



AOP CONNECTIONS

Alumni Reunion and Dedication Ceremony: Through the Years



On Saturday, September 22, 2007 and Sunday, September 23, 2007, the AOP department welcomed back alumni to celebrate the life's work of Mr. Isom Fearn, who served as the Director of the AOP department from 1976 until his retirement in December 2006. Over the course of his thirty years of service to Geneseo and the AOP department, Mr. Fearn served as the inspirational leader for his staff and as a mentor for hundreds of students. The extent of this impact was felt when Mr. Fearn succumbed to cancer in February 2006. The outpouring of love and support for Mrs. Betty Fearn, Emeritus and former counselor for the AOP

department, was so overwhelming that this alumni reunion and dedication ceremony seemed a fitting tribute to the man who spearheaded one of the most successful opportunity programs in New York State. Thus, with the sanction of SUNY Geneseo President Christopher Dahl, plans to dedicate the AOP department in memory of this amazing leader began. The theme for the alumni reunion and dedication ceremony was "Through the Years", and the turnout for the weekend of events was incredible.

On Saturday, September 22nd, alumni had the opportunity to tour the campus, meet with current AOP students, commune with each other at dinner with a special slideshow presentation and keynote address by Dr. Cecilia Griffin-Golden, and dance the night away at the Geneseo Knight Spot.

On Sunday, September 23rd, alumni, faculty, staff, students and guests had an opportunity to reflect back on the life's work of Mr. Isom Fearn. The celebration of life began with special remarks by President Christopher Dahl, followed by remarks from Dr. Robert James, Associate Provost for Opportunity Programs in Albany, New York. Prior to the actual revealing of the

plaque, Dr. Katherine Conway Turner, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Dr. William Caren, Vice President for Enrollment Services, also gave remarks regarding their experiences in working with Mr. Fearn and his overall vision and passion for student development. To conclude the ceremony, Mr. Calvin J. Gantt, Director of AOP, called Mr. Anthony Fearn (son of Betty and Isom Fearn) up to assist with the unveiling of the plaque and photograph of Mr. Isom Fearn that will adorn the entry way to Blake, Building C. The AOP department would like to thank the following people and departments for their support throughout this event: Campus Scheduling, College Union and Activities, Campus Auxiliary Services (CAS), Office of the President, Office of the Provost and the Office of Administration and Finance.

To get a glimpse of some of the activities and highlights of the weekend, please visit the AOP website at [www.geneseo.edu/~aop/alumni event 2007](http://www.geneseo.edu/~aop/alumni%20event%202007). Also, if you are interested in donating to the Isom & Betty Fearn Memorial Fund, please make your donations payable to: Geneseo Foundation/ Isom & Betty Fearn Memorial Fund.

Highlights in this issue:

2007 Summer Program	2
From the Director's Desk	3
AOP Students Making News	3
Introducing : Ms. Patricia Gonzalez	4
Fonda Fair Joins AOP As Intern	5
CAE Opens Fall 2007	6
Chi Alpha Upsilon Executive Board	6
Dean's & President's List & AOP Award Winners	7
Important Dates—Fall 2007	8

SUMMER ORIENTATION 2007

Ms. Gatewood, Summer Orientation Staff Supervisor

On July 10 2007 AOP welcomed 98 students from the class of 2011 to the SUNY Geneseo campus. The five-week summer program was designed to help students experience college life, classes and create friendships. During the course of the program study skills were taught and experienced through workshops, tutoring and mandatory study time. We also programmed diversity awareness events to help students understand our campus community.

The main focus of the summer program was to offer students an opportunity to get a head start in their preparation for SUNY Geneseo. The pre-freshman summer program included courses in INTD 199, grammar, mathematics, library skills, and mock lectures conducted by Dr. Andrew Herman (Communication), Ruel McKnight (Chemistry), and Kim McGann (Sociology).

During the summer students were given the opportunity to see some of the cultural and local attractions such as the Underground Railroad, Darien Lake, Minnehan's and other exciting places. The culmination of the summer program was a recognition dinner to honor and award students for their hard work and dedication to their academic success.

The program would not have been possible without the student staff who played a vital role in helping students acclimate to the campus and the demanding course work this summer. For this I and the entire AOP Office are very grateful. To this day the students still seek the help of the summer staff who were given the responsibility to act as mentors during the summer and throughout the school year.



ON COURSE TO SUCCESS...



MANY THANKS TO THE STAFF, FACULTY, & STUDENT STAFF FOR THEIR HARD WORK & COMMITMENT TO THE 2007 SUMMER ORIENTATION!

From the Director's Desk

An Invitation to Excellence is Often Warranted

As we embark upon the beginning of another academic year, I am reminded of the importance of expectations and how important it is to take the time to reflect upon one's goals. For many years, the AOP department has experienced a tremendous amount of success in terms of retention and graduation rates for AOP students. Success, however, as defined by different information-gathering bodies, has to be examined on a yearly basis so that the success does not become simply a hollow measure of one's ability to get students "through" their higher education experience. As such, the AOP department, in its efforts to maintain not only its funding sources, but also its reputation, seeks every year to examine whether or not our "success indicators" are truly those which are most meaningful to the life-long development of the students with whom we work. This year, the AOP department has established the following goals for itself as an indicator for going in the right direction for students educated within a liberal arts environment:

To increase by 15% the retention rate of AOP sophomores moving successfully into their junior year at SUNY

Geneseo.

To increase by 10% the four- and six-year graduation rates for AOP students.

To increase by 40% the number of AOP students that meet the admission requirements for School of Education and Communicative Disorders and Sciences.

To increase by 40% the number of AOP students who meet the admission requirement and are accepted into summer internship programs geared towards medical school.

To develop and disseminate a survey instrument in the spring of 2008 to all AOP students in an effort to gather information regarding students' overall impression of the AOP department, its staff and the support services provided.

These goals are not only reflective of the AOP department's commitment to student development, but also reflective of the department's mission of working with the various members of the Geneseo community to ensure that the overall experience of students

served by the AOP department are a true reflection of the college's commitment to diversity from both an academic and a social perspective. To the new and continuing AOP students, these goals are unattainable without your support and your commitment to excellence. As a department and as a college, we are aware of the doors that open when students challenge themselves both academically and socially. We are all allies in this pursuit, and we are committed to giving you the tools necessary for you continue to reach your goals. Whether or not you see graduate school as an immediate plan for your future, there is no substitute for preparation. So, please accept this as an invitation to excellence from the AOP department. Our department is committed to your success...the rest is up to you!

AOP STUDENTS MAKING NEWS

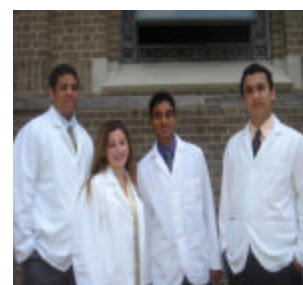
Several AOP students attended the Summer Medical Dental Enrichment Program (SMDEP) during the summer of 2007. The SMDEP is a free, (full tuition, housing, and meals) six-week summer medical and dental school preparatory program that offers eligible students intensive and personalized medical and dental school preparation.

Bil Onogul and **Manuel**

Pintado were two students who attended the program, which is held on eleven different college and university campuses. Bil attended the program at Columbia University. He has the opportunity to attend classes and seminars in Physics, Organic Chemistry, Biology, Histology, and Accelerated Learning Skills and Research. Bil stated that his summer experience was

"great for two main reasons; one, I got the knowledge that I couldn't get anywhere else and [two] I got a free vacation to New York City." Manuel attended the program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He states, "Being part of this program enriched me with incredible tools for my present as an undergraduate student and... more important than that,

it gave me the opportunity to realize that this is truly what I want to do."



Bil Onogul (right), with colleagues from the Columbia University SMDEP program.

Introducing: Patricia Gonzalez

Question # 1: What attracted you to SUNY Geneseo and the AOP Department?

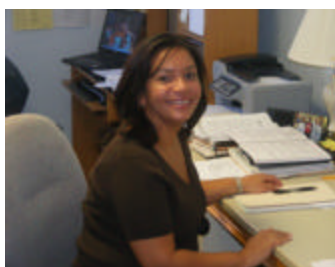
When I was an undergraduate student, I worked as a Peer Tutor/Advisor with the Higher Education Opportunity Program during their summer program for incoming freshmen. Since then, I have always been drawn to working with students in opportunity programs. As a former high school counselor, I am very aware of SUNY Geneseo's excellent reputation for academic rigor, and as soon as I heard there was an opening in the AOP Department, I jumped at the opportunity to be part of the team!

Question # 2: How did you get to where you are in terms of your career?

I studied Psychology as an undergraduate student, but became interested in African-American Studies and Latino Studies because I was very active in the organizations for students of color at Syracuse University. As I got closer to graduation I decided that I wanted to do something in my community that would make a difference, and I decided to become a Spanish teacher. I taught in NYC for 6 years before pursuing a Master's degree in Counselor Education from SUNY Brockport. I worked as a high school counselor for three years before coming to SUNY Geneseo and AOP. I would say that I have gotten to this point in my career by researching careers in education, setting specific short and long-term goals, and by following my passion.

Question # 3: How would you describe your role in AOP?

I believe that it is my responsibility to assist my students in a holistic growth process. This means that I am not only interested in my students' academic progress, I am also interested in their personal and



Patricia Gonzalez, Counselor and Academic Advisor

social growth, as well as their health and well-being. I do not like to give advice or tell students what to do – instead, I believe that as a counselor, I should empower my students to make informed decisions.

Question # 4: What is some of the best advice you received when you were a student?

This sounds cliché, but when I was accepted to Syracuse University, I wasn't sure how I was going to pay for it. Someone I admired said, "Where there's a will, there's a way." That motivated me to set goals and find a way to achieve those goals.

Question # 5: What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to read, go out to dinner or coffee with my friends, and I love shopping! Especially for shoes! I also am very ac-

tive in my church, and sing in one of our church choirs.

Question # 6: What are some of your favorite books, TV shows, movies and musical performers?

My favorite book is the Bible. I also love to read inspirational books, novels, and biographies about leaders of color. My favorite TV show is American Idol! I like all kinds of music, but I listen to Gospel, Rhythm and Blues, and Jazz.

Question # 7: What are the most important things you'd like students to know about you?

I am a good listener. I am very interested in what concerns my students, regardless of whether it's personal, academic, or social. I also try very hard to put myself in my students' shoes and understand their point of view. However, I am very straightforward and will encourage my students to confront themselves.

Question # 8: What are some of your pet peeves (i.e. what kinds of things really annoy you?)

One of my biggest pet peeves is when people make excuses for why they aren't motivated to succeed. HINT, HINT!

Question # 9: Do you have a motto you try to live your life by?

I've often said this to my students – "If something is easy to get, it can just as easily be taken from you. If you have to work hard for something, it will be yours forever."



Fonda Fair Joins AOP Staff as Counselor Intern

Fonda Fair, a 2006 SUNY Geneseo graduate and former AOP student, joined the AOP Staff in June 2007 as a Counselor Intern. This newly created position allows Fonda to learn the about the many aspects of Counseling and Student Personnel and informs her decisions about graduate school and her future career endeavors.

Question # 1: What attracted you to SUNY Geneseo and the AOP Department?

As an AOP Alumnus I knew personally about the level of guidance and care students receive from the AOP department. So when I heard about the Intern Graduate Counselor position, I knew it would be a great learning experience and would definitely prepare me for graduate school.

Question # 2: How did you get to where you are in terms of your career?

Well, I graduated in 2006 with a B.A. in Sociology. I always knew I wanted to work with students so I hold volunteer positions, internships and jobs in afterschool programs and community centers since high school. I have worked in developmental programs with students from elementary to

the high school level, and now I am here in college.

Question # 3: How would you describe your role in AOP?

I see myself as an extended connection for the AOP program and its students. Students have 24-7 access to me and I have access to them that go beyond the 8- 5pm hours, seeing that I live on campus. Sometimes I see myself as a walking billboard for the department, advertising the many advantages of AOP, in hopes that all of the student will "sip the Kool-Aid". My position as far as the office life is very flexible; I get a taste of everything. I am very fortunate.

Question # 4: What is some of the best advice you received when you were a student?

Trust the plan!!! He knows his plan for you, and he would never put more on you than you can bear.

Question # 5: What do you like to do in your spare time?

Being with friends and family, but if no one is available eating pickles and watching reruns of Sex and the City!!!

Question # 6: What are

some of your favorite books, TV shows, movies and musical performers?

I am in love with Scarface, Imma get you Sucka, and School Daze, Sex and the City, SVU and CSI. As far as books Oh, the Places You'll Go (Best gift ever).

Question # 7: What are the most important things you'd like students to know about you?

I am dedicated and always have time for any student. I am open-minded and understanding.

Question # 8: What are some of your pet peeves (i.e. what kinds of things really annoy you?)

Bubble gum popping.

Question # 9: Do you have a motto you try to live your life by?

Love Life!!!



Fonda Fair, Counselor Intern



Good schools, like
good societies and
good families,
celebrate and cherish
diversity.

– Deborah Meier

Fall 2007 AOP Development Workshops

If you have not attended an AOP Development Workshop since you've entered the program, you are missing out on a great opportunity to gain skills in many areas, such as studying and test-taking, career decision-making, and media literacy. However, you still have a chance to take advantage of these workshops! The following workshops are available in the fall semester, and look out for spring semester offerings!

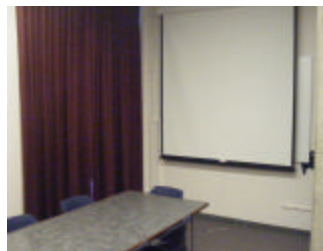
November 1st
Countdown to Finals
South Hall 328
3:15 to 4:15 pm

November 16th
Exploring Health Careers
Milne 105
3:30 to 4:30 pm

November 30th
How You Look On Paper
Milne 213
3:30 to 4:30 pm

Center for Academic Excellence Opens Fall 2007

The AOP department, in its efforts to provide continuous academic support for its students, had the grand opening of the Center for Academic Excellence on September 22, 2007. The CAE came to fruition as a result of collaboration between the Office of the Provost (which funded the project) and the Milne Library



One of three areas for group tutoring. The space is very comfortable and provides the latest technology.

to be offered during extended library hours (7:30 AM – until 11:00 PM, Monday through Thursday; Friday 7:30 AM – 9:00 PM; and Saturday/Sunday from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM and 10:00 AM to 1:00 AM, respectively). The center is located in Milne, Room 121, so go check it out!



Writing Walk-in Tutoring Area. Tutors are available Mondays-Thursdays; Check schedule for available times.

staff (which designed the new center). The center will serve to provide additional tutoring space for small group study, walk-in tutoring and assistance for students in writing. The addition of the CAE will allow the tutorial services offered by the AOP department to be further expanded and allow for additional tutorial services



Computers are also available in group tutoring rooms.

Education is not the filling of a bucket, but the lighting of a fire.

-- W. B. Yeats

Chi Alpha Epsilon (XAE) Ushers in a New Executive Board

This fall, the National Honor Society, Chi Alpha Epsilon (XAE) will be led by a new leadership team. With the graduation of the society's previous President and Vice President, the Honorable Xiao Wu (Wesley) Zheng and the Honorable Samantha Zeng, the new board has some exciting ideas about how to move the society forward. According to the Honorable Xaomei Zhang, President for 2007-08, the society has many ideas regarding both community-based service projects as well as fundraising initiatives. With the induction of thirteen (13) new members this past

spring, the society hopes to draw upon the experience of new members to get the society more connected to the campus community this year. The other members of the executive board are as follows: Vice President, The

Honorable Donte Ray; Treasurer, The Honorable Andrew Tao Li; Secretary, The Honorable Tiffany Palmer; and Membership Chair, The Honorable Cassie Fields. As a reminder, membership is offered to AOP students who have achieved a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher for two consecutive semesters. Stay tuned for more information regarding programs sponsored by the AOP department and XAE.



The Honorable Xaomei Zhang, 2007-08 XAE President

AOP Students Named to Geneseo Dean's and President's Lists

Congratulations and best wishes for continued success to the AOP students who were named to the fall 2007 Dean's List (for having earned a semester GPA of 3.4 or higher) or to the President's List (for having earned a perfect semester GPA of 4.00.) We're SO PROUD of you!!!

Dean's List

Anthony Arenella
Nabila Chaudry
Qin Chen
Ulyses Colon
Jasmine Frye
Anst-Bidry Gelin
Yolanda Gonzalez
Guangyi Li
Trish Liang

Xin Lin

Heidi Morris
Lynda Peterson
Cody Prugh
Jessica Rockford
Garreth Ruane
Catherine Veytia

President's List

Dan Lin

Spring 2007 AOP Award Winners

Congratulations to the following students who received special recognition from the AOP department at the Spring 2007 AOP Recognition Reception. We also would like to extend our appreciation to the scholarship committee that diligently reviewed each application and chose this year's winners.

The AOP Service Award

recognizes and promotes our students' significant community service-related extracurricular activities. This year, we had four recipients: **Tarik Kitson**, **Bilgehan Onogul**, **Donte Ray**, and **Mandy Wu**.

The Charles Randy Bailey

Service Award, established to honor his outstanding support of and service to AOP, was awarded to two students who demonstrated outstanding service both on and off campus: **Tarik Kitson** and **Olufemi Odumosu**.

The EOP Memorial Scholarship

is awarded to outstanding EOP upperclassmen who have demonstrated commitment to academic excellence. This year's recipients were: **Yolanda Gonzalez**, **Ka Shun Ho**, and **Xin Lin**.

The Dr. Ramon Rocha Memorial Scholarship

was established in honor of the Director of the Transitional Opportunity Program (TOP) from 1987-1996. Following his death, the TOP and EOP programs were merged into one department—AOP. It is awarded to a TOP student who personifies academic excellence. The scholarship this year was awarded to: **Tarik Kitson**.

The May-Parker Academic Achievement Scholarship

was created by Jennifer and Claudius May-Parker as a gesture of respect for and gratitude to Isom Fearn and the EOP program at SUNY

Geneseo. The winner is an EOP student who has demonstrated a history of academic and personal achievement, **Amy Lau**.

The Aspiring to Excellence Scholarship

was established by Edward Yuen, a TOP alumnus, in memory of his wife, Cindy Guan, an EOP alumnae, who perished in the 9/11 World Trade Center attack. The scholarship recipients were: **Kyu-Ree Lee** and **Yolanda Gonzalez**.

The Norman McConney Political Leadership Award

recognizes outstanding achievement and leadership by an AOP student. This year's recipient was: **Olufemi Odumosu**.

Again, we congratulate you for your hard work and service to AOP and the SUNY Geneseo community. Keep up the spirit of excellence!



The objective of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives.

– Robert Maynard Hutchins

Access Opportunity Program
S.U.N.Y. College at Geneseo
1 College Circle
Geneseo, NY 14454

Phone: 585-245-5725
Fax: 585-245-5720

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

IMPORTANT DATES - FALL 2007

Oct. 17	W	Mid-Semester Academic Advisement Begins for Spring 2008				<i>appointment in order to obtain their ALTERNATE PIN which is required for on-line registra- tion.</i>
17-26	W-F	Academic Advising Appoint- ments for students with less than 60 credits (NOT new fresh men)	Nov. 9	F	AOP Freshman Pass/Fail Deadline	Last day to withdraw from class and receive "W" on transcript
29	M	Advance Registration for Spring 2008 Begins on Knightweb and continues till Friday, November 16. Please Note: Check Registration Status on Knightweb to con- firm day and time you will be alllowed to access on-line reg- istration and to check on whether there are any holds on your account that will pre- vent pre-registration. All first year and undeclared second year AOP students, students on Academic Probation and any student with a cumulative GPA less than 2.3 <u>MUST</u> <u>schedule an advisement</u>	16	F	Advance Registration for Spring 2008 ends	
			21-25	W-Su	THANKSGIVING VACATION No Classes (Residence Halls close at 10:00 a.m. on Nov. 21)	
			Dec. 1	Sa	Application deadline for admission to the School of Business (South 100) or School of Education (South 200) degree programs	
			10	M	Last day of regularly scheduled classes	
			11	Tu	Study Day – no classes or exams	
			12-18	W-Tu	Final Exams	
			17	M	Deadline for payment of bill for Spring 2008 by advanced regis- tered students	
			19	W	Residence Halls close at 10:00 a.m.	