THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FUND PROGRAM
REFLECTIONS

Congratulations Graduates of 2013

PUSHING BOUNDARIES
ACCESS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITY
I am very proud to present the third edition of the EOF newsletter (Reflections). The purpose of the newsletter is to highlight the accomplishments of our students, program initiatives and the contributions of Ramapo College faculty and staff.

The EOF program and our students continue to push the boundaries in an array of exciting new ways. EOF students continue to excel in the classroom, maintain significant campus leadership positions, volunteer and satisfy civic responsibility, successfully complete internships and co-ops, participate in study abroad and alternative spring break programs and assist faculty with scholarly research projects.

These accomplishments and more are often made possible due to the guidance and urging of our talented and dedicated EOF staff. The tireless effort of our programs Associate Director, Deirdre Bright-Foreman and Student Development Specialists, Nicole Baker, Erika Vega and Marita Esposito as well as the office management of Natasha Rodriguez play a significant role in the success of our students and program initiatives.

We started the 2013-14 academic year with 102 first year students, the most in almost twenty years and we are confident that many, if not all will become extraordinary members of the Ramapo community.

Overall, 88% of EOF students are in satisfactory academic standing with 38% maintaining grade point averages above 3.0.

Please enjoy this small glimpse of EOF reflections and thank you for your support of the program.

In closing, I’d like to thank Shaleah Peyton for her work helping to create this newsletter.

Sincerely,
Lorne Weems
Founded at West Chester University of Pennsylvania, Chi Alpha Honor Society was organized in 1989. Responding to an increased need to acknowledge the continuing successes of students in the academic development program and recognizing that students who share similar experiences could serve as significant models for others, a Greek letter honor society was proposed by Dr. Elbert Saddler. Members of XAE pledge to continue to excel academically, promote academic excellence in others, and help those who genuinely aspire to the same goals.

Membership in Chi Alpha Epsilon is offered to eligible students and alumni who hold a 3.0 cumulative G.P.A. for two consecutive full-time semesters and who were admitted to the college/university via developmental or higher education opportunity type programs.

Alpha Chi Chapter at Ramapo College of New Jersey was founded by eighteen members on May 1, 2000. Since 2000, there have been over 300 students inducted into the Ramapo Chapter of Chi Alpha Epsilon Academic Honor Society.

Chi Alpha Epsilon hosted the 13th annual induction and Pinning Ceremony on November 15, 2013. A total of 48 students were eligible for induction or upgrade.

Dean’s List Spring 2013

Almenas, Alexis  
Aalverado, Solange  
Angon, Yolidavey  
Aarrendell, Michelle  
Badillo, Samuel  
Beaufort, Bria  
Burns, Chase  
Alpeno, Yeneiry  
Cervantes, Bridgette  
Corcione, Danielle  
Cuello Natera, Monica  
El-Amin, Madinah  
Fernandez, Luis  
Flannery, Faith  
Francis, Mcrae  
Frost, Stephen  
Garcia, Yovanna  
Gerbi, Joana  
Gillison, Akilah  
Gonzalez, Michelle  
Hernandez, Vanessa  
Ilkovski, Kristina  
John, Lee-Anna  
Kaba, Valmira  
Kajacka, Rudina  
Khanom, Runa  
Lai, Thanh  
Lovera, Gerson  
Macer, Faith  
Magee, Edwin  
Maggio, Vince  
Mazza, Samantha  
McCarthy, Catherine  
McGowan-Rodgers, Danielle  
Mejia, Jennifer

Mensah, Marvin  
Montanez, Samuel  
Morales, Julian  
Navas, Leslie  
O’Brien, Rachael  
Pichardo, Kelvin  
Reynoso, Augusto  
Rivera, Alexa  
Robinson, Cadea  
Roger, Ashley  
Rowe, Falecia  
Sanabria, Ashlyn  
Sanchez, Jeffry  
Santana, Madelyn  
Santos, Jesus  
Senese, Molly  
Song, Eugene  
Tubman, Parker  
Ventura, Jennifer  
Vitale, Eric  
Woods, Briane  
Zaidi, Mansouria
Achievement Through Opportunities and Mentoring in the Sciences (A.T.O.M.S)

Congratulations to Erika Vega for her work in successfully launching our newest program designed to increase the number of EOF students' that complete STEM and/or Pre-Health majors. Students participated in workshops entitled “Exploring STEM Careers,” “So you want to be a STEM major?” and “Why Research?” Conferences attended included; New Jersey Nursing Students’ Conference, Mentoring in Medicine: Yes I Can Be a Health Professional, and the 57th Annual New Jersey Academy of Science Junior/Senior Academies.

Guest speakers included; Dominga S. Padilla, MD, FAAP Assistant Professor and Associate Director of Cultural Competency Programs & Dr. Alexis Rodriguez of Rutgers University.

Student Research

With the assistance of Professor Aaron Lorenz, Brooke Jamison presented her research on “Cyber Bullying” in the school systems and the influence of social media such as Facebook or Twitter at the Annual Northeastern Political Science Association Conference in Philadelphia.

Etiquette Dinner

For the second consecutive year, Mrs. Theresa Salameno facilitated a professional etiquette dinner for the EOF graduating seniors. The program was very successful; nearly all of the graduating seniors attended.

“I really enjoy working with the students because they have such enthusiasm, have welcomed me into their midst and have been very eager to learn about etiquette, the finer points of dining and the importance of business lunches.”

– Mrs. Theresa Salameno

Faculty Research

Lee-Anna John is assisting Professor Elvira Katic with her research. They studied Mark Ryden, a pop surrealism artist; who designed album covers for Michael Jackson and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. His art work is very controversial because of his use of young children. In October they attended The 38th Annual Semiotic Society of America Conference, in Ohio.

Senior Retreat

To allow our graduating seniors the opportunity to reflect upon the upcoming completion of their undergraduate experiences and learn strategies that help to ensure a successful transition to life after college, Nicole Baker developed and coordinated a very successful EOF graduating senior retreat.

ASB/EOF Mentoring Program

Ramapo College faculty continues to do an extraordinary job providing research opportunities and mentorships to EOF students. Our students are gaining invaluable experience as a result of having the opportunity to work closely with such dedicated faculty.
Name: DANNY ROSARIO
Class status: Senior
EOF Entry Year: Summer 2009
Major: Accounting
From: Hawthorne, NJ

“EOF has given me the necessary skills such as leadership and ambition. EOF has made me a goal-oriented person and has given me the confidence to achieve any obstacle I decide to take on.”

Danny has interned at The Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, HFP Capital Markets in New York and Keller & Lebovic, CPAs located in Fair Lawn, NJ.

Name: PATRICIA BERGAMASCO
Student Athlete
Class status: Sophomore
EOF Entry Year: Summer 2012
Major: International Studies
Hometown: Newark, NJ

“EOF has helped me stay focused on my academics and plans for the future. The EOF advisors and directors have been great mentors in providing constant support.”

“Being a student-athlete requires a lot of responsibility and dedication. You have to be willing to sacrifice and manage your time very well.”

Name: CHASE BURNS
Class status: Senior
EOF Entry Year: Transfer 2011
Major: Social Work
From: Morris County

“As a commuter (especially one who lives over an hour away) it is always difficult to forge connections with anyone on campus”

“The EOF program contributed to my academic accomplishments by providing me with an advisor who was consistently available, helped me with any challenges, and provided recognition for how far I had come”

Study Abroad and Alternative Spring Break Programs:
EOF students continue to increase their global experiences and perspectives. Recent student participation in study abroad and international alternative break programs include: Spain, Brazil, China, Italy, Costa Rica, India and the Dominican Republic.
Captions:
1. 2013 Scholarship Dinner
2. Gabriel Basulto, Lee-Anna John, and Kevin Seabrook attended the National Association for Black Journalist Conference
3. Ashley Vargas & Dr. Cornel West
4. Shaleah Peyton & Governor Christie
5. Wendy Castro & Nicole Pulliam
6. Student Leadership Dinner
7. Michelle Ng with her Penpal
8. At the U.N.
9. Felicia Crockett & Wendy Castro with Rick Brown
10. Ramapo R.A.’s
11. EOF Students with Kumasi University Visiting Delegation
Michael Boyle teaches literature and writing courses during the EOF summer program.

“I have worked in the EOF summer program for more than 20 years, I have returned to the EOF program each year because I enjoy working with incoming students during their first college experience.”

I find it so satisfying working closely with students to improve their writing skills. The EOF program is intense, and I have seen students’ progress in their writing skills... I also enjoy working with the EOF team. We are all there for the same reasons, the welfare of the students, and there is a strong sense of dedication among the staff.
ALUMNI PROFILE: Rosa Angela Pena-Lara

Hometown: Perth Amboy

Law and Society Double Minor in Spanish and Latin American Studies

EOF Class 1998 Graduation Class of 2002

Rosa currently works as the Supervisory Community Supervision Officer, for Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency in Washington, DC.

“The EOF program provided me with many opportunities while at Ramapo. Specifically, being the Co-Team leader of the Ramapo Service Corps provided me with leadership skills that I still am able to utilize when supervising federal law enforcement staff members.”