

The State of the Region—President Ruth Johnson *SWASAP Student Leadership Conference*

- **Registration is still open for the 2008 SWASAP Conference**
- **Fair Share Success!**
- **2008 SWASAP Student Leadership A Success**
- **2008 Ronnie Brooks Scholarship Awardees Named**

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The Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs trained 41 student leaders at Sky Ranch. The Student Leadership Committee, led by Brina Ford/OK, planned and executed a professional experience for our students. Three days of thought-provoking seminars, teambuilding exercises, and obstacle courses challenged our students to see the leaders they were meant to be.

Expectations were established during the initial meeting on the first night. The atmosphere of leadership was in the room as students watched the historic Presidential Debates. Through discussion and reflection the students were able to see leadership on a grand scale.

In the morning our emerging leaders were separated from their geographical identities and were given new groups; The Buzzards, Dolphins, Sharks, and Ninjas. These new groups allowed them to build new friendships and bonds. With each new name came new pride, students had to create an action or sound to show that pride accordingly. The Buzzards, Dolphin (eeeeeeeeeeeeeeee), Sharks (dun-dun-dun-dun), and Ninjas (eeeeeyah) represented their groups well. Especially the Buzzards, whose action instead of a sound created an opportunity to embrace an individualized challenge.

Jim Franks, director of iLead began the seminar with the idea of character. One of Jim's quotable phrases is, "character is who you are when no one is looking." The qualities of character, integrity, and clarity were reinforced during the High Ropes Elements. Students were harnessed, helmeted and strapped for success on the Zip Line, Pole, Pendulum, and Vertical Playground.

Participants were inspired to enlarge their view of their world and work to trounce the challenges before them. Poised to jump off the wobbly pole, secure in the safety of his harness the student lunges toward the trapeze bar. We know success may be an elusive bird, students were encouraged to persist.

After an invigorating morning our student leaders and the Student Leadership Committee worked to pack boxes of food. In less than two hours, our group had packed 301 boxes of food. Each box will feed a family of four one week. At the end of the job, the group was taken on a tour of the facility. Students all worked harmoniously as they whistled while they worked to make life a little sweeter for nearly 1,000 people in need.

The Buzzards, Dolphins, Sharks, and Ninjas worked in separate teams to develop ideas for service projects. Scott Cady's parable of the Frogs on the Log drove home the necessity of action. Decisions without decisive action accomplish nothing. Our students were challenged to report the action each takes in his/her impact project.

Yours for TRiO,



Ruth Johnson
SWASAP President



37TH ANNUAL SWASAP CONFERENCE

Dear SWASAP Members ~

We are gearing up for the annual SWASAP conference “The Competitive Edge-Equipping TRiO for 21st Century Challenges” in beautiful Hot Springs, Arkansas. As you know the conference will take place November 16 thru the 19 at the historic Arlington Hotel. If you have not already registered for The Competitive Edge conference, please go to the SWASAP web site at www.swasaptrio.org to get registered and reserve a room. We are so excited about the breakout sessions, very beneficial information will be presented that will enable us to excel in our TRiO services. We

encourage each program to donate baskets, goodies, and gifts for the silent auction to benefit SWASAP fair share for COE. Donations will be collected at registration. SWASAP has proudly met its Fair Share for COE and I know that we will reach our goal again this year. In addition, TRiO’s Got Talent will benefit COE and offer a night of entertainment. Be sure to vote for your favorite performer. The pre-conference will take place on Sunday November 16 with Dave Ferguson, Grant Coordinator of the University of Washington TRiO training. Dave will be discussing the APR and program evaluations for

Upward Bound programs. In addition to Dave’s training, Kathy Kailikole, Director of Stem Program with COE will conduct a training on Understanding and Planning Academic Support in Mathematics for TRiO Professionals. This is an exciting time for SWASAP and TRiO and I am confident that this conference will be of great benefit to all who attend. Hope to see you all at the conference, it proves to be a grand event in a grand setting.

See you in Hot Springs!

Jerry

N M W T A S A P

Rebecca Ornelas, a 42 year old single mother, graduated from **Central New Mexico Community College** on May 2, 2008 with an Associates Degree in Business Administration. It took her 27 years and two tries, but she did it! Her first attempt was right out of high school. She then dropped out and got a part time job at a Social Security Office, then as a city carrier for the U.S. Postal Service. She then returned for a second attempt in the fall of 2004. Needless to say she made it through the 2nd time around and says **TRiO** played a major role in helping her succeed. Rebecca said, “The **TRiO** staff is just impeccable, very well trained and helpful, school related or not.” She explained that **TRiO** is a place where you go to do homework, for a mental time out, or even if you just need a laugh. Rebecca went on to talk about how helpful the tutors are as well as the workshops. She said that the workshops were perfect, right down to the point. Rebecca is now on her way to earn her Bachelors Degree from New Mexico Highlands University. Rebecca is a great example for her 13 year old son, John Ray.



Congratulations Rebecca Ornelas and Good Luck in the future.

T A S S S P

Rochelle Gregory will be receiving her Ph.D. in Rhetoric from Texas Woman’s University in May 2009, but before she earned her Ph.D., Master’s, and Bachelor’s degrees, Rochelle was a participant in a small Upward Bound Program at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. Like most Upward Bound participants, Rochelle worked thirty hours a week after school to help her family make ends meet. Attending college only added more financial burden for her and her family.

While an undergrad, Rochelle decided to start a family. And, like most **TRiO** success stories, she managed to support herself and her family while going to college and still managed to earn a 3.6 GPA. Not continuing her education was never an option for Rochelle. Upon earning her Bachelor’s degree, she immediately applied for graduate school. As a graduate student, Rochelle served as a Graduate Teaching Assistant and received many honors and awards for her research and publications.

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TASSSP (continued from page 2)

Rochelle's dissertation and most recent research and writing is related to rhetorical analysis and discourse on the subject of Autism, a subject that has hit home with Rochelle since her youngest son has been diagnosed with Autism.

Although Rochelle has come a long way since her days in Upward Bound, she returns to her roots at Tarleton each summer to serve as the Upward Bound Bridge Advisor and Freshmen Composition Tutor. "Giving back to the program that gave me so much is what Upward Bound is all about", says Rochelle. "I like to compare the college-going process to navigating your way through a foreign country. Upward Bound was my map that guided me to college and I would have never reached my destination without it". Although Rochelle has reached her educational destination, she continues to offer direction to the next generation of Upward Bound students who are navigating their way through the college process.

ODSA

Profiles in Diversity Journal SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER 2008

Mentoring is an important component of my professional and personal life. Genuine mentoring relationships require trust, reciprocity, respect, engagement, and sincerity. As a mentee, I've learned this. As a mentor, I insist upon it.

I mentored a talented young woman at the law firm where we worked together. But her ability was overshadowed by her appearance. With her khakis, sweaters, casual shoes, and ponytails, she looked like a teenager, fostering the partners' perception that she was immature. Her water-cooler conversations, even with her male superiors, often revolved around her upcoming wedding or her weekend plans with her fiancé. The result: nobody took her seriously, and she was rarely given the high-profile, high-value work she deserved.



Sherry Williams,
2004 ODSA TRiO
Achiever, 2006
National TRiO
Achiever

She trusted me and told me her goals, and I advised her to make some changes. She listened. She adopted a more professional style of dress. She confined her conversations to topics that did not involve giggling or blushing. Within six months, people talked of her with admiration for being serious about her career.

I later had an identical conversation with another young lawyer whose image obscured her talent. She listened to me, too, but she responded, "well, that's your opinion." She left the firm, and not by choice, the following year.

These examples may seem trivial, but the point is important: if you want to short-circuit a mentor relationship, don't listen. Mentoring that merely provides a shoulder to cry on wastes everyone's time. We all have friends, parents or therapists who will serve that purpose.

In order to have an effective mentor relationship, you must have a goal. Every recommendation, every conversation, must be focused toward that goal, and, just as crucial, filtered through shared trust. In the absence of this combination, you don't have a mentor, you have a sounding board—someone who listens, but not someone who can help you reach your goal. A mentor can guide, facilitate, and help formulate a strategic plan—but only if your goal is clearly defined.

I function best when I engage my mentors—my "board of directors"—who give me the benefit of their experience and wisdom in all aspects of my life. I trust them. I listen to them. I owe them. And that's the foundation of a good mentoring relationship.

"In order to have an effective mentor relationship, you must have a goal."

Sherry Williams

Alumna

Student Support Services @ OU

TITLE: Vice President & Corporate Secretary

EDUCATION: BA, English, University of

Oklahoma (1992); Juris Doctor, University of Miami School of Law (1995)

FIRST JOB: Sales clerk at Fashion Conspiracy (the clothes discount was important at 16!)

WHAT I'M READING: *Negro With a Hat: The Rise & Fall of Marcus Garvey*, by Colin Grant; *Nice Girls Don't Get the Corner Office: 101 Unconscious Mistakes Women Make That Sabotage Their Careers*, by Lois P. Frankel

MY PHILOSOPHY: Show up. Be invested. Anticipate change.

FAMILY: Single. But one of nine siblings.

INTERESTS: Travel, cooking, politics

FAVORITE CHARITY: The Hattie Williams Memorial Scholarship at the University of Oklahoma. I established the fund as a tribute to my mother; it will help first-generation college students with tuition.

COMPANY: Halliburton

HEADQUARTERS: Houston, Texas and Dubai, United Arab Emirates

WEB SITE: www.Halliburton.com

BUSINESS: Energy services

ANNUAL REVENUES: \$15.3 billion

Fair Share Update—As of June 30 SWASAP exceeded our Fair Share with the final tally being 102%. Thank you, SWASAP! You can donate throughout the year online at <http://www.coenet.us>. The 2008-2009 Campaign has begun, please donate your **FAIR SHARE** today!

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SWASAP Publications Chair
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SWASAP is saddened by the loss of our friend Dr. Vance Simelton, however, we celebrate his life and his leadership. In loving memory, April 19, 1948—September 3, 2008. We will miss you, Vance!

The 2008 Ronnie Brooks Scholarship Awardees

Bích-Tram Hoang Phan	Student Support Services— The University of Oklahoma (OK)
María Escobedo	Student Support Services—El Paso Community College (TX)
Melina R. Víctor	Educational Talent Search — COPE (LA)
Kaelyn Devore	Educational Talent Search — Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (NM)

The revised SWASAP website has launched! We have a “members only” section, so be sure you have paid your membership dues to enable you to access that part of the website. SWASAP is only as strong as it’s membership, so **join** us today!

ROCK THE VOTE! BE INVOLVED!

Calling all leaders! Please give thoughtful consideration to serving your regional association in the role of an officer or committee chair.

The Nomination and Election committee is seeking applications for the offices of:

President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer

If you know of someone who is interested in running for an office or if you would like to see a particular nominee on the ballot, please contact that person.

Nomination forms and supportive documentation must be emailed to:

Mr. Robert L. Carmouche, Chair
University of Louisiana at Lafayette
P.O. Box 43452
Lafayette, LA 70504
Fax: (337) 482-6833
Email: rlc1713@louisiana.edu

TRiO
Advancing & Providing
Educational Opportunity Since
1965

One World - Our World the 2008 Student Leadership Conference took place at Sky Ranch in Van, Texas. The conference was a great success! There were 57 students and staff in attendance from 8 programs with 4 of the 5 states in our region represented. Students participated in high energy motivating hands-on activities (community service project, ropes course, team building and citizenship) while developing their leadership skills. The East Texas Food Bank was selected as our **community service project** and students were able to sort, inspect and repackage donated products with their Salvage Reclaim Program as well as pack 302 Pantry Packs which feeds a family of four for one week. Students learned about the work of **Heifer International** and what they could do to be a part of that effort. Six scholarships were awarded very deserving students in the amount of \$1,100.00.

SWASAP SLC Scholarship Recipients

- \$350 – Josue Ramirez, National Park Community College – SSS
- \$150 – Cody Davis, Southwest Texas Junior College – SSS
- \$150 – Abigail Saiz, Southwest Texas Junior College – SSS
- \$150 – Heather Evans, Pulaski Technical College – SSS
- \$150 – Mason McFarland, Weatherford College – UB
- \$150 – Patricia Jordan, SUNO – ETS

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve SWASAP and our students for the last two years as the Student Leadership Chair. Providing students with the opportunity to enhance their leadership skills and learn how they can impact our world is an awesome responsibility and I am happy to have been a part of it. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the hard work and support of the SLC Committee (Scott Cady, Deborah Evers, Jeff Kahlden, Kris Simpson and Craig Winchell). What an amazing group of people to work with. The students left Sky Ranch and SLC having worked to impact the lives of others and because of that our world is a better place. I look forward to hearing from students and directors about how their communities were impacted by their participation in the 2008 Student Leadership Conference.



All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence. - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Respectfully submitted,

Brina Ford, 2008 SLC Chair

