

# HEOP / EXCEL NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER DATE:

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## NEW ADDITION

- Creative Thinking Piece: Writer's Corner

## HEOP/EXCEL STAFF PHOTO



## HEOP/ EXCEL STAFF

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– Director

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– Coordinator of Academic Services

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– Coordinator/ Advisor

Joshua Matsch

– Newsletter Coeditor

Te'vonn Mcfield

– Newsletter Coeditor

## DEAN'S LIST SCHOLARS

Each semester there is an exceptional group of students that puts forth an extra effort which gains them wide spread recognition among the scholarly community. These students in particular are rewarded with praise and certificates that denote them “dean’s list scholars.” Although their hard work is made visible by means of a grade point average above a 3.5, which they are formally recognized, there is much more that these students have achieved in addition to the commonly admired grade. Speaking from my own experience, becoming a Dean’s list scholar for the first time involves a complete restructuring of one’s personal life. In order to ensure adequate time to devote to each course of study, every aspect of living needs to be analyzed, organized and restructured. This in itself is a monstrous undertaking. In addition, these students are required to fully and continually motivate themselves to keep the structure of their lives in check with the focus of their efforts and goals.

So, as we recognize these students for their academic achievement, take the time to also commend them for their relenting focus and determination in their self discipline.

### The Following HEOP/EXCEL Students Achieved This Great Honor:

Heidi Frawley

Joshua Matsch

Manuela Nobel

Samone Parson



*Keep up the great work!*





**SPOTLIGHT ON SHAWANDA GREEN**

College itself is a great accomplishment for all students who are currently enrolled. However, there are individuals in HEOP/ EXCEL who carry their accomplishments a step further. Students such as Shawanda Green have successfully managed to do well in class and also pursue other difficult tasks in order to benefit themselves in the future. In addition to being a full time student maintaining a GPA of 3.0, a Resident Assistant in Kearney Hall, a Student Assistant for the office of Multicultural Affairs, and a weekend employee of Wegmans, she manages to find time to assume the role as the president of a college club. This club was recognized as “Club of the Year” and had the “event of the year” for 2006-2007. I.N.C. (Inter-Ethnic Nazareth Coalition) will be having their annual Black History Month Celebration in the Forum, February 27th.

**SENIOR SPOTLIGHT**

The Nazareth College HEOP/ EXCEL program as a whole is making great strides as well. Since its inception in 1967 to present, the class of 2008 represents the largest number of students to earn a degree from a single HEOP/ EXCEL class.

On May 10th of this year, 15 HEOP/EXCEL students will proudly walk across the stage

and receive an official degree from Nazareth College .

The HEOP/ EXCEL staff congratulates each one of them for their admirable persistence and dedication to their future. We often forget that these students come to college from financially disadvantaged and struggling households.

However, now that these 15

students have successfully educated themselves, they can leave Nazareth and pursue a life that, without the successful HEOP/EXCEL program, would not have been possible.



**“Education is freedom.”**

**UPDATE ON CREATIVE WRITING GROUP**

The newly designed “Creative Writing Group” is seeing great success in its first few months of operation. The group itself has served as a free speech and free thinking medium for all to share openly. The meetings themselves facilitate those present to analyze and discuss such stimulating topics as “The importance of education” and “The importance of race in society.”

The president of the group, HEOP sophomore, Te’vonn Mcfield, and active group member, Joshua Matsch, are going to be pushing to make this intellectual group an official club. Thus far the group has been affiliated with the English Club; however, branching off and becoming an official recognized Nazareth College club is the new path that the group is taking.

We encourage students to support the group, and future club. Meetings are every other Wednesday at 8:00PM in Media B. The group encourages and celebrates diversity through intellectual discussion, and also gives the members freedom to share their own original creative pieces.

## **NEWS FROM ASSEMBLY MEMBER SAM HOYT** **(144TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT)**

### **Hoyt/Volker Bill to Honor Arthur Eve**

*New bill creates the "Arthur O. Eve Educational Opportunity Program"*

*April 23, 2004*

Assembly member Sam Hoyt (D-Buffalo, Grand Island) and Senator Dale Volker (R-Wyoming, Erie County) today announced legislation which will rename the Education Opportunity Program (EOP) and the Higher Education Opportunity program (HEOP) in honor of former Deputy Speaker Arthur O. Eve.

*The bill renames the EOP as The Arthur O. Eve Opportunity for Higher Education Program and the HEOP as The Arthur O. Eve Elementary and Secondary Education Opportunity program. Spearheaded and championed by Assemblyman Eve, such programs serve a crucial role in increasing statewide access to higher education. Their core mission is to promote equal access to higher education for educationally and economically disadvantaged students in New York State, providing the educational services and supplementary financial assistance they need to become successful college students.*

*Hoyt said, "Arthur Eve's foresight and commitment has opened the doors of higher education to tens of thousands of New Yorkers." A 35-year veteran of the New York State assembly, often dubbed the 'Conscience of the New York State Legislature,' Assemblyman Eve's advocacy on behalf of the disadvantaged and marginalized citizens of the state is well known.*

*"Arthur Eve is a dear friend, a colleague, and an ardent supporter for those less fortunate in our state," said Senator Volker. "He has always been a man whose convictions have never wavered, and whose influence and statesmanship will positively impact our residents for generations."*

*New York State has produced countless doctors, lawyers, educators, successful business people, politicians and other professionals as a result of the EOP and HEOP. Each program has tapped the potential of minority and other nontraditional students whose economic experience had previously barred them from pursuing higher education.*

*Assembly Majority Leader Paul A. Tokasz (D-Cheektowaga/Lancaster) praised the honoring of Arthur Eve. "I am proud to support this legislation in honor of our esteemed former colleague," said Tokasz.*

*"Arthur Eve's support and expansion of education opportunities for both the young and old throughout his thirty-five years in the Assembly helped numerous individuals achieve personal excellence."*

*Assemblymember Crystal D. Peoples (D-Buffalo) agreed, stating that, "Affixing the name Arthur O. Eve to these tuition assistance programs is an honor reflective of his contributions to higher education in New York State."*

*"As Deputy Speaker for 20 years, Assemblyman Eve has been a tireless servant of the 141st District in Buffalo," Hoyt said. "His efforts have positively affected the lives of many New Yorkers, particularly in the field of education."*

*Assemblyman Eve's extensive commitment to education issues was recognized last year with the award of an honorary doctor of laws degree from the State University of New York. Added Volker, "In honoring Arthur O. Eve, we honor the enormous achievements that he advocated, inspired, and enacted for the betterment for all New Yorkers." Hoyt concluded, "The renaming of these programs in his honor would serve as worthy recognition of Arthur Eve's efforts in increasing opportunity and social justice."*

## THE HISTORY OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The inspiration for Black History Month came from a man who received his Ph. D. from Harvard, Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

It started out as “Negro History Week”, which was the second week in February, of 1926. Dr. Woodson chose this week because Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln’s birthdays both fell within that week.

The motivation for “Negro History Week” came from a lack of recognition in the history books concerning black achievement in the United States.

Dr. Woodson created the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History in 1915. Directly after he established the Journal of Negro History in 1916.

The job of the association was to research and document Afro-American accomplishment in the history books.

After establishing “Negro History Week” it soon evolved into Black History Month. Dr. Woodson’s efforts are appreciated and celebrated worldwide, for this we thank him for his ongoing struggle to bring diversity into the history books.



Dr. Carter G. Woodson

## CELEBRATION AT NAZARETH

The Annual Black History Month Ceremony conducted by HEOP/EXCEL student run club INC. was a great success.

This year many HEOP/EXCEL students were active participants in the show such as Selrena Harrell, Shawanda Green, Krystal Gonzalez, and LaShea Hamilton.

The biggest highlight of the night was the girl’s step team

performance. The Inc. girls step team included various HEOP/EXCEL members, Chiqueeta Lea, Chanel Wright, Janelle McCallister, Quaynaya King, Takara Jones, Jazzmen Harris, and Aida Rodriguez.

Throughout the night tributes were given to various important and influential African Americans. Paul Brown gave a tribute to Muhammad Ali, Te’vonn Mcfield gave a trib-

ute to Sidney Poitier, Briana Watson gave a tribute to Beyonce, Jazzmen Harris gave a tribute to Oprah Winfrey, and Diedre Willer gave a tribute to Whitney Houston.

To close out the show Leon Hill, senior student-athlete performed an original piece “From the Thoughts of my Mind.”

“This being Black History Month, I would like to ask people to celebrate the similarities and not focus on the differences between people of color and not of color.”

~Lynn Swann



## HEOP/EXCEL GRADUATE CASWELL SMITH

One of the most memorable HEOP/EXCEL graduates who truly needs no introduction is Caswell Smith, from the graduating class of 2006. I had the privilege of interviewing Mr. Smith not too long ago.

Te'vonn: Do you think that being an HEOP/EXCEL student gave you the tools to be successful after graduating from college?

Caswell: I believe the whole process of becoming an H.E.O.P student and graduating as an H.E.O.P student was empowering for me because the H.E.O.P program at Nazareth College allowed me access to many resources within my college and my community. Much of my success after graduating is directly related to the friendships and bonds I established with students and faculty, ever since I arrived at Nazareth College. The tools I have acquired from the H.E.O.P program and Nazareth College will last me a life time.

T: What have you been doing since you graduated? I know that you're very active in the community outreach programs.

C: After graduating I started off my career as a Teacher Assistant at the Norman Howard School. However, currently I just scored a great full-time job working as a Youth Development Specialist at Metro Council for Teen Potential, and I also work part-time as a Program Coordinator at Nazareth College's Center for Service Learning.

T: Are there any words of advice you would like to give current and future HEOP/EXCEL students?

C: In one of a Bob Marley's songs called "Rat Race" he states, "Don't forget your history ... It's your destiny... It's the abundances of water...The fool is

thirsty". Obviously, I don't think any current or future H.E.O.P/EXCEL student is a fool. But my advice is to be thirsty, thirsty for knowledge and new experiences. There are no limitations, only the ones you put on yourself.

T: What would you say is your favorite memory at Nazareth College?

C: I have too many great memories at Nazareth College to designate one as my favorite, so I'll give you two. The first memory with out a doubt was graduating from the summer H.E.O.P/EXCEL program to become an official Nazareth College student. From that point, like Will Smith I WAS A LEGEND...Ya Dig!!!

Just joking! The second memory is sports related. I played for Nazareth College Men's Basketball team from 2002-2006 and my favorite basketball memory was an away game at Ithaca College. It's my favorite memory because with a few minutes left in the game I locked-down their point guards to a point where time outs were called because I wouldn't let them go past half court. Giving Naz their first win in years at Ithaca College and your boy finished up with 19 points and 5 steals.

T: What do you think of the basketball team this year?

C: I'm very excited and supportive for the Men's Basketball team. I think this year's team has the potential to go all the way. A lot of their success is because of the great coaching staff and camaraderie of the men on the team. I also would like to send a SHOUT-OUT to a great friend of mine whose on the team who goes by the name Leon Hill A.K.A "Marcus." I wish you the best as you finish your last year at Nazareth College and as you begin to walk your path and start your career.

**But my advice is to be thirsty, thirsty for knowledge and new experiences. There are no limitations only the ones you put on yourself.**

## FAFSA REMINDER

It is getting to be that time of the year again! Students are encouraged to fill out their FAFSA as early as possible. The Free Application For Student Aid can be filled out online at [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov).

The FAFSA is a great source of financial aid for current and prospective college students; however, the later you fill out your FAFSA the less financial aid will be available.

The FAFSA is something that you will need and want to fill out every year as soon as possible. You are usually allowed to fill out the FAFSA about the same time the second semester starts.

Another important tool is keeping you pay check stubs if you work outside of school. When you get your W2 form that is the information that you need in order to fill out the FAFSA completely.

Try to put money away for school after working over the summer. As an HEOP/EXCEL student you are expected to bring a certain amount of money with you each semester.

There are a lot of opportunities for financial aid if you look for them. The first step is filling out your FAFSA. The deadline for the FAFSA is May 1, 2008. The sooner the better.



## JOB OPPORTUNITIES ON CAMPUS

Looking for some extra personal cash? Well, Nazareth College employs hundreds of students each semester.

These jobs encompass a wide area of talents and comfort levels. For the more formally attired students, there are numerous offices in each academic building that regularly need assistance with paperwork and secretarial tasks.

For the more hands on students, the dining hall and security are also hiring students part-time.

If you are worried about not having any work study hours, don't fret because many of these jobs do not require these hours.

If you are unable to directly go from office to office, asking for openings, there is always the easily accessible

Career Services website. This website will allow you to search through available job opportunities at Nazareth College and also in the surrounding local community. Another great aspect of this website is that it allows you to search for jobs that fit your personal criteria and interests.

<https://www.myinterfase.com/naz/student/>

Work while you have the light. You are responsible for the talent that has been entrusted to you.

— Amiel —

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There are a plethora of opportunities for financial aid, if you take the time to utilize your resources.

One of the scholarships that is offered here at Naz is the Campus Diversity Scholarship, the description is as follows: \$1,000 - \$3,500 per year awarded to recognize academic achievement.

Granted to students who represent family backgrounds, life experiences or academic interests atypical of full-time undergraduate students at Nazareth College. Renewable for eight consecutive full time, undergraduate semesters, provided student remains in good academic standing.

Fastweb.com is a site that students can use to receive and apply for scholarships that are tailored to their strengths. When you set up a profile with Fastweb you will identify certain aspects of your life that can be rewarded with scholarships. The opportunities are out there waiting for you.





**CAMERON ADAMS WEDDING CEREMONY**



Cameron Briana Adams an, HEOP/EXCEL graduate (2006), and Seth Joseph McCurdy were married August 4, 2007, at the Lafayette Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses.

Maid of Honor was Brittany Adams, sister of the bride. Matron of honor was Kristin Adams, sister-in-law of the bride. Bridesmaids included Anissa Adekoya, Shawna Worth, Kimberly Smith, and

Tabrinnay Nelson, all friends of the bride. Flower girls were Anaiyah MsCurty, Janae Roberts and Teonna Barnett, nieces of the groom. Best men were Cleveland and Micah McCurdy, brothers of the groom. Groomsmen were Brent McCurdy, brother of the groom, Montreal Jefferson, and Timothy Nelson Jr., friends of the bride and groom, and Andrew Tracey, friend of the groom. The couple is planning a honey-

moon to Dreams Resort and Spa in Cancun, Mexico, in July 2008.

The bride is a 2002 graduate of Nottingham High School and a 2006 graduate of Nazareth College. She is a speech language therapist for Rehab Resources. The groom is a 2000 graduate of Nottingham High School. He is an electrician and a member of I.B.E.W. Local 43 Electrical Union.

**A P R I L 2 0 0 8**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 <b>Charlotte's Web</b> The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie	2 <b>Salsa Dancing</b> Justice Lecture	3 <b>Room selection for fall 2008 ends</b>	4 <b>Colloquium for Justice</b>	5 <b>Concert Band</b> Quilters
6 <b>Symphony Orchestra: Pop Concert</b>	7 <b>Maureen Brilla Exhibit</b> Patricia Weaver Francisco Speaks	8	9 <b>Salsa Dancing</b>	10	11 <b>Little Shop of Horrors</b>	12 <b>Little Shop of Horrors</b>
13 <b>Little Shop of Horrors</b>	14	15 <b>Chamber Orchestra</b>	16 <b>Salsa Dancing</b>	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 <b>Salsa Dancing</b>	24 <b>Jazz Ensemble</b>	25 <b>Admissions Open House</b>	26
27	28 <b>Undergraduate Classes End</b>	29	30 <b>Salsa Dancing</b>			

**WRITER'S CORNER TOPIC 1: AMERICAN HEALTH CARE**

Given that it is an election year a lot of issues have been surfacing about the current conditions of our country. One of the issues that many people are not aware of is the current state of health care.

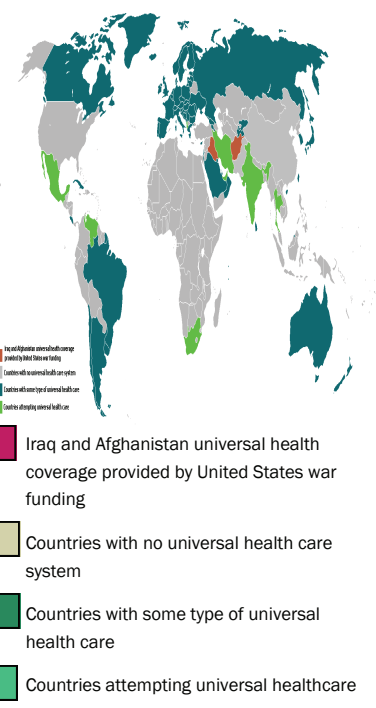
Although we are one of the most powerful and richest countries in the world our citizens have to pay for something that most people around the world don't have

to pay, medical bills. Did you know that America is one of the only wealthy industrialized nations that does not have universal health care?

Universal Health Care is a system that is funded by taxes that pays all medical bills, from your annual check-ups to broken limbs. For example, in Canada, Cuba, Europe, and Great Britain amongst other places, if you break your arm you can go to

the hospital without any medical insurance what so ever and be attended to free of charge. Where as here in America you may wind up paying thousands of dollars for the same procedures.

How can employers give you a limited amount of sick days? In most countries sick days are not limited like here in America. Be sure to do your research when choosing a candidate for presidency.



**WRITER'S CORNER TOPIC 2: WAR IN IRAQ**

It is completely accurate to say that the majority of United States citizens have no true understanding about the "war in Iraq." This is despite the fact that every major news distributor has talked about the war for nearly 7 years. Most citizens who watch these news channels do not know that Alqueida and Iraq were not even related or that there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, yet thou-

sands of U.S. military personnel invaded and still remain there to this day without consequence.

However, it is not only the citizens that are confused about why this war began and how the eradication of xxx young lives was justified. I personally confronted two active military lieutenants about why we were in Iraq and one responded by saying that "it is not the WHY that we should be questioning

and that the men fight because the person next to him fights." I'm inclined to infer that this is not an isolated incident. First Lieutenants such as these typically command 65-150 men. How is it that someone in charge of directing a minimum of 65 trained killing personnel does not question why he orders his men to kill? As true citizens of the U.S. I urge you to Please just simply ask WHY!

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First\\_Lieutenant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Lieutenant)

**"If your effect is death, you must know your cause"**

**WRITER'S CORNER TOPIC 3: EDUCATING IGNORANCE**

One of the biggest problems in society today is ignorance. Whether it be incorporating disrespectful vocabulary into our every day language, (nigga, gay, retarded) or failing to reach outside our comfort zones.

It is unacceptable to uplift stereotypical behavior in casual settings. Being around

friends is not an excuse to put down others. Referring to someone as retarded is disrespectful to that person, and it is also disrespectful to those who are clinically retarded because there is nothing they can do to fix their condition. Making fun of their condition does not help.

The only way to eliminate or

at least diminish stereotypes and ignorance is by educating yourself. This education is simply dialogue with people who are not like you. If you actually talk to some of these people you put down you would understand who they are and you would refrain from judging them. Educate your ignorance.



# HEOP/ EXCEL MISSION STATEMENT

The HEOP program embraces equal access to higher education and since the late 1960's has supported educational opportunity for persons who have been academically, economically and historically disadvantaged. You must be a resident of New York State in order to apply.

Excel is a program that identifies students from underrepresented groups in the college that meet HEOP academic criteria but do not qualify for HEOP economically or historically. This program is special to the college's diversity goals and commitment to its own historical traditions of nurturing and giving community support.

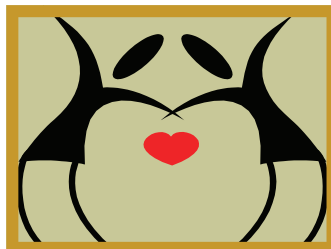
**HEOP** at Nazareth was established in 1967 and since then has graduated over 360 students in a varied number of degree programs. These graduates are now employed in industry, corporate, small business, education and state and federal jobs across New York State and the nation. They are taxpayers, homemakers and community leaders. Instate students are eligible to apply. In 2005/2006, 51 students were enrolled. In 2006/2007, 51 students are enrolled.

**Excel** at Nazareth was established in 1996 and affords the opportunity of Higher Education to those students from underrepresented groups who do not qualify for HEOP economically, but who need the academic support mechanisms to be successful as an undergraduate student at Nazareth College. Nineteen students (two are from out of state) were enrolled in 2005/2006. Currently, twenty students are enrolled for 2006/2007.

Nazareth College along with the New York State Education Department (SED) continue to provide funds for structured supportive services, including a summer institute, tutoring, and counseling each summer and academic year.

Our mission is clear and simple: Provide access to Higher Education for disadvantaged students who have the potential to be successful at the college level.

Clemont Lynch, Director



*Nazareth College: The Heart of Excellence*