

# A-PLUS Monthly News November 2018



## What is A-PLUS?

The Achievement Program for Le Moyne College Undergraduate Students (A-PLUS) is an enrichment program designed to foster academic success in students with majors in the social sciences and humanities. The program provides a broad range of services including:

- Academic and career coaching
- Individualized educational planning
- Research and internship opportunities
- Participation stipend
- Lending loan library for course text books and books
- Weekly academic enrichment, career, and community building
- ♦ Community service
- Dedicated study space in Romero Hall with card access





#### Social Science and Humanities Enrichment Program

# **A-PLUS** Scholars

Achievement Program for Le Moyne College Undergraduate Students

This program is funded by a grant from the Booth Ferris Foundation

## Meet our students

Studying: Criminology, Psychology, Political Science, Peace and Global Studies, Economics, History, and Sociology.

Interested in becoming a... lawyer, district attorney, clinical psychologist, international diplomat, family counselor, social worker, humanitarian, occupational therapist, politician, and investment banker.



#### November's Utilization:

Students enrolled in the program:

20 Students

Seminar attendance

**39** Student contacts

#### Advising meetings

30 Student contacts

### Coming next remerter

#### **Time Management and**

#### Organization 101

Learn tried and true methods of prioritizing and scheduling time, ultimately finding out what works best for each scholar.

#### <u>Psychology Spotlight with Father</u> <u>Hevern</u>

Discover opportunities related to psychology, including graduate school, research, and career opportunities.

#### Career Fair

As a group we will prepare for and attend the career fair hosted by Career Services.

#### Writing Workshops

Edit and further develop papers for current courses, focusing on thesis development, paper outlining, and sentence structure.

#### **Networking Event**

Meet additional professionals in their related fields to learn from alumni and others what professions exist.

#### Spring Retreat

Spend a day off campus reflecting on goals and plans for the future. We will continue our team building challenges and plans for the rest of the semester and years to come.

#### <u>Internship Exploration with Michele</u> <u>Vinciquerra</u>

Learn more about the ins and outs of internships and begin to explore opportunities in their chosen fields.



### Questions about A-PLUS Scholars? Lauren Van Derzee, Associate Director vanderle@lemoyne.edu | (315) 445-4659 | Romero Hall

## Happening, This Month:

#### Who is who?

At our first seminar we spent time playing fun team building games to learn more about each other and over come challenges, such as stacking cups without touching them!



#### Writing Skills

Jaclyn Chupeck, the Professional Writing tutor here at the college, joined our seminar to practice thesis writing and how to outline a paper. She also provided helpful pointers in preparation for the writing proficiency exam.



#### **Exploring Sociology**

Our adviser, Dr. Ridzi, joined our seminar to share his personal and professional experiences, such as helpful advice to our scholars as they navigate deciding what to study and what careers to pursue.





## Our Advisors

A-PLUS students and staff work with many faculty on campus, in particular our five program advisers have helped us shape and grow the program. Our advisers include:

- Dr. Frank Ridzi, Sociology
- Dr. Matthew Loveland, Political Science
- Michele Vinciquerra, Psychology
- Dr. Father Vincent Hevern, Psychology
- Dr. Farha Ternikar, Sociology



# A-PLUS Monthly News February 2019



## fall Achievements

Our students achieved an average GPA of 3.2 for the fall semester. 70% of the students received a 3.0 or above. The program requirement is a 3.0. Students who have not met this goal continue to work closely with the Associate Director.

#### We would like to recognize the following students for achieving the Dean's List:

Abby Harrington Kelly Krull Chanelle Gooden Morgan Hiltbrand Donel Bowen Shukri Sharif

Evan Ryan

#### **February Utilization:**

Students enrolled in the program: 29 Students Seminar attendance 39 Student contacts Advising meetings 40 Student contacts Social Science and Humanities Enrichment Program

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## What is new with A-PLUS?

A-PLUS started the spring semester with full force. We focused on recruitment and sustainability. Recruitment started with presentations at introductory level social science and humanities courses through which we reached over 200 students. A-PLUS students also worked to recruit new students through tabling outside various dining locations and facilitating one-on-one conversations. Lastly we reached out to 100 qualified students over email and phone to connect them to the program. We welcomed our new students with an open house lunch and team building games during their first seminar. We would like to recognize the following A-PLUS students for assisting in recruitment efforts:

Abby Harrington	Juliah Ibrahim
Chanelle Gooden	Naomie Mombeleur
Eh Kler	Shukri Sharif
Elizabeth Mensah	Sierra Mason
Ichtiyak Albadeh	Theressa Bonne-Annee

As we continue to grow the number of students enrolled in the program, we forge ahead, applying for grants to support scholarships, conference presentations, cultural excursions, and more. We are excited to have received a grant from the Le Moyne College Jesuit Fund to support additional staff hours and materials for seminars.



## Happenings This Month:

#### Scholars' Reception

We kicked off the spring semester by recognizing our students' achievements from the fall with a ceremony.

#### Organization and Time Management

As requested by the A-PLUS students, this seminar focused on different methods of prioritizing and managing tasks at hand.

#### Jeopardy

A-PLUS sophomore students led this seminar exploring fun facts and trivia in the areas of psychology, sociology, criminology. Thank you to Theressa, Shukri, and Natalia for leading this event.



### **Conference Attendance**

In partnership with a the CSTEP program, A-PLUS students attended a seminar: Developing Your Brand and virtual meetings with admissions counselors from Drexel University.

Additionally, two of our A-PLUS students studying psychology attended the Latino Medical Student Association Northeast Conference.









#### **Psychology Spotlight**

Our adviser, Father Hevern, shared his professional experience highlighting all of the opportunities and differences within the field of psychology.

#### **Developing your Brand**

RJ Rapoza from Career Advising walked students through how to set up and organize Linked-In profiles, resumes, and cover letters for pursing professional opportunities.

#### Nailed it: Cupcake Edition

Another student led seminar that channeled our creativity and provided a needed opportunity to relax.

#### **Advocacy Day**

In solidarity with students in the CSTEP, HEOP, and AHANA program, A-PLUS students wrote letters and posted on social media to let our representatives know the importance of funding educational opportunity programs.



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### A-PLUS Monthly News March 2019



- Criminology
- Economics
- Finance

Psychology

- Sociology
- History Undeclared Major
  - Political Science

  - Peace and Global Studies
  - Philosophy



funded by a grant from the Booth Ferris Fo

### What is new with A-PLUS?

March was a short month, with only three weeks of classes, but A-PLUS students were busy meeting with our staff to discuss opportunities for academic and professional growth. Given their broad interests, there were many possibilities that we discussed such as internships and jobs in Syracuse and their home towns across all fields. Locally, they have been applying to CNY Works Youth Employment program to expand their professional experience in local human service agencies. Some A-PLUS students will also be placed on campus alongside fellow CSTEP and STEP students completing a joint summer program.

Our current sophomore students are also taking advantage of the summer to begin studying for graduate school entrance exams, particularly the LSAT and GRE in preparation for graduate school. A-PLUS students are seeking summer jobs to support their interests in becoming a...

- lawyer
- district attorney
- clinical psychologist
- international diplomat
- family counselor

#### **March Utilization:**

**Current Roster: 29** Students Seminar attendance 70 Student contacts **Advising meetings 27** Student contacts

- humanitarian
  - occupational therapist
  - politician

social worker

investment banker

## Happenings This Month:

#### **Character Assessment**

Ms. Jane Brown, Advancement, led students through a character strength discussion highlighting how to embrace personal strengths and build upon weaknesses in the context of their professional interests.

#### **March Madness**

Students took time during this seminar to reflect and consider summer opportunities including Synergy and CNY works programs. We also discussed and prepared for our seminar series led by groups of first year students.

#### **Internships 101**

Our adviser, Michele Vinciquerra, shared the ins and outs of the psychology internships program and answered students questions.

### **A-PLUS Community Connection**

Gina Jones, class of 2016, is a recent graduate from Syracuse University's Master of Social Work program and is now working at Liberty Partnerships. She works at a local elementary school as a school counselor. Our A-PLUS students, interested in clinical psychology and social work met with Gina to learn about what it is like to be a school counselor and her experience in the MSW program.



#### Skyzone

In celebration of many A-PLUS and CSTEP students completing their midterm exams, we adventured off campus to "jump out" our stress.

#### Professional Conversations

Mr. Bill Brower, Vice President of Advancement, shared tips and best practices that students could apply during networking events and how to sustain professional relationships.

#### Paint Night

A group of A-PLUS first year students organized this seminar to share a common hobby and relax in preparation for midterm exams.



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# A-PLUS Monthly News April 2019



**April Utilization:** 

Students enrolled in the program: 29 Students Seminar attendance: 122 Student contacts Advising meetings: 22 Student contacts

### What is new with A-PLUS?

As with all Le Moyne students, A-PLUS scholars spent this month developing their plan for finals and wrapping up their classes in full force. They attended professor office hours, tutoring sessions, clinics at the QRC, and studied in peer groups. In the midst of current course work, students were also registering for courses next semester. We are excited to share that 91% of our freshmen students are returning to Le Moyne in the fall.

In addition to our rising sophomores, we are preparing to welcome a new cohort in the fall. Our goal is to have a cohort of 20 freshmen. Starting in May we plan to reach incoming students through welcome letters, meetings during the Summer Welcome events, and hosting a summer online course. We would appreciate your referrals.

### Program Feedback

Half of our A-PLUS students completed a satisfaction survey before the end of the semester. Below are the results:

- 100% strongly agree /agree that they are satisfied with the program and services provided by A-PLUS.
- 100% strongly agree /agree that the program has been an important resource for them.
- Top resources/services they have used include: weekly seminars, Romero study space, 1/1 advising meetings, help from staff, textbooks, and networking opportunities.
- 100% strongly agree /agree that they are happy to be a part of the program.
- 92% strongly agree /agree that A-PLUS has increased their sense of belonging at Le Moyne College.
- 100% strongly agree /agree that they are looking forward to returning to Le Moyne next semester.
- Students gave a letter grade of an A for the overall quality of the enrichment activities geared to enhance their academic, professional, and personal development.





Social Science and Humanities Enrichment Program

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## Happening, This Month:

#### Vision Boards

A group of A-PLUS freshman students organized this seminar to encourage us to reflect and remember our guiding goals and values.

#### **Criminology Spotlight**

Mark Petterli, head of Security, shared his professional experience in law enforcement and information about opportunities the field has to offer students.

#### **Networking Event**

In partnership with CSTEP, A-PLUS students participated in a networking speed event. Students met with a school psychologist, STEM educator, lawyer, geologist, health data specialist, and computer







#### Suit Up!

A-PLUS students with exemplary participation and grades were rewarded with a small scholarship to purchase professional apparel as part of the Career Development's Suit Up event.

#### **Team Building**

In celebration of the end of the semester, we partnered with CSTEP, competing in a series of Olympic challenges.

#### **End of Semester Celebration**

Our last two groups of freshman students led this seminar. We reflected upon our own personal challenges and brainstormed as a group how to overcome selfcriticism. We ended by challenging our current and pop culture knowledge with a game of trivia.



### Graduate School Vizit

In partnership with CSTEP program, A-PLUS students participated in a day trip to SUNY Binghamton. Students had an opportunity to learn more about the Public Health and Human met with admissions counselors to learn more about Binghamton's application process and requirements. This trip was the first of many for A-PLUS students to understand and prepare for graduate studies.

#### **Questions about A-PLUS Scholars?**

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### Plans for fall 2019

A-PLUS students have already begun brainstorming for the fall of 2019 semester. Students are interested in learning more about Rights graduate school programs. Additionally, we study abroad opportunities, Social Work and Family Studies professions, adaptability skills, meeting and talking with current graduate students, and continuing to expand their professional network with alumni and local professionals. Arrangements are also being made for a professional trip in September to visit graduate schools and organizations connected to students' areas of interest.