



In Touch

R·I·T

Winter Issue December 2007



HEOP HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



The holidays are soon to come. . .Sweets and treats and lots of fun! Our halls are decorated with lights and holly. So get 'decked out' and come be jolly. . .

Please join the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program at this special time of year as we celebrate the holiday with friends and good cheer at our Annual Holiday Happenings Open House.

**Monday, December 17, 2007
1:30 PM ~ 3:00 PM
Skalny Room**

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

It's hard to believe winter quarter is already here. Weren't we just in the middle of fall quarter last week?

During the winter quarter, the HEOP staff begins the work of enrolling the next class of freshmen. With Sally Douglas (Admissions) and Jim Winter (Financial Aid), we seek qualified applicants who show the greatest potential for success at RIT. So, if you happen to stop by the office on any given Friday afternoon, don't be surprised by the number of prospective students in the waiting area.

One thing you may not know about HEOP is that we are required by the New York State Education Department to have a summer program for pre-freshmen. We would like to gratefully acknowledge the hard work and support of the Academic Support Center (ASC). Currently directed by Rhonda Laskoski, the staff of ASC make up the faculty for the HEOP summer program. If not for their dedication, we would be unable to conduct our summer program. We extend a special thank you to Jane Munt who has coordinated the academic component for several years.

Attendance at HEOP workshops and LEAP events was up significantly during the fall quarter. Thank you to all the students who attended/presented/mentored. Counselor Maria Vega's tenacity in finding ways to encourage students' participation was no small feat. Thanks, Maria.

M. Phyllis Wade

HEOP 3.0+ HONORS: Fall Quarter (2007-1)

Students are eligible for the HEOP Honors board by earning a quarterly GPA of 3.0 or above with a minimum of 12 credits earned with no "W" or "I."

Eno Akpovwa
Huy Au
Marie Awwad
Thimas Bell
Jian Chen
Edward Chow
Ernest Danso
Josh Dentley
Jackson Dumont
Benjamin Fang
Justin Gonzalez
Aracelis Guzman
Donelle Hasell
Radim Hlidek
Dennis Jalbert
Marie King
James Lin
Vivian Luu

Aleef Mahmud
Sandra Munoz
Sheena Odum
Elidania Perez
Ysanya Perez
Ediana Ramirez
Joel Reid
Alexis Rodriguez
Khamla Saysanavong
Tenzin Seldon
Ting Lik To
Delvina Uka
Anduena Uka
Alemayehu Zerga
Jessie Zheng
Rain Zheng

RAFFLE WINNER
Aracelis Guzman

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Rohan Palma—Class of '90

In our quarterly newsletter, HEOP spotlights either an alumnus or student who has been a positive influence on the program. Through his or her programmatic support and/or social efforts, this person has not only worked hard and persevered as an RIT student and alum, but has gone on to make distinguished contributions to HEOP and beyond. In this edition, we spotlight Mr. Rohan Palma, Assistant Director of the RIT North Star Center and proud RIT HEOP alum of the class of 90. He recently sat down for a short question and answer session with our staff.

HEOP: What has HEOP meant to you?

Rohan: First, without HEOP, I would not have been a successful student here at RIT and in life in general. HEOP provided me with the opportunity to make a better life for myself. There are a lot of individuals in our society who only need an opportunity to succeed, and HEOP gives them that chance. Once a student gets the chance, it's up to him or her to take advantage of it. With the skills and support that I received from HEOP, I was able to go on and obtain a Master's Degree in Business Administration and travel the world for two years. One of the highlights of my career was to actually work as the Assistant Director for the RIT HEOP Program. I felt that I had an opportunity to give back to students directly since I had been a part of the program as a student. I had gone full circle.

HEOP: You've been a very successful person in your career. Describe the impact or the role that HEOP has had on your life.

Rohan: I believe that success is a personal thing. What is my definition of success? I believe that as an agent of social change, I have a higher calling to continue the work of those before me that allowed me to be successful. So, what HEOP has done for me is that it has given me the tools for success and allowed me to accomplish more than I have ever dreamt of as a boy growing up in Jamaica. Because of that, I continue to work hard to provide access to others so that they can realize more than they have ever dreamed.

HEOP: What do you believe will allow HEOP and RIT students in general to be successful?

Rohan: I believe that if students follow five basic rules, they'll be successful. They are:

- Students must have the basic intelligence – since they're an admitted RIT student, we're assuming that they already have this trait;
- Students must have good time management skills – this is essential to ensure that students spend sufficient time studying each subject; you must strike the proper balance between school, work, and play;
- Students must have good study skills – this is to ensure that you are properly prepared for the lectures and exams; reading the material before the next lecture and asking the proper questions in class is critical;

- Students must have a good work ethic – you are here to study first. Unfortunately, many of our students believe that they're here to join clubs or other social organizations and then study later. That is a recipe for academic failure;
- Finally, students must be willing to seek help when needed. Many students do not take advantage of all the services available here at RIT and no one is successful at RIT by themselves. To be a person alone on an island is also a recipe for disaster at RIT.

Rohan has always been an inspiration to students and staff alike. In fact, Rohan was recently awarded the RIT Staff Excellence Award in recognition of his many contributions to RIT. While accepting his award, Rohan was very gracious and mentioned the significant impact that HEOP has had on his life. Rohan is a shining example of what students can achieve if they plan and work hard.

HEOP WORKSHOPS

To enhance students academic, career and social skills, HEOP continues to provide workshops that we think will be beneficial to our student's success. Some of the upcoming workshops are:

Let's Talk Sex

Jan. 10, 2008 6pm—7pm Skalny Room

Alcohol and Substance Abuse

Jan. 31, 2008 6pm—7pm Skalny Room

Remember, as an HEOP student, you must attend at least 2 workshops per year. We hope to see you at a workshop soon!

LEAP EVENTS

The Leaders Encouraging Achievement and Pride program (LEAP) is the HEOP program that pairs a freshman with an upperclassman of the same major or academic background. Once students have been matched with their mentors, they are required to meet two times per quarter.

Additionally LEAP provides events/activities for our students throughout the academic year. The next event is **MOVIE NIGHT** which is scheduled for Saturday, December 15, 2007 at 3:00 PM in NRH 1250.

WINTER QUARTER OPPORTUNITIES

1. Students **DO NOT** forget to renew your FAFSA online and submit a copy of the 2007 signed federal tax returns to the Financial Aid Office. If you have any questions regarding your financial aid package, please contact the Financial Aid Office at 475-2186.
2. Thinking of changing your major and want some help? The RIT Counseling Center is hosting a four session Career Exploration Workshop. The Dates are January 10, 5:30 pm—7:00 pm; January 17, 5:30 pm—6:30 pm; January 24, 5:30 pm—6:30 pm; January 31, 5:30 pm—6:30 pm.