Alumni Connect Updates
With record breaking numbers of students graduating and achieving, EOP has developed key resources for alumni. Alumni Connect is now in the beginning stages of building a network between recent grads, alumni with established careers, and current EOP students. The following services have been established for EOP Alumni:

Career Center Partnership
Alumni Connect has partnered with the SJSU Career Center to offer career counseling services free for EOP alumni. Career counselors have been helping students and alumni during weekly drop-in hours right from the EOP office, so don’t miss out on this great career-building opportunity! Check our website to find the updated schedule and stop by the EOP office for career planning advice.

Advisory Board Call-Out
Last Fall, the EOP Advisory Board was introduced in the newsletter so that past EOP members could help guide the future of the program. Those interested in being part of the Alumni Connect Advisory Board should contact Ginevra at ginevra.scherini@sjsu.edu

Website
Check out the new website just for SJSU EOP Alumni! www.sjsu.edu/eop/alumni/ is an all-new website launched in February 2017 with career center hours, an alumni resource database, upcoming events, and volunteer opportunities.

Find Us On Social Media
www.linkedin.com/groups/13509968
Join the new Alumni Connect LinkedIn group to stay up to date with upcoming events and be part of the growing alumni network.

www.facebook.com/sjsueopalumni/
Follow us on Facebook for event updates, surveys, community posts, and important updates.

Important EOP Events

EOP Graduation Ceremony
On May 23rd, EOP celebrated the graduates from the classes of Fall 2016, Spring 2017, and Summer 2017 in the SJSU Student Union Ballroom. This ceremony commemorated the 403 students, the largest group from SJSU EOP to date.

5th Anniversary Ceremony For “I Can, I Will”
This September marks the fifth anniversary of “I Can, I Will”, the mentoring program established for African-American and Latino males in EOP. Alumni who were part of “I Can, I Will” are cordially invited to partake in the anniversary dinner hosted by EOP on September 15th, 2017 in the Student Union Ballroom at 6 pm. Judge Robert R. Rigsby, San Jose State and EOP alumnus, will be the keynote speaker. Stay tuned for more information and contact EOP if you are interested in attending.

Record Number of Students at Honors Brunch
This year’s brunch took place in the Student Union ballroom on May 6th and celebrated the achievement of 382 EOP students who earned a GPA of 3.5 and above. The unprecedented number of EOP Honors students is testament to the support services of EOP and San Jose State.
EOP Alumni Spotlights

Alberto Gutierrez  Legacy Alumnus

BA, Communications, MA, Communications and Pedagogy
Senior Learning and Development Specialist at Ogilvy & Mather

Alberto was an accomplished EOP student at San Jose State, however, he gained the most from EOP as a staff member. EOP developed most of its support services after his undergraduate days, and knowing what he was missing then gave him insight as an employee. He learned to apply the tools taught to EOP students to his own development. “I have accomplished many of the ‘firsts’ in my family” Being the first to graduate high school, earn a master’s degree, and move out of state caused Alberto to second guess his achievements in new settings. In these moments, he remembers how hard he works to reach success and that he deserves every moment of it.

Now working in New York for one of the largest marketing and communications companies in the world, he advises alumni to not be discouraged when things don’t happen quickly, and instead to assess what’s missing and use it to guide their development. In the future, he hopes to work for the United Nations. He plans on applying his own advice, which he also used to transition from higher education to corporate: learn what he needs to do to get there.

Samantha Figueroa  Alumna

BA, Sociology, Concentration in Race and Ethnic Studies
Student Engagement Specialist at EOP

Samantha began her academic journey at San Jose State through the EOP Summer Bridge program and has stayed involved with EOP ever since. She was also an orientation leader, joined a sorority, and studied abroad in Paris during her time as a student.

When she wasn’t accepted into her preferred major, her EOP advisor encouraged her to pursue a newly established major, Sociology with an emphasis on Race and Ethnic Studies. “At first I was discouraged because I thought Sociology was not a good enough major, but discovering that other EOP staff also majored in it made me give it a chance.” This support from EOP allowed her to persevere and find a major she loved.

“If the opportunity arises, I would love to give back to the EOP community, by sharing my story or sponsoring a scholarship later on.” Along with her goals of giving back to the program, Samantha also impacts future students through her current position by speaking to high school and community college students about EOP and inspiring them to pursue higher education. Samantha plans on attending graduate school for social work to become a university social worker.

Jatinder Kaur  Spring 2017 Graduate

BS, Business, Concentration in Global Operations Management, Minor in Communication Studies
EOP Student Assistant

EOP has helped senior Jatinder Kaur develop her career through networking with alumni such as Robert R. Rigsby and Alberto Gutierrez. She is a Business, Global Operations Management major with a minor in Communication Studies and an EOP student assistant. She thanks those she met through EOP for changing her perspective and not allowing her to make excuses for setbacks.

Being an intern in the civil chambers of Judge Rigsby in Washington, D.C. familiarized her with legal procedures and increased her confidence in pursuing a career in law. EOP inspired her to continue helping first-generation, underrepresented students and to fight for social justice causes more broadly.

“My role model is Amal Clooney, because she’s a middle-eastern woman who is a world-class lawyer specializing in international and human rights AND a fashionista!” Jatinder plans on pursuing her passion for law and human rights by applying to law schools in the fall.

The EOP Office is located on the first floor of Clark Hall
You can reach us at 408-924-2637 or eop@sjsu.edu
Find us on Facebook! facebook.com/sjueop