

# EAOP NEWS

A NEWSLETTER from the EARLY ACADEMIC OUTREACH PROGRAM

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## Greetings from the EAOP Director—*Dr. Debra Pounds*

Welcome to 2007! I'm excited about the opportunity to begin a brand new year because of all of the possibilities for great things to happen. It's our 31<sup>st</sup> year of operation and the UCLA Early Academic Outreach Program has been able to help thousands of students enter college, see them graduate, pursue graduate and professional school and begin working in their various careers. Seventy-two percent (72%) of the EAOP senior class of 2006 enrolled in a post-secondary institution after high graduation and 65% met UC eligibility. That's great news, but our work is very much still needed to continue. There are many more students from economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds attending under-resourced schools that need our assistance so they too can be prepared to enter the college of their choice. The state of California benefits greatly from our efforts. Research consistently shows that the more education one has the greater their earning potential.

To our continuing EAOP students, as you begin a new year, this is an opportunity for you to start anew – to build, repair or enrich your academic profile so you are able to experience and achieve the greatness you are capable of achieving academically. However, in order for great things to happen, you can't be satis-

fied with mediocrity. "Ok" is not good enough. Strive for Excellence. That's not the same as being excellent, but you're on the pathway. If you're stuck in a comfort zone and can't move, you're stagnant. It's time to come out. Progress and great things cannot happen if you're stuck in a rut and won't change.

**"... for great things to happen you cannot be satisfied with mediocrity. "Ok" is not good enough. Strive for Excellence."**

Fear is the number one barrier that prevents most of us from stepping out. I submit to you, have a little faith and move out of your comfort zone, one step at a time. A couple steps forward is better than none at all. Great intentions, dreams, goals and plans are no good if you don't act on them. As the saying goes, "*the smallest effort is better than the grandest intention.*"

Embrace the unknown with a plan of action. Map out your educational plan with assistance from the EAOP staff and move on them. Seek out the help. Don't let a "no" answer stop you from pursuing your college dream. As I am known to say, "There are many ways to cross the street, just as there are many paths to college." Just make college your goal, and you

will get there. Start with a positive attitude. Statements like, *I can't, it's too hard*, replace them with *I'll try*. What you speak and believe have a way of manifesting themselves into reality. Think, Believe and Speak positive and inspirational words – *I can do it, I can go to college, I can get straight A's, I can be the CEO of my own company!*

In 2007, let's strive for excellence. Remember the lessons learned from your mistakes and achievements in 2006. Let's make each day count as we plan and build for the future. Nothing is ever a waste if it contributes to the success for our tomorrow.



### MLK Oratory Winners!

Elysee Evans (11th grade) and Miles Goodloe (12th grade) represented Crenshaw High School and EAOP well by earning 1st and 2nd place in UCLA's "Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest" hosted by UCLA's Office of Residential Life.



## Coming Events

April 14

Engineering/Science Academy

July 15-20

Biology Boot Camp

August 19-24

AP Readiness Boot Camp

Mark Your Calendars

## Time to Get Paid—Erika Lopez

Seniors, you're probably wondering what to do next. Filling out college applications was the first step in getting ready for college; the next step is Financial Aid. All seniors that will be attending college next year must apply for financial aid. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA is the application that will begin your path to receiving Financial aid (go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) for the application). Colleges and universities will use the information collected by the FAFSA to determine your financial need and in return offer you grants, work-study or loans, if eligible. The priority application period for California is January 1, 2007 to March 2, 2007, but if you missed that deadline, you can still file a FAFSA.

Here are some recommendations to filing the FAFSA:

Register to receive a Pin Number (go to [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov)) for your-

self and for at least one of your parents. This is a four digit electronic signature that will be needed to sign the end of the FAFSA page and will expedite the whole process. Encourage your parents to submit their 2006 taxes as soon as possible to facilitate filling out the application. Then collect financial forms like 2006 Income Tax Forms, W-2s, and any other documents regarding family finances. Use the FAFSA worksheet to fill out questions before submitting online (can be downloaded or picked up in college center). Complete the application and keep a copy for your own files.

In addition to grants, work-study and loans there is also a fourth type of financial aid—scholarships. Scholarships are monetary gifts that do not have to be paid back. Scholarships are given by private organizations, companies, individuals, unions,

schools, colleges etc. For scholarships you must apply individually to each scholarship organization. Go to your school college counselor to get local scholarship applications or begin searching online. Be careful with scholarship organizations that promise "Guaranteed scholarships." These may be scams set up to take your money. Scholarships have different deadlines and due dates so make sure you plan and find out this information. There is no limit to how many scholarships you can apply for or how many you can receive. You can start your scholarship search by visiting the following websites:

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com);

[www.collegeboard.com/pay](http://www.collegeboard.com/pay)

[www.petersons.com/finaid](http://www.petersons.com/finaid)

[www.srnexpress.com](http://www.srnexpress.com)

## Early Start: A Middle School Perspective—Cesar Perez

The middle school component of UCLA's Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP) works with over thirty middle schools throughout the Los Angeles area. For many of our students, our program affords them their first exposure to college information. We must not only convey college information, but also get students excited about what awaits them once they arrive at college. Our staff of undergraduate "Bruin Advisors" and full-time "Site Coordinators" do an excellent job of balancing their presentations with valuable information on college requirements as well as allowing students to see that college is a lot of fun. When we share with students that they will

be able to pick their own classes they begin to spring to attention; the attention reaches a higher level when we tell them they do not have to go to school every day and that many students go to school a few hours a day. Soon they are asking us questions about college life, classes and of course—parties. The goal of the program is not only to introduce college but also to show how it will be possible for them. One of the biggest challenges is addressing the students' concerns of college affordability; we try to ease students' financial concerns by sharing the various financial aid opportunities that are available to them.

In essence, our job has just begun as the goal of EAOP is to create a college going culture in the communities that we serve. Middle school is where it starts and the sooner students realize this, the sooner they can begin to lay the foundation for their futures. Many of the middle school students we come into contact with will be a part of our program at the high school level; it is our hope that they will come to high school with an informed sense of what it takes to continue on to higher education.



EAOP students enjoying a day at UCLA!

## 360 ° of EAOP—Memoirs by Gregory Johnson

**October 16, 1998** – This is the date when my ventures with the EAOP began. A group of four UCLA undergraduates came to my first period English class to teach us about the benefits and ideals of the Career Based Outreach Program and the Early Academic Outreach Program. I was enthralled at the idea of having actual college students take an interest in me and my peers at Crenshaw High School. While our interaction was limited at first, my classmates and I got more and more involved with any program or activity that was on EAOP letterhead. In the classroom we received SAT Prep driven discussions and outside the classroom we learned even more. Monthly workshops at UCLA gave us students the opportunity to not only “catch up” with our counterparts from other schools, but also gave us a secure setting to gain confidence in our more challenging subjects (mostly math and science). The

academic and social aspects of the program had hundreds of students in the Los Angeles area hoping they would be invited to attend the residential summer programs. And anyone who has had the pleasure to attend one, (or four in my case), knows that they are worth the long walks, hilly campus, and small dorm rooms.

**September 22, 2003** – My car is parked on 50<sup>th</sup> street, but I am walking about room 317 in Ms. Smith’s 10<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra 1 class at Crenshaw High. I’m filled with nostalgia as I am now a UCLA student helping those whose position I was in five years earlier. EAOP received a grant to provide in-class tutors for various math classes in LAUSD high schools, and I was the first one hired. It is my pleasure to help the program that unveiled the shroud covering the college path that many others and I have not ever been privy to.

**September 19, 2006** – I am sitting in the B-level of the Student Activities Center in the EAOP office. I have just graduated from UCLA and have earned a full-time position as a Site Coordinator with UCLA’s EAOP. It’s a great feeling for the outreach to come around full circle. No longer am I listening to college presentations, but now I am delivering them with passion and vigor. My voice is hoarse and it takes a lot of my personal time, but I feel great. I have seen EAOP from all its wonderful sides. As a program participant I learned how to use words like “ameliorate,” and “capricious” in a daily context. As a tutor I was able to repair the gaps in the mathematical foundations of underserved students all over Los Angeles. And as a full time employee I serve my students as if they were paying me a million dollars. Maybe my next step is running the whole department, we’ll see in the near future.

“... I serve my students as if they were paying me a million dollars.”

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

#### Governor Schwarzenegger

Phone: 916-445-2841

Fax: 916-445-4633

Email: <http://www.govmail.ca.gov/>

Address:  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

#### California State Legislature

Use you ZIP code you to find your Senator or Assembly member:

<http://www.legislature.ca.gov/port-zipsearch.html>

**Senate phone numbers:**

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/sen-addresses.html>

**Assembly phone numbers:**

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/asm-addresses.html>

(It is best to call the Sacramento offices)

## BUDGET NEWS

### Budget Uncertainty—EAOP programs continue as scheduled

On January 10, Governor Schwarzenegger released the proposed California state budget for the period July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008. Unfortunately, the \$19.3 million dollars that supports the University of California’s academic preparation programs—including EAOP—was not included in the budget. UC’s academic preparation programs have faced this same budget uncertainty for the past four years and each year funding has been restored at the 11th hour. There is every reason to believe that the funding for EAOP will be restored this year as well, and there are ways that you can help ensure this outcome. The EAOP program will continue its service—uninterrupted—to all

its partner schools and summer programs will take place as scheduled.

Budget uncertainty doesn’t interfere with EAOP services.

#### Budget process

The state budget process works as follows. The governor proposes a budget in January. Negotiations between the California state legislature and the governor’s office take place in the months that follow. A revision of the budget is released in mid-May. By law, the final budget for the fiscal year should be passed no later than June 30. For the past four years, funding for UC’s academic preparation programs

were not included in the “May revise” of the budget, but were included in the final state budget.

UC President Robert C. Dynes has pledged to fight for the restoration of academic preparation funds. In a statement released on January 10 he said, “We will certainly pursue continuation of state funds for our academic preparation and labor research programs.”

#### What you can do:

There are many ways that concerned families and educators can help ensure EAOP is included in the final state budget:

*Budget News continued on pg. 4*

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EARLY ACADEMIC OUTREACH PROGRAMS  
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BOX 951390  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90095-1390  
AB-97

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*Budget News continued from pg. 3*

- Contact the governor
- Contact your state representatives
- Write letters to the editor and speak about how the program has helped your family or yourself personally.
- Participate in the Student Leadership Forum

It is best if you write a personalized letter to the editor or the legislature. You can contact our office for a sample letter. Letters can be sent at any time, but will be most effective in May. EAOP plans a coordinated letter drive in May, corresponding to the Student Leadership Forum.

### Student Leadership Forum

EAOP is prepared for this budget challenge. Students and staff from the University's three largest academic preparation programs—EAOP, MESA, and Puente—will participate in the second annual Stu-

dent Leadership Forum (SLF), to take place in Sacramento on May 29-30. On the first day, participants will develop their leadership and public speaking skills. On the second day, students and staff will meet with legislative representatives and advocate for their programs.

Last year, the SLF convened over 200 staff and students for the two-day forum and effectively conveyed the benefits of academic preparation to their local legislators. Funding for EAOP, MESA and Puente was fully restored. In addition, the experience developed students' leadership and public speaking skills, raised awareness of the political process, and even inspired students to participate more actively in elections.

To participate in this year's Student Leadership Forum, UCLA EAOP will select students from our essay contest. For more essay contest information, contact the EAOP office or Jose Corado at (310) 794-5684.

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We're on the Web: [www.eaop.ucla.edu](http://www.eaop.ucla.edu)

#### EAOP STAFF

