

CONNECTIONS

THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE MAGAZINE | SPRING 2015



A PASSION FOR GOOD





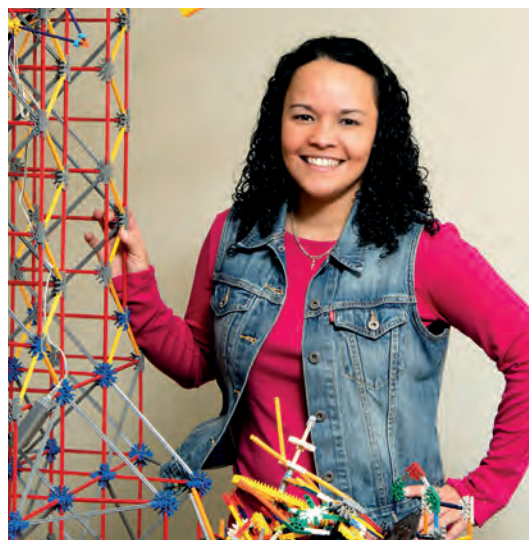
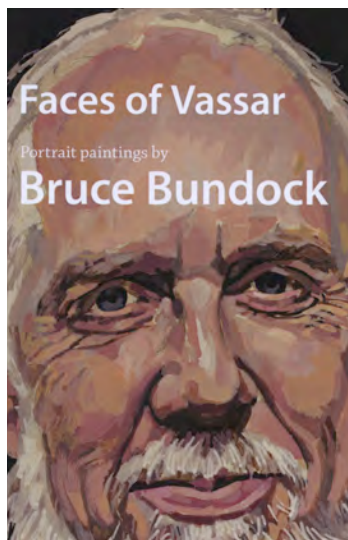
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CONNECTIONS

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Engagement Across the College – From the far left to right, at the Empowering Women Through Art event at the Brooklyn location in March as part of Women's History Month; television anchor and Empire State College alumna Elaine Houston '09 addresses participants at the annual Women's and Gender Studies Residency, held in March in Saratoga Springs; the Forum on Race and Policing that was webcast in February at six college sites, including the Long Island location in Old Westbury, shown here.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

One of the things I really love about SUNY Empire State College is the fact that, with our 35 locations across the state, we are firmly planted in the communities whose citizens we serve.

Our students, faculty and staff live in these small towns and big cities, giving back day in and day out. They are police chiefs and county executives, hospital directors and hospice care workers, they write books, produce plays, stage art exhibits and plant community gardens.

In this issue of Connections, we explore the sense of community that cuts across the college and some of the people and programs, from nursing to labor studies, that allow us to offer what I call a “purposeful education,” a kind of education that is both rare and unique.

In these pages, we introduce you to the educational partnership we’ve formed with the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President to offer the citizens of Brooklyn opportunities to learn about financial literacy, and we also examine the role the college is playing as a participant in Downtown Brooklyn’s “Tech Triangle U.” We examine an ongoing outreach program to state workers in Albany through a series of workshops held at our Empire State Plaza location,

which range from making beer and eating chocolate, to financing a college education and managing stress. And we look at the work single individuals and groups of us are doing to improve our home communities.

This sense of responsibility for the broad communities around us reaches across the nation and around the globe. Read about our International Programs’ “Chalk the Walk,” event, in which students in our Lebanon Program learned how graffiti artists have used their art for social justice.

Can you sense why I am so excited about the possibilities of community engagement at Empire State College? Where else is there such an opportunity to stay planted in your hometown, while reaching out intellectually and technologically to the far reaches of the globe? What other college has such a powerful advantage?

At Empire State College, our students are the 9 to 5 workers, the carpool moms, the stay-at-home dads and the entrepreneurs in the neighborhood. They are the single

parents, the first-in-the-family to attend college, the recent immigrant escaping trauma in their homeland, the hopeful souls looking for a brighter future. Our students are the creative artists, the political and community leaders and the tech-savvy millennials who thrive on independence and flexibility. And they are contributing to their communities and making them better places to live.

Do you know what else they do? They give back to their college in so many ways by giving their time, talent and treasure, ultimately opening their wallets and donating so others can have the chance to get a purposeful education. In these pages you also can read about the generosity of you, our alumni, our faculty and staff and our friends, who give so more people can have the chance for obtaining a purposeful education.

Merodie A. Hancock
President

Diana Siberio-Perez

Early years: Born in Puerto Rico; moved to the U.S. for middle and high school, while her dad pursued a graduate degree.

Education: B.S. in Chemical Engineering, University of Puerto Rico; M.S. and Ph.D. in Macromolecular Science and Engineering, University of Michigan.

Childhood dream: A desire to be a math teacher was derailed by a sixth grade teacher. "He said, 'Do something bigger, something greater. Teaching is nothing.' It was a little unsettling for me."

Altered path: Undergraduate focus on chemical engineering appealed to her love of math.

Chosen track: The desire to teach never left her. "Life has a way of coming around. I have all these experiences I wouldn't have if I had just done math."

On girls and STEM careers: "Find activities that stimulate curiosity and passion. Don't let anybody stop you from what you want to do."

Why ESC: The opportunity to teach both math and science.

Meaningful perspective: "I was in high school when my dad was going to graduate school, so I understand the challenges for a family when a parent is a student. It's 24/7."

Approach to teaching: Make it relevant and applicable.

Teaching goal: To help students overcome a fear of math and learn to appreciate and enjoy it.

What she's learned from students:

Perseverance. "With all they have going on in their lives, it's inspiring to see my students reach their goals."

What she misses: Proximity to family in Puerto Rico. "My church family here has supported me greatly."

Free time: Works with children. "They keep joy and curiosity alive."

Other interests: Self-taught guitar player; loves to crochet and geocache.

Little known fact: Speaks Italian and is learning sign language.

Bucket list: Alaska. "I want to see the Northern Lights."

Best advice: "I had gotten a bad grade in fourth grade, and my dad said, 'In life, you need a little bit of everything.' It was freeing for me. There are things I would not have done in my life had he not shared that with me."

Inspiration: Her dad, who grew up in a poor family in Puerto Rico's countryside. "With all that he experienced and had to overcome in his life, he accomplished his goals. It was hard, but he did it."

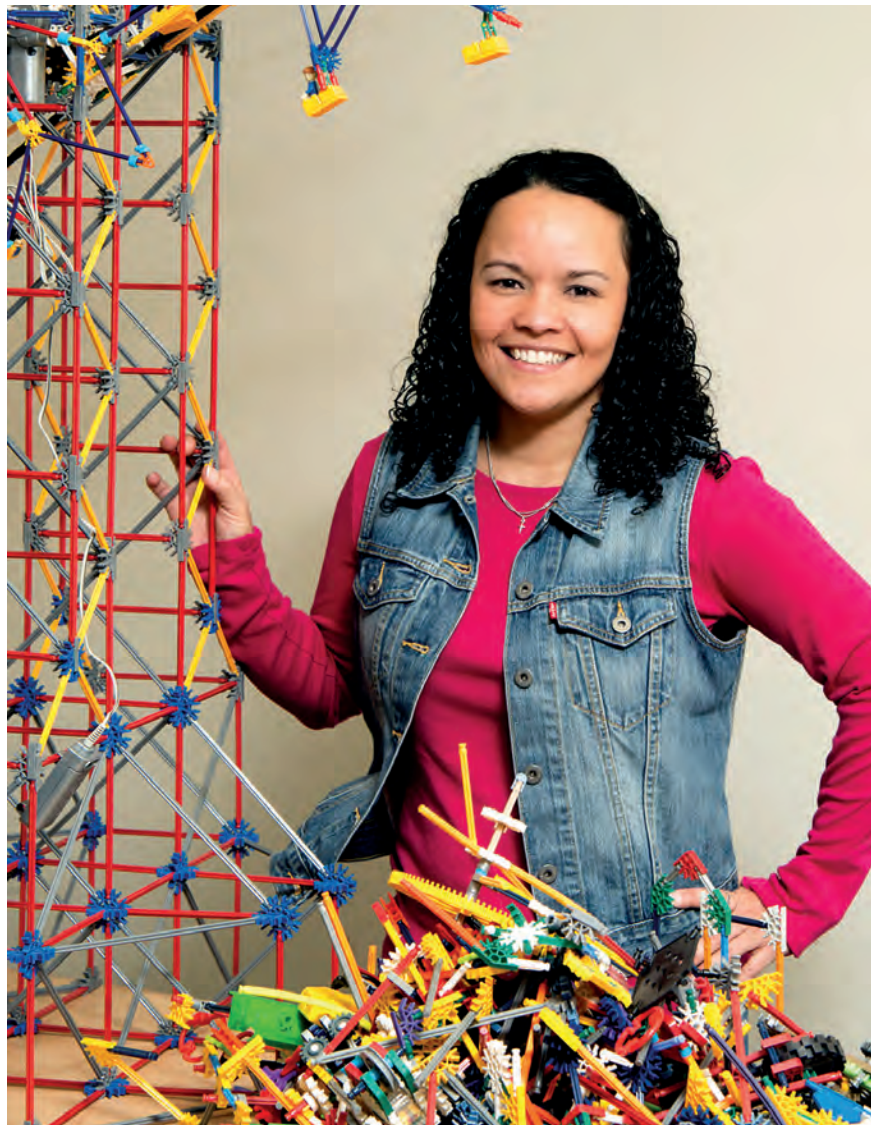


PHOTO CREDIT: MARTY HEITNER '92

Diana Siberio-Perez, faculty mentor in Science, Mathematics and Technology in Newburgh, shows off what her K'NEX construction toy system can do with a little ingenuity applied. She keeps the collection of interlocking plastic rods, connectors, gears and wheels in her office for those times when she feels the urge to tinker.

ACHIEVEMENTS



B. EISENBERG



A. BELASEN

Professor **Alan Belasen**, chairman of the MBA program, and Assistant Professor **Barry Eisenberg**, MBA program, have authored "Mastering Leadership: A Vital Resource for Health Care Organizations," with their colleague John W. Huppertz, associate professor at Union Graduate College. The book defines the extraordinary challenges leaders in the health care industry are facing, and advances a model of leadership for executives to steer their organizations through the maze of uncertainty created by various societal changes.



D. STARR-GLASS

Lecturer **David Starr-Glass**, International Programs, Prague, participated in the "Capstone Curriculum Across Disciplines: Synthesising Theory,

Practice and Policy to Provide Practical Tools for Curriculum Design" project, conducted by the Centre for Collaborative Learning and Teaching of the Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia. This case study outlines the dynamics, learning outcomes and assessment of the capstone experience. He also authored "E-mentoring: Mentoring at a Distance" with Mentor **Tanweer Ali**, International Programs, Prague. The article considers several of the central "dead" metaphors of macroeconomics: economics and markets.

Professor and Area Coordinator **Nazik Roufaiel**, Center for Distance Learning, was recognized as a female leader in accounting and finance education at the first Women's Accounting Leadership Series sponsored by the Institute of Management Accountants, that honored her with a Gold Medallion in Global Leadership award.

Mete Cetiner, assistant professor and mentor at the Northeast location, co-presented a research project with Rosemary Kim, assistant professor at Loyola Marymount University, at the 54th international conference organized by the International Association for Computer Information Systems, titled "Rethinking the Role of IT Governance and Assurance in the Era of Big Data."

Assistant Professor **Hope Adams** and Professor **Peggy Tally** of the Metropolitan location presented their paper, "'Skyfall,' 'The Bourne Legacy,' and The Cinematic Construction of CyberAngst: Securitainment as a Potential Response to Fears of Cyberterrorism," at the 2014 Annual Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association. They discussed how Hollywood uses fear as a way to engage and entertain audiences, focusing on cyberterrorist attacks.

Metropolitan location Assistant Professor **Karyn Pilgrim** has received the 2014 SLS Graywolf Prize for best novel excerpt for an emerging writer, awarded in conjunction with the Summer Literary Seminars and Graywolf Literary Press. As part of the award, she attended a literary seminar in Nairobi, Kenya.



M. BENKE

School for Graduate Studies Professor **Meg Benke** published an article in *The EvolLLution*, a Destiny Solutions publication, titled "Greater Efficiency Shows Students that

Institutions Put Them First." Benke, a board member of the Open Learning Consortium, drew on her experience as a leader in higher education transformation. Additionally, she was honored by the Online Learning Consortium, (formerly The Sloan Consortium) with the Frank Mayadas Leadership Award for transformative leadership in advancing innovative models of online education for adult students and for advancing the cause of quality online education.



E. O'CONNOR



F. MCDONALD

Mentors **Eileen O'Connor** and **Frank McDonald** and graduate student **Maria Ruggiero** published their paper, "Scaffolding Complex Learning: Integrating 21st Century Thinking, Emerging Technologies, and Dynamic Design and Assessment to Expand Learning and Communication Opportunities" in the Journal of Educational Technology Systems, about the impact of emerging technologies on global learning. O'Connor and McDonald are assistant professors in the Master of Arts in Teaching program.



A. MATIAS



N. TCHEREPASHENETS

School for Graduate Studies Associate Professor **Nataly Tcherepashenets** and Assistant Professor **Audi Matias** traveled to Cuernavaca, Mexico, to participate in the 2014 Latin American Academy, a course development workshop, with their international colleagues. Both were selected as part of a competitive grant program, and co-taught with colleagues at the workshop.



R. MANZANO

Raúl Manzano '05, Metropolitan location arts lecturer and coordinator of the college's Livingston Gallery, in Brooklyn, published an article on memoirs in *Atrium*, a journal published by Ivy Tech Community College. His essay delves into the history of memoir from its use by historical figures to present-day writers and other artists who use it to illumine an area or era in their lives.



I. REIFOWITZ

Ian Reifowitz, associate professor of historical studies at the Long Island location, was named a recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and

Creative Activities for consistently superior professional achievement and the ongoing pursuit of excellence. He also was named a contributing editor of *Daily Kos* and published in the *Daily News*, *Newsday*, *The New Republic*, *In These Times*, the *San Diego Free Press* and the *Kyiv (Kiev) Post*.

When WAMC radio ran a series of interviews on student loan debt in December, the station turned to Empire State College's **Kristina Delbridge**, director of financial aid, for perspectives on how adult learners are navigating today's world of higher education and what schools are doing to meet their needs. Delbridge said getting the diploma is the best solution to student debt. "The sooner the student can obtain their degrees and graduate, the sooner they can start paying back on the student loans and earning an income."

Long Island location Mentor **Toni Raiten-D'Antonio** recorded interviews for the "Just Relationships" radio show with Dr. Duffy Spence about her most recent book, "Ugly as Sin," which examines the pervasiveness of perceptions of ugliness in society and the havoc it wreaks on psyches, spirits and bodies.



T. MACMILLAN

Thalia MacMillan and **Michele Forte**, assistant professors for the Center for Distance Learning, have published an article in the *Journal of Asynchronous Learning Networks*

entitled, "Thematic Analysis of 'Games' Students Play in Asynchronous Learning Environments," which explores the dynamics of the student-student relationship within the asynchronous online classroom.

Center for Distance Learning Instructor **Catherine Bliss** published a paper titled "Estimation of Global Network Statistics from Incomplete Data" in the open source, peer-reviewed journal, *PLOS ONE*, about the types of sampling errors that can occur when only a partial view of a social network is obtained. Her co-authors were Peter Dodds and Chris Danforth.

Alison Dundy, a reference librarian at The Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies, has co-translated a book, "The Falling Sky: Words of a Yanomami Shaman," by Davi Kopenawa and Bruce Albert. Dundy and her co-translator, Nicholas Elliott, recently won the prestigious French-American Foundation translation award for their work on the English version, originally spoken by Kopenawa, a renowned Yanomami shaman and indigenous rights activist in the Brazilian Amazon.

Thirty-two boxes of materials related to Center for Distance Learning Mentor **Batya Weinbaum's** life and accomplishments have been archived in the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library. The contents include personal journals, correspondence, particularly regarding publishing her writing and early versions or unpublished manuscripts of her writing, and materials related to editing and publishing *Femspec*, a feminist science fiction journal. Also included are photographs and recordings.



J. LAWLESS

John Lawless was named program chairman for the XXIII World Family Therapy Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This year the program's theme is "Changing

Traditions and Systemic Therapy: Dangers and Opportunities for Families." This is the first year the World Family Therapy Congress has been held in Asia and in an Islamic country. Lawless also is on the board of the International Family Therapy Association and an original member of the International Family Therapy Association's Commission on Accreditation and Certification. He will be presenting on International Standards/Accreditation on Family Therapy Training while in Kuala Lumpur. Lawless is an Empire State College assistant professor and director of outcomes assessment.



R. BONANNO

Assistant Professor at the Center for Distance Learning **Rebecca Bonanno** published a chapter in the edited volume, "Continuing the War Against Domestic Violence, Second Edition," which discusses intervention programs for domestic abusers in historical context and presents recommendations for the future of these programs based on the academic literature.



M. MERRILL

The Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies Dean **Michael Merrill** delivered a plenary address at the first International E.P. Thompson Symposium at the Federal University of Uberlândia (Brazil) in October. He also traveled to Foz do Iguaçu and Marechal Cândido Rondon in the western province of Parana, where he reprised his Thompson presentation, titled, "Capitalism, Exterminism, and Moral Economy: E.P. Thompson Today."



D. NYARONGA

Dan Nyaronga, assistant professor of psychology and Community and Human Services at the Niagara Frontier location, and **Roxana Toma**, assistant professor of policy studies in the School for Graduate Studies, presented their paper, "Socio-cultural Practices and Women's Health in Tanzania," at the International Conference on Advances in Economics, Social Science and Human Behaviour Study in Hong Kong.

Center for International Programs Visiting Assistant Professor **Jeannine Mercer**, in Lebanon, is doing what she can to educate adults about how to approach risky behavior among youth. Mercer was featured in Al-Balad, Lebanon's most popular daily newspaper, where she talked about public awareness campaigns and such worrisome facts as half of adolescents who are successfully solicited via the Internet for sexual acts with strangers are between the ages of 13 and 14. She contends that telling parents and teachers isn't enough of a safeguard. "Prevention and support tactics need to originate with peers to be effective."

Mentors Karen Garner and Christina Ziegler-McPherson have been awarded grants through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program for the 2014-2015 academic year. Garner, an assistant professor in Historical Studies at the Northeast location, lectured at the University of Pannonia in Veszprem, Hungary, and collaborates with scholars in Hungary to research gender studies. Ziegler-McPherson, an adjunct faculty member in history, lectured and performed research at the University of Bremen, in Germany, on German immigrants in New York City from 1870-1930.

Rhianna Rogers, assistant professor in Cultural Studies, at the Niagara Frontier location, presented a paper, "Using Interdisciplinary Approaches to Document the Transformation and Resilience of Aztec Female Roles, 1500 to Present" at the University at Buffalo's Gender and Color Symposium. Rogers also served as moderator of a panel and collegewide discussion on race and policing held in February. Panel participants included members of the college's Minority Student Alliance, as well as scholars with expertise in race, civil rights and social justice.



D. RAMDEHOLL

Dianne Ramdeholl, an assistant professor of adult education with the School for Graduate Studies' Master of Arts in Adult Learning program, received the Adult Education Research Conference Phyllis Cunningham Social Justice Award for "Weaving Quilts: Remaking and Reimagining Women's Spaces and Places in Adult Literacy." She co-authored and co-presented the paper at AERC with Jaye Jones, director of the Adult Learning Center, Institute for Literacy Studies, Lehman College, the City University of New York.



D. FULLARD

David Fullard, visiting assistant professor at the Metropolitan location, published an article in City Limits titled, "Rikers Scandal: Key Leaders Are Between Policymakers, Prisoners." The paper explores the critical role held by captains as the first layer of leadership over correction officers. Fullard, whose primary academic area is criminal justice, is a retired captain with the New York City Department of Correction, Health Management Division, on Rikers Island, and a member of the college's Foundation Board.



T. MACKEY

Thomas P. Mackey, interim vice provost, and Trudi E. Jacobson, distinguished librarian at the University at Albany, published "Metaliteracy: Reinventing Information Literacy to Empower Learners," which presents a comprehensive framework for information literacy theory. The duo also has developed a MOOC on metaliteracy. Mackey was the dean of the Center for Distance Learning before assuming the interim vice provost role.

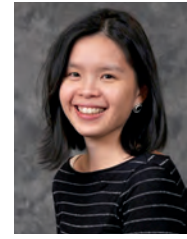


S. SINGH

Assistant Professors **Shishir Singh**, MBA, and **Roxana Toma**, Graduate Policy Studies, presented their paper, *Overcoming Transactional Distance in Open*

Education: A Model for Effective Online Learning, at the seventh International Conference on e-Learning and Innovative Pedagogies at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon.

Assisting veterans in their transition back to civilian life has become a priority for **Kymn Rutigliano**, assistant professor in the School for Graduate Studies, who participated in Turbo Charge Your Career, a Hero2Hired career event at the University of Nevada in January. "Many of those attending had a deep fear about 'making it' in civilian jobs," she reported. They talked with employment coordinators and learned about resources and services to help them conduct a productive job search.



J. TEOH

The Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education recently published the "Handbook of Games and Simulations in Teacher Education,"

co-edited by Master of Arts in Teaching Assistant Professor **Elizabeth Bradley**, with contributions from the Long Island Faculty Instructional Technologist **Jase Teoh**.

Jason Russell, assistant professor and coordinator of the M.A. in Work and Labor Policy, School for Graduate Studies, presented at the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities of Canada at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario, as part of the panel, *What Happens to the Workers? Deindustrialization and Economic Redevelopment in Late 20th- and Early 21st-Century Ontario*.

New York State Trooper **Shane Larkin '14**, of Saratoga Springs, won the Academic Achievement Award for an overall academic average of 99.33 percent at the 202nd session of the State Policy Academy graduation. Larkin graduated from Empire State College with an associate degree in business. He will be assigned to Troop G. in Latham, N.Y.

Long Island Assistant Professor **Erin Young**, who specializes in cultural studies, is the new managing editor for *The Journal of Popular Romance Studies*. She will be responsible for coordinating the submission, review and publication of papers submitted to the journal. Young serves as the faculty advisor for the college's Minority Students in Action organization.



G. MARIKYAN

Gohar Marikyan, associate professor at the college's Manhattan location, and a recipient of the Susan H. Turben Award for Excellence in Scholarship, presented at the

International Symposium on Trustworthy Global Computing held in Rome, Italy, where she discussed her research on comparisons of inferences in Gentzen-type intuitionistic system G3 and Martin-Löf's Type Theory.

Anant Deshpande, assistant professor and academic area coordinator for Business, Management and Economics, published a paper co-authored with alumna **Anne Whiting '13**. Whiting graduated from the Center for Distance Learning with a B.S. in Business, Management and Economics, with a concentration in strategic marketing management. Deshpande has taught online and hybrid courses in supply chain management, international cross-cultural management and many others.



F. VANDER VALK

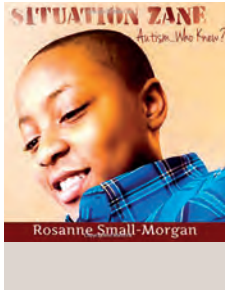
Frank Vander Valk, associate professor of political science at the Center for Distance Learning, was appointed political theory section chair for the New York State

Political Science Association. Vander Valk, a recipient of the college's Hall Award for Innovation, was named an Open SUNY Research and Innovation Fellow in 2014.

"English-Speaking Caribbean Immigrants: Transnational Identities," edited by **Lear Matthews**, professor at the Brooklyn location, was published recently. It examines the history and efficacy of the transnational paradigm and how it adds to an understanding of the West Indian migratory experience.

Susan Bruce, veteran and military services coordinator in the Office of Veteran and Military Education, was elected treasurer of the New York State Advisory Council on Military Education. The organization provides information for veterans, military and their spouses interested in attending college for all branches of the armed forces.

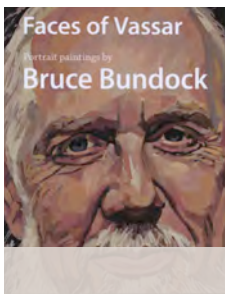
Zeeva Bukai, academic support specialist in Brooklyn, was awarded the Center for Fiction Emerging Writer's Fellowship, which includes a yearlong tenure at New York City's Center for Fiction, where Bukai will have the opportunity to share her work with established and emerging writers, editors and agents.



Adapting for Autism

Rosanne Small-Morgan, Student
Long Island Region

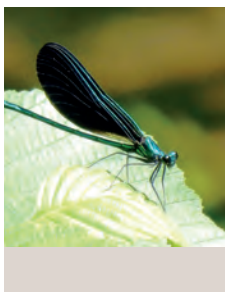
"Zane is brilliant and funny, but he has difficulty managing his emotions as well as handling ... everyday tasks ..." That description probably sounds familiar to the growing number of people parenting a child with autism. Rosanne Small-Morgan, a long-time autism activist in the Caribbean-American community, and student at the college's Old Westbury location, has been working to educate families and communities about autism for years. "Situation Zane," a book based on her experience with her son, "gives readers an unfiltered snapshot of this mainstream family, whose 12-year-old son is autistic." They cope using "patience, love, trial and error and a healthy dose of humor." According to Autism Speaks, the condition now affects one in 68 children, and one in 42 boys, although no one knows for sure what causes it or is causing its increase. Small-Morgan, born and raised in St. Vincent in the Caribbean, is a radio host, newspaper columnist, wife, mother and advocate.



Portraits of the Workers

Bruce Bundock '08
School for Graduate Studies

Artist Bruce Bundock '08 has published a book of portraits, "Faces of Vassar: An Appreciation," a compilation of portraits of trade unionists employed by the college. The portraits also were exhibited in a solo show last February at the James Palmer Gallery at Vassar. "I have come to know and respect them over the years for the service they provide to the college and to the Art Center," Bundock says. He works as the preparator at the college's Loeb Art Center in addition to pursuing his artwork. "From my perspective at least, and from some of their individual narratives, I believe they have contributed to Vassar's infrastructure in ways not always acknowledged." Bundock was trained as a draftsman and painter. The show was enthusiastically received by the college community and subjects, and he describes the aftermath as "healing," bringing attention to workers who often work on the sidelines and are not always "seen" by the community they serve and of which they are a part. Each portrait is a close up, done in realistic, broad, bold brush strokes creating the feel of photo-realism. Bundock earned his Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from the college.



Photos Capture Adirondack Ecological Variety

Drew Monthie '99, '08
Northeast Region and School for Graduate Studies

Drew Monthie '99, '08 exhibited his photographic works, "Floral and Faunal Discernments," at Rock Hill Bakehouse in Glens Falls, N.Y., this past summer. The exhibit was a pictorial study of just a few of the plants and animals encountered during daily botany trips in the Adirondacks region. The exhibit was part of ART in the Public Eye Third Thursday Art initiative. Monthie is an adjunct professor for the college's Center for Distance Learning and the facilitator for instructor development for the Teaching Online at ESC workshop. His areas of study specializations include botany, ecology and ethnobotany. Before studying at the college, Monthie attended SUNY Cobleskill, earning an associate degree in plant science. He has owned and operated a nursery and landscaping business since then. He also is the owner, for nearly two decades, of Ecologic Consulting, which offers guidance, consultation and educational services for developing plans for sustainable, ecologically-based, plant-driven design for landscapes.



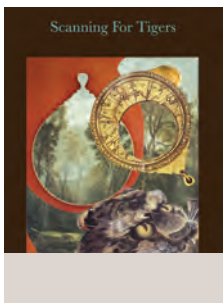
Toddler's Inquiry Birthed Book (with Illustrations by Nancy Romano '10)

Heidi Nightengale, mentor

Central New York Region

Kids can say the darnedest things. And sometimes their bon mots will lead to the dandiest of outcomes. When children's author and Auburn resident Heidi Nightengale's niece, Marin, was a toddler, she asked the question, "What Fragrance is the Moon?" The inquiry stuck in her aunt's brain for a long time. "For years I hung on to that question," Nightengale says. "And when I thought it'd be good fodder for a poem, it became, instead, fodder for a children's book." The book, illustrated by Nancy Romano '10, takes the form of a conversation between a mother and a child about the smell of common, everyday objects. Nightengale, who is a published poet, is a mentor in the Community and

Human Services area of study, and teaches writing for children at the college's Auburn location. In 2010, she was awarded the college's Altes Prize for Exemplary Community Service, in part for her commitment to celebrating and enriching diversity in her community and improving the lives of those at risk. Her research, professional work and volunteerism focus on serving youth.



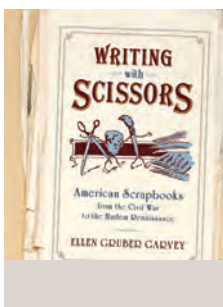
Poetic Vision Writ Broadly

Margot Farrington '05

Metropolitan Region

Margot Farrington '05 has released a book of poetry titled "Scanning for Tigers" published by Free Scholar Press. This is her third full-length collection. The poems, several of which have been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, are described by the publisher as being like Russian nesting dolls, one poem opening up to another and another, encompassing worlds. The title poem examines the capacity to see, beginning with an optometrist who told Farrington that human eyes were made to "scan forests for tigers," not wrestle with things close up. She leverages that idea as the launching

point for a ride for the reader that moves from ants to women, to how books ignite the imagination, to Blake's "Tyger tyger, burning bright." A user's review on Amazon calls her vision "precise," and another reader wrote, "If you've browsed the poetry section seeking tangible, beautiful, companionate voices, but felt betrayed by the aloofness of what is sold there, try this volume." Farrington has been praised as a "visionary poet who can write to the very edge of self." She has read her work both in the U.S. and abroad.



Examining the Legacy of Print

Ellen Gruber Garvey '84

Metropolitan Region and School for Graduate Studies

More than just a catchy title, Ellen Gruber Garvey's "Writing with Scissors: American Scrapbooks from the Civil War to the Harlem Renaissance," explores ideas about "men and women 150 years ago, who grappled with information overload by making scrapbooks – the ancestors of Google and blogging." Garvey is a graduate of the Metropolitan location, who earned a B.A. in English/writing arts. The book examines the scrap-bookers "from Abraham Lincoln to Susan B. Anthony, African-American janitors to farmwomen, abolitionists to Confederates, who cut out and pasted down their reading" in

scrapbooks. Garvey explains that 19th-century readers spoke back to the media and treasured what mattered to them. The book has won four awards. Garvey also is the author of "The Adman in the Parlor: Magazines and the Gendering of Consumer Culture," (Oxford University Press, 1996).



Members of Minority Students in Action stand with President Merodie Hancock at the annual Student Academic Conference. Second from left is Layla Abdullah-Poulos, founder of the MSiA club.

Mission Statement

The Minority Students in Action club is a space for students to confer, collaborate and support each other as well as generate a voice for more inclusion at the college.

CONFER. SUPPORT. COLLABORATE.

By Hope Ferguson

Student Club Seeks to Support Students and Strengthen Connections

Layla Abdullah-Poulos '10, who returned to Empire State College to complete her Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, founded Minority Students in Action (MSiA), "because it has been my experience that many minority students conveyed that they felt little connection to Empire beyond taking courses. I wanted students to have a point of coalition and solidarity in order to assist each other in obtaining academic success and to produce a unified voice at the college."

So far, the club, active for about a year and a half, has hosted number of activities, from in-person and online meetings to brunches and a coat drive during the last holiday season.

"The MSiA board has accomplished a lot in a short amount of time," Abdullah-Poulos said.



MSiA board members meet with their academic advisor, Erin Young, a mentor in English at the college's Old Westbury location.



Members of the Minority Students in Action have been responsible for several community outreach initiatives including a coat drive for Long Island residents during the year-end holidays.

“Four MSiA board members presented at the 2014 Student Academic Conference, and students continually approached the club’s information table to learn more about it. We organized events like the MSiA meet and greets, which were attended by Long Island location, Metropolitan location and Center for Distance Learning students. The events allowed members to become acquainted with each other and the club. We recently ended the MSiA coat drive. Coats were collected by Long Island location students, faculty, staff and the Long Island community to be distributed by New York Cares.”

The club is open to all students of the college no matter where they reside or whether they identify as having minority status. It launched a user-friendly website that explains the impetus for the group, its officers, activities and other relevant information, as well as photographs of members, a news feed and means of signing up for the newsletter. Although called Minority Students in Action, the website stresses that the student club is open to any student at Empire State College. However, racial, religious and ethnic minorities, or those who feel in need of support due to disability or sexual orientation, may be among those most attracted to the club.

“There are a lot of different ways that you can be outside of having structural and institutional support in the U.S., and we’re concerned about all of those,” said Erin Young, of the college’s Nanuet location, who is the group’s faculty advisor.

I wanted students to have a point of coalition and solidarity in order to assist each other in obtaining academic success and produce a unified voice at the college.”

Layla Abdullab-Poulos '10

Started on Long Island, with the support of Associate Dean AmyRuth Tobol, the group’s objectives include providing a safe space for minority students, generating support for minority students in developing academic goals and facing challenges that jeopardize their achievements, representing the interests and concerns of minority students at Empire State College, encouraging pluralism and cultural relevancy on the part of the faculty, administration and the student body at large, and increasing diversity awareness and friendship between all people,

regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion or national origin. They also are reaching out to the New York City group, the Black Male Initiative, to work together jointly in pursuing common goals, said Tobol.

“We expect 2015 to be an exciting year. We are planning a webinar series for our members, as well as a financial wellness symposium, end of the term luncheon and the student-mentor relationship forum. We also will be launching a peer-advisor service for members,” said Abdullah-Poulos.

In February, club members participated in a Web-based collegewide discussion on race and policing.

“When I returned to college at ESC in fall 2013, I benefited from a support system that recognized my life experiences and struggles as a minority woman,” said Treasurer Melinda Wills-Stallings on the website. “The Women of Color Prior Learning Assessment workshops were key to successfully completing my first term at ESC. The inspiring network of mentors and fellow students offered a safe environment to discuss openly difficulties we faced as ethnic women from varied backgrounds.”

For more, visit sunyempiremsia.wordpress.com

Photography Provided



Part of the Zeidner cattle farm operation in Bradford County, Penn., includes stabilization of the laneways and animal concentration areas with heavy use area protection, one of the many ecologically sensitive land-management strategies owners Brian and Pat Zeidner employ.

Farming for the Future

By Helen Susan Edelman

PHOTO CREDIT: TOM STOCK



Brian Zeidner '11

A person can be a true community resource to other people and also to the places where they live and work. Such is the case with Center for Distance Learning graduate Brian Zeidner '11, who owns a small beef cattle farm in Pennsylvania.

A fascination with wetlands and water quality and a desire to improve the land he calls his home led to college learning that translated into sound conservation practices, which are now benefiting his friends and neighbors.

The 43-acre farm Zeidner operates with his wife, Pat, was the focus of his hands-on project and ultimately the beneficiary of the work he did while studying ecology with Dean Nikki Shrimpton of the college's Central New York location. Zeidner was on the path to his Master of Science in Business, Management and Economics. Five years later, he saw the successful restoration of wetlands on the farm, including completion of a new pond that filled successfully with water. He fenced livestock out of the pond and wetlands, providing an alternative watering system

I love leveraging my ESC learning,” Brian says. “And Dr. Shrimpton was the catalyst to my understanding of ecosystems and responsible resource management.”

Brian Zeidner

for the cattle, and managed pastures and animal walkways more purposefully.

Brian and Pat, along with conservation district professionals, also developed a comprehensive nutrient-management plan, which addressed resources on the farm and ultimately prescribed grazing, heavy use area protection and a waste storage facility. The grazing plan included rotating the animals through the crop fields after the first and second cuttings had been harvested, and stabilizing the laneways and animal concentration area with heavy use area protection and creation of a stacking area to store manure that accumulates there.

“The culmination of these projects has allowed me to utilize the property in a more environmentally responsible manner, by implementing several best-management practices in agricultural operations. It also has demonstrated a mutually beneficial working partnership,” said Zeidner, referring to his collaboration with the conservation district, natural gas developers, landowners and conservation professionals, “resulting in environmentally sound enhancements to the family farm.” He emphasizes, “The ecology study at ESC was the catalyst for the project.”

The conservation practices will have long-term, positive effects in the protection of natural resources on



The amount of sediment and nutrients entering ground and surface water is strictly monitored and limited on the Zeidner farm as a standard conservation practice.

the Zeidners' farm, such as limiting the sediment and nutrients from entering the ground and surface water sources, ensuring the farm's herd will have sufficient feed for the year, maintaining a 3-inch grass cover to prevent soil erosion and managing the manure generated by the herd. Another significant impact is that the ponded area of the wetland was increased by 0.9 acres to 1.1 acres, of which 0.9 is considered “shallow” (18 inches or less deep), which provides a critical habitat for several wetland species, including amphibians, insects, mammals, reptiles, waterfowl and hydrophytic vegetation. The deeper sections will support several fish species Zeidner plans to introduce.

The Zeidners are members of the Farm Bureau, where Pat serves as a board director, while Brian assists the local Penn State Extension office in providing tractor safety training. He is a member of the Northern Tier Industry and Education Consortium Board and plays an integral role on the Bradford County Agricultural Land Preservation Board. He also serves as director of member services for the Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative, a member-oriented, nonprofit electric utility dedicated to providing safe and reliable energy and other valuable services to customers.

As stewards of the land they have protected so well, the Zeidners share their good works and good fortune. Since 2013, they have been participating in and hosting field walks and workshops related to grazing and farm management. Brian was recently honored with the Cooperator of the Year award from the Bradford County (Penn.) Conservation District award.

“I love leveraging my ESC learning,” Brian says. “And Dr. Shrimpton was the catalyst to my understanding of ecosystems and responsible resource management.”

Photography Provided



The Zeidners rotate animals through the crop fields after two harvests, have stacking areas to store manure and maintain a 3-inch grass cover to prevent soil erosion.

Lifelong Learning Among NYS Employees

Recruiter offers public a chance
to lunch and learn

By Helen Susan Edelman



Susan Eve Tepper LeClair

With 11,000 different individuals among the employees of the state of New York working in Albany's Empire State Plaza, surely there will be some who are interested in the history of beer in America, or financial aid options for college students, or how to grow a flourishing perennial garden, manage stress, or become an entrepreneur. Even more might want to learn some tips about how to use a camera creatively, how to invest in the stock market successfully or how to get college credit for life experience.

Because of the work of Empire State College Recruiter Susan Eve Tepper LeClair, these and other opportunities abound in the form of free lunchtime workshops offered at the college's Empire State Plaza location in Albany.

Each is a unique event conceptualized and implemented by LeClair, who oversees the Plaza location. While offered as a public service meant to educate and delight participants, the sessions also provide the opportunity to expose visitors to the Plaza and state workers to all that Empire State College and its 63 sister institutions in SUNY have to offer.

Some of the hourlong workshop themes are college- or SUNY-specific, others are purely fun. "I try to imagine what the average state worker might want to learn and then find a cool way to present that information," explains LeClair.

But she doesn't neglect her recruiting role. "Most colleges can bring the community to campus for plays or museums. We don't have that, so this is our community-relations, community-outreach initiative," LeClair says. "I have to think out of the box. Passersby often do a double-take as they walk by and turn around to see what's going on."

One thing they learn when they stop is that in addition to hosting frequent workshops, the Plaza location also is a site for one-to-one meetings with ESC mentors and a resource center for comprehensive information about all of SUNY.

LeClair reports that while some attendees have, indeed, enrolled for ESC courses, many come to the sessions simply to learn something new. The workshops often fill up quickly with both repeat participants and newcomers. LeClair makes sure the word gets out well in advance of the opportunities; she emails human resource directors, training and employee assistance programs and other key people at state agencies, who redeploy the invitation to employees.

"This is the college's 'thank you' to the community and our way of promoting lifelong learning, consistent with the college's mission to educate adults at a place and time and via an approach that is convenient to them," she points out.

LeClair notes that when she launched the series more than five years ago, the ingredients for success were already in place: faculty to teach and space to gather people.

"But no budget," she laughs.



Alumnus Mike Russo '10, far right, helps Mentor Sylvain Nagler during a Plaza office cooking workshop titled "Healthy Habits for the Holidays."



Members of the state Office of General Services took online classes to earn graduate certificates in project management. They were joined at the awards ceremony in the Plaza office by Dean Gerald Lorentz, far right, standing next to Mentor Duncan Ryan-Mann.

Page 14: On the Concourse - Underneath the Empire State Plaza in Albany, N.Y., state employees gather regularly in the Empire State College office on the Concourse, for workshops as part of the college's outreach efforts.

Since then, the pool of instructors has expanded beyond college faculty; experts in diverse subjects, including alumni, college and other SUNY staff, and members of the community-at-large all have volunteered to make presentations. Often, there are handouts or a PowerPoint. "People love that," she says, "They love taking something away with them." She also garners feedback in the form of a post-session evaluation.

"What I can tell from listening to our guests is that they come away with new tools for enjoying a variety of activities - writing, gardening, photography, financial planning, choosing a college, starting a business. The rewards for participating are largely intangibles, both for us and for our audiences, but as long as I know the college is improving people's lives, even casually, I'll continue to make it happen."

Photography Provided

“If I can help someone along the way, then my living will not have been in vain.”



From Health Care to Higher Ed: Giving Back Along the Way

By Hope Ferguson

Catherine Collins, RN, NP, Ed.D. and associate professor in Community and Human Services at the college's Buffalo location, knows about the challenges of being a working adult student, and she brings that empathy to her work when she mentors her students. She

worked her way from nurse's aide to an LPN to an Ed.D. "I guess that's why I sympathize with them," she says. "I was fortunate, because I didn't have any student loans when I came out of school. I was debt free. I like the fact that you can go to school to get training and use that as a stepping stone."

(right) Catherine Collins, center in blue suit, in the state Assembly Chamber, on the day of her election to the New York State Board of Regents. She is flanked by, from left to right, Sen. Crystal Peoples-Stokes of Buffalo, Speaker of the Assembly Carl Heastie, and Buffalo area Assemblyman Sean Ryan and Sen. Timothy Kennedy.

(below) At the 2014 All College Conference where the Altes Prize winner was announced, from left, Jane Altes, former provost and interim president for whom the award is named, prize recipient Catherine Collins, and President Merodie Hancock.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

After completing high school in three years, Collins landed a job working as a nurse's aide in a children's hospital, sterilizing equipment and laying out all the instruments for use by the surgeons and those assisting. Seeing children get serious operations, including open heart surgeries, had a profound impact on her and fueled her desire to make a profession of nursing. Although she loved the hospital environment, she earned a living for several years as a seamstress, a skill learned from her mother.

"I was able to make enough money to pay for nursing school," Collins explained. She became an LPN after a nine-month program and then went to Trocaire College, where she earned her RN while working as an LPN. From there, she became assistant head nurse in the obstetrics department's delivery room. Though she loved what she was doing, she wanted to keep going, and did. She finished her Bachelor of Science in vocational educational and master's degree in allied health education curriculum development from the University at Buffalo, with a certificate in vocational education. At that point, she began building experience as an educator that would serve her in unexpected ways. She taught a class in practical nursing for many years, while continuing to work full time.

Collins also completed a nurse practitioner program, the highest designation for a nursing professional, from the University of Buffalo's Nursing School. In 1990, she was awarded a doctorate degree. It took eight years.



The whole time Collins was advancing her education, she also was devoting herself to needs in the community and to her two children.

Collins received the Altes Prize for Exemplary Community Service for 2014 at the All College Conference in recognition of her work on behalf of black women, whom she believes have special concerns: inadequate health care, poverty, a greater risk for serving time in jail or prison, and the challenges of reintegrating into the community afterwards. She has served on the state Board of Corrections' Medical Review Board, volunteered to provide health care at hospitals and clinics, cared for women with a variety of illnesses, including HIV, diabetes and Alzheimer's, and worked with the homeless. From 2004 to 2009, she served as a member and officer of the Buffalo Public Schools Board of Education, an experience that ultimately led to her appointment in March as one of only 17 members of the powerful New York State Board of Regents, which is responsible for the general supervision of all education activities in the state.

"This is a culmination of all of the knowledge I have gained teaching in various capacities, from my work at the elementary-school level, to junior college, to university and Empire State College and serving on the Buffalo school board."

She has written several scholarly books that are accessible to the lay audience on the topics of women and prisons, black women's health care, social issues concerning black women and black girls and adolescence.

What motivates her? Collins sums up her philosophy in the words of the old Negro spiritual: "If I can help someone along the way, then my living will not have been in vain."

Photography Provided



Terrific Trio - Brooklyn Mentor Cory Kallet, Brooklyn's Chief Program Officer Sandra Chapman and Metropolitan area Mentor Robert Carey in Brooklyn City Hall. Together the three have developed projects to benefit the citizens of Brooklyn.

Boosting the Borough of Brooklyn

By Hope Ferguson

SUNY Empire State College holds the distinction of being the first college to be invited to join a Financial Literacy Council, established by the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President. The council hopes to educate Brooklyn residents about financial matters that could either help or stymie their economic well-being. Prompted by Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams' concern that the residents of Brooklyn have the highest personal debt of all New York City residents, the program is one of his 20 "pillar programs" for the betterment of the borough.

“Financial literacy is a crucial tool that we will use to achieve economic stability and prosperity across Brooklyn in the coming years,” said Sandra Chapman, chief program officer in Adams’ office. The workshops are meant to educate the community about getting out of debt, budgeting, purchasing real estate, starting businesses and avoiding financial sinkholes such as payday loans. And, because financial health is often a prerequisite to returning to school, Empire State College is concerned about the fiscal well-being of these prospective students.

The first of these workshops was held this spring, but the college got a taste of the need for this type of programming last year. It sponsored “Taking Control of Your Personal Finances” at its Livingston Street location in late September. Those workshops drew 40 people, aged 20 up to retirement age. Topics included financial planning, planning for retirement, entrepreneurial planning and managing credit. When the college partners with the Brooklyn borough president’s initiative this spring, the outreach will be expanded across the Brooklyn community at large, said Mentor Cory Kallet. “This is a continuation of what we started locally,” he said, adding that being invited to be part of the council benefits the college’s students and adds to its credibility.

Understanding the influence the college can have in preparing its students to impact the economy, the college’s Brooklyn site also has joined the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership as a participant in “Tech Triangle U” for the second year.

“The Downtown Brooklyn Partnership is a not-for-profit local development corporation that serves as the primary champion for Downtown Brooklyn as a world-class business, cultural, educational, residential and retail destination,” Kallet said. “The Tech Triangle U event is a weeklong effort ... that enables New York City students and community residents to connect with the 500-plus innovation firms located in the Brooklyn Tech Triangle.”

In addition to identifying possible internship and job opportunities, Tech Triangle U includes workshops and panel sessions hosted by local companies and incubators, as well as faculty members from eight downtown Brooklyn colleges, including Empire State College. Mentors there to represent SUNY Empire are Bob Carey, Kallet, Tica Frazer and Justin Giordano, who focus on teaching participants about business development, and how to take a concept and transform it into a profitable business endeavor.

It’s all part of the college integrating into its communities and leaving them better.

Photography by Marty Heitner ’92



The community engagement of SUNY Empire State College is evident in a variety of places, including lamppost banners.



Empire State College is a partner in the Brooklyn Tech Triangle initiative, which works to connect the borough’s academic communities with its technology and creative sectors.



Chalk the Walk

Empire State College's International Students Engage the Public in Sidewalk Art

By Helen Susan Edelman

Twenty-two students in Empire State College's International Programs collaborated with faculty, staff and tourists to draw images of peace with chalk in front of the Archaeological Museum in Paphos, Cyprus, in July. The "Chalk the Walk" event was part of the Lebanon Residency Program. Many of the students were participating in a graffiti art course taught by Mary Ann Borden from the Latham location, where they had learned how artists use graffiti in order to express images of peace. The Empire State College students had the opportunity to share their views on peace with a Cypriot educator, as well as students from other countries, the local and extended community and tourists from all over Europe.

At the event, many students drew slogans and phrases that expressed their personal perception of peace. Charbel Ghanime, 21, a student in the graffiti course, had drawn the words "Where is the love?" in the shape of a bomb. "Bombs seem to be the solution for many countries who want peace," said Ghanime. "I ask, 'Where is the love?', because if you really wanted peace for others, you would not bomb them or kill them."

The residency, which was themed "Collaboration Through Peace," was organized by Karolyn Andrews, director of the Lebanon Residency Program, and attended by faculty coming from the U.S., including Sheila Aird, Kathy Tarrant, Richard Savior and Jeannine Mercer.



International Programs students chalking the walk in Cyprus, addressed the idea of peace, visually and verbally, with tourists who encountered the event.



More content available at www.esc.edu/Connections

In another residency event, ESC students and their international counterparts reflected on how to respond to differences in their society in a peaceful manner.

While those not studying art initially had been hesitant to draw among the art students, they slowly sat down along the pavement together, their inhibitions dissolving.

“Before the event, the students were reluctant to participate, and they weren’t alone,” said Andrews. “Some of the tourists who stopped to watch were shy about chalking as well, but it took just a bit of encouragement to get them all going. As everyone moved outside of their comfort zone, and began chalking the walk for peace, they talked with one another, learned about one another and, in the end, found it easier than they expected to connect with one another.”

Approximately 45 bystanders from countries including China, Ukraine, Palestine, Spain, the United Kingdom and Cyprus joined in. Eventually, over a period of several hours

in the hot afternoon sun, a collage of images emerged on the pavement.

“There were people from many nations drawing with us, including Palestine and Ukraine, and each had their own notion of what peace was,” said Ghanime. “Peace is a point of view and I think that is what the Chalk the Walk was about. Together, all of these different viewpoints emerged. Only through differences can world peace come about.”

The Chalk the Walk event was hosted by Theodosios Georgoudis, from the Division of Cultural Services at the Paphos Municipality in Cyprus.

A synchronous link through the Internet was made available thanks to the efforts of Director of Media Production and Resources John Hughes, so that students not able to be there in person still could attend all activities held in Paphos via the Internet.

Photography by John Hughes '81

Message from the Foundation Board Chair

Inside this special section you will find the Impact of Philanthropy report, which provides all of the college's supporters and alumni with an overview of the Foundation's health, and details the impact of your generous donations during 2014. Your support and devotion to SUNY Empire State College continues to be both humbling and inspirational. On behalf of my fellow Foundation Board members, I thank you.

Our report to you features profiles of two of this year's scholarship recipients, Erik Hartnett and Melissa Clark, very special students who are beneficiaries of your generosity. Through their stories, they are able to express their gratitude and share how scholarship support truly has made a difference in their lives. You also will learn more about the Foundation's investment history and performance, along with our fundraising totals for the year. You'll notice that we have highlighted both our Boyer Legacy Society and President's Club members, two groups who respectively represent a dramatic philanthropic investment in the college.

I also would like to recognize and thank the thousands of alumni and friends who chose to support the college through The Fund for Empire State College – your confidence in us is gratifying, and your investment provided the critical resources necessary to award student scholarships, initiate faculty projects, develop new programs and undertake many other initiatives. This past year, many of you participated in "The Great Empire State College Giving Challenge" in April, our first-ever 24-hour campaign, which largely took place via social media. This challenge was successful beyond our greatest hopes, with more than 650 of you contributing \$140,000 to The Fund for Empire State College in a single day. That day proved how strongly and enthusiastically the college's alumni and friends can come together to support the students of today, and provide opportunity for those who are yet to be.

Thank you again.

Ann Turner '86
Chairwoman, Empire State College Foundation Board of Directors



Ann Turner '86, chairwoman, Empire State College Foundation

Kesiah Scully

*Mentor, Metropolitan New York Location
Coxen-Ahr Memorial Scholarship*

Artists Fred Coxen and Richard Ahr were gracious, talented and “generous to a fault,” reminisces Kesiah Scully, a faculty member at the Metropolitan location.

Kesiah and her husband, David Seres, a physician at New York-Presbyterian Hospital and a member of the faculty at Columbia University Medical Center, were friends of Fred and Richard for many years. After the longtime partners passed away, Kesiah and David sought to celebrate their lives in a meaningful way, and were inspired to create the Coxen-Ahr Memorial Scholarship. “What I most remember about Richard and Fred is their generosity of spirit, making this a fitting way to recognize their legacy. They would be delighted,” she said.

Fred H. Coxen (1929-2000) and Richard Ahr (1929-2012) were veterans of the Korean War, Richard in the Air Force and Fred in the Army, and subsequently attended the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., one of the country’s foremost graduate schools of art and design. They both came to New York City to pursue art careers.

For more than 30 years, Fred worked in exhibition productions at the Museum of Modern Art until retiring as head of the department in the 1990s. He was known for his talents in acrylic painting and for his work designing beaded jewelry, which he often gave to friends. Richard, who also worked at MOMA in the Department of Painting and

Sculpture, exhibited his paintings in numerous art galleries, private collections and at the museum. After retiring, he continued to paint at his East Village studio, primarily in watercolors and acrylics. Their lives were steeped in the arts community of New York City, and they surrounded themselves with a joyful mélange of close friends, fellow artists and honorary family members.

“Richard and Fred had a tendency to ‘adopt’ people, in the best possible sense,” Kesiah reflects. “This scholarship is a way for them to continue to adopt and care for people, long past their own lifetimes.”

“This scholarship is a way for them to continue to adopt and care for people, long past their own lifetimes.”

Kesiah and David were inspired to create the Coxen-Ahr Memorial Scholarship, not only to celebrate the memory of their dear friends, but also to recognize and honor the accomplishments of the students who Kesiah has worked with during her more than 20 years at Empire State College.



Mentor Kesiah Scully with Richard Ahr (at left) and Fred Coxen (seated)

“My mentoring work comes from a place of great respect; the students have so much to offer. With this scholarship, we will be able to continue supporting students as they achieve their goals and realize their potential,” Kesiah says.

The first Coxen-Ahr Memorial Scholarship will be awarded in the fall of 2015. Through this endowment, generations of students to come will receive assistance in completing their own studies, as well as continue to honor the lives and legacies of talented artists, treasured friends and lifetime partners Fred Coxen and Richard Ahr, all thanks to the generosity of Kesiah Scully and David Seres.

Erik Hartnett

*Niagara Frontier Center Alumni Student Association
Scholarship Recipient*



Erik Hartnett

Buffalo student Erik Hartnett believes in helping all creatures, great and small.

When he sees a person who needs help, Erik is the first to raise his hand to improve someone else's life. His generosity of spirit doesn't stop with humans; the Buffalo resident also rescues dogs, cats, rabbits and – not too long ago – ducks. He and his partner are not afraid to paddle a canoe out to an island that has been used as a dumping ground for unwanted pets and bring them back to care for until, Erik explains, “they can be re-homed.”

In addition to his work in animal rescue, Erik also has a job as a property manager and is extremely

active as a community volunteer. He has served on the LGBT Pride Buffalo board of directors, started a neighborhood association in his area and is involved in his local arts community. That sense of service is ingrained in him, from the more formal aspects of helping with fundraisers to the simple act of giving rides to friends without transportation. As he says, “I help where I can.”

This extraordinary record of service is even more significant considering that he is doing it all while suffering with osteonecrosis, a disease that is literally killing his bones. At 38, he has had two total hip replacements, surgery on his right shoulder, and his left shoulder is breaking down. “But I'm right-handed,” he notes, “so it's not so bad. You wouldn't believe how amazingly happy I am just to be able to walk.”

His philosophy on life remains upbeat. “Life is beautiful. Life is lovely. It makes me happy and excited to make the world a better place.”

“You wouldn't believe how amazingly happy I am just to be able to walk.”

Philanthropy is not about recognition, it's about helping your neighbor. I'm more interested in

working in my own community, making things better, than working for a big, national organization. I'm interested in carrying out a core mission. I don't want a hall named after me, I want to work on behalf of good, accessible health care and a living wage in my own community.”

The recipient of the Niagara Frontier Center Alumni Student Association Scholarship is immersing himself in that goal. As a full-time student, he is earning a B.S. in Business, Management and Economics, with a concentration in nonprofit administration. After completing his undergraduate degree, he plans to continue on for an MBA.

Given his medical condition, traditional colleges are out of the question. He points out, “I can't even carry my own books, and before my hip replacements, I couldn't walk to class. Empire State College offers an option that makes higher education realistic.”

He had taken some courses at a community college in San Francisco and at Erie Community College, and was at a reflective crossroads when he decided, “I have the passion and the commitment, so I should get a degree that can move me ahead as a trustworthy leader in Buffalo, which I think is a magical place. I have a moral obligation to this community. It's got an old-world quality where you can celebrate what's really important: friends, family, food and drink – then work hard.”

Melissa Clark

*Drs. James Aloysius Gibson and Patricia Brozinsky
Scholarship Recipient*

When you work for a nonprofit, every penny counts – both the ones you manage for the organization and the ones you count on in your own daily life. So when Melissa Clark, a student in the Social and Public Policy master's program, received notice that she was this year's recipient of the Drs. James Aloysius Gibson and Patricia Brozinsky Scholarship, she was, she recalls, "surprised, honored and grateful, because it took care of tuition for a course and made my life easier and better as I advance in my program, one course at a time."

The Poughkeepsie resident, 25, who received her undergraduate degree from SUNY New Paltz, manages multiple programs for her region's United Way. She oversees some of the organization's budgets, volunteers, grants, programs and services. She also sits on a number of community boards that work on behalf of youth services, because so much of what United Way does is collaborative, and she wants to have input into those coalitions.

"I've been doing nonprofit work for several years, but I understand that for my career to progress, an advanced degree will be necessary. I looked into a number of programs, but Empire State College was the most convenient, affordable and flexible. It was the one I could attend on my own terms, because I have a lot of night meetings," says Melissa. "I take one class at a time and I am moving

forward – about three-quarters done now. It helps that my husband is so supportive."

Melissa's energy has been invested in numerous community service efforts, including after-school programs for youth living in poverty, as part of her previous work with AmeriCorps VISTA through the Corporation for National and Community Service. Her more recent role at United Way includes fundraising for food and shelter for those who need it, and educating people about how to apply for grants – just a few achievements among Melissa's many contributions to her community.

One point of excitement for Melissa is that much of what she learns in her courses can be applied immediately in the workplace, underlining the importance and currency of her ongoing studies.

"... Empire State College was the most convenient, affordable and flexible."

Does she get burned out sometimes? She admits she does, but refuels at the gym, through reading, and has resolved to spend more time meditating, "for mind and body health."



Melissa Clark

The Gibson and Brozinsky Scholarship is awarded to graduate students in the Social and Public Policy program.

It was created by Dr. Patricia Brozinsky to honor the work of her late husband Dr. James Gibson, a psychotherapist and professor at SUNY Stony Brook. Dr. Gibson's legacy of concern for others is carried on via students who aspire to influence their communities through positive, thoughtful and caring human connections, just as he did.

Melissa is a wonderful reflection of Dr. Gibson's spirit. "I can't change the world," she accepts, "but I feel like we accomplish something and we do see progress, even in little changes."



I give because Empire State College truly lives up to its mission – transforming people and communities. Empire State College is making the world a better place – what better investment could I make?

Bill Socha '86

■ THE FUND for Empire State College

Every gift matters at SUNY Empire State College. Gifts to The Fund for Empire State College are used directly to support student scholarships, the academic curriculum, faculty development and other programs at the college. The fund is the most popular mode through which people choose to make gifts to Empire State College. In 2014, the fund received more than \$400,000 from 2,757 donors, representing a 5 percent increase over 2013. All of these gifts are crucial in supporting the efforts of our faculty and the needs of our students.

Recognition Societies

Learners Society

\$250 - \$499. Honors the integration of learners with their past, present and future intellectual lives. Gifts at this level are equivalent to the average cost of a student's books for one term.

Mentors Society

\$100 - \$249. Honors the relationship between student and mentor, a hallmark of the college. Gifts at this level are comparable to the student technology fee, which allows them access to course offerings and services at their convenience, on their own schedule.

Anniversary Society

\$44 - \$99. Honors the college's history with a minimum of \$1 for each year since the college was founded in 1971. Gifts at this level would be similar to the cost of a new-student orientation, which welcomes new learners into the community.

Loyalty Leaders Club

Recognizes those who have supported the college annually for three, five, 10, 15 or 20+ consecutive years. Gifts from our most steadfast and loyal benefactors are invaluable, at any amount.

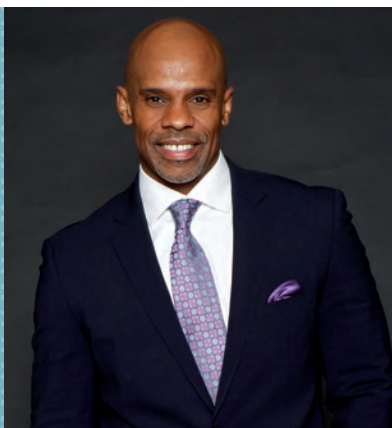


Boyer Legacy Society

Through the Boyer Legacy Society, we recognize individuals who have named Empire State College in their will or as the beneficiary of a trust or other planned gift. Membership represents a lifelong commitment to the college and helps ensure that Empire State College maintains its leadership in higher education for adult students who seek better jobs and careers, richer intellectual lives, and sophisticated skills that are essential to be knowledgeable citizens of the nation and the world.

This society is named for Ernest L. Boyer Sr. and his wife, Kathryn G. Boyer '78. Dr. Boyer, who served as chancellor of the State University of New York from 1970 to 1977, envisioned university study available at times and places convenient to students of different ages and backgrounds. He saw the possibilities of awarding a degree for what a student knew, rather than for time spent in a classroom. Kay Boyer was an adult student whose needs helped shape her husband's vision and who successfully completed her degree at Empire State College, subsequently serving on the board of directors of the Empire State College Foundation.

Anonymous	◇ Jayne Regan Harris	Pearl Somner '88
David M. Asch '83	Susan T. Hollis	Marian N. Steinberg '75
◇ Pasquale J. Beldotti Jr. '75	Michael C. Hubbard '75	Bernadette T. Stengel '88
Anne R. Bertholf	Joanne R. Hvidas '92, '93	◇ Bernard Stern
Susanna Bezold	Robert '96 and ◇ Carolyn Johnson	◇ Henry J. Thernal '82
Richard Bonnabeau	◇ Stephen C. Kasper	◇ Dorothea Threath
Deborah Botch '86	Judith (Suzy) Kline '86	Monte I. Trammer
Kathryn (Kay) Boyer '78	Susan A. Koch '01	Charles P. Trudel '79, '95
Susan K. Butler '06	◇ Pamela Kone '90	Susan H. Turben '72, '05 and
◇ Hortence S. and Warren R. Cochrane	Deborah and Don Lansing	John F. Turben
◇ Maxwell Cohen '76	◇ Keith Martin	Ann S. Turner '86
Jeanie H. Davis	James A. Matte '76	Sharon Villines
Philip J. de Carolis '92, '97	Margaret McAloon	Karin C. VonKay '79 and
Dennis R. De Long	Terrence McCafferty '80, '03	David C. Duggan
Sandra Bauhan DuBois '78	Nancy A. McLachlin '81	Mabel B. '79 and T. Urling Walker
◇ John L. Dunne	Marjorie Meinhardt '77	◇ Virginia Weiss '88
Joyce E. Elliott	Stephen Keep Mills '89	Karen West '84, '95
Joan A. Englehart '84	◇ Harold P. Morrill	Gareth Williams '07
Astrid Ewing	Marion C. Morse '81	Eldon R. Williamson '94
Julie Gedro	Robert Jean Moyet '08	Judith '02, '04 and Jack Willis
Bailey M. and Elaine Geeslin	Deborah L. Oberhofer '05	Maureen Winney
◇ James Aloysius Gibson and	Barbara A. O'Connell '76	Gloria Jean Wright '79
Patricia Brozinsky	William H. Parker '86	John Wright '98
Sidney Gluck '79	Kathleen Pepin '94	David Yamada '99
Doris Goldberg	Patricia Polak '87	Cynthia Zaentz '89
James William and Mary Elizabeth Hall	Anthony Riccardi	
Hugh B. Hammett	Deanna L. Riddick '03, '05	◇ DECEASED



I give because education has always been important to my family, especially my mom, Nancy Gathings Bunch, former dean of the Metropolitan New York location. We are empowered to control our own lives through education; Empire State College is important because of the opportunities it provides to adult learners.

Ted Bunch

■ The President's Club

Recognizing gifts of \$500 and above, the President's Club includes a cadre of our most committed alumni and friends. Members share the college's vision and demonstrate their commitment through their leadership support. Their contributions provide the college with our most flexible source of funding, allowing us to take advantage of unique opportunities and quickly respond to the evolving needs of our students and the communities we serve. In 2014, members of the President's Club donated more than \$1 million, accounting for 87 percent of the total funds given throughout the year.

Membership Levels:

Founders Society	\$5,000+
Builders Society	\$2,500 - \$4,999
Partners Society	\$1,000 - \$2,499
Investors Society	\$500 - \$999
New Graduates	\$250 - \$499

Founders Society

\$5,000+

Anonymous
American Income Life Insurance
 Battelle Memorial Institute
Meg Benke
Robert B. Carey
Phillip B. Catchings
 Chase and Stephanie Coleman
Marian Conway '01, '04
John '94 and Jane Corrou
Michael M. Cullen
William P. and Susan Law Dake
Nan DiBello
Lawrence P. Doyle '94
Dyson Foundation

Educational Foundation of America
 EDUCAUSE
Joyce E. Elliott
Tina '97 and Wayne Evans
Christopher '86 and Diane Feeley
David Fullard
 Michael Grace
Graduate Management
Admission Council
 Merodie A. Hancock
Stewart W. and Willma C.
Hoyt Foundation
Robert '98 and Kathryn Lento
 Long Island Community Foundation

Joseph '80, '06 and
Laurel Anne Mancino
 Jay R. Marshall '06, '08
David J. Mazzetti '10
 Stephen Keep Mills '89
New York Community Bank Foundation
A. Lindsay and Olive B.
O'Connor Foundation
 Simone Peeler Ragland '04
Kesiah Scully and David Stuart Seres
Stewart's Shops
Susan '72, '05 and John Turben
Verizon Foundation

Builders Society

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Anonymous
Deborah P. Amory
Keith Amparado '88
Virginia A. Brody '91
 Ruth Anne M. Gigliotti '87
Jerel and Geraldine Golub
Hugh B. Hammett
 Yip Harburg Foundation
 Jewish Federation of Northeastern
 New York
Scott T. Johnson

James '79 and Christine '93 Karcher
Marlene '91 and Alan Kaufman
James and Darlene Keane
 Pat J. Lefor
James W. Lytle
 MVMA Foundation
Barbara A. O'Connell '76
 Pitta Bishop Del Giorno Giblin
Mary Caroline Powers
 Prestwick Chase, Inc.
Price Chopper's Golub Foundation

Mark and Maria Rodgers
 Saratoga Hilton
Gal Tirosh '92
Edward S. Todd
Paul Tucci
Julia O. Wells Memorial Education
Foundation
Fred and Floy Willmott Foundation

Partners Society

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Anonymous
 Atlantic Bank New York
Morton '83, '95 and Florence Bahr
Guy L. Bassini '11
Frederick W. Baum
Richard Bonnabeau
 Fernand Brunschwig
 Theodore J. Bunch '94
Silvia Chelala

Robert Congemi
Brian F. Curran '80
Ruth M. Decker '74
Patrice M. DeCoster '03
Shelley Dixon
Margaret T. Evans
 Barbara Q. Ferrari '91
 Andrew U. Ferrari Foundation
Fraydun Foundation

General Electric Co./GE Foundation
 Lee Herman
 Hewlett Packard
Susan McDaniel Hohenhaus '03, '05
 Holiday Inn
Susan T. Hollis
HSBC Philanthropic Programs
 InsideTrack, Inc.

International Society for Technology
in Education

David '96 and Sandra '98 Kelter
Lake Placid Education Foundation

Lydia '13 and Roy Landesberg

Marjorie W. Lavin

Lana M. Limpert '89

Tom P. Mackey

Alan D. Mandell

Jennifer R. Manocherian '74

David and Ingrid McCauley

Janet McGregor '79, '81

Michael Merrill

Mary B. Nettleton

New York Commercial Bank

James T. Nichols

Northern Trust Company

NoVo Foundation

Online Learning Consortium, Inc.

Maryann C. Osborn '10

Elaine Patrice Perkins

Philene Foundation

Mary Raymond '99, '04

Schwab Charitable Fund

Claudia Shacter-deChabert '90

Nicole H. Shrimpton

Dave Smingler

William D. Socha '86

Stat Staff Professionals

David Theobald '13

Ann S. Turner '86

Charles and Natalie Wait

Michael Wales

Ralph and Irmgard Weil

Linda W. Weiss '83

The Estate of Virginia Weiss '88

Evelyn H. Wells

Karen West '84, '95

David C. Yamada '99

Investors Society

\$500 - \$999

Anonymous

The Adirondack Trust Company

Nicola Marae Allain

Jane W. Altes

Taimi M. Arnold

David M. Asch '83

Bank of New York Mellon Corporation

Keith Batman '76

John M. Beckem

Edward D. Bevan '01

VanRil A. Brown '00

Timothy B. Brown '79

Steven P. Capone '88

Rita D. Carozza

Mark L. Castle

Angela Champion '11

Anne P. Cobb

Leslie G. Cohen

Community Foundation for the

Greater Capital Region

Jane Cudmore

James '96 and Annette Del Rossi

Kristina G. Delbridge

Elaine M. Donohue '79

Regina Durazzo-Giordano '01

Mary Beth Edinburgh

Maurice Edwards

Terry Fokas '93

Charles Wayne Fox '79

Jonathan Franz

James A. Fumia '94

Julie A. Gedro

Cheryl Gray '93

Arthur W. Haberl '79

Grace Angela Henry

Willis S. Hilker '90

Elizabeth Hurley-Dasgupta

Lisa Johnson

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Mary G. Klinger

Maureen Kravec

Cynthia Krendl

Catherine J. Leaker

Dale Lewis

Katherine J. Lewis '93

Longfellows Hotel and

Conference Center

John B. Look '87

Althea E. Luehrsen '02, '10

Dorothy Lysyczyn '94, '05

Donna Mahar

David '11 and Michael Mancini

McGraw-Hill Companies

Joyce S. McKnight

Frances Mercer

Diane K. Michener '95

Doreen Downs Miller

Jeanette Mitchell '14

Christopher S. Moses '95

Mitchell S. Nesler

N.Y. Water Environment Association,

Genesee Valley Chapter

Janice Mary Novello '83

Deborah L. Oberhofer '05

Olde Bryan Inn

Claire M. Olds

Jeffrey B. Pascal '90, '92

◊ *Lorraine E. Peeler '88*

Patricia A. Pinto '98

Mary Ann Policastro '10

Barbara L. Post '07

Kathleen R. Pugh '89, '91

Barbara Rauschenbach

Patricia A. Ross '02

Rotary Club of Saratoga Springs

Alta S. Schallehn

Linda A. Schlaffer '86

Dorothy Semans '82

Paul L. Siegel '95

Margaruite F. Smith

Michael Spitzer

Elizabeth H. Steltenpohl

Susan C. Stevens '92 and Sam James

SUNY Native American

Western Consortium

Catherine M. Szenczy '87

Diane Thiele

Diane Thompson

Toby and Melissa Tobrocke

Nancy L. Travers

Charles P. Trudel '79, '95

Clarissa E. Tybaert '97

Melva D. Visher '96, '83

Charles V. Wait '01

Michael T. Walczyk '99

Cynthia Ward

Barry A. White '96

Alan Wilt

John C. Wilt

Bill Wilt

Maureen Winney

Richard G. Wishnie '03

Diana Worby

Frank Zuraf

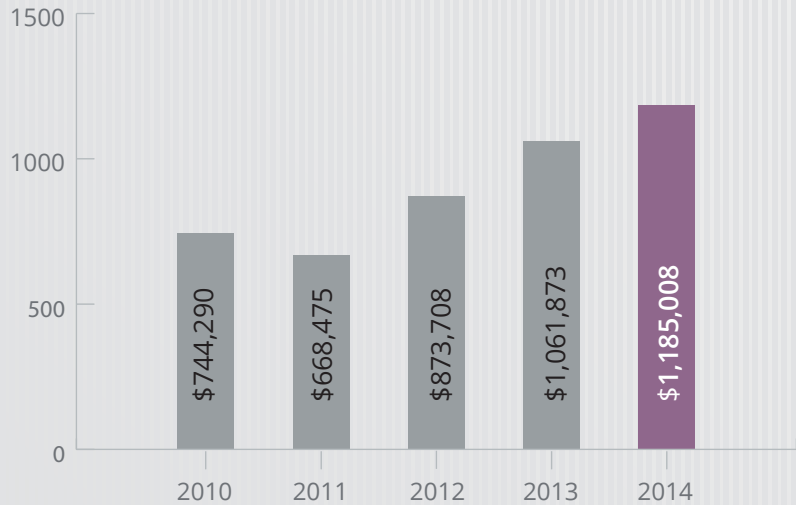
◊ represents deceased; Consecutive contributions of 20+ years are represented in bold; 10+ years in bold italics; 3+ years in italics. If your name is missing or incorrect, please contact us at 518-580-4965.

Financial REPORT

Through the support of our alumni, employees and friends, the Empire State College Foundation again showed impressive growth in 2014. As the college continues to adapt to the needs of our 21st-century learners, the foundation will provide invaluable support to our students, faculty and to program development. We remain grateful for your loyalty and your faith in our mission and our students.

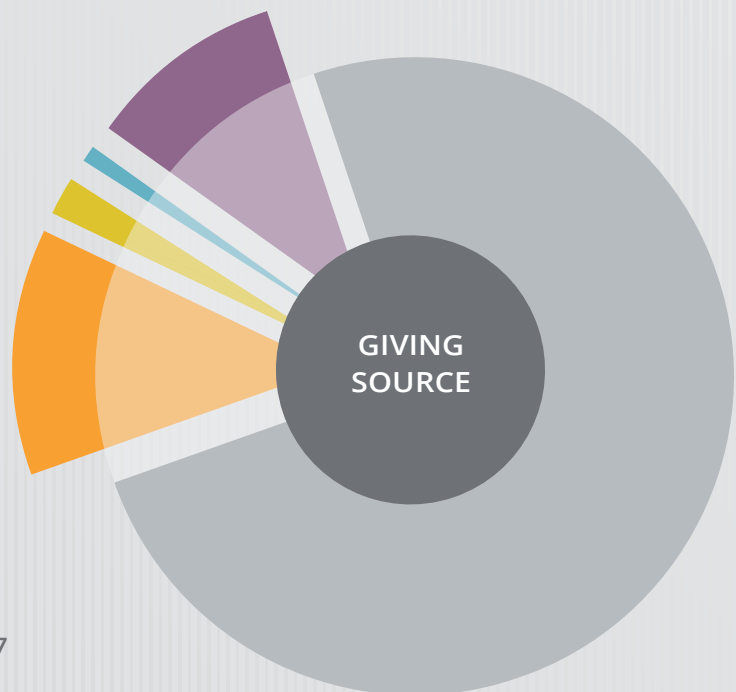
Total Giving to the Empire State College Foundation

For the second year in a row, giving to the foundation surpassed \$1 million.



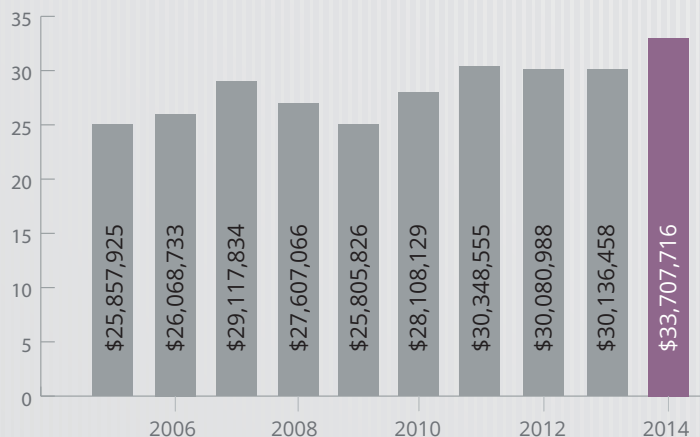
Total Giving by Source

The college's donor base is anchored by a strong foundation of alumni, who are joined by dedicated employees, friends and regional and national corporations and foundations. Among the 2,884 total donors, more than 360 of Empire State College's nearly 2,000 employees chose to devote their financial support, along with their professional talents, to the college.



GIVING SOURCE

- Alumni - 2,156
- Employees - 361
- Friends - 287
- Corporations - 57
- Foundations - 23

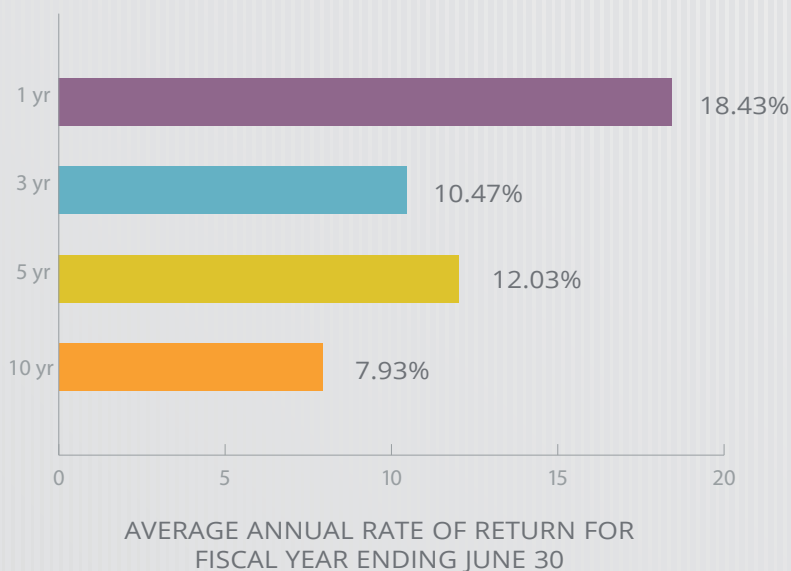


Total Foundation Assets

Through the generosity of our donors and sound fiscal management practices by the Foundation Board of Directors, the Empire State College Foundation's assets continue to grow at a steady pace, exceeding \$30 million for the fourth year in a row, and increasing by more than \$3.5 million in the past year alone.

Investment Portfolio Performance

The investment portfolio has been well-managed with an average rate of return of more than 18 percent in fiscal year 2014. Our portfolio features a well-considered mix of equity investments, along with fixed income investments and a small percentage in alternative investments, designed to balance long-term growth, while maximizing current profitability.



Chief among all the reasons I donate to Empire State College is to honor my late father, Dr. Robert Rodgers, a professor at the Niagara Frontier location for 28 years. His fierce loyalty to Empire State College was centered around its mission to provide a quality higher education to students who would otherwise be shut out of more traditional colleges.

Mark Rodgers

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Chairwoman

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Phillip B. Catchings
Boston, Mass.

Marian Conway, '96, '01, '04
Roslyn, N.Y.
Secretary

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Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Michael M. Cullen
Boston, Mass.

Susan L. Dake
Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Lawrence P. Doyle '94
Briarcliff Manor, N.Y.

Tina L. Evans '97
New York, N.Y.

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Merodie A. Hancock
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James R. Keane
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David J. Mazzetti '10
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Treasurer

Susan H. Turben '72, '05
Kirtland Hills, Ohio

Charles V. Wait Jr.
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Karen West '84, '95
Fredonia, N.Y.

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G. Angela Henry
Hyde Park, N.Y.

Lori A. Jiava '12
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Patricia E. Salkin
Albany, N.Y.

Lewis P. Trippett
White Plains, N.Y.

Daniel E. Wall
Latham, N.Y.

Linda W. Weiss '83
Albany, N.Y.

I give because Empire State College offered me a chance to finish college in a way that fit in with my life – having completed less than two years of college and with five children at home. The independent study allowed me needed flexibility with my limited time.

Jennifer Manocherian '74





Center for Distance Learning

Michele Graham '14 was promoted to manager, Project Management Office, at the Preferred Mutual Insurance Co. She is responsible for overseeing the Project Management Office, setting the corporate strategy for project management and providing leadership in establishing a project-centric culture within the company. She earned her bachelor's degree in Business, Management and Economics.

Tiffany Mason, a student who expects to graduate this year, is a motivational speaker, self-help author and personal development coach. She has completed an educational presentation that she hopes to share with the college community, "The Power of Adversity: Three-Part Method to Living a Purposeful Life."

Keelie Sheridan '10 was awarded a Mitchell Scholarship to pursue her MFA in theater directing at Trinity College in Dublin in 2015. In Ireland, Sheridan will continue her exploration of Aeschylus' classic Greek tragedies, "The Oresteia" trilogy, through the lens of Irish history. The nationwide competition attracted 270 applicants for the 12 scholarships, named in honor of George Mitchell Jr. and the former Maine

senator's contributions to the Northern Ireland peace process. Recipients are chosen on the basis of academic distinction, leadership and service, and spend a year of post-graduate study at institutions of higher learning in Ireland and Northern Ireland. The scholarship is the flagship project of the nonprofit U.S.-Ireland Alliance, founded in 1998 by Trina Vargo, a former foreign policy adviser to Ted Kennedy, who also was heavily involved in the Northern Ireland peace process.

Chuck Van Vorst '10, navy chief (ret.), has taken a position as a veteran's education counselor at Excelsior College, in Albany, N.Y. He also is the president of the New York State Advisory Council on Military Education.

Central New York Region

Mary Kay Cunningham '05 has received the prestigious M. Juanita Guess Award for Exemplary Performance from the American Foreign Service Association. She was awarded the honor by the Department of State last June. These awards, which began in 1968, recognize those in the Foreign Service community whose contributions are often overlooked, despite being some of the most vital

parts of its mission. The M. Juanita Guess Award is given to a community liaison officer who has demonstrated outstanding dedication and energy assisting the families serving at an overseas post. Cunningham served at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, where she created programs, including holiday events and memorial services to help grieving families.

Michael Hubbard '75, mental health specialist in the sex offender treatment program at Oregon State Hospital, recently had two articles published in *Counseling Today*.

Genesee Valley Region

Elaine Mansfield '83 just released her memoir, "Leaning Into Love: A Spiritual Journey Through Grief." Written after the death of her husband, it's a story of love, hope, determination and triumph, and is aimed at the half-million women who lose spouses each year. Mansfield also facilitates bereavement support groups at Hospicare and Palliative Care Services in Ithaca, N.Y., and writes for the Hospicare newsletter and website. Her articles can be found in *The Healing Muse*, *Open to Hope*, *Shambhala Sun Space*, *Caring.com*, *Alzheimers.net*, *GriefHealing* and *elephantjournal*.

Sandra Martin '07, '08, a past president of the National Association of Enrolled Agents and an adjunct mentor at Empire State College, has been honored by The National Association of Enrolled Agents (NAEA) with the Founders Award in recognition of her significant contribution and service to NAEA and its members. This lifetime achievement award is the association's highest recognition. Enrolled agents are federally licensed tax practitioners who may represent clients before the IRS. The winners were announced during the annual awards ceremony at the 2014 NAEA National Conference last August.

Peter Milliman '12 served as volunteer head coach for Team Russia at the 38-team Federation of International Lacrosse Men's Lacrosse World Championship in Denver last July. Milliman is a three-time All-American at NCAA Division III Gettysburg College and the head coach and defensive coordinator at Cornell University. The core players were with the Moscow Rebels Lacrosse Club, founded in 2007. It was Russia's first appearance in the World Championship.

David Shakes '85 directed a play, "Project Baldwin" featuring the works of writer James Baldwin, in Rochester in January.

Shakes is a Rochester-area actor and director who was introduced to Baldwin's work 50 years ago, and was impressed by his take on race relations. The musicians and cast were drawn from the local acting and musical community and performed as The North Star Players, in homage to newspaperman and abolitionist Frederick Douglass. Baldwin was among those who marched from Selma to Montgomery in support of voting rights, and is known for such works as "The Fire Next Time" and "Notes of a Native Son." Besides working as an actor and director, Shakes has worked as a counselor and social worker at the Lewis Street Center and for the Rochester City School District.

Charlie Monte Verde '09 works for Amtrak in the Government Affairs Department in Chicago. He is grateful to the college for providing the only way he could go back to school. As a result of his experience, his brother, Philip, is a student at the Genesee Valley location in Rochester.

Hudson Valley Region

Obed Figueroa '00 had a paper, "The Significance of Recruiting Underrepresented Minorities in Medicine," accepted for publication by Medical Education Online. Figueroa has a Master of Arts in Higher Education,

and has been accepted at Northeastern University as a doctoral candidate in education.

Michael Kaufman '14 had a short comic play, "They Just Didn't Understand," performed during The Theater Project's second annual Think Fast One-Act Playwright Competition, in February, at the Burgdorff Center for the Performing Arts in Maplewood, N.J. Open to playwrights in the New Jersey-New York area, the winner received a \$500 prize for best play, announced immediately after the final performance on Feb. 15. Director Paul Ellis assembled an experienced cast for "They Just Didn't Understand," including veteran actor and radio announcer George Flowers, Michael Frizalone of Monroe, Ashanti Williams of Englewood, N.J., and former Warwick resident Gahlia Greene-Kaufman of Jersey City. "The play uses characters created by some of the greatest playwrights of all time to explore the drama of male – female communication in a comedic way," says Kaufman. "The best lines in my play come directly from theirs." Kaufman says he was inspired to write the play after taking a course with Mentor Steven Lewis. Founded in 1994, The Theater Project's purpose is to showcase new or lesser-known plays and playwrights.

Emily Weiner '95 has been a grant writer for Western Washington University Foundation, in Bellingham, Wash., since July 2014.

International Programs

A team of five Empire State College students who are part of the college's partnership with University of New York in Prague, won the prestigious CFA Research Challenge 2015 for the third year in a row. The team members were **Michaela Čunderlíková** (team leader), **Denisa Valsová**, **Lenka Housková**, **Brian Bradley** and **Jakub Jurga**. They competed against teams from Charles University, The University of Economics in Prague, the Anglo-American University and CERGE-EI. The winning team represents the Czech Republic in the Regional European Final in Amsterdam this spring. The team was guided and advised by ESC mentor Tanweer Ali. The Research Challenge, organized globally by the CFA Institute, is an annual global competition that provides university students with intensive training in financial analysis. Students gain real-world experience as they assume the role of a research analyst and are tested on their ability to value a stock, write an initiation-of-coverage report and present their recommendations. In the Czech round of this competition, participants

had to make their own financial analyses with an investment recommendation whether to buy, sell or hold shares of Pegas Nonwovens, which are traded on the Prague Stock Exchange.

Sofija Ftēs '14 has just been accepted by the University of Cambridge, England, to a master's program in multi-disciplinary gender studies. She is only the sixth of the college's graduates who have been accepted to Cambridge. "As a young Libyan-Serbian woman, her personal story is fascinating and her commitment to gender equality in Libya is inspiring," says Mentor Tanweer Ali.

Abdulkarim Ezmerli has been appointed account manager in public relations at Arabia Co.

Lebanon student **Charbel Ghanime** just released a music video he produced on YouTube. Ghanime is an accomplished pianist and vocalist.

Hudson Jacob '12, an alumnus of the Dominican Republic program, was granted a scholarship, and in September started a Master in Business Management with a concentration in industrial control with the Sup De Co Business School, Montpellier, France.

Long Island Region

Nasreen Azad, a student, has launched a musical career with her husband.

They perform in New York City and Long Island. She is an accomplished vocalist who performs in Bengali, English, Hindi and Urdu. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in history.

Joanne DeSimone '08 had her play, "Livvie and J. de Beau in the Green Room," performed as part of the Manhattan Repertory Spring One-Act Competition held in late March. The play is described by the repertory group as "Famed actresses and feuding sisters, Olivia de Havilland and Joan Fontaine, about to be interviewed on TV, go a few 'ladylike' rounds in the Green Room." DeSimone's play was one of 30 competing for a \$1,000 prize. The Manhattan Repertory is a forum for playwrights, directors and actors to share and explore their craft. At this writing, the results of the competition were not yet known. To find out if DeSimone won, go to <http://manhattanrep.com/spring-one-act-play-competition-2015/>

Joan Hertz '79 writes that after attending Empire State College, "the whole world opened up..." She earned a Master of Social Work, a Ph.D. and then a post-graduate certificate in psychoanalysis.

Maire Liberace '78, who graduated from the Nanuet location with a bachelor's degree in Community and Human Services, and who

has been on the faculty of Rockland Community College since 1982, was recognized with a SUNY Distinguished Service Professorship from the SUNY Board of Trustees. She is one of 11 faculty members at SUNY schools throughout the state to be so recognized last year. In 2005, she also was a recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence. Distinguished Professorship honorees must have demonstrated substantial distinguished service not only at the campus and state university levels, but also at the community, regional and state levels. Liberace developed and taught courses on the undergraduate and graduate levels in speech, philosophy, life skills and Irish studies. She has held a number of college administrative positions.

Susan Moriarty Miele '08, has been appointed library media specialist for the John F. Kennedy High School in Plainview-Old Bethage on Long Island.

Ed Shevlin '11, '14 started his master's and Ph.D. work at New York University in Irish Studies. He also will be working for the Pat Finucane Centre in Northern Ireland as a 2015 NYU Gallatin Global Human Rights Research Fellow.

Armando Schuppe '07, has published his first novel, "Those Adaptable to

bequest: (noun) a legacy.
(Sentence) A bequest is a great way to leave your legacy at Empire State College

Why consider a bequest?

- **Ease and Flexibility:** Including a simple bequest provision in your will is easy to do and lets you balance your philanthropic goals with your concerns about your future.
- **Sensibility:** Your gift can be made as a fixed dollar amount or a percentage of your estate, allowing you to benefit Empire State College and your loved ones in a manner that is best for you and your circumstances.
- **To Give Back:** Your support will make a lasting impact on students and you can feel great knowing that your gift has the power to transform the lives of students.

esc.edu/plangifts

800-847-3000, ext. 2793



SUNY EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

Alone we can do so little,
together
we can
do
so much.

– Helen Keller

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the more than 2,800 alumni, employees and friends who have come together to help support our students.

Visit www.esc.edu/SupportESC to make your gift today. Our students are counting on you.



Change,” a suspense thriller that follows Troy, a young lab technician who stumbles on three mysterious stones in a pouch dating back to Darwin’s expedition off the Islands of South America’s Tierra del Fuego.

Playwright **Sal St. George '02** had a major feature story about his work in the theater and his company, St. George Living History Productions, Inc., published in *Newsday*’s Act 2. After earning his bachelor’s degree from the college in theater arts, St. George worked as a magician and stand-up comic. His love of theater comedy has prompted him to write plays about people such as Red Skelton, Bob Hope, Lucille Ball and Doris Day in collaboration with groups such as the Ward Melville Heritage organization. He also writes and directs shows for theme parks including Busch Gardens, Six Flags and Sea World, as well as Disney. One of his most popular productions is “Running Scared, Running Free,” his play about slaves who escaped on the Underground Railroad. The play has become an annual offering for Black History Month at Ward Melville.

Northeast Region

Rebecca Boire-West '08, owner of Body in Balance Therapy, is a licensed massage therapist, certified trainer and health coach. Her business in Plattsburgh, N.Y., has

affiliated with Adirondack Physical Therapy. She specializes in therapeutic, medical massage, as well as pregnancy and labor massage. She says she strives to bring her clients into balance by providing personalized care and getting them to understand the benefits of massage and healthy living.

June Bischoff '06 was named software analyst and developer by IntegraOptics. She is responsible for assessing user requirements and implementing customizations to IntegraOptics software and applications. Most recently, Bischoff was a software developer for ADS Business Intelligence in Albany, N.Y.

Cynthia Pooler '79, who retired after 33 years as a clerical worker in the New York State Labor Department’s unemployment insurance division, hosts an Internet radio show, Focus on Albany, interviewing legislators. For the past year, she has been posting a weekly podcast on BlogTalkRadio, a Web-based platform that allows callers to host a live call-in Internet broadcast using a computer and a phone.

Niagara Frontier Region

Glen Brubaker '04 was honored for 10 years of service at Alfred State College as director of facility services.

Allegany ARC honored employees **Corinna McKnight '02, '03** and **Kila Cook '11** for 25 and 20 years of service respectively.

Cynthia Mullen '99 was honored for 25 years of service and **Susan Wellington '12** was honored for 15 years of service at Alfred University. Mullen works at the College of Ceramics and Wellington is in International Programs.

Mary Jo Neri '13 recently received a promotion at People Inc., to director of revenue management. She is responsible for overseeing accounts receivable, internal audits and benefits. Neri joined People Inc. in 2007 as assistant controller and rose through the ranks to become director of revenue management in 2014. In her seven years with the human resources agency, Neri has been instrumental in improving cash flow and streamlining the billing and cash-application processes through automation.

Bonita Penfold '84 received the 2014 Angus MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education from the Universalist Association at its general assembly in Providence, R.I. She is employed as director of religious education at Melrose Unitarian Universalist Church.

Richard L. Taczowski '02 accepted a Restoration and Community Engagement award from Preservation

Buffalo Niagara, on behalf of Schoolhouse No. 8 History Center and Museum. As founder and president of Friends of Schoolhouse No. 8, Inc., Taczowski spearheaded efforts to save and restore the one-room schoolhouse near the hamlet of Lawtons, later relocated into the village of North Collins. A Buffalo resident, Taczowski holds an A.S. from Genesee Community College, a B.S. from Empire State College and a Master's of Urban Planning from the University at Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning.

New York City Region

Nancy Azara '74 had an essay published in The Brooklyn Rail titled "The Language of Art is Still Defined by Men." She also was one of the artists in the show, Milk & Night, at the Sensei Gallery, a collective of guest artists and curators in New York City, who explore the role of feminism in the art world.

Colleen Cosgrove '06 and **Lisa Maynard '12**, with mentors Lynda Crawford and Lucy Winner, have curated a selection of plays developed in Crawford's playwriting lab at the Metropolitan location, which has been published as the first in a series of collected plays with Indie Theater Now. Indie Theater Now was launched in August 2011 as an online play-publishing service for the growing independent

theater community. Plays on the site have been adopted as required texts in theater classes in higher education, and are used by theater companies as a resource for new scripts. The playwrights all retain their own copyrights and can take their plays off the site after six months.

Aymara Sayeeda Moreno '02, an adjunct instructor with the college, has been awarded the San Francisco Film Society/Hearst Screenwriting Grant. The grant will support the adaptation of her award-winning short film, "White," into a feature-length film. The San Francisco Film Society grants are among the most prestigious development awards in the world of American independent film making. Past project winners have included "Beasts of the Southern Wild," "Fruitvale Station" and "Love is Strange."

School for Graduate Studies

Matt Canuteson, a graduate student in Social and Public Policy, has been awarded the SAMHSA-VOICE Consumer/Peer Leadership Award to recognize his efforts in reducing the discrimination and misperceptions associated with behavioral health conditions and making a positive impact on communities, workplaces or schools across the country. The award ceremony took place on the UCLA campus

in California in August. Canuteson is pursuing an M.A. in Social and Public Policy at Empire State College and he is the assistant director at Policy Research Inc., Statewide Family and Consumer Networks Technical Assistance Center.

Kathleen M. Curry '99 has published the young adult historical novel "The Adirondack Cannon Mystery" that combines fact, oral tradition, legends and folklore concerning Sir John Johnson's escape to Canada in 1776. Also, her poems were used in a musical composition of the same name by Blaise Ferrandino of Texas Christian University and performed at the university in 2012.

Julian Galimo, a student in the Master of Arts in Social and Public Policy program and a community development specialist for the City of Rome, N.Y., was honored by the Central New York Business Journal as one of its 40 Under 40 awardees. The journal honors individuals based on their career accomplishments, community involvement and leadership role in Central New York. Galimo holds a bachelor's degree from the college of St. Rose.

Amelia Gerbino '09 was recognized for the Dissertation of the Year from the Association for the Study of Higher Education. After earning her Master of

Letter to the Editor

It is my pleasure to refer my client to Empire State College. In thinking about making this contact, it initiated my taking a jog down memory lane where I found the rectangular route signs pointing to Empire State College, Manhattan Campus (Metropolitan location).

This is where my academic career really took seed. Empire's greatest resource – the emotional support offered to adults returning or starting college – helped me to garner and acknowledge – “Yes ... I can do this ... I'm smart!”

There you have it ... my testimonial.

Louise Abitbol MSW, R-LCSW
psychotherapist

Arts in Liberal Studies, she went on to the University of Rochester for a Ph.D. in higher education and is now working as an assistant professor in Missouri.

Denise Grandits '07 was selected for the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Ninth Annual Media Literacy Award. She was recognized for her persistence in devising innovative and imaginative application of media analysis and media composition in English studies. The award was presented at the NCTE Annual Convention in Washington, D.C., in November. The award included a plaque and a cash prize of \$2,000.

Mary Ellen Lopata '98 and her husband, Casey, recently celebrated 10 years of Fortunate Families. This is a nationwide resource, networking, and story-sharing ministry to, for and with parents dedicated to seeking moral equality and justice for LGBT persons and their families.

Althea Luehrsen '02, '10 was recognized in October by the Twentieth Century Club as an Outstanding Women Honoree. Luehrsen is executive director of Leadership Buffalo. She believes strongly in the Buffalo community, according to the group, “and is determined to lead the organization in

its quest to ‘Make Buffalo Better.’” The Twentieth Century Club of Buffalo is one of the oldest and most historic women’s clubs in the U.S.

Karen Macier '00 has been named director of the United Way of Seneca County. Board Chair Jeff Hoffman wrote, “Her expertise, energy and enthusiasm will move us forward as a true change agent for Seneca County.” Macier was director of program development at East Hill Family Medical Center. She earned her master’s degree in Labor and Policy Studies.

Joan Mellon '02, a graduate of the college’s Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program, had a show, “Joan Mellon Paintings,” at the college’s Hudson Valley regional location.

In Memoriam

Margaret (Peg) Prince Morrison, Ph.D., who founded the Watertown location in 1977, died Nov. 15, 2014.

A native of Newport, N.H., Morrison earned her Ph.D. in Comparative

Literature from Binghamton University. She was a lover of antiques and ran a small antique business for many years after her retirement.

She is survived by two daughters, a son and two granddaughters.

Jay Putt '85, '88, a former mentor with the Hauppauge and Riverhead units and Center for Distance Learning, passed away on Feb. 7, 2015.

Putt began at Swarthmore College, which he left to join the Air Force. Following active duty, he entered Empire State College, studied economics, business and policy studies, and was one of the first graduates of the college’s M.A. in Business and Policy Studies program. His mentoring career started at the Hauppauge location and continued at the Center for Distance Learning. He engaged in Ph.D. studies at Stony Brook, where he taught in that institution’s graduate program.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Gale.

Please Stay Connected!

Tell us what’s new with you. Do you have a new job, a promotion, an award, a new publication, new exhibit, etc.? We’d love to hear from you. Send us your news and photos. Just go to: www.esc.edu/Alumni-Info.

SARATOGA SPRINGS



TURNS 100

AND THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION HAS ALREADY BEGUN!

It's time to start making your plans to come to our signature summer events.

Our annual day at Saratoga Race Course is Friday, Aug. 21, 2015

Our annual evening at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center will be on Aug. 13, 2015.

This charming and historic community has much to offer our summer guests. And this year, there will be even more to do in Saratoga Springs as we celebrate our centennial.

In addition to world class thoroughbred racing, there are art galleries, historic sites, state parks, hiking trails and a downtown shopping district with boutiques and quaint shops tucked among its many eateries and cafes.

We invite you to come visit Saratoga and of course, spend time with good friends at Empire State College.

For our out of town visitors, we will secure room blocks at our local hotels.

For more information on all of our college events, go to www.esc.edu/AlumniEvents.





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recycled paper*

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It makes me happy and excited to make the world a better place. Philanthropy is not about recognition, it's about helping your neighbor.

Erik Hartnett

Niagara Frontier Center Alumni Student Association
Scholarship Recipient