

PENNSTATE
Office of the Vice Provost for Educational Equity

Overview

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Dr. W. Terrell Jones,
Vice Provost for Educational Equity

Spring is an occasion for rejuvenation and celebrating the many accomplishments of the year.

Within Educational Equity, several offices have moved into improved space.

- Talent Search, directed by Stephen Holoviak, is now located in the spacious fourth floor suite of Grange Building.
- The Philadelphia Educational Opportunity Center, directed by Diane Athanas, is now located at One Penn Center at Suburban Station, 1617 JFK Boulevard, Suite 425, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- The Pennsylvania College Advising Corps – Penn State is now located at 2650 Westview Drive, Suite E, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania.

If you are in the neighborhood, stop by to say hello and admire the new space.

This spring features a number of celebrations of our students' accomplishments, as well as the contributions of outstanding faculty and staff members:

- Comprehensive Studies Program 2009 Spring Celebration, February 18
- Multicultural Resource Center's Eighteenth Annual Senior Awards and Diversity Recognition Reception, March 24
- Commission for Women's Third Annual Awards Luncheon, April 10
- Fourth Annual WISE Recognition Awards Reception, April 16
- Student Support Services 2008-09 Student Achievement Reception, April 22
- Educational Equity Scholarship Recognition Reception, April 24
- Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program Celebration Dinner to Honor 2008-09 McNair Scholars, April 27
- Commission on Racial/Ethnic Diversity Annual Open House, May 13

The Educational Equity Advisory Board, chaired by Dr. Harold Cheatham '61, met on April 24 with a full-day agenda covering areas such as University strategic planning for diversity, diversity in education abroad, and development discussions.



Left - Right: Louise Sandmeyer, executive director, Office of Planning and Institutional Assessment; Daryl G. Smith, professor of education and psychology at The Claremont Graduate University

Nationally Prominent Diversity Scholar Speaks at Penn State

The Office of the Vice Provost for Educational Equity hosted a presentation by Daryl G. Smith, professor of education and psychology at The Claremont Graduate University, on March 27, 2009, 1:30 p.m., in the Assembly Room at The Nittany Lion Inn. Dr. Smith is one of the preminent scholars in the United States on diversity and institutional planning. Her research, publications, and teaching focus

primarily on diversity in higher education, including organizational implications of diversity, developing capacity to evaluate diversity initiatives, and faculty diversity.

Her presentation, "The Imperative of Diversity for Institutional Viability: Building Capacity for a Pluralistic Society," was attended by approximately 175 individuals

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Powwow

The sixth annual "New Faces of an Ancient People" Traditional American Indian Powwow was held April 18 and 19 at the Mount Nittany Middle School, sponsored by Penn State and the State College Area School District.

The powwow showcases American Indian powwow dance styles such



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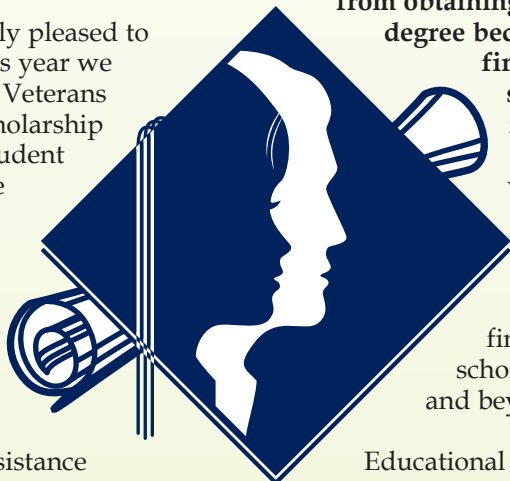
Photography by Ron Williams



Eighty Students Receive \$148,000 in Scholarships/Bookships

Thanks to gifts from our generous donors, the Educational Equity Scholarship Committee and the Office for Disability Services was able to award \$148,000 in scholarships and bookships to eighty students during the 2008–09 academic year. We would like to extend our gratitude to those who made this possible.

We are particularly pleased to announce that this year we awarded the first Veterans Special Needs Scholarship to a Penn State student who served in the U.S. military. Thirty-four students from the Comprehensive Studies Program (CSP), Student Support Services (SSS), College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), and the Multicultural Resource Center (MRC) received scholarships that averaged \$1,900 each. Additionally, the Office for Disability Services (ODS) awarded thirty students a scholarship that averaged \$2,600 each, and fifteen students from the Women



in the Sciences and Engineering (WISE) Institute received bookships of \$250 per semester.

President Spanier’s vision for the new University-wide fundraising effort, *For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students*, is clearly delineated: **“No student should ever be excluded from obtaining a Penn State**

degree because of personal financial circumstances.” Alumni, faculty, and staff know firsthand the value of a college degree, and we encourage them to give generously to financial need-based scholarships during 2009 and beyond.

Educational Equity’s Advisory Board, which includes twelve alumni volunteers and their spouses, is chaired by Dr. Harold Cheatham ’61. This group has been very generous in their support of need-based scholarships, and they will be helping

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inspired in hearing the shared experiences of witnessing the election of Barack Obama as president-elect of the United States. One member directly identifies, as he is both Caucasian and Kenyan. In related news, a former B.O.T.H. member, Jungmiwha “Jummy” Bullock (College of Communications, ’00), is now the president of the Association of Multiethnic Americans, Inc. (AMEA), the most nationally recognized multiracial/multiethnic group. Ms. Bullock is in a Ph.D. program and an Irvine Fellow at the University of Southern California in the interdisciplinary program of American Studies and Ethnicity.

The Ubuntu IDP began in fall 2008 by Kenjus Watson, MRC counseling intern, and Wayne Gersie, MRC counselor. Its mission is to provide structured, sustained, and facilitated face-to-face meetings for people from different and often conflicted social identity groups. During fall 2008, the Black Male Ubuntu group met over the course of ten weeks and centered on increasing the retention rate of African American males through community involvement, self-exploration, identifying purpose, and community awareness within a small group discussion and co-curricular activities. The program continues this spring with a Gender Ubuntu group that meets weekly.

Information about these and additional MRC outreach programs can be found at: www.equity.psu.edu/MRC/outreach.asp

MRC Provides Outreach Programs to Students

MRC continues to support undergraduate multicultural students and celebrate their successes through individual counseling and outreach programs such as Asian American Students in Action (AASIA), Blends of Traditional Heritages (B.O.T.H.), and Ubuntu Intergroup Dialogue Program (IDP).

Beginning fall 2007, KEWL, the mentoring program for Asian and Pacific Islander American students, changed its name to AASIA and redesigned its mission, goals, and activities. Seventeen incoming students (primarily first generation) were matched with upperclass mentors. Four undergraduate coordi-

nators (Jack Sun, Sonali Gupta, Rebecca Chan, and Ho Young Pack) worked with MRC counselors and AASIA advisers, Ed McKeon and Moran He, to monitor the program and plan fall events including the mentor orientation, annual BBQ, student resources panel, and leadership skills training. Spring 2009 plans included social activities, community service, and end-of-year dinner.

B.O.T.H. was founded sixteen years ago by Diane Farnsworth, MRC counselor, and continues to meet biweekly. The group is composed of students who identify as biracial or multiracial. At their meeting in November 2008, members were




Left – Right: AASIA Coordinators Sonali Gupta, Rebecca Chan, Jack Sun, Ed McKeon, Ho Young Pack



2009 Achievement Conference “Outside the Box, Beyond the Book: Strategies for Learning”

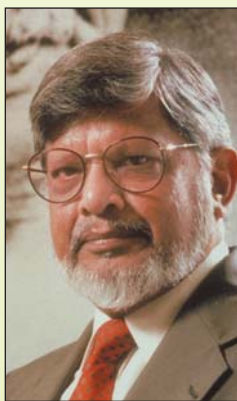
The 2009 Achievement Conference, “Outside the Box, Beyond the Book: Strategies for Learning,” was held February 20 and 21 at The Nittany Lion Inn, University Park campus.

Presented by the Black Graduate Student Association, this conference aims to foster relationships among juniors, seniors, and graduate students of color, along with faculty and administrators.


The two keynote speakers at this year’s conference included Dr. Jhan Doughty Berry, director of Student Retention and Diverse Student Success at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and Dr. Shaun R. Harper, formerly an assistant professor at Penn State, and currently a faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania’s Graduate School of Education and the Center for Africana Studies at Penn. 

2009 Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration

In conjunction with Penn State’s twenty-fourth annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration, Arun Gandhi, activist and diversity speaker, spoke to a crowd at 6:00 p.m. in Eisenhower Auditorium on January 20



Arun Gandhi

regarding the challenge of obtaining world peace. Dr. Gandhi is founder of the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence and the grandson of Mohandas Gandhi, the legendary peace fighter and spiritual leader. 

Be a Penn Stater for a Day

Approximately thirty tenth- and eleventh-grade students from the Reading High School took part in the first annual Be a Penn Stater for a Day program on Tuesday, April 7, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The program was designed by Debra Simpson-Buchanan, director to the Pennsylvania College Advising Corps program, which encourages high school students to pursue higher education.

Each high school student was individually matched with a college student mentor for the day. From 10:40 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the students attended classes with their mentor, had lunch in the campus cafeteria, talked with faculty and staff, and visited various locations on campus.



The students also experienced a full day of activities including a continental breakfast, an ice breaker session, an admissions and financial aid workshop, a campus tour given by student Lion Ambassadors, an informal dinner with faculty and staff, and presentations about Pennsylvania College Advising Corps – Penn State (PACAC), Penn State Educational Partnership Program (PEPP), and ASPIRE, an Educational Opportunity Program at Penn State Berks that supports students as they navigate their college career. In addition, the Office of Residence Life offered a presentation titled “To Start Your Journey.” The day ended with a fun group activity sponsored by the Student Government Association and Residence Life.


Half of the students were selected by the Pennsylvania College Advising Corps – Penn State (PACAC), an



organization that employs Penn State graduates as college advisers at high schools through southeastern Pennsylvania including Reading High School to help juniors and seniors with the college search and application process.

The other students were selected by the Penn State Educational Partnership Program (PEPP), an educational partnership under the auspice of the Penn State College of Education. PEPP encourages academically underrepresented youth to pursue their full academic potential. Offered at no cost to participants, PEPP plans, develops, and implements education-related programs and activities for middle school and high school students.

When the students were asked the question, “Tell me one thing you learned about college that you didn’t know before attending the program,” the majority of the students responded that they had no idea what college was like, and now they realize that college is attainable. All the students left the campus with the assurance that a postsecondary education is within their reach.

This program was a collaborative effort of the Pennsylvania College Advising Corps – Penn State, Penn State Educational Partnership Program (PEPP), and the following Penn State Berks offices: ASPIRE, Admissions, Housing and Food Services, Residence Life, and the Student Government Association. 



News of Note:

- Mickey Bellet has been named the new director of the Upward Bound program. Mickey has served as assistant director of Upward Bound since March 2008 and will assume the director position effective July 1, 2009.
- Meredith Massie, staff assistant for the Talent Search program, had a baby boy, Vaughn Edward Shoemaker on April 15.
- Educational Equity's longtime financial officer, Sam Auker, retired from Penn State on March 31, with thirty-three years of service to the University.
- Dr. James B. Stewart, Educational Equity's first vice provost; professor of Labor Studies and Employment Relations, African and African American Studies, and Management and Organization; and senior faculty mentor, celebrated his retirement at a reception on May 22.



Dr. James B. Stewart,
Senior Faculty
Mentor

Eighty Students Receive \$148,000 in Scholarships/Bookships

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us to reach alumni in their respective cities and states to help build momentum in our efforts to increase scholarship support for Educational Equity's students.

This year's Educational Equity scholarship recipients were honored at a reception on April 24 in the Henderson Building. The reception was hosted by Dr. W. Terrell Jones, vice provost for Educational Equity, and by the members of the Educational Equity Advisory Board.

Nationally Prominent Diversity Scholar Speaks at Penn State

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from throughout the University community.

Additionally, Dr. Smith was the featured speaker at the morning's "Best Practices in Diversity Strategic Planning" workshop, delivering a keynote address titled, "How Do You Know You Are Making Progress?" The workshop was one of an ongoing series presented by Educational Equity and attended by University executives and staff members who are involved in each unit's diversity strategic planning, implementation, and assessment efforts.

The workshop also featured a panel discussion moderated by Louise Sandmeyer, executive director of the Office of Planning and Institutional

Assessment. The panelists included Karen Wiley Sandler, chancellor, Penn State Abington; Curtiss Porter, chancellor, Penn State Greater Allegheny; and Daniel Larson, dean, Eberly College of Science. They shared their experiences and answered audience questions regarding working with *Framework* planning, implementation, and assessment, discussing what has worked well and what has not.

Notes from the workshop and afternoon presentation will be made available on the Best Practices in Diversity Strategic Planning Web site at:

www.equity.psu.edu/workshop/index.html

Powwow

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as men's traditional dances, women's jingle dances, and intertribal dances where everyone, Native or non-Native, is invited into the dance arena. Four traditional American Indian drum groups/singers were invited this year with the host drum from Blackburn, Oklahoma. Two drum groups are from South Dakota and the last drum group is from Canada. American Indian traders showcased some of the finest American Indian arts and crafts in the country. The powwow committee also invited a native storyteller to share native stories. This year was the largest powwow yet, with more than 150 dancers and strong attendance throughout the weekend.

The powwow is a great learning experience for teachers as well as children. This powwow has earned a



Maza Napin Drum, 2005

national reputation as one of the best in the East. More information may be found at the powwow Web site:

www.powwow.psu.edu