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A man with white hair, wearing a light blue dress shirt, a red and white striped tie, and dark trousers, stands in the center of a theater. He is holding a wooden chair with his right hand and has his left hand on his hip. The theater is filled with rows of red seats, and the lighting is warm, highlighting the man and the chair.

New College President Takes Center Stage

Talent Uncovered: Smart People Doing Cool Things

Expanded Alumni News Section

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Correction

In this photo (left) from the last issue, Margaret Corbin '72 and Patrick McFarlane were incorrectly identified as Jack and Judy Willis '02, '04. In the photo on the right are Patrick, Margaret, Judy and Jack in front of the London Underground.

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Carole Southwood

Talent Uncovered

by Carole Southwood
Mentor, Niagara Frontier Center

Recently, I was asked what I do as a creative writing mentor to help bring out talent and creativity in my students. It was a tough question to answer, because the challenge for me in the presence of latent creativity is more about what not to do, more about not getting in the way of the student's creativity while remaining supportive. Latent creativity needs a lot of room to find its way to one's surface and reveal itself.

Bringing the talent out of students is, I believe, more about the nature of Empire State College than about what I do as a mentor. The college, as it welcomes and respects adults and their accomplishments, opens the way for self discovery as it paradoxically provides an environment of both structure and freedom. This paradox is often the key to the liberation of creativity. For adults, whose lives are abundant with the responsibilities of work and family, the mandate to study is often simply and wonderfully permission to do what they love, and in loving what they do, their latent creative ability begins to emerge. That was the way it was with John Ventola '91, who came to the college around 1988, the same year I did.

John was employed by Sorrento Food Service and worked on the loading docks in Buffalo. He came to Empire State College because he "liked to read" and thought it might be fun to take courses. That was it. He had been working on the loading docks for 20 years, and he wasn't particularly interested in leaving.

In a literature study with me, he became inspired by his reading and tried his hand at writing a poem. Another mentor, Regina Grol, and I suggested he enter his poem in a writing contest with the theme Labor in Literature. He was reluctant, but did as we both advised, and when he won, he came to me, smiling and shaking his head incredulously. "I didn't believe you," he said, "when you told me I had talent. I thought you were just saying that, to be encouraging."

"I didn't realize you didn't believe me," I told him. "I thought you were just being modest." It was difficult for me to understand in my early years of working with adults that a person could carry around so much talent and not be aware of it, but I have learned this to be true of many of our students.

John went on to do several other studies with me, the next of which was creative writing. The following year when he entered and won the Labor in Literature contest once again, for a different poem, he was even more surprised than he was the first time. It took him a while to believe in his own talent, but soon he was publishing his poetry, giving readings, coordinating the Labor in Literature contest and attending graduate school.

I have never forgotten the opening and closing lines of John's first winning poem. It opened: "Dante, I too know something of hell." It continued artfully and with poetic skill to describe his daily work on the loading docks. It closed, "Hell/is having to do this for the rest of my life."

John lives now with his family in Glendale, Arizona. He is on the faculty of Glendale Community College where he teaches creative writing and literature and serves as assistant chair of the English Department. He has published his poetry over the years, and now and then kept in touch with me. "I'm having a ball," he says.

I can't say I did anything specific to bring out the creativity in John. But this much is for sure: I continue to frequently sit in awe of the latent talent in my students as it reveals itself. Invariably, when I point it out to them, they look at me suspiciously and ask, "Are you just saying that to be encouraging?" I believe their incredulity, so this is where I use one of my most cherished mentoring tools: I tell them the story of John Ventola. ○

Thinking Out of the “Cube”

Rich Hickey '92

by Helen S. Edelman

Rich Hickey was a cool kid, a rock ‘n’ roller with plans to be rich and famous on stage. He even spent three years studying composition at the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston. “But I didn’t get a contract to record my music, so I built my own studio, taught myself about music technology and how to use it, and became a programmer,” he says. “I brought all that coursework and life experience to Empire State College. If I could choose whether to follow this course again, I would choose it.”

Empire State College was an ideal milieu for exploring his inner maverick and for revving his self-starter urges. A nontraditionalist plumbing a nontraditional learning environment is a perfect match, and Hickey rejoices that he could earn the degree that would legitimize his hard work.

However exhilarating, those first ambitions to be a performer have been eclipsed by extraordinary achievements in geek chic. Hickey’s star rose as a computer consultant and software developer doing business as Sente (Japanese for “initiative”) Software, and as the author of Clojure, a barrier-breaking computer language that is more flexible than most, and bridges the divide between the popular Java – with its many libraries, and the venerable Lisp, which empowers the developers to extend their frontiers. The newly renowned Hickey’s name brings up more than 4,000 links on Google, a happy irony for a guy who didn’t own a computer until he was in his 20s.

Humbled by the spotlight, Hickey dismisses the suggestion that he is in demand, though savvy bloggers around the planet dissect his insights, and he gets more invitations to speak than he can accept and still maintain his home life in Pleasantville (NY) with his wife and kids. Pressed, Hickey cites his upcoming meeting with Lisp originator John McCarthy at the computer language’s 50th anniversary celebration in October as the most exciting date on his agenda.

Famous or not, the driven Hickey spends 26 hours a day at his Mac inventing computer languages he calls “tools” to support accomplishment in another domain. For example, he’s currently developing a program that can “hear” for the purpose of transcribing music; another application that he deems vital

is modeling genomes to help in medical diagnosis and treatment; and he is captivated by his own role with Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International, the company whose National Election Pool (NEP) analyzes what voters think and do to predict election results: “Looking into voting outcomes is intense around the clock, especially this year. We watch the data come through and share it with all networks so everybody has the same information. This is very much in the public interest because Edison-Mitofsky has no political agendas. We are involved in the research and its testable accuracy, and at the end of the day you know whether the poll tool worked.”

He thrives on projects like NEP, and scoffs at the myth that being a software designer is drudgery. “It’s satisfying and surprising,” he says. “I describe what I do as ‘working on a blank page.’ I build new programs from scratch. I create something from nothing.”

Perennially “the back-room guy who solves problems,” since the 2000 launch of Clojure, Hickey has been riding a wave through cyberspace into real

time. Clojure is described by those who use it as an “elegant, powerful and practical” language for general applications. Programmers love to use Clojure because they can change and customize its code, which expands the functionality and promise of their programs. Clojure can be used for graphics, web development, computations and more.

One of the language’s progressive hallmarks is that it can multitask – a very big deal. Clojure is capable of modeling “parallel emergent behavior,” explains Hickey. This means



Rich Hickey

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Wicked Good

Lisa Brescia '08

by Kathryn Gallien

No, it's not easy being green, especially for actress Lisa Brescia, who has been playing the role of Elphaba in the mega-hit musical *Wicked* for the past year. The greening of her skin is a tedious process: "It takes about 35 minutes for the makeup artist to work her magic before the show," says Brescia, and 20 minutes plus "a ton of magical makeup-removing products" to get it all off after the curtain comes down.

But Brescia isn't complaining. In fact, she loves the green girl. "She's unlike any other role I've played," says Brescia, noting that she is usually cast in comedic roles that are "girly or lusty," like Amneris in *Aida* or Petra in *A Little Night Music*. "Elphaba is a hothead, and has been battling feelings of alienation her entire life due to the color of her skin," she explains, "and yet I see her as extremely compassionate and kind, as well as having a brilliant mind."

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Lisa Brescia as Elphaba in the Chicago company of *Wicked*

PHOTO: JOAN MARCUS

The Beat Goes On

Joseph Saulter '92, '93



Joseph Saulter, an artistic portrait

When professional drummer Joseph Saulter nearly severed his hand in a glass door, he couldn't imagine that another door was opening for him.

The 42 year old already had an impressive musical career, playing jazz around the world, and performing and acting in many hit Broadway shows, including *Hair* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. He earned a Drama Desk Award for his role in *I Love My Wife*. And for you old-school players, he was the co-producer of the legendary *Twilight 22* album, with the timeless hit, "Electric Kingdom."

For a drummer, it was a devastating accident. "I couldn't move my hand for a year and a half, all five extender tendons had been severed," he says reflectively.

Adrift and uncertain what to do, Saulter found a job as the marching band teacher at a public school on Long Island.

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President Alan Davis and his wife Denise before they step into the winners circle at the college's Alumni Day at the Races.

Introducing Empire State College's

New President

Alan Davis' journey to the presidency of a nontraditional college designed to serve adults began in his youth. "It's interesting, because my formal education was very traditional," said Davis. "English grammar school, and then undergraduate and graduate degrees in a traditional discipline – chemistry."

The British Open University (BOU) started when he was a boy. "I used to sit with my dad and watch the BOU broadcast shows, which in those days were seen to be cutting edge," explained Davis. "The BOU emerged as the solution for adult learners while I was a teenager, and so I became familiar early on with the concept of open learning."

But it wasn't until he began teaching that he discovered there was more than one way to teach or learn. He was once asked to teach a basic chemistry course in the evening for

adult learners preparing for college. These students had not had a good experience in chemistry and with the way they were taught.

"I found myself able to turn people on to a subject they didn't expect to enjoy or understand," Davis said. "Ever since then, I've looked for ways to open doors to higher education for people who are traditionally underrepresented."

He identified and took advantage of opportunities to explore distance learning, prior learning assessment and other learning methods still perceived to be on the margins of traditional education. "I sought opportunities to teach and work in open institutions. I found each experience to be very rewarding and personally satisfying."

Davis emigrated to Canada in 1972 to pursue graduate studies in chemistry, and then taught for 12 years. His first experience in a nontraditional institution was with the British Columbia Open University. "I have no idea why they hired me," he said. "They must have seen something in me. They gave me a very interesting job, as one of the

(continued)

directors of the university, with all kinds of scope, working with colleges, unions and businesses, taking learning out to the community, learning about distance education and getting my first exposure to online learning.” From that experience, he was hired as provost at Athabasca University, in northern Alberta, which is Canada’s largest and premier open university. “I certainly was very lucky, and then I guess smart enough to take full advantage of my good fortune,” he concluded.

Davis’ belief in the college and its mission is obvious as he leans forward to discuss the main challenge he sees the college facing, “whether or not there is a gap between the opportunity that lies ahead for us and our ability and willingness and capacity to go after it,” he said. “It doesn’t mean rampant growth for its own sake. It means strategic growth with high-quality programs and services.”

“There’s also a part of us that needs to continue to be innovative ... That’s what got Empire State College where it is, by taking an innovative approach.”

“We are so perfectly positioned, with all the dedication and work that has been invested over the years – the development of our systems and approaches and attitudes towards adult learning,” he explained. “We are perfectly poised to be the solution for so many adult learners (if I may steal the college’s slogan), as well as for other agencies that have adult learning needs. It’s not as if we have to scramble around looking for a unique mandate, or reinvent ourselves to adapt to a changing market. The opportunities are sitting there waiting for us.”

Davis’ immediate focus as president is to get a clear picture of where the college is in relation to the current strategic plan. He recalled that the job posting included a list of things expected of the president in the first year. “It was a long list, but sensible” said Davis. “For the first year, you must take stock. Don’t come in with a bulldozer, come in and learn, make connections, network with the various communities – the college, the regions, SUNY and the state.”

Davis plans to meet with former presidents Joe Moore and Jim Hall, to gather any advice they can offer, and then give himself until the new year to learn about what is going on around the college and around the state. He sees this leading to the launch of strategic planning for 2010 - 2015, and creating room for emerging issues and opportunities.

“As we think about the future, we also must look at how the college is organized and how it operates and sees itself as “one college.” This is hard to do when we are so localized and, in some respects, fractured,” Davis added. “People need to work collaboratively, and we need to help them do that. What role can I play, and can the President’s Council play, to support this?”

“There’s also a part of us that needs to continue to be innovative,” Davis said. “That’s what got Empire State College where it is, by taking an innovative approach. People are working very hard, and we need to find some way to support them, so they can reflect on what they are doing, try some new things out, and pilot some new initiatives.”

Davis’ working style is a blend of the formal and informal; it’s no-nonsense, but humorous, and it is goal-oriented. “I’m Alan to everybody who works here,” he said with a smile. “There will be formal occasions where it is appropriate to address me as Dr. Davis, but those will be clear.”

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President Alan Davis with his dogs, Pete and Max.



President Alan Davis meets with alumni during a handicapping seminar prior to the Alumni Day at the Races.

New President *(continued from page 5)*

Some say he's very direct, and not shy of asking awkward questions. "If I sense something is happening in the room that's unstated, I'm going to blurt it out," he explained.

For Davis, there's nothing deliberate or strategic about that, but a lot of people find it to be refreshing. "I don't really want to be talking around an issue when it is right before us," said Davis. "It's clear, it's direct, I say what's on my mind – I hope politely, respectfully and with honesty – in an endeavor to understand, and so we can get to a solution. That kind of directness, I hope, is constructive."

Davis has great respect for all that the college has accomplished since its founding, but cautions about dwelling on the past. "I'm a very bad historian" he said. "Give me any context for sure, but let's then talk about the future. We need to be rooted in, but not restricted by our history."

He acknowledges that he has "a notorious sense of humor, which he also knows he has to be careful about," he stated. "I'll often look for humor in any situation, which originates in the uniquely British take on absurdity. Sometimes this is quite appropriate; sometimes people don't understand. As in many situations, using good judgment is the key."

He appreciates American humor too. In flipping through his 200 cable channels, he'll choose a rerun of "Seinfeld," or "Will and Grace" over almost anything else. "It's brilliantly and beautifully crafted humor. I also enjoy watching the likes of Jon Stewart and Steve Colbert, using humor to provide a different insight into what is going on in the world.

Of course, "Monty Python," another favorite, is "way out there, but also provides a unique insight into aspects of

modern life. Their approach helps us make fun of ourselves when we get too pompous and self-absorbed," he said.

Davis has been very successful in his work just by being himself. "And the fact is, people seem to enjoy working with me," he said. "They look forward to having meetings with me that I'm chairing, because we're going to get through them, we're going to have fun, and we're going to get to the topic. We're not going to leave confused or without having made any progress. We're going to have good open discussions and people will leave feeling they spent their time well."

Davis's extensive background in theater also has prepared him for his debut role as president. "You need to be prepared, to know your script, and to understand and connect with your audience to get your message across. You must be sincere, so people know you believe in what you say and do," he said, linking his vocation to his avocation.

Having been a performer, playwright and director, theater has taken on a minor role in his life because of job commitments and time limitations, while music has moved in to fill the void. His iPod holds some "pretty serious jazz," which he thinks is the single most important American contribution to the world's culture in the last century. "For me, more than any other art form, jazz says so much about the world we're in," he said.

He also is passionate about classical music, and he is a huge fan of rock 'n' roll, from classic Pink Floyd, to alternative Radiohead, whom he saw in concert this past summer with his son, an avid guitarist.

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Alan Davis Answers Twenty Questions (plus one)

Q1 When not in the office I can be found:
Usually in the garden, or fixing something somewhere around the house, or walking with my dogs.

Q2 Last three books I read:
Marcel Proust: *Remembrance of Things Past*
Avner Offer: *The Challenge of Affluence*
Richard Ford: *The Sportswriter*

Q3 In the kitchen, I'm known for: Very little.
I am an incompetent cook, but I am an acknowledged expert in eating.

Q4 A few things I want to know about Empire State College: How do you stay connected, socially and professionally, while being so distributed? How can we enhance our sense of collective purpose, and have fun at the same time?

Q5 A few things Empire State College should know about me: You probably should know what is on my iPod, and that I still attend rock concerts with my kids. I saw Radiohead in Liberty Park on August 9.

Q6 Favorite role: The Director (Lloyd) in "Noises Off" by Michael Frayn.

Q7 Most interesting onstage/offstage moment:
Meeting (then) Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and his wife after the opening of one of my plays in Ottawa. His eldest son was in the play, and has since gone on to be a big celebrity in Canada.

Q8 Meet my family: I am married to Denise, who works part time at Niagara College and with Athabasca University, and is even more thrilled than I am about this opportunity at Empire State College.

I have four children: Caitlin is 33, and is finishing her master's degree in environmental design whilst tree planting north of Vancouver and building web sites for various clients. Hilary is 31 and works as an arts administrator in Vancouver, and has a B.F.A. in theatre arts from the University of British Columbia. Alexis is also 31 (10 minutes younger than Hilary) and she is an occupational therapist and returned this August from a very

remote region of Ladakh in northern India working with disabled children. Alex is 17 and is finishing high school in Ontario. He is a good student, and a guitar freak.

Q9 Favorite movie/genre: Not sure if this constitutes a genre, but I'd watch anything by David Cronenberg, David Lynch, the Cohen Brothers, and all kinds of indie movies, or spy/political thrillers.

Q10 Drink of choice: Diet ginger ale.

Q11 Favorite meal/cuisine: Chicken curry and greek salad.

Q12 I root for (favorite team/sport): The Edmonton Oilers in hockey, the Seattle Mariners in baseball, the Buffalo Bills in football, and Manchester United in soccer.

Q13 Drives : A Subaru in Ontario, a VW Jetta in BC, and (I think) a hybrid Toyota Camry in NY.

Q14 Favorite vacation spot: The Florida Keys.

Q15 Favorite teacher/professor (or most impact):
Dominique Abrioux, former president at Athabasca University.

Q16 I came to Empire State College because:
It is focused, it is successful, it is important, it is open, and its future looks good.

Q17 Dog person/cat person/pets: Dogs for sure. I have two great dogs – Pete and Max – border collie crosses. They were free, which is why I got two.

Q18 I like to relax by: Listening to music, and reading.

Q19 Favorite game: Soccer.

Q20 Interesting talent: My wife says I am "inventive." I can fix things with whatever tools and supplies are around. Not sure that is very interesting, but there you go.

Q21 One thing you'd never guess about me:
(again, I have to defer to Denise) Apparently, even though I am a curmudgeon most of the time, I also am very thoughtful. I never knew that.



Ann Turner with her husband Bruce

A Kodak Moment

by Marie Morrison '06

Remember all those movies you've seen where the girl accidentally bumps into a golden opportunity – a job in the chorus line that leads to a star turn; an emergency fill-in in the boss's office that turns into a promotion? Well, such things happen in real life, too, as Ann Turner '86, of Kodak, is pleased to share with you.

Hired on at Kodak in 1978 after she graduated from Monroe Community College, Turner was placed in the secretarial pool, but when an opening in the motion picture department came up, she was transferred.

"I decided I definitely wanted to stay there, so I went back to school," she says. "Kodak at the time was very generous in paying for advanced education, so I went to Rochester Institute of Technology at night until Kodak asked me to move to New York City and be a sales rep. At that point, I found my best opportunity was with Empire State College because they took many of my credits that I had earned at Monroe Community College and RIT and they gave me credit for experience. I graduated from Empire State College in 1986 from the Hudson Valley Center with a degree in marketing." And she was off and running.

During her 30-year career with Kodak, Turner has held a variety of management positions in marketing, operations, training and sales, both in the Americas and Europe, where she attended such glamorous events as the Cannes Film Festival for six years in a row, which she admits was "pretty cool."

When she was in New York City, she also traveled to the film festivals in Toronto and Telluride and to the Sundance film festivals (no, she didn't meet Robert Redford). She also attended the sets of feature films and such well-known TV productions as "Law and Order," "The Sopranos" and "Sex and the City."

But Turner wasn't visiting the sets just to meet actors. "The cinematographers are the people who shoot our film and we

(continued)

like to go and show our support because Kodak is known for quality products and the service support that goes with it. So, we go and make sure things are going well and the film is performing as the cinematographers expect it to.”

Turner also has attended the Academy Awards, where she’s watched the stars go by from the other side of the red carpet. “It’s divided in half so people like me are on the other side, but you can walk up and just see so many people because they all stop and have their pictures taken. When you get into the Kodak Theatre there’s co-mingling, and she’s walked past a surprisingly tall Nicole Kidman and a surprisingly short and petite Renee Zellweger. “It’s kind of fun when you see people in person. They can make them look so different on film.”

“We got more actively involved in film festivals that served the black, and gay and lesbian communities.”

Kodak also is supportive of many film festivals that support diverse groups. “We got more actively involved in film festivals that served the black, and gay and lesbian communities. We know that our filmmakers come from all walks of life so we should be supporting festivals from all areas.”

Turner won the Kodak CEO Diversity Award for that effort as well as for finding ways to bring diverse Kodak groups together and to ensure all employees’ ideas are valued.

“Our sales group and customer service groups were in the same building but separate. We started having information updates and team meetings jointly by holding them twice and splitting the groups in half so half could come to one and half to the other and we mixed sales with service so people got to know each other better.”

In 2004, she was inducted into the Monroe Community College Alumni Hall of Fame, which recognizes alumni who have made exemplary contributions to their profession and their community. She also is an associate member of the American Society of Cinematographers (ASC) and is an advisory board member for Film and Digital Media at Savannah College of Art and Design. In addition, she is a board member at the George Eastman House and recently joined the Empire State College Foundation Board of Directors.

Turner is now back at Kodak in Rochester where she is responsible for the overall marketing and communications for Kodak film, photofinishing and entertainment products worldwide.

Turner and her husband, Bruce, reside in the Finger Lakes area, with daughters Andrea (18) and Rachel (22). “It’s certainly a change from New York, she says, “but so beautiful and I’m enjoying it.” ○

Beat Goes On *(continued from page 3)*

He decided that if he couldn’t play, he could educate; give students some of the professional experience and global perspective that he had. He enjoyed inspiring and motivating the next generation of musicians.

“I taught for a year – and the kids keep telling me to come back,” he says, “But I had to get certified – and that’s what launched me back to school.” Nearby, on the campus of SUNY Old Westbury, he found Empire State College. Saulter was immediately drawn to Empire State College’s concept of life credits, “This was the one school that was talking about giving me credit for life experience. I didn’t need to start from scratch.”

Between 1992 - 1996, Saulter earned his associate, bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Empire State College. He served as valedictorian for his bachelor’s degree ceremony. He then went to Westbury High School and worked as a newly certified music teacher. But he never really left Empire State College behind. “I met some great educators and professors, some of whom I’m still in contact with today, and they’re still mentoring me on my company 20 years later,” he said.

Throughout his years as a drummer, Saulter also developed a talent for computer graphics, designing album and CD covers for bands. It blossomed into his own company: Entertainment Arts Research (EAR), and today he serves as CEO. This Atlanta-based, 3D graphics and interactive media publishing company focuses on creating diverse video games for the home console and casual gaming markets. Dedicated to expanding the quantity, integrity and visibility of minority characters, artwork and storylines, Saulter hopes to propel EAR into the top echelons of the gaming industry.

In addition to running EAR, Saulter is a professor at the Art Institute of Atlanta, teaching audio production and game audio. He is the co-founder of the Urban Video Game Academy and is the president of the DeKalb Council for the Arts, and chairman of the Diversity Advisory Board at the International Game Developers Association. Saulter also served as chairman of the Game Design and Development Department at American Intercontinental University, where he wrote the curriculum.

Saulter was featured in the October 2006 issue of *Ebony* magazine as “Who’s Who in the Technology Boom,” and is the author of the book, *Introduction to Game Design and Development*, published by McGraw-Hill.

He’s excited about the future of gaming, and has assembled a team of creative artists to build an African-American multicultural peer to DreamWorks and Disney. “There’s no reason why there can’t be a minority Pixar out there for animation,” says Saulter, “We have urban kids we’re introducing to the science behind gaming ... I want to open that door.” ○

Life as a Melody

Kip Lornell '75



Kip Lornell

“I’m always tinkering with what I’m presenting in the classroom,” says Kip Lornell ’75, “I’m always learning ... so if it’s interesting to me, it’s interesting to the students.” Tinkering is an apt description of Lornell’s approach to music, academia, and particularly, his own education.

Kip Lornell, Ph.D., is a George Washington University (adjunct) professor of ethnomusicology and American music, who also serves on the Africana Studies Program Committee. He has published 10 books, including *Introducing American Folk Music*; *The Life and Legend of Leadbelly* (with Charles K. Wolfe); *Virginia’s Blues*; *Country and Gospel Records: 1902-1943*; and *Happy in the Service of the Lord: Afro-American Gospel Quartets in Memphis*.

Over the past 35 years, Lornell has worked on music projects for the Smithsonian Institute; has been a consultant and contributor to many publications; and is the recipient of nearly a score of grants and awards, perhaps most notably a 1997 Grammy.

But his path to musical and academic prominence has been as serpentine as a John Coltrane jazz riff.

Growing up near Albany, New York, Lornell didn’t head directly to college after high school graduation in 1971. With no clear plans, he worked as an orderly at Albany Medical Center, while taking a few courses at The College of Saint Rose.

A family friend mentioned Empire State College as a good place to design your own curriculum. Lornell was immediately taken with the idea. “Having an idiosyncratic and personalized program is what most people should get out of college,” he says. “But most people don’t.”

After an independent study in criminal justice at SUNY Albany, Lornell found his focus in music. He was able to construct his own course of study that led him south to Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina, where he attended classes and did field work researching black musicians. He was the youngest person to receive a National Endowment for the Arts grant, which enabled him to study the blues in North Carolina and Georgia in the spring of 1973. Rather than transferring, and wrangling over credits, Lornell worked with Empire State College to construct a completely personalized educational plan.

Lornell cites the flexibility and individual programming at Empire State College as some of its most attractive benefits. “I didn’t have a typical G.P.A. – I had a portfolio ... to get into graduate school.” Lornell received his Bachelor of Science in cultural sciences from Empire State College in 1975, his Master of Arts in folklore from the University of North Carolina in 1976, and his Ph.D. in ethnomusicology from the University of Memphis in 1983. With an apparent penchant for academia, Lornell’s curvilinear career path has led him to teach at many outstanding universities such as the University of Virginia, William and Mary, Johns Hopkins, and now, George Washington University.

Lornell’s passion for music fills his Silver Spring, Maryland home, literally. He’s the proud owner of a carefully curated collection of some 5,000 hand-picked 78 rpm records; everything from early country to black gospel.

He is married to a high-profile wife, Kim Gandy, who is president of NOW, the National Organization for Women. That gives him the flexibility to pursue career, hobbies and his primary interest: helping to raise two daughters.

“You’ve got to marry right,” he joked. “Kim can do a lot of traveling and I can work part time. It’s allowed me to live the Kip Lornell lifestyle.” ○



Making Beautiful Music Together

Cristy '08 and Hugo Dwyer '06

Cristy and Hugo Dwyer at Cristy's Center for Distance Learning graduation ceremony

by Tom Dimopoulos

In the early 1970s, Cristy Dwyer rocked a moog synthesizer in the jazz fusion band Raw Milk, founded by Don Preston of Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention. In the 1980s, she became a record company executive and studio manager for legendary rock bands like the Rolling Stones. As successful as she had become, Cristy, a classically trained pianist, said she felt a void in her professional life.

So she left the music industry and accepted a hospital internship in an inpatient substance abuse rehab unit in 1994. "I came out 12 years later as a clinical director of rehab service," she says.

With a growing awareness of the problems in the health-care system, matched with her personal fondness for politics, she began to envision herself rocking the health-care system on the national level as a health-care advocate.

"I could either sit around and complain about things, or try to make some changes," she said. "If I was going to be part of the solution, I was going to need a good education. I knew where to get it."

Cristy's husband, Hugo Dwyer, another music-industry type who works as a recording engineer, had graduated with his B.S. in business from Empire State College in 2006.

"Hugo's graduation was a transforming experience for me," says Cristy. "That's what got me hooked."

The Dwyers, who recently celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary, were returning home after they attended Hugo's graduation ceremony in Saratoga Springs. During the drive back to Manhattan, Cristy had an epiphany. She decided she would return to school.

Although Hugo Dwyer literally sat at the control board as a participant in the technological revolution in the music business, he thinks that even more momentous from a historical perspective is the revolution that took place in higher education during the last half of the 20th century.

"Fifty to 100 years from now, people may look back at this period and say this was the golden age of education," muses Hugo, noting the birth of online classes such as those offered by the Center for Distance Learning, from which he and Cristy are both proud graduates.

Cristy enrolled in Empire State College shortly after Hugo's graduation, and in February 2008, earned her associate degree. Last month, she returned to Saratoga Springs where she said she was honored to speak to graduates at the Center for Distance Learning commencement ceremony, and is targeting September, 2009 as the date when she will receive her bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies, with a concentration in public health policy.

Hugo has continued to grow in his career as a recording engineer. He expanded his role recently from being the master of the control board, to musical collaborator. Of late, he has provided subway samples and sound design for the multimedia presentation of "Subway Moon," a multicultural collaboration that featured Roy Nathanson (himself a 1999 Empire State College graduate) and The Jazz Passengers, and students from American and French schools. The performances were staged in Paris in March and in New York City in May.

Meanwhile, Cristy, a self-proclaimed optimist, has no problem laying aside the moog synthesizer to fulfill her role as an advocate for health care.

"I think we're at a point in our country where there is a lot of crisis, but there also is a lot of opportunity," she says. "We can make changes of major consequences that will be good for many people." ○

“Net” Prophet

by Helen S. Edelman

“Just because you don’t know where you’re going doesn’t mean you’re lost.” So continent-hopper Marian Maczvalda can stay on track just by being in motion. A native of Slovakia, Maczvalda – who signs his notes ‘Mayo’ – graduated from Empire State College in June 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in business administration. Now he lives in London where he is a relationship manager for Bloomberg LP, a Manhattan-based financial software services, news and data company that holds a 33-percent market share in the growing, global money industry. Maczvalda crows that the business was founded by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who owns 92 percent of the company.

At 26 and unmarried but committed, Mayo is hyper-focused on his peripatetic job: “I enjoy representing Bloomberg in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and I take pleasure in being part of the most successful financial data and news provider in the world,” he said en route to the airport to launch a whirlwind two weeks in Bratislava, Vienna and Prague.

Traveling around with a portfolio of economic intelligence, Maczvalda aims to offer clients innovative products like proprietary data and fund-trackers that can secure their wealth. He is ardent about his livelihood: Mayo recently read *Bloomberg on Bloomberg* – an autobiography by the multi-multi-millionaire who turned the business of business news upside-down. Next on the nightstand is a book about equity derivatives (financial instruments whose value is partly derived from underlying securities). But despite the genuine fervor

for his boss, Maczvalda said he would rather have lunch with Christopher Columbus. And, though the geniuses of both men fascinate him, neither – in fact, no one – is his personal role model, and he doesn’t want to be someone else’s either: “My strength and wisdom are from God; without Him I wouldn’t have accomplishments,” Mayo said. “I know that for sure.”

Professional roving is not new to Mayo, who has chased his work from compass point to compass point before. In an earlier, very glamorous first calling, Maczvalda literally followed the bouncing ball as a tennis coach in Europe, China and the United States.

“Cool, right?” he teases, stretching his polyglot good humor across the Atlantic Ocean, a grin on one shore, a laugh on the other.

Mayo had accolades for the sport he played internationally. These days his

tri-weekly volleys are purely recreational, but there’s an unmistakable resemblance between Mayo the tennis whiz and Mayo the finance whiz.

“On the court and off the court, I’m on my own,” Maczvalda mused. “I have learned not to rely on one person, but to anticipate multiple scenarios and choose the right one to pursue. I’m always ready to climb over hurdles and reach the target.”

Mayo described himself as a determined competitor in squash as well as tennis, and reported that he excels at bungee jumping as well – not surprising in a guy who makes a living taking remarkable risks to fulfill remarkable ambitions.

He is candid about how his fundamental character drives his impulses: “I’m a rebel; when the crowd turns right, I go left. When people are cautious, I see opportunity!” he declared.



Marian Maczvalda '06 (left) and friend Laura Nova

"I like adventure, not civilized experience. I hate to do ordinary things. Nothing usual satisfies me."

His intensity can be hard for people to contend with, Mayo admitted, and "even for me to handle myself," but his zest has paid off. Maczvalda used himself as an example of a guy whose family means were modest, and who has channeled his initiative and yearning for a more cosmopolitan existence into "platinum" triumphs in a jump-high, run-fast career.

"Everyone can make their own chance in this world," he asserted. "I thought about how I could make

"I'm a rebel; when the crowd turns right, I go left. When people are cautious, I see opportunity!"

my diploma most valuable. I thought about how everyone around me, no matter what their social, economic or educational background, is in the same position at the same level."

He came to the conclusion that education is "an admission ticket to opportunity, but it's always up to an individual to develop skills, passions and desires if you want to really rock!"

His own rocking 'n' rolling debut was staged a long way from Slovakia. Mayo had begun post-secondary classes in Prague, but moved to the United States, where he has family in New Jersey, to continue his studies.

Along the way to his starring roles as an athlete and now with Bloomberg, Maczvalda's innate smarts catapulted the curious young man into a wise one. "I learned to listen to people very carefully and filter thoughts that will help me achieve," he said. "Nonstop thinking and cost-benefit evaluation play an important role in my life." Forehand or backhand? Buy or sell?

His marketplace insights work well in his personal life too. "These are my core, human responsibilities in private and public life: reliability, punctuality and effectiveness."

In retrospect, Mayo recognizes that the strategies he developed early on to establish a trusting rapport with teammates on the court morphed into the foundation for "mutual confidence in business relationships," he explained. "It's all about communication. You learn how to read specifics: What does a person need? What do they expect? And you ask yourself how you can support that."

He refers to many of the key people who have surrounded him on both sides of the net as "players:" squadmates and students, peers, colleagues and managers.

Now, it seems that the best player, the winner, is Mayo, who joked that if he saves \$1 million, he would act on a "secret plan" to invest it. Not that he gave any advice, but the words "tax-free municipal bonds" did come up. Nevertheless, he wouldn't make any predictions about the direction of world economic trends: "I would be a billionaire in a week if I knew about that. None of even the most sophisticated analysts really know. Trading is just gambling in many ways."

Mayo also demurred when it came to talking about the race for president, but emphasized that whoever takes office in November will have "an impact – I hope a positive one – and a lot to correct."

That's definitely not a complaint about being a citizen of the West. Indeed, Maczvalda named "war" as the scariest thing in the world, but cited his own "freedom of choice" as the most enviable.

Outsiders might be tempted to say he has it all, but Mayo wouldn't agree. He envisions a trip to Australia, a place he's never been, and children after marriage. And about that million dollars ... ○

Student Achievements

Marina Jaffe, English, an M.A.T. student, has won a \$5,000 grant from "Funds for Teachers" to develop curriculum for her school. She will travel to Brazil to investigate the legacy of slavery in Brazil and will then compare her findings to the legacy of slavery in the U.S.

Mary Courtney, an M.A.T. student working with the Rochester City School District (RCSD) received the 2008 First Year teacher of the Year Award for RCSD. Another M.A.T. student, Carol Fries, also received this award previously.

Amanda LaValle Genson, a graduate student, has been appointed as coordinator, and will head the new Department of the Environment for Ulster County.

Current Alfred student **Tim Palmiter** has been selected as the new recycling coordinator for Allegany County. He and his wife, Angiline also a student at the Alfred Unit, welcomed a baby daughter, Olivia May, in early June.



Cassandra W. Williams

Cassandra W. Williams, a student at the Genesee Valley Center and a residential habilitator caseworker for the Urban League of Rochester, received the Robert and Carol Johnson Scholarship and the 2008

Womens Week Scholarship. A member of the American Counseling Association, she is a team leader for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, and a volunteer with United Way Day of Caring, as well as Greece Residents Assisting Stray Pets (GRASP).

Harold Niver '08, Center for Distance Learning, and **Michael Doyle**, a Genesee Valley Center student, presented papers at the New York State Political Science Association annual conference. Niver's paper, "Marxism, the State and Morality of Communism," sparked the majority of the discussion in the Q and A period, which he handled well. Doyle's paper, "Political Disorder in Changing Societies: The Utility of Huntington's Model in Understanding Postwar Iraq," also was well received.

Wicked *(continued from page 3)*

With 150 performances as standby in the Broadway production, and then full-time ownership of the plum role this summer in Chicago, Brescia has attracted legions of fans who revel in her every soaring note and tout her show-stopping rendition of “Defying Gravity” as, well, wicked good.

Brescia got hooked on acting as a high-school student in Greenfield, Wisconsin. “I loved the feeling of community that theater offered,” she recalls. “It felt like everyone involved in the show became your closest friends.”

After high school, she headed to New York City, where she earned her associate degree at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, staying on for a year as a member of their repertory company. Blessed with that stunning singing voice as well as solid theater training, Brescia was soon a very busy actress.

She toured worldwide for five years in *The Mamas and the Papas* with original members John Phillips and Denny Doherty. On Broadway, she enjoyed a starring role in Twyla Tharp’s *The Times They Are A-Changin’*, a turn as Marion Halcombe in *The Woman in White*, and the part of a disciple in the revival of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Elsewhere she played Eva Peron in *Evita* (Gateway Playhouse), Cathy in *The Last 5 Years* (Skylight Opera Theatre), and Meg in *Brigadoon* (Goodspeed Opera House).

She was so busy professionally that she kept putting off one of her personal goals: earning a college degree. Then a few years ago, a couple of friends recommended she look into Empire State College’s Center for Distance Learning, and she discovered she wasn’t too busy for college after all. “I was thrilled,” she says. “Because it’s all online, I realized I



Lisa Brescia as Elphaba in the Chicago company of *Wicked*

could continue to work in theater while going to school.”

Advisor Renee O’Brien helped her put together a program that combined 60 transferable credits from her associate degree, credit for prior learning and a rich array of online courses. She studied the Middle East, American ethnic history, math, nutrition, Spanish language and culture, and a particular favorite course – Images of Women in Western Civilization. Fellow performers became accustomed to seeing Brescia at work backstage on her laptop or being roped into discussions for her psychology class.

All the subjects benefited her work, says Brescia, “My studies helped me to think more critically; I can apply those skills to script analysis and character development.”

Brescia graduated in June 2008 and is justly proud of having completed the work while performing in three

Broadway productions and one regional show over the two and a half years of her enrollment. Graduation was a thrill celebrated in true distance-learning fashion: on a day when she had two *Wicked* performances in Chicago, she tuned into the ceremony online. “My partner, Craig, and I sat on the couch together watching, just beaming.”

And rightly so. She completed her Empire State College degree with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. “Much to my surprise,” says Brescia, “I found out that if I worked hard, I could excel academically.” Now she is considering graduate school, possibly for an M.F.A., possibly for “something other than fine arts altogether.” But that is down the road a bit.

Meanwhile, she is enjoying new roles on the stage and a new sense of empowerment wherever she goes.

“I can participate in discussions about subjects which used to baffle me,” says Brescia. “The old beliefs I carried around about a lack of academic ability or intelligence have been changed,” she says. “Whenever those old inner voices start to chatter at me saying ‘You can’t do that!’ there is a new voice which says, ‘You better believe I *can*.’ ” ○

FACTOID:

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“Cube” *(continued from page 2)*

the program’s computations can mimic a traffic jam or an ant colony with many players acting individually on the same stage, collaborating, even unintentionally. While in most languages it can be difficult to coordinate the activity of more than one player at a time, Clojure can evaluate them simultaneously and express the complex, overlapping layers of the episode.

Nevertheless, Hickey says Clojure’s capacity to do more than one thing at a time is limited, and that modern computers can do up to “maybe tens or hundreds of things at once.” He imagines a not-so-distant-future time when computers will be “somewhat more like brains, able to do tens of thousands of things at a time.” Despite that forecast, Hickey insists that computers are not (emphasis on *not*) smarter than people. “Human ideas are behind what computers do,” he asserts. “They can ‘discover’ a pattern or come to a conclusion faster than a person, but there is no Frankenstein here.”

Potential for intelligence overload notwithstanding, there never can be too much data, in Hickey’s opinion. He places computer languages on the continuum of information transfer as telephones and telegraphs, but conventional communication relies on standard spoken and written languages that *separate* people from each other by cultural, geographic, physical, temporal and cognitive barriers, among other factors. Computer code, on the other hand, is based on a system of universal logic – not individual words – and makes accessible everywhere a common inventory of wisdom, graphics, input,

output and instructions. Hickey notes that recent history has benefited by “a quantum leap” in what is knowable, and which connects “people and ideas on a very large scale.”

The subject of human connection through computer language spurs Hickey to wax unexpectedly poetic. As a developer, he believes that each application of a program is an interactive learning experience, and expects it to be continuously enhanced by users in an online dialectic, connecting programmers to him and to each other.

“I took three years to write Clojure and I’ve been in tutorial mode with other people, encouraging its growth in their hands, for nine months,” he says. “Now I’m getting feedback on what needs to change.”

Clojure is open source, which means those who install it won’t find their download is suddenly obsolete. Hickey emphasizes, “Computer language authors love to watch ideas get big. We don’t make a lot of money. I want to share Clojure as it matures. The language is not an end in itself; it needs users and uses as a reason to exist.”

Hickey’s prospering reputation in the computer-language-developer community is a daily surprise to him, and a gratifying show of peer confidence because “in the programmer world, success is based on a meritocracy,” he concludes. “You can’t get ahead by marketing. You have to have ideas. It’s refreshing not to be part of a corporate hierarchy. Working with computers requires smarts, openness to reason, membership in a learning community, and dedication to an inherent truth.” ○

New President *(continued from page 6)*

“What I like to do is hit the iPod shuffle button, and get some amazing sequences,” Davis said. Sometimes, out of the blue, you get a sequence of pieces from all different categories – a Mahler symphony, followed by Modest Mouse, some John Zorn and then the Beatles. “I don’t know what that says about me and my working style, but I love those unexpected connections that occur among various dimensions of your past and future and what’s going on now. I think it shows how powerful music is, and I listen to it a lot.”

For Davis, the transition into his new role has been a smooth one. “I had a lot of material sent to me,” he said. “Joyce Elliott (the provost and interim president before his arrival) has done outstanding work, not just holding the fort and keeping me fully apprised of events and issues, but also in advancing the cause of Empire State College as she awaited my arrival. “The welcome we have received has been warm and generous,” he said. “Like everyone at the college, I was very saddened by the tragic loss this summer of Dr. Bob Milton, vice president of enrollment management.”

Davis recognizes the huge weight of responsibility in being a college president. He knows expectations are very high, but he has no second thoughts. “Two things told me from the beginning that this was the right choice,” he explained. “First, was when I was interviewed on the phone by Chris Rounds, a mentor at the Binghamton Unit and a member of the search committee, during the early stages of the search. At the end of the call, I thought, ‘This feels like it might be a good fit.’” The second signal was more telling. “My wife, Denise, is more intuitive. When she joined me here during the second interview process, her immediate reaction was, ‘This feels right. Professionally, and personally, there’s a sense of family. It just feels right.’” ○

FACTOID:

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College News

Faculty and Staff Honored with SUNY Chancellor's Awards

Two members of the Empire State College community were honored this year with SUNY Chancellor's Excellence Awards.

Receiving the prestigious Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service is **Tina Wagle**, a mentor at the Niagara Frontier Center, for her dedicated leadership and contributions to the College's Master of Arts in Teaching program. A full-time faculty member of the M.A.T. program, Wagle was one of its founders, and helped to win grant funding to establish the program.



Tina Wagle

She was a key member of the team that developed the college's innovative curriculum that enables adult learners with a bachelor's degree to fulfill

their student teaching and academic obligations while working full time as a teacher. She serves as a mentor and advisor to students, and as their role model for flexibility, problem solving, leadership and generous support.

Wagle helped create an electronic repository for student work; a student handbook and rubric for evaluation of the master's portfolio; field experience guides; student orientation materials; and a dispositions policy for all students, among other accomplishments. She helped regularize admissions processes, write program standards, and collaborated in the revisions of a program rubric for observing teachers in the public schools.

She has been instrumental in fostering a strong relationship between the college and the urban schools in Buffalo, where M.A.T. students teach. She has helped program graduates find jobs, and was a member of the New Teacher Mentoring Induction Team for the Buffalo Public Schools.

A respected Spanish educator who continues to teach as well as act in an administrative capacity, Wagle has presented papers in South Africa and Cuba, speaking on issues related to assessment, tenure and promotion, and issues of diversity. She serves on several college committees, including personnel review, mentoring, graduate studies policy and affirmative action.

In Buffalo, Wagle has been recognized for her extraordinary efforts by a Forty under 40 award for community service, particularly to Catholic Charities, as chair of strategic planning; and for her significant positive influence on area public schools.

Suzanne Hayes, manager of library and instructional services for the college's Center for Learning and Technology, is the recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service. The distinction recognizes her consistent, exceptional work performance and her service to the extended college community. She holds master's degrees in library and information services, as well as curriculum and instructional technology.

The Center for Learning and Technology is a resource to the extended college community, and provides instructional design consultation, multimedia development, electronic library services and technical support.

Hayes was acknowledged for her creativity, flexibility and productivity in developing accessible resources that

support the needs of independent, mentor-guided learners, and faculty. Among her accomplishments are improvements to interlibrary loan services and patron support materials, including the library web site; design and implementation of a full-text retrieval system, tutorials, and informational materials and experiences; upgrades to searchable databases for online courses; and enhanced references services.

She conceptualized and has distinguished the college's unusual virtual library to support distance learning. Hayes was cited for her leadership abilities as well as managerial competence, imagination and technical skill.



Suzanne Hayes

SUNY Names Recipients of Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

Five Empire State College students received 2008 Chancellor's Awards for Student Excellence, the highest honor bestowed by the State University of New York on a student.

The annual awards acknowledge students who earn a grade point average of 3.78 or higher, and make a significant contribution to their campus or local community. This year, 275 students from all across SUNY were recognized in a ceremony in Albany.

Dominique Cieri, a playwright, earned a bachelor's degree in arts through the Center for Distance Learning, graduating

with a 4.0 G.P.A. Her accomplishments include publishing essays about arts education in *The New York Times*, *Daily Record*, *New Jersey Theatre Alliance* and *Teaching Artist Journal*; conceiving and developing a juvenile justice arts program; and co-authoring *From the Attic, to the Classroom, to the Stage*. In the past, Cieri won a Rothschild Foundation grant to implement a Holocaust Program in Florence, Italy with Florence International Theatre Company. She received the Davie Award from the Geva Theatre in Rochester (NY) for Excellence in Playwriting, and an individual playwriting fellowship from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation. She has been recognized for her work with at-risk youth by Playwrights Theatre of New Jersey. Cieri's plays have been produced in New York, New Jersey, Los Angeles, Chicago and North Carolina.

Molly deRoos was the student speaker at the graduation recognition ceremony at the Central New York Center, where she received a bachelor's degree in management. She has been honored by Cornell University, where she is associate director for career development, for Career Fair Leadership for organizing 52 employers and their 152 representatives to conduct employment interviews;



Molly deRoos

and she was instrumental in a major administrative reorganization at Cornell. DeRoos has been acknowledged numerous times at work and by Empire State College for her successful leadership roles. The mother of a daughter with liver disease and who received a donor liver, deRoos is a proactive organ donation advocate. She has been honored by Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network for enhancing awareness of transplantation,

and interviewed by *Healthy You* and Cincinnati Children's Hospital's annual report about her views on organ donation. Ethics and organ donation is one of her primary research interests. She is a volunteer for both Dream Factory of Central New York and Girl Scouts of America.

Sean Johnston graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in zoology from the Genesee Valley Center, where he maintained a 4.0 grade point average (G.P.A.). Last year, he was chosen for a prestigious international endangered-species internship with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and published a



Sean Johnston

paper about his experience in *SEEDS*, the publication of the Friends of Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. He has presented a paper to Empire State College faculty exploring Internships: How to Help Your Students Fit Experiential Learning into their Degree Internship Programs; was an interviewer for the college's community services/human development mentor and associate dean; and has been a foster caretaker for young, injured, unadoptable or post-surgical animals for the Humane Society of Rochester and Monroe County. He has been recognized twice for his leadership in identifying and immediately resolving crises at the Humane Society.

Frank Saladino graduated with a degree in business management from the Long Island Center. He is well-known for his invention of ProHandle, an ergonomically designed auxiliary handle that can be added to any stick-tool such as a shovel, rake or mop, improving the user's posture, reducing strain and injury to the lower back and joints. He donated hundreds of ProHandles for use by both emergency teams at the World Trade Center after 9-11, and to the National



Frank Saladino

Guard's firefighters, and received a Letter of Appreciation and Recognition from Zep Manufacturing (ProHandle supplier) for his generosity. He also has been thanked for donations by Merillon Athletic Association and Little League for donating ProHandles to help maintain their fields. He owns a patent and trademark for his device. Saladino has been recognized by the Community Church of Great Neck-Chinese School for founding its PTA and raising funds to provide healthy snacks for students. He lectures regularly at SUNY Farmingdale to professionals, faculty and students interested in the invention industry, and was a student speaker at University College's 2007 graduation ceremony.

Mark Tillman graduated from the Genesee Valley Center with a degree in business administration with a dual concentration in finance and marketing. A fourth-generation food-service professional, he is owner of his family's Tillman's Historic Village Inn (Albion, NY), and has been recognized both in the industry and for excellence in business by the U.S. House of Representatives and New York State Senate. Tillman has been employing and mentoring adolescents, age 15 to 18, including individuals with developmental disabilities, for more than 20 years, teaching them critical life skills through responsibility. He was elected to serve as an officer on the board of the local chamber of commerce in Orleans; named by former Governor Pataki to serve on the New York State Finger Lakes Regional Council; and was featured in an article in *GEOTIMES*, the publication of the American Geological Institute as a student who is improving the eco-system by "leading by example." In the past, he served honorably and with merit in the U.S. Marine Corps. ○

Alumni News

Center for Distance Learning

Kevin Cady '03, '04 is the inaugural recipient of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliariist of the Year Award, 2007.

Congratulations to **Harold Niver '08** on having been accepted by the University at Albany where he will pursue a Master of Arts degree in political science.

Faxton-St. Luke's has named **Mary Kate Rolf '04** executive director of the Visiting Nurse Association. A licensed New York state nursing home administrator, she holds a master's degree in health service management from SUNY IT and is working toward a master's degree in business administration.

With 15 years of experience in the specialty paper industry and degrees in manufacturing technology and business management from SUNY Cortland and Empire State College respectively, **Tim Shaughnessy '06** has taken the position of technical composites sales manager for Knowlton Technologies.

Day Planners, Your Ultimate Success Tool is the latest work by **John (Wes) Spence '90**. He also is the author of *The Busy Manager's Guide to Employee Relations Excellence* – both published by Author House.

Center for Graduate Programs

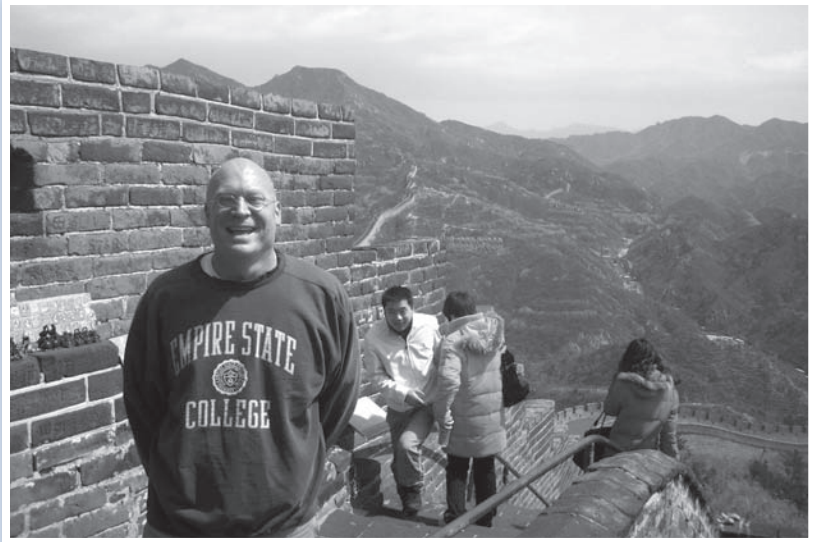
Maria Callegari '90, '94, who earned both her undergraduate and graduate degree at Empire State College before starting a family, has penned "How Staying at Home With Your Children Uses Your Career Skills," based on her experience as a stay-at-home mother. She is now a part-time editor for a book publisher.

Mary Anne Donovan '07 is chief editor of *Writer Online*, a professional ezine for writers.



Dorothy Jennings

Dorothy (Penny) Jennings '03, '06, founder of Adults Caring for Teens, Inc. (ACT), has been named a 2008 New York State Woman of Distinction. She has taken an idea –



Where in the world is Empire State College? **Shaun Smithson '06** from CDL proudly wore his Empire State College shirt when he visited the Great Wall of China.

Please send any photos you have from distant locations wearing college merchandise or holding up a recent copy of this magazine. Let's see where in the world Empire State College alumni and students are found!

to help at-risk teens find their way through mentoring – and created an effective agency that not only provides older teens with much-needed mentors but has Girls Circle and Boys Council programs. Jennings became interested in mentoring while earning her master's degree. She is working toward a Ph.D. at Northeastern University.

Center for International Programs

Juraj Antal '08 has been accepted at the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom where he will work toward his master's degree in international political economy. He also recently completed an intensive Spanish course in San Sebastian.



Filitsa Arvaniti

Filitsa Arvaniti '05 has been named alumni coordinator and student affairs assistant at the New York College Athens campus. Both Empire State College and La Salle University, from which she

earned a Master of Arts in professional communication and public relations (valedictorian), are affiliated with New York College's Athens campus.

Martin Pavlicek '05 has been promoted to head of communication and official press officer with Cez Energy Company, the largest company of its kind in the Czech Republic. He is working towards a master's degree in communication and public relations with La Salle University's Prague program.

Central New York Center

Johanna Ashworth '07 is planning to attend law school in Washington, D.C. She and her husband, **Nathan**, both graduated from Empire State College in 2007.

Bosnian native **Amil Catovic '08** immigrated to the Utica area in 1996. Through his work as an employee specialist with the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees, he established a relationship with the Oneida Indian Nation, which led to his current position as human resource specialist for the Oneida Nation.

John Currie '95, who earned his Bachelor of Science degree in human services, is a residential counselor with Catholic Charities and works in a community home for adults recovering from and/or coping with mental illness. He also is a court appointed special advocate, holds a Family Development Credential from Cornell University, and has received his NYS Mediation Certification in custody visitation/community/elderly caregivers/special education and agricultural mediation. Currie is an active member of the American Legion and Farm Bureau and has been recognized by the Albany Diocese of Catholic Charities for his volunteer service.

Joyce Dayton '89 brings 17 years of teaching experience to her new position, principal of Reese Road Elementary School. She has a certificate of advanced study in school administration from SUNY Cortland, a master's degree in special education from SUNY New Paltz and her Empire State College bachelor's degree in elementary education.

Kimberly Fezza '05 has been named coordinator of Cornell University's Off Campus Housing Office which was born from a collaboration between Cornell's vice president for student and academic services and Ithaca Mayor Carolyn Peterson, both of whom expressed their mutual interest in building better relations between students and their neighbors. The experience she brings to the job includes 10 years as a realtor, office manager and tenant relations specialist. On a personal note, Fezza has formed an autism support group for families with children who have been diagnosed with autism. At three years of age, her daughter, Anna Liese, was diagnosed with atypical autism.

Tony Ingraham '87 is the author of *A Walk Through Watkins Glen: Water's Sculpture in Stone*, published by Owl Gorge Publications. The book, which details the natural and cultural history of Watkins Glen State Park in the Finger Lakes region of New York state, grew out of his Master of Arts in Liberal Studies final project.

Peter Maio '92, '96 is the individual category recipient of the 2007 Ursula Flagg Award for Human Resource Excellence. With 24 years of experience as an industrial engineer to his credit, Maio enrolled at Empire State College and received his A.A.S. He accepted a position as employment manager with a local manufacturer and continued his studies, earning a Bachelor of Science degree. Currently, Maio is human resources manager with Bartell Machinery Systems.

No Bottom: In Conversation with Barry Lopez by **Mike Newell '81** has been published by XOXOX Press. Lopez is a prolific writer best known for *Of Wolves and Men* and *Arctic Dreams*. Newell writes, "I have enjoyed interesting careers in teaching at-risk populations and in wildfire management that were made possible through my degree program with Empire State College." He holds a M.S.L. from Vermont Law School as well as a M.S. from the State University of New York at Oneonta.



Mark A. Spawn

Mark A. Spawn '07 is director of research, development and training with the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, Syracuse. His memberships include the Central New York Association of Chiefs of Police,

F.B.I. National Academy Associates, Child Fatality Review Team and the Child Advocacy Center Foundation. Accolades include being named one of Ten Outstanding New Yorkers in 1997, receiving the Outstanding Advocate Award as well as a Bank Robbery Taskforce Commendation from the F.B.I.

The Cayuga Community College (CCC) Alumni Association has bestowed its alumni award upon **James Vivenzio '93**, who earned a degree in electrical technology there and now is coordinator of electronic media services for CCC's Auburn and Fulton campuses. He holds a master's degree in library science from Syracuse University.

Corporate College Program

A 20-year veteran of the construction business, **Mary Schmidt '07** is owner of Die Hard Excavation and Technologies. She sits on the advisory board of the construction department of Madison-Oneida BOCES and performs construction inspections for Verizon.

Genesee Valley Center

With more than 16 years of hospitality industry experience to his credit, **Keith Brophy '98** has been appointed e-commerce marketing manager with Crestline Hotels and Resorts. He earned both an M.B.A. and M.S. from the University of New Orleans and is an adjunct professor of hospitality management at Stratford University, Virginia.

Glen Cline '95 has been promoted to director of procurement and payment services with Alfred State College.

This past May, **Myra Kovary '76** played her harp in the General Assembly Hall at the United Nations headquarters in celebration of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Interweaving the Generations is a one-woman play by **Doris Naundorf '82** relating stories of her grandmother's journey from Switzerland to America, what it was like for her mother growing up during the Great Depression, as well as her own life experiences which include being the bride of a World War II soldier. Naundorf has traveled extensively over the years, performing her play at schools, churches, nursing homes and, notably, in a boardroom at the Statue of Liberty.

Kathleen Phillips '04, who was awarded a Master of Library Science by the University at Buffalo, is children's librarian at the Seymour Library, Brockport, NY.

John Robortella '01, associate director of marketing and communications for the Simon Graduate School of Business, University of Rochester, has written a book titled *Frogleg George*. It is the story of John Preissecker who lived in Rochester from 1885 until 1936 and is legendary for catching frogs, selling them to food establishments and occasionally swallowing a live one whole in exchange for a beer in a bar.

Trish Ruffino '94 is CEO of The PARX Group, which offers staff fulfillment and staff augmentation services, and was cited by *Inc.* magazine as one of the 5,000 fastest-growing companies in America. She is but one of two Empire State College graduates in her family – her husband **Jerry Ruffino '74** being the other.

Craig Snyder '06 and his jazz group played the Rochester International Jazz Festival.

"A Quiet Place in Her Soul" is an exhibition of watercolors by **Sally Steinwachs '82** held at the Century Club in Rochester. Among her other exhibit venues are the High Falls Gallery, the Link and the Irondequoit Art Club.

The Harry Van Ardsale Jr. Center for Labor Studies

The Long Island Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) presented **Howard Edelson '79**, a member since 1976, the chapters' Safety Professional of the Year Award as well as the designation of Silver CSP (Certified



Howard Edelson

Safety Professional) in recognition of his more than 20 years of service. Edelson began his career at the New York Naval Shipyard where he enforced the U.S. Navy Safety Program. He then worked with NASA as a space systems quality assurance specialist and as vehicle crew chief for Lunar Modules 5 (Apollo 11) and Lunar Module 10 (Apollo 15) and was responsible for the safety of the astronauts, the spacecrafts and the crews who worked on them.

Hudson Valley Center

With two years as second in command under his belt, **Captain Raymond Caroli '04** is now commanding officer of the Sixth Precinct, Greenwich Village. Having applied to the police academy at age 21, Caroli, now 43, began his service with the 120th Precinct on Staten Island. Attaining the rank of sergeant took him to Coney Island; as a lieutenant he served in Washington Heights; and, in 2004, he became captain and moved to the 10th Precinct.

Carlos Fittante '05 choreographed *The Faces of Love*, performed by the BALAM Dance Theatre, of which he is artistic director and a company dancer.

Now semi-retired, **Jeffrey Gerstein '80** studies with painter Angela Gage, is a member of the Baltimore and Delaware Art Center and has exhibited his art – photographs and paintings – at galleries in Worthington and Columbus, Ohio.

Scott Hesse '05, who earned his degree in jazz studies followed by a master's degree in jazz composition from DePaul University, has released "Music Speaks," an album of original songs recorded with his Chicago quintet. Legendary guitarist and recording artist George Benson has been quoted as saying Hesse plays "... the freshest sound I have heard yet of all the guitarists of his generation."

Sarah McAllister '00 received her Ph.D. from Louisiana State University, where she also had worked as a part-time instructor.

Following much success in the U.S. banking arena, **Patrick Mullan '75** wanted to return to his native Ireland and become an author. His first novel, *The Circle of Sodom*, received two nominations – Best First Novel and Best Suspense Thriller – at the 2005 Love Is Murder Conference. *Blood Red*

Square (LBF Books) followed and his latest thriller, *The Root of All Evil*, is soon to be released. He is a member of International Thriller Writers Inc. and Mystery Writers of America.

In 2008, the artwork of **Paula Renee '90** has garnered many awards: first place in the best in show award at the Society for Creative Arts, first place in the New Canaan Society for Arts and third prize in the Richter Association for Arts Annual Photography Show.

Pace University has appointed **Karen Robilotta '01** vice president of human resources. She also will chair the university's Compensation Committee and Benefits Advisory Committee. She has completed master's coursework at Teacher's College, Columbia University and is co-author of *Coaching Culture: Hidden Profit* (Insight Publishing).

Anne Schachner '00 has earned a master's degree in counseling psychology from City University, Bellevue, Washington.

Maryellen Whittington-Couse '83 is president of What Matters: Making Time Work for You and a diversity specialist with Opening Doors Diversity Projects. For more than 20 years, she has been a trainer and consultant on time management, personal effectiveness and diversity in the workplace. Listed in *Who's Who in American Women* as well as *Who's Who in Education*, she holds a master's in international administration from the School of International Training and certification in diversity management from the School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University. Memberships include the Rosendale Chamber of Commerce, Mid Hudson Women's Network, Anna Devine PTA and Districtwide Parents Council.

Long Island Center

International Power Group, Ltd. has named **John Benvenuto '89** as their president and chief operating officer.

The Long Island Center for Business and Professional Women bestowed their 2008 Achievers Award upon **Grace Conti '03, '04** at the 29th Annual Achievers Awards Gala.

Patrick Hanrahan '07 has been accepted into the M.F.A. program at Stony Brook/Southampton for the fall 2008 semester.

Congratulations to **Georgina McKee '00** on being awarded a Master of Arts with a concentration in community health and thanatology from Brooklyn College.

Kathrina Proscia '03 is executive assistant to the founder and president of StoryCorps; the largest oral history project in the U.S., and broadcast on National Public Radio (NPR).

Edwin L. Sherrill, Jr. '74 has retired as East Hampton Village trustee after 33 years of service and can count among his many accomplishments the acquisition of Sea Spray property and the creation of Herrick Park. Sherrill's is an impressive past that includes work as a commercial fisherman; study of marine technology at Suffolk County Community College (SCCC); being a veteran of the 95th Infantry Division which landed at Omaha Beach, Normandy, 1944; and teaching oceanography at SCCC.

Ron Villano '04 is author of *The Zing: The self-discovery guide to help you go from living life to loving the life you live*; inspired by dramatic life changes he experienced when his son, Michael, lost his life in a car accident. Villano, who has a psychotherapy practice in Bohemia, New York, also travels the country delivering his motivational message to embrace the power of change no matter what life brings your way.

James White '05 is the proud father of triplet boys who were featured on Discovery Health Channel's cable TV show, "Baby Madness Multiples." White is working towards his master's degree at Maryland State University.

Metropolitan Center

Randall Barquero '07 has been accepted into the M.F.A. program at the School of Visual Arts.



Kenny Barron

Kenny Barron '78, on piano, performed at Yoshi's in Oakland, California, this past April with fellow jazz artists Billy Cobham, John Williams and Randy Brecker. A former professor of music at Rutgers University, Barron

mentored many of today's young talents including David Sanchez and Regina Bell. In 1974, he recorded his first album "Sunset to Dawn," as a leader for the Muse label. More than 40 recordings have followed by the man *Jazz Weekly* calls "The most lyrical piano player of our time."

Richard Gareth '07 has been accepted into the M.F.A. programs at Hunter College, Brooklyn College and Bard.

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Randall Barquero '07 stands with one of his submissions to the Metropolitan Center's alumni student photographic exhibit.

BACK TO YOU

Alumni and Student Events
Around the College

Have you recently published an article, paper or book?
We would love to hear about it for our next issue.
Please contact Maureen.Winney@esc.edu.



As part of our travel and learn programs, alumni and students relived history at Civil War battlefields in Gettysburg, Manassas and Antietam.



Verizon Corporate College alumni shown here celebrating the success of the program.



FORUM East alumni reunited with students and faculty at their annual networking mixer as a part of the spring residency.

BACK TO YOU

Alumni and Student Events Around the College



President Davis with alumni enjoying a reception at the Saratoga Auto Museum prior to attending an orchestra performance at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center. From left to right: Dave Columb, Bonnie Columb, Diane Morency, Mike Morency '82, Jim West, Greta West and President Davis.



Alumni, students, faculty and friends enjoy their farewell dinner at the end of the college trip to Holland and Belgium.



Close to 100 CDL students met their faculty members at their annual pre-graduation mixer in Saratoga Springs.



Student council volunteers gathered here for our first ever alumni student event for our Athens program.



Dean Kingston Nyamapfene (far left) welcomed more than 200 alumni and students to celebrate the 10th anniversary of our program in Prague. Also pictured here are alumni and students who received service and recognition awards, Francesca Cichello, student services and special projects assistant (second from left) and Evelyn Wells, academic program director and European regional coordinator (far right).

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PHOTO BY ASTRID STAWARZ, GETTY IMAGES

Deborah Gregory (right) poses with model Beverly Johnson at the release party for *Catwalk*.

Catwalk is the most recent book in Deborah Gregory's '86 popular, award-winning Cheetah Girls series, Disney Publishing Worldwide. In 2001, the Cheetah Girls series was chosen the Blackboard Children's Book of the Year and subsequently was developed into a 22-book series and Disney Channel TV-movie series. Gregory also authors a column, The Diva Diaries, for *Grace* magazine, a national fashion and lifestyle publication for multicultural women, and has written for *Essence*, *VIBE*, *MORE*, *Entertainment Weekly* and *US* magazines.

Ben Hickman '75 is the author of *The Managed Care Revolution* in which he draws on 46 years of experience to examine the impact of managed care on the nursing profession. He earned a master's degree from the New School and a doctorate from California Coast University and works as a health care consultant.

Duron Jackson '05 has been accepted into the M.F.A. program at Bard College.

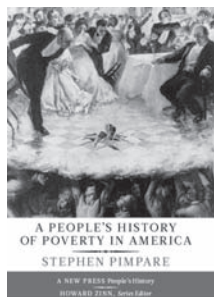
Favorite Fashion Finds of Maj Kalfus '03 were featured in the style section of *Real Simple* magazine, August 2008. An accomplished artist, Kalfus also exhibited at the Deborah Davis Fine Art Gallery in Hudson, New York.

Gertrude LaForgia '87 had an impressive 32-year career with the New York Police Department (NYPD) that began by patrolling the 24th precinct and led to her becoming the first woman to hold the rank of two-star chief and borough commander. In 1994, as deputy chief, she transformed the Public Morals Division into the New Vice Enforcement Division. She retired from the NYPD in 1998 and has since served as commissioner of public safety in Mount Vernon (the community saw a 30 percent

decrease in crime) and then executive vice president of Clark Security and Investigations. Most recently she has been named project manager for the Flushing/Willets Point/Corona Land Development Corporation. A graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy, she is a member of the New York City Superior Officers Association, the National Association of Women Police and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Jeff McMahon '95, a Richard Porter Leach Fellow during his studies at the college, is the recipient of a 2008 Arizona Commission on the Arts Grant to support the creation of "Counter Indications," a performance/installation collaboration between McMahon and media designer Jacob Pinholster.

Antonia Perez '06 has been accepted into the M.F.A. program at Queens College.



A People's History of Poverty in America

Stephen Pimpare '98, associate professor of political science and social work at Yeshiva University, has published his second book, *A People's History of Poverty in America* (The New York Press, 2008).

Robert Powers '88, '91 was appointed Malverne village historian and elected president of the Malverne Historical and Preservation Society, which oversees the Joseph L. Landers Memorial Restoration House.

Niagara Frontier Center

Since joining Praxair Inc. in 1989, Chris Affuso '93 has held positions of increasing responsibility – including project manager for plant expansion projects. Earlier this year, he was named manager of Praxair's U.S. engineering and construction network. As manager, Affuso will supervise the resource planning of projects and proposals as well as provide guidance to the project management team.



Jane Gonzalez

Jane Gonzalez '90, a health educator with the Marion County Health Department, Florida, writes, "Thank you so much, Empire State College, for allowing me the privilege to acquire

the knowledge and expertise I needed to succeed in life."

Randall Present '93 has been named safety and security manager with Cassadaga Job Corps Academy. A graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy with 23 years of law enforcement service to his credit, he retired at the rank of captain with the Jamestown Police Department.

Robert Reich '90 has been named to Cambridge Who's Who Executive, Professional and Entrepreneur Registry for "showing dedication, leadership and excellence in all aspects of engineering." Reich is project designer for ME Engineering, and has more than 35 years of professional experience in engineering.

Northeast Center

Kathy Baumgarten '06, a writer for the *Lake Champlain Weekly*, has had her first book, *Strictly a Loner, My Life and Times With Plattsburgh's Secret Millionaire*, published.

Richard Castle '04, '06 has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant with the Saratoga County Sheriff's Office. He will oversee administrative services including the Emergency 911 Call Center and in-house and mobile computer services.

Lisa Costello '98, '00 is a recruiter for the Therapeutic Foster Family Program of the Northeast Parent and Child Society. She also is a member of the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce.

Sheila (Shea) Fierro '87 was awarded first prize in the Abstract Division in the "Arts of March" annual spring juried show held by Cape Coral's Art League. She is the owner of Shea's Artistic Creations, and all proceeds from sale of her artwork go to Camphill Village, where her daughter Marian lives. Camphill Village is a residence where developmentally disabled people live and work together with dedicated families.

MacArthur Fellow and Cornell Professor Alice Fulton '78 has published *The Nightingales of Troy*. Set in Troy, New York, this linked collection of stories follows a quirky and resilient family throughout the 20th century.

Greg Heroth '06 has successfully changed his career path to follow his passion for science and is now a biology and earth science teacher with the St. Johnsville School District.

Tammy Jones '05 has been promoted to assistant director of the Springbrook Home and Community-based Services

Department, a service agency for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Sherry Mossotti '98 is chief executive officer and director of Leadership Greater Syracuse, a year-long community leadership training and development organization that trains people to be more active, civic-engaged and involved in their community.

Barbara Nagler '74, who has a wealth of experience in the education field, has been elected to serve on the Tech Valley School Foundation. Most recently, Nagler was district superintendent of the Capital Region BOCES and prior to that an early childhood special education teacher, coordinator of handicapped and remedial education at Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene BOCES, elementary principal at Averill Park Central School District, and superintendent of Maplewood and Brunswick school districts. She holds a master's degree from the College of St. Rose and a doctor of education from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Rev. Janice McClary Rowell '76, who holds a Master of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological School, has been pastor of the Scotia United

Methodist Church for the past 11 years. In July of 2008, she was named district superintendent of the Troy Annual Conference of the United Methodist, the Saratoga-based conference comprises 67 congregations.

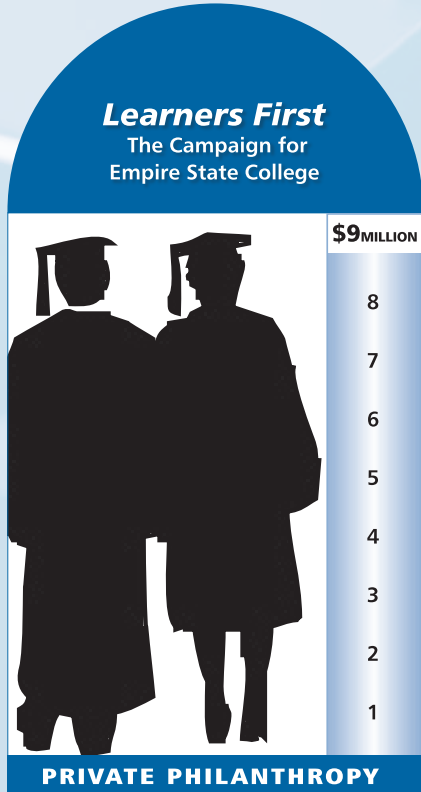
Harvey Tasch '95 who is retired from Verizon now volunteers with the Area Agency on Aging, Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Florida.

Barbara Voerg '01 and Myriam Bouchard '99, a graduate of the Hudson Valley Center, have teamed up to create www.Hudson-Valley-Traveler.com, a web-based travel company that specializes in custom tours of the Hudson Valley.



Maureen Simon

Maureen Simon '84, writes that, "This period in my work and life is particularly significant. I have taken the last year and a half to focus on researching and writing the book, *Awakening the Essential Feminine: Claiming Your Influential Power*. The book looks at nine areas of life where feminine attributes live and describes 27 specific attributes that are 'unique to the feminine' and that are now greatly needed in our world. I've also created a card deck that goes with the book and serves as a teaching tool to allow mothers, daughters and sisters around the world to enjoy conversation and learning around our amazing feminine gifts. For, I believe when these attributes are owned, expressed and integrated into our world, our world will be an amazing place. I have created a series of talks and am in the middle of providing a number of international media interviews on this topic which will appear in print media over the next year."



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