

# CeO Insights Newsletter

Center for Educational Opportunity

Madison, Wisconsin

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Welcome to the first issue of the *CeO Insights* Newsletter! We are excited for the opportunity to bring you closer to our program by way of individual spotlights, creative pieces, pertinent dates and information, and opportunities to be a part of this effort. We hope that you enjoy this issue which introduces you to some of our staff and students!



## ***Welcome from the Director: Kirk Malnor***

Greetings and welcome to *CeO Insights*! CeO is a special place, and we work very hard to make our program a positive and rewarding experience. I wanted to provide you with a little 'insight' as to why I think CeO is so beneficial and important to student success at UW-Madison:

### ***Why I Enjoy Working At CeO:***

I enjoy working at CeO because of the hardworking, creative and determined students and staff. I enjoy working in an environment that supports people as they seek to grow and to move toward achieving their dreams. I enjoy being involved with a program that has a passion for and a commitment to access and opportunity: the opportunity to access a world class university and to become ones best self. It is a privilege and honor to witness the countless successes of CeO students as they strive toward excellence while having fun doing it.

### ***What I Hope Students Get Out of the Program:***

I hope the CeO community affirms and values students as unique individuals and provides a sense of belonging. We seek to honor the diversity which is us, that we have different likes and dislikes, that we are each unique. We provide different types of support so that everyone may find something of value and meaning for them. It is my hope that as we mix up our gifts, talents, skills and experience we will create something that is extraordinary and life giving.

I hope students learn that intelligence is incrementally acquired not bestowed, and that the university has high standards and they are able to meet those standards. I hope students learn that there are

stresses shared by all college students - a lower test grade than expected, an unreturned telephone call, email or text to a teaching assistant or classmate, an unfriendly interaction with another student, a shortage of cash, and so on. I hope that all will experience positive caring, family like relationships, and a sense of collective responsibility. I hope students experience a supportive environment where they can thrive.

We hope that you are enjoying your experience with CeO, and I am always available to help you. On Wisconsin!



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***Meet Dr. Shawn F. Peters, Instructor and CeO  
Writing Specialist***

**Q: So, Shawn Can you tell me about your background as a student (where you grew up, colleges, degrees, etc)?**

I grew up in Baltimore, Maryland. I attended Rutgers University for my bachelor's degree; the University of New Hampshire and the University of Iowa for my Master's; and UW-Madison for my Ph.D. (in 2007).

**Q: What lead you to work for CeO? How long have you been here?**

I started with CeO in the fall of 2004. I had been working with the UW-Madison Odyssey Project, which helps low-income adults connect with the university, and I got to know the TRIO Program.

**Q: What exactly is your role with CeO?**

I am the writing and study skills specialist. In those roles, I help students with their essays and their overall academic preparation. I also teach courses through the Integrated Liberal Studies (ILS) Program, including "Narratives of Justice and Equality in Multicultural America.

**Q: What do you like most about the program? What do you like most about what you do at CeO?**

I really like that the students come from such diverse socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. There really isn't a "typical CeO student," and that's great to me.

**Q: What do you plan on doing in the next 5 years, that you haven't started yet or just started?**

I plan on writing another book; I am getting serious about it in the spring.

**Q: What is your biggest satisfaction in helping students?**

Seeing them take ownership of their educations and become committed, active learners.

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**Meet Fabrizio Sanchez, CeO Math Specialist**



**Q: Can you tell me about your background as a student (where you grew up, colleges, degrees, etc)?**

I feel pretty locally grown, having lived in Madison since the age of 7. I received my B.S. in statistics in 2011 and just recently obtained my M.S. in statistics in the Fall of 2012. Both degrees are from UW-Madison.

**Q: What lead you to work for CeO? How long have you been here?**

This is my second year at CeO. I have a great interest in teaching, and the opportunity to work with CeO students in math and statistics was a very enticing opportunity.

**Q: What exactly is your role with CeO?**

I am the graduate student tutor for math and statistics here at CeO. If you have a question with either, I'm a good place to start!

**Q: What do you like most about the program? What do you like most about what you do at CeO?**

The family feeling CeO brings to the campus is wonderful. I am also a fan our focus on academic achievement! Having a direct hand in that by helping students with mathematical material is great, especially so when I get to see their ability to reason mature.

**Q: If you could change your role to enhance the program, what would you propose?**

As of this response, there is nothing I can think of!

**Q: What do you plan on doing in the next 5 years, that you haven't started yet or just started?**

Non-academic related reading, some Dancing and Opening up a cafe.

**Q: What is your biggest satisfaction in helping students?**

I believe that the contribution to the community good. There are few days that go by where I am not awed by what's available to me because of the collective good of society. Running water, roads, cars, laptops, cheese curds, etc....

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## SPOTLIGHT



### **Aaronson Chew, Instructor, CeO 110—Planning After Graduation**

Aaronson Chew is a Southern Californian native and is currently in the 3rd year of his PhD in Department of Counseling Psychology at the University of Wisconsin- Madison, where he also received his master's degree. He graduated cum laude from the University of California, Irvine with a bachelor's degree in Comparative Literature, where he studied critical theory.

In five years, I would like to have my psychology license and doing part time therapy, consultation work on public policy, and research. My favorite dessert is tiramisu. Favorite food is sushi. Favorite movie is *Shawshank Redemption* or *Hitch*, depending on my mood. Favorite TV show is the *Simpsons*, I grew up with watching it every night since I was five. For humor, I enjoy watching *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* to get my daily dose of humor and news and ridiculous YouTube videos preferably involving animals.

Aaronson has held leadership positions with the Posse and PEOPLE programs and is in his fourth year serving as a coordinator for the College Access Program (CAP). Aaronson is a new addition to the CeO team since September 2012 as a professional development teaching assistant. He enjoys working with students that show drive, vision, and desire and he loves hearing about students' career dreams and the road to that dream.

“If every CeO student were in a room, I would tell them that if you can dream it, you're already half way there. The rest of the road is about creating opportunities for yourself, one door at a time.”

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## **CeO Courses!**

At CeO, we offer our own (1) credit courses that we strongly encourage you to take. They are offered during a 12-week session, and for 7-weeks at the beginning *and* at the end of each semester:

**CP 105: Career Exploration**, uses group activities, career assessment tools, and group discussion to assist you in: exploring your major and career interests, clarifying your career goals, and developing strategies for career exploration and planning. It also provides and introduces you to the career services on the UW campus. All CeO students are authorized to enroll. **Instructor: Aaron Smith**

**CP 110: Human Resources Development: Educational Effectiveness**, will help you reach your goals! Group activities and discussion will help you to clarify these goals for UW and beyond college, to develop strategies for overcoming academic obstacles, and to use newly developed strategies to achieve personal goals. Students who have completed this course in the past have shown significant gain in their GPA. Contact Africa Lozano, [lozano@cdo.wisc.edu](mailto:lozano@cdo.wisc.edu) for per mission to enroll. **Instructor: Aaronson Chew.**

**CP 115: Planning After Graduation**, uses group activities and group discussion to assist you in exploring your plans after graduation. Planning and clarification for these three options will be investigated: Graduate school, Employment, and Service. All CeO students with sophomore standing or higher are authorized to enroll. **Instructor: Marla Delgado.**

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## ***Say Hello to Our Wonderful Student Staff***



**Linda Lam**

**Q: So, how long have you been working at CeO? What made you apply here?**

I have been working here for 4 years. Initially, I worked at Office of Undergraduate Admissions. I wanted to work in a different environment and do different projects, so I was grateful that Dean Abike Sanyaolu hired me on as her assistant. It was everything I was looking for. I am also a CeO student.

**Q: Where are you from, what year are you, and what is your major?**

I am originally from Chicago, graduating in May 2013. My major is Consumer Affairs with an emphasis in Business.

**Q: What to you plan on doing after graduation?**

I don't have anything definite, but I have a lot of ideas.

**Q: Was it hard for you to make friends at UW when you first came here? Did you already know people here?**

I only knew two people here that came from my high school. It was little difficult making friends because I had to step out of my comfort zone and it was and still is a very different atmosphere from what I was used to.

**Q: What is the thing you like most about the CeO program? What do you enjoy most about working here?**

I like working at CeO because it allowed me to develop personally and professionally. I enjoy the environment most because everyone here truly cares about the students. They put in a lot of effort.

**Q: What is your favorite way to relax?**

Play loud music with my headphones and reading a book

**Q: If you had one last chance to do a community service project or help someone, what would that be?**

I would probably work with kids elementary or pre-k to kindergarten kids either afterschool program.

**Q: What is your own personal definition of leadership?**

Leadership- the state of having great influence on a group of people towards a goal.



**Christina Lee**

**Q: So, how long have you been working at CeO? What made you apply here?**

I am a CeO student and I've been working with CeO since January 2012. The reason why I applied to work in CeO was to get a better understanding of how the program actually worked. As a CeO student, one only sees the benefits of the program without realizing how hard the staff works so the students can benefit.

**Q: Where are you from, what year are you, and what is your major?**

I am from Milwaukee, WI. I'm a senior majoring in Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS). However, I will be a fifth year senior when I graduate.

**Q: What do you plan on doing after graduation?**

I come from the inner city of Milwaukee. There are so many children and people there who need someone to understand them and help them out of the never-ending cycle. With the completion of my major I plan to work with this type of population either through community projects or in the school system.

**Q: Was it hard for you to make friends at UW when you first came here? Did you already know people here?**

It was hard for me to make friends when I first came here because I came from small high school in Milwaukee. I was not used to a large school setting. Upon arrival to campus I didn't know anyone here. CeO was a big help when it came to me making friends.

**Q: What is the thing you like most about the CeO program? What do you enjoy most about working here?**

What I like most about the CeO program is the sense of family that I get from it. I know that my advisors actually care about me. The advice they give is genuine and is for my best interest. The interaction that I have with the staff and students is what I enjoy most about working at CeO.

**Q: What do you do for fun?**

For fun I like to spend time with my son. We enjoy going to the Children's Museum, the park, the zoo, and the mall. We also like shopping with friends, especially Linda (CeO co-worker).

**Q: If you had one last chance to do a community service project or help someone, what would that be?**

For a last community service project, I would want to go to high schools located in at-risk areas and talk to the students about college. Informing them on why college is

necessary, how to prep for college now, how to apply to college and how to apply for financial aid.

**Q: What do you like most about being at UW? What do you dislike the most?**

The thing I like most about being a UW student is the campus. This campus has some of the most beautiful buildings that each has its own story and history behind it. The thing I dislike most about being a UW student is the 80 bus route. It's always so crowded!

**Q: What is your own personal definition of leadership?**

I would define leadership as the ability to guide and gain support of others in order to accomplish something.



**Xai Xiong**

**Q: So, how long have you been working at CeO? What made you apply here? Are you a CeO student?**

This is my second semester working with CeO. I was referred to CeO and told it helped people that qualified for the program. I been a CeO student for 3 years now.

**Q: Where are you from, what year are you, and what is your major?**

From Madison, Junior, Life Science Communication major with a concentration of digital communications/technology and also a digital studies certificate.

**Q: What to you plan on doing after graduation?**

Hopefully a job in the sports media or a job dealing with technology. Not the complex technology but the ones that are applicable to businesses and corporations.

**Q: Was it hard for you to make friends at UW when you first came here? Did you already know people here?**

When I joined SCE (the summer collegiate experience) it was hard for me to make friends since they all knew each other from PEOPLE, First Wave, and I wasn't any of them. Later they would be the closest friends I have on campus.

**Q: What is the thing you like most about the CeO program? What do you enjoy most about working here?**

I enjoy the friendly staff, the students and I enjoy how everyone treats each other like family.

**Q: What is your favorite dessert? Favorite movie? TV show?**

Favorite Dessert is none. I eat everything. Favorite movie is probably The Dark Knight or The Dark Knight Rises. Favorite TV Show is The Walking Dead.

**Q: What do you do for fun?**

I lift weights, play video games, watch movies, play basketball and football.

**Q: If you had one last chance to do a community service project or help someone, what would that be?**

I would want to help the Hmong community prosper in terms of academics, financial and family.

**Q: What do you like most about being at UW? What do you dislike the most?**

I like what diversity programs offer to students like us. Sometimes I dislike the ignorance comments that I hear from certain students about diversity/minorities.

**Q: What is your own personal definition of leadership?**

My personal definition of leadership is someone who is motivated and is willing to lead a group of people/someone to be the best they can be.



**Jose Torres**

**Q: So, how long have you been working at CeO? What made you apply here? Are you a CeO student?**

I have been working at CeO for a semester and I applied because I am CeO student that use to spend all his free time in the office. I liked the environment and thought it was a perfect place for me to work at.

**Q: Where are you from, what year are you, and what is your major?**

I am a junior from Chicago, Illinois studying Human Development and Family Studies and getting a certificate in Chicano Latino Studies!

**Q: What to you plan on doing after graduation?**

I plan on hopefully moving back to Chicago. I would like to work nonprofit for a little bit and then maybe return to school. I want to get a master's in education.

**Q: Was it hard for you to make friends at UW when you first came here? Did you already know people here?**

It was not hard to make friends when I came to campus because I came with a scholarship. I am a Posse scholar and was able to meet other scholars on campus.

**Q: What is the thing you like most about the CeO program? What do you enjoy most about working here?**

What I enjoy most about CeO is the environment and the staff. They are here to help CeO students and genuinely care about them as well. Everyone is very friendly and I like that about this office.

**Q: What is your favorite dessert? Favorite movie? TV show?**

My favorite dessert would have to be Arroz con Leche (rice with milk)! I love it so much. I don't have a favorite movie because I have many but my top would have to be the Lord of the Rings trilogy! My favorite TV show are Heroes, Walking Dead and Being Human! (I am a bit of a syfy/fantasy kind of guy)

**Q: What is your favorite way to relax?**

My favorite way to relax is to lay in bed covered in a blanket and watch tv! I love being a couch or bed potato (not all the times)!

**Q: If you had one last chance to do a community service project or help someone, what would that be?**

If I had one last chance to do a community project it would be to help build a school in Mexico for children in small towns.

**Q: What do you like most about being at UW? What do you dislike the most?**

What I like most about being at UW would be the community that I have made for myself here from Posse, CeO and other scholars and that I am receiving a degree from a top school. What I least like about it is that the campus is not diverse racially.

**Q: What is your own personal definition of leadership?**

My definition of a leader is someone who is willing to take a charge and lead others. A leader is not someone who always tells people what to do but someone who knows when to step up and step down when needed (guide others).

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***Interested in helping with future issues of CeO Insights?***

If you are interested in working with our newsletter staff, please contact:

**Daylon Cottingham at: [cottingham@wisc.edu](mailto:cottingham@wisc.edu) and Anna Thao at: [athao2@wisc.edu](mailto:athao2@wisc.edu)**

Deadlines are typically by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month, and we welcome your ideas, stories, fun facts, or any other creative contribution. Our newsletter will take on a new, and more exciting look from here on out—so you should consider being a part of it!

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