

AOPO CHRONICLES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS OFFICE

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Welcome back! I'm hopeful that you all had a great holiday season.

As we move into the Spring 2009 semester, we continue to have our work cut-out for us. In particular, the New York State Governor cut 6% in funding for all HEOP programs.

As a result of this action, it will be crucial that each of you continue to write to your respective state representatives. Please let them know what



funding through the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program at Fisher has meant for you personally. This February, we will once again be taking a group of students to Albany to lobby and tell your story.

The spring will be a busy time for our office. We will be hosting various events such as our annual Downstate Overnight Program, Shadow Day with the Fisher Jefferson Partnership students as well as overseeing some campus visits. We hope that each of you will consider volunteering your time to assist with these events. By doing so, you will have the ability to meet new people, share your Fisher experience with others, and gain useful skills for your future.

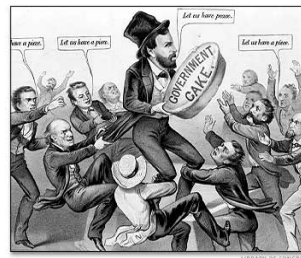
As always, we wish you the best of luck with your semester!

LOBBYING FOR HEOP

Welcome back everyone to the Spring 2009 semester! I hope you had a relaxing and restful break, and have come back energized. One of the areas that we need to give our attention to is making sure that HEOP continues to receive financial support from New York State. Toward that end, I am hoping that we receive everyone's support in our Spring 2009 Lobbying efforts.

If you are monitoring the news, you know that New York State is facing a severe budget crisis, and that the Governor and the Legislators will be making some very difficult decisions regarding cuts to services and programs. The HEOP program was already cut by 6%

in August of 2008. We cannot afford any more cuts. It is imperative that we let our New York State officials know what HEOP means to us.



group of ten students to Albany on Tuesday, February 10, 2009. If you are interested in accompanying us to speak in person to your elected representatives, please contact Tara Preteroti as soon as possible. Students will be selected based on their academic success.

All HEOP students will be required to write a letter to their New York State Assembly and Senate representatives as well as the Governor. These letters will be due on January 28, 2009. In addition, we will be taking a



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FOREIGN STUDIES EXPERIENCE



Full Name:

Jennifer
Teller

**Year in
College:**

Senior

Major:

Psychology

Minor: Sociology

Hometown: Ballston Spa,
New York.

In fall of 2008, senior Jennifer Teller went on an excursion to Europe as part of Fisher's Foreign Studies experience. Here's what she had to say:

1. *Where did you study?* I studied in London, England specifically in Richmond and I attended The American University of London

2. *Please describe your study abroad set-up (ex. Housing, University attended, classes taken, schedule/trips, etc.)?* I lived in dorms and had a meal plan. In addition, I took three classes for my major and two electives, all of which I enjoyed. The professors were awesome!



There were many trips set-up through the University that I was able to participate in such as visiting Scotland, Oxford, Stonehenge, Bath and Brighton. They also offered a free trip to France.

3. *Since you've been abroad, has there been any additional countries/cities you've vis-*

ited? If so, please list each of them and any cool things you did while you were there. - I visited tons of places!

I can now say I've been to France and it was a lot of fun. However, we went right around the time there was a fire in the



Eurostar Tunnel so we had to take a bus and a ferry instead of a direct driving route. It was a very long trip and because of all the traveling I only had about 1 full day.

Scotland was awesome! It was definitely one of my favorites. I was able to go on a bus tour and saw many different places all over Scotland.

Spain was gorgeous. My peers and I stayed in a hostel really close to the beach. Downtown had a bunch of really good restaurants and nightclubs.

Poland was definitely another one of my favorites (I guess being polish I'm somewhat biased but I still loved it). The food there was amazing and the scenery was beautiful. We went to Auschwitz, which was really cool but also really sad.

Amsterdam was my least favorite places but it also isn't really my scene. When I arrived it was freezing and rained pretty much the entire time.

Ireland was also gorgeous, although I fell in the mud. My classmates and I visited various pubs while listening to live music performances that were great. We also went to the Guinness brewery.

4. *What has been the best part of your experience?*

The best part of my experience was making amazing new friends and being able to travel all over Europe.

5. *What has been the worse part of your experience?*

The worse part of my experience was the food on campus. It was awful! In addition, the beds were really uncomfortable. I missed a lot of things from home..like ice, free refills, and being able to watch TV. There are a lot of luxuries



in America that we take for granted. Nevertheless, the experience was worth it.

6. *What advice would you give students considering studying abroad?*

Advice I would give to students interested in studying abroad is to DO IT! You will have the time of your life. Overall, it is an amazing opportunity.

7. *What will be your best memory of your experience?*

There too many great memories to choose from. Just being in Europe is something I'll never forget.

SUMMER JOBS - WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

Why is a summer job important?

This is an excellent question to ask yourself. Simply put, it is very important to develop skills. Lack of skills may equal fewer jobs to choose from in the future; fewer job opportunities equal lower earnings, and lower earnings may result in a lesser quality of life for some. Therefore, it is important to take advantage of summer opportunities.



The summer is a great time to gain "real world

experience" while not interfering with your college work load. You may be wondering what

type of job you should apply for but pretty much any job will



offer you the opportunity to gain basic work skills that can be used in any market. However, if you can find a summer job related to

your field of study in college, this may benefit you more in the long run. Regardless, you will have a chance to gain experience, earn money, and have something to put on your professional résumé following your college graduation.

Check out the following websites to learn more about

summer job opportunities:

- <http://home.sjfc.edu/careerservices/login.asp>
- www.snagajob.com
- www.funjobs.com
- www.studentjobs.gov
- www.wegmans.com
- www.groovejob.com
- www.petersons.com/summerop/index.html
- www.democratandchronicle.com
- www.nypost.com
- www.nytimes.com
- www.rochesterhelpwanted.com
- <http://rochester.craigslist.org/ret/>
- www.att.com

EXPERIENCING COLLEGE LIFE: FISHER'S DOWNSTATE OVERNIGHT PROGRAM

Each spring, the Academic Opportunity Programs Office in conjunction with the Office of Freshman Admission hosts the Downstate Overnight Program. This program is designed to give



applicants from the New York City/Long Island area the opportunity to experience college life and what Fisher has to offer.

This year, the program will take place Thursday, March 26th thru Sunday, March 29th, 2009. During their stay, applicants will



reside in the residence halls with Fisher students that will act as their host. Each visitor will be provided with meal tickets and will plan to eat in the dining hall with host. Overall, the cost of the program is free for the participants.

Visitors will have the opportunity to attend classes, have an admissions interview, and attend an Open House. In addition, students will have the chance to engage in fun activities including the Black Student Union game night, Latino Student Union annual Cultural Festival, visit Eastview Mall, and engage in other

exciting activities sponsored by Fisher clubs/organizations.

In the past, the majority of the students who attended the Downstate Overnight Program



LSU Cultural Festival Mixer during the Overnight Program Weekend (photo includes Fisher Students and overnight guest)

made Fisher their top choice after their experience. In addition, many of them decided to enroll.

If you are interested in volunteering to be a host for this program, please contact Victoria McEachin at vmceachin@sjfc.edu.

INTERNING IN WASHINGTON D.C.



Full Name:
Ashley Cortese

Year in College:
Senior

Major:

Political Science

Minor: Sociology

Hometown: Rochester, NY

1. What made you decide to take part in the Washington Experience?

I wanted to partake in the Washington Experience because I am a political science major and Washington is the capital of the political arena. I was interested in working for a congressional office and apply the knowledge that I learned from my classes at Fisher. I also wanted to be in Washington, D.C. during the time of one of our most historical elections.

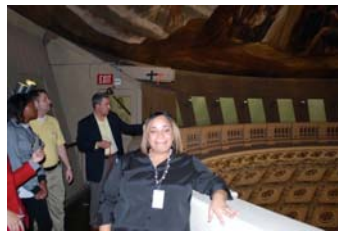
2. Was the program what you expected?

The program was what I expected and more. I applied for the program through SUNY Brockport which is affiliated with St. John Fisher. The Program Director, Dr. John Fitzpatrick, was very helpful making my transition into my internship smooth. The program is very organized and help students with things like obtaining internships and housing. I liked the program and I didn't have any problems.

3. How would you describe the Washington Experience set-up to be (ex. Housing, Classes, Internship, etc.)?

The housing for the SUNY Brockport Program is set up in Alexandria, Virginia. The reason

for this is because the housing is much cheaper than housing in Washington, D.C. The apartments are nice, affordable and are located in a quaint area of VA. It was nice because the apartment complex has a shuttle that takes residents to the metro station so they can take the train into Washington.



On Fridays, I was scheduled to participate in a seminar that is required of student participants. The seminar consist of various speakers that talk about issues such as policies. In addition, there are a number of reflections you must hand in as well as a research paper.

As for internships, they are different for everyone. However, students generally work 9am - 5pm or later. The kind of work you will do will differ depending on your internship. In most cases, people helped to organize events, conduct research, and fulfill clerical duties. Most internships are in an office setting. Usually, there is some kind of orientation and students have an internship coordinator, which is the person interns report to.

4. What has been the best part(s) of your experience? What has been the worst part(s) of your experience?

I would say that the best my experience was interning for the Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, but also getting the chance to make a lot of new friends and meeting new people. I feel that I gained a lot from my internship. I can't really say that there were any worse parts of my experience. There was tedious work that had

to be done or work that is not that interesting but other than that I believe my whole is experience was good. All of the connections that you make, the knowledge you will gain, the friends you meet, and just experiencing D.C. was amazing.

5. Please describe your internship and who you are working for?

I worked for Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives. I worked from 9am - 6pm everyday with some exceptions. The dress code was strict so I wore suits each day, except for when we were not in session. I worked in the speaker's office in the Capital and in the speaker's office in the Cannon House of



Representative building. My job consisted of a variety of things such as assisting with events, organizing constituent mail, and writing letters. I really enjoyed myself because I got the chance to help with events such as the speaker of Israel, Dalia Itzik, a 9/11 ceremony, a Democratic Caucus meeting with the House Representatives and more.

I learned a lot from my internship and had the opportunity to see first hand some of the concepts discussed in my classes. Another great aspect is that I had the opportunity to meet a lot of important people. I was lucky because I had the chance to work for the Speaker during a major economic crisis and see the dynamics of the office and how they reacted. It was interesting to see how the office was affected by the bailout and

what kind of steps they had to take to address the issue. This was really one of my best experiences.

6. What advice would you give to students interested in the Washington Experience?

I would recommend students to discuss the program with Dr.

Harman, the current chair of the Political Science department, and Dr. Fitzpatrick the Director of the SUNY Brockport Program in Washington, DC. This will give students the chance to find out more information about the program and figure out if it's for them. I would also recommend preparing oneself once you know more about the program such as going to financial aid to see how your aid will be affected. Lastly, talk to people who are past participants of the program so that you get honest answers to help finalize your decision.

7. How do you feel Fisher had prepared you for your experience in Washington?

I feel Fisher prepared me very much for the program. The political science department is a great department and all the classes I took really gave me the foundation to understand some of the issues that were discussed. Also, I was able to apply the theories and other concepts that I learned to my internship.



Classes such as English/Writing helped prepare me for this internship and the writing that I had to do.

I believe that all of the classes, programs, and other leadership activities at Fisher really supported me and I was able to apply the knowledge I gained at school.

20TH YEAR OF SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY FISHER - JEFFERSON PARTNERSHIP



Jefferson HS Principal, Mary A. Diaz, talking with students.

The Science Technology students of Jefferson High School visit Fisher about ten times a year for a day of science experimentation on a topic that is connected to the standards. Before they leave Jefferson High School, all gather in the auditorium or lunchroom and their principal, Mary A. Diaz, gives them a talk about how to act, but more importantly what an opportunity they were going to have going to a college campus and how to listen to students and teachers because they one day could go to college. She instills HOPE in them that they can join others from Jefferson High School as Fisher students one day. As they arrive, one can see the excitement and readiness to begin to work in teams with their high school peers and the College student volunteers.

Twenty-four to twenty-six two teachers. The class is tion gathers in the science incorporates the use of basic analysis from the experiment puter laboratory. Then they having two very different experiments are ones of in- students develop and carry College laboratories used last Biology A225. The students component, background for definition, mathematics studies and to go online to letters of their name to create believed best describes them or their personality. During both of these collaborate and encourage students with both experiences in the morning.



Dr. Sheila Root and students racing "critters" through tubes determining linear measurement and timing.

students attend the program with divided into two sections. One se- laboratory for an experiment that mathematics in data collection and while the other group goes to com- switch the experiences, each student academic venues. The scientific quiry based with a problem that the out in College laboratories. The two semester were Chemistry A116 and use the computers for a writing science experiment, terminology practice, work with maps for social generate a poem and then used the a collage of characteristics that they experiences, First Generation Scholars

All Jefferson and Fisher students as well as teachers have lunch with the Fisher community in the main dining hall. A favorite time of the visit is always the food and interacting with the students while eating with the "big kids". After lunch, all walk over to Student Life Center for a twenty - minute mentoring session given by the First Generation Scholars. The interview sheet with the FGS or sheet about a day in the life of a college student is each student's "ticket" into the SLC for twenty minutes of exercising, something they do not have at Jefferson on a regular routine. Some sports the students like most frequently are playing a one-on-one basketball game, double dutch, throwing a football, running races, or soccer; all going on at the same time with all enjoying their activity in the SLC. The whistle blows and it is time to board the bus outside the SLC that is going back to Jefferson to get their bus home.



Students researching information in the computer lab.



First Generation Students assisting Jefferson students with experiments.

Students will be visiting again on February 6th for new experiments paralleling their daily work and allowing each student to use computers for researching geography where on owl pellets come from in the Unites States, studying of the kind of foods in these different areas. The dissections and mounting the animal bones found in the regurgitated pellets allows them to begin to think about a comparative study of human skeleton and the animals owls eat. Students will study the basic morphology and do a comparison. This second semester of the 20th year of learning, mentoring, and having fun will begin in February 2009!

FISHER - JEFFERSON PARTNERSHIP FALL 2008 PROGRAMMING

St. John Fisher College and Thomas Jefferson High School formed an educational partnership in the Fall of 1987. The goals of the Fisher Jefferson Partnership (FJP) include:

- To make students aware of the role a college education can play in preparing them for whatever they choose
- To do with their lives in the future.
- To acquaint students with a wide range of career options.
- To develop students' problem-solving and cognitive skills, along with proficiency skills in mathematics, science and English.
- To nurture individual skills and talents and to give students confidence in their academic and social skills.
- To familiarize St. John Fisher students and personnel with students

and personnel of the Rochester City School District.

- To create a climate of mutual respect so that schools and colleges can work together to address the needs of youth.

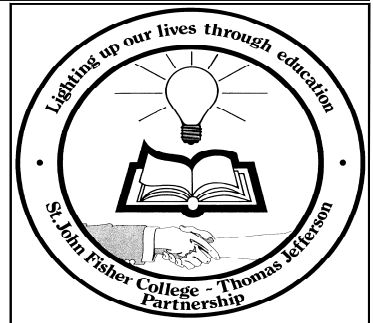
A major component of the partnership is the awarding of 20 grants and 10 scholarships to 8th and 9th grade Jefferson students each year since 1989. Scholarship and grant recipients are invited to events at St. John Fisher College throughout their high school years. These events are designed to give them a taste of the college experience, including academic, social, and financial activities that will be useful as they prepare for college.



FGN and FJP Students at pre-DOC workshop event.

This past fall, we hosted two events for the FJP Scholars on the Fisher Campus. On October 25th, the FJP scholars helped cheer on the St. John Fisher College Football team to a win. The weather was less than ideal, but everyone had a

great time, and learned about the importance of teamwork. The Scholars also helped us to close out semester at the College's annual Day of Celebration. We were able to learn about the featured country of Ethiopia, and partake in some of the activities surrounding the Day of Celebration. This semester, we look forward to hosting the FJP scholars during our Annual Shadow Day on March 4th. The FJP Scholars will also be on campus to help with the College's Relay for Life event on April 4th. Please see Tara if you would like to help with the FJP programs on these dates.



FISHER-JEFFERSON PARTNERSHIP-STUDENT HIGHLIGHT



My name is Angelica Davis and I am a senior psychology major with a minor in h u m a n

resources at Fisher. I am a First Generation Scholar with a 3.58 GPA. Currently, I am interning as a youth advocate for the Hill-side Work-Scholarship Connection program and I am an active member on the advisory committee for the American Red Cross Black Youth Leadership Development Program (BYLDP).

Being a member of the core

committee for the Fisher-Jefferson Partnership (FJP) and a tutor at School 29 gives me the opportunity to give back to the community. Recently, I was awarded the Who's Who Among College Students for being an active leader on campus.

As a past FJP scholar, I was able to meet new people and build my confidence. While in high school, I loved visiting Fisher and I knew one day I would be a college student. In retrospect, the FJP events and Fisher mentors helped me develop into the person I am today. I believe being an FJP scholar allowed me to realize that college was



Angelica working with current Fisher-Jefferson student at Day of Celebration.

obtainable. The program helped me develop a passion for helping others. Since I enjoy helping others, I plan to pursue a career as a school counselor.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DECEMBER 2008 GRADUATES & WELCOME TO OUR NEW TRANSFERS!

Congratulations to the Fall 2008 graduates! We wish you the be of luck in your endeavors.

- Sharif Farag
- Nathalie Gonzalez



- Quarnisha Coleman - Transferring from Monroe Community College and will be majoring in Nursing.
- Denise Gerken - Transferring from SUNY Farmingdale. Denise plans on majoring in Nursing.
- Amadou Konteye - Transferring from St. Bonaventure University and plans to major in Political Science.
- Tyler Mosgrove - Transferring from Buffalo State College and intends on majoring in Business Management. Tyler is a member an alum of the Fisher-Jefferson Partnership program.



The Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program welcomes our Spring 2009 transfer/re-admit students to the College.

TEN HOTTEST CAREERS FOR COLLEGE GRADUATES: EXPERTS PREDICT WHERE THE JOBS WILL BE IN 2014

Wondering where the jobs will be in the future? Wondering what you should major in? Government economists estimate which occupations will grow fastest between 2004 and 2014. They also predict which

occupations will have the most new jobs.

Check out the following top 10 lists (the numbers are in thousands of jobs):



Occupation	Occupation with the Most New Jobs: Bachelor's Degree		
	2004	2014	Change
Elementary school teachers, except special education	1,457	1,722	265
Accountants and auditors	1,176	1,440	264
Computer software engineers, applications	460	682	222
Computer systems analysts	487	640	153
Secondary school teachers, except special and vocational education	1,024	1,172	148
Computer software engineers, systems software	340	486	146
Network systems and data communications analysts	231	357	126
Network and computer systems administrators	278	385	107
Middle school teachers, except special and vocational education	628	714	86
Employment, recruitment, and placement specialists	182	237	55

Source:
www.greatschools.net

Our Mission

Through personalized guidance tailored to the needs of individual students, the Academic Opportunity Programs Office recruits, enrolls, and empowers academically under-prepared and economically disadvantaged students to overcome obstacles on their way to becoming informed, ethical, tolerant, self-reliant and socially responsible citizens.

HEOP Works!

Academic Opportunity Programs Office

Responsible for:

- Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program
- Fisher/Jefferson Partnership Program

Staff

Clarence Norman
Director

Tara Preteroti
Assistant Director

Victoria McEachin
*Academic Support Coordinator/
Counselor*

Kimberly Felton
Administrative Assistant

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 3.0 CLUB MEMBERS! FALL 2008

Keith Alexander
Brittany Braunstein
Nicole Brown
Zahilis Carmona
Vanessa Catlin
Xiaomei Chen
Ayesha Coleman
Shannon Congdon
Josue Cornier
Ashley Cortese
Karen Delgado Rodriguez

Tara Duchyns
Erica Flores
Precious Girigiri
Ines Herovic
Latasha Hill
Maxine Humphrey
Natalie Joseph
Thuy Trang Le
Emery Lewis
Fauzia Mohammad
Ana Molina

Casey Moore
Amanda Munto
Na Nguyen
Matthew Palmer
Antoinette Poole
Crystal Pullings
Angelena Rivera
Eileen Santiago
Jennifer Teller
Emily Witty
Stephanie Woodard
Franz Wright

Special Recognition

Highest Overall GPA

1. Eileen Santiago - 3.81

Top Freshmen GPA's

1. Josue Cornier - 3.35
2. Emily Witty - 3.16

Top Sophomore GPA's

1. Eileen Santiago - 3.81
2. Matthew Palmer - 3.74

Top Junior GPA's

1. Stephanie Woodard - 3.66
2. Ayesha Coleman - 3.55

Top Senior GPA's

1. Erica Flores - 3.58
2. Natalie Joseph - 3.46

3.0 Lunch

Sunday, February 8, 2009

12pm - 2pm

Red Lobster

Henrietta, NY



EVENTS CALENDAR

January 2009:

1/14 - Classes
Resume

1/19 - MLK
Celebration

1/20 - Last day to drop/add a
course

1/27 - HEOP Program Meeting

February 2009:

2/6 - Last day to
withdraw from a
course without
receiving a "W" on
your transcript



2-6 - 2/7 - Teddi Dance for Love

2/10 - Lobby Day

2/13 - Recess Day, No Classes

2/19 - HEOP Program Meeting

March 2009:

3/4 - FJP Shadow Day

3/7 - 3/15 - Spring Break

3/16 - Classes

Resume from
Spring Break

3/23 - Last day to
withdrawal from
course and receive a "W" on
transcript



3/24 - HEOP Program Meeting

3/26 - 3/29 - Downstate
Overnight Program

April 2009:

4/3 - Relay for
Life

4/9 - 4/12 -
Easter Break,

4/13 - Classes Resume

4/27 - 5/2 - Final
Exams

May 2009:

5/9 -

Commencement

