

The Achiever

THE ARTHUR O. EVE OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

The College at Brockport
Division of Enrollment and Student Affairs

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Let's Get Things Started

Let me begin by saying Welcome Back to each of you and a special welcome to our new transfers coming in this Spring. I also want to acknowledge those of you who are returning to Brockport. It always makes me glad when students return, after being away for a while. Welcome Back to all of you and Happy New Year.

I would like to make everyone aware of some changes in EOP. As most of you know Gabriel Marshall has left us to become the Director of the HEOP program at Nazareth College. I am certain he will do a fine job. Terrence Harris, who was a graduate counselor in our office has temporarily taken on the responsibilities associated with Mr. Marshall's position. So say hi to Terrence. Also joining our staff as Graduate Counselors are Lisa Jones and Ebonessa Graham. Please welcome them into the EOP Family.

Now just a few points as we enter into the spring semester. First, remember Academic Excellence is the motto of our program so I encourage each of you to start off on a good note. We have planned several activities for you this semester so pay attention. Remember also each of you is expected to file your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for 2014 – 2015 by the end of February. No aid will be distributed after March 1, 2014 unless your Free Application for Federal Student Aid has been filed. The ultimate goal is for every student on the program to be completely packaged for financial aid, pre-registered, affirmed enrollment, as well as accepted your aid by May 1, 2014. So let's get busy!

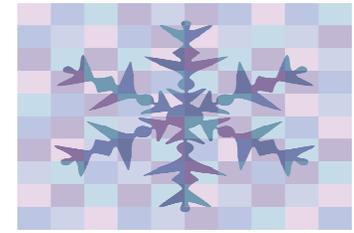


Remaining EOP Check Release Dates

March 6th

April 7th

May 8th



January 2014

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Financial Aid News

WELCOME BACK! We hope you had a happy and safe holiday break. As with the start of any semester, there are certain items which need your attention. At the start of the semester, you will first need to make sure you affirmed your enrollment for the spring term. You also want to take a good look at your bill for the spring 2014 semester. Make sure all charges are accurate. Pay particular attention to items like (but not limited to): Easy Money, alumni fee, and meal plan status. All these charges can impact a potential refund. Being aware of the amount of your potential refund will help you plan for educational expenses for the spring semester. As always, take a look to see if you really need the refund. If you do not need a portion, or the full amount of your refund from a Federal Stafford Loan, you should return the money to the Office of Student Accounts and cancel that part of the Stafford Loan. Always remember that any charges you incur after you get your refund become your financial responsibility.

IMPORTANT TASKS TO ACCOMPLISH TO RENEW YOUR FINANCIAL AID FOR 2014/2015

As we enter the spring 2014 semester, it is a critical time in the financial aid process as the FAFSA and TAP applications need to be complete by March 1, 2014.

For independent students: If you are independent due to a Dependency Override, you will need to complete your FAFSA on the Web at www.fafsa.ed.gov. You must check a box indicating that you are unable to provide parental information and submit your completed Dependency Override Update Form (I12) to the Financial Aid Office. This process should be completed with the Financial Aid Office as soon as possible after January 1, 2014. Also, if you are selected for verification, you may need to submit copies of your federal tax return and/or other required documentation to verify your FAFSA record.

ALL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO YOUR FINANCIAL AID ARE TO BE SUBMITTED TO YOUR EOP COUNSELOR

For dependent students: You need to complete your FAFSA on the Web at www.fafsa.ed.gov with your parents. If selected for verification, you will need to submit all requested documentation to verify your FAFSA record. **All Students:** You must complete your TAP application as well. At the end of the online FAFSA, there is a link available on the confirmation page that you can click to transfer all of your FAFSA data to the online TAP application. Review your FAFSA very carefully! There are substantial changes to the application this year. Please remember that proof of filing your FAFSA must be submitted to your EOP counselor by February 15, 2014. EOP aid will not be given to you unless your financial aid file is complete. We recommend that you and your parent sign the FAFSA electronically using your PIN numbers. If needed, you and your parent can request PIN at www.pin.ed.gov. If you or your parent does not electronically sign your FAFSA using a PIN, you must print the signature page prior to submitting the FAFSA. You will need to provide your signature as well as your parent's signature (if you are a dependent student) and submit this page to your EOP counselor for mailing. Prompt and accurate completion of this process is important to you receiving a proper financial aid package. Other documents may be requested by the financial aid office once they have received your FAFSA information. Federal tax returns and

W-2 forms may be requested if you and/or your family reported estimated income on the FAFSA. It is very important that you thoroughly understand all aspects of the financial aid renewal process.

2014/15 EOP Checklist for Financial Aid

Below are the forms you will need to provide to the EOP Office for the 2013/14 academic year.

- _____ 1. We highly recommend obtaining a Personal Identification Number (PIN) for you and your parents at www.pin.ed.gov. Your PIN allows you to electronically sign the FAFSA, which is significantly faster and more secure than mailing a signature page.
- _____ 2. Proof of filing your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be submitted to the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) Office by March 1, 2013. Proof of filing your FAFSA may consist of one of the following:

A copy of your confirmation page, which you would print after you have submitted your FAFSA electronically.

A copy of the FAFSA on the Web signature page with the student and parent signature, (if required).

A copy of the Student Aid Report that is sent to you electronically, approximately 48 hours after the online submission of the FAFSA application has been completed.

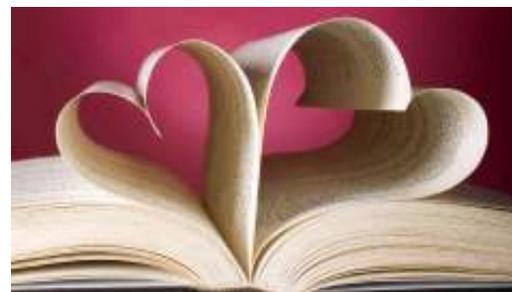
The Financial Aid Office encourages all FAFSA filing to be done electronically at www.fafsa.gov. **Please note:** We encourage both student and parent to sign electronically by using a Personal Identification Number (PIN), which should be obtained before beginning the FAFSA application.

Please be aware that if a dependency override was done, you may complete your FAFSA online. You will need to check the box on the FAFSA verifying you are unable to provide parental information. You must also complete the Dependency Override Update Form, I12, which you can obtain from the Financial Aid Office or at www.brockport.edu/finaid/forms_center.

- _____ 3. Federal tax returns should be filed at least two weeks prior to filing the FAFSA if at all possible. This will allow you to use the IRS Data Retrieval Process to complete the financial portions of the FAFSA by indicating “yes” when prompted. However, you should use estimated data on the FAFSA and file before the FAFSA deadline, April 1st, if your taxes will not be filed by this time.
- _____ 4. You will be able to complete the **Express TAP Application (ETA)** online immediately after completing the FAFSA on the web. If you do not file electronically or you forget to complete the application online, Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) will send you an e-mail or postcard notifying you to complete the TAP application online. In order to be eligible for TAP, you must be a NYS resident and enrolled full-time status.
- _____ 5. Other documents may be requested by the Financial Aid Office once the office has received your FAFSA information. Federal Tax Transcripts and W2 forms may be requested if you and/or your parents estimate income information on the FAFSA, or you are selected for verification.

Note: EOP checks will **NOT** be given to you unless your financial aid file is completed.

Student Success Workshop: “Effective Study Methods”



Presenter: Dr. Algernon Kelley, Professor and Lecturer of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Date: Feb. 14, 2014

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Location: Seymour Union, Room B116

Dr. Algernon will be discussing effective strategies, methods and techniques regarding how to maximize on getting the most out of your study sessions. This is not just for those in science and math related courses, but the information he will share with you can be applied across subject content areas. You don't want to miss this unique opportunity!

EOP Writing Workshops

Do you need **help** with

improving your writing skills and technique? Having a little **difficulty** formulating a thesis statement or structuring your writing?

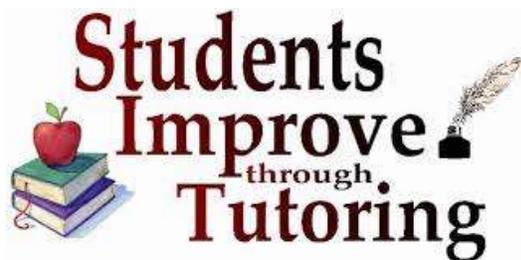


When:

Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm (Cooper Hall, Room C-25A)

Thursdays 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm (Rakov, EOP Conference Room)

For more information please contact Debra Joseph-McEwen, EOP Academic Coordinator at djosephm@brockport.ed or 585-395-5411



EOP's One-on-One Peer Tutoring Program provides students the opportunity to receive individualized tutorial support through being matched with a peer fellow who in many instances has had the same professor, and who has received a superlative grade in the specific subject content area in which the student requires additional help. This tutorial support program not only aids students in being academically successful, but also in acquiring and developing study skills, strategies and techniques to employ across subject content areas, throughout their academic experience and beyond.

The tutorial supports of this program are designed to address the academic needs of the student and tailored to accommodate both the schedules of the student and tutor, thus allowing for the student to meet their assigned tutor(s) as needed to maximize on their learning potential within the sessions and their academic success within their courses.

Why are good grades important? We live in a world with a highly competitive job market. Your grades can make the difference in your being selected for that job/career you are pursuing or being accepted for admittance into the graduate program and graduate school of your choice. You want to stand out and above the rest. Don't settle for mediocrity. Get the supports you need to be all you can be academically. See your counselor, read and complete that tutoring form, submit it in person to your Academic Coordinator (Debra Joseph-McEwen).



EOP's Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) Program

(Starting Tuesday, February 4th)

EOP's NEW *Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) Program* offers students another opportunity to practice their learning. We offer guided study groups for specific classes. The groups are facilitated by peer fellows, students who, like our peer tutors, have earned a superlative grade in the class and is recommended by the professor.

Students attending can expect the peer fellow to support them through the material they want to practice, helping them not just understand challenging content, but also realize that they have been learning better skills and study strategies as they practice.

Any student enrolled in the specific class may attend the study group. You'll find that this opportunity is not just for students having trouble. Successful students use this opportunity to maintain and increase their competence.

EOP's Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) Program

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays
9:15pm – 11:15pm

(Starting Tuesday, February 4th)

Where: Drake Memorial Library (Keifer Room)

What subjects/courses: Various Math courses, CHM 121/205/305, PSH 110, BIO 221, pre-requisite nursing courses and writing

For more information please contact Debra Joseph-McEwen, EOP Academic Coordinator at djosephm@brockport.edu or 585-395-5411.

EOP Welcomes A New Graduate Counselor!

My name is Lisa Jones and I am a new Graduate Counselor in the Author O. Eve Opportunity for Higher Education Program. I will be working with Latasha Craig in developing and creating workshops to provide students with information that will assist them in achieving their education and career goals. It is our hopes that each student graduates college and has a plan of action ready for the next level of education and/or be prepared to step into their career. Latasha and I will also be working alongside the career center to assist our student with every possibility in relation to career development. Ideas and input are gladly welcome, please feel free to contact Latasha Craig at 395-5437 or Lisa Jones at 395-5436 if you have any suggestions or concerns as it relates to developing our students careers.



EOP Nursing Support Group

Initial Meeting:

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Location: CSTEP/McNair
Office, Rm C18

Meeting Schedule

2/5 & 2/19

3/5 & 3/26

4/2 & 4/16

4/30 & 5/14

This support group is designed to provide nursing intents and current students of the Nursing Program an opportunity to meet and build new relationships, meet some of the faculty of the Nursing Program gain and discuss information regarding the nursing program, discuss various careers in nursing and to share their experiences regarding issues in the field of nursing. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information please contact Debra Joseph-McEwen, Academic Coordinator for EOP at (585) 395-5411 or djosephm@brockport.edu

START THE SEMESTER THE RIGHT WAY, SIGN UP FOR A MENTOR!

Sign up to participate in the Educational Opportunity Program's "G.P.S." (Growth . . . Purpose . . . Success) mentoring program. Speak with your Counselor about the benefits of joining the "G.P.S." program and get on the fast track to career success. Build a lasting relationship with a knowledgeable faculty member who can help you better understand your desired career, share valuable insight about changes taking place in your career, and aid you in your growth and development on your journey to becoming a professional. The number of spots is limited so don't waste time in speaking with your Counselor or contacting Gabriel Marshall, Program Coordinator, by phone at 395-5434 or by email at tharris@brockport.edu. If we are unable to match you this semester, your application will remain on file for the next semester.

What does your clothing say about you???

Last fall EOP asked students their opinions on appropriate clothing to wear in a variety of situations (work, school, date, etc.). Your peers had so much excellent advice that we've decided to use their quotes, rather than writing our own. The bullet points below are 100% EOP student wisdom. We are very proud of your insights. Posters with these quotes are also on display around the EOP office. *Thank you for your thoughtful contributions!!!*

- ◆ “Professional Appearance” is the ability to dress in an appropriate manner that displays confidence, humility, and class. It is the ability to look nice that shows you care about not only your job but yourself as well.
- ◆ You can wear what you want. It is your decision, just be aware of who you might be meeting at any given time of day.
- ◆ Be careful what you wear because you are always being judged.
- ◆ Dress to impress people.
- ◆ In relationships, your significant other should NEVER tell you how to dress. Do what makes YOU happy. For your career, dress conservative. No breasts, midriff, toes, shoulders or knees. Wear stockings if you wear a dress or skirt. For school, dress casual. Pajamas are never allowed outside the house!
- ◆ Sagging pants are GROSS!
- ◆ “Professional” means wearing things like slacks, shoes, and blazers. Your choice of fashion could determine if you get a job or not.
- ◆ If you want to impress people wear a button up. Wear ironed, clean clothing and nothing revealing.
- ◆ People who dress well will be respected more.
- ◆ I feel us African-Americans automatically have a bad stereotype so dressing trashy will only enhance negative ideas about us.
- ◆ Be a role model for others to follow.
- ◆ Showcase your self-respect!
- ◆ Fashion and appearance are everything in the real world. It is the first impression people have of you upon first sight.
- ◆ Dress with your future in mind. You never know who is watching!
- ◆ Fashion relates to success in life, relationships, career, school and other situations because it illustrates one's determination, dedication, and motivation to look past one wants to be/achieve. Granted, fashion demonstrates to individuals the importance of dressing the part to achieve the role his/her wants in society.

Many of you will be graduating in May which means you will be interviewing for jobs this spring. Keep these tips in mind! EOP wishes you luck!!!



Notes from the EOP Academic Coordinator...

Wow!!! What a phenomenal semester many of you experienced!!! Ooooh, but we still have another challenging semester before us. Can we do it? YES WE CAN!!! I encourage you all to get the extra academic support you need to begin the semester with a bang and boost that GPA or maintain the “healthy” one you worked so hard to earn. Please make sure to see your tutors to receive the supports you need to assist in your academic success. EOP FACTOID – 142 EOP students earned a GPA of 3.0 or better for the fall 2013 semester!!! Of those students five made the ‘President’s List’, 13 made the ‘Dean’s List with Honors’ and 37 made the ‘Dean’s List’! KUDOS TO YOU!!! Many of you had tutors and realize a little “extra help” makes the difference. Also, the PAL Program will begin Tuesday Feb. 04, 2014. Please use this additional layer of supports to increase your course success rate. Here are a few more study tips I would like to provide you with from Scholarships.com:

Give Yourself Time—Avoid cramming. Spread your studying out over the course of the entire term, review your notes after each lecture or reading assignments (yes, you should be taking notes on these things) and periodically refreshing your memory of what’s been covered so far in the course as you integrate new material into your understanding of the subject. The most effective studying is done in blocks of 45 minutes or less, with retention abilities decreasing the longer you cram without a break. By scheduling a bit of studying into each evening, you’ll not only save yourself the all-nighter, but you’ll also be more likely to remember what you read.

Remove Distractions—Effective studying takes place in a quiet and well-lit setting with ample space and few distractions. In a communal living situation, however, this space can be hard to come by. Even if you do manage to find a secluded corner of your dorm room, the library, the student union or your favorite coffee shop, the college lifestyle doesn’t always mesh well with quiet studying. You still may have to contend with a host of distractions, ranging from your cell phone to your laptop to your study partners.

Depending on what you’re studying, you may want to study alone, or limit group time to the time it will actually be productive. Turn off your TV and your phone while studying and refuse to let anything less important interrupt. Take breaks when you find yourself getting distracted, and consider employing one of a number of methods to get distracting thoughts out of your way (writing them down for later comes highly recommended). If you find yourself surfing the Internet instead of reading or writing, a number of programs are available to forcibly block all distracting programs until you’ve completed your homework.

Take Care of Yourself—People study best when they’re awake and alert. They don’t study best immediately after a huge meal or immediately before bed. Skipping meals and missing sleep can reduce your powers of retention and comprehension. Overdoing it on alcohol, caffeine, or carbohydrates can also make your brain sluggish and less able to absorb new information. Luckily, despite what you may think, it is possible to work “brain food” into a college budget diet. However, while getting plenty of sleep and eating brain food can help you learn more easily, lifestyle changes won’t necessarily result in good grades without the study skills to back them up.

Learn How You Learn—Everyone has a different learning style, but there are a number of tips and tricks that can make studying easier for you. Lists of mnemonic devices and study strategies with adorable names abound online, but ultimately, your choice of study method comes down to trial and error and personal preference. The more you know about yourself as a learner, though, the easier it can be to make sure you’re retaining information. Some students do well with flashcards, others with transcribing their notes into an outline or with finding ways that the items to study relate to each other. Your roommate’s study tips may work better for her than for you. Learn about different study strategies and try a few out. Once you’ve settled on methods that work, you’ll see a difference in how much time it takes you to be prepared for exams

Exam preparation begins on the first day of class—This is one of the most important pieces of information for a college freshman to understand. On most college level exams everything mentioned in class is fair game. It’s not uncommon for a question like—what’s your professor’s favorite tie?—to appear as an extra credit question on an exam. Every class that you attend, assignment you complete, and contribution that you make in lecture will help prepare you for any questions that may appear on an exam in the future. Throughout the semester you are adding to your base of knowledge in a variety of subjects. When answering an essay question, information that you may have considered irrelevant can be used to support your thesis and to demonstrate that you have been involved in the class. The more involved you are in lectures the less information you will have to cram the day before the exam.

What topics does your professor appear most enthusiastic about?

All professors have a favorite topic. Not surprisingly, this topic usually makes up a significant portion of any exam that your instructor administers. I would suggest keeping a list of the topics that your professor spends an excessive amount of time exploring. This will help you remember the most important highlights of the class when the time comes to prepare for an exam.

Hold on to your syllabus—This is arguably one of the most important sheets of paper that your instructor will give you. A syllabus will help you organize the information as you take it in and give you an idea about what topics will be emphasized on the exam. When it comes to preparing for the test, your syllabus will create a study guide for you. As the class progresses, add a few notes to your syllabus. Circle books, topics, and themes which are likely to appear on an exam.

Participate in class—Not only does participation help you get closely acquainted with course material, but it also shows the professor that you are interested in his class. In college, it can seem as though professors don’t even notice when you show up for class. Don’t let them fool you, they notice, and your test grade usually reflects this. Any teacher that doesn’t use a blind grading system, though he may not acknowledge it, is influenced by personal bias. By participating in class you can ensure that your involvement and commitment to the course is recognized.

Keep copies of quizzes, essay questions, papers etc.—Most papers handed out during class come in handy when preparing for an exam. Storing such handouts in a folder is another step that will help you develop an efficient study routine. Additionally, quizzes typically test

WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP!



Are you interested in joining a group of supportive women and gaining a support system during these stressful times or looking to build positive relationships and have a place to come and discuss your frustrations? If so, please join the Women's Support group!

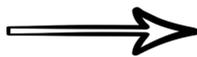
**For more information contact:
Latasha Craig, Senior Counselor @ 395-5437 or stop
by room G11 Rakov**

**Future meetings
5:00pm to 6:00pm
EOP Conference
Room**

2/19	4/2
2/26	4/9
3/5	4/16
3/12	4/23
3/26	4/30

**1ST Meeting: Wednesday, February
12th
5:00 pm-6:00 pm**

EOP BANQUET REMINDER!!!



The Educational Opportunity Program Presents:
35th Annual Honors & Recognition Banquet
Saturday, April 12, 2014
Seymour College Union Ballroom
6:00pm-9:00pm



For More information Please Contact:
Daniel Askey, Senior Counselor @ 395-5438 in room G9C Rakov
Daneille Kruger, Graduate Counselor @ 395-5819 in room G20 Rakov
Division of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs



About Our Honor Society...

CHI ALPHA EPSILON

Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society (XAE) is a national organization founded at West Chester University of Pennsylvania and was organized in 1989. XAE at The College at Brockport was chartered in 2008 with two primary goals: to formally recognize and honor the outstanding academic achievement of EOP students; and to motivate current and future EOP students to strive for academic excellence.

Chi Alpha Epsilon was established to recognize the high academic achievement of students admitted to colleges and universities through non-traditional criteria. Its purposes are to promote continued high academic standards, to foster increased communication among its members, and to honor academic excellence achieved by those students.

Students eligible for this membership must have maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or higher for the last two consecutive semesters.

We encourage you to visit the Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society website at www.xaehonor.com to learn additional information about this organization. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Debra Joseph-McEwen at (585) 395-5411 or djosephm@brockport.edu.

For those eligible for induction this semester please be on the lookout for important information!!!

Career Spotlight

Student: Kerlyne Colin

Major: Social Work

Expected graduation date: May 2014

Since August 2013, Kerlyne has been employed as an intern with Monroe County's Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) which is located in the hall of justice in Rochester. As the communication liaison, Kerlyne is in charge of connecting with other organizations to either promote CASA functions or collect information from other organizations to connect clients to the appropriate resources. Also, Kerlyne is in charge of the quarterly newsletter and social media. The highlight of the internship is that Kerlyne assists with cases by observing court proceedings, writing up case notes, attending home visits, etc. The mission of the organization is to train and supervise a diverse group of volunteers to advocate for children who have been abused and/or neglected. These children are at risk of being removed or have been removed from their homes. CASA's goal is that all children have a safe, permanent home as soon as possible. Volunteers must complete an in depth training before they began to practice. Kerlyne was successful in completing this training as well. As a CASA volunteer you advocate for the best interest of the child. CASA is a private not for profit organization and in order to be involved in a case volunteers must be appointed by a judge. Kerlyne stated, "The best part of the internship thus far has been directly connecting with clients and being able to assist them on a micro level."



When asked what her future goal is, Kerlyne replied, "My future goal is to create and facilitate a program for juvenile delinquents that is effective in rehabilitation. I would like to provide them with opportunities such as education and job training so that they can become self sustainable and contribute to the functions of society."

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from 2-4pm!!!**

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counselor for
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