

# Endeavors



MAY 2017

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Message from the President
- Merit Awards
- The Colleague Corner
- Letter from the Editors
- Community in SUNY

## A Message from the President

Dear Membership,  
So...what will YOU do today?

This is that wonderful time in admissions that reminds me of why I've been in this career for 22 years - the uncertainty! What will my day bring? Recruiting travel to talk to late-deciding seniors? Application review? A meeting to design the recruiting publications for next cycle? A group visit from a New York City high school? An information night for junior parents in the local school library? A walk-in student who is looking for summer classes? A meeting to establish

the budget for next year? Proctoring a placement testing session at our local BOCES? A staff member performance review? Getting a cheesecake delivered by two of my tour guides (yup, just happened)? Planning a reception for guidance counselors? A parent calling for clarification of the admissions criteria for her home-schooled student? A luncheon to recognize recent retirees?

The amazing thing is, it could be ANY or ALL of those...and it's not just this season, it's every day. What an exciting life we lead in this won-

derful world of admissions.

Oops, sorry, gotta go - time to do a radio interview for our Excelsior Scholarship Information Night! See you at the conference!

Sandy





# The Colleague Corner

*By Laura Morcone, Associate Director of Admissions at SUNY Orange*

A new look at our friends and colleagues throughout SUNY. Get to know one another. Whether it be a familiar face, or someone you have never met, that is what I am trying to do.



## Meet Meylin Andares

Meylin was the first person I met “on the road” when I first got hired at SUNY Oneonta. The first fair I did was at Kellenberg HS in Nassau County, Long Island, and Meylin was a table next to me (representing SUNY Albany). We introduced ourselves, and then our friendship took off as I quickly knew everything about Meylin in just about 5 minutes (she is not shy). She invited me, along with about 10 other counselors, to Champs (which was across the street) for food and drinks. She is magnetic, and I know you will see why. She has been in her new job at SUNY Central for less than 1 year, and she is already making a difference.

### **What is your current title?**

My title is Director of Enrollment Management and Student Success for SUNY System. I focus on providing resources to underrepresented populations in order to secure a college education.

### **When did you start?**

I started in June 2016.

### **Coming from U Albany, how has admissions-related work assisted you in the transition into your new role?**

My time at UAlbany Undergraduate Admissions helped me to learn the vast framework behind higher education. This has allowed me to gain a unique perspective which can be applied to my new role. This includes recruitment, networking and understanding what a student needs to be successful.

### **What do you miss most about not being in admissions anymore?**

What I miss most are my colleagues, Admissions peers and most importantly the students. I would also have to include traveling to high schools and helping students/families with the college application process. Being a part of getting students accepted into UAlbany/EOP Program has been highly fulfilling to me.

### **What are your long-term goals for this new job?**

Some of my long-term goals include developing new initiatives across SUNY System, assuring underrepresented students have the best resources available to them and bridging the gap between campuses and non-profit organizations.

### **What has been one defining moment in your professional career?**

One of the most defining moments of my professional career has been successfully achieving the increased EOP freshmen class size by 250 students. This accomplishment helped broaden my skills and ability to do more as a higher education professional.

### **What does your typical day look like? Is there such a thing?**

An average day consists of meetings, site visits, conference calls and webinars. This includes after work networking events.

# The Colleague Corner continued...

## **What professor/staff member had the most impact on you during college, and why?**

The staff member that had the most impact on me during college was Cesar Sanchez. Cesar was the New York City Admissions representative for UAlbany. He recruited me as a high school senior to attend the University. Afterwards, he remained a mentor assisting me in many ways. He encouraged me to apply as a tour guide which introduced me to the world of Admissions.

## **What are you most proud of professionally?**

What I am most proud of professionally is my leap from Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions to Director of Enrollment Management and Student Success. My new role allows me to create change on a much larger scale

## **What are you most proud of personally?**

What I am most proud of personally is being an immigrant. My parents brought me here from Managua, Nicaragua to have a better life and more opportunities. They worked hard, instilled the importance of an education and taught me the simple motto, "One person can make a difference".

## **For fun:**

### **If you become President of the United States someday, what is the first thing you would do?**

If I would be President of the United States one day, the first thing I would do is to hold a national vote in order to pressure Congress to pass the Dream Act. This would be my first act as President due to my experience as an immigrant, becoming a citizen and following the American Dream.

A new look at our friends and colleagues throughout SUNY. Get to know one another. Consider interviewing someone about their role in Admissions and pass it along to *Endeavors!*

# Letter from the Editors

With May 1<sup>st</sup> finally behind us, we hope everyone has had a moment or two to relax! It has been a very busy year with a lot of change. We hope you all have planned for some time off this summer! Additionally, we hope to see you all in Lake Placid next month!

With the conference being less than a month away, you will want to make sure you register as soon as possible! The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual SUNYCAP Conference will be held June 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. This is a great time to catch up and collaborate with colleagues. As always, we encourage any and all articles! Your articles and other contributions are appreciated and helpful to our entire community.

Have fun and safe summer!

Lauren Polak & Riley Zenoski



## Good and Welfare



### Jess Fish from SUNY Plattsburgh Welcomes a Baby Boy!

Jess Fish and her husband Joey welcomed their first child, Jett Joseph Fish a beautiful baby boy on February 28th at 3:03pm. All are happy and healthy!



### New Year's Eve Weddings!

**Lauren Polak** from SUNY ESF got engaged to Kirk Kwaczala on New Year's Eve 2016. They will be getting married on December 31, 2017 in Syracuse, NY.

**Jessica Zito** from SUNY Cortland got engaged to Ian Bilek on Christmas Eve 2016. They will also be getting married on December 31, 2017 in Verona, NY.

Be sure to congratulate the New Year's Eve brides-to-be when you see them on the road!

If you have news you would like to share or have a story you would like to feature, let us know!



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**The State University of New York College Admissions Professionals (SUNYCAP) was established in 1970 as an independent, incorporated, professional organization and celebrates 45 years of service to admissions and enrollment management professionals, school counselors and prospective students.**

**The organization started with a small representation of campuses and has grown to over 400 members represented SUNY campuses statewide.**

## **Become a member of SUNYCAP!!**

We are looking ahead with excitement for our organization as a new recruitment year is here! SUNYCAP provides us with countless opportunities to team up and discuss a variety of topics including issues concerning SUNY college admissions professionals, cultivating relationships with the school counseling community and providing engaging environments where our students can be successful.

Please show your commitment to SUNYCAP today by renewing your membership or encouraging new members to join. For your convenience, please visit <http://www.sunycap.org> to submit the online application form. There will no longer be the option to submit a paper application. Once your institution submits the online application, you will receive an invoice for payment. Institutions with exactly five members can pay \$175.00 per year, and \$40.00 per member over five. The cost for individual members is also \$40.00 per year. Your membership will be valid from November 1, 2016 – October 31, 2017.