

THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE MAGAZINE

connections

SPRING 2010





spring 2010 features



5 Imagining the Healthy Workplace



9 She's Turned Black Friday Green

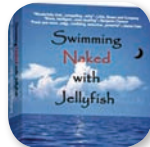


11 Ernest Boyer's Radical Ideas That Created Empire State College

departments



2 Plugged In



17 Portfolio

19 Profile



20 Alumni and Student Community

28 The Last Word

A few foundation board members gather in the college's new building at 113 West Ave. in Saratoga Springs. Front row: Andi Emerson '01, '05, public policy analyst, business administrator, New York City; Ann Turner '86, director and vice president of Global Key Accounts and Channel Management, Worldwide Sales and Customer Operations at Eastman Kodak Co. Back row: Chris Feeley '86, vice president for government and public sector at Taleo, a leader in on-demand recruitment and talent management; Jim Malanson, vice president for enterprise business, learning and development at Hewlett Packard Corp.; Phil Catchings, retired senior vice president for The Boston Consulting Group; and Charles Wait Jr., vice president, legal and regulation, at Adirondack Trust Co.

On the cover: David Yamada '99 at the 2009 Center for Graduate Programs residency.

PHOTO CREDIT: GARY GOLD

Connections

THE EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE MAGAZINE
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

VOLUME 35 • NUMBER 2 • SPRING 2010

Produced by the **Office of Communications**
Managing Editor – **Mary Caroline Powers**
Editor – **Maureen Winney**

Writers – **Hope Ferguson, Helen Susan Edelman, Holly Cargill-Cramer, Tom Dimopoulos, Marie Morrison '06**
Designer – **Gael Fischer**

Copy Editor/Project Manager – **Debra Park**

Contributors – **Evelyn Buchanan '99, Denise Davis, Alta Schallehn, Diane Thompson, David Regan White '05**

Production – **Empire State College Print Shop**

Connections is published by Empire State College, Two Union Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-4390 • 518 587-2100 ext. 2494



PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.STOCKSTUDIOSTUDIOPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Ednita Wright '78

Student Academic Conference Keynoter

Before Ednita Wright '78 decided to earn a bachelor's degree, she had no idea how far she would go. The string of letters (Ph.D., L.C.S.W., M.S.W. and C.A.S.A.C.) after her name is testament to the love of learning she later developed. Wright was working as an aide at a psychiatric center when the director of education urged her to continue her education.

In 1974, she learned about a new institution – Empire State College – where she earned a B.A. in Community and Human Services after studying at the college's Central New York Center.

"Empire State College just gave me a lot of wonderful things; it gave me confidence in my own ability; it valued my work experience and provided me with people who listened to what I had to say. I really appreciated that," Wright says.

Wright, who is an assistant professor at Onondaga Community College, returned to her home center last October as the keynote speaker at the Student Academic Conference in Syracuse.

Wright's scholarship has focused on several different topics – diversity, HIV/AIDS in black women, domestic violence, substance abuse (she is a certified alcohol and substance abuse counselor) and love, which she says is the most important reason people teach and learn.

After a female friend died of AIDS in the early '90s, Wright wrote a book about women and the disease. She also has specialized in diversity training, but eschews the word "tolerance."



The college's new location on the Empire State Plaza's Concourse in downtown Albany



The view of the Hudson River from the Newburgh Unit's offices, with the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge on the far left

Plugged In

Moving Labs Online: College/Sloan-C Create a Virtual Lab Experience

Remember those chemistry classes in high school where you mixed two things together and they turned pink? Even as online classes have gained in acceptance and popularity, many still assume that such experiments and lots of other scientific exploration can't be done virtually.

To debunk this notion, Empire State College was invited to bring its distance-learning expertise to a joint project of Western Washington University, the University of British Columbia, Purdue University and the Sloan Consortium, (funded with a National Science Foundation grant) to "move the lab online."

The project primarily addresses how to get scientific instrumentation to such institutions as public high schools and tribal and community colleges that cannot afford to provide actual physical labs for their students.

For Empire State College, there's another goal.



Ken Charuk

"We want to look at what we can do with the distance-learning lab experiences to encourage deeper learning, as opposed to mixing two things together and seeing them turn a different

color," says Ken Charuk, coordinator of curriculum and instructional design at the Center for Distance Learning.

With a remote control camera that follows anything moving – including the lab technician, in a real laboratory – students will be able to log into their courses and download software that will bring the lab to them. Then, they can manipulate the instruments to perform their experiments.

Charuk has written a chapter in the book, "Moving the Lab Online: Situating the Online Laboratory Learning Experience for Future Success," which is about designing online labs. The book is published on demand by an online publisher and the Sloan-C Foundation, a consortium committed to quality online education.



PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.STOCKSTUDIOSPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

First-place winner Bryon Carr and his winning entry, "Seeking the Fantastic"

Student Poster Award Winners Announced

Three students have won awards in Empire State College's first student poster contest, sponsored by the Student Affairs Committee. The prizes were awarded at the Student Academic Conference in Syracuse last October.

In first place was Bryon Carr, of the Metropolitan Center, for his piece "Seeking the Fantastic." A thousand copies of Carr's work were printed and displayed around the college. Second place went to Denis McLaughlin, of the Genesee Valley Center, for his "Round Pond," and third place was awarded to Karen Delano, also of the Genesee Valley Center, for her "Natural Beauty." The work of Ryan McGuire, of the Central New York Center's Ithaca Unit, and Maryclaire Koch, of the Center for Distance Learning, were cited for honorable mention.

"The idea was for students to submit work which the college could use on brochures, calendars and posters," said Goldie Satt-Arrow, a student services professional at the Staten Island Unit, who chaired the committee.

Judges for the 107 entries included faculty members, Betty Wilde-Biasiny of the Metropolitan Center and Mark Cirigliano of the Genesee Valley Center; student services professional Mindy Boening of the Ft. Drum Unit; student Aili McDonald of the Northeast Center; and artist Carol Acquilano '97, from the Rochester community.



PHOTO CREDIT: GARY GOLD

Nationally recognized attorney David Yamada '99 attended the Center for Graduate Programs fall residency to discuss ways to address bullying.

Imagining the Healthy Workplace

A Conversation with
David Yamada '99
by
Helen Susan Edelman

“Each time a man stands up for an idea, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and injustice.” – Robert F. Kennedy

Workplace bullying is a problem wherever there are human beings, says David Yamada, and he is dedicated to redressing this destructive phenomenon. A lawyer and a law professor at Suffolk University Law School in Boston, Yamada is inspired by a vision of a work environment that affirms and dignifies individuals; he promulgates this ideal in efforts to encourage the legal system, institutions and individuals to address workplace bullying.

Yamada – who earned his Master of Arts in Labor and Policy Studies at Empire State College in 1999 – has written leading articles on workplace bullying and the law and authored model anti-bullying legislation called the Healthy Workplace Bill, which has been introduced in more than a dozen state legislatures. He is the founding director of the New Workplace Institute, a research and education center dedicated to healthy, productive and socially responsible workplaces, and an associated scholar with the Workplace Bullying Institute, the first North American organization dedicated to addressing workplace bullying.

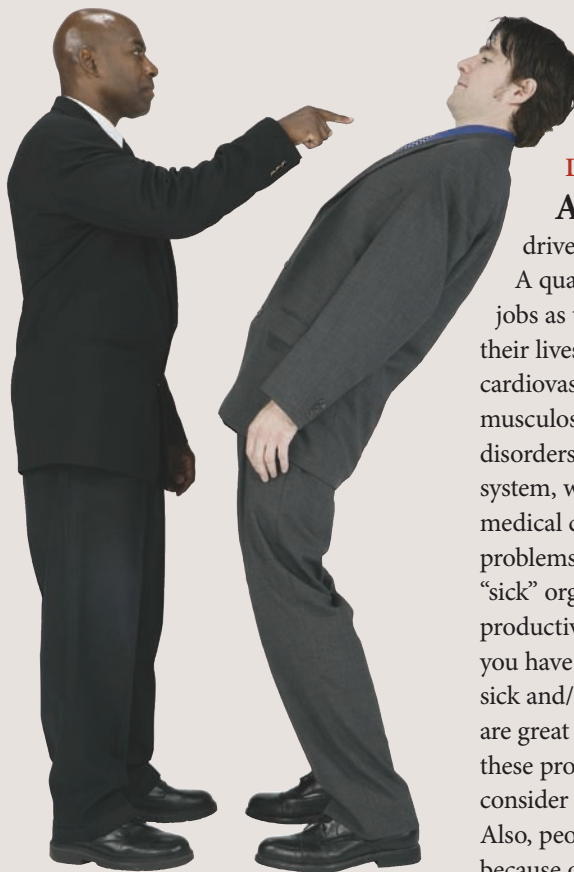
He is a compelling advocate for public policy and organizational responses to employee mistreatment. At an Empire State College graduate programs fall residency in Saratoga Springs, he discussed his work to encourage the legal system, institutions and individuals to address workplace bullying.

A man of deed as well as reflection, in 2004 Yamada established the David Yamada Labor Relations Scholarship to help fund an Empire State College student working toward the Master of Arts in Labor and Policy Studies.

Q: You have a consuming commitment to anti-bullying guidelines and enforcement.

What is at the root of your passion?

A: In academic circles, I witnessed bullying behavior and it was very distressing. As a specialist in labor and employment law, and based on my experience and observations, I became interested in workplace bullying and the importance of employee dignity and inclusive workplace environments.



Q: You say bullying is “health endangering.” Do you mean this literally?

A: Yes. Bullying is a hidden driver of the current health crisis. A quarter of employees view their jobs as the number one stressor in their lives. Stress can contribute to cardiovascular disease or hypertension, musculoskeletal disorders, psychological disorders, an impaired immune system, workplace injuries and other medical concerns. So, there are health problems on two levels: you have a “sick” organization with low morale, low productivity and physical dangers; and you have an individual who is, literally, sick and/or psychologically ill. There are great risks and costs associated with these problems, especially when you consider the number of people affected. Also, people who lose or quit their jobs because of bullying may lose their health insurance and thus join the millions who are uninsured.

“I believe almost anyone can become a so-called bully under certain circumstances, and almost anyone can become a target.”

– David Yamada

Q: How would you define bullying behavior?

A: More simply, it’s intentional, repeated, health-endangering mistreatment of one employee by one or more employees. Typical bullying behaviors include false accusations of mistakes and errors; hostile glares and other intimidating nonverbal behaviors; yelling, shouting or screaming; the silent treatment and exclusion; withholding resources someone needs to do their job; sabotage; or defamation. Bullying can be like a malignant cancer. It creeps up on you long before you are able to appreciate what is making you feel the ill effects.

Q: You’re talking about cruelty way beyond simple meanness. How bad have things gotten in the workplace?

A: Targets of severe workplace bullying have reported that their experience is “a nightmare,” “battle” or “torture,” and they have been made to feel like “slaves and animals,” “prisoners,” “children” and “heartbroken lovers.”

Employers suffer as well. Reduced employee loyalty, reduced productivity, lost time avoiding further encounters with a bully, higher absenteeism and higher attrition are among the common consequences of workplace bullying.

Q: It’s hard to imagine this being tolerated in the workplace – or anywhere else. How do targets cope with the experience?

A: Many targets have considerable difficulty coping with their situations. Too many employers do not take their complaints seriously, the legal

system offers only limited protections, and family and friends often do not understand the pain they are enduring – even therapists may not fully comprehend what is happening to them. For those who are subjected to severe, ongoing bullying at work, leaving the job is often the only way to stop the behavior – and in severe cases, the bullying may continue after their departure.

Q: Where do you think bullying behavior begins in our larger culture?

A: It's pretty much everywhere. You see it in homes and you see it in schoolyards. In many ways, the dynamics of bullying parallel domestic violence. When you look at the very large picture, you can even see bullying among nations. Aggression goes around and around in a cycle, up and down the scale. All of these forms of abuse are related. Workplace bullying should be included in these more general discussions of abuse to make people more aware of the effects of trauma in our society.

Q: It seems that bullying is at least finally being acknowledged as a pervasive problem. Is the public conversation improving things?

A: The situation has the potential to improve as people are sensitized to and admit the existence of bullying. But, the economy has put a lot of pressure on the workplace and on workers, and this tends to aggravate bullying behaviors. Workers are more competitive and more afraid, and they take it out on each other. So, to be honest, I vacillate between optimism and pessimism. We know more, but the question is: how are we going to respond to it?

Q: You say we know more. What kind of data is being collected?

A: Research studies indicate that some 40 percent or more of American workers

“Individual targets of bullying are often at a severe disadvantage. ... human resources offices are more likely to side with a bullying boss. ... Coworkers don't want to get involved out of fear of becoming a target.”

– David Yamada

have experienced workplace bullying at some point in their work lives. Supervisors are more likely to engage in bullying, while subordinates are most often targets. However, peer-to-peer bullying is not unusual, and on occasion, a subordinate can bully a boss. Research also shows that in America, whereas men will bully men and women in roughly equal proportion, when women bully they are more likely to select other women as their targets.

Q: There already are laws against harassment and discrimination based on race, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability and ethnicity. Don't these laws cover bullying?

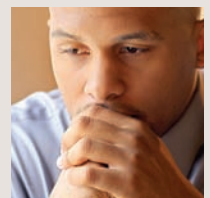
A: Not necessarily. In order to recover under employment discrimination law, you need to show that the negative behavior was a response to an individual's protected class membership, such as sex, race, age or disability. Bullying is not always motivated by those factors, and that is why it so often falls between the cracks of existing law. It may occur just because someone feels threatened by another person's good luck or good fortune. So, we need legal reform that protects individuals against a hostile work environment regardless of the underlying reason. When people are treated hurtfully and maliciously – when someone is trying to destroy their career and health – they should have a legal remedy. That's why I drafted the Healthy Workplace Bill, to fill the current void in American employment law and provide protections for workers who have

been subjected to harmful, malicious treatment at work.

Q: Who should get involved to address bullying?

A: I think there are many different potential stakeholders. Good, engaged, informed management can play a lead role in establishing a workplace culture that discourages bullying from the outset. Organizational leaders should empower their human resources offices to take workplace bullying seriously. Labor unions can introduce concerns about workplace bullying in collective bargaining and educate their workers about how to deal with bullying situations. For example, in 2009, Massachusetts public employee unions negotiated anti-bullying protection into their new collective bargaining agreement, covering some 21,000 state workers.

Mental health professionals can learn more about the effects of bullying and develop approaches to counseling bullying targets. Therapists know how to address situations such as domestic abuse and sexual abuse, but all too often they do not know how to help bullying targets.



Q: How can workplace bullying situations be resolved or mediated?

A: It would be great if more employers took this seriously instead of dismissing it as a simple personality conflict or as the complaints of an oversensitive employee. Unfortunately, most people who have been bullied at work find that human resources offices have not been helpful. They correctly fear retaliation if they report being

rather than mere conflict. You can't bring together a bully and a target and counsel compromise, where the target condones or agrees to the bullying behavior.

Q: Is there a downside to creating legal protection for people who are bullied?

A: There are legitimate concerns that poorly drafted legal reforms can

strides over the past 10 years by introducing "workplace bullying" into the vocabulary of American employment relations, but there is still much, much more to do.

Q: You've already made a major contribution to ending bullying by drafting the Healthy Workplace Bill. What would this statute bring to the workplace?

A: The Healthy Workplace Bill has two main areas of focus: first, it provides damages to employees who can prove that they were subjected to severe workplace bullying that caused physical or psychological harm; and, second, it provides legal incentives for employers who act preventively and responsively to bullying. Ultimately, the greatest value of the Healthy Workplace Bill is to encourage employers to take this problem more seriously, to take preventive measures that reduce the occurrence of bullying behaviors.

In addition, we need to create a more helpful array of employee safety-net benefits to help bullying targets who cannot work or who have left their jobs due to severe mistreatment at work. Programs such as workers' compensation, disability benefits and unemployment insurance need to recognize the impact of workplace bullying.

Q: Now that there's progress on the inroads you've been carving, what's next on your agenda?

A: This will take time. Even the enactment of legal protection will not end the behavior itself, just as employment discrimination laws have not ended sexual harassment. I plan to continue this work, advocating for legal protections, values-based leadership and grassroots education. ◦

To read more about David Yamada's work, visit www.newworkplaceinstitute.org.



"I've been heartened and encouraged. ... There are a lot of people who understand what this behavior [bullying] does to people and who are working hard to stop it."

– David Yamada

bullied, and they correctly fear that they may lose their job. Many targets of severe workplace bullying find that they must leave their jobs in order to avoid further mistreatment.

In addition, genuine bullying situations are hard to mediate – it's like trying to mediate domestic abuse, where one party clearly has a power advantage over another. Incivility and disagreements can be mediated, but bullying crosses into the realm of abuse,

open the doors to frivolous lawsuits resulting from office politics. That's why legislation has to be drafted carefully. It should include appropriate caps on damages and provide legal defenses for employers that have used reasonable care to prevent or correct bullying situations.

Q: What can we do going forward?

A: I think it starts with education and awareness. We have made great



PHOTO CREDIT: MARY HEITNER '92

Sherry Peregrin masterminded Shelter Island's "Trash Mash."

She's Turned Black Friday Green

"Trash Mash" Gets People Involved in Stewarding Shelter Island

by Hope Ferguson

Most Empire State College students know that they can earn credit for college-level life experience, but Sherry Peregrin learned that it doesn't end there. As a summer resident of Shelter Island, an 8,000-acre town on the eastern tip of Long Island bounded on three sides by the Shelter Island Sound, she heeded the call of Shanta Goswami, her environmental science instructor in the Center for Distance Learning, to do a hands-on, real-life, community-based project instead of writing a final paper.

In a decade of living on Shelter Island, which includes a large amount of protected wetlands, Peregrin had seen that the residents were concerned about the environment and wanted to be good stewards of the island. She wanted to do something to build on that concern; something that would draw from all sectors of the community; something that people would be able to do together and possibly carry out every year.

As an administrator of the Perlman Music Program for gifted young string musicians, she had seen stewardship in action in another way. The Perlman Music Program grew out of Itzhak Perlman's experience, and his wife Toby's dream. It was founded on 28 acres, the former site of an old hotel.

"It's a large, really, really wonderful location with 18 buildings and a tent

that seats 400, and every Friday and Saturday in the summer we have music," Peregrin says, adding that the program is "all about mentoring."

Besides the stewardship observed at the music program, she had seen her own brother, Dave Pray, institute a clean-up program, "The Great West Virginia Trash Mash" in Charleston, W.Va. It is still going strong, 20 years later.

From these two ideas, the Shelter Island Trash Mash was born. The Trash Mash that Peregrin envisioned is a seemingly simple idea that pays large dividends. It meant that one day is put aside for the community to don bright vests and gloves and clean up litter across the island.

"It's interesting. One thousand people live there year-round, and in

the summer it swells to 10,000 people," Peregrin says. "It's very calm, peaceful, a nice place off season." With the summer season over, and the holidays around the corner, "I immediately connected two things," she says. "Black Friday is a good day for an event like this – islanders, just like anyone else, have been about as gluttonous as you probably can be. People get catatonically stuck in a chair after all that food."

"It was my belief that it is important to get out and walk around the day after Thanksgiving," she says. "The fact that families gathered together during that time period felt like a positive, because there would be a community available to assist in the project. Since the Shelter Island community is so environmentally proactive, I thought there was a chance that this just might work."

Shanta Goswami, Peregrin's mentor, said she was excited by a student who wanted to do something concrete and collectively with her own community.

"She's engaged the firefighters, local community leaders, the newspaper and family and friends, to change this from a day where people tend to be materialistic to a day to learn about the island's ecology," says Goswami.

Peregrin's first stop was the town clerk, Mary Wilson, who let her know that she would not need a permit. Next stop was Police Chief James Read, who offered an electric sign. The highway supervisor, Mark Ketchum, also offered support – and he was able to point out where on the island the Trash Mash would do the most good. He also had bags and gloves available to be used by those who turned out and volunteered to pick up the garbage bags full of trash after the event. Another resident, Dan Binder, was able to donate bright vests visible to people on the road. Next, Peregrin approached the fire chief, William Roland, who offered his support, plus use of the fire house as a gathering spot. Finally, she spoke with the town supervisor, James Dougherty,

Environmental Science Online

Peregrin came to Empire State College because she wanted to complete the degree she had started at Columbia University but stopped when she became an administrator of the Perlman Music Program. "But I really wanted to finish my bachelor's degree," she says. Enrolled in the Center for Distance Learning, she is doing all of her coursework online. "The time factor is very important," she says. "I can schedule my time. The [environmental science] course is a good 20 - 25 hours a week to do it properly," she says. "I am very invested in it. I like to have interaction with other students, but we can do that online, too."

"to get his blessing," she says. There were posters to make, urging residents to "Turn Black Friday Green," and press releases to write, and the daily paper, The Shelter Island Reporter, to approach. The fire chief promised to pay for an ad if the press release didn't get used. She also implemented prizes for such things as the most cans, the most disgusting piece of garbage and the largest piece of trash collected. She touched base with the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and the one local K-8 school.

Goswami says she encourages her students to take on a project instead of the expected eight-to-10 page paper, but

sometimes logistical and practical issues get in the way.

"We keep talking about it but we don't do anything," says Goswami. "We ask, is it really going to make a difference? But it's one small step when we collectively do something; and it does make a difference. I am glad she did take this step."

"I'm a doer," Peregrin says firmly. "It's a small island, predisposed to do things like this. It's all about getting the word out and getting people interested. There's a buzz on the island that this is happening; it's absolutely a no-brainer to organize this event." ◊



Dozens of volunteers responded to organizer Sherry Peregrin's call to help clean up areas along Shell Beach. Foreground, from the left, are Wayne and Ashley Kotania and Jennifer Ruys. In all, more than 380 pounds of trash were picked up and delivered to the recycling center.



Sherry Peregrin, left, and Jerry Tyler look at the map at the Shelter Island Firehouse, showing designated clean-up areas.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SHELTER ISLAND REPORTER

“In every generation there are those whose lives open paths in new directions, transforming the landscape and extending our vision. Ernest L. Boyer was such a person.”

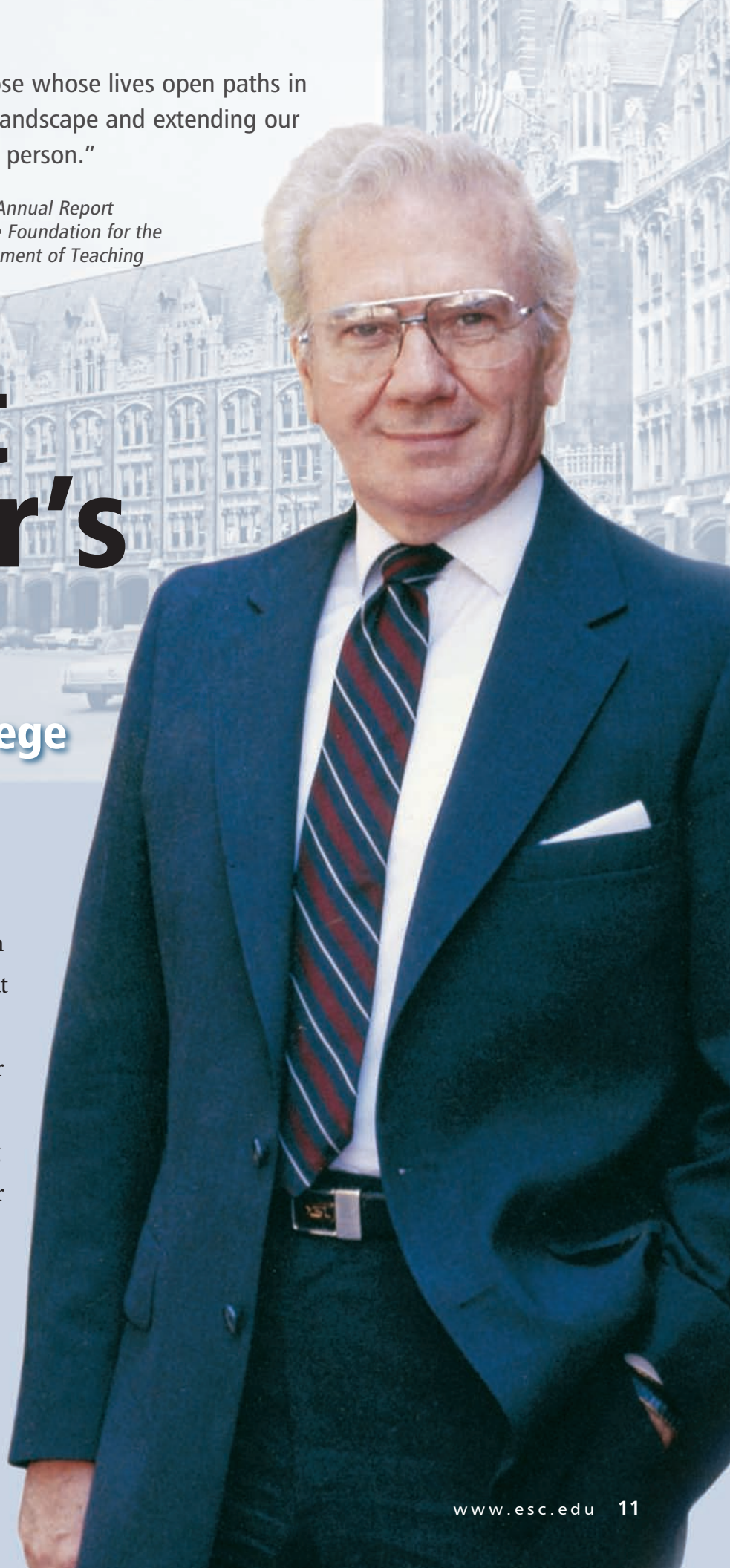
– 1996 Annual Report
Carnegie Foundation for the
Advancement of Teaching

Ernest Boyer's

Radical Ideas That Created Empire State College

By Holly Cargill-Cramer

In 1971, in a country deep in an unpopular war, with students at campuses around the country demonstrating for more control over their lives and their educations, and adults and governments questioning the public's continuing role in higher education, a relatively young man taking the helm of one of the largest and most weighty higher education systems in the world suggested that his state should create a new college.



It would be a college with no walls and no professors, where students would not follow a class schedule, but would set their own pace for learning and forge their own paths toward degrees.

It was a radical notion, put forth by the brand new, 42-year-old chancellor of SUNY, Ernest L. Boyer, and it came at a time when students were seeking a more direct role in university governance and the path of their own education.

In the first half of 1970, the United States had learned of the My Lai massacre. The Beatles broke up. Four students were killed by National Guardsmen at Kent State, and two were killed and 12 injured in violent protests at Jackson State University in Mississippi. In September 1970, the U.S. Commission on Campus Unrest issued a report warning of a growing crisis in higher-education institutions across the country. Campus unrest was not related solely to the conflict in Vietnam. Students who were about to receive the right to vote also wanted a say in how their colleges functioned and treated them as consumers of education.

Of his father's idea for a new college, Paul Boyer '86 says, "It may have been radical, but it was also realistic. The climate was ripe."

The youngest son of Ernest and Kathryn Boyer, Paul Boyer believes that the campus unrest gave rise to thinking about who higher-education institutions served and why. "It also gave rise to discussion on how college needed to be altered to serve a changing population – minorities, male and female, older adults, etc. Older students would eventually rise to dominate higher education," Boyer says. "Dad recognized the trends and embraced them as opportunities, not threats. He believed, deeply, that education was a powerful source for social change."

In the forward for Richard Bonnabeau's 1996 history of Empire State College, "The



Chancellor Ernest Boyer, right, meets with other SUNY education leaders at a meeting of presidents and trustees in 1972. From left to right, John Maguire, president, SUNY Old Westbury; Seymour Eskow, president, Rockland Community College and a member of the Empire State College Planning group; Loren Baritz, who would become Empire State College's vice president for learning resources and provost; James Hall, the college's first president, and Boyer.

Promise Continues," Ernest Boyer wrote of his frustration with "the imitative approach to academic planning." Boyer felt that colleges spent too much energy mimicking each other in not only curriculum requirements but, "... how many units it takes to complete a baccalaureate degree, and even how many times each week a class

"I think in his passion he was so persuasive that his radicalism came off as rational."

– Kay Boyer '78

should meet and what the length of each class should be, with 45 to 50 minutes being the revealed truth."

Bonnabeau says, "He was looking for a radical departure for American public education and used the opportunity as chancellor of the SUNY system. When you think about it, it was a brave thing to do.

Right as he was starting, he began work on a new college to give new students new opportunities at a time when SUNY was rocking from student protests."

In a background paper for his proposal for the new college, which he placed before the SUNY Board of Trustees on Jan. 27, 1971, Boyer wrote, "We must now develop a higher learning system that is not restricted to rigid curriculum, a single campus or fixed calendar. The new system must be geared to a pattern of offerings which permits each student to study what he wants, when he wants it, and at a place convenient to him. Such a revolutionary view of the university is clearly possible. What is needed now is the bold action of a major institution."

"In some ways," says Paul Boyer, "he was something better than a radical. He believed in best intentions, as opposed to wholesale denunciations. He always believed the best of people and government. So his method was always to work with them to produce the best results possible."

According to his wife, Kay, while Boyer's thinking might be radical, his diplomatic style did not reflect that. "The people that he needed to approve this idea were quite conservative, but they did approve," she says. "I think in his passion he was so persuasive that his radicalism came off as rational."

He was so effectively persuasive, the SUNY board unanimously accepted his proposal for a "nonresidential degree-granting college . . . devising new patterns of independent study, flexible approaches to learning and accessibility to young people and adults" with only one minor change. Where Boyer had written, "Resolved that the Chancellor be, and hereby is, directed to explore all of the steps necessary to implement this resolution on or before Sept. 1, 1971," the board struck out the word "explore," replacing it with the word "take" and no time was to be lost in moving forward.

At Boyer's inauguration as chancellor on April 6, 1971, Nelson A. Rockefeller, governor of the state of New York, said of him, "In our young chancellor, we have a perceptive bridge between the generations. We are at a point in this country when every value of the university is under question – the 'who,' the 'what,' the 'where' and, most of all, the 'why' of higher education. In Dr. Boyer, we have an educator far more interested in finding new answers than he is in preserving the old conventions."

Born in Dayton, Ohio, Boyer finished high school early and continued his education at Messiah Academy (now Messiah College and home of The Boyer Center) in Grantham, Pa. He earned master's and doctorate degrees in speech pathology and audiology and served as a teacher and administrator at Upland College, where he experimented in his courses with the idea of a mid-year period of independent study or a student project.

From there his career took off like a shot. In 1960, he became director of the Commission to Improve the Education of Teachers; in 1962, he was named director of the Center for Coordinated Education at University of California Santa Barbara; in 1965, he moved to New York state to become the first executive dean of the SUNY system; and, in 1968, he was promoted to vice chancellor. At the age of only 42, in 1970, he was appointed chancellor.

The first move of this very young chancellor was not just to start a new college in a system that already had 72 of them, but to start a new college that would function in a totally new way and at a pace that was itself radical. The college he proposed in January opened in November of the same year.

Davis. "It was established to break all the existing rules and to turn the traditional academy inside out to focus exclusively on the lives and needs of its learners and of their communities," Davis adds. "This focus on primarily being of service to others, and measuring success in teaching and scholarship in those terms was radical, and frankly, it still is. There are some sister institutions conceived at about the same time with the same purpose around the world, but they are relatively few and far between."

Out of necessity, change and flexibility were embedded into the very culture of the institution from the beginning, in part to get the new college up and running quickly. And the radical chancellor found additional radical thinkers to make the vision a reality. In Bonnabeau's "The Promise Continues"



Ernest Boyer, a passionate, persuasive proponent of lifelong learning in all its forms

Current Empire State College President Dr. Alan Davis likes "radical" as a descriptor for Boyer. "Of course I am biased, because I am president of one of Boyer's most radical ideas: Empire State College," says

Ken Abrams, an Empire State College founding mentor and founder of the early college's London satellite operation, said of the first faculty and administrators, "I think they didn't know what it was they were



With Boyer at the helm of SUNY, a new vitality and vision became reality for SUNY and led to the creation of Empire State College.

adopting; they only knew what it was they were rejecting.”

Nearly 40 years later, Empire State College President Alan Davis says, “We are still looking for ways to expand our role and be ‘radical’ and the emerging networking technologies present a huge opportunity for us to enrich our learners’ experience. I think Ernest Boyer would be amazed and excited about these possibilities to extend the richness and reach of adult learning.”

Empire State College was not Boyer’s only radical notion while SUNY chancellor. He created an experimental three-year Bachelor of Arts program for top students, and created the Distinguished Teaching Professorship. He established the country’s first student exchange program with the Soviet Union, in the midst of the Cold War, he initiated a statewide art program,

and opened opportunity centers for minority students.

“I think Ernie Boyer was a thought leader in higher education before we even knew what the term meant,” says Nancy Zimpher, current chancellor of SUNY and a long-time admirer of Ernest Boyer and his work. “Now that we have become an even more complex country, I think we need that kind of breakthrough thinking as we again turn our attention to the land-grant act and reconsider the role of public higher education. Boyer would have been the model for critical thinking and for understanding the role of higher education in contemporary times. We need him back.”

It also was Ernest Boyer’s idea to renovate Albany’s abandoned D&H Railroad terminal to serve as a headquarters for the SUNY system. “One day,” says his son, Paul, “he asked if I wanted to go on a helicopter ride. We were up in the air looking at

buildings that might serve, and I remember flying over the D&H building. He believed that SUNY could use its influence and resources to instigate some urban renewal in the capital, too.”

The restored architectural treasure that continues to serve as SUNY headquarters, was dedicated shortly after Ernest Boyer left SUNY in 1977 to serve as U.S. President Jimmy Carter’s commissioner of education. In 1979, Boyer became president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Education, a position he held until his death in 1995. At the Carnegie Foundation, he gained a national platform for his radically compassionate ideas about education.

In his article “Encounters in Education: a Tribute to Ernest Boyer,” Eugene Swartz, who served as a Carnegie Teaching Fellow under Boyer’s leadership, wrote, “I was able to witness firsthand what a radical



In one of the final interviews Ernest Boyer gave, conducted by “Technos Quarterly” editor Carole Novack and published in their fall 1995 edition, he was asked what he would like his grandchildren to think of as his legacy. He responded, “I would hope that they would see that I believed education meant more than knowledge – that it meant moving from information to knowledge and from knowledge to wisdom and from competence to conscience – and that in the end, it’s not simply becoming more informed, but becoming capable of living a better life, and directing your energy toward humane ends.” ◊

A Radical Dream Realized

A significant new book about higher education reform points to Empire State College as a model for educational innovation.

Written by Charles Muscatine, professor emeritus of English at the University of California, Berkeley, “Fixing Higher Education: A New Curriculum for the Twenty-first Century” lays out what is wrong with the traditional university model and explores examples of innovative higher education.

“No account of innovation in college education would be complete without mention of Empire State College of the State University of New York. . . . It was founded in 1971 – under the enlightened presidency of James W. Hall and the SUNY chancellorship of Ernest L. Boyer,” writes Muscatine.

He specifically points to the work that Empire State College has done in creating flexible, individualized degree programs and the key role faculty mentors play.

Muscatine emphatically states, “Empire State College has profound, innovative things to teach other colleges. The new curriculum would flourish anywhere that students were so unambiguously put first and the nature of education made a preoccupation of all.”

Indeed, this is Ernest Boyer’s radical dream for education realized. ◊

departure he affected among the Carnegie Foundation’s staff and research associates. By shifting the focus of research from the high-profile, government research-supported, heavily-endowed, male enclaves of the great universities to the obscure and quiet kindergartens staffed by underpaid and overworked women, Ernest Boyer brought about a 180-degree shift in the priorities of educational studies.”

In his years at the Carnegie Foundation, he became a prodigious writer and researcher and one of the world’s foremost authorities on educational reform. In 1987, he published “The Undergraduate Experience in America,” in which he postulated that higher education suffered from a lack of faculty attention to students, and called for the type of faculty-student mentoring that is at the core of Empire State College’s success. He went on to publish “Scholarship Reconsidered:

Priorities of the Professorate,” in which he redefined scholarship to include discovery, application, integration and teaching, and called for renewed respect for the art of teaching itself.

“He spent most of his career as an administrator,” says his son, Paul, “but he did not think of himself as one. He really felt he was a teacher and communicator – there to provide a sense of vision and purpose. My father had a deeply held and constant vision for what education should be at all levels. If you look at his writings and speeches from the mid-’60s to his death, he is essentially saying the same thing at every opportunity: ‘Education is a tool for promoting social equality, global understanding and peace.’ He believed education was the most powerful vehicle for creating a humanistic society. He was always looking for opportunities to create this result.”



PHOTO CREDIT: WRIGHT STUDIO

Kay Boyer (seated) with her children, from left, Beverly Boyer Coye, Ernest Boyer Jr., Craig Boyer and Paul Boyer

The Muse For a New College

Kathryn “Kay” Boyer was Ernest Boyer’s wife and, in the case of Empire State College, she also was his muse.

She was partially through college and had decided to pursue nurse training when she met Ernest Boyer. “At the time,” she

says, “if you married, they would dismiss you from the program. We had become engaged and would have to delay the marriage for more than a year for me to complete the program. We decided to marry right away, instead, and I did not finish the degree.”

When their children reached a certain age, Boyer said she returned to her studies and began taking courses wherever they were located. When they reached Albany, she approached a local college offering nursing degrees to see if she could put together enough of her earned credits to obtain a degree.

“I remember going there with all my credits in order and they totaled enough to finish. The woman I spoke to was so polite, saying they would love to have me as a graduate. Then at the end of the interview she said she’d see me at orientation for the freshman class in the fall. I was so shocked! I thought I could put it all together and finish after one year, and here she was expecting me to begin all over as a freshman.”

She related this story to her husband. “When I told Ernie that night, he was so upset and chagrined. He said, ‘I wonder how many people out there are in the same boat?’ and the next day he called a meeting. There may have been four or five people in our living room talking about it,” she remembers. “He kept up the conversation after that and bit by bit they kept developing it. My story just fit.”

Kay Boyer became one of the first graduates of Empire State College and went on to a career as a nurse midwife.

As to the notion of Ernest Boyer as radical, Kay says that their upbringings made it difficult to be radical. She says most people of their acquaintance followed a very simple and strict way of life. “Yet, individualistic thinking, when you have ideas and pursue them – being a bit of a maverick – I think we both had that kind of tendency. Our mothers were both a little bit that way.” ◊



Paul Boyer '86, alumnus and mentor

A Father’s Long Legacy

Paul Boyer, the youngest son of Ernest and Kathryn Boyer, is a writer, educator and researcher specializing in Indian tribal colleges. While he has taught in a wide variety of settings, he recently followed up on a window of opportunity and multiple

suggestions and became a mentor for Empire State College, where he had earned his bachelor’s degree.

“I went to a traditional liberal arts Quaker college in Indiana,” he says. “But I was unhappy. I felt I was ready to have a life – to go out and do things.”

Paul dreamed of becoming a foreign correspondent, a dream not so strange for those who were living through the Vietnam era, when live reporting from battlefields and diplomatic enclaves was new on our television screens. “I dropped out of college to the quiet unhappiness of my father, who was never one to openly criticize his children,” Boyer says.

He went off to Central America, where he “actually had some success” as a foreign correspondent before accepting the harsh reality that he couldn’t make a living at it. He returned to the

states and started freelancing, picking up assignments here and there.

In a gentle sort of “by the way” fashion, his father suggested to him one day, “While you’re doing some writing, you might want to think about enrolling at Empire State. It’s possible to continue what you’re doing while doing some course work.” He enrolled.

Paul’s mentor was Ken Abrams, at the time the dean of the Metropolitan Center. “He was the right person for me at the right time,” Boyer says. “He was kind and scholarly, gentle, but prodding when necessary.”

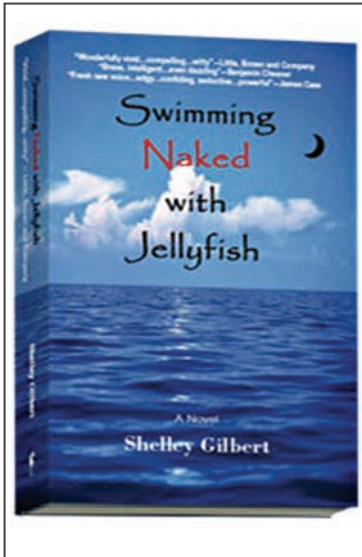
Paul began to actually look forward to opportunities to get on New Jersey transit and travel over to the “old, down-at-the-heels center” to talk to Abrams in his office cluttered with thousands of books and papers. “He would talk to me as if he had nothing else to do with his life and all the time in his life was mine,” Boyer says. “And eventually, we did get around to talking about a learning contract. That was the best education I got.”

Boyer says that he had a “high-school mentality” during his time in a traditional college. “When I got to Ken’s office, I felt different. I could be a scholar. How he perceived me is how I came to perceive myself.”

The tradition of study at Empire State College has reached its third generation of Boyers. A student of philosophy, Paul’s son, Gabriel, earned his degree in 2004 from the Metropolitan Center, mentored by Bob Carey. ◊

Portfolio

BOOKS



Letters to Her Father Pave Way to a Writing Path

**Shelley Gilbert, '95, '97
Hudson Valley Center**

"I love being a writer," Shelley Gilbert says. "It's the best thing that ever happened to me." Enrolling at Empire State College in 1992, and hoping to earn some life credits, she "handed in 33 letters I had written to my father . . ." Shortly after, she received a nighttime call from her writing tutor, who insisted that Gilbert was a writer, and who urged her to change her concentration to creative writing. With the help of then-dean James Case, Gilbert began to revise her work. What resulted was "Swimming Naked with Jellyfish," an autobiographical novel which was recognized as a finalist for the Eric Hoffer Award – 2009, The Montage Medal for Excellence in Independent Publishing, awarded to "forward-looking" books.

ART

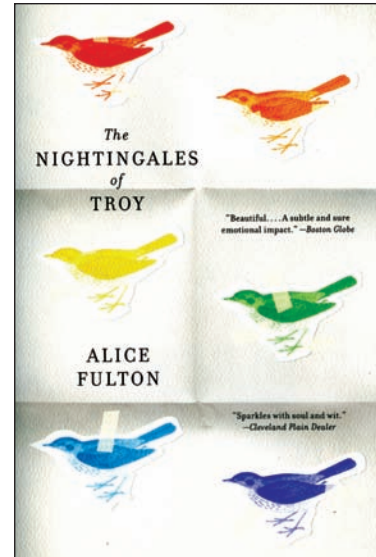


Out of This World as You Take to the Skies

**Sharon Bates, Chris Harvey
Northeast Center students**

Two Northeast Center students, Sharon Bates and Chris Harvey, were involved in a show, "Out of this World: Transcending the Terrestrial in Contemporary Art," at the Albany International Airport Art Gallery. Bates (no relation to her mentor Cynthia Bates), is the director of the Art and Culture Program at the Albany International Airport and was the curator of the exhibit. Chris Harvey is an artist and graphic designer. The familiar objects of daily life are, according to a press release, "beautifully subverted as these everyday items undergo a transformation." Among Harvey's pieces is an unusual plastic totem, standing tall and green with progressively smaller faces. The exhibit opened June 29, 2009. The pieces of art stayed on display until Nov. 29.

BOOKS



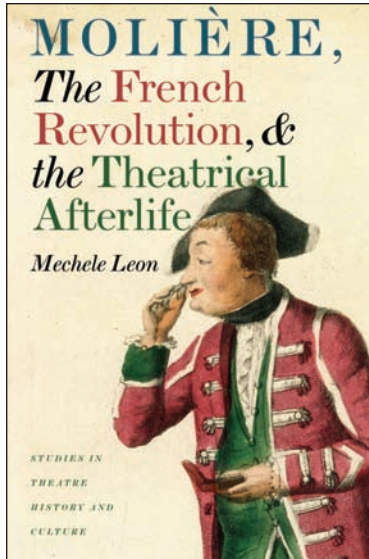
Poems to Paragraphs Now a Novel Approach

**Alice Fulton '78
Northeast Center**

MacArthur fellow and winner of the Bobbitt National Prize for Poetry from the Library of Congress, among other awards, Alice Fulton '78 is better known as a poet and short-story writer, than a novelist. However, this past July, "The Nightingales of Troy," her first full-length novel, was published by W.W. Norton. In the novel, she traces the lives of the women in a colorful family through the 20th century up to the dawn of the millennium. Critics have been duly impressed by the author, who also is the Ann S. Bowers Professor of English at Cornell University. The Boston Globe called the novel "Outstanding . . . Sublime distillations, not only of the individual lives they so eloquently describe, but also of the eras throughout which the formidable Garrahan family endures."

Portfolio

BOOKS

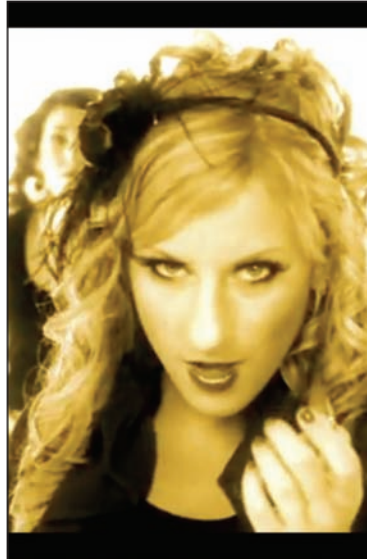


French Theater Explained by U.K. Professor

Mechele Leon '93
Metropolitan Center

As part of their award-winning series on theater history and culture, the University of Iowa Press has just published Mechele Leon's book, "Molière, the French Revolution, and the Theatrical Afterlife." Leon teaches theater history, dramatic theory, acting and directing at the undergraduate and graduate levels at the University of Kansas. She also serves as artistic director of the University Theater. Published in numerous journals, her area of specialty is French theater, with a focus on the plays of Molière, issues of cultural memory and national identity in France and theater during the French Revolution. Her current research project looks at 18th-century French drama in translation and the influence of French theater artists on the development of theater training in the United States.

MUSIC

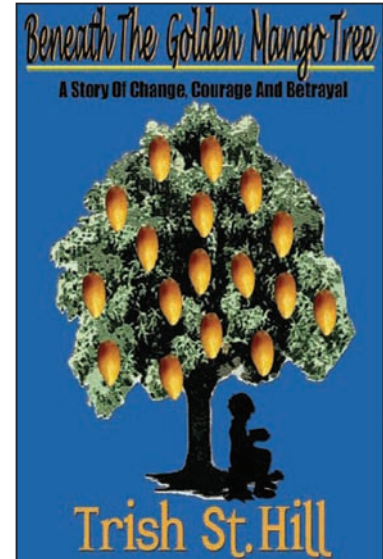


Only Four Degrees of Separation to the Cover

Lisa Ganz, student
Long Island Center

How Long Island native and Empire State College student Lisa Ganz came to be on the cover of Billboard magazine was by a series of fortunate connections. A family friend knew a limo driver, who knew someone in the industry who passed along her CD. She then got the call: "we want you to come down and we'll talk, sing a session. We like you, so we want you to be part of this." The idea was to help promote the return of producers Jerry Kasenetz and Jeff Katz. Although their names may not ring a bell with the general public, they are well known in the music industry. "It was weird to actually see it," Ganz, 20, says. "It was kinda surreal. I thought, am I really on the cover?"

BOOKS



Coming of Age Story Bears Literary Fruit

Utricia H. Charles '04
Center for Graduate Programs

Utricia Charles, otherwise known as Trish St. Hill, has self-published her first novel, "Beneath the Golden Mango Tree," a coming-of-age tale that brings the immigrant experience to life. "It was 25 years in the making," Charles, a native of St. Vincent, an island in the eastern Caribbean, says. The historical novel follows 16 years of a young Garifuna girl's life. Charles explains, "The Garifunas were a group of people born of Africans who were shipwrecked off the coast of St. Vincent in the Caribbean, and Amerindians." Although the novel is not primarily about the Garifunas, it does dip into a bit of history. Charles is busy marketing the self-published book, and one avenue was her church, where a number of people have read it and told her they couldn't put it down.

PROFILE



PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.STOCKSTUDIOSPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Nikki Shrimpton

By Tom Dimopoulos

The sport of fencing. The art of gardening. The joy of playing cello. All this and more enrich the life of Nikki Shrimpton, the associate dean of the Central New York Center, who recently marked 12 years with the college.

As varied as her list of accomplishments is, her area of expertise is “sustainability,” meeting the needs of the present age wisely to ensure that resources still will be available for future generations.

“Originally, I was an undergraduate in ecological science and I have always been interested in the environment and conservation and trying to do things more efficiently by using less,” says Shrimpton, who holds a bachelor’s degree in forestry from North Carolina State University and a doctorate in forest management from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

The natural world appealed to Shrimpton at a young age.

“As a kid, I wanted to be a vet. When I didn’t get into vet school, I wanted to have something to do with wildlife,” she says.

Her youngest years were spent growing up in Yorkshire, England, “where we have no forest,” she says, with an ironic laugh.

Shrimpton sees the work that she does as reaching into the next generation.

Today, she maintains a busy schedule that suits her varied tastes, whether that is developing an edible forest garden that involves putting plants and trees together in patterns that mimic the ecosystem, or reading about it.

“I usually have one food or plant-related book I’m reading,” she says, the latest being a book called “Cod: A Biography of the Fish That Changed the World.” That is supplemented on Shrimpton’s nightstand by the works of Scottish-born mystery novelist Ian Rankin.

Shrimpton’s life is made fuller by her three children, her eight-year long hobby of fencing, and her cello, a companion for more than 30 years. ◊

Alumni and Student COMMUNITY

Center for Distance Learning

Katherine Gibbons, a dancer with the Rockettes at Madison Square Garden, with Disney Productions in New York City and Disney Cruise Lines, has enrolled in Empire State College with the goal of becoming a broadcast journalist. She also was a dancer in “West Side Story” and appeared in the film “Tom and Valkyrie.”

Yasuyuki Kato '07 is in Thailand where he is studying the language and culture of the country at the Chiang Mai University Language Institute. To complete his program at Kobe University, his thesis is about Thai human rights issues. In Thailand, he will investigate primary documents written in Thai and conduct field research. His goal is to become a practitioner, or human rights protection officer for a nongovernmental organization or the U.N.

Music industry veteran **Shawn Kilmurray '08** has been chosen as executive director of Rock the Earth, a national environmental organization dedicated to protecting America’s natural resources through partnerships with the music industry. Kilmurray will seek to expand Rock the Earth’s partnerships with artists and other music-related entities. He said, “I am delighted to be asked to lead the organization at what is a critical time for the global environment. Whether it’s climate change, chemicals in our food, water issues, deforestation, air pollution, extinction of species or the lack of government action, few of us truly take ownership and act on these issues, foolishly believing others will do it for us. Music has the power to open the heart and touch the soul. Artists have always been at the forefront of social change, so they understand the importance of taking action. My

objective is to develop collaborative alliances with those members of the music community dedicated to the pursuit of environmental solutions.”

Asked why he switched from music to the environment, Kilmurray replies, “I’m on the executive board of the Sierra Club in New York, Surfrider and the U.S. Green Building Council. I also was inspired by the election last year. I got myself involved and organized a concert in Long Island for Obama. The fact that I could do that inspired me. I pulled it off and started thinking this is maybe where my energy and passion and connections can pay off, doing good versus just helping a corporate bottom line.”

A graduate of the College and Community Fellowship (CCF) program at the CUNY Graduate Center for Women’s Studies, **Vivian Nixon '06**, is now executive director of CCF, the nine-year-old program that helps formerly incarcerated women get college educations. A former inmate at Albion Correctional Facility in Bedford Hills, N.Y., she came to CCF in 2001 after her release. “I heard about this program in Albion,” she says. “When I got out, the first call I made was to my parole officer. The second was to CCF. Based on what I had seen inside the correctional facility, I knew education was the key to changing my life in ways that would be permanent, so that I never ended up back in prison.” Nixon earned a degree in human services administration from Empire State College in 2006, and assumed the position of executive director that same year. The College and Community Fellowship program offers recently released women everything from help filling out financial aid and college applications to getting them tutors and help with homework. In a state where 44 percent of inmates are sent back to

(continued on page 21)

“Can Do” for Children

Jean Campbell '75

Jean Campbell '75 used her retirement savings to launch a children’s Web site (www.thecandoco.com). She shares a major portion of the membership fees with schools.

The “Can Do” Co. Choices program uses animated, can-shaped characters to help young children ages 4 to 8 years to develop decision-making skills. Characters are racially and culturally diverse and include characters that



have disabilities. Programs are fully narrated to ensure that those who do not read can benefit from them. Characters present stories to children asking them to make choices about personal safety, school behavior, friendship, sharing and other life situations. A child cannot exit a specific interactive choice scene until he or she makes the correct choice from two or three possible answers. A child is not corrected but asked to try again, until he or she chooses the correct answer. When a child chooses the right answer, the characters reinforce the correct choice by popping their tops and complimenting the child. In addition to the training programs there are mazes, matching games and eye/hand coordination skills activities that reinforce the life skills found in each of the training programs.

Her “Can Do” Co. brought children’s life skills programs to the Web in September 2009, and for a limited time, subscribers can become members of the program for an annual fee of \$29.95.

Campbell is the founder of five corporations and designed and developed more than 100 educational, health care and social services programs for youth and adults and raised over \$100 million in grants to support these initiatives. ◊

prison within three years of being released, less than 2 percent of CCF fellows have been sent back to jail for any reason. Some 283 women have received support from CCF programs since it began. The women went on to earn a total of 141 college degrees, including 25 associate, 74 bachelor's, 41 master's degrees and one doctorate.

Michael J. Vatter '95, was appointed fire chief of the Newburgh Fire Department effective Nov. 2, 2009. Formerly a deputy fire chief, Vatter originally retired from the City of Newburgh in 2000, where he had served more than 20 years in the fire department. After leaving the Newburgh Fire Department, Vatter went on to earn his law degree from Pace University in 2003.

Erica Jackofsky '07 is part of her family's quartet, the Homegrown String Band. They specialize in American folk music and Appalachian flatfoot dancing. They perform throughout the Northeast, including at the legendary Caffe Lena in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Center for Graduate Programs

Cathleen Engle, an Educational Opportunity Program advisor at Alfred State College, was inducted into Chi Alpha Epsilon as an honorary member. Engle is a student in the graduate program at the college.

Gordon Charlop, '00 '02 is the first M.B.A. graduate to complete a Ph.D., defending his doctoral dissertation successfully. Charlop, whose thesis was on "The Effects of Institutional Isomorphism on the New York Stock Exchange," at Capella University, was in one of the first M.B.A. cohorts. Alan Belasen, chair of Empire State College's M.B.A. program, was on his doctoral committee.

Cynthia Buckley Koren, '99 M.B.A., was recently promoted to associate professor of communications design at PrattMWP, Pratt Institute's upstate campus in Utica. She also is a practicing designer currently exhibiting a series of work about autism.

Center for International Programs

Abdullah Razzouk '00, from the Cyprus program, is a senior accountant at Sterling Equities on Long Island.

Prague graduate **Marcel Kaba '09** spent Christmas in Rwanda to put his training in conflict resolution into practice. Kaba, a native of Slovakia who earned his bachelor's degree in international economic relations as well as his certificate in peace, conflict and environmental studies, is currently in a master's program in international affairs at The New School in New York City. Last year, the paper Kaba wrote in the University of New York at Prague's (UNYP) international law honors seminar was published in "The New Presence: Prague's Journal of International Affairs" (Vol. 12, No. 2, Spring 2009). While a student, Kaba worked for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, and now in New York he is working for the India China Institute at The New School. In addition, he is a research assistant at the Graduate Program

Empire State College Reaches Out Across the Globe

We have launched new Facebook pages for our alumni and students from the Center for International Programs. All are welcome to join these pages.

www.esc.edu/Greece

www.esc.edu/Czech

www.esc.edu/Albania

www.esc.edu/CentralAmerica

www.esc.edu/MiddleEast

in International Affairs. Kaba says he went to Rwanda to "get a feeling of how people deeply affected by gross violence and conflict find ways of forgiving, reconciling and building a common future." Looking forward, Kaba plans to spend the summer

Sardi's Networking Event



Dean Mike Merrill from The Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies and Dean Cynthia Ward from the Metropolitan Center joined President Davis for a record turnout of alumni, students, faculty and staff at the famed Manhattan landmark, Sardi's. Pictured, from left to right, Dean Merrill, William McCabe '83, '85, Betty Schouenborg, Susan Mekrami '07 and Alec Meiklejohn.

PHOTO CREDIT: MARTY HEITNER '92

Buffalo Bills Game



President Alan Davis, second row in a college T-shirt, and Batavia Unit staff hosted alumni, students and their families at the Buffalo Bills game in September when they played the New Orleans Saints.

Visiting in Prague



Barbara Romeo, right, a 1990 alumna of the Central New York Center, traveled to Prague where she met up with Evelyn Wells, former faculty member at the Long Island Center and current European regional coordinator for the Center for International Programs.

working for the International Rescue Committee or working in the human rights field in Hong Kong.

Ioanna Siori '08, from Athens, is an artist who has designed the last two New York College yearbook publications and is planning to attend graduate school.

The thesis film by Athens alumna **Effie Bountris '08** won three awards in the Drama Film Festival. She is working with a grant on a unique international project developing a global notation language for film teams and game developers.

Nikos Vouteniotis '05 has been teaching direction in several acting schools in Athens and writing a script for a new film project.

Alvart Doniguan Kalloghlian '06 is Lebanon's newest television personality.

Central New York Center

Marilyn Foster '84 was honored as the first woman pastor in the history of Seneca Falls, and received the village's 2009 Convention Days Community Service Award. The award is particularly significant in this birthplace of the Women's Rights Movement, where one of the grievances in the Declaration of Sentiments at the 1848 first convention was that women were shut out of leadership roles in the churches. Rev. Foster was ordained a Methodist minister in 1987. She opened the church to the community, allowing numerous nonchurch-related groups, such as Alcoholics Anonymous and the Boy Scouts, to meet there, extending her ministry beyond her own congregation.

Genesee Valley Center

Gerald P. Beaudin Jr. '78 has been honored with membership in "Cambridge Who's Who," for demonstrating dedication, leadership and excellence in historical publications. Beaudin, a retired engineer, started Beaudin Creations in 2001, dedicated to compiling family stories, and now expanded to veteran's stories of past wars and stories of individuals told by friends. Beaudin also has been nationally

recognized for his revolutionary designs in material handling.

Holly Hogan '91 has been appointed by the NYS Governor's Office to the Alfred State College Council, an advisory group to the president of the college with authority in such areas as regulations governing student conduct, regulations concerning care and management of campus facilities, review of academic programs, approval of candidates for college degrees and selection of the college president. Hogan, the acting principal of Hornell Intermediate School, holds a Master of Science degree from Alfred University, a Bachelor of Science degree from Empire State College and an Associate in Applied Science degree from Alfred State College. She also has earned a certificate of advanced study from SUNY Brockport. She is a member of the Hornell Community Theatre and the Hornell Area Democratic Women. Her husband, Shawn, is the mayor of Hornell.

Samantha Roosa '09 has been appointed the training director for Alfred State College, where she coordinates professional development training for college personnel and others.

Linell Soule '96 was named Coach of the Year in "D" girls track and field at Alfred College.

Hudson Valley Center

Helen G. Ullrich '93, has joined the Orange County Community College Board of Trustees. She graduated magna cum laude in 1996 from New York Law School and is managing partner of Bergstein and Ullrich, LLP. She also is a member of the Orange County Bar Association, Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, Women's Bar Association of Orange and Sullivan counties and the National Employment Lawyers Association.

(continued on page 24)

Catherine (Trina) Mead '09, Northeast Center



Trina Mead '09, was appointed chief executive officer (CEO) of the State Liquor Authority in August 2009. At the liquor authority, Mead oversees the day-to-day operations of the agency, and ensures that the Alcoholic Beverage Control Division has the support it needs to conduct the business of the agency. She also is charged with making sure the agency's business is carried out "in an ethical, professional and transparent manner."

Both a graduate and master's degree candidate at Empire State College, Mead was, until recently, deputy commissioner for administration at the New York State Office of General Services (OGS), where she was responsible for the 250 employees in her program area. This included the division of financial administration, with an annual budget of \$800 million.

A career New York state employee, Mead worked her way up in the last 30 years to positions of increasing responsibility in the State of New York Office of the Attorney General where she served as a senior administrative analyst and office services manager before enrolling at Empire State College to complete her degree. However, she likes to tell the story of how she got the job, in 2005, as the director of administrative services, crediting her writing samples from Empire State College. Mead enrolled in Empire State College in 2003, with the intent of studying journalism. Her children were older, in high school, so "I thought I could spend time on myself," she says. Mead actually landed an internship – and a job offer as a reporter at the Albany Times Union. But she found that her job as director of administrative services was too demanding – requiring a lot of travel – to maintain her college educational goals. So, she freelanced for the paper and left school once again without earning her degree. However, she continued to do well, working with Attorney General Andrew Cuomo until she moved from the Office of the Attorney General to OGS. In March 2007, she returned to school and decided to complete her degree with a concentration in public administration. "I took a walk to the old Empire State Plaza office," and again was assigned a mentor. Because she advanced in her career despite the lack of a degree, Mead says she earned the degree "just for myself."

What excited Mead most was the cross pollination of school and career. "It was so exciting to do coursework and put it into practice immediately," she says. Also, in a traditional program "you were lucky to get face time with a professor," yet, at Empire State College, meeting one-to-one with a professor is how students learn. Mead earned her degree, in Business, Management and Economics, in spring 2009. Now she is ready to go on for her master's degree. "Many folks I work with have master's degrees or more," she says. She is enrolled in the Master of Arts in Social Policy program at Empire State College. ○

Long Island Center

Anna Maria Villa '98 has been named executive director of Riverhead, Long Island's Industrial Development Agency. Villa has spent the past few years running her own marketing and consulting business, which developed marketing strategies and sales programs for small to mid-sized businesses and nonprofit firms. Previously, she had been a disc jockey, singer, civil service investigator, TV reporter in Italy

and a participant in Italy's National Theatre Company. Born in Italy and raised in the United States, she is fluent in both languages. Of her new position, she says, "I'm sort of a natural for this job. It pulls from all my experiences."

Metropolitan Center

Renowned photographer **Dawoud Bey '90**, was the keynote speaker for the College

Art Association's convocation at their 2010 CAA's Annual Conference in Chicago. After earning his Bachelor of Arts degree from Empire State College, he went on to earn his Master of Fine Arts degree from Yale University. Bey is a distinguished college artist and associate professor of art at Columbia College in Chicago.

Robin Gee '98, is now assistant professor of dance at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, where she teaches African dance, Caribbean dance forms and modern dance classes, and lectures in the dance appreciation and dance history curricula. With an M.F.A. from Sarah Lawrence College and a bachelor's in ethno-cultural studies from Empire State College, she is

(continued on page 26)

Empire State College Alumna Interprets at Obama Event



Sharon Brown-Levey '04

Sharon Brown-Levey '04, a certified sign language interpreter/assistant for the New York State Department of Education, was lucky – and talented – enough to be picked as President Barack Obama's interpreter at his talk at Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC) in Troy, N.Y., on colleges preparing students to work in advanced technologies.

After his speech, President Obama made a point of walking over to her, shaking her hand and saying thank you with a warm smile. "It was a real smile," Brown-Levey says, "not one of those pasted-on political smiles."

Shortly after, on her way back to her office, she met a local African-American woman she had become friends with after parking on her block for many years. With a grin, she told the woman to shake her hand. The woman did and Brown-Levey said, "You've now shaken the hand of the woman who just shook President Obama's hand."

A few days later, she received a call from an aide to the president, thanking her and telling her if they needed sign language services in New York again they would be sure to call on her. Laughing, she says, "I now consider myself President Obama's interpreter."

Asked why she was chosen, she says Pablo Negrón, the disabled student services coordinator at HVCC, contacted her because he had worked with her on other projects and was impressed with her abilities.

The HVCC event was the highlight of her 30 years as a sign language interpreter, she says, although she previously interpreted for Gov. Mario Cuomo, as well as grass roots speakers and had, at his request, even given the governor a few signs to use.

After earning her B.A. in psychology at SUNY Potsdam in 1974, she worked for the NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities and became interested in basic sign language there, although she had never met a deaf person. In 2004, she obtained her master's degree in liberal arts at Empire State College, studying the topic of deaf children's language acquisition. ◊

Sonnenberg Gardens



On a beautiful autumn day, President and Mrs. Davis, left, welcomed alumni and students for lunch and a tour of the Sonnenberg Gardens and Historic Park in Canandaigua, in the heart of the Finger Lakes region.

No-Fault Networking



Alumni were treated to a night at the NY Sportstimes tennis match featuring hall of famers Martina Navratilova and John McEnroe. Grace Conti '03, '04, right, enjoys the evening with her guest, Judi Franzen.

Please stay connected!

Tell us what's new with you. Do you have a new job, a promotion, an award, a new publication, new exhibit, etc.?

We'd love to hear from you.

It's easy to send us your news. Just go to:
www.esc.edu/Alumni-Info

Don't forget to send photos.

ONE CLICK ONE MINUTE ONE STUDENT

In less than a minute you can change the life of a student.

To make a gift, visit esc.edu/Giving or call 800 847-3000 ext. 2337



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



"Returning to college after more than a 25 year absence with the purpose of changing my career and pursuing my dream of writing has proven to be a challenge. The confidence you've placed in me with the awarding of this scholarship makes my efforts feel not only justified, but strengthened ... with Empire State College's guidance and your thoughtful support, I'm that much closer to realizing my dreams."

*– Damian VanDenburgh,
creative writing student
and scholarship recipient*

Student Academic Conference



PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.STOCKSTUDIOSPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Alumnus Hector Soto '08 gave his presentation, "The HIV Conundrum: Making the Decision Between Living," at the 2009 Student Academic Conference, held at the college's Central New York Center in East Syracuse. More than 75 students attended the Oct. 16 - 17, 2009, conference that featured more than 20 student presentations, a student art show and an alumni reception.

(continued from page 24)

the recipient of the AAUW Post Doctoral Research Award for her work on The Mande Legacy – A Multimedia Dance Documentation Project, for which she spent six months in Guinea in 2007.

Judith Muir '88 is director of early childhood education at The Institute for Music and Health. They have begun a remarkable new music program which benefits children and adults with autism in Dutchess County, N.Y. The program is called the Music for Life Program. It gets participants to sing with seniors at adult homes and retirement communities in Millbrook and Poughkeepsie, providing therapeutic and musical benefits for both participants and the residents. For more information on Music for Life Programs, check out the Web site www.MusicHealth.net.

Northeast Center

Maureen Del Giacco '86, '95 had an article on the differences between psychotherapy and art therapy published on ERIC, the world's largest digital library of education-related literature. Del Giacco, a Ph.D. who achieved her doctorate after a traumatic brain injury, started art therapy as a form of therapeutic intervention for brain injury and has developed a technique called Del Giacco's Creative Arts Therapy.

Kip Lornell '75, co-author of the book "The Beat: Go-Go Music from Washington, D.C.," passes along the information that the book, originally published in 2001, has been updated and includes a new epilogue addressing developments in go-go in the past decade. Go-go music is the only musical form indigenous to Washington, D.C., and is not well known outside that area, making it the most geographically compact form of popular music. The book is the only one devoted to the topic of go-go, which had its origins within the black popular music of the 1970s.

Maureen Simon '84 has launched a Web site (www.theessentialfeminine.com) devoted to empowering women to create successful businesses and lives from the feminine perspective. She also has been preparing to launch her first book, "Awakening the Essential Feminine: Claiming Your Essential Power" in February 2010. ◊

Graduate Residency



PHOTO CREDIT: GARY GOLD

Gifty Mensah, an M.B.A. student in the Center for Graduate Programs, takes a moment during the fall residency, held Oct. 1 - 3, 2009, in Saratoga Springs. More than 270 attendees participated in 70 sessions that included M.B.A. alumnus keynote speaker Dr. Richard Boehler '04, vice president of medical affairs and chief medical officer at St. Joseph Medical Center in Towson, Md. He spoke about health care reform and a universal plan.



Creating an Endowed Scholarship Fund

Did you know that the majority of the college's working adult students face serious financial challenges when it comes to paying college tuition while also supporting their families? Fifty-three percent of our students have incomes modest enough to qualify for financial aid. Scholarship support from alumni and friends is a great way to open the door to opportunity for future adult learners.

Has the thought that only wealthy people can create an endowed scholarship fund kept you from considering it? Perhaps you'll discover that with some planning, you could establish an endowed scholarship fund in the name of your family or in the name of someone special to you.

An Endowed Scholarship Now

You may discover that establishing an endowed scholarship (\$25,000 minimum) is not possible right now. However, you could consider spreading your gift over a five-year period to achieve your goal.

An Endowed Scholarship Later

While it may not be feasible to start an endowed scholarship now, your estate might possibly have enough resources. You could do what many others have done and earmark a portion of your estate for a future endowed scholarship fund.

An Endowed Scholarship Now and Later

You may want to start your endowment now, with modest contributions annually, and then add to it later through your will. This way you could meet the students now who benefit from your generosity each year. The funds from your estate would then endow the scholarship forever.

Learn more about creating your own endowed scholarship fund at Empire State College, and discover additional ways to fund it. If you would like to talk in confidence, without obligation, please contact Alta Schallehn, director of gift planning, at 518 587-2100 ext. 2413 or Alta.Schallehn@esc.edu.



EMPIRE STATE
COLLEGE

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

The Last Word

“All Learning Means Change”

– Mentors Alan Mandell and Lee Herman.
Transformative Learning in Practice.
Mezirow, Taylor and Associates, Jossey-Bass, 2009.



For those of us who have been around for awhile in higher education, there is something less than pleasant about the way the call for “change” is bandied about. For some it is a trite and empty exhortation, often without any substance. For others, a code for a sinister attack on all we hold near and dear (academic freedom, a unionized workplace, public education). As a result, the phrase “let’s not have change for change’s sake” is often used to parry all suggestions for change, even when they are sensible.

This issue of change, or as I prefer to say “evolution” as it applies to this college, has been on my mind a lot as we have undertaken strategic planning toward our vision for 2015. At the same time, we also have been very much part of the strategic planning process for the SUNY system led by Chancellor Nancy Zimpher.

Our strategic plan is somewhat internally focused, and there is a good reason for this. The college has accomplished great things over the last 39 years, and the recent Middle States Commission on Higher Education accreditation report confirms this; it is a ringing endorsement of the achievements of the many who were here before me, or who have been here far longer.

In our planning discussions, we’ve come to understand that our mission

is sound and will be ever more important. The needs the college was established to meet are enormous, and our future is only limited by our own ability to organize ourselves, to be innovative and, yes, to change, in order to improve the lives of motivated but underserved learners.

We don’t, like other institutions, need to reinvent ourselves or invest vast amounts to rethink how we serve our

“ ... our future is only limited by our own ability to organize ourselves, to be innovative and, yes, to change ... ”

– Alan Davis

learners. Yes, we could do a better job of using communications technologies to improve the richness and reach of our offerings, and to make our own work lives easier. And, yes, the needs of our learners are changing and we have to evolve our approaches accordingly. But the best way we can do this is through our own learning.

The Middle States team cautioned us not to be complacent, but to be prepared for more change if we want to achieve our vision of being a better, bigger and bolder institution. We have to be more nimble and responsive, for instance, while maintaining

our commitment to developing independent, self-actuated lifelong learners through variations of our mentored learning tradition. We must be properly organized and prepared for this ongoing evolution. Being open and active about learning and about sharing our learning is fundamental to achieving our goals.

Meanwhile, at SUNY, the strategic planning focus is very deliberately external, with the key theme of “SUNY’s role in the economic revitalization and enhanced quality of life for the state of New York.” This theme is being considered from various points of view: the educational pipeline of school to college, arts and culture, health affairs, diversity and globalization, energy and sustainability and the quality of our places. We are well represented in the group of 200 determining the role of SUNY now and in the future and imagining Empire State College’s special role in that vision.

You can follow the discussion at the SUNY Strategic Planning Web site: <http://www.suny.edu/strategicplanning>.

It is an exciting and exhilarating discussion, led by a chancellor who is bringing new purpose and a new willingness to learn, in order to change.



Empire State College Annual **Day at the Races**

Saratoga Springs • Friday, July 30, 2010

New and Improved in 2010!

\$30 Track Pack includes:

- Grandstand admission
- Grandstand seat
- Program
- Lunch buffet
- Special handicapping seminar by faculty member Andrew DiNitto and William Ferrero, Office of Administration

What's new this year?

- later post time (2:30 p.m.), so you have more travel time in the morning
- lower ticket price
- special drawings for betting vouchers, so you can be a winner before you get to the races!
- lunch buffet so nothing to carry to the track but your tickets and your program (with all the names of the winners for that day!)
- pretrack event at the Holiday Inn, where we've reserved a block of overnight rooms at a discounted rate, so you can make it a weekend event
- easy online registration

- 11:30 a.m. – registration
- noon – buffet lunch and handicapping seminar
- 1:30 p.m. – leave for track
- 2:30 p.m. – post time

Two ways to pay:

- secure online credit card payment at: www.esc.edu/Track
- pay by check by tearing off the attached order form and return (feel free to make copies for guests)

Once you are registered, we'll send you directions and parking information.

To reserve a room at the Holiday Inn for July 29 or July 30, please call them directly at 518 584-4550 and ask for the Empire State College group rate.

We have reserved a number of parking spots across from the main track entrance where you can park after you leave the lunch.

Name _____ Graduation year _____

Address _____

Daytime phone _____ E-mail _____

Guest name(s) _____

I am enclosing \$30 for each reservation. Please reserve _____ parking spot(s) at \$10 each (add this amount to your reservation total).

Total enclosed _____

Return form to: Maureen Winney, Empire State College, Alumni House, 28 Union Avenue,
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-4390. Make your check payable to **Empire State College Foundation**.



*printed on
recycled paper*



The college's newest building in Saratoga Springs, located at 113 West Ave., provides three floors of bright and airy space for collaborative work on blended learning and online delivery. The 46,550 square-foot building is LEED silver certified, with a geothermal heating system and construction using local recycled materials.

PHOTO CREDIT: RANDALL PERRY PHOTOGRAPHY ©