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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Another fall quarter has come and gone. While it seemed to fly by fairly quickly, there was certainly plenty of time for profound events to occur.

Nationally, we were able to see and be a part of history-in-the-making. No matter for whom you cast your vote (and I trust you all did vote), you participated in an historic event for this country.

At the same time, we have seen and experienced a significant downturn in our economy. On the state level, the impact of this economic crisis was and continues to be felt well beyond Wall Street. In an attempt to stabilize the New York State budget, Gov. David Paterson cut all state-wide spending by 6%. HEOP at RIT was fortunate in that we were cut by only 3.3%. However, we were cut.

So, what does that mean for us? It means that for the foreseeable future we will not be accepting transfer applicants into the program. It also means that we will bring in a smaller pre-freshman class in the summer. Our plan is to reduce our enrollment by attrition and not by cutting any current students from the program. While we cannot predict what the future holds, we anticipate the possibility of more cuts in the future.

In November, staff members of TRiO, Disability Services and HEOP were presenters at the Board of Trustees meeting. Beth put together a slide/music montage and Joe gave an incredible speech. And we bragged about you!!!

And what does the future hold? On March 1, 2009, we will be hosting our first (we hope annual) HEOP Alumni Event in NYC. See the details further on in this newsletter. So, save the date. You'll be receiving an invitation soon.

Take care and have a terrific quarter!

M. Phyllis Wade

HEOP 3.0+ HONORS: Fall Quarter (2008-1)

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."

Ben Acevedo	Jessica LaFortune
Huy Au	Gabriela Lopez **
Eno Akpovwa **	Anthony Lowe
Marie Awwad	Vivian Luu
Chantelle Bailey-Riddick	Debbie McDaniel
Hashima Charles	Sandra Munoz
Shuk-King Cheng	Elidania Perez
Alexis Clark	Viet Nguyen
Ben Fang	Bao Nguyen
Bill Fuller	Jenna Pollak
Desiree Edwards	Ashley Pond
Donelle Hasell	Stephanie Quinones-Millet
Radim Hlidek	Ediana Ramirez
Diane Kang	Mayra Rodriguez
Devin Jackson	Lynne Tseng
Bowee Lee	Delvina Uka **
Dennis Jalbert	Anduena Uka
Jin Li	Darius Wynn
Adnan Jehan	
Marie King	**4.0 GPA
Brittney Junious	

RAFFLE WINNER

Shuk-King Cheng

HEOP ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Kim Dudley ~ Class of 2001

In our quarterly newsletter, HEOP spotlights either an alumnus or student who has been a positive influence on the program. Through their programmatic support and/or social efforts, this person has not only worked hard and persevered as an RIT student and HEOP alum, but has gone on to make distinguished contributions to HEOP and beyond. In this edition, we spotlight Ms. Kim Dudley, proud alumna of the class of 2001. Kim recently spoke with us via phone from her job in New York City with RR Donnelly, the top printing company in the world.

HEOP: Please tell us what HEOP has meant to you?

Kim: HEOP provided me with an opportunity to seek an education, especially at RIT where I probably would not have been accepted. The support that the program provided me with was very valuable, both academically and financially.

HEOP: What impact would you say HEOP has had on your life?

Kim: The HEOP Counselors were extremely helpful in helping me zero in on my strengths. I was a very good talker, but we all know that being a good talker doesn't necessarily translate into being a good leader. I was not a good leader and so I had to learn and work on my skills. I wanted to give something back to the program. I learned through being a Resident Advisor and an HEOP Peer Advisor how to be a good leader. HEOP definitely provided the support and guidance that I needed to become that good leader.

HEOP: What is the most important advice you can give to students?

Kim: The most important advice I can give is to tell students to take chances. For example, I wasn't sure about the Printing major, but I knew I wanted to at least try it. I was nervous about RIT and wasn't sure if I could get in through HEOP. It was my high school guidance counselor who told me about HEOP and to at least try to get into RIT. You should not feel stuck in a particular major or situation; if you have the passion for something, go for it. Now, 10 years later, I'm working for the top printing company in the world at RR Donnelly and I'm really enjoying it. I would further say that HEOP students, once they become alumni, should remember to give back to HEOP and RIT. That says a lot and it's good to see what people are doing. Finally, networking is extremely important. Always keep your contacts, and it's critical, because you're always trying to build a good strong support and networking system.

We thank Kim for her inspiring interview and congratulate her on being the HEOP alumni spotlight for the Winter Quarter of 2008-09. Good luck with future endeavors Kim!

HEOP ANNOUNCES NEW ALUMNI INITIATIVE

In an effort to stay in contact with our alumni and former students, as well as create a networking opportunity for our current students, we will be hosting our first HEOP Alumni Reception in New York City on March 1, 2009 from 3—6 pm at John's Pizzeria, 260 W. 44th St in Time Square.

Please stay on the look out for a postcard announcing this event.

HEOP STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

Attention HEOP students! How would you like to be a part of helping to shape HEOP policy? How would you like an opportunity to assist your fellow HEOP students, and more importantly, give something back to the program? Do you have at least a 2.5 overall GPA? Well, we may have the opportunity for you.

We are officially announcing the formation of the HEOP Student Advisory Board. The purpose of the Board is to sit down with HEOP staff and discuss issues related to HEOP policies. It is our hope that the Board would be the student voice for you and therefore bring forth issues and concerns for all HEOP students. The Board will begin its functions in Fall of 2009, but, elections will be held in Spring Quarter of 2008-09.

The Board will consist of five HEOP students, one from each level year. Therefore, there will be one first year student representative, one second year, and one third year. All fourth, fifth, and sixth year students will be categorized together and shall have one representative. The final spot will be reserved for one transfer student or an appointed designee by the HEOP staff.

Stay tuned for further details.

HEOP WORKSHOPS/EVENTS

To enhance students academic, career and social skills, HEOP continues to provide workshops and events that we think will be beneficial to our student's success.

The Drinking Game Tues., Dec. 9, 2008
3:00 pm—4:00 pm
Field House—Reception Room

Major Mixer Wed., Jan. 14, 2009
6:30 pm—7:30 pm
NRH—1250

Ice Skating Fri., Feb. 13, 2009
6:45 pm—7:45 pm
Ritter Ice Rink