



Otsego Academy Pathfinder Village

Fall 2015

The Start of a New Semester

by Layla Hallinan – Otsego Academy Transition Specialist

The fall semester at Otsego Academy has officially begun! New friendships, classwork, and internship experiences have already developed. We are excited about the numerous activities and lessons we have already completed, and are looking forward to the weeks to come!

Since the time that students moved into their dorm, they have participated in numerous off campus outings and on campus events. From participating in the Otsego Academy Talent Show to traveling to Colgate University to participate in college classes with university students, it is safe to say that we are busy!

The Otsego Academy Students have traveled to Howe Caverns, Glimmerglass State Park, Brook's BBQ, Critz Farms, and even rode a train through the city of Milford. While we have checked many great events off of our list, we are still looking forward to the many opportunities ahead.

In addition to traveling into the community, students have begun participating in both on and off-campus internships throughout the week. Every experience has proved to be both valuable and exciting for students.

Lastly, students have been working hard in the classroom. With several adjunct professors teaching classes throughout the week, students have learned about proper internet etiquette and safety, different art techniques, and how to stay active through soccer and other physical activities. Additionally, we have taught about healthy eating habits, grocery shopping, money management, and math skills. Each day proves to be a new exciting adventure with new information to learn.

The semester is off to an excellent start and we are excited for what the future holds! We have many activities planned and are looking forward to the Thanksgiving Break only a few days away!



Jared impersonates "The King" at Jerry's Place.



Eric is always making Layla and the other staff laugh at his jokes!

Welcome Jessie!

by

Layla Hallinan

We are delighted to announce the arrival of the new program coordinator at Otsego Academy, Jessie Sayers. Jessie began working with the Otsego Academy students at the beginning of November. Her enthusiasm and dedication is contagious throughout the classroom! While we have a very busy schedule, Jessie found a way to jump right in! We are so excited to have her on board and are looking forward to her leadership presenting itself both inside and outside of the classroom.

Jessie has taken the time to make sure that each student has the opportunity to fully articulate both their long term and short term goals. It is her objective to make sure that we do our best to make sure every student is taking small steps to achieve their future

aspirations. Jessie's expertise and guidance has already made a tremendous impact on each student and staff member in the Pathfinder Village community.

When asked, the Otsego Academy students described Jessie as "funny", "smart", "inspiring", "kind", and "friendly". We are all so excited to have Jessie as part of our team and are amazed by the lasting impression that she has already made on each of us.



Brooks

by Jared Okun



For the first time I went to Brooks, a barbeque place which has the best rib combo. I went with my friends. The best part was being with everyone I love. And you can't forget about the food. We went there one weekend in October.



Working Hard!

Otsego Academy and Colgate University students join together to learn about inclusion and self-advocacy. The students will begin working on final group projects together in a few weeks.



Leading the Way

Otsego Academy student, Jared Okun, leads the Colgate University students on a tour through the Pathfinder Village campus.



The Colgate University students visited Pathfinder Village's campus to get a glimpse of what our college experience is like.

The Colgate Experience

by Jared Okun

The Otsego students go to Colgate every Monday and Wednesday. What we do at Colgate is we listened to Professor Taylor talk about how to include people with disabilities. We watched movies based on the topic. One of the movies we watched was Monica and David. One day the Colgate students came to Otsego what we did was we had a lesson in the lecture hall. Later I gave a tour around campus. I felt Professor Taylor's talks really moved me.

FAST FACTS

50%

50% of students and staff in the Otsego Academy program think that it is too early to listen to Christmas music!

60%

60% of students in the Otsego Academy program say that they are night owls.

Pathfinder

by Josh Howard

I remember my first day of being on campus. I was with my mom and dad unloading my stuff into my room from the car. Us three got the chance of seeing my bedroom for the first time at the dorms. I wasn't for sure on what to make out and why I came to the program at first. I am now working at the Bassett Heath Care. I work on my slides bringing the newcomers to enjoy working at the Hospital. I also work at the produce market. What I do at the produce market is to see how much the produce stuff costs and to put it down on a piece of paper. I also sometimes give it to the person who puts the money in the cash register. That would be Mike or Ashley. I'm also an RA at the dorms (The Delaware House). What I do there is to make sure how everyone is doing, if they are doing their homework, and to make it a pleasant environment. SO far I am just loving every single minute of it. That is for sure.

Howe Caverns

by PJ Randolph

When in an interview, PJ was most excited to talk about his experience at Howe Caverns earlier this semester. "There were bats in the cave!" he exclaimed. During the second week of the semester students traveled to Howe Caverns to complete a guided tour through the caves. PJ explained that "there were frozen monsters." Throughout most of the tour students were instructed to look at various rock formations, many of which resembled animals and monsters like Godzilla! PJ continued to say, "We rode a boat." While underground, students took a short boat ride to look at more rocks. "It was cold in the cave. I wore pants," PJ explained. While summer was just ending, the temperature underground was very cold. To conclude the trip, students ate at the Howe Caverns Café. "I had pizza!" PJ said. After "we went and got ice cream at Jerrys". PJ has stated that he hopes to return to Howe Caverns on his birthday.

My Internship

By Theresa Clark

When interviewed about her time at Pathfinder Village, Theresa spoke about her internship and other various activities she has participated in. "I work in Finance every Tuesday and Thursday," she said. Theresa explained how she works with Tammy in the office. "She taught me how to fold and shred papers. Tammy teaches me and helps me with things I'm confused about." Theresa continued to say, "Tammy is amazing and inspires me." Theresa described how she collects and delivers the mail in the office each day. While she said she enjoys working in the Finance office, Theresa stated that her favorite part is "when people come and visit during my [her] internship." Theresa concluded that working in the Finance Department has become something that she is "passionate about".

AROUND TOWN



The Baseball Hall of Fame

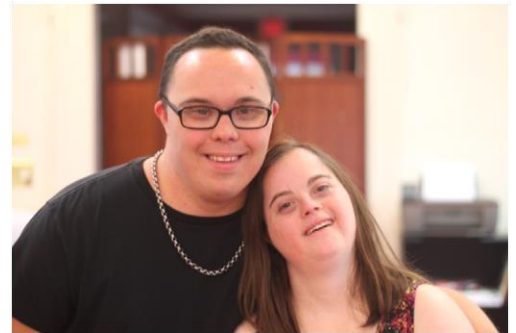
Otsego Academy students enjoy a tour of the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. Students take a trip every Friday to various locations to learn about job skills and possible career opportunities.



Go Angels!

PJ enjoyed trying on different hats in the Baseball Hall of Fame gift shop.

Theresa and Josh

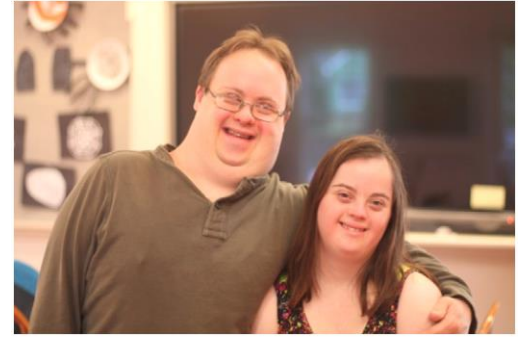


Theresa and Josh enjoy spending time together both in and out of the classroom!

My Jobs

By Eric Mackiewicz

Eric was interviewed about some of his favorite experiences at Pathfinder Village so far. Throughout most of the interview he spoke about his internship in the housekeeping department at Pathfinder. Eric said, "I wipe the tables and the counters." Eric also stated, "I like mopping and doing laundry. I work with Eva". Eva works with Eric in the housekeeping department every Thursday and Friday. When Eric was asked what his favorite part of the job is, he said "I work with PJ Randolph and wash the windows". Eric also spoke about the history of the Commons building that he cleans regularly. After completing research, Eric said that "the Commons opened in 1982". Eric said that he also enjoys working in the Central Kitchen every week. "I work on Tuesday mornings and wipe tables," Eric explained. Eric has since stated that hopes to "work at the Melting Pot again" in the future.



Eric and PJ enjoy spending time together after working at their internship in the housekeeping department.



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