

804 University AveNews



Happy New Year

Greetings from the Office of Supportive Services

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Did You Know

- ◆ Syracuse University's Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) began in 1969.
- ◆ HEOP benefits New York State. At least 80% of HEOP graduates stay, work, and pay taxes in New York State. During Fiscal Year 2001-02, HEOP graduates generated \$130,683,572 total income/sales tax; Public Assistance Savings in this same year totaled \$146,931,572.
- ◆ Syracuse University operates two Federal TRiO programs: Student Support Services (established in 1977) and The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program (established in 1998).

It is with great enthusiasm that we present this first issue of **804 University AveNews**, the official newsletter of the Office of Supportive Services. In our years of working with HEOP (Higher Education Opportunity Program) and SSS (Student Support Services) students we have been witness to the motivation and acumen of these future leaders and we continue to be awed by their achievements. The purpose of 804 University AveNews is to share with you the activities and accomplishments of our current students, our alums and our office as well as provide relevant information regarding events and important dates. We hope you find this a useful and enjoyable read.

You may have noticed a few changes happening around the Office of Supportive Services (OSS) over this past year: we welcomed the extraordinary Shirley Adamczyk as our office manager last fall; we bid a fond farewell to our friend and fellow counselor Lakshmi Kavasseri Subramanian "Kass" as he took his talents to do good work in Washington DC; we commend Julian White for taking on the role of administrator with the C-STEP Program as their Assistant Director ; and we successfully recruited Mary Owuor, with her mathematical expertise and her supportive counseling style, as the newest addition to our counseling staff. Currently our finely qualified search committee is working hard to fill two more counseling positions in our office. Change, while difficult, is what we are all about. As counselors we believe that change is a fact of modern day life and one of our roles is to assist students to deal with changes in their lives. We invite you to contact us if you have any comments about the contents of this newsletter or if you'd like to discuss ways that you might support our efforts to keep HEOP and SSS as high priorities on the politicians' agendas.

Denise Trionfero

Robert Wilson



Office of Supportive Services Staff

It has been a very successful and gratifying semester for the Office of Supportive Services Student Advisory Board. The Student Advisory Board, as liaisons for the counselors and staff at OSS, have aimed for increased involvement. We work collaboratively to bring our students what they need to make them aware of the opportunities and to prepare them for a successful experience during and after college.

Throughout the semester we have had very productive meetings and held our first annual Professional Development Series

in which we invited top resourceful staff from campus and outside internship programs to help students best prepare for professional and career oriented paths. We organized three major professional development workshops: INROADS Connecting with Employers, Resume and Portfolio Development. We recently completed a very successful collaboration with the McNair Program and the Dunbar Center. The goal was to help bring a smile to Hurricane Katrina victims who had relocated to Syracuse. We organized a fundraiser to buy gifts for nine children living in the local area. (See story below.)

ORGANIZATIONS ADOPT NINE CHILDREN AFFECTED BY HURRICANE KATRINA

As we celebrate the new year, we need to reflect on what life has been like this past year. For most families, Christmas was "business as usual". It was a time to buy gifts and prepare for holiday celebrations. Christmas is supposed to be a time when people reflect on what they can do for others. If this is so, then we must take into consideration the victims effected by Hurricane Katrina.

The hurricane struck Florida first on August 25, 2005 and then made its second landfall, when it struck the Gulf coast area on August 29, 2005. The states that were most devastated were Louisiana and Mississippi. As we are all well aware, the city of New Orleans was impacted the most. About 85% of the city was inundated by flood waters, over a thousand people lost their lives, and over 70% of its population was displaced. It is now public knowledge that the United States Federal Government's response was inadequate. Most of the people directly affected by this disaster were low income and elderly, and they just did not have the available resources to evacuate in a timely manner. Majority of the people that did evacuate were resettled in at least twelve other states across the country and Syracuse was one of the cities that welcomed many of victims.

The Office of Supportive Services' Student Advisory Board in collaboration with the Ronald E. McNair Baccalaureate Achievement Program and the Dunbar Center, have adopted nine children affected by this catastrophic storm. All of these children are in a strange community and a strange environment, which therefore impacted their traditional holiday season. The OSS Advisory Board initiated a drive to collect a dollar from everyone in the community to try and help the children adapt to their surrounding. During the time frame from December 6 to December 16th students and staff from Syracuse University donated a total of \$780.00. This money was used to buy Christmas gifts for the adopted children.

The OSS Student Advisory Board in collaboration with Ronald E. McNair Baccalaureate Achievement Program and Dunbar Bar Center have adopted nine children that were affected by Hurricane Katrina.

FEATURED ALUMNUS: MICHAELJULIUS IDANI

MichaelJulius Idani came to Syracuse University from Bishop Ludden High School in Syracuse, New York, as an Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) student in the summer of 1997. He majored in Information Systems Technology, was extremely active both on and off campus. He was instrumental in bringing computer technology to the poor communities of Syracuse by establishing a program where students and businesses together held regular training classes in the neighborhoods and provided equipment that would remain in community centers around town.

MichaelJulius served as president of the Student Government Association for the 1998-99 academic year. He graduated in 2001 and went on to receive a master's degree in 2002 from Harvard University, in Public Policy & Administration. MichaelJulius is currently completing his PhD at Oxford University in England. Recently, he authored an opinion piece, on Hill TV and issues of race relations at Syracuse University, in the local Syracuse Post Standard. He continues to make us proud to claim him as an alumnus of the HEOP here at Syracuse University.

In December of 2005 we contacted MJ via email and asked him a few questions. MJ granted us permission to share our exchange with 804's readers (see below).

INTERVIEW WITH MICHAELJULIUS IDANI FROM OXFORD UNIVERSITY

804: *What inspired you to go to Oxford?*

MJI: I saw Oxford as a unique opportunity to learn outside of a US context. I wanted to explore how different countries approached social policy and the implications.

804: *What will your dissertation be about? Is there a title yet?*

MJI: My dissertation is a comparative study of US and UK area-based poverty initiatives. I examine the adverse impact of government programs targeting high-poverty neighborhoods primarily focusing on the displacement of long-term residents. The provisional title is "Targeting for change: Neighborhood Change and the Adverse Impact of Government Initiatives."

804: *I noticed you've published some of your academic work can you give us the complete citation?*

MJI: It's just one academic citation: McLennan, D. Lloyd, M, Noble, M, Idani, MJ, Dibben, C & Wright G. "Claiming Matters: Changing Patterns of Benefit Receipt Across Wales, 1995-2000". Local Government Data Unit, Wales, 2003.

804: *What are your plans beyond the PhD?*

MJI: That is the question. I am debating between teaching, working for a non-profit, or working in government. It is open, and I am not pulled strongly in any particular way.

804: *Ever think about returning to perhaps teach at SU?*

MJI: :) I have thought about it, but there are a lot of other places I would like to check out. We will see how things play out.

Featured Alumnus



MichaelJulius Idani, class of 2001, is currently pursuing a Ph. D. at Oxford University in England.

"I saw Oxford as a unique opportunity to learn outside of a US context."

GRADUATE ASSISTANT DEPARTS FOR NEW CHALLENGES

We say good bye to our Graduate Assistant, Zane Williams. We thank him for his many contributions to our office over the last 18 months. He graduated from the School of Information Studies with his Master of Science degree in Information Management in December, 2005. After several offers, and with much thought, he has accepted a position with Goldman Sachs and will begin with them in January, 2006. Our congratulations and best wishes go out to Zane!



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Place student address label here



Important dates for Spring '06

- January 9: Begin schedule adjustment prior to semester start. End on 1/13/05
- January 16: Martin Luther King day (no classes)
- January 17: Classes begin and schedule adjustments/late registration until 1/24/05
- January 24: Last day to add a class
- February 7: Financial deadline for dropping courses
- February 14: Student Lobby Day - Albany
- March 6: Mid-term
- March 12-19: Spring Break (no classes)
- March 21: Academic drop deadline
- April 3: Registration begins for Fall semester
- April 14: Good Friday (No classes)
- April 18: Withdrawal deadline
- April 25: Mayfest (no classes)
- May 2: Last day of classes.
- May 3: Reading days begin and continue on 5/6/05 and 5/7/05
- May 4: Final exams begin and continue on 5/5/05, 5/8/05, 5/9/05, and 5/10/05



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