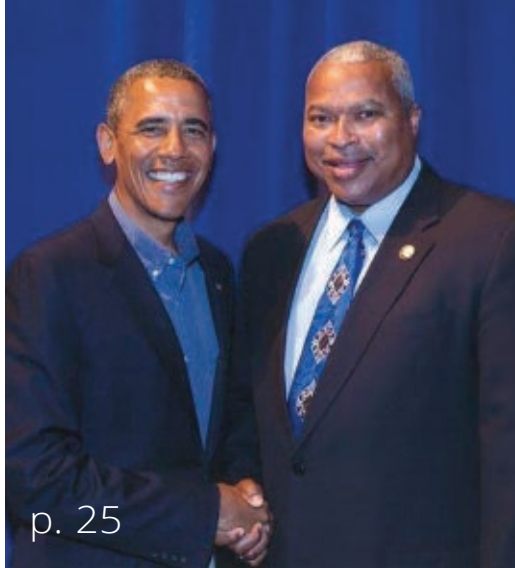


CONNECTIONS

THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE MAGAZINE | Winter 2015



New Location
Opening
this Spring



DEPARTMENTS

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Cover: The college's newest building located in the Rochester area at 680 Westfall Road, Brighton, will open in the spring of 2016. Photo Credit: Ria Tafani



CONNECTIONS

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Empire State College Magazine

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Events for the College Community

For the annual Alumni Student Day at the Races at Saratoga Race Course, attendees (far left) donned their finery.

A crowd gathered at the Automobile Museum in Saratoga Spa State Park for a reception preceding an evening musical performance at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center.

Students from The Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies surround their adjunct instructor Lainie Kitt at the Black History event held at the Cooper Union in Manhattan.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Empire's Unparalleled Education

It is an exciting time at Empire State College. Over the past year and a half, we have been looking closely at how we deliver our academic programs and student supports – face to face and virtually – and exploring ways to make the experiences of our students even better. We have engaged in this comprehensive assessment so we can remain at the front of the pack in effectively meeting the needs of today's students and making what we offer more widely available and accessible across the state of New York, throughout the country and around the globe.

We are erecting new state-of-the-art buildings that will increase our statewide connectivity. The first one, pictured on our magazine cover, is opening in the Rochester area this spring, and, within 18 months, another new building will open in eastern Long Island.

We also are realigning our academic, recruitment and student support structures to ensure all students receive unfettered access to the college's rich array of academic opportunities.

Through all these important changes, the college's focus remains

the same – to provide our learners with the opportunity for a unique and purposeful college experience over and above those offered by other access-oriented institutions.

The quality and diversity of our academic offerings are unmatched by our competitors. And, consider the variety of ways to study this vast array of subject material – online, face to face, independently, in group studies, at residencies or a blend of any or all of these options. Combine this with our pioneering models for mentor-guided study and prior learning assessment and add in all the opportunities for student engagement, such as the Wellness Conference, the Student Academic Conference and the myriad student clubs – from Long Island to Buffalo – and you easily can see why SUNY Empire rates so high in student satisfaction.

Yet again, in 2015, we were No. 1 in student satisfaction.

All these features culminate in a unique mix of access, quality, service and individual relevance that makes SUNY Empire an unparalleled educational choice for nontraditional learners.

This issue of the magazine explores the impact of this one-of-

a-kind experience and how the college's dedication to social justice and service to humankind, threaded through our academic offerings and at the root of our student engagement opportunities, realizes itself in the lives and work of many SUNY Empire students and alumni.

I am particularly pleased about one of the stories profiling several alumni who now work for the college. They are talented, contributing members of our faculty and staff who, each day, bring to their jobs a passion for their alma mater and a commitment to its mission.

Clearly, we believe enough in the value of the educational experience the college offers that we hire and invest in those who have taken advantage of it. They, like you, have benefited from attending SUNY Empire State College, truly the gold standard for nontraditional education.

Merodie A. Hancock
President

PROFILE

by Stephanie Lamphere

Walter Williams Vice President for Advancement

Walter joined the newly named Office of Advancement (previously known as the Office of External Affairs) in May 2015. He recently sat down to answer a few questions.

Tell us about your background in higher education.

I began my career at Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania. From there I spent time at Ithaca College, Cornell University, Syracuse University and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, all in New York.

What was your own education like?

My undergraduate degree is in journalism and public relations from the University of Mississippi in Oxford. While working at Ithaca College, I completed a graduate degree in communications. It was a challenge to balance work and study, which helps me understand the challenges our students face in achieving that balance.

Why did you decide to go into the field of advancement?

I found myself there early in my career and realized that I enjoyed helping others, meeting interesting people and simply being in an educational setting. My job is really about helping others achieve their goals. Whether it's the institution, an outside organization, our alumni and students, an individual donor or our faculty and staff, advancement helps bring all of these moving parts together.

What about the college attracted you to the position?

One of the aspects that I find most intriguing about Empire State College is taking something like our geographic diversity, which some might consider a detriment to fundraising and alumni relations, and leveraging that in a positive way. This can be a tremendous advantage. Because of our dispersed model, we are embedded in communities throughout the state of New York. That's a very exciting opportunity.

What is the role of the Office of Advancement?

Advancement is much more than marketing and fundraising. It is about finding common cause, building a sense of community around that cause, and then determining how to meet both the goals of the institution and the donor. In a nutshell, it is about finding partners who believe in your core mission and priorities and then engaging them in the life cycle of the institution.

What do you like best about your job so far?

I really believe in education. Having an educated society strengthens our communities. What excites me most about Empire State College is that we are offering that opportunity to individuals who may have felt education wasn't an option for them. As I attended commencement ceremonies and saw the diversity among students, children cheering on their mom or dad, proud spouses and partners, and the strong connections between mentors and students, it solidified for me that I made the right choice in coming here.



Walter Williams

ACHIEVEMENTS



Meg Benke

Meg Benke, professor and academic area coordinator of SUNY Empire's School for Graduate Studies, was awarded a grant from the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program to do research at the Waterford Institute of Technology in Ireland during the fall term of 2015. A nationally

and internationally recognized expert in distance education, online and adult education and learning, Benke will be the first Fulbright visiting researcher to collaborate with Waterford. She and her Waterford colleagues will identify how teachers and lecturers can work with technology to enhance learning in the context of Waterford's teacher education programs.



Patricia Isaac

Patricia Isaac, associate professor in the college's M.A.T. program, was recognized by the Syracuse City School District for her work as a volunteer "who gives tirelessly of her time, talent and energy to help the students and staff of the Syracuse City School District."

Suzanne Hayes, director of library information services in the Office of Academic Affairs, presented her research paper "Expanding Learning Presence to Account for Direction of Regulative Intent: Self-, Co- and Shared Regulation in Online Learning," at the 2015 American Educational Research Association conference in Chicago.



Anna Bates

Associate Professor **Anna Bates** of the Hudson Valley region's Newburgh location, chaired a panel at the Far West Popular Culture Association's annual meeting in Las Vegas, exploring "Creatures and Their Creators: From Conan to The Watchmen."



Tom Grunfeld

Metropolitan Center Professor **Tom Grunfeld**, a SUNY distinguished teaching professor who specializes in Central and East Asian Studies, attended a conference at the Harbin Engineering University in China and conducted workshops for graduate students and faculty there. He also conducted a workshop for researchers at the China Tibetology Center in Beijing.

Anant Deshpande, assistant professor and academic area coordinator in Business, Management and Economics, at the Center for Distance Learning, along with Center for Distance Learning Adjunct Instructor **Christine Hill**, co-authored "Leadership Styles: A Case of Two Hospitals in the U.S." for presentation at the Northeast DSI conference and publication in its proceedings.



Tracy Galuski

Tracy Galuski, assistant professor and area coordinator for Early Childhood Studies at the Center for Distance Learning, has published an article titled "Positive Guidance Through the Ages." She brings stories of her experiences as a mother, teacher and

administrator to her online classes, where she teaches topics in early childhood and child development.



Margaret Sithole

Business, Management and Economics Assistant Professor **Margaret Sithole**, in Central New York, has been named secretary of the board of directors of the Preservation Association of Central New York, Inc.

Associate Professor **Barbara Tramonte** has new poems published in the online literary magazine FRiGG, Spring 2015 issue.



Margaret Souza

Margaret Souza, associate professor in the Community and Human Services area of study on Staten Island, attended the American Anthropological Association annual meeting in Washington, D.C., where she organized a panel, "Producing Anthropological Knowledge with a Focus on Death and

Mourning." Her paper for the panel was titled, "The Good Death."

Mindy Kronenberg, a lecturer in the arts and cultural studies at the Riverhead location on Long Island, was asked by the editors of a new literary journal, *Form Quarterly*, to write an introduction for its debut issue focusing on sonnets, the first in a series of classical and contemporary literary forms and genres. Additionally, she and alumnus Ed Stever, editor of the *Suffolk County Poetry Review*, had poems published in the periodical's inaugural issue.



Rick Savior

Rick Savior, assistant professor of Business, Management and Economics in Metropolitan New York, authored "Lessons in University Leadership: Reports from Religious and Secular University Presidents," for the *Journal of Higher Education Management*. The paper summarizes his research on

senior leadership practices at private/secular and private/religious-affiliated colleges and universities to identify differences in exemplary leadership practices as they relate to the personal and institutional demographics of the respondents to improve organizational effectiveness.



Nataly Tcherepashenets

Nataly Tcherepashenets, associate professor and area coordinator for World Languages at the Center for Distance Learning, has published a book, "Globalizing Online: Telecollaboration, Internationalization and Social Justice." The book, which she edited, comprises essays

contributed by a team of international scholars from Croatia, France, Lebanon, Mexico, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States.



Dianne Ramdeholl

Assistant Professor **Dianne Ramdeholl**, coordinator of the Master of Arts in Adult Learning, presented current research at the World Social Forum on Migrations in Johannesburg, South Africa. Her presentation focused on exploring the roles of popular education methodologies in

adult literacy and activist education. This research is part of a larger study, which will culminate in a guide to be disseminated to New York City adult literacy community practitioners



Ruifang Hope Sun

Ruifang Hope Sun, assistant professor and program coordinator for the Graduate Certificate in Project Management in the School for Graduate Studies, co-authored a paper with Professor **Ivan Ivanov** titled "Using Socio-Technical System Methodology to Analyze

Emerging Information Technology Implementation in the Higher Education Settings." It was published in *WIT Transactions on Information and Communication Technologies*. Sun presented their paper at the International Conference on Information Management (ICIM 2015) in Guilin, China. Ivanov also presented his research on "Shaping IT Capabilities to the Business Strategy: Capitalizing on Emerging Technologies and Trends" at Politecnico de Milano, in Italy. The paper was accepted for presentation at the fifth International Symposium on Business Modeling and Software Design and publication by Science and Technology Press.



Susan Tower Hollis

Susan Tower Hollis, professor in the School for Graduate Studies, published "Rivka Ulmer's Egyptian Cultural Icons in Midrash: An Egyptologist's Response" in *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*, Vol. 33, No. 2 (Winter 2015). She also had published three accompanying

papers from a panel she served on as part of the Midrash Section of the Society of Biblical Literature's Annual Meeting.



Dan Nyaronga

Assistant Professor **Dan Nyaronga** of the college's Buffalo location and Assistant Professor in the School for Graduate Studies **Roxana Toma** co-authored an article for the American Psychological Association's Journal of Military Psychology titled "Student Service Members/Veterans' Mental Health: Who is at a greater risk for PTS symptoms on college campuses?" Using a cross-sectional design, the study surveyed 144 ESC students, who are service members and military veterans, to determine whether posttraumatic

stress symptoms are significantly correlated with demographic factors, risk factors and support resources. Toma and Nyaronga also published "Female Genital Cutting, Interpersonal Violence and Depression."



Roxana Toma



Rhianna Rogers

Buffalo region Assistant Professor **Rhianna Rogers** and Faculty Instructional Technologist **Nathan Whitley-Grassi** received Open SUNY Center for Online Teaching Excellence and Effective Practice awards at the Center for Online Teaching Excellence

Summit. Rogers was honored for her work with open education resources and her method of creation and implementation called the DAURAS approach (develop, apply, use, re-use, assess, share).



Joanne Levine

Joanne Levine, interim associate dean at the Center for Distance Learning, presented her research on "Teaching Group Work at a Distance Using an Asynchronous Online Role-Play" at the 2015 Indiana University School of Social Work and Council on Social

Work Education Conference on Social Work Distance Education in Indianapolis. This was the first national conference on distance education in social work, with more than 100 presentations from accredited social work programs across the country.



Sewon Kim

Assistant Professor **Sewon Kim**, serving in the college's Northeast region, has published a book chapter on research methods (structural equation modeling) in the Palgrave Handbook of Research Design in Business and Management.

Kim also published an article in The Journal of Applied Behavioral Science, which is abstracted and indexed in the Thomson Reuters Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) in the area of management. He has served as the "best dissertation" examiner for the Academy of Management and the Association for Talent Development and is chairman for the AHRD Malcolm S. Knowles Dissertation Award for the term 2014-2016.



Jim Wunsch

Jim Wunsch, professor and mentor of Historical Studies at New York City locations, edited City Kids, a special edition of Streetnotes, an interdisciplinary e-journal of city studies. The current issue includes Wunsch's essay, "The Street Life of Children in 20th Century New York," which is enhanced with 27 photographs.



Michael Merrill

The Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies Dean **Michael Merrill's** review of Robert Anthony Waters Jr., and Geert van Goethem, eds., "America's Global Labor Ambassadors: The International History of the AFL-CIO during the Cold War" (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013) was published by Cambridge Journals Online in the International Review of Social History.



Desiree Drindak

Office of Veteran and Military Education Interim Director **Desiree Drindak** participated in a panel presentation, "Awarding Academic Credit to Veterans," for Central New York Veterans' Higher Education Regional Consortium's spring meeting. SUNY Empire hosted

the event at the Central New York location in Syracuse. **Mindy Boenning**, coordinator of military and veteran services from the college's Fort Drum location, helped coordinate the meeting.



Layla Abdullah-Poulos



Jase Teoh

The college's Long Island location was well represented at the Popular Culture Association/ American Culture Association 2015 national conference in New Orleans. **Layla Abdullah-Poulos, Jase Teoh** and **Erin Young** presented, individually, at the event. Abdullah-Poulos, a M.A.L.S. student, presented "Breasts and Beards: A Lesson in Western Secular Extremism and the Significance of Cultural Relevancy." Young, a Cultural Studies assistant professor, presented "Stay Away from My Sister": Romance and the Asian American Male Canon."

Teoh, faculty educational technologist, presented "Using a Blended Approach to teach The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo: A cross disciplinary collaboration of mentors and the faculty instructional technologist at Empire State College, Long Island Center." Teoh also published a paper in the peer-reviewed, online journal, Drama Research, "Reflections on the Use of Drama as an Instructional Tool for Learning: An Action Research Study in the Junior (11th) and Senior (12th) Grade English Classroom." Her research engages with the areas of virtual worlds, avatars, identity formation, gaming industry, teacher education and technology, Web 2.0 tools, qualitative research, drama in education and the future of computing.



Julie Gedro

Associate Professor of Business, Management and Economics **Julie Gedro** received the 2015 Academy of Human Resource Development "Cutting Edge" award, which recognizes work that presents a new or innovative approach to thinking about human resource development. Her paper is titled "Considering the Relationship Between Identity and Career Development and the Implications for HRD Practice and Research." Also, Gedro co-authored the manuscript, "Navigating the Life Cycle of Trust in Developing Economies: One-size Solutions Do Not Fit All," published in Business and Society Review.



Kathleen Stone

SUNY awarded more than \$600,000 in 2015 Innovative Instruction Technology Grants (IITG), which fund campus innovations and initiatives that have the potential to be replicated throughout SUNY. Empire State College was the recipient for two of the 27 funded grant proposals. One is a partnership with ESC, Niagara Community College and Alfred State College for work to ensure faculty understand how to develop learning materials that are fully accessible and compliant with the American Disabilities Act, including the development of a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC). The ESC team will be led by **Kathleen Stone**, director of curriculum and instructional design for the Center for Distance Learning. The second is for the



Valeri Chukhlomin

continuation of work by CDL Mentor **Valeri Chukhlomin** and his team on "iMOOC101: Mastering American eLearning," which raises awareness and understanding among incoming international students about how American education systems function. Chukhlomin also was selected by Coursera, the educational technology company that funds the development of MOOCs, to create a four-course specialization on strategic self-management.



Audeliz Matias

Assistant Professor and Area Coordinator in Science, Mathematics and Technology **Audeliz Matias**, along with her colleague Alberto Aguilar Gonzalez, at Tecnologico de Monterrey Chihuahua Campus, Chihuahua, Mexico, have had their proposal for a book chapter accepted for publication in the edited volume "Engaging Dissonance: Developing Mindful Global Citizenship in Higher Education."

Nicole Christian, Business, Management and Economics adjunct lecturer on Long Island, was selected by the Long Island Business News as a member of the Class of 2015, "40 Under 40" as someone under the age of 40 who has distinguished herself in business, government, education or the nonprofit sector.

PORTFOLIO

by Hope Ferguson



Socialist Party as Family History

Jack Ross
National Labor College Partnership

The Socialist Party of America: A Complete History (Potomac Books)

For Jack Ross, the history of the Socialist Party of America is personal. His great-grandfather emigrated from Poland at age 14 to avoid being jailed because he was a socialist who openly opposed the Czarist regime. Ross' parents, organizers for the steelworkers in Pittsburgh, were friendly with leaders in the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) and had friends in the Socialist Party, which was allied with the labor and populist movements. It's in this context that Ross wrote a comprehensive history of the party, published

this year. On CSPAN's book show, in April, he said that the Socialist Party was "unique in that it had a consistent level of public support, wide-ranging impact and a more or less respected place in our national conversation for more than one-half of a century." The party is getting renewed attention because of the presidential candidacy of Sen. Bernie Sanders (I) of Vermont. The avowed socialist is attracting crowds in the thousands.

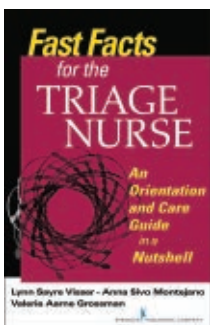


Childrens Book from College Studies

Jonathan Heilig '14
Center for Distance Learning

Jonathan Heilig has written a winsome children's book, "The Day the Sun Went Away," that grew out of his studies at Empire State College. "My professor at the time loved the book and pushed me to try to

have it published. It's taken me about five years to shake the cobwebs out, but it's finally finished, and I released it out into the world through Kickstarter," Heilig said. "I have dedicated hundreds of hours to editing and polishing the book." The opportunity to pursue a passion independently, but with faculty guidance, was one reason he landed at Empire State College, he said. The author/illustrator was born in Brooklyn, and raised in Boston, Mass. His father taught him to read with help from Maurice Sendak, Shel Silverstein and Theodore "Seuss" Geisel, the authors and illustrators who continue to inspire Heilig's stories and artwork. When they aren't working on creative projects, his wife, Ipek, teaches kindergarten in Brooklyn, and Heilig works in the safety department at a psychiatric hospital in Queens.



Seasoned Nurse Shares Knowledge

Valerie Aarne Grossman '12
School for Graduate Studies

MALS alumna Valerie Aarne Grossman has published her seventh book, "Fast Facts for the Triage Nurse," which she co-authored with two California colleagues. "Fast Facts" has been nominated for the American Journal of Nursing's "Book of the Year" award in the emergency/critical care category. Grossman is a nurse manager for Medical Imaging at Highland Hospital, University of Rochester. She's also on the advisory board for Elsevier's Nurse Education Today Journal, where she is responsible for reviewing manuscripts, raising the profile of the journal and encouraging new authors to submit their work to the journal. She serves on the New York State Board of Nursing and is the recipient of numerous awards and honors. She is widely published on a variety of health care issues, including emergency and radiological nursing. Her book,

available on Amazon.com, is described there as a "concise, user-friendly orientation guide and reference for new and seasoned nurses, paramedics, preceptors, educators, management teams and anyone else in triage situations."



Trilogy Examines Societal Issues

Kelly Williams '14
School for Graduate Studies

Kelly Williams, a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies graduate and college employee, has written "The Shadow Soul" (part of the Trailokya Trilogy), released in May. "Trailokya," (roughly "three spheres" in Hinduism), not only deals with the conflict of secularism and religion, but as the series continues, "it addresses sexual assault, domestic violence, acceptance of LGBTQ people and keeps a strong female character in the fore of the entire tale," said Williams. Her first book, "Blue Honor," was a hefty tome that tracked four families through the Civil War. Williams' childhood was spent in "voracious reading and hours of film watching," she recalled, feeding her love of storytelling. "A lot of ideas sound fantastic in the moment they hatch, but

that's simply not so if you give yourself time to mull them over – give them a little time to sit and breathe the air. Once that idea has percolated and I have a neat little story inside my head, then I start writing," Williams explained.



Master of Manipulating Photos

Steve Sabella '07
Center for Distance Learning

To view Steve Sabella's work, which can be seen on his website, stevesabella.com, is to be arrested by its austere beauty, its magnitude and its painterlyness. Beginning as a photographer, the artist "superimposes the photographs and erases them ... [rhythmizing] the image ... in the horizontal and vertical with no end in sight," observed Hubertus Von Amelunxen, in "Steve Sabella Photography 1997-2014." One of Sabella's installations, "38 Days of ReCollection," consists of pieces that resemble pottery shards from an ancient civilization. Sabella was born in 1975 in Jerusalem, Palestine, and from the late 1990s through 2007, he was based there. Now living in Berlin, the artist uses photography and photographic installation as his principal modes of expression. He has exhibited in Jerusalem, and extensively throughout Palestine, and internationally, including 111 solo shows. His work has been featured in documentaries and short films, and he has published essays on his work and art and won numerous awards. In 2007, he received a B.A. in visual studies at Empire State College.



Epic Poem Captures a Journey

Tim Miller '11
Center for Distance Learning

Tim Miller has published "To the House of the Sun," a massive 626-page volume consisting of just one poem. It has been likened by critics to great ancient literature. "There are great varieties of ancient poetry, religious and otherwise, and they all inspired me to try something similar: to tell a story that is a blend of folklore and history, liturgy and even ritual; to use or approximate many of the techniques of ancient poetry; only now to set within the recent memory of America and see if it worked," Miller explains. The book follows a young man's physical and spiritual journey at the dawn of the Civil War. Miller says the book is an expression of his love of mythology: "That combination of strength and malleability is entirely unique

in my experience, and for years and years there was nothing else I thought worth writing." Empathy for the human condition also motivated him. "When the expression of human beings alive amid great suffering and great compassion are to be found everywhere, there is no room for cultural or other arrogance."



Empire State College

Around the Globe

by Hope Ferguson

Empire State College's alumni, faculty and staff are involved in numerous outreach and volunteer activities across the state and throughout the nation, but did you know that the college has footprints around the globe? The college's administration and its alumni and students work on worthwhile projects – from opening a business in the Czech Republic that caters to volunteers who want to do good, to volunteering in Mexico, to engaging in important transcultural dialogue with colleagues from China.

Lending a Hand ...

Martina Huskova '05, a graduate of the college's International Programs in Prague (UNYO) and CEO of Voluntair, uses the same concept that online journals use to aggregate news from many sources and has adapted it to aggregate volunteer activities across the globe. Her company works with a small, select group of trusted

organizations operating local, sustainable programs. Through social media, an attractive website and Facebook page, she connects eager volunteers with a program that fits their interests, whether to help others or experience unique travel opportunities.

Huskova explains that Voluntair is a volunteering Gateway. "We make volunteering simpler and more accessible for everyday people. Choose a volunteering opportunity from our portfolio, we will take care of the rest – from booking your volunteering place to managing your pre-departure needs." She adds that these opportunities require no specific skills and can be as short as one week or as long as several months. The benefits? "Volunteers experience new cultures, form friendships, develop new skills, all while helping a community or eco-system that needs it," she says.

Huskova feels that her study with the college's International Programs really aided her. She

took a full roster of business and marketing-related courses for her business administration degree, including finance, marketing and human resources. "Thanks to all the teamwork, homework assignments and public class presentations, I learned things I use every day now," she says. "I learned to work in a team, where to find the information I seek, and I acquired confidence to present my ideas to others and discuss them. I am grateful, because my education enabled me to have the job of my dreams, my company, Voluntair." The website appears both in English and Czech, at voluntair.cz.

... Across the Globe

In a similar vein, ESC alumna and English as a Second Language teacher Quantaya Moore '14, spent two weeks in February caring for disadvantaged youth in Merida, Mexico, through UBELONG. This agency matches volunteers with projects that are abroad, but closer to home and

affordable. Moore, who majored in Community and Human Services, calls herself a newbie when it comes to traveling. “UBELONG is an affordable organization with an amazing selection of volunteer programs and cities to choose from,” she says.

Moore worked with disadvantaged youth in a daycare center. “I had the second youngest group of children,” she explains, “so I pretty much played with them and gave them the extra attention they needed and wanted.” Her advice to fellow volunteers is, “Go in and have fun. Show your volunteer site and the locals in the area that you are happy to be there.” Moore said not a lot of prep was needed; the most important thing is to learn a few basics of the language, which “shows them you really care.”

... Through Outreach Exchanges

On the home front, President Merodie Hancock welcomed a delegation from China to the college’s New York locations in Latham and Saratoga Springs in

June. The delegates were drawn from top administration at China’s educational institutions and government officials. They were interested in learning more about various structures of academic institutions, especially as they pertain to students and student life. The group was part of a roundtable discussion with Empire State College faculty and staff, moderated by Dean Gerald Lorentz. The delegates also met in Saratoga Springs with Hancock and Provost Alfred Ntoko, who discussed online programs and supports, the college’s International Programs and prior learning assessment. Delegates represented the Ministry of Education, Changsha University of Science and Technology, Yunnan Normal University, Qujing Normal University and Baotou Teachers College.

... And by Sharing Knowledge

Additionally, Hancock served as a member of a panel at the Global HR Forum in Korea in November. The forum brings together international

organizations and government, education and corporate leaders to talk about ways to be competitive in the increasingly interconnected global marketplace. This year’s theme was Diverse Talent, Changing Societies. Hancock joined two colleagues and a moderator to present a session titled “Globalization, Job Market and University Education for Adults.”

Past speakers have included such business luminaries as Jack Welch, former chairman and CEO of GE, Bill Gates of Microsoft, and political leaders such as President Bill Clinton and Ki-Moon Ban, the secretary-general of the United Nations. One of the keynote speeches, “Changing Society, Changing Education,” explored how applying today’s standards and traditional education to tomorrow’s generation is not appropriate. The keynote address proposed a new direction for education that can guide how leaders of tomorrow are educated and trained and can strengthen national competitiveness.

Photography provided

Voluntair Volunteers working in Southeast Asia (top) and Africa.

Quantaya Moore ‘14 assists with toddlers (right) in a Mexican daycare center.

Chinese dignitaries from government and higher education visit Empire State College.





Linda Weiss

Alumna, College Council Member, Veteran Advocate

by Helen Susan Edelman

When Linda Weiss '83 was growing up in Albany, N.Y., she loved nothing better than to go to the library, where she, her sister and her brother could borrow 10 books apiece, twice a month. "I read mine, I read theirs," she said. "Thirty books, every two weeks. I loved to read then and I still do."

Weiss, who has been on SUNY Empire's College Council since 2006 and has established a scholarship through the Empire State College Foundation, was raised by parents who valued education and academic achievement. This nurturing, intelligent environment inspired her academic and professional journey.

"It's so important to encourage people to be curious and to learn," she said. The encouragement fueled a determination that led to her 42-year career at the Stratton VA Medical Center, where she started work as an X-ray technician in 1973, and rose to the position of director.

Weiss is eloquent, informed, straightforward, vibrant, reflective and energetic. These qualities plus her persistent dedication propelled her from her first entry into the health care world to eventually running an integrated health care system. Stratton VA serves 37,000 patients with 1,245 staff through a 125-bed medical center and 12 community-based outpatient clinics in an operation stretching from Kingston, N.Y., to Canada. Home-based long-term care and mental health services also are provided.

"I loved what I did as a technician," she said. "It was an exciting time, with the introduction of nuclear medicine, diagnostic ultrasounds, other new technologies, new pharmaceuticals and continuing, on-the-job training for me at the VA. The doctors didn't care what letters you had after your

name, as long as you wanted to work hard and learn. At the time, I thought it was interesting enough for me to spend the rest of my career doing that."

But, after 10 years, Weiss could see that, through higher education, she could greatly enhance her skills and advance professionally. "Like most adult learners, I knew that I wanted to concentrate on my studies, which could, at any moment, be interrupted by life circumstances. I didn't have the luxury of taking courses forever. Also, I had limited funds. So, I enrolled at Empire State College in a bachelor's program in Health Sciences, the first person to create this degree plan. From what I understand, it became a template and many students have referred to it since, as they design their own degree in the same or related fields."

Weiss focused diligently on the relevant course work, but there was an unexpected bonus: the requirement to also complete studies in the liberal arts.

"It was fabulous. All that reading – the Victorian novel in England, modern drama and, especially, law psychology." The substance of that course became a vital tool for helping patients and their families cope with terminal illness or other life-changing circumstances.

"Going back to get my B.S. was an opportunity

to hone my critical thinking skills," she said, "which are important when you think about budget, ethics, human resources, marketing, programs, innovation and, most importantly, supporting people through decisions like whether to be kept alive mechanically."

Lessons learned touched her personal life when she found herself supporting her own mother, who had to face a similarly difficult decision when she developed heart disease. "She had been active all her life, but it became apparent she was failing. We went to the doctor, who knew he had to give her the bad news that she was in decline. My mother reached out, patted the doctor on the shoulder and told him, 'I've had a wonderful life. No surgery.' After that, she had to sit down more, but she was very clear and comfortable with her decision."

Weiss lived with her parents for the last 26 years of their 57-year marriage. They died on the same day, in 2006. She said, "They had raised me and I came back to help them. It was the right decision and, although I turned down great opportunities outside of Albany, I have never regretted it."

The Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany, N.Y. serves thousands of patients annually.



Meanwhile, Empire State College was by no means the last step in Weiss' academic trajectory. She earned a Master of Science in Health Systems Management from Union College, in Schenectady, N.Y., attended the Kellogg Foundation Partners of the Americas Fellowship in International Leadership and Development, participated in Leadership VA and the VA Health Care Leadership Institute and took a VA Senior Executive Strategic Leadership course at the University of North Carolina. She also raised a son, Russell, whose unconventional path led him to become a professional ski patroller, who specializes in avalanche control. Russell lives with his wife and Weiss' first grandchild in Australia, where she has visited and, now that there is a baby, she will frequently revisit.

Her connection to SUNY Empire is profound and ongoing. The indefatigable Weiss has been an assistant professor and instructor at ESC, sharing her knowledge about health care systems management, health care law and ethics, health care policy, public administration and organizational theory. "It's lots of fun to engage with the students," she said. "I'm very proud of them and I learn from them, too." She also actively recruits new students among friends, family and colleagues.

Weiss also is passionate about her role on the College Council, an advisory body comprising members from all walks of life; she is the sole alumna on the council. Lively discussions revolve around such topics as curriculum, finance and academic programs at the college.

"The members of the College Council have extraordinarily busy lives, but they know they serve as a critical sounding board and are very committed to the process and to the meaning of the college," she said, crediting President Merodie Hancock

with fostering positive progress in many areas. "She is a rare person. Not only does she appreciate the academic philosophy of Empire State College, but she also has business sense."

Weiss was quick to point out her own bias and agenda as a council member – ensuring veterans' special needs are represented and served by the college. "The college is doing an exemplary job with active-duty military and service members in the National Guard and Reserves, as well as veterans. We even encourage students who are in combat zones," she said.

The issue of how veterans are cared for in every aspect of their lives has been central to Weiss for a very long time – not just from the macro standpoint of running a huge organization that serves them, but at the most basic level: the individual veteran.

"We get a bill in the mail for our water and one for our power, but we never get a bill for our freedom. Someone has already paid that for you – a veteran. Long after they take off their uniforms, we have to fulfill our compact to care for our citizen-soldiers and their families," she said.

As recently as 2014, the last beneficiary of the last Civil War veteran was receiving VA services. "No war is ever over until we have taken care of every soldier and his or her family," Weiss emphasized.

Those served by the VA today are primarily veterans of WWI, WWII, the Korean War and a burgeoning population "who saw action in the Global War on Terror," Weiss said, adding that their wounds are not all visible, as war can be an assault on mental health.

"One in every four Americans will experience a significant mental-health issue in his or her lifetime, but there are challenges to getting reimbursed for mental health services," Weiss said, noting that "we pay for heart attacks, broken legs and gall bladder surgery without blinking an eye, but when it comes to PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) and TBIs (traumatic brain injury), private and public insurance companies often hesitate to pay."

She added that treatment for substance abuse is part of the health services picture, as many veterans struggling with PTSD "self-medicate."

Linda Weiss '83 speaks at the Guardian House of Saratoga in Ballston Spa, N.Y., a shelter for homeless female veterans. Photo provided.



“Some are schizophrenic, some have borderline personality disorders, some will need long-term care – not a quick intervention – and that involves overall good health care, education or training for jobs, helping the veteran feel like a contributor to society through work or volunteering and safe, affordable housing.”

Housing is a central concern. “How many veterans are sleeping on their sister’s sofa until they wear out their welcome or run out of money and end up living in their car?” She emphasized how important it is to develop options for these veterans through case management.

When Weiss assumed the director role at the VA, only 7 percent of the workforce were veterans. Now, a third of the medical center’s employees also served in the military. “Their experience, their compassion and their skills are the best outreach,” she explained.

“The VA is a discretionary line item controlled by Congress,” she noted, “and such facilities are entrusted to do the very best with the funds they provide.”

She added that the VA is often thanked in obituaries, calling it a tribute to the VA culture and spirit, as well as an acknowledgment that the focus needs to be “on the very next veteran cared for, and the one after that.”

It is no surprise that Weiss has a abundance of awards, ranging from 26 VA Performance Awards to the U.S. Public Health Service Director’s Commendation. But the one she memorializes in a photograph on her desk is the Empire State College Northeast Center Distinguished Graduate Award.

“That’s my story,” she said. To underscore the vision that has guided her career, she cited the wisdom of President Abraham Lincoln, drawn from his second inaugural address: “With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation’s wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.”

Photography by Gary Gold

Scholarships for Those Who Have Served

by Stephanie Lamphere

The college supports its veteran and active-duty military students in a variety of ways, from the establishment of an Office of Veteran and Military Education to scholarships that help this population with the cost of an education. Here is an overview of several funds that help our veteran and active-duty military students.

Margaret C. “Peggy” Perkins Memorial Scholarship

Established in 2013 through the generosity of Elaine Patrice Perkins in memory of her mother, the Peggy Perkins Scholarship is available to students enrolled in any regional location. Preference is given to female students pursuing a degree in English, literature, communications, journalism or the arts; enrolled through the Northeast Center; beginning or resuming educational pursuits that may have been postponed because of devoting time to raising and/or caring for family. Special consideration is given to women who are veterans, active or reserve military, or spouses of those serving in the military.

Douglas R. Coleman Veterans Services Scholarship

Established in 2014 by Chase and Stephanie Coleman in honor of Chase’s great-grandfather, Douglas R. Coleman, a World War II veteran, this scholarship honors Douglas’ military service. It is available to students enrolled in the Advanced Certificate in Veterans Services program offered in the School for Graduate Studies. Scholarship awards are based on financial need and academic promise. Preference is given to students who intend to pursue a career that positively impacts the lives of veterans.

Jesse Eisenberg Veterans Fund

The scholarship is awarded with a preference for students enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in Veterans Services program on the basis of need and academic promise. Secondary consideration will be given to students studying in the field of veterans services, or veterans enrolled in any location or program who have distinguished themselves through military service.

For more information, go to www.esc.edu/scholarships

Major College Goal Achieved



Opening
this Spring

by Helen Susan Edelman

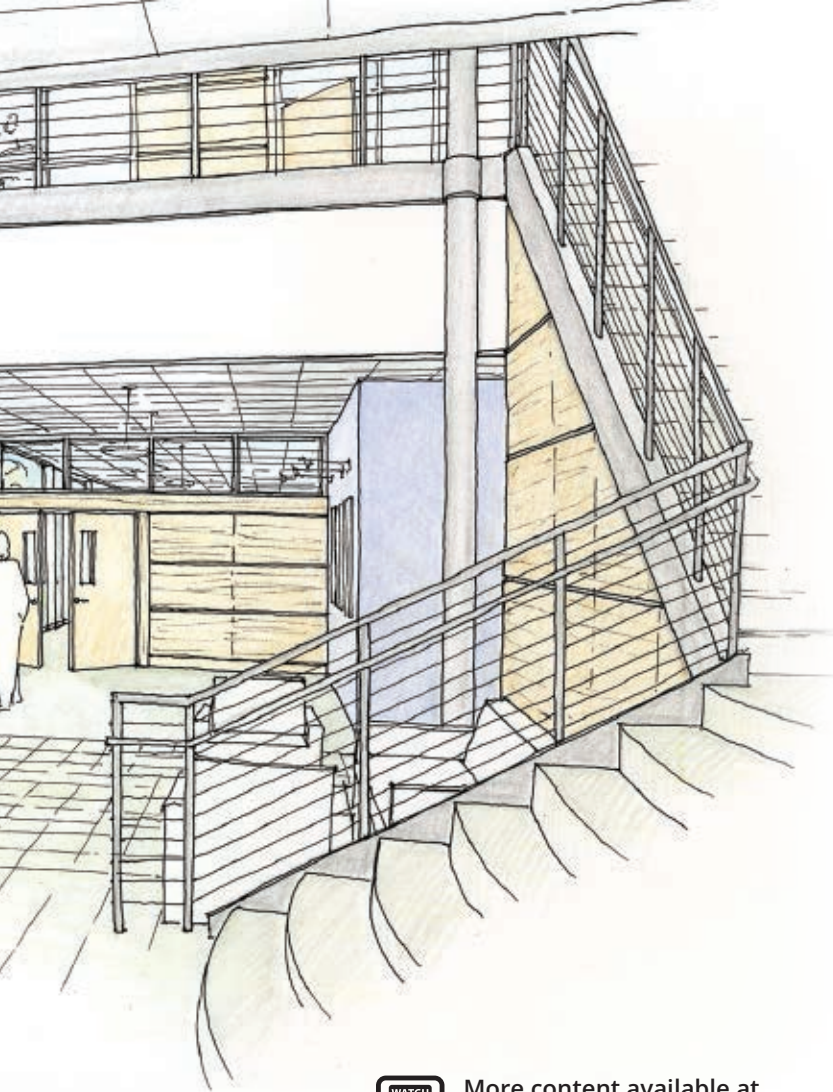
A long-held goal for Empire State College to build and operate from a permanent learning center in the Genesee Valley will be achieved in the spring of 2016. The college is on schedule to open its doors to a two-story, 30,000-square-foot, \$13 million building at 680 Westfall Road, in the Town of Brighton. It's the college's first owned facility outside the Coordinating Center in Saratoga Springs.

Ground was broken for the project in October 2014, when college President Merodie Hancock said, "The new Rochester-region facility will be a model for teaching, learning and community engagement and service. The new space addresses how, why, when and where our nontraditional students best learn. Building upon Empire State College's footprint in the area, we can enhance our response to economic and workforce development needs, as well as expand our offerings and community programs."

Designed to be technologically cutting edge, the building will feature flexible spaces for offices,

meetings and classes, be fully handicap-accessible, and offer conveniences like kitchenettes for employees. Construction will meet standards established by the U.S. Green Building Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design initiative and the 4.2-acre site will be enhanced by a bike path on the perimeter, open to the college community and the public.

The space is designed to foster collaboration among students, faculty mentors, peer learning coaches and other members of the college community in real time, online or face to face, one to one and in groups, or through a blend of



More content available at www.esc.edu/Connections

College Leader Remembered With Memorial Garden

A unique memorial garden at the new Rochester region site will honor the late Robert Milton, a former mentor and dean in the Genesee Valley and vice president at the college, who died suddenly in 2008.



Robert Milton, Ph.D.

Milton began with Empire State College as an associate professor of Community and Human Services in 1984, became dean in 1993 and moved to Saratoga Springs to serve as vice president for enrollment management in 2005.

"Bob was so dedicated to the college. He was always thinking about it and working to make things better for the students, so I thought what better way to honor his memory than to have something tangible and visible for people to see and experience," said Don Milton, about his brother's memorial.

The area will include a patio with benches surrounded by plantings and trees native to the region, meant to be a relaxing and contemplative oasis. In addition to college fundraising for the project, Milton's family and friends also endowed a scholarship in his memory.

these approaches, making education convenient and practical for students. Additionally, the opening of the new facility means that the college will bring job opportunities and new residents to the area.

Students, faculty and others will be able to connect a variety of devices – such as laptops, tablets and smartphones – to video screens, present their work and use wall-sized whiteboards and open space for discussions. Students then may receive immediate support and feedback on-site and online from other students and faculty located across the state, or through digital content recorded at a later time. The creation and distribution of digital content will be supported by a state-of-the-art media production suite and video conferencing capability.

Funding for the project comes from the SUNY capital construction budget, and its execution was

made possible thanks to the efforts of dedicated, foresighted officials including Assemblyman Joseph Morelle, who identified the appropriate empty New York state-owned property and arranged its transfer to SUNY Empire at no cost to the college. State Sen. Joseph Robach was instrumental in supporting the college's request for an additional \$1 million in state funds to strengthen the technological capabilities of the building. Both represent constituents in the Rochester area. Brighton Town Supervisor William Moehle helped the college navigate the process of obtaining local easements and permits and former Lt. Gov. Robert Duffy, a native of the Genesee Valley, also contributed to smoothing the land acquisition and permitting processes.

Photography by Ria Tafani

A Commitment Extending Beyond Education

by Helen Susan Edelman

Empire State College’s commitment to working adults extends beyond educating them to actually being their workplace for about 250 alumni hired into roles across the college.

They are in positions ranging from administrators to support staff to faculty, serving the college that helped educate them. “These alumni work day in and day out, contributing to the growth, success and excellence of their alma mater,” says Director of Alumni and Student Relations Maureen Winney.

Winney says the alumni-employee relationship can evolve two ways. A student who graduates from the college may find a job in which he or she can apply the skills and academic knowledge learned through studies, or an employee may observe, through contact with students, the personal enrichment and job skills that come from study and decide to enroll.

“Our employees are so impressed with the mission of the college and the dignity with which working adults are treated, that they look at the outcomes and say, “That’s possible for me, too,” Winney explains. “We

appreciate them as role models and coaches for our students, but mostly we thank them for their camaraderie as our colleagues. This is a generous group, offering time, talent and treasure to sustain us.”

In the current, very competitive job market, the college can be selective about who to hire, so the job offer extended to alumni to join the staff at every level of the organization is a real vote of mutual respect – in both directions. The college is asserting confidence that its graduates have been well prepared for the work at hand, and the alumni are expressing both their dedication to the mission of the college, as well as excitement about the meaningful contributions they might make to the college community as well-educated and ambitious employees.

“It’s always fun to see our own employees cross the stage at graduation,” says Winney.

It’s a win-win.

Timothy Cosgriff

Timothy Cosgriff '93 has been assistant to the dean in the Genesee Valley region, a position that draws on his nearly three decades of professional experience and studies.

In the '80s, Cosgriff, who was employed in Canada, decided it was time to return to the U.S. and finish his degree, started years before. He secured full-time employment but it involved a changing schedule, so SUNY Empire's flexibility enabled him to both fulfill his job obligations and go to school. He also was able to base his academic studies on his professional efforts, such as rewriting job descriptions and a handbook at work, which became his final project for an ESC course in human resources, part of his Business, Management and Economics degree.

"The bridge between theory and real-life application was very important," he says.

After ESC, Cosgriff earned a graduate certificate in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell, then an M.S. in Hospitality Tourism Management, which focused on effective management in the global marketplace. He used that knowledge working for Adecco – the world's largest staffing agency – specifically assigned to Chase Bank as his account.

"I supported departments in three states, responsible for up to 150 employees at any given time," he recalls. "The positions were feeder positions to full-time employment. This fit well with my grad studies and also was a perfect fit for what we do at ESC."

Among his many other responsibilities, Cosgriff is intensely involved in bringing together corporate sponsors and events, such as theater productions, art exhibits and networking opportunities.

"People now approach me wanting to sponsor our events," he reports. One such event, of which he is rightfully proud, was a solo exhibit of his own artwork at the request of the Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County, co-sponsored by the museum shop of the George Eastman House.

His studies at SUNY Empire prepared him well for his current position, he explains. "Many of my studies were one to one with a mentor. This is considered an academic luxury, over being one of 100 in a lecture hall. While a luxury, it also is the most difficult, for you better know what you are talking about. No chance to hide in the fourth row. This prepared me very well for what I do now. I often have to act quickly. For example, at a recent ribbon cutting, I was with a rep



PHOTO CREDIT: RIA TAFANI

Timothy Cosgriff '93

from a nonprofit, another from the Memorial Art Gallery and a third representing the City of Rochester. In 15 minutes, in a parking lot, we pulled together a series of programs around the Memorial Art Gallery exhibit, 'Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of Ebony Fashion,' and others, for next year. My workspace is not confined to bricks and mortar." He adds that some of his best outcomes begin as chance encounters.

Cosgriff, who was recognized with the Excellence in Professional Service Award in 2011, says he works at ESC for two reasons. "I am able to work with some of the best and brightest folks in academe. The second reason is it is a privilege to be able to come to work and make a difference in people's lives. To see people grow, graduate and succeed, knowing you had some part in it, is pretty special."

Albert Lawrence

Al Lawrence '76 had been a reporter for the Times Union, an Albany, N.Y. newspaper, for 10 years, when he decided to return to college.



Al Lawrence '76

"I had interviewed Chancellor (Ernest) Boyer when he was traveling the state, promoting the idea of what he then called University College. At the time, I was working in Syracuse, and my beat was higher education. About three years later, I came to Albany and worked at the Times Union with a reporter named Barbara Congemi, whose husband, Bob, was, and is, a mentor at the Northeast Center.

With their encouragement, I applied and enrolled."

The big attractions of Empire State College, he says, were the opportunity to design his own program and the chance to leverage his experience as a journalist toward a degree, unique approaches to learning at a point in time when SUNY Empire was the forerunner in what has evolved to be prior learning assessment. "It still is what attracts many students," Lawrence notes.

To earn the credit, Lawrence spent a vacation at Cape Cod typing essays on a manual typewriter. Then, he completed six months of study to graduate, submitting for his thesis a report on plea bargaining, which was published in *Empire State Report*, a magazine about state government.

After receiving his B.S., Lawrence was accepted and immediately enrolled in a graduate program in criminal justice at Rockefeller College. He obtained his M.A. and, in 1978, he enrolled at Antioch School of Law in Washington, D.C., graduating in 1981. He was admitted to the New York State Bar in January 1982.

Lawrence is now a professor and coordinator of criminal justice at the Center for Distance Learning, where he has worked since 2002, serving as faculty

chair from 2010-2012. Prior to CDL, he was an adjunct instructor and part-time mentor at the Northeast Center from 1982-2003. Lawrence originated the idea of a new area of study in Public Affairs and helped shepherd it through college governance, SUNY and the State Education Department. His many honors include being named a Distinguished Graduate of the Northeast Center and being inducted into its alumni Hall of Fame, receiving an award for Excellence in Tutoring in 1996, and getting the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service in 2012.

Now at the top of his game, Lawrence credits ESC with teaching him how to think, research and write.

"The college, for me, has always been more of a cause than a job," he says, adding that many students come to the college with a background of disparate attempts at college learning and work experience, which they view as failures. "Helping them find common threads in this learning in order to put it together in a coherent whole is extremely rewarding. As one who has been there, I can appreciate how important it can be for students to achieve a goal that will improve their lives and make them better thinkers and more responsible citizens."

James McMahon

Jim McMahon '95 graduated from the Central New York FORUM program with a B.S. in Business Administration.

“My sojourn to Central New York from my home in New York City was brought about by the erratic business climate of the early 1990s,” he says. His employer, Verizon, was “downsizing” or “rightsizing” and, he says, “The best way to preserve your job was to get a degree. As a job benefit, I was provided with 100 percent paid tuition and paid time off from work to venture to the FORUM program in Hamilton, N.Y.”

For this born-and-bred New Yorker, central New York seemed a world away, but it opened the doors to a life McMahon had hardly dared to imagine.

The FORUM Management Program led to a bachelor’s degree specifically designed for experienced managers and business professionals. Students attended three weekend residencies per term at off-site locations. Participants’ tuition was generally paid by their employers.

For McMahon, the experience was a portal to an enriched life. “After one term at ESC, I could see the light at the end of the tunnel – and it wasn’t a train. It was a degree. I was able to focus on what was needed to complete my degree because the people

at ESC were focused on my success,” McMahon says. With encouragement from his mentor, McMahon went on to receive an MBA from Wagner College on Staten Island in 1997.

“By the way,” he adds, “I was never ‘downsized,’ but was promoted twice due to my ESC education.”

In 2002, McMahon returned to the college as an adjunct. Since then, he has taught for the Central New York FORUM and Corporate College,

“I could see the light at the end of the tunnel – and it wasn’t a train. It was a degree.”

Jim McMahon

programs developed by the college with businesses to meet the education needs of their employees. He’s also instructed at the Metropolitan Center and, presently, is working in the



PHOTO CREDIT: MARTY HEITNER '92

Jim McMahon '95

PARA program at The Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies. The PARA Program is offered to New York City classroom teacher aides through The Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies in partnership with the United Federation of Teachers Teacher Center and the New York State United Teachers Education and Learning Trust.

In addition, for the past six years, McMahon has been the full-time student service coordinator at the Labor Center. “It is a great position because it enables me to interface with our students, as well as my colleagues around the college. Returning to ESC was an easy decision. It is a place that enabled me to complete my education and to broaden my horizons.”

Catherine Hoff



PHOTO CREDIT: GARY GOLD

Cathy Hoff '04

Cathy Hoff '04

had attended Tidewater Community College in Virginia to earn a degree in early childhood education, but “life got in the way” and she returned to her native New York. Here, it was her good fortune to land a position as a nanny with a Saratoga Springs family – the Tooheys, known for their generosity. They saw Hoff’s potential and offered to pay for her to continue her education.

“How could I turn that down?” she asks. First, she enrolled at Skidmore College’s University Without Walls, from 1987-1992, but the program didn’t meet her aspirations. Then, in 1992, she transferred to SUNY Empire State College. Again, circumstances intervened, and Hoff “took a

break” from her studies that lasted six years.

At that point, working in SUNY Empire’s admissions office, her supervisor, Jennifer D’Agostino, urged Hoff to return to her studies, pointing out that she was already very close to completing her degree and how important it is to have one. “She was the cheerleader I needed to get me going again. I’m thankful for her and the Tooheys,” says Hoff.

Empire State College offered “the various ways I could study, which was just what I needed,” Hoff says. “My mentor, MaryNell Morgan, was always there to help me find a way to fit in the studies I wanted or needed.” Once Hoff’s son has finished his education, she plans to continue on to a master’s degree.

Hoff is secretary to the dean in the School of Nursing in Saratoga Springs. She has been on staff at the college since May 2000, starting as a temp in the Admissions office and then on to a job with more responsibility in the Office of the Registrar, in March 2001. Continuing to move up, in May 2004, she became a secretary with the Center for Distance Learning and, in 2007, joined the brand new RN to B.S.N. program as a secretary.

“It was just me and the director. Quite different than it is now.” she recalls.

“It is not so much the studies I completed at the college, as how I went about those studies that helps me now,” she says. “By engaging online, in residencies, through credit by evaluation, et cetera, I have been able to talk with students and help them when they have questions about all the different ways to study that the college offers. It was very helpful for me to have these options because, at the time I completed my degree, I was working full time and had a 2-year-old son.”

Hoff serves on the Support Staff Development Funds Committee, the collegewide Graduation Committee and the Volunteer Advisory Group. She’s also launched an annual luncheon that benefits the Franklin Community Center food pantry, a back-to-school campaign that gathers school supplies for families in need, and the Easter Bunny Project, which collects candy and small toys for Floyd’s Warriors, to benefit families dealing with a cancer diagnosis.

“I enjoy working at the college because I am passionate about helping other adults achieve their goal and dream of obtaining a college degree,” she says. “I’m a nurturer, and what better place to do that than in education and the nursing department?”

Raúl Manzano

Faculty Mentor in the Visual Arts **Raúl Manzano '05** was climbing the career ladder at a bank, but his first love – art – was languishing, so while still a bank employee, he enrolled in SUNY Empire's Master of Liberal Arts program and dove back in, graduating in 2005 from the Metropolitan Center with a master's in the arts.

"I needed a change in my life and to return to my passion," he says. "After 18 years at Commerzbank, A.G., in different roles, I applied to Empire State College. Because I was still at the bank, I needed a school that would allow me to be flexible about when I could study."

Manzano's journey to art actually began early in life when his mother, an artist, gave him his first art lessons, followed by his admission to art school and private instruction in his native city of Cali, Colombia.

After completing his master's, Manzano, a painter, began working at the college as an assistant to Professor Betty Wilde-Biasiny in her drawing study, Perceptual Drawing. Manzano also offered tutorials for two terms, followed by an appointment as a quarter-time mentor, then half-time and, currently, three-quarter-time.

Manzano has taught at both the Manhattan and Brooklyn locations, ultimately becoming a permanent mentor in the visual arts in Brooklyn, as well as

coordinator for the art exhibits at that location's Livingston Gallery. "My MALS program, with an emphasis in museum studies and studio practice, gave me the focus for what I teach today," he says. "The program also advanced my practice in the arts, as I had the opportunity to have my own studio, engage with visiting artists and supervise and coordinate undergraduate and graduate activities. I can say that the training and learning was the springboard for what followed. The blended options, face-to-face and online studies, expanded the ways in which I learned."

These days, in addition to teaching study groups, he also designs and teaches online studies. He is the author of "Baby Steps to Drawing," developed to introduce students to the fundamental concepts and techniques of drawing in simple language so that even "the beginning student can feel confident and motivated to create a visual representation."

He says, "My mentoring work, professional development and research scholarship are equally enriched by each student's way of learning. I carefully observe each student's studio practice, so I can develop techniques and methods of teaching that impart my knowledge and ongoing transformation as a scholar."

He adds that his approach to teaching reflects his serious commitment to scholarship and the professional values of the

fine arts and humanities, but, he emphasizes, "More important is my service in support of students' creative and intellectual formation."

Manzano's career as an artist extends across three decades. He has been president of the New York-based arts organization, West Side Arts Coalition, curator and designer of exhibitions at the Manhattan Borough President's Office and resident director of the School of Visual Arts program painting in Barcelona, Spain.

Spurred by his accomplishments thus far, Manzano is pursuing a doctorate.

"Working at ESC has not only opened the doors to a new world for me," he says, "but also offers me opportunities and settings I would not have anywhere else."

Raúl Manzano '05

PHOTO CREDIT: MARTY HEITNER '92



Career Services Significantly Increased

by Anita DeCianni-Brown
and Lindsay Valenti

We've been surveying alumni and students recently about their career services needs and we are very pleased to announce some new initiatives in response to what those surveys told us.

The new services are available to both students and alumni, and include an updated website with extensive resources, a new job posting system called Purple Briefcase and a career development coordinator.

The pathway to successful career planning has been outlined on the new website (www.esc.edu/careerservices). It is designed to help both students and alumni with each step of their personal career planning. The resources on the site are organized into four fundamental skills.

Launched in July, Purple Briefcase is the college's new job-posting service. In addition to the job-posting feature, the system also offers career-related video tips, forums, InterviewStream and ways to connect and engage interactively.

The recently hired career development coordinator, Anita DeCianni-Brown, '12, '15, is available for appointments. Students and alumni can contact her for career counseling, resume and cover letter critiquing and job search advice. In addition, she will be doing outreach at our regional locations. She is available for personal appointments and is conducting career-related workshops.

Does your organization have opportunities you want to fill? Alumni and students wishing to post job opportunities and internships within their organizations are encouraged to contact DeCianni-Brown at Anita.Brown@esc.edu.

Career Success

Alumni and Student Career Services

1

Know Yourself and Your Skills – various assessment tools to help you assess your personality, your skill set and your work values

2

Get the Experience You Need – available internships, applied learning opportunities and projects

3

Put Your Best Self Forward – information pertaining to resumes, cover letters, LinkedIn, social media and networking

4

Find Opportunities – online resources to aid you in your job search

Sam Roberts:

Alumnus Takes Helm at Major State Agency

by Hope Ferguson

The first thing you notice about Sam Roberts '12, the newly appointed commissioner of the New York State Office of Temporary Assistance and Disability, is his impressive height. Next is his warm smile. Roberts left his elected position in the state Legislature as representative of the 128th Assembly District in June, after his selection as commissioner by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, and ratification by the state Senate. Roberts now oversees a budget of \$5.4 billion and manages 2,000 employees across the state.

As a journeyman tool-and-die maker for General Motors Corp., whose union parents raised him on the east side of Syracuse, this appointment is an unexpected ascendency in a career that has occupied corporate, union, community service and political spheres.

"I was blessed to have both parents growing up," Roberts reminisces. Both worked – his mother at the General Electric Co. and his father at the Carrier Corp. – and both were in unions. Because unionists traditionally have supported Democratic causes, early in his career Roberts found himself drawn to Democratic politics and grassroots community work.



Sam Roberts '12 outside the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance in Albany, N.Y. that provides services for thousands of New Yorkers.

He traces that community involvement back to the time he ran a martial arts program for young people in Syracuse. Roberts is an accomplished martial arts competitor, who holds an 8th Degree Black Belt in American Shotokan Karate and who ranked No. 1 in New York and New Jersey, in the top 10 in the United States and Canada, and was the winner of the World Championships, prior to retirement from competition. In 1981, funding for his martial arts program was cut, along with several other programs serving

the community. He and others went before the city council members "trying to get answers," but funding was not restored. "Because of this, I became further involved in the community and community politics," Roberts recalls. It wasn't about power, but about wanting "to be in a position of decision making in the community."

While Roberts was building his career at GM, he also was getting a foothold in the political landscape of the Syracuse region. He joined GM in 1979, and, despite "layoffs, retrenchment and



discrimination,” he eventually completed his journeyman apprenticeship in 11 years. A bit later, he was appointed to the Onondaga County 17th Ward Committee. He then set his sights on the Onondaga County Legislature.

From 1990 to 1999, Roberts served as Onondaga County legislator for the 19th district, while simultaneously working for GM, where his official biography notes he was “a proud member of the United Auto Workers Union.” During his

time at GM, he was elected recording secretary of UAW Local 465 and chairman of Local 854’s Education and Civil Rights committees.

While at GM and simultaneously holding public office was satisfying, at one point Roberts felt he had a decision to make. “Do I stay with politics or GM?” he asked himself. “Well, GM won out,” at least for the next 11 years. In 2009, he retired after 30 years at the automotive company.

In 2010, he returned to public service, running a maverick campaign for the 128th New York State Assembly District, which had never elected a person of color. Against great odds (he was not endorsed by the local Democratic Committee for the primary) he went on to win the general election with more than 50 percent of the vote.

At the state Assembly, he served on a variety of standing committees: Aging, Labor, Libraries and Education

Technology, Small Business, Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development and the Committee on Transportation. Roberts also was chairman of the Task Force on University-Industry Cooperation and was a member of the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus.

Lonnie E. Johnson, the assemblyman’s former deputy chief of staff, describes Roberts as being “a teaching boss. He’s very fair, and he doesn’t get pumped on the title.”

Roberts says that he is proud to have been nominated by Cuomo and to be part of his administration. It is apparent from his conversation that the welfare of the state’s neediest residents is an issue very close to Roberts’ heart. When the conversation turns to the new job, his voice grows passionate.

His conscience was stirred, he said, when he was in the Onondaga County Legislature, and the proposed budget

Sam Roberts '12 (above) appeared on the cover of the September 1983 issue of Karate Illustrated.

President Barack Obama meets with Roberts during Obama’s tour of upstate New York.



A former World Karate Champion, Roberts keeps his skills sharp with regular workouts.



included \$30,000 in cuts, some to agencies and programs that served the county's neediest. He recalls citizens in wheelchairs and on crutches coming to the hearing to appeal for a respite in the cuts. "There were people who were really in need and that set the tone for me," he says.

"I am a fiscal conservative as much as I can be; I understand the responsibility. But we still have to help people who need our help. You can't have people on the street. I tell people this: What's the difference between us and them? It could be the difference of two paychecks."

For many years, Roberts didn't consider getting his bachelor's degree. He had completed an apprenticeship program with the tool-and-die union, earned an associate degree through Onondaga Community College, and received labor studies certificates from Cornell University. He was working, volunteering, parenting and didn't believe that he had the time. That changed when he attended a meeting with Empire State College's founding president, James W. Hall.

"He was talking about labor programs and what the college offered: credit by evaluation, transfer credit, flexibility, and I thought, that sounds like me. So, I set up an appointment with Elma Boyko, a mentor at the

Syracuse location, talked with her and jumped on board. I studied between GM, the county legislature and traveling. But I would take a course when I could; it was challenging yet comfortable."

SUNY General Education Requirements were introduced shortly after he enrolled, so he found himself taking additional courses, including foreign language and arts. It took him 10 years, but in 2012, he graduated with his Bachelor of Arts degree in Business, Management and Economics. The degree, he felt, made his skills more diversified and more marketable and added expertise in business to his labor background.

Roberts was very happy with the education he received at Empire State College's Syracuse location, especially praising former Dean Nikki Shrimpton, who is now serving as the college's dean of undergraduate studies. Roberts took some courses with Shrimpton on the environment, and she also took over as his mentor when Boyko retired. Of Shrimpton he says, "She was a great help, a great advisor. I just want to thank her."

Shrimpton recalls Roberts as a student with vast accomplishments and drive.

"As we worked together to develop his PLA (prior learning assessment) requests, I realized that Sam is an extremely accomplished individual and has impressive expertise in several areas beyond politics. I found that I acquired new learning myself through mentoring him. Sam was very motivated to complete his degree and although it took a while, with the competing demands on his time, he never waived in his commitment to that goal."

Now that he is overseeing a major state agency, he is thankful for the preparation he received at the college. It allowed him to combine prior learning with general education courses and business courses to become a more well-rounded leader and prepare him for his newest career challenge, where his attention and focus have broadened significantly.

"Now, I am looking forward to serving folks across our great state!"

Photography provided



Center for Distance Learning

Jen McCormick '91 has been appointed first deputy commissioner of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. She served as interim executive deputy director of the Thruway Authority/ Canal Corporation and as assistant deputy director of State Operations for Gov. Andrew Cuomo, aiding in the development of implementation strategies for the governor's initiatives. Before that, she was deputy commissioner in the division of Business Advocacy and Research for the Empire State Development Corp. She also served as director of the Office of Budget Studies for the New York State Comptroller from 2005 to 2007. She earned a B.A. from Empire State College and an M.P.A. from the University at Albany.

Melanie Miller '12, has been named director of the Box of Books Library in Alfred, N.Y. A graduate of Alfred State College with an A.S. in human services, she completed her bachelor's degree at Empire State College.

David Munford '11 staged "Mountain Vistas," an exhibit of 25 of his oil paintings at the Catskill Watershed Corp. (CWC) offices in Margaretville, N.Y., in the spring. Munford has worked in many different styles and mediums, but his favorite is painting in oils. His current work

depicts scenes in the Catskills and Hudson Valley, where he often chooses farms, rivers, fields and mountains as subject matter.

Ryan Smithson '12, an Iraq Army veteran, saw his memoir, "Ghosts of War," turned into a play at Proctor's Theater in Schenectady, N.Y. Bill Massolia, a theater director from Illinois, adapted Smithson's memoir into a play geared for high school students. It was described as "an unflinchingly honest portrayal of the year in Iraq, that touches on the intensity of battle, and the pain of losing comrades. For Smithson, the war is a source of personal enlightenment that will compel students to reflect on their own thoughts about duty, patriotism and sacrifice." The play starred one actor, Ryan McBride, and featured heavy use of sound and image projection. Massolia said he would take the play to Chicago.

Richard VanDyke, a student, has joined the staff of Adults and Children with Learning and Developmental Disabilities (ACLD) as its new director of business operations. He was the assistant information technology director at AHRC Nassau, and has more than 15 years experience in information systems management and facilities management. In his new role, VanDyke is responsible for strategic planning as well as leading the organization's technology

and facilities management staff through evolving industry environments. He also is charged with the implementation, supervision, operation, monitoring and evaluation of technology and facilities management initiatives at ACLD's multiple locations. VanDyke holds a degree in computer science from the college and is a master electrician.

Cheryl Winslow '03 has been hired as an accounting manager at Northeast Association Management. The company specializes in providing management services and staffing to nonprofit associations and government-related organizations. She will be responsible for the fiscal management of such clients as PERMA and AGRiP. Winslow has worked more than 10 years in the financial field. Before joining NEAMI, she served as director for Hudson Headwaters Health Network. She also served as a senior financial consultant for Travelers Insurance and finance director for the Glens Falls Family YMCA. Winslow earned a bachelor's degree in finance from Empire State College and an associate degree in business administration from Nassau Community College.

Center for International Programs

Sofija Ftes '14 has been accepted by the University of Cambridge, England, to a master's program

in Multi-Disciplinary Gender Studies. She is only the sixth Empire State College graduate to be accepted at Cambridge. Of Libyan and Serbian origins, she is committed to helping establish gender equality in Libya.

Central New York Region

Aleshia Akers, a student, was recognized with a student service award at the college's Wellness Retreat in March. The award recognizes students who serve their school and their communities at large. Akers participated in CityYear in Harlem, N.Y., for 10 months, where she tutored and mentored for an elementary school. She now volunteers for Legal Assistance of Western NY, which helps low-income residents of Tompkins and Tioga counties gain access to free civil legal services.

Michael D. Burke '14, a U.S. Army captain, took over as commander for B Company, 297 Military Intelligence Battalion at Ft. Gordon, Ga.

Keyona Kelly '14, has joined BizEventz, which is part of the Central New York Business Journal News Network, as an assistant coordinator. She earned her B.A. in Business, Management and Economics from the college. In the past, she has been in higher education administration at Syracuse University and Bryant & Stratton College, assisting students in achieving their educational goals.

Charlotte Jane Dickens '88, '94 took part in the Watkins Glen Reading Series last May at the Montour House Café and Tapas Bar. Dickens is a poet and fiction writer, with chapbooks, "The Order of Things" and "Garden and Sun," published by her small press, Light and Shadow Publishing & Illustrating. Last year, her memoir piece, "The Life of a Dress," was published in the May/June issue of Old Days magazine. In addition, she has facilitated the Watkins Glen Writers Group and organized its reading series for more than 20 years. She earned both her B.A. and MALS at the college.

The law firm Goldberg Segalla, announced that **Ian M. MacCallum '10** has joined the firm as an associate in its Syracuse office. As a member of its Workers' Compensation Practice Group, MacCallum focuses his practice on workers' compensation defense. MacCallum has extensive experience handling hearings before the New York State Workers' Compensation Board. Prior to joining Goldberg Segalla, he was a hearing attorney in the Dewitt, N.Y. office of the state's Special Funds Compensation Committee.

Rhoda Overstreet-Wilson '06, Cayuga Centers' vice president for out-of-home care, was recognized by the Auburn/Cayuga branch of the NAACP

at its 16th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Millennium Award luncheon. Overstreet-Wilson has worked for Cayuga Centers since 1999 in several roles, including group care worker, unit manager and assistant director of residential. She graduated with an associate degree from Cayuga Community College, and holds a bachelor's degree in Community and Human Services from the college, and a master's degree in management from Keuka College.

Zofia Vasil, a student, was recognized with a student service award at the college's Wellness Retreat in March. The award recognizes students who serve their school as well as the community at large. Vasil, has worked for 11 years with the Ontario ARC, a nonprofit organization serving children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She recently began working with the primary care unit at the Canandaigua Veterans Administration Medical Hospital, assisting veterans in accessing quality medical care.

Steve Wood '10 has been named one of three assistant directors of ACR Health's growing and diversifying support services department. Wood, who earned his bachelor's degree from the college, was named assistant director of support services insurance.

Genesee Valley Region

Cybil Brock, a student, was promoted to vice president and regional director of retail sales and business development at Fire Star Bank. Brock joined Fire Star Bank as an assistant branch manager, and was soon promoted to branch manager. Most recently, she held the title of area sales manager and branch manager. She is earning her bachelor's degree in Business Management and Economics from the college. She also is a graduate of Finger Lakes Community College.

Carol Evans '77 recently retired from Working Mother Media to launch Carol Evans Enterprises, devoted to speaking, consulting and making a difference in the lives of women and people of color. She retains her title as founder and president emeritus of Working Mother Media. Evans' award-winning book, "This is How We Do It: The Working Mother's Manifesto," was published by Penguin in 2006.

Jacquelyn Kenyon '11 was named senior accountant for the firm Tronconi Segarra & Associates. Kenyon earned her MBA at Southern New Hampshire University and her bachelor's degree from Empire State College.

Debbrah Schneider, a student, has been involved with the Re-Engagement Center for more than two years. The center is an alternative middle-school program that

houses students in grades 6-12, there for a variety of emotional or behavioral reasons. While working there, she saw a need to bring community services to these students, to show them the benefit of helping others. In the past two years, Schneider has led the students on various community service activities, including making lunches for the homeless through a workshop called the Peanut Butter and Jelly Factory, wrapping shoeboxes filled with hygiene products and other activities. Schneider also started a college-ready program at the center which is in the Rochester area.

Steven Tarbell '87, supervisor of the Town of Castile, N.Y., was honored by the New York State Association of Counties for graduating from the NYSAC Dennis A. Pelletier County Government Institute. The ceremony was held at the 2015 NYSAC Legislative Conference in Albany. The institute is an educational program established by NYSAC in conjunction with Cornell University to help county officials enhance their knowledge and expertise.

Hudson Valley Region

Nora Roberto '04 had her paintings exhibited at the Studio around the Corner in March. She was part of a two-person show, "People, Places and Things." Roberto earned her degree in art from Escuela de Artes Rensel in her native Argentina,

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as well as an associate degree in fine arts from the college.

Brenda Ross '00 is on the editorial staff of the Journal News in White Plains, N.Y. Ross serves as the editorial assistant for the engagement team and editorial board. She verifies, edits and processes all letters to the editor submissions. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in creative writing from the college.

Long Island Region

Kevin Carey '00, was appointed as administrator at Willow Point Nursing Home in Vestal, N.Y. He served on the New York City police force for 21 years, retiring in 2001 as a captain. He earned a nursing home administration certification in 2004, and later worked for a number of nursing facilities before going to Willow Point.

Patrick Harris '12, completed his master's

in Higher Education Administration at Stony Brook University on Long Island. He is an educational consultant who mentors students from Islip to Montauk in 17 different Suffolk County school districts.

Jawana Richardson, a student, was recognized with a student service award at the college's Wellness Retreat. Richardson helped create and serves on the executive board of the Minority Students in Action student club. The club has more than 85 members and helps students become more involved in college. She recently was appointed to the college's Alumni Federation Board of Governors as the liaison to the student clubs, and was accepted into the University at Albany's Center for Women in Government & Civil Society Leadership Institute. She also

advocates for special education students and lobbies for the rights of those students.

Robin Rizzo, a student, also was recognized with a student service award at the college's Wellness Retreat. Rizzo has volunteered at the Westbury Senior Citizens Center for more than six years. She leads its most successful fundraising event, the annual golf outing, now in its seventh year, which raises about \$10,000 annually. She also serves as an executive board member for the center. Rizzo is a member of the Adult Protective Services Committee.

Melinda Wills-Stallings, another student recognized with a student service award at the college's Wellness Retreat in March, is the student representative for the Long Island region on the Student Affairs Committee and serves as treasurer of

the Minority Students in Action club. In this role, she submits budget requests and maintains the budget and expense reports. Wills-Stallings presented a workshop at the 2014 Student Academic Conference titled "Native American Struggle: Assimilation to Activism."

Steven Rostern '14 has joined the British company Cobham Semiconductor Solutions, as a safety, health and environment specialist.

New York City Region

Nancy Azara '74 conducted a workshop titled Fragments/Working Toward the Whole, at her studio in Woodstock, N.Y. in July. This workshop, using meditation and art making, identified and examined these aspects of life, explored the connections and made art from them. Azara is a renowned sculptor who works in wood,

wax and gold and silver leaf. Her work has been shown internationally, most recently at St. Ann's Church in Brooklyn Heights.

In April, Tribune Broadcasting announced the appointment of **Bart Feder '15** to senior vice president of news. Feder, an accomplished local news leader, will be responsible for overseeing all news operations and news production for Tribune Broadcasting's 42 owned or operated stations. With more than 25 years of experience in television newsrooms, Feder most recently spent five years at CNN, where he was senior vice president of current programming, responsible for the operation and editorial direction of all primetime and morning news programs, as well as the network's investigative, documentary and medical units. Prior to this, Feder was

Meet Nathan ...

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Nathan Nantista '15

chairman and CEO of TheFeedRoom, a pioneer in online video, live streaming and digital asset management for media organizations.

Niagara Frontier Region

Cindy Chapman '82 was profiled in The Buffalo News in a story that focused on her business, Humble House Gardens, and her line of goat milk products, which includes soaps, lotions and creams. She also produces salves of homegrown chickweed and lemon verbena, a poison ivy cure.

Amanda Kelkenberg '08 has been appointed director of community outreach and assessment at Child Care Resource Network, and will manage parent and employer services, community research, data management and communications outreach. She was director of child care registration with the organization. In addition to her bachelor's degree in early childhood studies, Kelkenberg earned an MBA from Medaille College.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has honored **Frances Martino '07** with its prestigious Environmental Champion Award for her achievements in protecting public health and the environment. Martino is an environmental educator who operates River Haggie Outdoors in Columbia County, N.Y. She also serves as the education and outreach coordinator for the Greater Stockport Creek Watershed Alliance, whose mission is to

explore, understand and protect the watershed ecosystem through community involvement and stewardship. Martino spearheaded the Alliance's Stream Spotter program, which trains community volunteers to monitor water quality throughout the watershed.

Lauren Masset, a student, was recognized with a student service award at the college's Wellness Retreat in Albany. Masset is chairwoman of the Buffalo Creek Oxbow Wetland, which is charged with providing wetland restoration through service learning. She also created Cans for the Community, an annual, 10-day food drive now in its third year, that helps support the West Seneca Food Pantry,

Northeast Region

Dean Durst '83 was profiled in the Schenectady Gazette about his energy-efficient buildings ranging from private homes to large commercial structures. He owns Durst Construction and custom designs structures to be energy efficient through such means as installing solar thermal systems in the '80s, and later passive-solar design and energy-efficient construction. He and a partner also created a Heating Energy Assessment Tool to help owners estimate actual energy costs.

Jared Eckler '02, president of Townsend Leather, Johnstown, N.Y., was named in the Albany Business Review's "40 Under 40 2015" feature. In its 15th year, the award recognizes 40

leaders under the age of 40 who demonstrate business acumen, leadership skills and community involvement.

Barbara Garro '93, '96 continues as head of the Saratoga Poetry and Song Focus Group and recently performed the works of Carl Danna.

Maureen Lundberg, a College Reading and Learning Association-certified peer coach, received a student service award at the college's Wellness Retreat. She also received the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce Women of Excellence Award in sales and marketing and is very active with fundraising activities at the Center for the Disabled.

Peter Maloney '03, '06 has changed positions with Kaman, from the industrial distribution side to a corporate position. He is now a regional environment, health and safety manager, with responsibility for the Kaman locations in the south. "It's something I've been working with for a number of years," he said, "and now will be full time dealing with the various government agencies that have a stake in the environmental health and safety arena."

School for Graduate Studies

Sandra Barkevich '13, a student who earned her undergraduate degree with the college online, was recognized with a student services award at the college's Wellness Retreat. Barkevich serves as editor of the college's student newsletter,

co-chair of the Student Affairs Committee and as a voting delegate on the SUNY Student Assembly. Barkevich founded her own editorial services business, WriteType Editorial Services.

Gina Bartolomeo, a student who earned her undergraduate degree with the college online, was recognized in March with a student services award at the college's Wellness Retreat. She began volunteering with Team Rubicon, a disaster relief organization that unites the skills and experiences of veterans and first responders to respond to natural disasters. As its volunteer programs manager, she helps engage volunteers in between disasters and prepares them to respond to disasters through service projects, trainings, fitness events and socials. She has volunteered and assisted with disaster relief following several natural disasters, such as Hurricane Sandy and the tornadoes in Moore, Okla. and Faulkner County, Ark.

Adam Bojarski, a student in the MBA program, was promoted to manager of business development for product accounts at SRC Inc., a nonprofit research and development company with headquarters in North Syracuse. Bojarski was deputy program manager for programs involving the U.S. Army and the State Department. He earned a bachelor's degree in geopolitics and environmental engineering from the United States Military

Academy at West Point. He also earned a master's certificate in project management from George Washington University.

Jennifer Civello '06 has been appointed director of marketing for the Berkshire Family and Individual Resources, Inc. Civello is responsible for marketing the organization and its programming via print and electronic media, cultivating external relationships and all public relation activities. Civello served as the executive director of the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Social Policy from Empire State College, serves as an adjunct instructor within the sociology department at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, and is a director on the boards of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition and Willinet.

John Locke '95, '04 joined SUNY Plattsburgh as coordinator of technology-enhanced learning.

Jennifer Senich '11 (MBA), director of corporate learning and development for CDPHP, a health care insurer based in Albany, was named as one of the Albany Business Review's 40 Under 40. The award recognizes leaders who demonstrate business acumen, leadership skills and community involvement.

Cheryl Murphy Schiemer '14 has received a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching. Schiemer has been an adjunct instructor

at Fulton Montgomery Community College since 2010, teaching American Sign Language courses.

Jasmine Tang '96, who teaches both elementary and intermediate Chinese in the Department of Languages and Literatures, was one of three instructors at SUNY Geneseo to receive a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching. Tang earned her Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from the college.

Douglas Zander '95 has been named director of admissions at the University of Delaware. He's been a member of UD's admissions team since 2013. Before going to Delaware, he served as associate provost for enrollment management at Millersville University of Pennsylvania for four years. A frequent speaker at national and regional conferences, he has served on the faculty of the College Board Leadership Academy and the Pennsylvania Association of College Admissions Counselors Enrollment Management Institute. A graduate of West Chester University, he holds a master's degree in Culture and Policy Studies from Empire State College and an Ed.D. in educational leadership and policy studies from Temple University.

School of Nursing

Jennifer Pettis '12, current student in the M.S. in Nursing Education program, was offered a fellowship to attend a two-day conference in New York City, "Building a New Business Model for the Academy: Partnerships, Affiliations, Mergers and Acquisitions." She also serves as the student representative on the school's curriculum committee.

David Theobald '13, current student in the M.S. in Nursing Education, recently appeared on the Dr. Oz show. The show focused on the important roles nurses play in the healthcare arena. Theobald is the CEO of Stat Staff Professionals and also the owner and partner of Adirondack Health and Wellness, which focuses on providing corporate wellness and employee engagement programs for more than 400 businesses.

In Memoriam

William Dodge, a founder of Empire State College, died June 12 at his home in Troy, N.Y. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees after serving in World War II, and then his Ph.D. from the University of Wyoming, study for which was interrupted by service during the Korean

conflict. He taught in California, South Dakota, Missouri, Florida and New York, where he became a member of the administration of SUNY serving as acting university dean for continuing education. SUNY Chancellor Ernest Boyer named him to a four-member task force charged with the creation of Empire State College. He initially served the college as dean of administrative services, then as Dean of Deans. He is credited with the creation of the idea of rural units to service New Yorkers. In 1979, Dodge accepted a position as executive dean and special assistant to the president at World University in San Juan, Puerto Rico. In the early '80s, he joined Rockland County Community College as dean of instruction and six years later, he retired as Rockland's vice president for academic affairs.

Rae Rohfeld, a former director of assessment at the Center for Distance Learning and part-time mentor in CDL and adjunct at the Central New York location, died March 22 in Syracuse. She was a recognized adult education historical scholar and a leader in groups such as the Council of Professors of Adult Education. Previous to her work with Empire State College, she taught in Ohio and held a faculty position at Syracuse University. She attended Case Western Reserve University, earning a bachelor's degree in Psychology, a master's degree in History and

a Ph.D. in American History. She also studied at Oberlin and UCLA. In retirement, she became active in the League of Women Voters and the ACLU, where she served as a volunteer in case preparation. She continued to pursue with her husband, Charles, their shared interest in music, theater and worldwide travel. Together, they also flew high-performance kites and attended kite festivals.

Amy Stock, an adjunct instructor for the Center for Distance Learning, died in July at the age of 48 – the result of a car accident. She held a bachelor's degree from the Rochester Institute of Technology in Biomedical Computing and a master's degree in Environmental Studies from The Evergreen State College in Washington. In addition to teaching courses in environmental studies, she also served as a grant writer for Capital Roots, was a co-founder of Sustainable Saratoga and a freelance writer.

The Amy Stock Memorial Scholarship in Sustainability has been established in her memory by her family. If you are interested in making a gift, please call the Office of Advancement at 518-587-2100, ext. 2248.

Lois Smith-Law, a student at the Northeast Center, died in April. She most recently served as director of operations for Deily & Glastetter, LLP, and she worked for Manpower, Metroplex and TAG. Smith-Law was the past chairwoman of the Schenectady

Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Schenectady Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and the Schenectady County Community College Foundation Board. She was a founding member of the Tech Valley Chamber Coalition and past vice chair of the United Way of Schenectady. Smith-Law also was an active member of the Town of Halfmoon Planning Board.

Herb Trimpe '97, a graduate of the Hudson Valley Center, and legendary comic book illustrator, died April 13. Trimpe was associated with Marvel Comics, and he drew such popular comics as "The Incredible Hulk" and the "Fantastic Four." Trimpe was the first to draw the Wolverine for publication. Trimpe, who graduated from the college in 1997, wrote an essay on "reinvention" for the college's magazine in 2000, detailing how he remade his career as a public school art teacher after a retrenchment at Marvel Comics saw him laid off as a staff artist after nearly 30 years. He also contributed original artwork for the cover, which was gifted to the Hudson Valley Center.

Anita Younes '06, a student in the Lebanon Residency Program, in partnership with American University of Technology, has passed away. She graduated with a B.S. in Educational Studies and was a straight A student. Her married name was Anita Bechara Rashdan. She leaves behind three children, ages 10, 7 and 3 months.

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