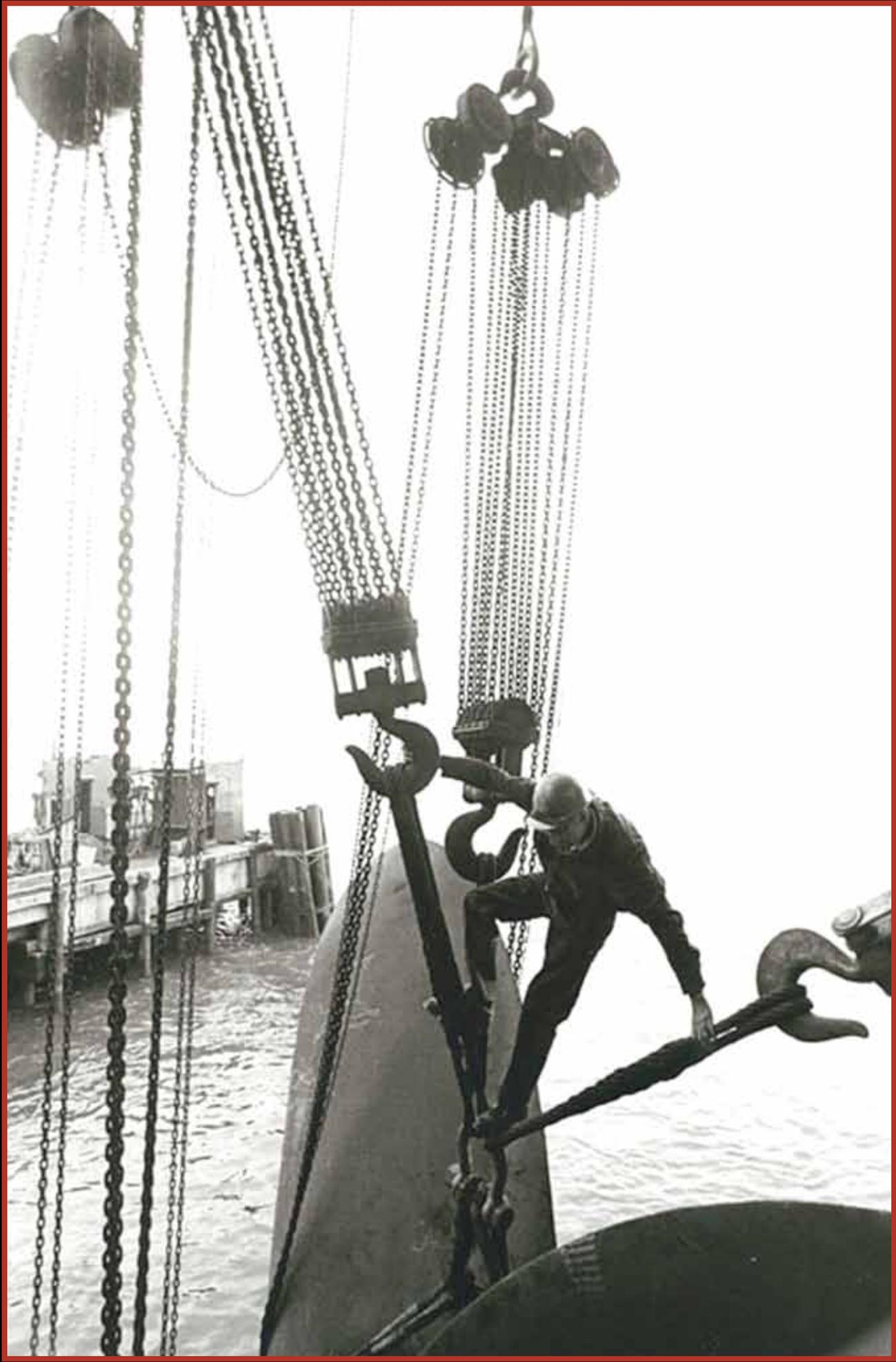


connections





Hurricane Sandy Hits Full Force

The massive devastation, wrought by Hurricane Sandy when it hit the East Coast in late October 2012, is captured in this photograph by Gina McGillicuddy Dixon of a sea wall at Rockaway Beach on Long Island that was demolished and washed ashore. Thousands of Empire State College students were affected.



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On the cover: Photo of a shipyard in Hoboken, N.J., by Benedict Fernandez '87, who is featured in Behind the Lens.

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PHOTO CREDIT: GINA MCGILLICUDDY DIXON

Connections

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE MAGAZINE

VOLUME 38 • NUMBER 2 • SPRING 2013

Produced by the **Office of Communications**

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Production – **SUNY Empire State College Print Shop**

Published by SUNY Empire State College, 2 Union Ave., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-4390 • 518-587-2100, ext. 2494

Help for Students Hit by Hurricane

In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, which struck the East Coast late last October, hundreds of Empire State College students struggled with decisions about rebuilding their homes, reclaiming some normalcy in their existence, and regaining momentum to continue their studies. To help them either complete studies they were engaged in when the “superstorm” hit or move forward to register for new studies, the college offered these students grants and other aid to help them reach their educational goals. In many cases, this involved extending deadlines for registration, payments and completion of course work, in others it necessitated replacing textbooks and computers. More than \$125,000 in grants and book replacements were made available, funded by the Empire State College Foundation, the Student Activity Fee Committee, donations from college faculty and staff and donated books from the college bookstore. In addition, the SUNY Board of Trustees approved a resolution calling for its schools to forgive charges for tuition and fees for those students forced to drop out of school after the midpoint of the fall and spring terms because of the impact of the storm.

For Empire State students this action exceeded \$330,000 in excused tuition and fees. The impact of the storm ranged

from loss of power to loss of property, and nine of the college’s downstate locations – in the Hudson Valley, on Long Island and in Manhattan, Brooklyn and on Staten Island – had to suspend operations. Safe alternative spaces were located so learning could continue, even in regions that were flooded or without power. The college’s Staten Island Unit suffered the most severe physical damage and operations were relocated to the Metro Center’s Hudson Street location and New Dorp and South Richmond high schools on Staten Island.

A dedicated website featuring links to resources for assistance and information was created, drawing thousands of views. Faculty, staff and students donated and transported needed items to designated sites, and alumna Deb Falco ‘11, an insurance professional, offered help navigating the insurance process.

Immediately after the storm and throughout the resulting crisis, Acting President Meg Benke, staff members in several college offices, deans and faculty communicated with students and colleagues via the college website, email, cell phone and in person to express solidarity and support.

Community and Government Relations Director Selected

Michael Mancini, formerly assistant to Dean Nikki Shrimpton at the Central New York Center, has been appointed director of community and government relations. He will be responsible for federal, state and local government and community relations for the college, working to communicate the college’s strengths to higher-education policymakers and community leaders at all levels.

Mancini has a B.A. in history from SUNY Purchase and a master’s degree in education from the State University at Buffalo. He worked in judicial affairs at Purchase College and SUNY Fredonia, and at the University of Buffalo in the Division of Student Affairs. He joined the college in August 2008.



PHOTO CREDIT: JOHN HUGHES '81

Michael Mancini



Cherished Memories Shared

An audience of nearly 75 attended a reading by the authors of pieces selected from "To Remember is to Live," the book of essays written by students in the United Federation of Teachers Paraprofessionals Program at The Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies. The early December event featured the work of Yvonne D'Auria, Robert Cruz, Judith Schweid, Siu Chia and Crystal Vaughan. The students and audience were welcomed by, among others, Sterling Roberson, U.F.T. vice president for career and technical education high schools, Shelyv Young-Abrams, chairwoman of the U.F.T. Paraprofessionals Chapter, and Brenda Henry-Offor, a member of the HVACLS faculty who has been guiding the U.F.T. students in their writing and the creation of the publication. Copies can be obtained from the Empire State College Bookstore at <http://alumni.esc.edu/benefits> – look under College Merchandise.



PHOTO PROVIDED

U.F.T. program writers read their work at the college's Metropolitan Center. From left, Crystal Vaughan, Yvonne D'Auria, Siu Chia, Mentor Brenda Henry-Offor and Robert Cruz

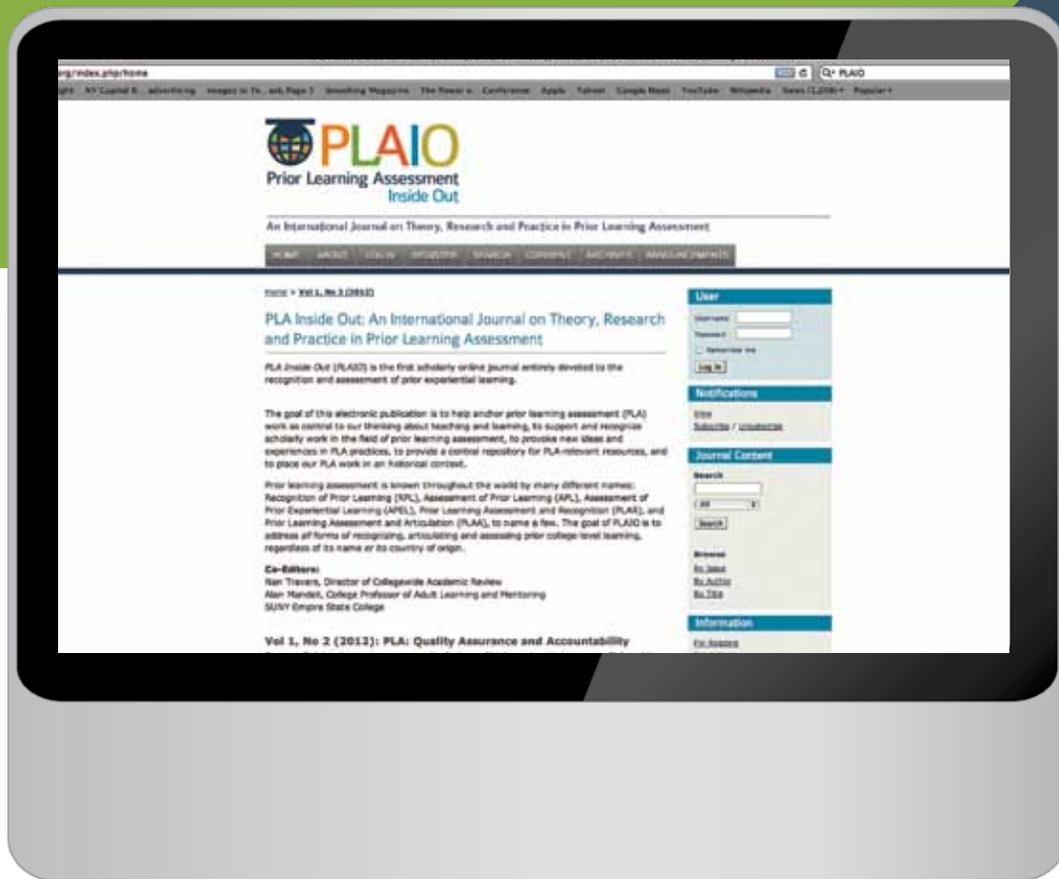
Student Art Hangs in Cuomo's D.C. Office

Two works of fine art by SUNY Empire State College students, "Baisley Park" by Marvenia Knight, and "Sweet Chariot" by Cordell Price II, now hang in Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's Washington, D.C. office. The pieces were among 14 selected from the many submitted across the 64-campus SUNY system.

"As visitors from across the country and around the world enter our Washington, D.C. office, they will be greeted with a visual display that embodies the excellence and creativity of our state and the promise of a new generation of New Yorkers, all of whom are getting a world-class education through our renowned SUNY system," said Cuomo.



Student artwork on exhibit at Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Washington D.C. office. "Baisley Park," left, by Marvenia Knight and "Sweet Chariot," right, by Cordell Price II



Prior Learning Assessment is Having “a Moment”

By Hope Ferguson

It's a beautiful, unseasonably warm autumn day. Ochre and crimson leaves swoosh on the sidewalks and stain the blue sky, and Nan Travers, director of collegewide academic review for Empire State College, is in her office, surrounded by a tsunami of papers, feverishly working to close out the second issue of PLA Inside Out: An International Journal on the Theory, Research and Practice of Prior Learning Assessment (PLAIO). The new journal, which debuted last spring, is housed at the college and co-edited by Travers and Alan Mandell, college professor of adult learning and mentoring.

PLAIO is the first academic journal of its kind devoted entirely to prior learning assessment, a phenomenon with roots in the educational revolution of the '60s and '70s, that is currently having “a moment.” Since PLAIO's audience is an international coterie of policy makers, practitioners and researchers in the

field, in order for it to have the best access possible, it was created as an online journal (www.plaio.org).

“Up to this point, no journal focused solely on this area,” Travers explains. “Most research and articles were spread across academic journals. Now we have a way to really bring everything together.”

Prior learning assessment refers to the evaluation of college-level learning that takes place outside of a college classroom. Most Empire State College students receive some prior learning assessment credit. Students may earn credit from standardized tests, such as the College Level Examination Program (CLEP), DANTES Subject Standardized Tests, American Council on Education (ACE) evaluations of business, industry and military training, or from documenting their prior learning through a portfolio that usually includes a reflective essay.

In the mid-'70s the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) developed guidelines that emphasized that the credit should only be granted for what is learned, not just what is experienced. For instance, one may not get credit for the experience of caring for a dying loved one, but if one can document at a college level what one learned about health care, geriatric care, death and dying, and so on, credit can be recommended.

When Empire State College began offering the opportunity for students to gain college credit for prior learning, it was one of only a handful of colleges and universities to do so, yet now there are thousands of institutions around the globe that engage in the process, making PLA a truly international practice.

Why the renewed interest in a process that allows students who are often older (or nontraditional) to be credited for learning they've acquired outside of the college classroom?

In the U.S., it's partly due to the Obama administration's push to increase college completion levels in order to help Americans power the "knowledge economy" of the 21st century. The president has set what the Center for American Progress terms "an aggressive goal to retake global leadership by 2020," by increasing the numbers of those who have earned a college degree from the current 38 percent of Americans over the age of 25 with associate or bachelor's degrees, according to the last census. The center maintains that, "This level of educational attainment is inadequate to meet labor market demands. A recent report from the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce forecasts that in the coming decade, 63 percent of all jobs will require at least some postsecondary education." The wider use of PLA credits makes it more likely that students will complete their degrees more quickly and cost effectively.

Another engine that is propelling the increased interest in PLA is the study undertaken by CAEL in 2010 of 65,000 students in 48 colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada, which found that granting students an array of methods to gain credit for their college-level prior learning actually increased both the time a student remained in college and the number of credits taken at a given institution. It also decreased their time to completion, since students granted some type of PLA were more likely to complete their degree programs than those who did not. Even if students failed to complete degrees, they "persisted" longer at an institution and took more credits than did students not granted credit for prior learning. This has encouraged more institutions to explore PLA, and entire states, like Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Tennessee, have recently adopted PLA policies. The Vermont State College system has used PLA since the early '70s.

In recognition of the growing importance of the adult learner seeking to complete a college degree, CAEL has introduced Learning Counts, a service that assists students in the planning, documentation and assessment of prior learning credits. Students



PHOTO CREDIT: JOHN HUGHES '81

Director of the Office of Collegewide Academic Review, Nan Travers, left, and College Professor of Adult Learning and Mentoring, Alan Mandell together edit the journal PLAIO.

gain access to the organization's e-portfolio tools, and when their e-portfolios are complete, they pay a small fee to have the learning assessed by CAEL-sponsored faculty. Those credits can be accepted by colleges and universities through the ACE system. The for-profit Kaplan University offers a similar service in its KNEXT program.

But the movement hasn't been without its critics. For Mandell, resistance on the part of some traditional colleges and universities has, in part, been a power struggle, a philosophical debate over who "owns" and can dispense and validate knowledge.

"It is an admission on the part of conventional institutions that they don't have power over all learning; that there is interesting, important and deep knowledge people have that was not gained within the walls of a classroom," he says.

It means that the university must necessarily cede some of that "power and control," in no small part so that the global need for highly educated workers will be met.

Historically, there has been suspicion that PLA may be used as a marketing ploy, that ends up "selling the shop," Mandell says. There also has been legitimate concern about the integrity of the process. As Mandell put it, "One of the biggest questions is who controls the evaluators and who evaluates them? This is gigantic."

The latest issue of PLAIO is devoted to quality assurance and quality control. "Evaluation must be done in a fair, effective and systematic way," Mandell maintains. "It can't be arbitrary. If the coin of the realm becomes suspect, then people rightfully question its legitimacy."

Real Life Prior Learning Assessment: Three Case Studies

Empire State College is now in the process of revamping a lot of its PLA tools, explains Travers. This includes making the website more user friendly – having more real-life examples of how students can earn prior learning credits, and overhauling print materials such as the Student Planning Guide, also offering more concrete examples, a student-centered voice and additional visuals. Because of the confusion on the part of students, and sometimes faculty, the new materials seek to clarify how college-level learning is defined and the language used to describe PLA policies and procedures.

The college also is experimenting with using e-portfolios that allow students to both document and reflect on their learning as part of a pilot program involving the Metropolitan and Central New York centers and the Center for Distance Learning, funded by a Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) grant administered by LaGuardia Community College.

In addition, Viktoria Popova-Gonci, an assessment specialist at the Long Island Center, is conducting a pilot program using “concept maps” to help students articulate knowledge, Travers says. “The focus is being able to articulate learning right from the get-go.”

The college recently was awarded a grant by the Lumina Foundation to develop SUNY REAL, (Recognition of Experiential and Academic Learning), a new pathway to degree completion for students with learning acquired outside of the formal higher-education system through open-education resources. The two-year, \$500,000 project has the potential to expand capacity and access to higher education, increase the number of college graduates, decrease time to completion, reduce costs and assure quality.

In November, the college was recognized for its leadership role in PLA in *Inside Higher Education*, a national journal. It noted, “Empire State College will play a big role in SUNY’s prior-learning push . . . With support from the central office in Albany, some SUNY institutions will lift pages from Empire State’s playbook.”

Travers, who holds a Ph.D. in adult learning, says that in the last 10 years she has been drawn to PLA. “It’s a way to partner with our students, rather than impose education on them. It really fits my perception of best practices for working with adults.”

And, as Mandell put it, “What’s exciting is that with the expansion of PLA practices around the world, we can offer concrete opportunities for adults to have their experiential learning acknowledged. It gives them a strong sense that they have indeed learned, that they have important skills, and that, above all, a university recognizes them and what they bring to the table. It’s not just a one-way street.” ♦

How does prior learning work in real life? Here are examples of how students with diverse backgrounds earned college credit using PLA.

Film Projection: Back in the days of analog film, movies were copied onto “miles” of film that would arrive at movie theaters in canisters from a film company courier service. Each canister held approximately four reels of film. Projectionists had to learn how to make a film by splicing the strips of film end to end, and to break the film down later by reversing the process. Student A demonstrated her college-level learning from projection school. “All theater managers were mandated to take this course, which was over a strenuous six-month period from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.,” she wrote in her educational planning essay. She learned how to run projectors, make and break down films and maintain and clean machines, so that movie patrons would view “a professionally well-presented film.” Student A earned 3 lower-division credits.

Agricultural Science: Student B earned 4 credits in agricultural science by demonstrating her college-level learning gained through owning and working a farm for 30 years, between the ages of 18 and 48. She learned business skills from her family’s dairy farming and crop businesses, and how to appraise good dairy cows, how to maximize milk from each cow, breed cattle, keep the herd healthy and about replacement herd management. She also “grew a large enough garden to sustain our family of four the entire year, serving vegetables twice daily,” stretching the produce by freezing and canning. The student also was active, along with her children, in 4-H, where she passed on her knowledge of agriculture to youngsters.

Diversity in the Workplace: When Student C’s company, which served disabled people, was hit with a discrimination lawsuit, many employees were shocked, since their mission was devoted to assisting an underserved population. When an internal investigation proved that an employee had indeed called a client by the “n-word,” the company realized that diversity training was called for. Student C outlined her role in contracting with a diversity trainer, receiving train-the-trainer training, and selecting a diverse group of nine, who developed diversity training to disseminate to the entire company. Selected as the team leader for the committee charged with developing a formal diversity plan for the organization, Student C wrote that they “wanted diversity to become a part of the fabric of their organization.” She earned 4 credit hours for her demonstrated learning about diversity in the workplace. ♦

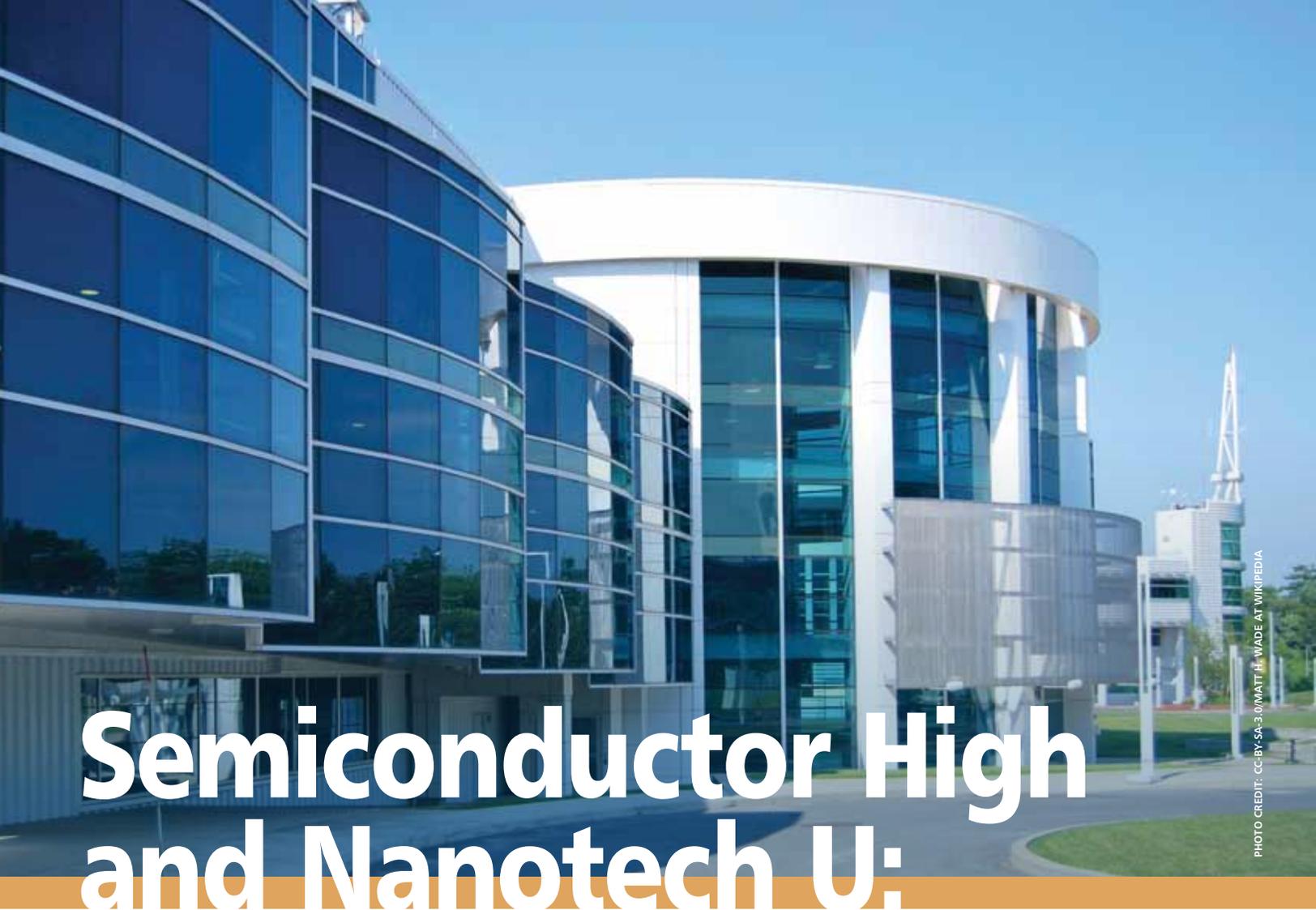


PHOTO CREDIT: CC-BY-SA-3.0/MATT H. WADE AT WIKIPEDIA

Semiconductor High and Nanotech U:

Education is Driving Economic Development

By James Helicke

Across New York and the country, business and community leaders are finding that good education is good business. Schooling is not only an integral part of economic development, but in many cases new, radical approaches to education are driving economic growth.

Community colleges, universities and even high schools are working together with companies and governments to develop their regions. And as they rethink how they educate their students, they're also attracting new, high-paying jobs to their local economies and the state.

In September, the State University of New York received a \$14.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to encourage schools to work together with industry to promote economic development. SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher called the grant "recognition of SUNY's ability to drive economic development and job growth across New York."

As part of the grant, more than 150 employers and industry groups, including the Manufacturers Alliance of New York and the Manufacturers Association of Central New York, are collaborating with colleges on curricula, job placement and growth strategies.

Perhaps no initiative better illustrates this new symbiosis of education, business and community development than the town of Malta, a few miles from Empire State College's Coordinating Center in Saratoga Springs, where more than a dozen schools are now collaborating to train workers for the new \$4.6 billion GlobalFoundries semiconductor plant.

Education helped attract the huge operation to the area. SUNY-affiliated Hudson Valley Community College's Training

“ ... the creation and transmission of knowledge has come to be a primary impetus for economic development,”

– Jason E. Lane

and Education Center for Semiconductor Manufacturing and Alternative and Renewable Technologies (TEC-SMART) in Malta trains future workers for careers at the foundry and other high-tech careers. Local high school and college students gear up with “bunny suits” at TEC-SMART as they prepare to enter the workforce of around 1,600 jobs that the foundry has produced.

Education has helped anchor the facility in the community, and businesses – ranging from barbers to builders and food trucks – have all benefitted from the economic windfall.

“We now live in an age of a knowledge-based economy, in which the creation and transmission of knowledge has come to be a primary impetus for economic development,” Jason E. Lane wrote in the 2012 book that he co-edited, “Universities and Colleges as Economic Drivers,” published by SUNY Press. Lane, who is affiliated with the University at Albany, noted that, despite increasing competition, sophisticated systems of higher education provide the United States and other advanced economies with an inherent advantage in developing the new technologies that drive the global economy.

Nowhere is that more visible than at SUNY's University at Albany, which hosts the world's first college dedicated to nanotechnology. Companies and the government have invested more than \$14 billion in the Albany NanoTech Complex, which brings competitors together under the same 80,000 square-foot roof. Corporate partners include IBM, Intel, GlobalFoundries, SEMATECH, Samsung, TSMC, Toshiba, Applied Materials, Tokyo Electron, ASML and Novellus Systems. More than 2,600 people are now employed.

President Barack Obama has called the university-led partnership a model for “the future of our economy.”

“We've got schools like this one that are training workers with the exact skills that these businesses are looking for,” the president said last May.

Across New York, Empire State College is working with companies, trade groups, local governments and other employers to train the workforce of the future and spur growth.

“We work with companies to help identify what those critical positions are, so that we can mobilize around individualized programs to suit those needs. We have the agility and flexibility to provide for their needs,” said Lisa Sax, ESC's director of corporate and community partnerships. “We're much more nimble than many schools in adjusting to change. We're able to move very quickly into adaptive education. That's a very attractive thing for economic development.”

Sax described ESC's unique ability to offer focused, individualized programs for adult leaders that promote career advancement by building on training and life experience instead of reteaching skills that students already have acquired.

Employees from the chip manufacturer seeking advancement, for instance, have pursued degrees at Empire State College in Business, Management and Economics with a focus on information systems or in Science, Mathematics and Technology with a specialized focus on nanotechnology studies.

The college maintains active partnerships not only with manufacturers, but with employers in healthcare, education, social services and government agencies and currently is working with a major retail pharmacy to develop a corporate training program that fuses studies in health care with retail business management.

Business leaders also are aware of the crucial role that education plays in the growth of their companies.

Recently, the Buffalo Niagara Manufacturing Alliance, a trade group that represents 100 manufacturers that account for between 3,500 and 4,000 jobs in western New York, approached ESC about developing a bachelor's degree program in manufacturing technology to help train workers.



PHOTO CREDIT: PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS – AP PHOTO

President Barack Obama, right, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, center, and Chris Borst, assistant vice president of engineering and integration, left, with a silicon wafer at the College Nanoscale Science and Engineering's (CNSE) Albany NanoTech Complex on May 8, 2012

Chris Sansone, the group's president, said many employers are struggling to find trained workers – a problem with profound implications for manufacturing growth.

“Since trade professions really haven't been emphasized for the past 35 years, there's a deficit in skilled workers,” says Sansone. “We have an aging workforce that is retiring, but we don't need just to replace them. We also need workers with new skills if we want to grow.”

Sansone's company, Keller Technology, a custom automation integration firm, searched for almost six months to find a highly skilled worker for a manufacturing programming position.

“If we just grabbed someone off the street, it would take five years to give them a basic level of understanding of the job,” Sansone says.

Employers across the country often bemoan the lack of qualified workers. The Manufacturing Institute, a think tank and advocacy group linked to the National Association of Manufacturers, and the professional services firm Deloitte found that many manufacturers – two-thirds – faced a moderate to severe shortage of qualified workers in today's knowledge-based economy. More than half of companies expected that ratio to increase. Amid high unemployment in 2011, about 600,000 jobs – 5 percent of manufacturing positions – went unfilled, the study found.

To address that shortage, the Manufacturing Institute recently launched a Manufacturers Endorsed Education Alliance – its “M-List” – to recognize community colleges, technical programs, universities and other schools that “deliver credentialed workers to meet the needs of manufacturers in their communities.”

Empire State College is doing its part to pursue innovative, collaborative approaches to economic and community growth. In September, the college formally launched its Office of Research,

Innovation and Open Education that, among other functions, brings together faculty and staff from offices across the college and establishes new partnerships that benefit the college, university system and broader community.

Those efforts are already paying off. In November, Lumina Foundation, an organization that works to increase college enrollment and graduation, gave ESC \$500,000 to create a new program – SUNY REAL or Recognition of Experiential and Academic Learning – that will improve assessment of open education resources and life

experience for college credit. Developed by ESC, the program will serve all 64 SUNY campuses and improve access to college for adult learners, especially veterans.

“That's going to be a game changer,” Sax said. “It will help employers see the competency a potential employee has.”

Empire State College also is bringing together current and future business, government and community leaders, and encouraging them to think about new, innovative ways to foster development. Last fall, with significant input from the New York State Economic Development Council, the college launched a new Master of Arts in Community and Economic Development,

“We are able to move very quickly ... ”

– Lisa Sax

which promotes nontraditional approaches to economic development and aims to establish vibrant communities with sustained growth.

“Our effort is to bring theory and practice together,” says Joe Angiello, the program's director.

Angiello is working with Tai Arnold, interim dean of the School of Graduate Studies, and other faculty to introduce a community development virtual incubator at ESC – a proposal that would bring together educators, community leaders and entrepreneurs in an online forum aimed at promoting development. Similar incubators at community colleges in other states have encouraged growth in rural and isolated regions throughout the country. Such initiatives highlight the effectiveness of higher education in promoting economic and community growth.

“I feel strongly that education pays,” says Angiello.

Despite rising costs, evidence suggests that higher education remains one of the best investments on the market. The Brookings Institute's Hamilton Project found that whereas returns from the stock market averaged about 6.8 percent and corporate bonds about 2.9 percent, higher education averaged a more than 15 percent return on an investment. A degree-holder is almost nine times as likely to earn more than \$100,000 and 13 times more likely to earn more than \$200,000 than someone with a high school diploma.

A 2012 study by the Treasury and Education departments also found that the earnings gap between high school graduates and those with bachelor's degrees is among the highest ever recorded. Higher education also is crucial to intergenerational mobility, the study found.

By all accounts, education will be essential to propelling economic prosperity of the future, something that is recognized at the highest levels of leadership in U.S. government.

During his visit last spring to the University at Albany's College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering, Obama said, “I want what is happening in Albany to happen all across the country in places like Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Raleigh.” ♦



PHOTO CREDIT: JIM MEROLA

Lisa Sax, right, with Robert Scholefield, V.P. of St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, Utica, N.Y.

Behind the Lens

By Helen Susan Edelman

Picture this: Unique thought as the basis for expressive artwork. Individualized creation that reflects personal perspective. Research that deepens understanding. Practice that refines skills. Critique that improves process. Acknowledgement that values achievement. Is this the life story of an artist or the inner workings of a degree plan program in The Arts?

At Empire State College it can be both, and one fosters the other.

Though some arts students at Empire State College are headed for graduate school, arts administration or related fields such as art therapy, already-entrenched and highly accomplished performing and visual artists often submit their work to be assessed for credit to enroll with advanced standing, and continue to add work to their portfolio that will be integrated into course work. Many have been recognized as outstanding in their field before they have the time or inclination to attend college, but decide to study as a way to nurture their talents, enhance their credibility and confidence in the marketplace, teach or enter occupations that require an academic background. Also, formal study of the arts – whether video, film, graphic design, sculpture, photography, dance, music or painting, or an interdisciplinary blend – provides a historic and social foundation and context for the creativity inextricably woven into the expressive fabric of American culture.

The trajectories of three alumni who have distinguished themselves behind the lens – two as photographers and one as a documentary filmmaker and editor – offer insight into both the significance of an Empire State College degree and the impressive success of individuals who earned them.

Benedict Fernandez '87 is a world-renowned photographer who memorialized an era of turbulence and transformation. Sarah Stein '90 is a filmmaker and editor who documents social issues, norms and perceptions. Amy Arbus '03 is a photographer whose portraiture defines a style and a worldview. All three are graduates of the college whose significant contributions behind the lens set the bar high for alumni in the arts.

These are their stories.



PHOTO CREDIT: BENEDICT FERNANDEZ '87

Martin Luther King Jr. at the U.N., April 15, 1967. This image is part of "Countdown to Eternity" portfolio.

Benedict Fernandez:

Ahead of the Curve

Benedict Fernandez '87 can't read or write. Still, he managed to become a revered documentary photographer of the civil rights and war protest movements in America in the furious '60s and '70s, earn an Empire State College degree, be named a Citizen Laureate by the college earlier this year, establish the photography departments at two colleges, receive prestigious awards for his work – which hangs in museums across the country and abroad and has been featured in several books – and take pictures and lecture around the world.

Severely dyslexic and limited in his written communication skills, Fernandez, who was born in 1936 and grew up in Spanish Harlem, received a Brownie box camera from his father at age 6, enabling him for the first time to express his voice and vision eloquently through images. Although it ultimately would be his calling, the predilection for photography gave way to a more practical short-term career as an operating engineer and crane operator at Bethlehem Steel Shipyard in Hoboken, N.J., where he photographed his fellow workers, a series that became his first major portfolio, "Riggers." He went on to work at the Brooklyn Navy Yard until the facility closed in 1963. At that crossroad, he turned his attention, full time, to his career as a photographer.

"I had to do something to make money," he says. "I had a wife and two children to support."

His mastery of the camera has captured and penetrated hundreds of subjects, among them abstractions like personal power, illustrated by macho bikers who identify with their machines and bullfighters who declare superiority over their victims; reflections on fading culture in its lurch toward modernity, as it is portrayed in still lifes in Moscow, China and Japan; and the more specific material substance of Ellis Island, where he says he was "looking for myself," and portraits of a park ranger in the wild.

Of all of it, he is best known for "Countdown to Eternity," an iconic body of work recording the final year of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., with whom he traveled throughout 1967 - 68. During that era of turmoil, he also photographed renowned pediatrician and advice-book author Dr. Benjamin Spock, an eloquent protestor against the war in Vietnam, and George Lincoln Rockwell, the nephew of painter Norman Rockwell and the head of the American Nazi Party, whom Fernandez called "completely whacky." (Rockwell was assassinated in 1967.)

Noticed by Russian-born photographer, designer and instructor Alexy Brodovitch, famous for his art direction of Harper's Bazaar from 1938 - 58, Fernandez was encouraged to establish the Photo Film Workshop in the basement of Joseph Papp's Public Theater, a free program for ghetto youth, many of whom went on to their own high achievements. The workshop students came to be widely esteemed for their successes as



PHOTO PROVIDED

Benedict Fernandez '87, center, with his son, far left, and grandsons at the opening of his exhibition "A Life's Work," at the Robert Anderson Gallery in New York, 2011

top-prize winners in student photo contests, a status recognized by Michael Engl, dean of The New School, who recruited Fernandez to build a photography program. At last he would be paid for what he had been doing for free in a basement.

Siiri, his wife of more than 50 years and the mother of his son and daughter, remembers vividly the circumstances that led him to earn an Empire State College degree.

"He was passionate about teaching young people. You couldn't cork him – and this was before photography was considered an art form," she says. Fernandez later was persuaded to found another photography program at Parsons School of Design, where he insisted that professional teachers would not instruct – only working photographers could serve as faculty.

"The idea was considered outrageous at the time," recalls Siiri, pointing out that photography then was considered only a service course for other curricular areas. "But he's an Aries, tenacious, and he rammed his way through. He invited the New York State Board of Regents to review the program, so it could grant degrees."

The head of the delegation for the Regents called Fernandez's program, "brilliant, a model for the '70s," and asked him where he had earned his own degree. He admitted he had none, and the reasons why, and she arranged for him to be tested extensively by doctors and psychologists. Examiners determined Fernandez had an off-the-charts I.Q. but was unable to recognize individual letters.

"So," continues Siiri, "the woman from the Regents helped him enroll at Empire State College, where he listened to recordings of his textbooks that had been produced for the blind, and was tested orally. Also, he was allowed to use his portfolios to come in with advanced standing and create new work to finish his degree at the Metropolitan Center.

"His mind works incredibly," Siiri continues. "He is a true alpha male. If something he thinks is the right thing to do isn't done, he asks, 'Why not?' and if it isn't illegal – he'll do it."

More modest, Fernandez refers to himself only as "a concerned observer opposed to 'mental poverty,' which is what happens when a person knows something is wrong, and he can help fix it, and doesn't."



This photograph of a horse by Benedict Fernandez '87 was taken in Puerto Rico, 1970. It is part of the portfolio "Puerto Rico."

He pointed at King as the epitome of a person who did "the right and righteous thing," and, in contrast, at poet Alan Ginsberg as "a person who couldn't care less about other people."

"I photographed Ginsberg once smoking pot on the steps of a women's penitentiary," Fernandez recalls. "He made the photograph into a poster, but he didn't use it to protest marijuana laws that stop other people from enjoying it. He suffered from 'mental poverty.' He only cared about himself." More recently, Fernandez found himself disgusted with the "1 Percenters," he says, "a group that is financially well endowed, but doesn't want to share what makes them happy, doesn't want to see a better life for more people."

Says Fernandez, "My work has a purpose and value because it shows the protest movement, the other side. When I recognize a problem like racism, I record it."

Earning a B.A. in The Arts from Empire State College gave Fernandez the credibility he felt he needed despite his renown for a vast oeuvre that made an impact on a generation. "I had been a photographer for 30 years already when I got that degree for what I was doing as a teacher, which came naturally to me – both teaching and photographing."

Now, he says, "I am gestating, deciding what to do next, what is the next big picture, and meanwhile I am cataloging my work."

The industry has changed with technology, Fernandez remarks, neutrally. "When I was younger, I picked up a camera and took a picture because it had a point. Now, people take pictures for entertainment. I'm still doing my thing, and they can do theirs."

Amy Arbus: Embracing the Challenge

The first photograph Amy Arbus '03 ever took was for a ninth-grade photography class. The image was of an apple sitting on a ledge on the roof of her family's apartment building in New York City. In the background, the sky loomed ominously before a storm.

"When I showed the photograph in class, everyone thought it was 'brilliant,'" she recalls. "I felt intimidated by all the adulation. I didn't take another photograph for seven years."

She was 21 when she picked up the camera again, this time at the Boston Commons.

"As I looked through the lens at a young baby wearing a bonnet, I realized that I saw the world in a different way from other people. To me, she looked like a little old man. I felt as though I had a unique sense of humor and beauty. I felt as though I had an innate sense about photography," says Arbus. "I am always interested in making work that is visually stunning, but powerful photographs show the viewer something in a way they have never seen before and has a lasting, profound effect."

Arbus has spent most of her career working for magazines, but "when 9/11 happened I knew there wouldn't be any work for a long time because money would be tight," she says, "so, I decided to do what I had always wanted to do: finish college."

She previously had attended Goddard College, Berklee College of Music and The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, but never amassed the credits needed for a bachelor's degree. By the time she enrolled at Empire State College in 2001, Arbus had been supporting herself as a professional photographer since 1981, including as an assistant to fashion photographer Jean Pagliuso, a former *Mademoiselle* art director. During the 1980s, she had a popular monthly page in *The Village Voice*'s style section documenting people on the streets of New York City. Also, during the period when she was studying with fashion photographer Richard Avedon, she did a series of nude self-portraits, which she rarely shows because they remind her of a difficult time in her life and are "intensely personal."

At ESC, Arbus studied part time at the Metropolitan Center for two years so she could continue to take private commissions. She says, "My vision was already in place. I studied psychology, film, creative writing, women's studies and fiction." She graduated with a B.A. in The Arts.

Today, using a Nikon D700, Fuji X100 and a Hasselblad, Arbus photographs on assignment and for herself, teaches portraiture at the International Center of Photography, Maine Media Workshops and The Fine Arts Work Center, speaks publicly, exhibits and curates. She has four books, including the award-winning "On the Street 1980 - 1990," "The Inconvenience of Being Born," "No Place Like Home" and "The Fourth Wall," a collection of photographs of fully costumed actors and actresses shot outside the theaters where they were performing, which was hailed by *The New Yorker* as "her masterpiece." She has appeared in more than 100 prestigious periodicals around the world, including *The New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair*, *Rolling Stone*, *Architectural Digest* and *The New York Times Magazine*, and has had 21 solo shows. Her photographs are a part of the collections of the New York Public Library and The Museum of Modern Art in New York. She also maintains an impressive list of clients such as Nickelodeon, American Express and New Line Cinema.

Arbus' photographs are gorgeous and startling, often black and white, almost always dominated by a dramatic central figure with larger-than-life presence, typically photographed from a low angle to make them look taller and lit to make them pop from the background. Her preferred subjects include people, contests, parades, re-enactments, theater and fashion. She especially enjoyed travel to Sicily to photograph the Easter processions, which she says she "would do again in a heartbeat," and photographing in Hawaii, which "was like being on the moon."



PHOTO CREDIT: JOHN SPILLOS

Amy Arbus '03



PHOTO CREDIT: AMY ARBUS '03

Libby/After Therese, 2012 © Amy Arbus

One of Arbus' most fascinating current projects is "After Images," photographs that recreate the work of important painters such as Modigliani and Cézanne. She chooses portraits the masters have painted that inspire her, then, with a stylist, makeup and hair artists, a wardrobe professional and other assistants, poses models in front of designed backdrops to



resemble the paintings, a kind of homage to the originals rendered in wholly new artwork.

“My images suggest a narrative in that they imply that something has happened or is about to happen,” she says. “I am drawn to truth and illusion, costumed characters, unlikely contexts, the feeling of timelessness, transformation and drama. My best photographs imply that something has taken place before or after the exposure.”

Creating a great photo is “an amazing experience, but it doesn’t happen very often,” she says. “Editing is the most essential, yet challenging, skill for a photographer. I go by instinct. I’ve learned a lot about the nature of being human through the act of photographing people.”

She also draws insight from eclectic life experiences that have included building yurts, farming, studying flute and saxophone and extensive travel.

“It’s the photographer’s job to create an image with meaning,” Arbus believes. “Then, the viewer will be free to have his or her own interpretation. Snapshots present what is in front of you. Photographs are iconic. Some people take photographs, some people make them. I enjoy both.”

Content is critical, but Arbus also considers technique and technology in her art. Composition and light must work together, she says, pointing out that she likes both natural and man-made lights. As far as new technology’s effect on the art form, Arbus calls innovation “a great thing when used to inform the image, (but) images are made with one’s eye, mind, heart and soul.”

“I like photos that appear real,” remarks Arbus, “but technology has warned people not to trust what they see. Now we know that it is possible to add or remove people from historic photos.”

Emphasizing that she is not a journalist, Arbus says she does not think it’s possible to be totally objective in making images, though she has not shied away from meaning-laden subjects, like babies and prostitutes.

“Great photographs are revelatory,” she says; “through them, viewers become witnesses to scenes where they were not present. Every time you see it, it reveals something new.

“I enjoy peoples’ responses to my work, but ultimately I do the work for myself,” concludes Arbus, who often funds her own

PHOTO CREDIT: AMY ARBUS '03



Nina Goldman and Mark Povinelli/Legs Spread/Belle Epoque, 2004 © Amy Arbus

projects instead of seeking grants. “I don’t visualize an end result, but I have some sense of what I want and I also watch what happens and sense where it can go.”

Sarah Stein: Immersed in the Story

Sarah Stein’s fascination with life as a moving picture began at age 4 in New York City, where she would sit on a little stool and look at the flow of people and traffic through a window frame. Now, with several Academy Awards and Emmys, a Columbia-Dupont Journalism Award, domestic and international film festival honors and a Ph.D. behind her, documentary filmmaker Stein has this to say: “You never know where life is going to take you.”

Originally a pre-med student at Barnard College, Stein, who graduated in 1990 with a B.A. in Human Development from the Metropolitan Center, dropped out when she and chemistry “didn’t gel,” and accepted a series of receptionist jobs in New York City. One of her positions was for a production company that made commercials. Fortuitously, her boss there was looking for someone to train. That’s when she fell in love with editing film.

“I could just as easily been placed as a temp in an insurance company,” she points out. “I was hired at the bottom level and learned from people who were working in the industry. After three years, I went out on my own.”

Stein made a bold mark as a documentary film editor when



PHOTO PROVIDED

Sarah Stein '90



PHOTO PROVIDED

Figurine representing "Persephone with pomegranates" from "The Edge of Change," a film on new directions in woman's spirituality.

she edited "The Bolero," which won an Academy Award for short documentary film in 1973, a behind-the-scenes close-up of conductor Zubin Mehta with the Los Angeles Philharmonic performing Ravel's orchestra masterpiece. During the project, she worked 14-hour days, six days a week. The same year, she edited "Princeton: A Search for Answers," which also won an Academy Award, for investigating education, scholarship and student-instructor relations through footage of tutorials and lectures, an interview with the president and a question-and-answer period with students at Princeton University.

Though scaling artistic heights, Stein was experiencing personal lows. There were times she worked for \$250 per week, just enough to pay rent; her bathtub was in her kitchen; she was robbed three times in seven years, and she ended a long-term relationship. When she won the Academy Award, Stein was living in a fifth-floor walk-up.

"In 1989, burned out and with a 7-year-old to care for by myself, I knew it was time to get out of New York," recalls Stein.

She went to Philadelphia, where she had friends, and where her daughter wouldn't be "stepping over cracked-out bodies in the subways." But, she found that her talents weren't really useful anywhere but New York or Los Angeles. "I wasn't about to start cutting corporate videos, so it was time to go to college," she remarks.

There was no Internet then; Stein learned about Empire State College "from someone who knew someone." She found herself taking one class per semester, focusing on psychology and film.

"In the film business, you didn't need a college degree, you needed talent, perseverance and to work a long time without the expectation of making a lot of money," she explains. "Some people stay on as an assistant for 15 years, but I wished to go to graduate school, to leave New York, to be able to support my daughter, to teach. Empire State College was absolutely the answer."

Wish granted. Stein's sterling academic career finds her teaching media production and criticism and theories of mediated communication at North Carolina State University. Her interests include visual communication, gender and new technologies with particular attention to the rhetoric used in technology advertising and social commentary, and

contemporary popular attitudes toward abundance and the rhetoric of immortality. She teaches 16 mm film production, video and digital production, as well as media communication courses, including courses that integrate theoretical perspectives on the digital age. She is working on documentary films and scholarly research examining death and popular media: how representations of death on television and other media promote the denial of death; the military and the culture of rape: a scholarly exploration into how the mainstream press has, by omission, promoted the culture of rape in the military; and "The Edge of Change" about radical avenues of women's spirituality.

"The college acknowledged my wide cultural experience, worked with me and incorporated my experience and knowledge into an academic program. My mentors were supportive, interested and responsive, and, as an undergraduate, I had a sense of scholarship. It was a godsend," declares Stein.

As a filmmaker, Stein – who says she "immerses" herself in the work – has been involved in a breadth of projects including looking at women in penitentiaries who have children, fundamentalist church services, Jane Goodale's chimps, oncology nursing, textile designs, rap music and people in occupations that use math.

"I did one documentary about life transitions for a kid graduating high school and going to college. There were 50,000 feet of film I had to edit – that's 50 hours – and I brought it down to 2,000 feet – six minutes. But, my aim is for it to look like it came out of the camera that way."

Stein says that as a filmmaker, she is always interested in "things that are hidden. I like to let the material speak for itself, not crowbar scenes into a film. You need a structure and then you string together the scenes, not necessarily in the order they were filmed. You throw out a lot of what you have to find the heart. You have an epiphany at some point and it comes to you."

She says the ability to construct stories began for her as a kid who read fairy tales, jumpstarting her ability to imagine a "rough cut," then a "final cut," as the pith of the narratives formed around the thrust of an original idea.

"The flexibility I learned as a child, as a professional filmmaker and as a student continue to come in handy," says Stein. "I never stopped using it. That's why I was able to go to college and make a switch, that's why I've had a fascinating career. You never know where it's going to come from, but, when there's a puzzle, you know there's always going to be a solution." ♦

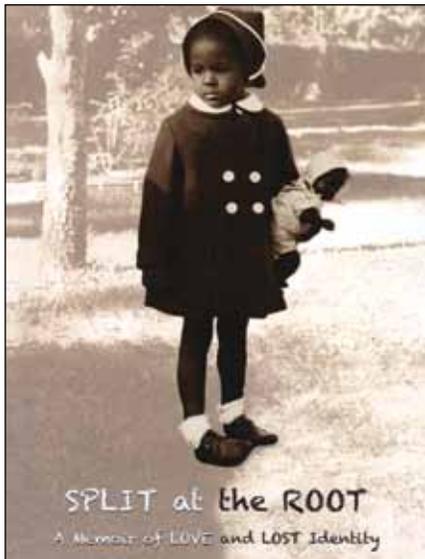


PHOTO PROVIDED

L.A. Philharmonic Conductor Zubin Mehta from the Academy Award-winning film "The Bolero" (1973)

Portfolio

BOOK



Mentor's Moving Memoir

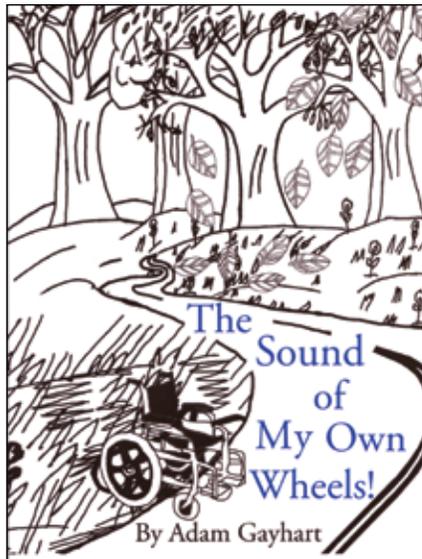
Catana Tully '84
Northeast Center

Catana Tully's evocative memoir begins with an origins story she was told as a child. Echoing Moses's narrative, her adoptive German mother, Mutti, tells her she was pulled from the waters.

The mystery of why her birth parents allowed another family to take her is at the center of the book, "Split at the Root: A Memoir of Love and Lost Identity" (www.splitattheroot.com), which Tully began writing 17 years ago. It explores the tangled feelings Tully experienced and how she became reconciled to her true identity.

Tully, who has been a model, actress and professor at Empire State College, says she is an advocate for adoption. "It was becoming popular to adopt exotic children into mainstream white society in the U.S. and Europe. The issues addressed in the memoir are now even more relevant than before. While the story is deeply personal, the issues resonate with everyone in different ways."

BOOK



View From a Chair

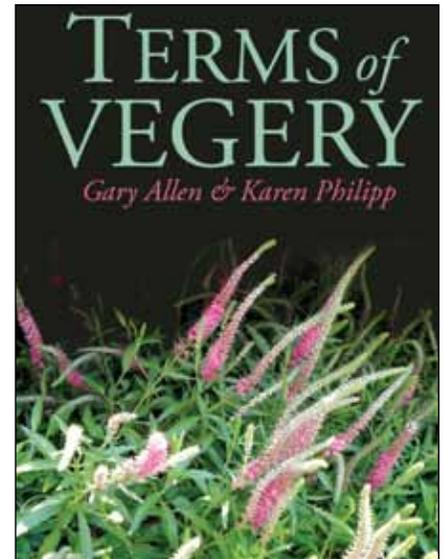
Adam Brent Gayhart '06
Genesee Valley Center

Adam Brent Gayhart's "The Sound of My Own Wheels," offers poems that describe his life from the vantage point of a wheelchair.

Gayhart has muscular dystrophy, a degenerative muscle disease, and he writes of seasons changing, shifting emotions and the realities of living life in a chair. He dedicates his poems "to anyone suffering from one of the many neuromuscular diseases. Each day we get closer to a cure." However, he doesn't let the fact that there's no cure yet dampen his enthusiasm.

He credits his family, his cat Maya, his faith in God and his love of words for enriching his life and giving him a sense of meaning and purpose. As he writes in one poem, "There are no mistakes, we are all part of God's plan." Gayhart recently took first prize in the Allegany Arts Association's Fifth Annual Poetry Slam.

BOOK



Weird Plant Cataloging

Gary Allen '00
Hudson Valley Center

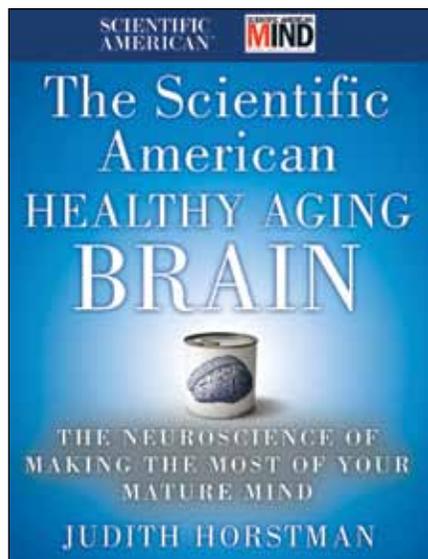
Noted food writer Gary Allen has released "Terms of Vegery" with his wife, Karen Philipp. The book is a tongue-in-cheek take on James Lipton's "An Exaltation of Larks," which catalogued names of groups of animals – or venery – such as "a pride of lions."

In the foreword, Allen wonders why plants are rarely known by such collective terms. He and Philipp remedy that by providing fanciful names for groups of plant species alongside full-color photos. Among them: an angioplasty of balloon flowers; a liberal of bleeding hearts; a wedding of cannas, a pack of dogwoods, a nodding of elder flowers.

"Terms of Vegery" is available on the Kindle. Other tomes Allen has written or edited include "The Resource Guide for Food Writers" (Routledge, 1999) and "The Herbalist in the Kitchen" (University of Illinois Press, 2007).

Portfolio

BOOK



Healthy Aging Brains

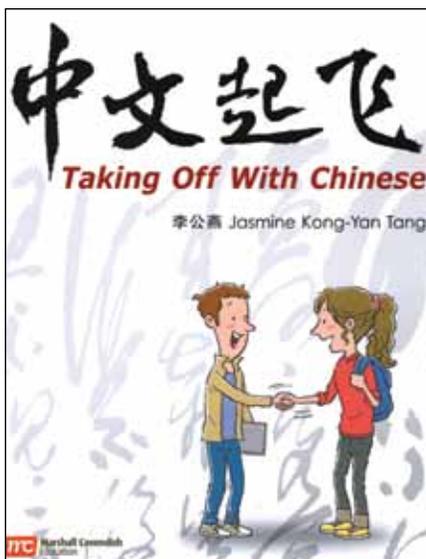
Judith Horstman '88
Central New York Center

Author and former professor Judith Horstman '88, has written "The Healthy Aging Brain," her latest book (in a Scientific American series of four) on the inner workings of the human brain.

Horstman began as a theater major at Carnegie Tech and finished her bachelor's degree in 1988 at Empire State College. Two years later, at age 50, she earned a master's degree. She wrote for Gannett Newspapers, including USA Today, and served as a Washington correspondent for Gannett News Service. Horstman is the recipient of numerous awards, including a Knight Science Journalism Fellowship at MIT and two Fulbright Scholar awards to establish a journalism center in Budapest. She taught at three U.S. colleges and in Hungary. She is the author of seven books, including the Scientific American series.

Horstman, 72, says, "My daughters say writing four neuroscience books in four years is keeping my aging brain quite healthy."

BOOK



Introducing Chinese

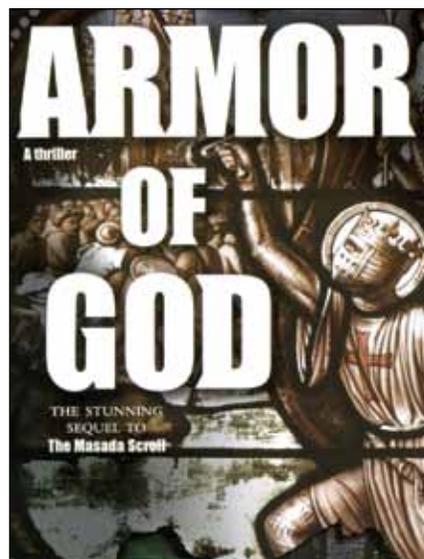
Jasmine Tang '96
School for Graduate Studies

Jasmine Tang '96, a student in the School for Graduate Studies and a Chinese language teacher for 30 years, has published a textbook, "Taking Off With Chinese," for people who are completely unfamiliar with the Chinese language and its written characters.

Consisting of 24 lessons, Tang's book introduces American students to Chinese grammar, reading comprehension and written and spoken Chinese by using situations that occur in everyday life. The book weaves in information about Chinese culture, and the values and beliefs practiced by its people.

Tang's book was displayed at the Genesee Valley Art Show in May 2012, and, in recognition of her lifetime of teaching, she won an award from the Chinese Language Teachers Association for an outstanding contribution to Chinese language education." The book is available on the website www.Chinasprout.com.

BOOK



New Religious Mystery

Paul Block '73
Long Island Center

Executive producer of the Albany Times Union's website and writer of suspense novels, Paul Block '73 has published "Armor of God" with co-writer Robert Vaughn.

The two men spin a tale of religious intrigue focusing on Father Michael Flannery, who has come into possession of the world's earliest religious symbol, which speaks to the unity of all religions and promises to bring with it world peace. However, various powerful forces seek to keep the world religions at war, and Flannery is targeted by a sinister group that opposes the peaceful message he brings.

The second offering by Block and Vaughn, the book follows the well-received "Masada Scroll." "Armor of God" is Block's 16th novel. His earlier novels, "San Francisco" and "Beneath the Sky," draw, in part, on Block's travels and his experience at Empire State College.

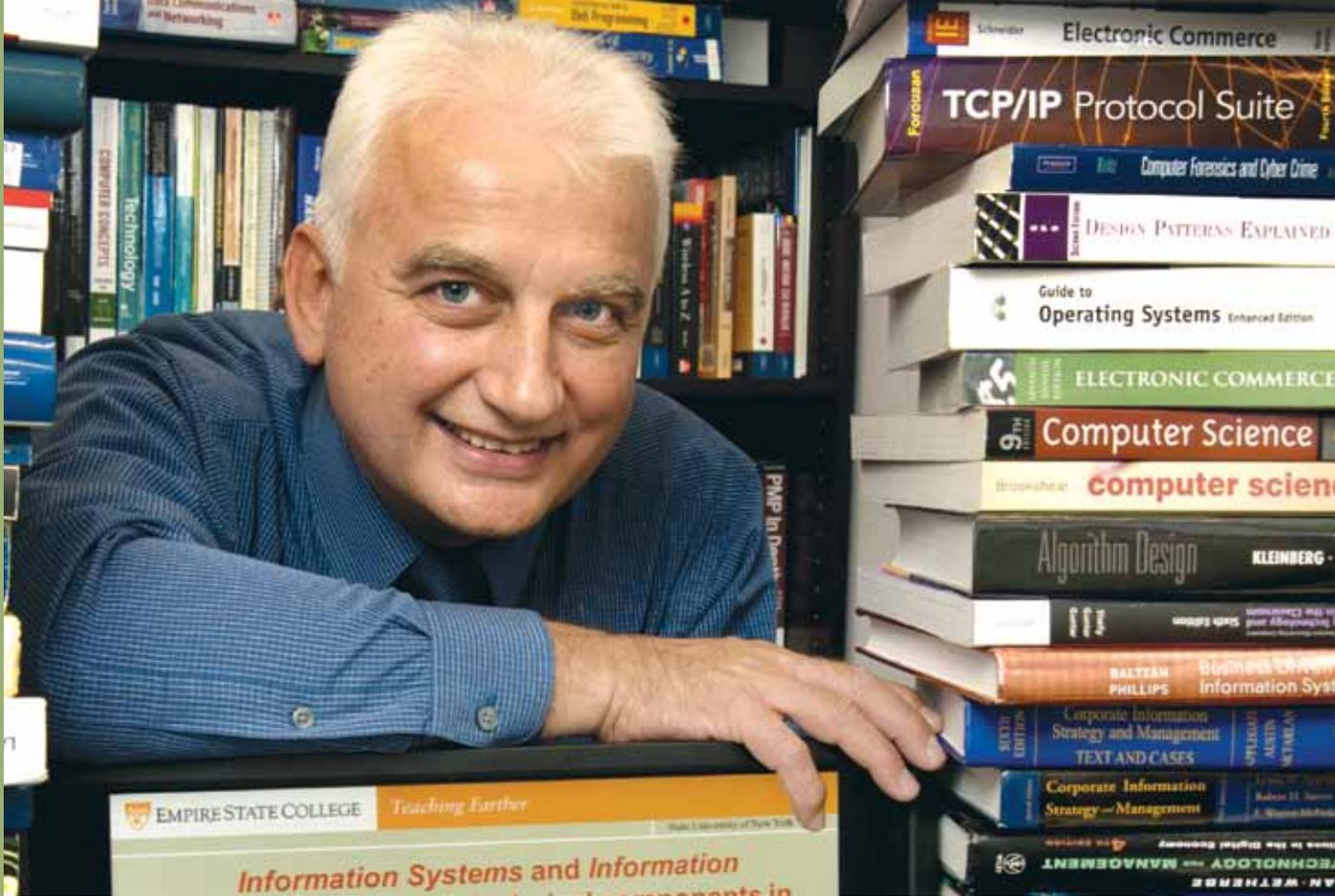


PHOTO CREDIT: MARTY HEITNER '92

Ivan Ivanov

By Karen Nerney

Where he was born: Popovo, a small town in eastern Bulgaria.

What he does: Associate professor of computer science and information systems at the Long Island Center, and with the MBA program since 2003.

Early education: "I was very good in math and physics, and my academic advisors suggested the computer field." After graduating from high school, he completed two years of mandatory military service before entering the Technical University at Sofia.

Early work: Innovative research on microcomputer systems was stymied by political restrictions in Bulgaria. "It was not possible to produce devices because of the Cold War."

Moment in history: He was in Prague on Nov. 10, 1989, when he heard news that Bulgaria's longtime dictator had resigned after the fall of the Berlin Wall. "We were so energized by that change."

What the fall meant: A world of opportunity opened up, including a research fellowship at the University of Nottingham in the U.K. That was followed by an innovative networking technology project at three of Bulgaria's largest universities, completed with international partners. The work was cited by Network World/Computer World magazines as one of the world's Top 25 networking projects in 1996. "It was an amazing award."

When he moved to the U.S.: In 2002, about a year after his wife received a Green Card through the U.S. Diversity Visa Program.

Biggest adjustment: English doesn't sound the same in the U.S. as it does in Europe, and 25 degrees Fahrenheit (converted to Celsius) is "pretty cold."

Why he likes Long Island: The climate is similar to Bulgaria, and being close to New York City helps him stay on top of new developments in his field.

Ideal vacation spot: Near the ocean or in high mountains. "I like swimming, and I like to ski."

Current professional focus: Emerging computing technologies and computing delivery models. His winter sabbatical will focus on Business-IT alignment.

Why he loves ESC: The collegiality, the students and the ability to teach in various modes – online, in the classroom, in seminars, individually face-to-face, etc.

On receiving the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching: "It is the most surprising and beautiful thing I can even imagine. That touched me a lot, because of the recommendation of my colleagues, my students and the organization."

His philosophy: "Never stop learning. Never stop studying something new, because that will enrich you and help you be a better person."

Alumni and Student COMMUNITY

Center for Distance Learning

Sierra Adare-Tasiwoopa api '00, a Cherokee scholar, spoke at SUNY Cortland on Communicating Cultural Invisibility in Children's Literature last October. The event was sponsored by the Campus Artist and Lecture Series and the Faculty Development Center. A doctoral student in American and transnational studies at the University at Buffalo, Adare-Tasiwoopa api's research is focused on stereotyping throughout American history, according to the Cortland Standard. Her work on the subject of children's books and their impact on the cultural development of children has been published over the past several decades. She earned her bachelor's degree from the college, and a master's in indigenous nations studies from the University of Kansas.

Helen Martin '12 is president of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium in Johnstown, N.Y. The consortium was formed in 2006 and includes eight women's organizations dedicated to expanding knowledge about suffragists and their role in obtaining equal rights for women. The consortium sponsors a biennial symposium that offers workshops, speakers and a full day of interaction with like-minded individuals. It also organizes and participates in community outreach programs, speaking engagements and historic interpretative presentations to further its mission and goals.

Fatema Gharzai, a student, has joined Griffin and Co. Inc., a national public relations and marketing communications firm, as operations manager. Gharzai manages all aspects of the firm's operations including day-to-day work flow, vendor services and IT functions, as well as media relations and account support for the Griffin account team. She has served as

membership/marketing coordinator for the American Society for Horticultural Science and as administrative assistant for the Association for Independent Corrugated Converters. Gharzai is pursuing a bachelor's degree with a concentration in communications.

Maria Jo Noble, a student, was crowned as the 2012 Pennsylvania Dairy Princess. She formerly was Bradford County Dairy Princess. As a representative of the state's dairy industry, Noble is responsible for educating people statewide on the benefits of dairy products.

Diane Pawlowski '98, co-owner of Pumpkinville – a 25 acre fall village, featuring a cider mill, corn maze and a pick-your-own pumpkin patch near Ellicottville – was among the Women of Influence named by Business First. She was recognized for creativity.

Lisa Marie Wilberg '12 has published "The Christmas Wife," her first novel, for the Amazon Kindle and Smashwords. She describes the book as "a fantasy Christmas novel." Wilberg has published prolifically in many other genres including poetry and children's books in e-formats. Throughout the years, she has been published in many e-zines, literary reviews, magazines and various publications worldwide. Wilberg says she has always loved Christmas, and wanted to share her passion with her readers in a fun, lighthearted way. Wilberg holds a bachelor's degree in Human Development from the college.

International Programs Well Represented at Student Academic Conference



International Programs was well represented at the Student Academic Conference in Buffalo. Pictured, from left, are Francesca Cichello, director of student services, Center for International Programs; Nikoleta Gurra, a Tirana student; Acting President Meg Benke and Niagara Frontier Center Dean Nan DiBello.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Central New York Center Open House Features Political Exhibit



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Central New York Center held its fifth annual open house featuring the political exhibit, "Why Vote: Posters, Politics and Propaganda," a retrospective of presidential election year memorabilia dating back to the 1960 Kennedy/Nixon election. The exhibition was from the private collection of William T. Cleveland and was curated by Central New York Center faculty mentor Alan Stankiewicz.

who holds a master's degree from another SUNY, is executive director of the Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization. She was nominated by Samaritan Medical Center President and CEO Thomas H. Carman. The Athena Award is a nationally and internationally recognized program introduced in Jefferson County in 1991, which celebrates the potential of all women as valued members and leaders of the community and recognizes those who support them.

Genesee Valley Center

Elise Bowditch '86 earned her Ph.D. at the University of Washington after many years in software development. She also had earned a master's degree in geography at the university in 2005. She studied truancy in the state of Washington, considering the school as a place of school attachment and the laws surrounding truancy as issues of children's rights.

Doris Smith Naundorf '82 has written a book, "The Stories of Emmy/A Girl Like Heidi," based on her mother's adventures before and after coming to America from Muttentz, Switzerland around 1910. The book is a follow-up to a one-woman play, "Interweaving the Generations," written when she graduated. In an article in the Canandaigua Messenger, Naundorf told how she wrote the book at age 86. Despite having written articles and essays for a number of publications as a young girl and while raising a family, this was her first book. It was featured in a German-language newspaper, since her mother was "the Emmy who was born in Muttentz and of whom I told the stories." The book also was displayed at the Muttentz, Switzerland Museum. Naundorf started writing it at the same time she learned to use the computer and shortly before losing her husband of 61 years. Her membership in the Canandaigua Writers Group at Wood Library helped her shape the story, she said.

Margaret Montaglione Clark '83 was admitted to the Hall of Fame of the New York State Health Information Management Association on June 12, 2012. The association is a professional organization of 3,400 members who are in the health-information management field. Clark is a former recipient of the

Central New York Center

Niki Serio Alling '03, '07 had her first author/book signing event in Ithaca in October 2012, at the Barnes and Noble bookstore, in honor of the store's Educator Appreciation Week. She is an educator in pre-K at the Ithaca City School District. She read four of her rhyming children's books which she both wrote and illustrated, including: "The Roots of My Family Tree," a multicultural celebration story; "When I Build with Blocks," a fun book about block building in pre-K/kindergarten; "The Straight Rainbow," a story about how it is okay to be uniquely yourself; and "How Do You Peel a Banana?" a whimsical story of the frustration of learning to peel a banana. Alling earned her bachelor's degree in graphic design from the college.

Suzanne Benderski '04 joined Professionals Incorporated as a recruiting services administrator, where she supports a diverse team of professional recruiters. She earned her associate degree from the college.

Mark Donnelly '00 has been named executive director of Onondaga County's trash management agency. Donnelly served

two stints on the board of directors of the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency.

Marisol Hernandez '99, a graduate of the Auburn location, is the chief editor for CNY Latino, a Spanish/English paper in the area. It can be found at www.CNYLatino.com.

Beth Lucy-Speidel '04 was appointed executive director of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County.

Neil Snedeker '00 was recognized with an Excellence in Healthcare award last fall in the category of Innovations in Healthcare. A senior software engineer for The MONY Group, he has an extensive career as a first responder. Starting in 1975, he has been a volunteer firefighter with the Marcellus Fire Department and also captain of the rescue company of the fire department that oversees the ambulances. He became an emergency medical technician in 1978. He is a member of the Jordan Elbridge School Board and has served as medical director for the Owasco Fire Department since 2007, among other activities.

Denise K. Young '99 received a 2012 Athena Award given by The Greater Watertown North Country Chamber of Commerce. Young,

“The Fertile Soil of Jihad”

Patrick Dunleavy '90 (A.S.), '99 (B.S.), retired deputy inspector general of the Criminal Intelligence Unit of the New York State Department of Correctional Services, has written “The Fertile Soil of Jihad: Terrorism’s Prison Connection” (Potomac Books, 2011), which maps out the connections between the seemingly insular world of U.S. prisons and global jihad. The book stems directly from Dunleavy’s work on Operation Hades, an investigation focused on Abdel Nasser Zaben, a Palestinian locked up in 1993 for kidnapping and robbery and thought to be a garden-variety criminal. Zaben had, it turned out, sworn allegiance to Osama bin Laden, and become a major recruiter for jihad. The first bombing of the World Trade Center took place 30 days after his arrest, signaling, the author says, the arrival of jihad on American soil. Zaben also had attended a mosque in Brooklyn where the imam later was convicted of a 2005 terror plot. Dunleavy exposes how these seemingly disparate threads became a web of global intrigue.

Dunleavy’s book has been widely praised in many quarters for its look at how a prison subculture converts convicted criminals into jihadists. The Middle East Quarterly says the book “makes evident the clear and present danger.”

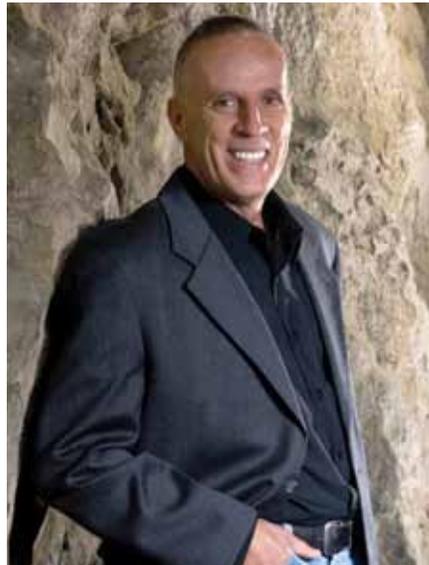
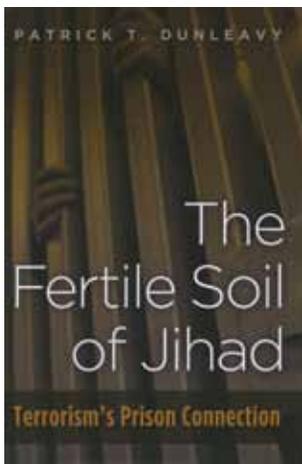


PHOTO PROVIDED

Patrick Dunleavy '90, '99

Dunleavy, who earned both his associate and bachelor’s degrees in Community and Human Services from the Northeast Center, started his career as a corrections officer. After a wealthy inmate accused of killing his wife sought Dunleavy’s help to get out of prison, he was recruited as an undercover operative to expose the scheme. From that time on, Dunleavy worked as part of an elite team of investigators infiltrating criminal enterprises and contract murder conspiracies and negotiating for the release of hostages, according to promotional material about his book.

In June, 2011, Dunleavy was asked to testify before the U.S. Congress homeland security hearings on Islamic radicalization. “Most people think of prisons as ‘closed societies,’ but prisons pretty much mirror society,” Dunleavy says. “Look at AIDS and literacy, and geriatric and senior care, for example. If you have a problem with homegrown terrorism in society at large, do not be surprised that you will have that problem in prison.”

NYHIMA Distinguished Member Award. She has served NYHIMA in a number of capacities, including president. She also has served as a board and council member of the 64,000-member American Health Information Management Association and held numerous positions at the local level at the Rochester Regional Health Information Management Association. A collection of archival documents Clark assembled from the period of 1968 to the mid-’70s and beyond was placed into the Saward Archives of the History of Medicine within the Edward G. Minor Library of the University of Rochester. This collection, “Implementing the Recommendations of the Rochester Community Advisory Committee’s Study on the Financing and Delivery of Health Care – May 1970,” tells the story of how the Rochester region dealt with the rising cost of health care at that time.

Jerry Toscano, a student, has been appointed vice president and CIO of BlueSheild of Northeastern New York.

Long Island Center

Joanne De Simone '07 had a special production of her play, “Norma Jean Enlightened,” performed to honor the anniversary of the death of Marilyn Monroe this past August. It was staged at The Arthur Seelen Theatre at The Drama Book Shop in New York City, and her one-act play, “The Suicide Angel,” has been optioned as a feature film. Her novel about life in the big city as seen through feline eyes, “The Metro Cats: Life in the Core of The Big Apple,” is being developed for an animated feature. De Simone also works as a columnist, film historian and editor.

Robert H. Spergel '93 was elected Nassau County Court judge. Spergel, who competed with six candidates, ran on the Democratic and Working Families and Green lines. A Nassau County district judge assigned to the DWI division, he has handled more than 1,000 DWI cases and presided over more than 50 criminal DWI trials. He was in private practice from 1997 to 2006. Spergel earned his undergraduate degree from the college, and his law degree from the City University of New York.

Juanita Torrence-Thompson '83, has published her poems, "I Awake to Splashes of Rain" and "Knowing," as well as Dominick Arbolay's review of her seventh book, "Talking With Stanley Kunitz," in the prestigious online New Mirage Journal, edited by Georgia Banks Martin.

Metropolitan Center

Eric Darton's '90 interview, "New York's Past and Future in the Wake of Sandy" was published in the urbanist blog, polis, at www.thepolisblog.org.

Ruby Hodge '78 attained certification as a holistic health practitioner and nutritional consultant by the American Association of Drugless Practitioners. She has her Master of Professional Studies from the New School for Social Research and most recently completed a course of study at the Global College of Natural Medicine to become a nutritional consultant for optimum health.

LaTanya M. Junior, a student, became the new executive director of communications for Jackson State University in September 2012. Her duties include running JSU's marketing, public relations and athletic media relations strategies, as well as its digital media center, which includes JSUTV and radio stations WJSU 88.5 FM and Tiger Sports Network.

Zazel-Chavah O'Garra '02 has released a new creative movement DVD for both disabled and able-bodied individuals. The DVD features two dancers with disabilities executing movement with passion, conviction and style, according to O'Garra. "I want people to embrace movement as a healing force and sense of empowerment," she wrote.

Felix Urrutia Jr. '94 has been appointed executive director for The Bronx Health Link. The community-based agency is a 14-year-old health education, research and advocacy organization seeking to ensure health equity and social justice for Bronx residents. He earned his Bachelor of Science from the college, and completed an M.S. in urban affairs from Hunter College (CUNY), the executive management program at Columbia University's School of Business Institute for Not-for-Profit Management, and executive management training.

Addict to Acrobat

From the time he did his first backflip at age 8, **Joe Putignano** had been "obsessed" with gymnastics. He was very good. He made it to the Olympic Training Center two times at ages 11 and 13, and seemed to be on his way to becoming a world-class gymnast, when it dawned on him that he didn't have what it took to compete against others at his level and beyond. When he realized he would never make the Olympic team, "I thought I had failed. I was very disappointed in gymnastics. I had given my entire life over to this."

He began to drink socially, and then to use cocaine, and finally, shoot up heroin to numb the pain. "There's a similar energy between athleticism and drug addiction," he observes. "There is the obsession – you've got to be the greatest! Then there is discipline; you show up every day whether you want to or not."

Putignano, who is studying to be either a physical therapist or nurse through the Center for Distance Learning, ended up at a homeless shelter in Patterson, N.J., at age 19. He overdosed twice and two times was pronounced clinically dead.

Today, he stars in the Cirque de Soleil show "Totem" as the Crystal Man, performing amazing acrobatic feats in a costume covered with 4,500 brightly shining mirrors and crystals, representing God or the life force.

Putignano also has penned a memoir, "Acrobaddict: A Contortionist's Heroin Romance," to be released this spring. Putignano went through several rehabs and 12-step programs, but he attributes his recovery to "the soul's inexorable ability to rise out of the ashes."

His recovery was cemented when he tried out for a Broadway show, "The Times They Are A-Changing," choreographed by Twyla Tharp. He had already tried out twice and was not called back. The third time, the famed choreographer selected him for the show, which made him "feel strong, beautiful." He was later invited by the theater director Robert LePage to try out for "Totem," which has been touring Europe, Canada and the U.S. for the past three years. "He picked me, and that gave me more of a sense of, 'no, you're not this evil thing.'"

"The book is about soul redemption," he says. "No matter what we put the body through, the soul will try to rise above."



Joe Putignano

PHOTO PROVIDED

Metro Center Hosts Black Male Initiative Panel Discussion



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Black Male Initiative Club had a full house at their panel discussion at the Metropolitan Center on the topic, Promoting Higher Education in a Prison Mentality Society. The distinguished panelists included Moderator Bill Toles; N.Y. State Sen. Eric Adams; Chief Elton Mohammed, NYPD; Glenn Martin, V.P. of Development and Public Affairs at The Fortune Society; Xavier R. Donaldson, Esq. of Donaldson and Chilliest, LLP; Larry D. Johnson, NYS Correctional Facilities and current student; Ronald Day '09, co-founder of the BMI and Gurmeet Singh, Esq. The panel was hosted by Jay Marshall '06, '08 and Larry Johnson, a student, both affiliated with the BMI.

Alumni and Faculty Attend Shea's Theatre Performance of "Billy Elliot"



PHOTO PROVIDED

Jaci Bradt '07 and Niagara Frontier Center Associate Dean Sonja Givens were among the many in Buffalo who attended the Shea's Theatre performance of "Billy Elliot."

Niagara Frontier Center

Rita Ganim '77 had her article, "Reaping the Rewards of Mentoring," published in The Buffalo News. In addition, she recently launched a new product, called "Use Your Noodle," which is designed to be placed over garments hanging on clotheslines or dryer racks to avoid creases. It is made in America and can be seen at www.clotheslineshop.com.

Daniel J. MacLaughlin '88 has been named a United States Army Reserve Ambassador for New York. MacLaughlin is vice president of the board of directors at the Wyndham Grand Desert Resort in Las Vegas, Nev. He has responsibilities and oversight of a budget of approximately \$34 million. He is a retired sergeant/station commander of the New York State Police, with his last duty station in Jamestown, N.Y. MacLaughlin is the former mayor of Randolph, N.Y., where he was responsible for 15 employees and a budget of approximately \$1.4 million.

Mary Mullett-Flynn '06 was named one of Business First's Women of Influence. She is the owner of Back of the Moon Watercolors, Moon-inspired Gifts, and was recognized for her role in the community. She also was featured in Women's Day magazine.

Mary Peck '95 won re-election as Allegany town clerk. She has held the position since she was first elected in 1999. She earned her degree from the college in Community and Human Services.

Northeast Center

Kristen Delaney '12, regional market manager for Clear Channel Media and Entertainment, who oversees 20 stations in Albany, Poughkeepsie and Sussex, N.J., was featured in a Q-and-A in the Capital District Business Review last fall.

Christopher Frederick, a student, has joined Burst Marketing in Albany as an assistant project manager. He oversees Web projects and assists in updating websites. He has a degree in psychology from the University at Albany, and is completing a degree with a concentration in information sciences through the college.

Angelo Graziane '93 was among the business owners, educators and upper-level managers honored by Fulton-Montgomery Community College last summer as a distinguished alumni. Graziane earned his associate degree from FMCC in 1975, his bachelor's degree in Business, Management and Economics at ESC, and worked for the Golub Corporation, which runs the Price Chopper supermarkets chain.

Connie Lavery O'Connor '76, '77 has been named as CEO of GTECH Indiana, the company hired by the state to privately manage the lottery. An article in the Indianapolis Star noted that Lavery O'Connor is expected to implement a strategy of "excitement, entertainment and community."

Kip Lornell '75 has published "Exploring American Folk Music: Ethnic, Grassroots, and Regional Traditions in the United States" (University of Mississippi Press).

John Prividera '91, a banker with 32 years of experience, has joined Berkshire Bank in Albany as regional manager of its Capital Region branch network. He earned a bachelor's degree in Business, Management and Economics from the college.

School for Graduate Studies

Jenn Crissey, a student working on a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, earned the top prize in the collegewide art competition at the eighth annual 2012 Student Academic Conference in Buffalo. Her winning entry was titled, "Beauty in Vision," an acrylic painting on canvas.

Barbara Fischkin, a current MALS student and award-winning former foreign correspondent, author, educator and prominent activist has been named senior editor of On the Issues Magazine. The magazine was founded in 1982 by trailblazer Merle Hoffman, who, for more than four decades, has been among the country's leading advocates for women, their health, and their reproductive and political rights.

Barbara Garro '93 (NEC), '96, recently had her artwork exhibited at the Sunnyview Hospital and Rehabilitation Center Gallery in Schenectady. In addition, her book, "The



PHOTO PROVIDED

Malissa Smith '12

"Girlboxing" with Malissa Smith '12

As a child, **Malissa Smith's** uncle showed her basic boxing moves: how to throw a one-two punch, a jab and a right hook behind it. He taught her younger brother the same moves, but discouraged the siblings from actually fighting. Fast forward to the mid-1990s, and Smith, looking to build up her shoulder muscles after a serious surgery, started working out at Gleason's, a New York City gym.

Then, in March 1996, Christy Martin and Deirdre Gogarty, of Ireland, fought a game-changing bout as the undercard for a Don King fight on Showtime's Pay Per View.

"A lot of people watched and saw six rounds of really hard, good boxing. Imagine a rather pretty woman – Martin – in pink shorts, all bloody and happy, boxing her heart out. It was an amazing fight," Smith says, maintaining that this fight was the beginning of renewed interest in boxing for women.

A few years later, Muhammad Ali's daughter, Laila Ali, also rose to prominence in women's boxing, putting a familiar name and another pretty face on the sport. Although the purses were small, often not more than expenses, women's boxing began to gain an audience and became a viable sport. Last year, when it became the last sport to attain gender equality in the 2012 Olympics in London, with women boxers winning the only gold and bronze medals in boxing for the U.S., one could say the sport had finally arrived.

Women box for a variety of reasons – many of them the same as for men, says Smith, who is writing a book, "A History of Women's Boxing" (Scarecrow Press, 2013). For many boxers in the U.S. and around the world it's a ticket out of poverty. For others, like Christy Martin, it was a lark. Martin had been enrolled in a teachers college before entering a Toughwoman contest on a dare. For boxer Shelito Vincent, of New London, Conn., who had been brushing up against the law, boxing is a discipline and a way to channel aggression in a positive way.

Of course, there are still those who think women shouldn't be pugilists. But for women in such places as India and Afghanistan, Latin America and Europe, boxing has a growing appeal. In the Olympics, 36 athletes came from around the world and competed in three weight classes.

Smith's research has turned up evidence for women boxing as early as 1722, in the form of an ad in a British newspaper where one woman challenged another. On her blog, "Girlboxing," Smith writes, "There's a nice secret to boxing that is particularly hard for women to admit – it's great to hit things."

Comfort of the Shepherd," also was named book of the week on Angie's Diary, an online writing magazine.

Talia Rodriquez '12 has been accepted to SUNY Buffalo Law School. She submitted her final project, a case study, to be reviewed for publication. Her final project is Receivership and Code Enforcement in Buffalo, New York: May Courts Affect Social Problems. The case study is dedicated to evaluating the necessity of the Buffalo Housing Courts Property Management Receivership Program.

Andrew Tooker '12 joined Web Instinct in Saratoga Springs as a project manager. Tooker is a graduate of Empire State College with a master's certificate in project management.

Carol Warbuton '07 had an exhibit of depictions of historic barns in Saratoga County, "Vanishing Barns," at the Ballston Spa Community Library last fall. "I thought that this was one way I could preserve the beauty and history of these barns before they are gone forever," she told the Ballston Journal. Warbuton is an art teacher at the Bishop Maginn High School in Albany.

In Memoriam

Grace Diaferia '96 passed away recently. She was an active volunteer in the Hudson Valley Center Alumni Student Association, as was her husband, Peter Diaferia '97.

The college experienced the loss of two longtime and influential mentors in 2012.

In September, **KD (Karyl Denison) Eaglefeathers**, an associate professor of Community and Human Services at the Long Island Center, died at the age of 60. Eaglefeathers joined the college in 2003 after moving from the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Montana, where she was a language and culture community activist. Eaglefeathers was a co-recipient, with her husband, Clifford Eaglefeathers, of a Rockefeller Fellowship to study persistence and change in the Northern Cheyenne Sun Dance, and they were the principal field investigators on a National Science Foundation grant to document Northern Cheyenne sacred language.

Robert Hassenger, mentor emeritus, died in December. He was 75. Hassenger was instrumental in transitioning the Center for Distance Learning to online courses. In the late 1990s, Hassenger and a colleague developed the college's first online-course template that became known as the Hassenger model. He joined the Genesee Valley Center faculty in 1972 and in 1974 became associate dean and then acting dean at the Niagara Frontier Center. Hassenger's appointment as special assistant to Academic Vice President John Jacobson in 1977 led to his most important contributions to the college when he was charged with adapting British Open University courses for collegewide use.

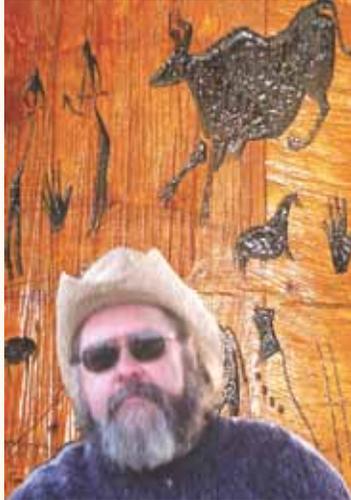


PHOTO PROVIDED

Michael Kanaly '92

What Does It Mean to Be Human?

When a few years ago, scientists reported that modern non-African humans shared between 1 and 4 percent of their DNA with Neanderthals, **Michael Kanaly '92** was not surprised. He had begun research on his novel, "The Long Arms," which describes the clash between Neanderthals and modern humans, called "long arms" in the book, both because of their taller, leaner stature and their use of projectiles in hunting. The story is narrated by Stone, a Neanderthal hunter who has survived the clash.

"I kind of knew that was going to happen," he says of the DNA discovery. "Because when I started my research I knew the two groups had coexisted in the Ice Age.

"Then, very abruptly, the Neanderthals vanished from the fossil record. Once you have that kind of mystery or puzzle, it made me want to take a look at that ... and ask why."

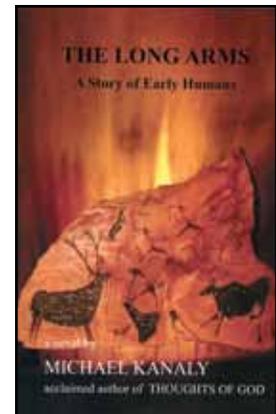
Kanally believes the Neanderthals to be very human. Although shorter in stature than modern humans, "They had large, developed brains ... bigger than ours, in fact. They controlled fire, had spoken language, they decorated themselves with paint, buried their dead with grave goods, which indicates they had religion. They were kind of like us, but not us."

He speculates that the "culture clash" that led to their demise had something to do with their hunting methods. "Neanderthals were highly skilled hunters. They used heavy, flint-tipped spears, and had a wide range of Stone Age tools, including hand axes, knives and awls. Modern humans, however, had projectile weapons called atlatls, or notched throwing spears, which allowed them to hunt and kill prey from a distance. This gave them a distinct advantage in the field."

After Kanally graduated from the college's Northeast Center, he earned an MFA at Goddard College. His goal is to write at least 10 novels. His previous books, including "Thoughts of God," and "Virus Clans," have been well received, and in the case of "Thoughts of God," merited a review in The New York Times. He is currently at work on his next book, and the publisher, Pilot Hill Press of Vancouver, Canada, has requested a sequel to "The Long Arms."

"I don't usually revisit subjects," Kanally said, "but I felt a strong connection to the Neanderthal community in this novel. I'm looking forward to writing another story about them."

"The Long Arms" is available in both hardcover and a Kindle version, and will be Kanally's first book to be available in languages other than English. "Amazon has really revolutionized the book business," he says. "E-books are for sale globally. You go online and touch millions of people right off the bat."



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Community Matters



SUNY Empire State College has 35 locations across New York. This means, in the broadest terms, that we are connected to local communities throughout the state – not only by educating its students, but by incorporating workforce development and community needs into the programs that serve them. One of our college’s core commitments is to “expanding access to affordable, high-quality educational opportunities through partnerships with employers, unions, government agencies, the armed forces, community organizations and other educational institutions.” We ensure this commitment by offering a variety of resources that aid in community and workforce development initiatives. I thought I might share several new creative projects from around the state that connect Empire State College with employers and community agencies.

One such resource, set to be implemented in spring 2013, is the recently developed Community Development Virtual Incubator (CDVI), which was conceived in our School for Graduate Studies. The CDVI’s function is to provide support for organizations involved in the development of businesses in their communities. It is a resource for all of the economic development regions in the state of New York and also for students studying in many of the college’s academic programs.

Those enrolled in the newly created Master of Arts in Community and Economic Development program will

conclude their studies with a Community and Economic Development Residency. And students studying business and management, public affairs, community services, or those in the School for Graduate Studies’ MBA and Master of Arts policy programs also will be offered this opportunity. The CDVI is not just a plus for our students, it also affords valuable research opportunities for our faculty.

Another current initiative is the Year Up program that expands educational options and helps to close the “opportunity divide” for young urban students in the New York City area. We work with these students to provide prior learning assessment credit from their studies with Year Up. By partnering with this program, Empire State College is fulfilling that part of our mission calling on us to transform people and communities and promote social justice.

At our Niagara Frontier Center, the college has partnered with GEICO, the nationwide insurance company. Our faculty provide onsite instruction at GEICO offices for its employees. These onsite offerings include course work in international business, principles of management, human resource management and organizational management. This is another program not just helping our students and community partners, but again providing our faculty the chance to expand their knowledge base in these fields and connect with applied-research opportunities.

The college has other partnerships around the state, many with health care providers and agencies. Among these alliances are several focused on radiologic technology; geographically widespread, they range from the Peconic Bay Medical Center School of Radiologic Technology on Long Island to the School of Radiologic Technology at the St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Utica and north to Glens Falls Hospital. Students graduating from these programs fill their communities’ demands for radiologic technologists and reduce the burden on hospitals to find qualified workers.

All of these initiatives further strengthen our local ties with communities across New York and enable our students to study and apply their acquired knowledge and skills in their home regions. These programs, and several more in the planning stages, ensure that New York does not lose its educated and talented workforce to competing states.

Across New York, community and business leaders are realizing and appreciating the critical role educational institutions are playing in economic development. It is a valuable lesson Empire State College recognized years ago and has paid heed to ever since.

Meg Benke

Acting President

Summer in Saratoga

It's time to make your plans to come to Saratoga Springs for our signature summer events. Last year's family-friendly events had record-breaking attendance.

We invite you to come and enjoy this charming and historic community and, of course, spend time with good friends at Empire State College. For our out-of-town visitors, we will secure room blocks at local hotels.

Our annual day at the Saratoga Race Course is on Friday, July 26, and our annual evening at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center will be in August.

We hope to see you in Saratoga!

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

PHOTO: CONGRESS PARK, SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y., KELLY WILLIAMS

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"The Fabulous Beekman Boys," Josh Kilmer-Purcell, left, and Dr. Brent Ridge, celebrity chefs on the Cooking Channel and winners of "The Amazing Race," participated in a discussion on locally grown and organic food, as well as agricultural economics, for a program organized and sponsored by the Academy for Lifelong Learning, which has been affiliated with the college for more than 20 years.