

Extended Opportunity Program & Services

Helping our Students Succeed one step at a time !

NEWS

Extended Opportunity Program and Services

Issue 1 June 2008

EOPS Student Paige Chastain is the Guest Speaker at the Saddleback 2008 Commencement Ceremony

Paige Chastain's academic career at Saddleback College culminated in her being selected as this year's commencement speaker. Paige first entered the EOPS program in the fall 2006 semester. As a re-entry student, Paige experienced the anxiety and doubt that many students who have not been in school for a while experience. As a single parent with a teenage son, Paige had her share of personal and financial obstacles to overcome while attending Saddleback College on a full-time basis. However, she stayed the course and in the process she triumphed by graduating Cum Laude (3.5-3.74 GPA), was accepted to UC Irvine, and was selected to give Saddleback College's 2008 graduating class commencement speech. This was no small feat for someone who when she first stepped onto this campus as a re-entry student, she felt so out of place that she just wanted to drive off campus and go home. Fortunately, she didn't let this fear overcome her and she returned to the college, sought



President McCullough awarding EOPS student Paige Chastain and benefited from the various support services the campus offers. Paige took advantage of the tutorial, counseling, and book services available through the EOPS program. In her time at Saddleback College, Paige became active in the Associated Student Government; volunteered to be an EOPS Mentor; coordinated the Italian Club Movie Nights; made the Dean's List; and received several scholarships including the Soroptimist International Women's Opportunity Awards Scholarship. Paige's future looks bright as she prepares to continue her academic career at the University of California, Irvine in the fall semester.

-Juanita Baltierra

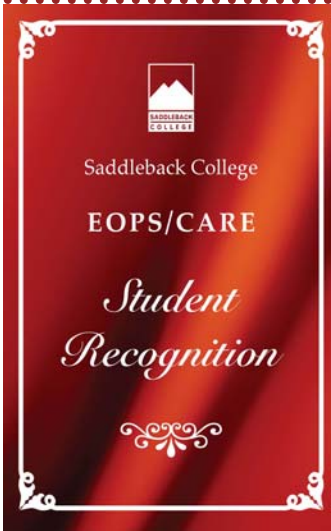
2008 EOPS Student Recognition Awards Ceremony

On Friday April 18, 2008 students, family, friends, mentors, alumni, campus leaders and the EOPS staff gathered to honor EOPS students. In total awarded were ninety-four Dean's list, twenty-two President's list students and numerous graduates, mentors and mentees.

The Saddleback College Student Lounge was filled with the sweet smell of success at the EOPS annual Student Recognition Award Ceremony. The room was beautifully decorated with artwork by our very own EOPS artists Annette Garcia, Jeanette Smith and Daniel McMullin.

The event began with inspirational presentations by three highly successful EOPS alums Miguel Marquina, Fara Farhand and Cesar Ortiz.

Miguel Marquina graduated from Saddleback College in 2002 Magna Cum Laude and transferred to the University California Berkeley. He graduated from UC Berkeley in 2005 and is currently applying to law schools across the country.



Fara Farhand was an EOPS student who began her academics with the lowest level of ESL and climbed her way up. Fara is currently pursuing her Masters in Social Work.

Cesar Ortiz received his Bachelors of Arts in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting from

Fullerton. Cesar received multiple job offers after graduating from CSU Fullerton and is now working as an accountant for Ernst & Young LLP.

The evening continued when current EOPS students were honored with certificates and special gifts. Yesenia Florentino and Serrena Huddleston were recognized for their loyal commitment to the program, outstanding work as students and EOPS employees.

The EOPS staff and counselors are very proud and congratulate all who have achieved academic honors and those who have graduated from Saddleback College this year.

-Orly Nin

Way to go Yesenia Florentino!



Yesenia Florentino has been part of the EOPS team since 2004. She began working with EOPS a semester before graduating from high school as a student helper assisting with outreach for EOPS.

Yesenia graduated and received her AA in Sociology and will be attending UC Riverside in fall 2008. Yesenia will continue to work with EOPS at Saddleback College. Way to go Yesenia!!!

-Efren Rangel

A quick "Pit Stop" for students before they take their finals!



This year the EOPS program provided a new service. To further assist students during their finals the EOPS program provided EOPS students with light healthy snacks and student survival kits.

Students had a wide selection of healthy snacks; Larabar "100% Fruit and Nut Bar", Nurtri-Grain Cereal bars, Nature Valley "oats & honey"

granola bars, orange juice, and water. The student survival kits consist of Scantrons, blue books, pens, and pencils. It was a one stop station for EOPS students this semester. The students' response was of shock! They were surprised that a program (EOPS) would do this for them. Students also showed gratitude. Christina Huddleston says that *"being a fulltime college student working part time and being a full time mother is hard and when a program like EOPS takes care of the little things like scantron's, bluebooks and pencils or making sure that we are not taking a test on an empty stomach, it really lifts a heavy burden off my shoulders and really prepares me to take my finals."*

-Efren Rangel

Way to go Michael Beltrand!



Michael Beltrand is one of our CARE student success stories this year. Michael decided to return to college several years ago after deciding that his current career was not enough.

Michael is a fully committed single father of two adolescent children, a full-time honors student and a part-time employee. In balancing all these roles Michael has excelled in all. He is a great father who focuses first on providing his children with all the love and attention he can give them. He is a determined student who studies late and at any given time.

Since attending Saddleback College Michael has made the Honors Dean's List every semester and has committed fully to attending all EOPS/CARE events.

In addition, Michael is currently employed part-time at Saddleback College with the Physical Education department assisting physically disabled students. Michael is a great mentor to many students and has proven that although difficult to balance different roles, it can be done. Way to go Michael!!!

-Lori Parra

Hispanic Scholarship Fund “Steps for Success” at Saddleback College.



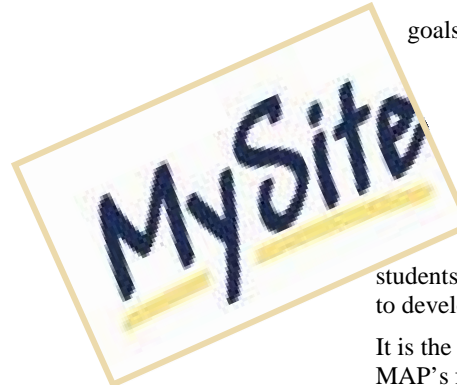
EOPS and HSF hosted the second “Steps for Success Saturdays Workshop” at Saddleback College. An event collaborated by Saddleback College’s EOPS program, the Capistrano Unified School District and the Hispanic Scholarship Federation. It was the second time HSF hosted an event in South Orange County and it was a success, with over 150 students and parents registering and over 400 students and parents attending.

The event was designed to help students finish high school; prepare students for post-secondary education and to teach parents how to advocate for their children’s postsecondary success. The workshops were conducted by college representatives, community leaders and HSF staff. Parents were given the opportunity to attend workshops that were conducted in either English or Spanish.

The event also included a College Fair that drew recruiters from various colleges, universities, and vocational programs from Northern and Southern California.

-Maria Paniagua

EOPS embraces My Academic Plans



goals.”

MAP is available through the new student web portal “My Site.” MAP provides counselors with the opportunity to develop educational plans for students and teach students how to develop one on their own.

It is the goal of EOPS to have MAP’s for all their students by the end of the fall 2008 semester.

- Efren Rangel

The EOPS program has embraced My Academic Plan (MAP). As of late March 2008 all EOPS Counselor have been introducing and creating or updating educational plans on MAP. MAP is “a new program designed to guide students through the process of creating their own personal academic plan based on their educational

EOPS welcomes Dr. Georgina Guy as the new Coordinator



EOPS began its spring 2008 semester with a new team member, Dr. Georgina Guy. Dr. Guy hit the floor running as the new EOPS/CARE Coordinator.

One of her many plans for EOPS is to develop a paperless student file system. She is working closely with Saddleback’s IT department and a USC Technology Specialist who will develop a computer program that will allow EOPS staff to store students’ information in a more organized and paperless way. The computer program will also enhance the process of creating reports for administrative pur-

poses. In conjunction with Saddleback College, EOPS counselors are working with My Academic Plan and are deviating from paper Educational Plans. Counselors have this to say about Dr. Guy...

Georgina has brought new energy and excitement to the EOPS/CARE program. She has many new plans to make the program more efficient and student friendly. Her positive, optimistic personality is like a “shot in the arm” for the program!

Juanita Baltierra

I’m happy that Dr. Guy is a part of our team. Her energy is contagious, she has great ideas for our program and most of all, she cares for the well being and success of our students.

-Orly Nin

I am excited to be part of this team, Dr. Guy’s arrival has really changed the dynamics of the office with her positive and energetic personality.

-Efren Rangel

EOPS students take a bundle of \$\$\$ at the Scholarship Ceremony

This year thirty-one EOPS students successfully received a total of \$31,600 in scholarship monies, an average of \$1089 per EOPS student. EOPS Students left home with huge smiles on their faces and were very grateful for those foundations that provided scholarships.

EOPS students also thanked the EOPS staff for supporting them in every way, from encouraging them to apply to colleges and helping them with personal statements to writing letters of recommendations.

The top three EOPS recipients this year were; **David Curry** in with \$4000, **Paige Chastain** in with \$3500 and **Shahrokh Nikbakht** and **Yoon Pak** with \$2800 each.

In addition to all our thirty-one scholarship recipi-



ents, four EOPS student athletes extended the list as they were awarded the Scholar-Baller Scholarships for maintaining a grade point average of 3.0 or above. Those students were **Cornell Jenkins**, **Cassie Klockgether**, **Krystal Navarro** and **Kelsey Paopao**.

-Efren Rangel

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EOPS ENROLLMENT!

This academic year the EOPS program received more than 600 applications. From those applications, 466 students were eligible for the program.

In fall 2007 the program serviced 385 new and returning students.

In spring 2008 the program serviced 433 new and returning students.

From the 466 students serviced in 2007-2008, 271 students were new and 195 students were returning.

-Efren Rangel

EOPS SERVICES!

The EOPS program supports and services students who have been affected by language, social, and economic barriers. As a program, it focuses on assisting students to achieve their educational objective and goals, including, but not limited to, obtaining job skills, occupational certificates, or associate degrees, and transferring to four-year institutions.

This year in addition to counseling services, EOPS provided students with additional services. During the 2007-2008 academic year, EOPS provided students with more than \$160,000 in book vouchers, parking permits, bus passes and student survival kits and was successful in providing the new EOPS finals week "pit stop" for students.

-Efren Rangel

EOPS STAFF



Orly Nin

EOPS Adjunct Counselor



Efren Rangel

EOPS Adjunct Counselor



Teresa Camacho

Senior Administrative Assistant



Dr. Georgina Guy

EOPS Coordinator



Juanita Baltierra

EOPS Counselor



Yesenia Florentino

Project Specialist



Serrena Huddleston

Project Specialist



Mario Escalante

EOPS Specialist



Suzanna Zaragoza

EOPS Specialist



Maria Paniagua

EOPS Specialist



Lori Parra

EOPS Specialist

Location: Student Service Center, Room 126

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm / Wednesday 8:00am - 7:00pm

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