOP. As mentioned many times before, our former and longtime director, Dr. Calvin J. Gantt, left the college for another opportunity at another college. We also had the departure of another longtime TOP staff member, Mrs. Teresa Walker-Chan and had more changes come along the way. AOP was in a sad, yet exciting time. I became the Interim Director and helped where I could with making sure that AOP would continue its tradition of academic excellence and growth. Change was a constant feature in our department, but we all know that change has to be well balanced.

In my role as the Interim Director, I truly learned and had a strong appreciation for all the hard work that Dr. Calvin Gantt and Mr. Isom Fearn put into all those years with AOP. In all honesty, I had never worked that hard in my life. The experience was rewarding, but balancing life outside of the home and work in the office was so challenging. My closest mentor, Calvin, was gone. I knew that I could contact him whenever I needed, but I also wanted to grow on my own and was conscious that he too was going through some changes.

The AOP staff really put in extra work in assisting the office. We did not have an Assistant Director last year and it was really hard not having that extra help. The AOP staff recognized that and stepped up to the plate without me having to ask them. I have always had deep



respect for my staff, but I was so appreciative of how they helped guide this department in lieu of all the changes. “I” did not run the office. It was clear that “WE” ran the office.

In December, I was notified that I did not get the position of Director of AOP. I recognized that I still had a lot of room to grow and learn. In all honesty, I had only been the Assistant Director of AOP for about seven months before I became the Interim Director. I valued my time and the opportunity I had as the Interim. I feel closer to Geneseo now than I ever

have. People asked me almost daily for months (not kidding) how I felt about the decision. For a while, I didn’t really know how I felt other than to be positive. Some of my students were angry about the decision, but I was able to talk to them. I felt honored that they were rooting for me. This was a learning opportunity for me

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as well as an opportunity to show my students that you don’t always get what you want and that it is okay. I have learned so much about what it takes to run an

office and that experience is strongly appreciated. I am a better administrator for the opportunity. I still aspire to be a director and this experience has given me the opportunity to be a better director when the time comes for it.



I knew that the best thing that I could ever do is to guide the next director and welcome them to the AOP family as best as I could without getting in their way of how they planned to manage our office. I love AOP and our students and staff and the only thing I have ever wanted for them was to know that all I want is the best for them and if I could help them achieve the best, that would be good enough for me.

There was just one big regret last year and that was that time was never, ever on my side. I worked late almost every day and worked from home on the weekends quite often. All I ever did was think about AOP. I never took a vacation. I had never ever done that in my life. If I ever took a few days off, all I did was think about work. Why was it a regret? I am a family man. My son, Otis Domingo Iturbides, was born right at the beginning of my time as the Interim. My daughter, Ruby, was just turning two at the beginning of my time as the Interim as well. My beautiful wife, Heidi, had her hands full with family responsibilities and she started her MBA program at the University of Rochester. The fact that I have more time on my side lets me devote the time where I want it to be the most, which is with my family. I missed them, even though I saw them every day. Now, I tend to leave work in the office. I don't stay as late as I used to, but I am more effective with the time I do have. I am taking a well-deserved vacation to

visit my family in the Dominican Republic. The best part about my current role is that I have time to work on being the husband and father I always envisioned myself being.

Last January, the school officially hired our new Director of the Access Opportunity Programs, Ms. Diedre DeBose, who had done a great job as the Assistant Director of the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) at Canisius College in Buffalo, NY. Ms. DeBose is a great candidate to lead AOP. With that change, I returned to my role as the Assistant Director of AOP. My job is to assist her however she needs me to help and to learn from her.

When looking at AOP, it has a rich history at SUNY Geneseo, but I noticed that when it came to the staff, I am the person who has been here as a staff member the longest. My main role would be to really guide our new director in what AOP has done in the past. Ms. DeBose made it clear that she wanted to observe and understand the history of AOP before she truly made any changes; which I am sure our alumni, former & current staff, and current students can all appreciate.

As always, AOP is continuing its tradition of being a resource for academic excellence at SUNY Geneseo. AOP's goals are the same. Of course we have little changes here and there, but at the end of the day, the biggest change being the relocation to Sturges which has been great! A student from 10 years ago would still recognize AOP as it always has been, which is a family away from their family.



AOP Student Leaders: Student Advisory Board (SAB) for 2015-16 Academic Year

Check it out! SAB's New Logo!



SAB Events of the 2015-2016 Academic Year

"Thanks-for-Giving"

SAB Can Drive

Lauderdale Service – Volunteer

Relay for Life (Raised \$710!!!)

"Pie Your Advisor" Fundraiser

"Relive Your Summer" Fundraiser – AOP Dance

Hotdog Sale Fundraiser



Nicola Mohan: Chairwoman

My name is Nicola Mohan and I am a senior Political Science and Women's and Gender Studies minor here at SUNY Geneseo. Throughout my time at Geneseo I have been involved on campus through various organizations, however, my main involvement has always been the A.O.P. department. Currently, I serve as the Chairwoman of the A.O.P. Student Advisory board. When applying for this position my intentions revolved around remaining involved in the department. I previously served as one of the A.O.P. Senior Peer Mentors; this position allowed me to feel very connected with that first year class, however, I intend to meet more first year students through my current position.

Overall, the Student Advisory board plans on accomplishing many goals. My personal goal is to form connections between older A.O.P. classes including alumni and the current freshman class. Our board has already made strides towards this

goal and will continue to do so until the end of the semester. All board members currently hold office hours; feel free to stop by and talk to board members and tell us what you want to see happen for this/next year. I am very happy and excited to be Chairwoman of the Student Advisory Board. Please feel free to contact me if you need anything!

Jose Jimenez: President

My name is Jose Jimenez. I am a current senior Math major seeking an adolescence teaching certification here at SUNY Geneseo. I have worked with the AOP program since my second semester sophomore year and I am happy to say that this program has made an impact on my life that I will carry with me wherever life takes me. AOP has given me opportunity to discover what I want to do with my life (become a teacher) and without them I do not think I would have figured that out.

I am the current president of the Student Advisory Board (SAB). My intentions when joining SAB was to form a scholarship for AOP students. So far we are starting to fund raise money to create this scholarship



and have future plans to participate in Relay for life. Another goal SAB has is to participate in community service. We think it is very important to give back to the community and to some organizations nearby. Lastly, it is necessary for one of our goals to be to find a new SAB board for next year. We need members who will keep SAB moving forward. This means, students with creative ideas, students who take initiative, and students who will dedicate their time to make SAB the best they can. In order to get people to want to join SAB we need to create events, send out emails; show our faces to the AOP student body so that they feel our presence. They need to see the importance of SAB and the difference they can make by joining the team.

Since the board is relatively new, there are still some details that need to be worked out but I have confidence that this year's team will set the foundation for next year's team, so that SAB becomes better and better every year.

Jarred Okuson: Vice President



My name is Jarred Okuson and I am currently the Vice President of SAB. I was born and raised in Harlem, Manhattan. Residing in the Saint Nicholas Housing Projects, my living situation provided me with such a diverse awareness of my surroundings, which would eventually help me earn a spot in AOP and eventually the Student Advisory Board. I am currently in the works of earning a BA in Economics while minoring in Political Science and Sociology.

My intentions when joining SAB are still the same as they are now, even after several months into its major rework. As Vice President of SAB, I make it my goal and utmost mission to provide students a means by which they can voice their concerns or suggestions to AOP Staff Members. There are hundreds of us AOP students, so it can be tough! This only makes the job fun for me, looking at a variety of ways to let students have their voices heard loud and clear.

To accomplish this, we definitely have to make ourselves a known presence in AOP. With our office hours having been recently established, SAB members have the chance to communicate with students. We strive to ensure that AOP students feel as though they are in an environment where they can succeed academically and socially.

SAB's plans for the semester are to continue its fast progress toward making its first revamped year a successful one! We hope to roll out a SAB Scholarship for AOP students striving toward success in characteristics that SAB members find necessary in our AOP family.

To close, AOP's Student Advisory Board is making quick work of rebuilding itself into a successful medium of communication for AOP students. We all look forward to working closely with AOP students and staff members alike. We hope to have an impactful year as we further AOP's presence on campus.

Cesar Nunez: Secretary

My name is Cesar Nunez, and I am the Secretary of the Student Advisory Board. I was born and raised in Dominican Republic but currently reside in Queens, NY. My love for literature, arts and politics has driven me to the wonderful town of Geneseo. My duties on the board is to administer and write meeting minutes. This is a crucial part for the survival of the board since it would serve as a referendum for members to come. When I first stumble upon the Student Advisory Board, it gave me a notion to better myself and my fellow peers. I truly wanted to narrow the breach between upper classmen and freshman. Therefore, I set goals for myself on the board, which is too create a general census of unity through the usage of community service. On top of this, I am also a writer for the school newspaper where I voice my opinions current issue that raise an eye. I hope you find this information helpful and to further look upon the wonders of the Access Opportunity Programs.



Ashley Hernandez: Treasurer

My name is Ashley Hernandez. I am the junior representative for the Student Advisory Board as well as the Treasurer. I am a Math major with a minor in Business Studies. I wanted to join S.A.B because I wanted to become more involved with A.O.P and the student body. One of my main goals is to create a bridge between upper classman and AOP. I want upperclassman to feel like there are still people that care for them and want to help them with their transition into post college life. In order to do this, I will speak to my classmates and hear their concerns about what they need and communicate that with the staff in the department. Besides wanting to help better A.O.P, I want to better myself. I know this board will help me develop the skills I need to be successful. I've always struggled with public speaking and interacting with new people, but S.A.B is allowing me to work on this and become better. I know that I will grow as an individual, but also as a team player. This semester I am hoping we can create traditions that will continue

every year. I want to bring all A.O.P students together and make everyone feel like they're just as important as their fellow classmates. I would also love if S.A.B is able to create a team for

Relay for Life because I know there are so many people that have been touched by this movement. I think we will make a huge impact and come closer as a department.

Jamie Keel: Networking Coordinator/ Historian

My name is Jamie Keel. I am an AOP student from Long Island. I'm a sophomore majoring in Sociology and minoring in Legal and Women's Studies! I am a tutor for several sociology courses such as sociology 100, 102, and 105. I love learning about how sociological concepts such as race, gender, class, etc. intersect with the law. I hope to attend law school one day and become a civil rights lawyer! I also love traveling; it's something I want to do for the rest of my life and hopefully make it part of my career!

My intentions when joining SAB was to make a difference amongst AOP students and to further my relationship with the department. After working as a peer mentor during the 2015 AOP Summer Program, I realized that working with the AOP department, as well as with other AOP students was something I wanted to do for the rest of my time at Geneseo.



Throughout my duration on the Student Advisory Board, I have many goals that I would like to accomplish with my team, such as bringing more students in for peer mentoring, fundraising for future SAB scholarships, giving back to the community, and educating the general campus about AOP/SAB.

To achieve these goals, I will collaborate with my team and other organizations to ensure that we educate students, staff, and faculty about SAB and all it has to offer AOP students. SAB has been coming up with different ways to give back to the community such as creating an AOP Relay for Life team!

My plans for this semester include building a foundation (funds, projects, etc.) for the future SAB teams to work with, and planning annual events for future Networking Coordinators/Historians to direct such as the Majors Expo!

Joining the Student Advisory Board was one of the best decisions I've made during my time at Geneseo. AOP is one of, if not the most, important aspects of my college career. It feels amazing to be able to give back and make a difference in the department, and of course, to my fellow AOP peers! Apply to be on the SAB team for the 2016-2017 year, you will not regret it!



Lauren Acker: Event Coordinator

My name is Lauren Acker, I'm from Victor, NY (Rochester), originally from Seneca Falls, NY. I am currently a freshman Business Administration Major with a minor in Legal Studies. My hope for after college is to go to law school and pursue a career in criminal law. My position on SAB is the Event Planner/Fundraising Coordinator. My intentions joining SAB were to represent my peers and keep everyone connected to AOP. Another reason I joined SAB was to give back to the AOP office as they have provided me with many tools and have truly helped me get accustomed to college life.

One of my personal goals as event planner this semester is to come up with another event for everyone in AOP to be able to attend, and raise money for a scholarship fund.

I'm currently looking into reserving the knight spot for a possible event. The idea I currently have is to have an AOP Dance and to "Re-live the summer program dance". Some plans for this semester and summer include crossing into my sorority (Sigma Kappa), and becoming a peer mentor for the summer program and completing my training. Over the summer program I will be the Activities coordinator and I plan on making really fun events for the incoming class.

As the second semester comes close to an end, SAB is working hard to reach all of our goals. Some other goals we have include reconnecting Alumni, community service, and getting ready for a new SAB board to take over. This year SAB has been a great way for me to give back to AOP and I can't wait to see all we accomplish.

Megan Acosta: Communication Coordinator

My name is Megan Acosta. I am a sophomore English major at SUNY Geneseo and I am originally from Long Island. I aspire to become a lawyer after I graduate and apart of the Pre-Law professional fraternity, Phi Alpha Delta. Since I arrived here on campus, I have tried to be as active and involved a student as I can. I am the senior editor of MiNT Magazine, the campus literary publication, a sister of Sigma Kappa, and an employee at the local pizzeria, Mama Mia's.

However, a position that I hold closest is being a part of the S.A.B. (Student Advisory Board) team. As one of the members of this new program, I feel a sort of responsibility to help in its success and build its foundation. I also feel a sense of opportunity and freedom to transform this board into its full potential. My position in particular is the Communications Coordinator. I manage our current Facebook page and am looking to expand our social media presence into other mediums such as Instagram and Twitter in the near future. One of my goals is to create a kind of forum for students to feel comfortable enough to voice their opinions, comments and desires in this feed. As one of S.A.B.'s main goal is to bridge the gap between student and faculty, this would allow an open conversation to permit between the two.



My intentions before joining S.A.B. were virtuous. I felt as though the department, who does an amazing job overall, was lacking in certain areas that only actual students in AOP could properly fix. Connecting the students to faculty is a main goal of mine, and that of the entire board. Another issue that I hope to revise is the relationship of the upperclassmen of AOP to mend and for them to become reengaged in the department. Both of these matters are at the forefront of S.A.B.'s formation and we are eager to rebuild it.

This semester thus far has been rewarding. As a board, we are working on creating a Relay for Life team for the entire AOP family to participate in, as well as, establishing a scholarship fund for a student to receive on S.A.B.'s behalf. Overall I am excited for the future and looking forward to seeing where this board goes next!



Women's Leadership Institute (WLI)

The Women's Leadership Institute (WLI) has been back at it for the spring 2016 semester. They have continued with their monthly Professional Development events and their weekly Women II Women sessions. In February, WLI sold Valentine's Day goodies in the college union to raise money to donate to the Children's Heartlink. Along with Mr. Baique's assistance (thanks Mr. Baique!) they raised \$210.00. WLI is looking forward to the second half of the semester during which they will have their Vision Boards Professional Development event, Women II Women sessions, a GREAT Day presentation, Relay for Life and their closing ceremony.

A WLI spring semester highlight is always the Leadership Conference. WLI, in partnership with GOLD and the School of Business hosted the eighth annual Leadership Conference on March 2nd. During this conference, seven concurrent GOLD workshops were offered during the afternoon followed by a networking dinner and keynote speaker in the evening.

This year's keynote speaker was Karen Podsiadly. Karen is an alumna of SUNY Geneseo (class of



1990) – and AOP - and currently works at The College at Brockport as the Director of Community Development. She generously gives her time and



talents to her alma mater. Karen sat on the SUNY Geneseo Alumni Association board for over ten years and she has facilitated workshops for the Leadership Conference since its induction. She has a passion for mentoring young women to help them become leaders in all areas of their lives. This year, Karen's address was, "Lean Into Your Geneseo Experience." There was a record attendance for the dinner and keynote speaker this year with over 100 students, alumni, faculty and staff!

The Leadership Conference planning committee – which consisted of WLI's Program Development team, GOLD leader mentors and Tom Matthews – did an outstanding job planning the conference and making sure everything ran smoothly on the day of the event. They put a great deal of time and effort into ensuring the entire conference was successful.

Please remember – although you have to apply to WLI in the fall to be a full program participant, all women on campus are invited to the weekly Women II Women sessions in the college union. If you want to become a full program participant, please keep an eye out for the application that will come out in September 2016. Feel free to contact Mrs. Havens with any questions. WLI would love to have you join!

Men Incorporating Leadership, Empowerment & Service (MILES)

MILES IS CURRENTLY UNDER
CONSTRUCTION! MILES WILL RESUME FOR
THE 2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR! STAY
TUNED! IT'S GOING TO GET GOOD!



CHI ALPHA EPSILON HONOR SOCIETY

AOP would like to congratulate the new members inducted into Chi Alpha Epsilon, Alpha Psi Chapter on April 9, 2016. We are proud of your academic performance thus far, and we hope for you to continue excelling! Congratulations!

New Inductees!



The Honorable Diego Barcacer Pena
The Honorable Caroline Berrios
The Honorable Anthony Burgois
The Honorable Kevin Carrera
The Honorable Alexandra Casado
The Honorable Andy Chen
The Honorable Lisa Chen
The Honorable Lisa Chen
The Honorable Fatima Elmarakbi
The Honorable Erika Esquivel
The Honorable Taylor Jackson
The Honorable Justin Jarvis
The Honorable Ashley Joseph
The Honorable Jamie Keel
The Honorable Jeremy Medina
The Honorable Sabrina Medina
The Honorable Jarred Okuson
The Honorable Eghosa Okungbowa
The Honorable Monica Pujols
The Honorable Ravneet Singh
The Honorable Sofia Villalon
The Honorable Fuko Yano

AOP would also like to recognize Mr. Bryan Rivera for getting inducted into Chi Alpha Epsilon as an honorary member. Your service to the AOP department is well acknowledged! Thank you for all you have done and all you continue to do to make the department flourish!

*The Honorable Bryan Rivera

From Behind the Desk: A Word from the Tutoring Coordinators

Dear Tutee,

I wanted to write to you about the AOP Tutoring Services. Is tutee a real word? According to my quick review, yes, it's a word. It's a noun for a student of the tutor, but I can't help picturing a dancer in a tutu (Tutu, Tutee). One may receive tutoring in Dance 100, but AOP tutees are not required to wear tutus.



Enough sound and word play for this brief commentary. I hope that you continue to read, because success is our goal within the AOP programs. As one of the tutor coordinators, I aim to communicate to the tutees (and to the tutors) about the need to believe in their talents, to be self-advocates, and to dedicate time to a disciplined weekly study plan. We first recommend that students visit professors during office hours. Wear a tutu to gain attention, if needed. Seriously, it is your right to ask questions and to be an active learner on campus. Consider a few tips to prepare for the visit. Let's prevent feeling forgetful, speechless, or compelled to dart to the nearest exit. Write your questions out in advance. If you can't formulate a question, present your rewritten notes and identify missing information. Take notes during the conversation with your professor. Here's a challenge. Visit your professors once a week. Set a goal for best communication with them.

Attending all classes is the grand plie' of tips for tutees. Rewriting your notes, immediately after classes, and creating an outline format is another tip. Take your outlined notes to the professor for additional reviews. Alert! What information in your notes is most difficult or confusing? This is where you need to pay close attention as areas of uncertainty lead to a poor outcome. You may wish to be the best student dancer in Dance 100 or in a jazz class, but you must practice, observe good planning, and use all of your supportive resources for the best result. Your AOP tutor is an additional layer of commitment to excellence within your study routines!

Moving on to baseball...Baseball? What is happening with the strike policy? You know, three strikes and you're out. Well in AOP, we don't want students to get anywhere near three strikes! If you do receive a strike email and want to talk about it, please see me or Miss Santos. Strikes are emailed to tutees when a session is missed. Receiving a strike email raises your awareness ("Who me?"). The tutoring service is costly and involves multiple student schedules. The strikes promote communication between AOP Advisors, tutors, and tutees. We honor your rationale for missing sessions, but if we find that you are not committed to the tutoring, then we suggest a change. Make an appointment and be heard. We care.

Tutor Coordinators: Ms. Santos & Mrs. Lofquist

Making Strides to Reconnect! AOP's First Ever Alumni Event!



On January 7, 2016, the Access Opportunity Programs (AOP) joined forces with the Office for Multicultural Programs and the Alumni Association to reconnect alumni to the campus. These departments worked together to bring students that were underrepresented in the Geneseo community and give them support as alumni. At 7:00 p.m. alumni from the past 10 years gathered at The Beer Authority in the heart of Manhattan.

The over 60 alumni in attendance gave the most warm and heartfelt welcome to President Denise Battles, the AOP Staff (Miguel Baique, Courtney Havens, Gabe Iturbides, Beverly Henke-Lofquist, Courtney Havens, Bryan Rivera, and Joanna Santos), Fatima Rodriguez Johnson, Georgensen Anselm, and Alumni Representatives Ronna Bosco and Amanda McCarthy. When Gabriel Iturbides and Fatima Rodriguez Johnson, or more well

known as Mr. I and Ms. Fatima took the microphone, the applause almost broke the sound barrier. Alumni from all years had been excited to welcome back representatives from the programs that got them through Geneseo. Many of the students in attendance felt a sense of gratitude for the family nature of AOP and the multicultural programs at Geneseo. They saw their peers as a second family, and it was indeed a family reunion.

As the event kick-started, you could hear the excited gasps of old friends being reunited after years apart, or days apart for those that kept in closer contact. Regardless of the last time they were together, when the AOP family reunites it is always a moment of excitement. Within minutes, people had picked up right where they left off as if years hadn't passed. Everyone wanted know what had happened in those years away from the home that they called Geneseo. Did they have a job? A house? A family? Had they kept in touch with anyone? Have they been back to Geneseo? Basically, what had become of their lives. After the game of catch up and some delicious refreshments, alumni started reminiscing about their experience at Geneseo. They talked about everything from their summer program to the moment they walked across the stage. People spoke fondly about their classes, professors, advisors, clubs, parties, and all that came in between.



While at the event, alumni, students, and staff were able to take photos on a Geneseo backboard. This gave the event a centerpiece for camaraderie. Groups gathered around to get a shot with their old friends, favorite advisor, and even the new college president. All in attendance networked and shared current opportunities they had. Students at the event secured potential internships, and made connections with former students.

As a proud graduate of SUNY Geneseo, AOP Alumna, current TOP Counselor, and a member of the planning committee, I could not be happier for the end result. We hope to have this event again in the future, and have even more members of the family in attendance.

--Ms. Joanna Santos



Preparing for Class of 2020! Training for the AOP Summer Program

The Summer Team!

Program Coordinators: Ms. Joanna Santos & Mr. Bryan Rivera

Senior Peer Mentor: Jamie Keel

Calculus Tutor/ Floor Supervisor:

**Activities Coordinator/ Public Relations/
Floor Supervisor:** Lauren Acker

Dawud Shah

Justin Jarvis

**Office Assistant/ College 101/ Floor
Supervisor:** Shekiqua Reid

Chemistry Tutor/ Floor Supervisor:

Jessica Imayeguahi

INTD 170 Tutor/ Floor Supervisor:

Nicholas Robinson

Candance Pedraza

Statistics Tutor/ Floor Supervisor:

Ladynel Loveras

Yaskairy Castillo

Dinetra Gowdie

Theresa Robert

Lorenzo Rodriguez



A Word from your Program Coordinator – Mr. Bryan Rivera!

Each spring semester provides an opportunity for current students to give back to the AOP department and become peer mentors to the new incoming class. Preparations, interviews and training have already begun for the 2016 AOP Summer Program. This year I have the pleasure of co-coordinating the summer program with Ms. Joanna Santos. I'm looking forward to working with her, this year's new student staff and welcoming a new class to the AOP family.

There will be some changes to this year's AOP Summer Program. Student staff training will partially take place during the semester. We hope that the addition of training time during the semester allows for a stronger team, better preparation and increased growth amongst the staff both personally and professionally. Student staff will be trained on how to effectively listen, tutor and address any needs that students may have once they arrive on campus. More specifically student staff will be Safe Zone and Green Dot Bystander Intervention trained.

The summer program offers an opportunity for incoming students to create personal relationships with Geneseo faculty, staff and mentors by participating in rigorous courses, enriching workshops and student-focused activities. These relationships and friendships that are made during the upcoming 4 weeks will last the next 4 years. The AOP staff and student staff team are looking forward to building these relationships and cultivating student growth with a new freshmen class!

Transitioning Students for a Better Geneseo!



AOP Highlight! AOP Recognizes a Special Person: Mr. Joseph Dolce



AOP wants to recognize a special person that has contributed to the success of AOP in ways that we cannot thank enough. This year we want to thank Mr. Joseph Dolce!

Get to know Joe!

Joseph Dolce was born in Dunkirk, NY into a steel worker's family. He completed his undergraduate degree at SUNY Fredonia where he spent a great deal of his days as a high school student. As a college student, he worked in AIT (Academic Information Technology) at Fredonia and achieved two degrees in English (concentrating in poetry) and Philosophy. During his time at SUNY Fredonia, Joseph became active with the Literacy Volunteers of America, teaching basic literacy and ESOL to poor residents and

local immigrants. In 1999, upon graduation, he started to work in Geneseo's CIT department. Joe continued to teach ESOL and basic literacy skills through the LVA and BOCES up until 2008. Some fun facts about Joseph are that he enjoys craft beer, motorcycling, board games and loves his wife and his dog!

AOP Affiliation: A Word from Joe!

Dr. Gantt's promotion as the Director of AOP is what began a close collaboration between me and the department. It was working with him and the rest of the advisors that I saw the similarities between the obstacles I overcame to achieve undergraduate degrees and those the students in AOP faced. Seeing their successes reminds me of why I stay in higher education, and SUNY in particular.

I've done numerous videos with AOP as well as, provided support for numerous events held by the department. My experience in working with the advisors and students of AOP has always been very rewarding. The strength of character and determination shown by so many of AOP's staff and students give me the motivation to keep working for the advancement of all our students. My experiences working with AOP have always been amazing! So many wonderful people with so many great stories to tell! Of course, like everyone I was extremely saddened to see Dr. Gantt go, not only was he a remarkable colleague, but, a beloved friend. We rarely get to meet individuals who make one feel as welcome as he could. Going forward I look forward to continuing my relationship with AOP. So far, Ms. DeBose inspires confidence and I'm excited about what paths open for collaboration with the department in the future.

To Our Graduating Seniors!



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to our AOP Seniors! You made it! It's time to show the world what you are made of! Go out into the world and make an impact! We know you have impacted AOP majorly! AOP will miss you greatly! Good luck with all of your future endeavors! Always know, AOP will be here for you when you need us! With much love!

-YOUR AOP FAMILY