

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Empire State College

ALUMNI AND STUDENT NEWS

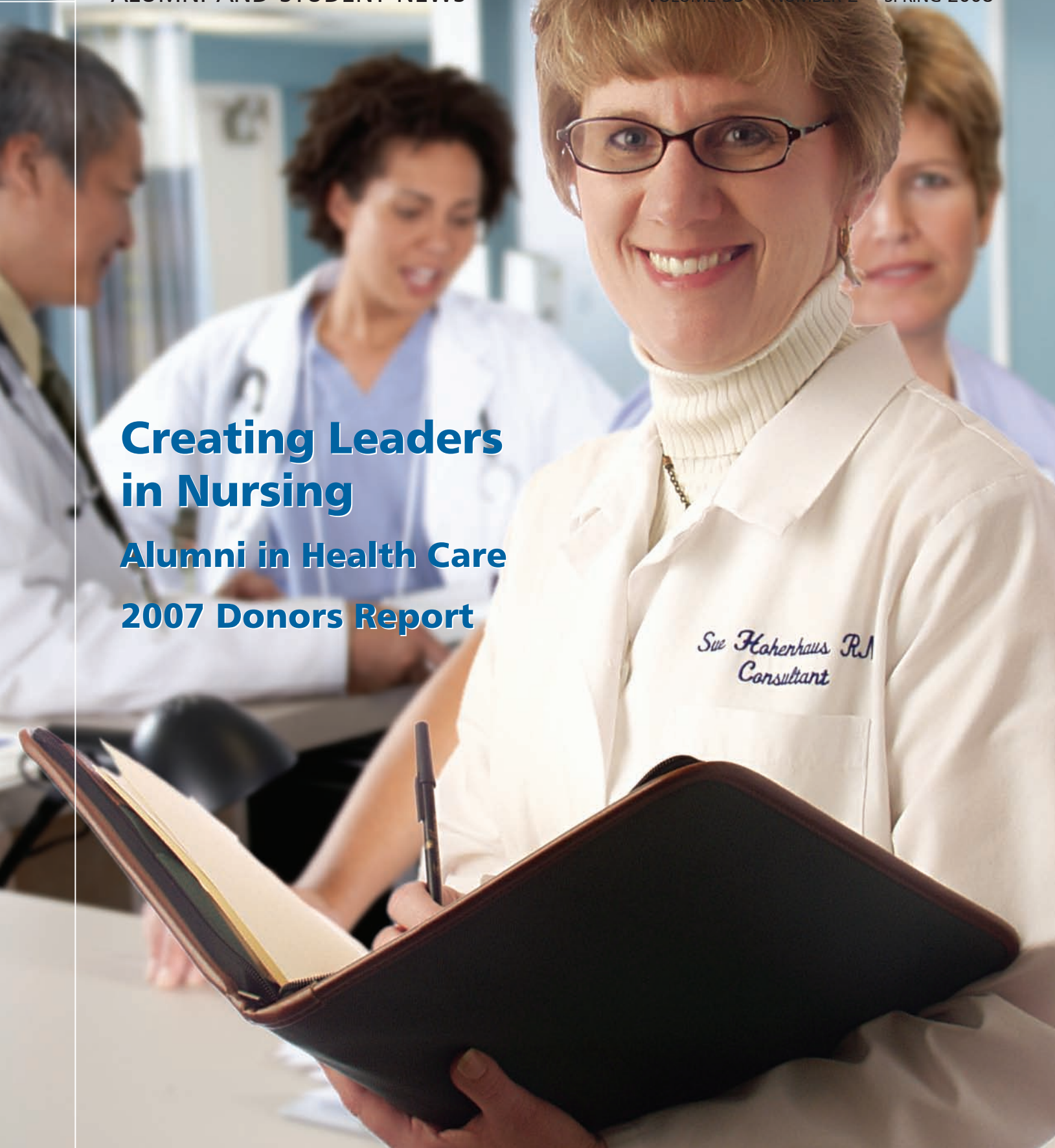
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Creating Leaders in Nursing

Alumni in Health Care

2007 Donors Report

*Sue Haherhaus R.N.
Consultant*



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Tour d'Empire?

What would prompt Leslie Cohen, assistant vice president for human resources at Empire State College, to bicycle to all 35 locations of the college in New York state this spring, and help raise scholarship funds at the same time? Learn more about Leslie's passion for pedaling, his plan to cover his own 1,000-mile "Tour d'Empire" in seven stages during April through June 2008, and join him in spirit, in support, in pledges or in riding along. For further information, go to www.esc.edu/bikeride.



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Rosann Carpenter

Nurses on the Frontline of Health Care

by Rosann Carpenter
Director, Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program

Whether your life's journey takes you to a small village in Tanzania, an institution of higher learning, a community soup kitchen or a hospital, you will undoubtedly encounter a nurse. If you have the opportunity to share some time and banter with him/her, you will be awakened to the depth and breadth of today's nurse. Furthermore, I am confident that you will gain a sense of clarity and pride for the dedication nurse's possess while serving a profession which is chronically understaffed and often misrepresented.

The contemporary nurse does, in fact, have a global presence. Although we continue to "minister the ill" as was the intent of Florence Nightingale, the "lady with the lamp" would be proud of the tenacity of today's nurse to continue to improve health care, advocate for underrepresented populations and further advance the profession of nursing.

As a nurse nearly 25 years in the profession, I have observed a multitude of changes in both the health-care delivery system and the patient populations. My clinical practice, employed in regional tertiary care centers, afforded me the opportunity to witness both the frustrations and rewards of an evolving system. In my experience, turbulence and unrest encourages potential for self-reflection and growth. This conviction fuels my passion for advancing my own and others' professional development.

As I begin my journey here at Empire State College as the director of nursing, it is with great pride and support that I lead a very talented group of nurse educators, as the college introduces a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Our commitment as a faculty is to strengthen and further develop high-quality professional nurses to meet the growing needs of diverse patient populations and complex health care systems.

Empire State College, as an innovative institution of online education, offers the working nurse the flexibility and affordability to advance his/her nursing education. This program prepares nurses for their role as leaders in creating a preferred future for nursing. Additionally, as some graduates of the program will pursue advanced degrees and become nurse educators, the program may help to ease the nursing faculty shortage in New York state.

I welcome you to read about the new program on page 4, as well as a sampling of the college's graduates – nurses and others health-care professionals – who are laboring with dedication and commitment toward the goal of providing excellent health care to populations both in the United States and abroad.

It is with great honor that I invite you to peruse our web site, where you can find out more about the nursing program, meet the nursing faculty and share with us the excitement we feel as we embark on our new challenge of mentoring the future leaders of nursing while instilling in our students the value of life-long learning shared by all areas of the college.

The Nurse Whisperer: Bringing Compassion to Team Building

by Marie Morrison '06

For those who keep up with the latest medical news, or have spent time in a hospital setting, improvements in patient safety are not only pressing, but are critical. Hospital personnel who don't wash their hands and cause infections? Wrong medication administered? Incorrect blood



Hohenhaus in the operating room.

typing? An instrument left inside a patient? Record errors? The list goes on. And many of us probably have stories of our own. So the work of Susan Hohenhaus '03, '05, M.A., RN, FAEN, as an internationally recognized expert in patient safety initiatives, is a vital specialty. Hohenhaus brings to it 27 years of experience as a staff nurse, administrator and educator who publishes and lectures extensively.

She served in a public policy role as North Carolina's first state director for Emergency Medical Services for Children, and is a specialist in pediatric care and pediatric emergencies. Now a clinical human factors nurse researcher at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina, she also is president of her own business, Hohenhaus and Associates, in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, where she lives with her husband, Jay, who is a nurse anesthetist, four daughters and one granddaughter.

Hohenhaus says one of the most common errors in pediatric care is medication error. If a child enters an emergency department having a seizure, the health-care team must decide quickly which medicine to use and how much, based on weight. So the calculations have to be done during a very stressful time and require good communication, accurate estimation of weight and administration of medicine. She says, "It's kind of like trying to balance your checkbook while navigating traffic in a big city."

Where do most medical errors occur? "Medical errors occur everywhere in the

health-care system," Hohenhaus says, "hospitals, clinics, outpatient surgery centers, doctors' offices, nursing homes, pharmacies and even patients' homes. Errors can involve medicines, surgery, diagnoses, equipment and lab/diagnostic reports and can be made by even the most conscientious professionals."

Asked how she helps prevent medical errors, she says the first method is by doing a review of the "culture" of the organization commonly done by reading responses to staff surveys. The review is typically followed by observation of the team dynamic. "These two factors give us a tremendous amount of information about the 'culture of safety' in a unit and where there is potential danger of an error being made, as well as what the contributing human factors might be," which can include poor leadership or communication, a lack of mutual support, inadequate systems design such as physical space, poor medication dispensing processes, and so on. From this Hohenhaus and her team are able to assist an organization in designing improved processes and systems.



Hohenhaus and her team are able to assist an organization in Singapore in designing improved processes and systems.

In addition to the assessment of safety culture, other initiatives include teamwork training, prevention of infections in the hospital, development of a safety reporting system and limiting shifts and hours worked by staff. Hohenhaus “coaches” medical units by observing how they work and then advising them on better methods or other options that can be used to enhance safer patient care.

Her work has earned her the title “nurse whisperer,” because of her compassionate approach to the problems nursing teams face. “Do you remember the movie/book, ‘The Horse Whisperer’? That term came from somewhere around the 19th century when an Irish horse trainer began providing sympathetic, compassionate care to horses who had been abused or were a victim of some type of trauma. Fast forward a couple of centuries and translate it to the human health-care population, that’s what I do. I bring those elements into a health-care unit that may or may not be in crisis, but who are looking for someone to

“Errors can involve medicines, surgery, diagnoses, equipment and lab/diagnostic reports and can be made by even the most conscientious professionals.”

work with them one on one, providing a sympathetic, compassionate method for teamwork and communication training.”

Fellow nurse Rhonda Phillippi, the executive director of Tennessee Emergency Medical Services for Children, says of her: “The principles that guide Sue’s efforts to improve the quality of care for ill and injured children are the same principles that she carries into everything she does. Sue not only talks about the disparity of the underserved but also takes actions to improve the lives of others.”

Hohenhaus was born in Cornwall, New York, but lived in Newburgh, until she was 16, then graduated from Margaretville Central School. In 1980

she received an LPN certificate from SUNY Delhi, and then an RN from Regents (now Excelsior) College in 1983.

She went on to become a 2003 graduate with a B.S. in community health/human services from the Center for Distance Learning and a 2005 graduate degree in social policy/health-care ethics, also from Empire State College. She also was the 2005 recipient of the Emergency Medical Services for Children National Heroes Award Project Coordinator of Distinction; an inaugural fellow in the Academy of Emergency Nursing, and received the 1991 Emergency Nurses Association Board of Certification Distinguished Certified Emergency Nurse Award, as well as other awards and honors during her career. She lectures and writes about her work in the field of patient safety. The college meant so much to Hohenhaus, that, in 2007, she established the Susan Hohenhaus Family Nursing Scholarship to support a deserving student with financial need pursuing a B.S.N. in nursing. ○

Addressing the Critical Need: Empire State College's **New Nursing Program**

In the fall of 2008, the first cohort of 40 Bachelor of Science in nursing students will begin their studies at Empire State College. The new program is designed to address the growing nursing shortage in the state, and ultimately across the nation.

If current trends continue, New York will be short 17,000 nurses by 2010, and 44,000 nurses by 2020, with a million new nurses needed nationwide over the next 12 years. Because of a shortage of nurse educators, according to a report on Albany's local CBS affiliate, 3,000 potential nurses are being turned away from schools each year.

A clear link exists between a higher level of nursing education and better patient outcomes. The *Journal of the American Medical Association* reports that surgical patients have a substantial survival advantage when treated at hospitals with higher presences of baccalaureate-trained nurses. Increasing nurse staff credentials to the B.S.N. level by 10 percent decreased the risk of patient death by five percent, and a 40 percent increase in these credentials decreased deaths by 19 percent.

The Empire State College program is designed for early to mid-career nurses who want to continue their education and go on for careers as leaders in health-care organizations, in community health, and as teachers who will prepare the next generation of nurses. Along with the college's Master of Arts in Teaching, the new program is one of the ways that the college is addressing workforce needs in New York state.

Rosann Carpenter, RN, Ed.D., was appointed to the directorship of the program in 2007. Her background includes both administration and nursing in a clinical setting. She has taught at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences in Boston, educating nurses returning for the bachelor's degree, and pharmacy students, and she has taught

Empire State College's nursing program expects to contribute to the anticipated 600 new nurse faculty that are needed to replace those retiring over the next 10 years.



A clear link exists between a higher level of nursing education and better patient outcomes.



at a number of schools of nursing. She earned her Doctor of Education from Teachers College, Columbia University.

Of the program, she said, “The high quality, upper-division curriculum built upon the sound foundations proposed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), provides registered nurses the most current evidenced-based research data and stimulating environment to advance their knowledge and skills in the art and science of nursing.

Because the program is geared toward RNs, it recognizes their years of experience by the awarding of credit, as in other Empire State College degree programs.

Innovative, creative courses provide robust learning opportunities and a window to the growing needs of the patient and the community.”

Because the program is geared toward RNs, it recognizes their years of experience by the awarding of credit, as in other Empire State College degree programs. Although primarily online, in deference to the nurses’ busy schedules, there also will be a field component of the program. The program is expected to graduate nearly 500 new baccalaureate nurses in the first 10 years. The aims of the program are to:

- promote excellent patient care and community health,
- enhance retention and career advancement of highly-trained nurses,
- prepare nurses to assume leadership roles in health-care settings,
- provide a pathway for them to pursue advanced degrees and
- address emerging licensing issues.

By 2010, it is projected, nurses in New York state will be expected to have Bachelor of Science degrees as part of state licensing requirements.

According to the Association for Colleges of Nursing, nurses are among the least well-educated health professionals, yet they occupy key positions that influence patient outcomes. By training nurses to replace the aging nursing population, particularly among faculty who will prepare the next generation, Empire State College’s nursing program expects to contribute to the anticipated 600 new nurse faculty that are needed to replace those retiring over the next 10 years. It is expected also that at least 20 percent of the B.S.N. graduates will seek master’s degree or higher credentials to qualify for faculty positions. ○

Veterans Administration Executive Appointed to College Council

by Marie Morrison '06

“To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan.” That’s the mission of the Veterans Administration, as stated on its web site, quoting Abraham Lincoln’s pledge.

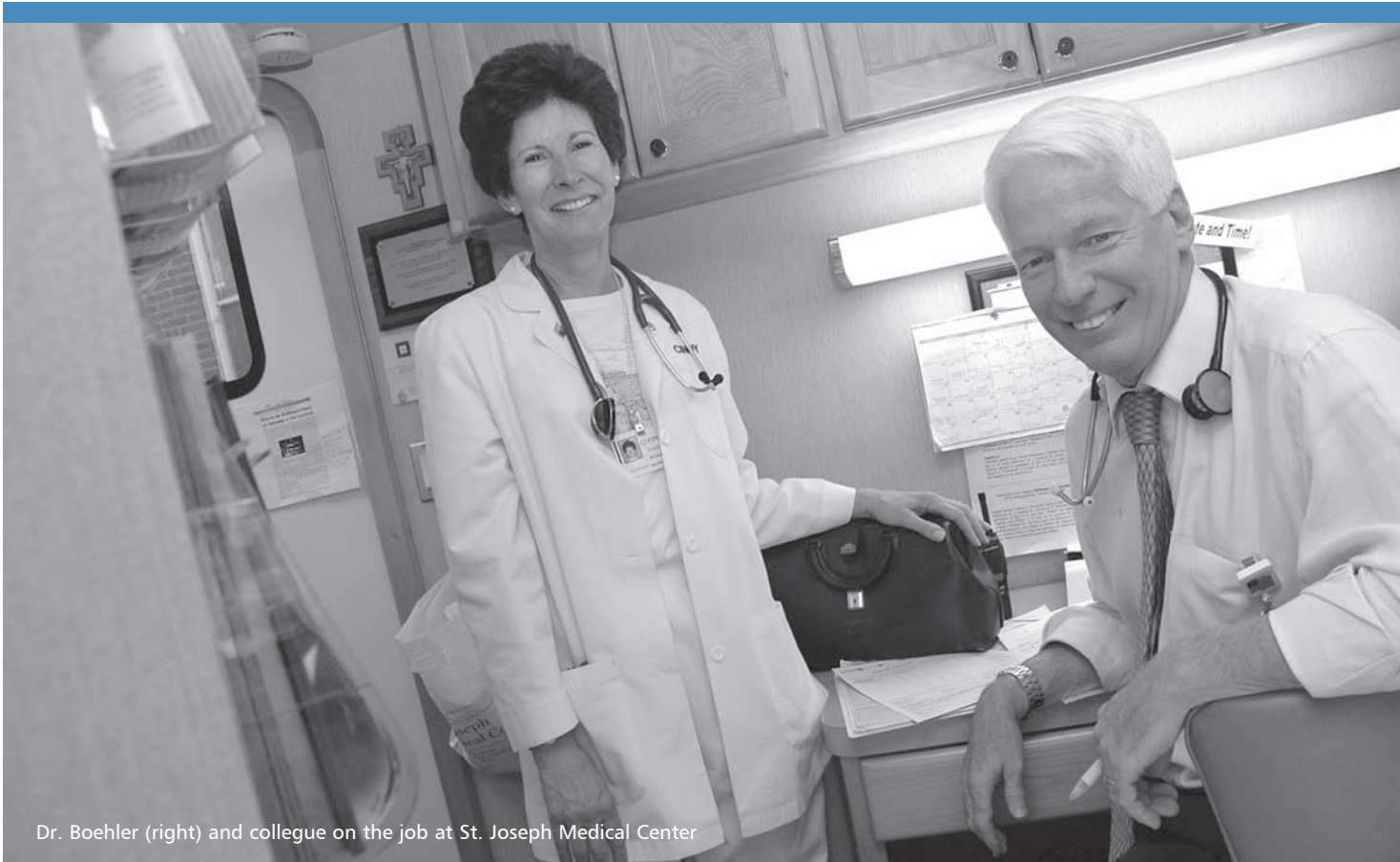
As the newly minted deputy medical director of the Veteran’s Administration Health Care Network of Upstate New York, Linda Weiss ’83, takes that mandate seriously. She sees her job as “fostering the development of VA health care in upstate New York, into a comprehensive patient-care system.”

Born in Albany, New York, of parents who prized education, she went from Albany High School to Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC) where she achieved her national certificate in radiologic technology. As part of her HVCC education she worked in the clinical department of the Stratton VA Medical Center and got hired when she graduated.

For over 10 years, she earned all of her certifications in medical imaging. Although she was a good technologist, she didn’t see herself doing that for the rest of her life. And, because she was a working single parent, fitting in advanced education in a traditional setting wasn’t going to work for her. After doing some research, she chose Empire State College’s Northeast Center to get her four-year degree, completing 32 credits in 18 months.

She has worked extensively in allied health, that is, with technical staff, such as lab technicians and ultrasounds technicians. She also worked in public administration, concentrating in the public safety arenas. After earning her master’s degree in health management at Union College in 1987, she completed a Kellogg Fellowship in international leadership and development with a concentration in community development.

As part of her college experience, she met “all sorts of wonderful people, particularly Karen Pass, my main mentor during my time at Empire State College.” But the one who got her involved in different projects was Joyce Elliott, who was the associate dean at that time, and is now serving as interim president of the college. Weiss recently was appointed by the governor to the Empire State College Council, which serves as an advisory board to the president and the college.



Dr. Boehler (right) and colleague on the job at St. Joseph Medical Center

Healing Wherever It's Needed

by Hope Ferguson

On a given Thursday, residents of some of Baltimore's most benighted neighborhoods are greeted by the welcome sight of an immaculate medical van rolling down the street. They may have high blood pressure. Or diabetes. Or heart disease. Behind the sliding doors, they'll find the genial face and medical expertise of Dr. Richard Boehler, M.B.A. '04.

The van, a volunteer outreach supported by St. Joseph Medical Center, and part of the St. Claire Medical Outreach Program, brings high-caliber free medical care to people with insufficient or no health insurance, and is staffed by a medical doctor as well as an RN.

"You see the same types of medical problems as in any adult population," explained Dr. Boehler, one morning before setting out on his rounds. "Set this against a backdrop of poor housing, mental illness, and a high incidence of substance abuse, then throw in exposure and malnutrition, and together this makes primary care very different."

After nearly a decade in private practice, Dr. Boehler left the hands-on world of the family physician. "I made a decision to leave private practice 16 years ago and to do administrative work. But I realized that something was lacking in my life. I missed being in a care-giving role."

So while working as vice president for medical affairs at St. Peter's Hospital/MercyCare Corp., in Albany, he volunteered at the Shelter for the Homeless, Capital City Rescue Mission, ultimately setting up a clinic with donated supplies there and other places in the Capital District. When he moved to the Cambridge Health Alliance as chief medical officer, he began to log hours as a volunteer practitioner at

the Albany Street Homeless Shelter. And now, as vice president and chief medical officer at St. Joseph Medical Center in Towson, Maryland, he spends Thursdays on the St. Clare Medical Outreach van, taking medicine and compassionate care to those too poor to afford medical insurance, and those who, because of their mental illness or immigration status, would never venture past the doors of a traditional hospital or clinic.

Why does he take time out of a challenging schedule to do this?

“It’s for the classic reason, giving back to those who are less fortunate,” he explained. He also saw altruism and volunteerism modeled in his family, picking up his values from his parents, especially his mother, during his suburban upbringing on Long Island.

As his own kids were growing up, he brought them to the mission to volunteer – and when they were old enough to have drivers licenses, they would go around the city to collect donated pharmaceuticals. He is proud that each one, now adults, volunteers in their own communities. His wife, too, has been tremendously supportive and encouraging in this work, so it has always been a bit of a family affair.

Need to Heal the Health-care System

“My philosophy is access to health care is a birthright. I believe in universal health care, and I see a tremendous inequality, whether in access or quality, for the poor, disenfranchised and immigrants. This group is so fearful and

suspicious. If you have some form of mental illness, you worry that you’ll end up incarcerated, or if you are an illegal immigrant, you worry you’ll be deported.”

Dr. Boehler recalled the extreme case of a man at the Albany rescue mission who ignored the common condition of athlete’s foot, got an infection and had to have part of his leg amputated.

But he doesn’t subscribe to the notion

“My philosophy is access to health care is a birthright. I believe in universal health care, and I see a tremendous inequality, whether in access or quality, for the poor, disenfranchised and immigrants. This group is so fearful and suspicious. If you have some form of mental illness, you worry that you’ll end up incarcerated, or if you are an illegal immigrant, you worry you’ll be deported.”

that educating those affected by a lack of health care is the panacea. He believes that the system is broken, and until it is fixed, unnecessary scenarios like that will continue to be a problem.

Dr. Boehler is responsible for the quality of patient safety, physicians privileges, making sure the interests of physicians and hospital are aligned, regulatory compliance with agencies like the health department and Medicaid and Medicare, and interfacing with the board, administrative medical personnel.

A primary area of concern is patient safety – avoiding hospital acquired infections, and reducing in-patient mortality, and medication safety. He is proud of the fact that the hospital has seen a significant reduction in mortality during his tenure, as well as a 25 percent reduction in infections, such as hospital-acquired aspiration pneumonia. The hospital has implemented an aggressive hand-washing campaign with sinks and dispensers on

both sides of every door, which has led to a compliance rate of over 90 percent. “You educate, encourage, recruit and occasionally you need to use a stick as well,” he said.

Education Benefits Keep on Giving

Dr. Boehler started his M.B.A. at U Albany (he also has an M.D., Master’s degree and bachelor’s degree from U Albany), and came to Empire State College when he relocated to Cambridge, at the behest of Alan Belason, head of the M.B.A. program at Empire State College. He earned his M.B.A. from the college in 2004, and credits it for helping

him present business proposals and deal with human resources issues. One proposal he is currently working on is for the \$4 million cyberknife, “a really nifty device with a robotic radiation therapy beam,” which he hopes to acquire for the hospital’s cancer center.

“I’ve been able to use the knowledge gained in so many areas,” he said. ○

Physician, Journalist and Mother

by Marie Morrison '06



Ranit Mishori '02

Israeli-born Ranit Mishori's goals have taken her on widely divergent paths as she teaches, practices medicine and keeps her hand in journalism. This doesn't include her roles as wife of a journalist (ABC News' John Donovan) and mother of two youngsters, Benjamin, 11, and Noa, 8. How does she do it all? Great energy, no doubt, but also an ability to use time to the maximum, and, as she says, "I have always been a self-starter and an independent learner." Those traits were also what attracted her to Empire State College's philosophy of credit for experiential learning and independent study, and prompted her enrollment in the Metropolitan Center.

It was while she was doing her military service in Israel that she became a radio news producer for the Israeli Defense Forces radio station. Although she had always wanted to be a doctor, her radio experience made her, she says, "a news junkie" and after her military service she took a job with a British/American news agency.

"My job took me to many places around the world, and I worked with and interviewed a lot of interesting people."

But health and medicine remained in the back of her mind, and after a stint in Bosnia during the war, she decided to pursue a career in medicine or public health. She returned to the United States and went back to school to finish her undergraduate degree at Empire State College. From there, she went on to take pre-med courses at

Columbia, and earned a master's degree in public health at Johns Hopkins.

She entered Georgetown Medical School, and confesses that her first year was pretty hard. But her experiences were "quite amazing, so I decided to write about it. That's how my first article, about my cadaver, got published in the *Washington Post* health section."

After graduating in 2002, Mishori took time off to catch up on family and sleep before beginning her residency – and that was when the journalism bug hit again. "I started writing articles about health and medicine for a variety of publications such as the *Washington Post*, *Parade Magazine* and *New York Daily News*, among others."

Nevertheless, she still began a part-time residency in

"I learned so much in my job as a news producer, and was very grateful that an institution existed that would grant me credit for experiential learning."

family medicine at Georgetown University in her internship year. She finished her residency after switching to full time, and most recently has accepted a position as assistant professor of family medicine at Georgetown.

Of Empire State College, she says, "The idea that the classroom is not the only place where learning occurs appealed to me very much. I learned so much in my job as a news producer, and was very grateful that an institution existed that would grant me credit for 'experiential learning.' I have always been a self-starter and an independent learner so Empire State College's philosophy worked for me, and I like the concept of distance learning, too. A lot has changed in the world of distance education."



Director of Hospital Emergency Management

Daniel Meisels '00, '01

Daniel Meisels '00, '01 launched a most successful career trajectory when he became an emergency medical technician in Brooklyn, back in 1992. Shortly thereafter, he became an EMS paramedic and instructor for St. Vincent's Hospital in Manhattan, a role he continues to this day. But his biggest leap came last year when he became the director of emergency management and EMS training for New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York City, responsible for the EMS Division of Training and the hospital's EMS special operations team.

The child of immigrants from the Czech Republic, his late father was a victim of the Holocaust and his mother a retired nurse whose medical reference books intrigued him even as a child. Born and raised in Queens, and a graduate of the prestigious Bronx High School of Science, Meisels originally hoped to be an architect, then a police officer, but a course on emergency medical technician training made him realize he loved EMS work.

In 1995, he became a paramedic at New York Hospital. "Several colleagues were attending Empire State College in order to complete their bachelor's degree, and they spoke very highly of the program and the opportunity to work outside of the traditional classroom."

He enrolled, and was granted a bachelor's degree in health-care administration in 2001.

"Following graduation from Empire State College, one of the very same colleagues that had recommended Empire State College to me years earlier had just completed his master's degree at NYU, and he recommended that program as well. I started at NYU in 2002 and in early 2007 completed my Master of Public Administration at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. In addition to my full-time work in administration at NYP, I still find time to work as a paramedic at St. Vincent's Hospital in Greenwich Village."

A skier and hiker, Meisels enjoys most outdoor activities. He is married to Jennifer Wilson, also a paramedic and registered nurse. They live in Bayside, Queens, with "two ridiculous pugs as pets."

Meisels is considered an expert in emergency preparedness for hospitals and health-care systems. His experience and accomplishments in emergency management and disaster preparedness include managing emergency preparedness grant programs for the medical center; securing funding, and establishing equipment and training priorities for hazardous materials decontamination teams; designing and evaluating numerous large and small-scale disaster drills; developing and implementing employer orientation programs and recruitment and retention of a staff of over 300 employees. – MM

Quality Care for HIV/AIDS Patients

by Hope Ferguson

Margaret Palumbo jokes that she got into the HIV/AIDS field “by accident, like everything else in my life.” Her initial interest was helping health-care organizations improve the quality of care. In 1994, she got the job that set her career course, at the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute, where she coordinated the activities of the Quality Care Program designed to improve and maintain the level of HIV clinical services in New York state. In a consulting role, she worked with hospitals, community health centers and drug treatment programs, to assist them with implementation of quality improvement programs, education and training.



Margaret Palumbo '86

In order to receive federal monies for HIV/AIDS care under the Ryan White Care Act, health-care organizations in the United States that must demonstrate they meet certain performance measures in HIV care, she explained. Palumbo worked with “teams” within a given organization, usually consisting of a medical or nursing director and others onsite, to measure current levels of care and evaluate that care in light of indicators established by national guidelines.

“I would go into a site, meet with leadership, administration and work with a multidisciplinary team to improve quality,” she said. She served several roles in the Department of Health in HIV quality improvement, until April 1997, when in a confluence of fortuitous events, she accepted a job at the University of Pittsburgh as administrative director

of their HIV program, and relocated to the area where she settled with her now-husband, who already lived there. Overseeing a staff of 35, and a patient load of more than 1,200 affected by HIV/AIDS, Palumbo said she did the usual things expected of a top administrator in a hospital-based clinic: oversaw staffing and regulatory issues, strategic planning, and training and public awareness programs.

Drawn to International Efforts

Her work directing a PEPFAR-funded (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) project in Beira, Mozambique, whetted her appetite for taking her work to an international level. In the U.S., Palumbo notes, AIDS patients can expect comprehensive HIV services including clinical support and mental health intervention regardless of their ability to pay

for their care. However, in Africa, where many countries are experiencing devastating levels of HIV infection, HIV care is often stymied by crushing poverty as well.

So, in November 2007, after several trips to Mozambique, she rejoined the NYS Department of Health AIDS Institute once again as deputy director, HIVQUAL-International.

“The trips to Mozambique showed me so much work had yet to be done internationally to bring resources to the horrendous situation there,” she explained. The goal of HIVQUAL-International is to work with the Ministries of Health, Centers for Disease Control and indigenous health-care leaders, in countries who have welcomed the help, to create systems and quality of care. She and her team assess needs at the various clinics, “and see what we

can offer to do. It is not to go in and take over, but to bring skills they need and build capacity. We help them determine how they can improve the HIV care of their citizens in the midst of these other huge problems, poverty being the main one. In the U.S. poverty does impact individuals with HIV, but we still have structures to support people to assure they get the care that they need.”

In Mozambique, she witnessed people walking hours to get health care, and clinics teeming with patients at a level unimagined in this country.

In Uganda, she helped set up 20 pilot sites during a two-week tour visiting clinics, providing mentoring and coaching and quality improvement activities. She said that the clinics she visited, particularly in Uganda, “were so welcoming, so appreciative of everything you do. We just completed our second data collection and we’ve seen improvement. Uganda is known to be one of the success stories, because there are a lot of preventative activities and it has a very proactive government around HIV/AIDS.”

She recalls making it to one clinic on the fringe of massive flooding, and how amazed the people were when she and her team finally arrived. “They said, ‘I can’t believe you made it.’ It’s always quite an adventure.”

Palumbo graduated from Empire State College’s Hudson Valley Center in 1986, after attending college elsewhere. She found the structure of the college to be exactly what she needed, as she was already working full time at a health-care job. She went on to earn her master’s degree in public health, health policy and management from New York Medical College.

“I just felt I got a level of attention and support I hadn’t received in my other college experiences. Also, my life experience was looked at as a positive thing. It wasn’t a cakewalk by any means, but the flexibility and the mentoring that I received really helped me get my degree,” she said.



Palumbo shares a light moment with a team member.



Listening to local health-care providers is an integral part of Palumbo’s job.



Palumbo with members of a local African health-care team.

Humor and Healthy Living

by Marie Morrison '06



Fran Chambers '97

Impressed by the nurses caring for her young son after he had minor surgery, Fran Chambers '97 decided nursing might also be for her. "I watched the nurses as they worked and realized that I truly admired what they did." Toward that end, she returned to Broome Community College (BCC), which she had left because she had been uncertain about what she wanted to do with her education.

Graduating with an associate degree in nursing, Chambers began working as a "float" nurse, and realized she was floating mostly to critical care areas. In 1994, watching her son graduate from Syracuse University, she realized she needed to continue her education and enrolled at Empire State College.

"My mentor was Chris Rounds from the Binghamton Unit, who was a continual source of encouragement and support for me," she said.

Before Chambers had even graduated from Empire State College, she had begun work on her master's degree and did her thesis on the relationship between humor and health. She got a call from BCC regarding developing a course for their students, and has taught Humor and

Healthy Living at BCC since 2000, first in the classroom and then through the SUNY Learning Network.

"Soon after, the director of the health services courses called and asked if I would be interested in doing some coursework for Empire State College, and I have been an adjunct instructor since then." She teaches U.S. Health Systems and Interviewing Skills and Techniques for Empire State College, in addition to assisting with many credit by evaluations.

"Believe it or not," she says, there is actually a science of the physiological effects of humor on our bodies, and it is called gelotology. This science tells us that our bodies react with characteristic responses to humor which can counter the negative effects that stress has on our bodies, psyche and self-esteem. It can help regulate our blood sugar, boost our immune response,

promote relaxation, empower sleep ability, encourage effective respiratory function and promote physical fitness. I am not saying that people should get all of their cardio workout from laughing," she jokes, "but if you include laughter in your daily routine, you will no doubt be healthier and happier."

After 26 years at the Center for Community Health of United Health Services Hospital in Binghamton, Chambers retired in 2007. She has been married for 44 years and she and her husband, Jerry, have a daughter, Lisa, and a son, Mark, as well as three granddaughters and "two granddogs."

"... there is actually a science of the physiological effects of humor on our bodies, and it is called gelotology. This science tells us that our bodies react with characteristic responses to humor which can counter the negative effects that stress has on our bodies, psyche and self-esteem."



2007 DONORS REPORT



EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE
FOUNDATION



2007 DONORS REPORT

Dear Friends,

As chairman of the Empire State College Foundation Board of Directors, it is indeed my pleasure once again to present you our annual Donors Report. This publication clearly demonstrates the dedication of many Empire State College supporters who have joined together to help ensure we remain a world leader in the education of motivated adults. Your support inspires those of us working to serve our students, and we are extremely pleased to recognize you within these pages.



David L. Smith

Through the generosity of the thousands of alumni, employees, and friends listed here, the Empire State College Foundation achieved its second best fund raising year ever, with \$1.42 million contributed in 2007. These gifts were provided in support of many college initiatives – scholarships, academic programs, faculty development, and the Empire State College Annual Fund.

Empire State College's ability to expand and evolve to meet the needs of an ever-changing society is due in large part to the generosity of our donors.

Not only do your contributions provide direct support for the development of new college programs and initiatives, they also serve to demonstrate to the world that Empire State College graduates recognize the importance of this distinctive institution.

Whatever your reason for giving to Empire State College – to give back to your alma mater, to recognize someone who has helped advance your career, or to help guarantee the success of future students – you have demonstrated your belief in the college. On behalf of the members of the college community who directly benefit from your support, I express my most profound gratitude.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David L. Smith".

David L. Smith
Chairman, Empire State College Foundation
Board of Directors

EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE 2007 Recognition Societies

2007 Donors

<p>The Empire Society The Empire Society recognizes the college's most generous alumni, employees and friends who contribute a minimum of \$5,000 in one fund year.</p>	\$5,000 +
<p>The Hour Society This society provides a unique opportunity for individuals to make a contribution equivalent to the cost of operating the entire college – its centers, units and programs – for one hour.</p>	\$2,500 - \$4,999
<p>The Scholar Society Donors in this category provide the funds which represent the tuition and fees for a half-time student at Empire State College.</p>	\$1,191 - \$2,499
<p>The Kindred Society Donors at this level are recognized for providing funds representative of the average cost of childcare during a term for those students juggling their career and family responsibilities while pursuing their degree.</p>	\$622 - \$1,190
<p>The Academic Society Donors in this society provide the funds which represent the average cost of books and supplies for a full-time student for one 16-week session.</p>	\$430 - \$621
<p>The Distinguished Alumni Society Recognizes those donors who contribute \$5 for each year since the college was founded in 1971.</p>	\$180 - \$429
<p>The Mentor Society Established to recognize the unique and significant relationship between student and mentor, donors at this level provide the funds which represent the average cost for a student to meet with his/her mentor three times.</p>	\$126 - \$179
<p>The Anniversary Society Established in 2001 to honor Empire State College's 30th anniversary. Members contribute \$1 for each year since the college was founded in 1971.</p>	\$36 - \$125

Note: to honor two visionary leaders and past Empire State College presidents, we have reorganized and renamed our giving societies for the 2008 campaign. Go online to view these new societies at <http://alumni.esc.edu/recognition.php>.

EMPIRE SOCIETY

Our sincerest gratitude is extended to the members of The Empire Society. With their gifts of \$5,000 or more, these donors contributed 71 percent of the \$1,420,573 received by Empire State College Foundation. We are honored to have the support of these donors listed below.

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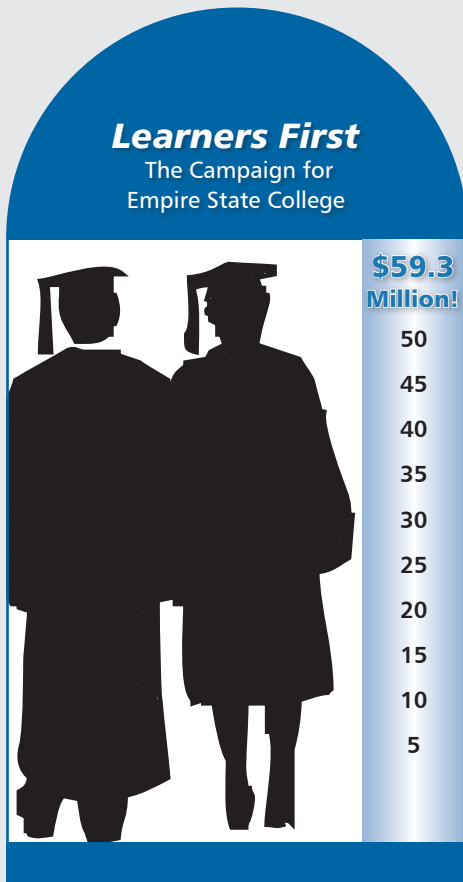
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Learners First

The Campaign for Empire State College



In a way that is unmatched elsewhere in higher education, Empire State College is meeting the needs of adult learners who seek better jobs and careers, richer intellectual lives, and the sophisticated skills that are essential to be knowledgeable citizens of the nation and the world.

2008 marks the final year of what we anticipate will be the successful completion of the *Learners First* campaign. This campaign will assure the college's standing as the nation's premier college for adults for many decades to come. We must now make critical investments:

- to extend access to more adult learners
- to recognize and celebrate outstanding academic performance
- to enhance the capabilities of our faculty and staff
- to add new programs and support services and
- to develop a physical and technological infrastructure that will sustain future growth

With fewer than 12 months to go, *Learners First* has exceeded the overall campaign goal of \$51.5 million by raising \$59.3 million. *However, we have one more goal to achieve to complete our campaign – raising*

Campaign Progress and Success

	Private Philanthropy	Federal Funding	State Support	Totals
Goal	\$9,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$36,500,000	\$51,500,000
Commitments Received	\$8,224,559	\$3,078,323	\$48,010,000	\$59,312,882
Percent Completed	91%	51%	131%	115%

(As of December 31, 2007)

Learners First (continued)

\$9 million in private philanthropy. Private philanthropy includes gifts to the Empire State College Annual Fund, to programs, such as the Bachelor of Science in Nursing or the Master of Arts in Teaching, to endowed scholarships, or funding special initiatives such as the Susan H. Turben Chair in Mentoring.

One of the key goals for *Learners First* is scholarship support. This year, the Empire State College Foundation awarded more than \$325,000 in grants and annual endowed scholarships to more than 200 students. Also notable is that 1,450 students received short-term, no-interest loans through the Foundation's revolving grant fund, with the total distributed amounting to \$725,000.

And more than \$46,000 has been provided in support of new program research and development and technology enhancements for academic programs. We are deeply indebted to all our supporters who have

helped us achieve remarkable progress toward our goal. Your gift, combined with those of other alumni, friends and employees, does make a difference.

Become an important part of this campaign by making your gift today – together we can achieve great things.

Sincerely,



Raymond A. Brownell
Executive Director
Empire State College Foundation



Raymond A. Brownell

Phyllis E. Dake Foundation Provides More Than Financial Support



Aili MacDonald ... had doubts in my ability to succeed in the world of academia. It wasn't until I discovered Empire State College that I decided it was time to face my fears."

Although prepared to tackle her trepidation with achieving her academic goals, Aili was sure that the cost of pursuing her degree would stifle her plans to do so. "Although Empire's tuition is at least within the realm of reason, for me it is still a significant challenge." Thanks to the generosity of the **Phyllis E. Dake**

Foundation, Aili's dream was not quashed. After receiving a Phyllis E. Dake Foundation Scholarship, Aili is soaring in her studies, earning A's and learning much more than what books alone can teach. "I hope you can see being awarded this scholarship is very meaningful for me. It will significantly help in covering expenses like books, fees, and tuition; it also provides a sense of support on a much deeper level – I feel less alone in my quest to further myself. The good people at Empire State College have seen something of value in what I am doing, and for that, I am very grateful."

Empowering people to better themselves through education is exactly why the trustees of the Phyllis E. Dake Foundation created the Phyllis E. Dake Foundation Scholarships at Empire State College. For Aili, empowerment didn't end with financial support, but also provided the confidence she needed to rise above her doubts.

The Phyllis E. Dake Foundation was established by Phyllis "Philly" Dake, retired executive vice president of Stewart's Shops, philanthropist and wife of Charles Dake, former owner of Stewart's Shops, who passed away in 1978. Mrs. Dake is nationally recognized for her philanthropic and civic activities and is passionate about supporting education. "I can't think of anything more important than to donate to students," Ms. Dake has said.

The Phyllis E. Dake Foundation Scholarships have provided educational opportunities to 23 students at Empire State College this year. The Phyllis E. Dake Foundation has arranged to support 12 more students through scholarships until 2009. For students like Aili MacDonald, this support has made the difference between *dreaming* of a better life, and actually *creating* a better life for themselves and their families.

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Thanks From the Annual Fund Chair

Much is said about change – good and bad. I think of change as moments of opportunity, those junctures where old meets new and past meets future. Where we have the chance to re-evaluate our goals and reflect on how close we've come to meeting them. Where we can re-tool our vision for the future and begin the actions it will take to get us there. I think this is so in each of our own individual lives and as members of the Empire State College community.

The year ahead promises many such opportunities for those of us who share a commitment to Empire State College, beginning with the naming of a new president.

Our development office has new leadership as well. I have enjoyed my role as Annual Fund Chair and as my term comes to an end I am excited to introduce our new Annual Fund Chair for 2008. Jim Karcher '79 is a fellow graduate and Foundation Board member with an eye for detail and a wry wit superseded only by his passion for Empire State College. I know everyone joins me in saying "Welcome Jim".

Thanks to all of you for your contributions. No one knows Empire State College's strengths and needs better than you do – you are the heart of the institution.

– Melba Tolliver '98, Annual Fund Chair and Foundation Board Member



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Loyalty Leaders Club

Introduced in 2007, the *Loyalty Leaders Club* acknowledges a special group of alumni, employees and friends who have demonstrated their commitment to Empire State College through their consistent financial support. The Loyalty Leaders Club gives special recognition to these donors who provide regular annual support, at any level, for at least three consecutive years.

The names of these individuals are highlighted throughout this report in *italics*, **bold** or **blue**. Those who have given for three or more consecutive years are denoted in *italics*, five or more years are denoted in **bold** and 10 or more years are denoted in **blue**. Donors who have given unwaveringly for over 20 years – an amazing 54 donors – are also spotlighted in the special box outlined on page 31. We thank the more than 1,900 supporters in 2007 who qualified as Loyalty Leaders, embracing their loyalty and dedication. We hope you'll join the ranks of alumni, friends and employees who make giving to Empire State College a lifelong tradition.

Loyalty Leader Profile: Ruth Decker '74

Few can challenge Ruth Decker's roles as "pioneer" and holder of many "firsts" within Empire State College. One of the first graduates of the Long Island Center in 1974, Ruth stayed on to work as a recruiting counselor. She inspired and organized the first Empire State College alumni association on Long Island and in 1978 went on to become the first president of the statewide Alumni Student Association Federation Board of Governors that continues today. Our founding president, James W. Hall, appointed Ruth as the first chair of the newly created Empire State College Foundation in 1975 and as a member of the Foundation Board of Directors in 1978.

Ruth took her role as chair of the Foundation very seriously and was among one of the first donors to financially support the mission of Empire State College – and it's a tradition Ruth has continued for **32 consecutive years!** Ruth maintained an active role in Empire State College's early development until she moved to Minnesota in 1986.

Although Ruth was physically removed from Empire State College she was determined to stay spiritually connected, so Ruth and her husband Edwin created the Edwin and Ruth Decker Endowed Scholarship in 1987 for Long Island Regional Center students. Both Ruth and Edwin enjoy hearing from scholarship recipients every year because, as Ruth says, "when we read the bios and thank you notes from the scholarship recipients, it is rewarding to know that in some small way we have made a difference."

And that's not all. In 1988 Ruth was the first Empire State College recipient of the statewide SUNY Distinguished Alumni Service Award. Thank you, Ruth. You are truly a Loyalty Leader.

Loyalty Leader Profile: Anita Cooper '83

Forever active Anita Cooper continues to be on stage pursuing special interests. Fueled by thespian passion and an all-encompassing social work mission, Anita outpaces her contemporaries.

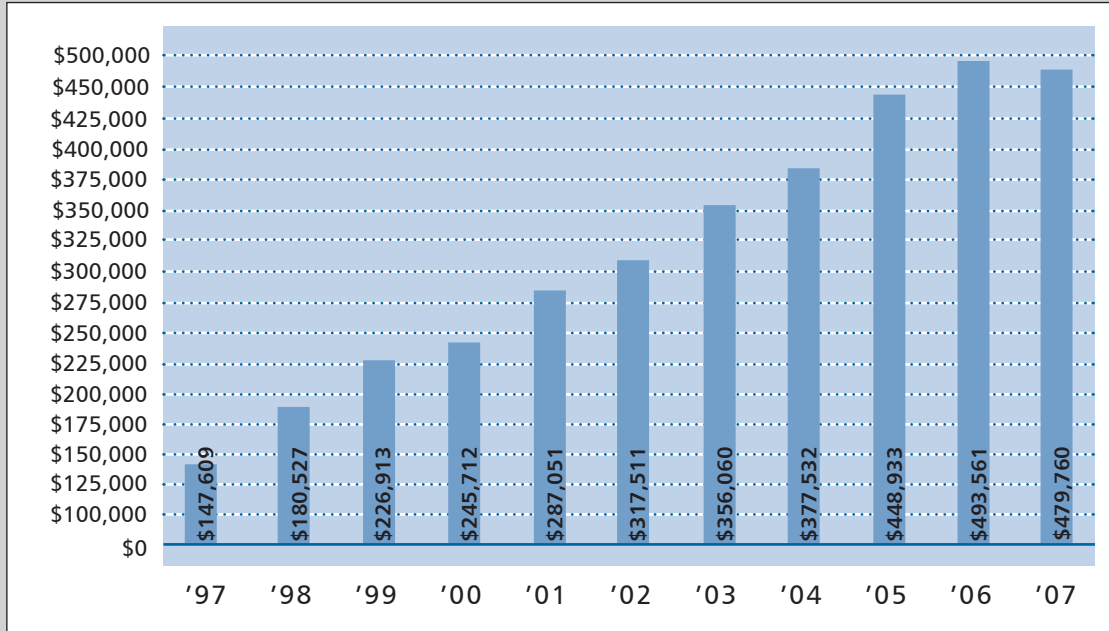
In 1981, working as an actress and celebrating her 50th birthday she contemplated returning to college. Anita laughed with a friend and said, "How old would I be when I finished college?" with her friend bouncing back, "How old would you be if you didn't finish!"

Anita immediately enrolled in Empire State College while juggling a busy career and family obligations. "The whole concept of allowing people to live their lives and encourage them to develop outside themselves" was the carrot. When interviewing with her mentor, Anita soon realized her attraction to social work – which was previously never considered. Anita flourished with not only a Bachelor of Science from Empire State College's Metro campus, but continued on earning a Master in Social Work.

From a Broadway actress – to a director of social services at an Ohio Rehab Hospital – she wrote her own script. In appreciation to Empire State College for her career and personal fulfillment Anita gives regular donations to the college since her graduation in 1983. As an advocate of social responsibility she provides financial support to adult learners who, because of financial need, could not otherwise reach their dreams. In donating to Empire State College for 19 years, Anita believes she is helping to elevate the college in order to attract the best faculty and dedicated students.

Now, in her encore performance she is retired and continues counseling in Ohio. Empire State College salutes Anita for her remarkable dedication and exemplary performance and applauds her as a Loyalty Leader.

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Your Support Helps Dreams Come True!

“Earning a college degree ranks as one of my greatest personal achievements. However, I didn’t accomplish this alone. The support and encouragement of the staff and faculty at Empire State College was phenomenal. Thank you.”

– Cheryl Samborin '07



Many of our alumni feel the way Cheryl does. And with your support we can continue to offer motivated adults, regardless of where they live or their life circumstances, the opportunity to undertake a unique, customized academic program and earn a college degree.

Your contribution to the 2008 Empire State College Annual Fund enables us to continue to create needed scholarships, enhance technology for teaching and learning, and establish innovative academic programs for adult learners.

As our students count on us, we at Empire State College count on you. **With your commitment to the Annual Fund today, we can achieve great things tomorrow.**

Please visit www.esc.edu/giving to make your credit card gift online. Or send your gift to Empire State College, Office of Annual Giving, Alumni House, 28 Union Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-4390. Call Diane Thompson, director of annual giving, at 800 847-3000 ext. 2337 for more information.



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The Academy for Lifelong Learning Turns Fifteen

The college has sponsored the Academy for Lifelong Learning (A.L.L.), formerly the Academy for Learning in Retirement (ALR), through the Empire State College Foundation since A.L.L.'s inception in 1992. The Academy, which began celebrating its fifteenth anniversary year in September, is a program of noncredit academic study groups for older adults who have set lifelong learning as a priority. It is affiliated with the Elderhostel Institute Network. Viewed as a model for learning in retirement programs across the nation, the Academy for Lifelong Learning continues its commitment of offering quality academic experiences for older adults.

The Academy's executive council has chosen Celebrate Diversity! as its anniversary theme. Carrying out this theme, A.L.L. is offering diversity study groups, as well as three free and open-to-the-public special events. Each of the latter events will focus on the traditional music, dance, culture and food of a country representative of the population of our region. In September, A.L.L. featured Chinese culture. On April 27, 2008, the Academy will highlight the culture of India, and on June 1, 2008, Saratoga Springs' annual Diversity Day, the group will showcase Irish culture. A.L.L. has received wonderful support from the community for these events. Prestwick Chase sponsored the September event. The Center for Distance Learning at Empire State College is sponsoring the event on the culture of India, and the Adirondack Trust Company is the sponsor for the Irish afternoon. Karavalli restaurant is donating food for A.L.L. Celebrates Diversity – The Culture of India. Media sponsors are Saratoga Today newspaper and WQAR Star 101.3 radio.

In 2007, A.L.L. completed its first Annual Fund Drive. The Academy would like to recognize and thank those listed below whose generous gifts made this initial effort a resounding success.

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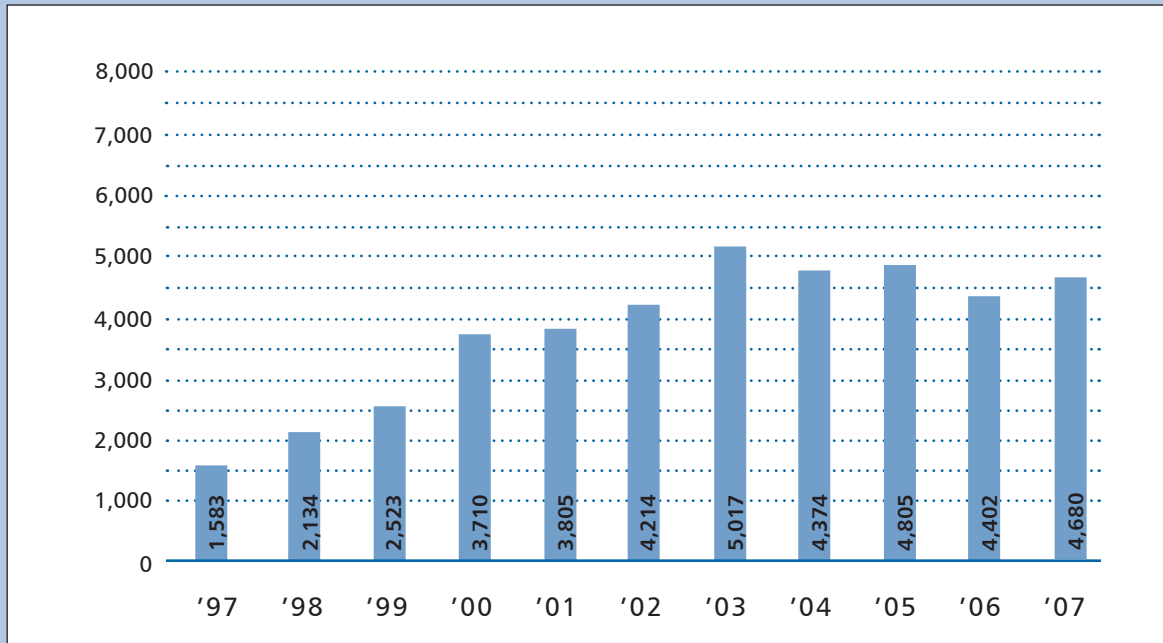
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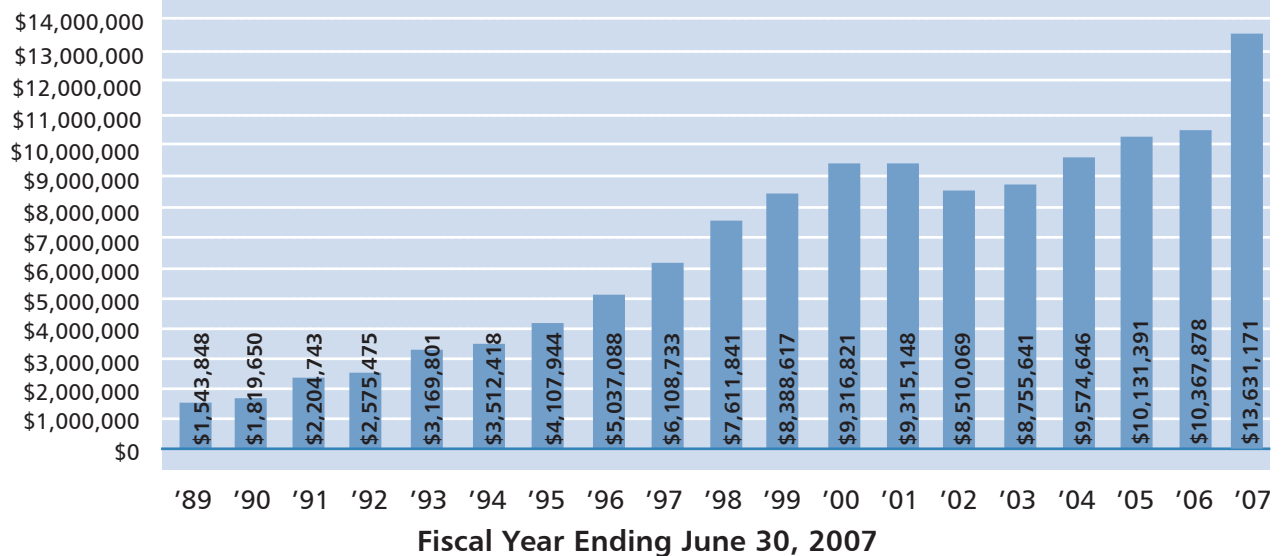


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The Boyer Society, established by the Empire State College foundation in 1994, honors Ernest L. Boyer, Sr., who was the chancellor of the State University of New York from 1970 to 1977. Ahead of his time, Dr. Boyer envisioned university study available at times and places convenient to students of different ages and backgrounds. He saw the possibilities of awarding a degree for what a student knew, rather than for time served in a classroom. Empire State College exemplifies Dr. Boyer's vision.

The society also honors Kathryn G. Boyer '78; an adult student whose needs mirrored her husband's vision and who successfully completed her degree at Empire State College. Following her graduation,

Kay served on the board of directors of the Empire State College Foundation.

Membership represents an outstanding commitment to the college and helps ensure that Empire State College maintains its leadership in higher education for adult students who seek better jobs and careers, richer intellectual lives, and sophisticated skills that are essential to be knowledgeable citizens of the nation and the world.

Membership in the Boyer Society is open to all who notify us of their decision to include the college in their estate plan. The details of gift arrangements are confidential and members may remain anonymous. For further information, please contact Alta Schallehn, director of gift planning at 518 587-2100 ext. 2413 or via e-mail at Alta.Schallehn@esc.edu.

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Creating An Endowed Scholarship Fund

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

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

An Endowed Scholarship Now

You may discover that establishing an endowed scholarship (\$25,000 minimum) is not possible right now. However, you could consider spreading your gift over a five-year period to achieve your goal. Or you might fund it with publicly traded stock that is highly appreciated in value but low in dividend return. You could gift the stock to Empire State College Foundation, which can sell the stock without incurring a capital gains tax and provide you with a tax deduction.

An Endowed Scholarship Later

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

An Endowed Scholarship Now and Later

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

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



John Scala '83

John Scala '83 has always volunteered. For the United Way. For Aurora of Central New York, an organization that provides services for the visually and hearing impaired. For Empire State College, as a fundraiser. So when he saw an ad in a Syracuse newspaper for a director of volunteer services for Community General Hospital, one of the five medical centers in Syracuse, he jumped at the chance.

For four years, until he went back to his former employer in April of 2007, he oversaw upwards of 500 volunteers who did everything from mail runs to delivering meds from the pharmacy to nursing stations. They helped transport patients in wheelchairs to their doctors, ran craft programs and performed clerical work. Most were retired people in their 60s, 70s and 80s, who were of the generation raised to be community-minded. "They want to help, to do what they can. Of course, they age, get sick, move to Florida, things like that," Scala said during a recent phone conversation. Some were only available seasonally, as they, say, took off the summer to play golf. So it was a constant challenge replenishing their ranks. He'd go to senior citizen centers, Rotary clubs and retirement organizations to recruit new volunteers.

Scala said that at \$18 an hour, (calculated by The Points of Light Foundation – The Value of Volunteer Time) and with a contribution of 60,000 hours annually, the volunteers contributed over \$1 million to the hospital's bottom line.

Scala graduated with a degree in business, management and economics in 1983 from Empire State College's Central New York Center. Married and raising a young family, Scala already had an associate degree covering largely technical subjects, pertinent to his job at Niagara Mohawk (now National Grid), where he worked in customer service as a trainer. Empire State

The Volunteer

by Hope Ferguson

College enabled him to take courses in the liberal arts, business and economics to flesh out his learning. The college "gave me the opportunity to put a degree together," he explained.

Of Jane Small, his mentor, he said, "She was wonderful. She was one of the best people I ever met. She pushed me during the times I thought it was too much work with two small kids at home, and a job, when I thought this is too much of a struggle."

A gregarious person who thrives on interactions with others, Scala has helped present the student point of view at Empire State College information sessions, served on the Alumni-Student Federation Board of Governors, and has co-chaired a college fund drive in Syracuse.

Yet it was something highly personal that drove him to volunteer for Aurora of Central New York. "My daughter Erin was diagnosed at age four with retinitis pigmentosa," an eye disease which can gradually rob its victims of much of their eyesight, beginning with their peripheral vision. He and his wife noticed that when she walked across a carpet, Erin would not see toys or objects in her path, and at night, at an age when many children are demanding independence, she would want to be held. His daughter is now 21, a junior at SUNY Oswego, and doing well. He said she benefited from services for the visually impaired.

As one of a 22-member board, his primary mission for the group is fund raising. "I am convinced that this agency does serve an important purpose for people with limitations to their vision and hearing. The organization gives back to people a little bit of their life, allowing them to become independent," he says.

Now that, at 60, he is technically retired, despite his temporary contract work with National Grid, he's even considering volunteering at Community General Hospital. "I would say this to my volunteers – and it is true for any hospital – this hospital would have to close if it weren't for the volunteers."

Tell us your story!

Has Empire State College made a difference in your life? Would you like to thank the friend who referred you, or a special mentor?

Or have your studies enabled you to give back to your job, your community or even to the nation or world? We'd like to know.

Write to: Editor, Empire State College Alumni and Student News, Office of College Relations, Two Union Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-4390.

Designing Surgical Instruments

by Hope Ferguson

Star Jones made headlines when she admitted to getting gastric by-pass surgery to dramatically drop weight, and Al Roker and Carnie Wilson have never kept their surgeries a secret. But behind the stunning stories of weight loss, there labor engineers – like Ronald M. Pesnichak '84, '02 – who design and oversee the manufacture of the actual surgical instruments for what is technically termed bariatric surgery.

Pesnichak works for Ethico Endo-Surgery, a division of Johnson & Johnson, in Cincinnati, Ohio. As a senior development engineer, he specializes in plastics and mold design and plant set-up. His company commands 65 percent of the market share in the endoscopic endocutters used in obesity and other health-related surgeries. These endoscopic surgical instruments allow physicians to bypass completely cutting open the abdomen during surgery, instead inserting the instruments and a camera through three small incisions. These endoscopic instruments are used in obesity surgery, colon cancer surgery and some lung surgeries. Some of the benefits of endoscopic surgery versus an open surgical procedure are reduced hospital costs, reduced patient stays in the hospital, shorter recuperation times and less discomfort by the patient.

The obesity procedures involve either putting a band on the stomach to separate the upper chamber from the lower, and thereby decreasing the volume and absorption of food, or actually surgically removing part of the stomach until it is about the size of an egg – an irreversible procedure, Pesnichak notes.

Obesity surgery has increased in popularity, perhaps owing to the public weight loss of celebrities and the growing obesity epidemic in the U.S. And there has been recent controversy surrounding the use of the surgery in patients under 18 years old, according to CNN.

However, such concerns are not what govern Pesnichak's day-to-day work life. He gauges his success by such accomplishments as contributing to the initial on-time market release of a new endoscopic endocutter, which broke sales

records in its first year on the market. Or by finding suppliers who have the

capacity to manufacture consistently high-quality parts. He makes sure that the supplier components, both metal and plastic, pass certain mechanical tests and meet stringent reliability criteria before being delivered to the company's main manufacturing plant in Juarez, Mexico.

Pesnichak's route to engineering began on the manufacturing floor, where over the years he served in such positions as a shift foreman, manufacturing shift supervisor and manufacturing manager at a number of companies, including Corning Glass Works and General Electric Co. However, working on the manufacturing floor whetted his appetite for being on the front end of the process – actually designing the products. It was a belief that he could improve on the designs he was seeing, and the fact that the jobs didn't challenge him as much as he would've liked, that prompted his move.

Although his father worked in manufacturing, and Pesnichak followed his footsteps initially, he may have always been an engineer at heart. "According to my wife, I was always completely anal when fabricating things," he jokes.

So, with one year of college under his belt, he came to the Utica Unit of Empire State College, and under the mentorship of Crystal Scriber, an arts mentor, hammered out a degree program by taking liberal arts and technical classes at other SUNY institutions. For one year, he also had an engineering mentor at the college. It was a challenging task, along with working and raising a family. He started in 1980, doing lots of coursework by mail and was able to earn his A.S. degree in 1984, and his B.S. degree in 2002, by which time the Internet and online courses had eclipsed courses by mail.

To further challenge himself, Pesnichak recently transferred from the endoscopic franchise in his company to the harmonic franchise, which deals with using ultrasonic energy to cut and cauterize tissue and vessels.

Although marketed to surgeons, "ultimately, our customer is the person having the surgical procedure," he explains.

For additional information regarding Ethicon Endo-Surgery's role in the health-care industry, go to www.ethiconendo.com.



Ron Pesnichak '84, '02

Faculty News

FACULTY PROFILE

Certified Occupational Nurse and CDL Mentor



Mary Sweeney

When the newly wed Mary Sweeney moved from Oklahoma to Rochester to be with her husband as he embarked on a graduate divinity program, she had no idea that 37 years

later, she'd still be in the community. She graduated from nursing school in 1969, and she and her husband moved to Rochester in 1970. Her first job in the area was at Strong Memorial Hospital, where she was a team leader. After four years there, she heard about a job at Eastman Kodak Co., which, at the time, had 64,000 employees, a seven-mile campus, and was the largest employer in Rochester. It was, she remembers, "a community within a community."

There were 64 RNs on staff, as well as 40 physicians, who did everything from acute care, disability care, travel medicine, including immunizations, lab services, allergy injections, as well as supporting the Kodak ambulance service. "When it was flourishing, it was quite vital," she recalls.

Each nurse was assigned to a particular department, such as film, or paper, and provided all services needed by that division "except acute care." Sweeney herself was responsible for overseeing the health-care needs of between 3,000 and 5,000 employees. On-the-job injuries, and ensuring that a disabled employee had accommodations necessary when he

or she returned to work, were a few of the day-to-day issues she dealt with. She also managed the corporate headquarters emergency response team consisting of 50 individuals who were prepared to respond quickly to sick and injured employees.

"Many of the corporate executives did a lot of international travel, so travel medicine was a highlight of what I did," she recalls.

"When you leave the U.S. and go to these countries, you need to be aware of advisories about illness specific to that area. We would consult with the CDC in preparation, and make sure that the traveling staff had the proper immunizations."

However, with company downsizing and outsourcing, medical services began to be contracted out. Currently, there's one onsite physician and two nurses. When Sweeney retired, at age 55 in 2002, she counted herself fortunate to get a retirement package, rather than be downsized.

"Occupational health wasn't talked about as much when I was in nursing school," Sweeney mused. "That area has grown now; however, with our economy changing, I think most companies are contracting out for medical services. Eastman Kodak is no longer the largest employer (being supplanted by the University of Rochester Medical Center), which is kind of sad."

Sweeney started mentoring/tutoring for the college in 2001, prior to her retirement. In addition to Sweeney's nursing education, she received a B.S. in psychology from the University of Rochester in 1980, and an M.S. in adult education in 1985, both from the University of Rochester, and a Ph.D. from Columbia Southern University online.

At the college, Sweeney mentors 150 students at any given time, through the Center for Distance Learning (CDL).

Most have a health-care focus for their area of study – many are nurses, X-ray technicians or medical coders. When asked about the seemingly heavy load, Sweeney was dismissive. "When you think I worked at a place where I was responsible for 3 – 5,000 employees, that's a small number, it really is."

Professor Publishes Book

Toni Raiten-D'Antonio, a mentor with the college's Hauppauge Unit, recently published *The Velveteen Principles for Women* (Health Publications),



Toni Raiten-D'Antonio

part two of her series on how to be real, based on the beloved children's book *The Velveteen Rabbit*. The book takes over where her first book *The Velveteen Principles* left off in identifying principles to help people live more authentic lives by demonstrating empathy, courage, honesty, generosity, gratitude and flexibility. Her next book grew from her realization that often women struggle most with the expectations of society and other people, trying to conform to the requirements of what she terms the object culture. Based on conversations with clients in her psychotherapy practice, most of whom are women, Raiten-D'Antonio sought to explore these issues further in this book, which put forth 13 principles such as real women are courageous and real women are honest. She urges women to balance their own needs with those of the others in their lives, to follow their passions."

Student News



Lenka Pokorna, Laura Bliedung, Hana Pavlickova, Gina Di Malta, Mark Solms (conference presenter), Valerie Hurta, Professor Joseph Dobbs, Jennifer Held. Not shown Filip Urbanek, Marketa Pacakova in London.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Prague Students Travel to Neuropsychanalysis Workshop

by Laura Bliedung

Remember writing your dream analysis for General Psychology? Perhaps in the future it might be obsolete to argue for either the cognitive or the psychodynamic view, and your answer possibly could be: neuropsychanalysis – especially for those of you who found Freud’s position too dark, yet who were also reluctant to the idea of your dreams merely being a byproduct of physiological processes in the brain. A neurologist himself, Freud already attempted to join the emerging discipline of psychoanalysis with neuroscience in 1895. But that was over a hundred years ago, when the neuron had

only just been described; hence Freud was forced to abandon his project.

King’s College London, Henriette Raphael Building, 112 years later: we – meaning Joseph Dodds’ Experimental Psychology class – all nine of us travelled from Prague to London and had the unique chance to meet four of the leading neuropsychanalysts that are attempting to test, extend and integrate Freudian ideas with modern neuroscience. The workshop was mainly aimed at researchers and clinicians from related areas of psychology, and included talks by the neuroscientist Jaak Panksepp, the cognitive scientist Oliver Turnbull, and Jorge Canestri, psychiatrist, who addressed the theme “From Cognitive Psychology and Neuroscience to the Couch: Is There a Common Language?” In between the main lectures, several young researchers had the opportunity for a brief interdisciplinary presentation promoting their innovative ideas in

form of a data blitz, by taking advantage of the interactive and dynamic atmosphere before a live audience.

Without a doubt, Mark Solms’ discourse on emotions was one of the highlights. As a neuroscientist and clinical psychoanalyst, he is one of the pioneers of neuropsychanalysis who deliberately does not mind the gap between the two fields. Professor Solms’ expertise, combined with his charismatic rhetoric, made it apparent that neuropsychanalysis is more than a shift from the patient on the couch to the patient in the scanner. Until today, for most of us nonresearchers and nonclinicians it remains unclear how they managed to fit this very ambitious program into a few days. However, the workshop certainly left us with a grasp of what might gain more relevance in the future, as “it is not about proving Freud right or wrong, but to finish the job” (A. Pfeffer).

Alumni News

Center for Distance Learning

While captain with Fire Station #2, West Point Fire and Emergency Services Dept., **John Defrancesco '07** was named Installation Management Command Northeast Region 2006 Civilian Fire Officer of the Year. He is fire captain at the U.S. Army's Caserma Ederle Fire Department in Vicenza, Italy. A member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the International Association of Dive Rescue Specialists and the National Association of Underwater Instructors, he said of the West Point firefighters, "We're the Swiss Army knife of fighters ..."

Patricia Ford '01, Oneida County supportive case manager with Family Services of the Mohawk Valley, is working towards an M.S.W. at Syracuse University. She also has her own business, Waterville Homeworks, and is coordinator for the Waterville Area Initiative Together.

The College of Financial Planning awarded **Angela Parker '05** the registered paraplanner designation. She is employed with Asset Management Group, Inc. and lives in Stamford, Connecticut.

Hannah Walden '03 was accepted into the Master of Arts in Teaching, Secondary Education Program at Liberty University. Her goal is to teach at the middle school level.

Center for Graduate Programs



Bonnie Ausfeld

Bonnie Ausfeld '05 wears many hats: career expert, voice-over talent, professional speaker, consultant, networking advisor, and owner of Beacon Resources which specializes in creating career images. She is the author of *Business Networking*

Techniques for the Professional – or How Do I Get You to Remember Me and What it is That I Do?

Judy Eurich '05 was named director of business attraction for the Orange County Partnership.

The Prism, a play written by **Ed Friedman '06** as part of his final project, was published in the September 2007 edition of the journal, *Audience*.

Heather Jones-Lancto '02 (CNYC), and '07, accepted a data management position with Pharam Services and will be responsible for clinical testing data compilation.

Jeffrey Lewis '06 is working toward his doctorate at Walden University and aspires to hold public office.



Manzano artwork

The Callahan Gallery of St. Francis College hosted *America on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*, an exhibit of the artwork of Colombian-American artist **Raul Manzano '05**. Some of his most prominent works

can be viewed at www.raul-manzano.com. He is former president of the West Side Art

Student News *(continued)*

Lisa Brescia, a student with the Center for Distance Learning, and an actress/singer, recently appeared on Broadway in "The Times – They are a Changin'" directed by Twyla Tharp. She joined the Broadway company of "Wicked" in January 2007. Brescia, theater arts major, is a member of Actor's Equity Association and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists.

David A. Czuba, a Center for Distance Learning student, has collected and shipped close to 200 pounds of books for the Books for Africa campaign through Better World Books (betterworldbooks.com). "I didn't have a brick and mortar school where I could place donation boxes, so I asked local stores and even the local community college for space." When rebuffed by most venues, he discovered that one of his girlfriend's clients in her housekeeping business was

a retired college textbook publisher who contributed many titles. Every book shipped to Africa through the program is shared by up to 20 students. He also volunteers in the Math Masters program for local middle school children, helping them to pass the Washington Assessment of Student Learning test. "Even though I am an adult learner who hasn't taken a math class in decades, I had coincidentally just completed studying for and taking the GMAT exam, the entrance exam for those going on to an M.B.A. program. Preparing for the math component provided the impetus to sit as a tutor for those kids. Needless to say, just being with these young people is exhilarating and has an immediate impact – on me.

Wanda Walker, a student with Center for Distance Learning, returned to school after almost 40 years to study human services,

through a workforce development program offered by her employer, Mt. Vernon Developmental Center.

Fotjon Kosta, a student in the Center for International Programs, majoring in computer science, who is employed part time by BNT Electronics in Tirana, Albania, had his application to the IT department of the Ministry of Defense of Albania accepted. It was because he is "studying at an American University," he said. He expects to graduate in fall 2008. Because he can only work within the ministry after he earns his degree, he was temporarily assigned to a military base where he will work in the fields of IT support and specialist of data communication and networking.

Coalition, a nonprofit organization that supports and promotes the arts.

Frederick Shear '07 earned an M.A. degree in social policy. On leave to attend basic combat training in the U.S. Army Reserve, Shear has worked in Washington, D.C. since 2003 – most recently as a member of the writers group in Secretary of Defense Robert Gates' speech writing office.

Southern Arkansas University named **Rodney Whalen '88** a distinguished golden rider. He was a dean's list student and Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference tennis single champion at the university, then named Southern State College. He earned a bachelor's degree in geology from Louisiana State University. He then entered the U.S. Navy Flight Training Program, earned a degree in meteorology from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School and, after 20 years of service, retired as lieutenant commander. Whalen also was an industrial hygienist with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and New York state director of occupational safety and health for United University Professions. The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics New England District, the Mayflower Conference and the Eastern Section of the U.S. Professional Tennis Association, named him coach of the year. He and his wife, Evelyn, have retired to Tyler, Texas where he plays and teaches tennis.

Shiroole Yasin '05, who lives in Florida and whose pen name is Shir Nisha, is the author of *Bruised ... Not Broken* and *Life Encompassed, Pain and Fury – Poems for the Soul*.

Center for International Programs

Ross Hack '04, a Nevada resident who spent six years in Eastern Europe and studied at the college's location in Prague, Czech Republic, is the author of *A Swim Story: The true untold story of the sexual abuse of one of Eastern Europe's most successful female swim teams* (Authorhouse).

Steve Sabella '07 was awarded the prestigious Chevening full scholarship toward his M.A. degree in photographic studies at Westminster University, London, England.

Central New York Center

David Boardman '05, a 26-year veteran of the U.S. Postal Service and past postmaster in seven communities, is now postmaster in Buffalo, NY. He is in charge of more than 1,000 employees, from 19 stations, serving 660,000 customers. Boardman is a Navy veteran and graduate of the Postal Service's advanced leadership program.

Elizabeth Breen '91 is a volunteer docent and a birthday party assistant at the New York State Zoo at Thompson Park, Watertown, New York. In her spare time, she writes poetry.

Author John Briant '86 is working on the fifth in his Adirondack Detective series of novels. Briant, a veteran of the National Guard, the U.S. Air Force and a retired NYS trooper, delved into his lifelong passion after retiring to the Adirondacks with his wife, Margaret, also is an Empire State College graduate. His first novel, *One Cop's Story: A Life Remembered* was published in 1995. In 2000, he penned the first in his Adirondack Detective series.

Douglas Freeman '05, who worked at Syracuse University for more than 20 years and is a certified purchasing manager, was named director of purchasing. He is a master's degree candidate, Department of Public Administration, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University.



Linda Grant

Linda B. Grant '04 was appointed director of donor relations of Sisters Hospital Foundation, part of the Catholic Health System of Western New York. Previously, she was director of arts, culture and tourism for Erie County.

Songwriter and guitarist **JoAnne Kucera '00** earned a bachelor's degree in music and human development, as well as a master's degree in education from the University of New England. She is a music teacher at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School.



Camille Mariani

Canton, she is enjoying life in Florida.

Aletha's Will, the second in a trilogy of murder mystery novels by **Camille Mariani '80** has been published. The first two books in the trilogy are *Lucille's Lie* and *Pandora's Hope*. Retired from her position as public relations director from SUNY



Lindalee Sawyer

Bonnie Winters '96 is the author of *Daughter of Lot* and is working on a second novel.

Thomas Worth '96 has earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from Northeastern Seminary, Rochester.

Lindalee Sawyer '94, a kindergarten teacher for 13 years with Glendale Kenly Elementary, North Carolina, was awarded a master's degree in curriculum and instruction: reading education from Grand Canyon University.

FORUM Management Program

Patricia Anthony '07, who worked for the Town of Greece for the past 24 years – presently as town clerk, received the 2007 New York State Senate Women of Distinction Award.

Congratulations to **Dr. Desiree Crouteau Roberts '01** – a title she from earned from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Michael Steffen '95, who holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from Vermont College, is the author of *No Good at Sea* and the forthcoming *Premature Goods*, published by Pecan Grove Press.

Genesee Valley Center

In the 1970s, Margie Campaigne '99 began Project House (Household Opportunity to Upgrade and Save the Environment) allowing people to determine how much energy and resources their household used and tips for cutting down. She recently became involved with the local Sierra Club Climate and Energy Committee and revisited Project House to make it 21st century friendly. If interested, visit www.ProjectHouse.vpweb.com.

Congratulations to Dorothy Evans '02, manager of donor relations and scholarships with the Monroe Community College Foundation, for earning an M.S. in adult education from Buffalo State College.

Gabriele de Ginant '85 has been a working artist for more than 20 years – best known for her classic, old style illustrations of fairytales.

Theresa Schamel '00, a nurse aide, has returned to school to become a registered nurse. She is a member of the Elmira/Corning Junior League.

Gladys Santiago '96 has been appointed president of the Rochester City Council. She first joined the council in 1996, filling a vacant at-large seat, and served as vice president for most of that time. Santiago told the *Democrat & Chronicle* that, as president, she plans to focus on youth and public safety, but strive to involve all members of the City Council, the staff and the community." She and her vice president, Bill Pritchard, together are the longest serving council members, according to the report.

Silke Taylor '84 is an elementary teacher with West Contra Costa Unified School District in Richmond, California, and member of the United Teachers of Richmond, California Teachers Association, as well as the National Education Association.

The Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies

Sy Gru '84 served as a combat medic during the Vietnam War and was awarded both the Purple Heart and bronze star.

Hudson Valley Center

Gary Allen '00 is the author of *The Herbalist in the Kitchen* (University of Illinois, 2007), an encyclopedic collection of herbal facts, and the second of his published works – the first being *The Resource Guide for Food Writers*. He illustrated children's books, textbooks, and movie posters and films (including Woody Allen's Zelig). He is a past recipient of the first grand prize in the Faber-Castell Drawing Competition.

Stanley Drescher '95, an insurance instructor, prepares potential insurance agents to pass the New York State insurance exam and has done so for companies including MetLife, Prudential, Allstate, State Farm, Nationwide and Liberty Mutual. He has served on the Rockland County Traffic Safety Board for more than 20 years. In his off hours, however, he enjoys storytelling and writing, and has written 21 short stories and 80 poems.



Obed Figueroa

Obed Figueroa '00, who began working with Touro College in 1999 – first as director of college feeder sites, and more recently as director of admissions for Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine – writes, "This was an exciting challenge – working with teams to open up a medical college in Harlem, New York. I truly believe that the education I received at Empire State College helped me accomplish my career aspirations." He has enrolled with Touro University International where he will work towards a Master of Science degree in public health.



Edith McMann

Ana Lavas '95, who resides in Tampa, Florida, is a third-grade teacher with Mitchell Elementary School.

Edith Brozak McMann '84 earned a master's degree in studio art from the College

of New Rochelle. A visual artist who paints and sculpts, her work reflects her previous professional experience dancing with the New York City Ballet and the National Ballet of Cuba. She is a member of the Mamaroneck Artists Guild, Allied Artists of America, the Stamford Art Association and the National Museum for Women in Arts. She can be found in *Who's Who of American Art*.

Artist Cassie McVety '81 has exhibited her watercolor works throughout the Hudson Valley.

Phyllis Steinman Caplan Nesbitt '80, now retired and living in North Carolina, was named outstanding volunteer with Brevard Music Center and Brevard Academy, and she also volunteers with the Girl Scouts and the Transylvania Council for the Arts.

John Rieschick '88, who holds an M.S. in pastoral counseling from Loyola College as well as an M.A. in theology from Maryknoll School of Theology, is principal of St. Patrick Catholic Elementary and Middle School.



Vianeris Stiebritz

Vianeris (Ortiz) Stiebritz '02 is employed with Mastercard International and recently earned her M.B.A. in management from Iona College. She is a member of the National Association of Hispanic M.B.As and is involved

with her church as a group leader for sixth and seventh grade girls.

Sabrina Ann Teolis '85 has been very active in her church for some 20 years, participating in the choir festival and the church supper group.

Wendy Townsend '00, who earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in writing for children from Vermont College, is the author of *Lizard Love* (Front Street Books).

Susan Wright '90 is a psychotherapist, yoga teacher, massage therapist, shaman and author of *The Chakras in Shamanic Practice: Eight Stages of Healing and Transformation* (Inner Traditions – Destiny Books).

Long Island Center

Deborah Brown '07 is a staff assistant in the Aviation Department of SUNY Farmingdale, responsible for all student and instructor flight schedules as well as aircraft maintenance logs. Brown writes, "Unable to finish school when I first started over 20 years ago, I returned to Empire State College at 39. ... I'm continuing with my studies here to obtain my Bachelor of Science ... I anticipate my final term to be May 2008.

Tom Ferraris, Verizon Corporate College Program '02 and the Long Island Center '05, has retired following a 33-year career with Verizon. His goal is to improve the quality of life in his home community of Whitestone. He is a Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults volunteer with the Holy Trinity Church and is seeing his idea of an outdoor reading area for the Whitestone branch of the Queens Public Library come to fruition.

Joan Hertz '79 is a psychoanalyst and co-director of the Long Island Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies. She also has a private practice and specializes in adoption.

Janine Layton Kimmel '95 is a registered nurse with a background in obstetrics and neonatology from her work at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. She holds a master's degree in transpersonal studies from the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology; has led poetry workshops for grade school students; volunteers as a therapist/counselor with Creative Energy Options; and is the author and illustrator of the award-winning children's book, *The Magic Gown*.

Fran Rotondo '07 enjoys giving art lessons in the Farmingdale area.

Frank Saladino, Jr. '07 is the inventor of the ProHandle, a device that helps prevent back injury when using stick tools such as shovels, rakes, mops and brooms. He has donated hundreds of ProHandles to be used in clean-up efforts at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, to firefighters and the National Guard who were digging fire-lines to contain forest fires in Washington and Oregon, and to the Emergency Command Station in Buffalo at the time of a severe blizzard. The ProHandle will be available at Home Depot in spring 2008..

Congratulations to **Sherri Schweitzer-Meagher '02** and **Felicia Senicola '05**; both of whom have received their M.S.W. degrees from Stony Brook College.

Poetry by **Susannah Simpson '05**, who earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in writing and literature from Bennington College, was published in the *Meridian Anthology of Contemporary Poetry*, Salamander and River Oaks Review. The Nassau County Museum hosted two workshops offered by Simpson: Journalism as a Meditative Practice and The Pleasure of Poetry.

Metropolitan Center

Nancy Azara '74 is a sculptor, artist and author of *Spirit Taking Form: Making a Spiritual Practice of Making Art* in which she shares her evolution from a woman artist to a feminist artist, and her consciousness-raising experience as a founder of the New York Feminist Art Institute in the '70s. In the fall of 2007, Azara's work was featured first in "The Evolution of a 1970s Feminist Artist," Brooklyn Museum, followed by "REPRESENT: A Feminist Dialogue Across Generations," A.I.R. Gallery.

Eric Brothers '86, holds an M.A. in history from Lehman College, and resides in Florida where he is a professional actor. He has worked on stage, most notably holding the starring role in *Death of a Salesman*, in feature films and commercials. Brothers also is a freelance writer and rare coin dealer.

William Ford '92, who graduated from Brooklyn Law School in 1997, is principal assistant county attorney with the Suffolk County Department of Law. He is a member of the Suffolk County Bar Association and serves on the board of directors of Long Island Head Start, the legal redress committee of Islip NAACP and the Suffolk County Executive's African-American Advisory Board.

The Shelley K. Gallery hosted an exhibition of paintings by **Gerald Hopkins '76**, who had a studio in Woodstock, NY. A native of Montana, he studied figurative painting at Eastern Montana College, and also enjoyed a musical career as one half of Twinn Connexion – a rock duo with his identical twin brother.



Denville Hyre

Denville Hyre '97 is a teacher with the NYC Board of Education and a math professor with Lehman College, CUNY. He is an ordained minister at Mount Calvary Church, Inc., an author, and earned an M.Ed. from Cambridge

College; a Doctor of Philosophy in Education Administration, Columbia Teachers' College; a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies from the College of Saint Rose; and is a NYS certified school district administrator.

Melanie La Perriere '02, an ensemble musician and songwriter who performs under the name Melanie Ray of Rakatan, has produced a DVD of her performances and life experiences, "The Morning of Phosphour, Live." Proceeds from the sale of the DVD go to wildlife charities. Her most recent work is a CD, *Amorous Tales from the Tides of Time*.

Irving Levine '77, a court reporter now-retired from the NYS Supreme Court, earned an M.A. in Asian area studies, an M.A. in teaching English as a second language, and a D.Ed. from Zhejiang University, People's Republic of China.

La Galeria at Boricua College in New York City hosted *Educating the Eye – People and Places*, an exhibition of photographs by **George Malave '90**. The International Center of Photography, the Museum of the City of New York, Carnegie-Mellon University Art Gallery also have hosted exhibits of his work. Born in Puerto Rico, he has produced a large and varied body of work culminating in three books of his digital images: *The Third Avenue El-Bronx, NY 1972-3*; *The Tourist: Photographic Wanderings* and, most recently, *Art, Myth & Dreams*. He is a recipient of a Creative Artist Public Service Fellowship and a National Endowment for the Arts Survey Grant.

Darcy Dean Minsky '86, who holds an M.S. and M.S.W. from Columbia University, is a learning specialist and psychoanalyst.

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Judy Willis '02 '04 and her husband Jack host a tour for alumni at the Corning Museum of Glass.

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.



Metro faculty member Raul Manzano '05, opens his Museum of Modern Art class to alumni in NYC.



Alumni gather at the annual Saratoga Performing Arts Center on a beautiful summer evening. Please join us this year in August. For more information, please go to www.esc.edu/alumni.



The 2007 graduating class from our unit in Prague. European Regional Coordinator Evelyn Wells (front row, second from right) and Dean Kingston Nyamapfene (standing behind her) conferred the degrees.

BACK TO YOU

Alumni and Student Events
Around the College



Last fall, the Alumni Student Federation Board of Governors hosted the opening reception for the annual Student All College Conference. Board members (l-r), Jay Marshall '06 from Verizon Corporate College, Peter Maloney '03 '06 from the Northeast Center and John Masse '06 from FORUM Central serve as the welcoming committee at Alumni House.



The "Cooks' Call" at a grand alumni student dinner and wine tasting at the Culinary Institute of America (C.I.A.) hosted by the Hudson Valley Center.



Join the more than 200 alumni and friends on **Thursday, August 7, 2008** that have made our Alumni Day at the Races a great event. For more information, please go to www.esc.edu/Alumni.

Niagara Frontier Center

Jeanne Johnston '94, who earned a master's degree from Buffalo State College, was named assistant dean of business and social sciences at Jamestown Community College. She is a member of the American Association of Medical Transcription and Zonta International, as well as a volunteer for the Warming House, the Salvation Army, the Everywoman Opportunity Center and the Olean Food Pantry.

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

Northeast Center

Becky Amadon '07 was promoted from assistant director of human resources to director of human resources with AIM Services, Inc.

The career of **Timothy Close '07** began with the Coast Guard followed by an associate degree in criminal justice from Schenectady County Community College and graduation from the Albany Law Enforcement Academy. He is a lieutenant with the Albany Police Department and is president of the Albany Police Supervisor's Association, which he helped found.

Vincent Colonno '85, who holds a master's degree in public administration from the Sage Colleges, was named head of Albany County's Department of Social Services (DSS). Colonno began his career with the Department of Social Services in 1974 as a social welfare examiner and has been a social services investigator, welfare inspector, commissioner of the Albany County Department for Aging, and deputy commissioner of DSS.

John Femia '99, a certified professional resume writer, has his own home-based business, Custom Resume and Writing Service. Having earned his bachelor's degree in English, he also is a columnist for *Advance for Imaging and Radiation Therapy Professionals*, has published more than 50 health-care and career/employment articles, and penned an online training module on shock for Sinclair Community College.

Patricia Gioia '75 has written and self-published *The Berkeley Marina Murders: One Family's Story*, the story of her daughter Mary's 1985 murder and how while grieving for their daughter and sister, they learn that their pain subsides as they discover ways to keep her spirit alive within their family. Gioia, a mother of eight children, is a passionate advocate for other families of homicide victims; a leader of the support group Parents of Murdered Children; and formed the Capital District Coalition for Crime Victims Rights, which advocates for all victims of crime. She serves on the New State Crime Victims Advisory Council and is a past member of the State Attorney General's Crime Victims' Advisory Board.

Tammy Jones '05 was promoted to assistant director of the Springbrook Home and Community-based Services Department, a service agency for children and adults with developmental disabilities serving more than 2,000 families annually.

Joan Phelps '00, who holds an M.S. in guidance and counseling from Sage Graduate School, is a school counselor with North Warren Central School

Jan Stewart '03 has been promoted to vice president of information technology with the Northeast Parent and Child Society.

Verizon Corporate College Program



Joan McAllister

Having recently retired from Verizon, **Joan McAllister '06** has begun two online businesses: as a certified travel agent she operates Shekinah Tourism as well as an online fashion store, JoWan Fashions, featuring church suits, career sets, and more. Also, she is an ordained elder with Friendship Worldwide Fellowship Ministries, Inc.

Lost and Found

Found: a 1976 Empire State College Class Ring in Hollywood, FL. For more information, contact Maureen Winney at 518 587-2100 ext. 2254.

Torrence-Thompson Takes on a Poetry Magazine



Juanita Torrence-Thompson

Juanita Torrence-Thompson '83 purchased *Mobius, the Poetry Magazine* in January 2006, and the first issue under her editorship came out in September 2006. The 8" by 11" book with the simple black and white lettering has elicited raves from its audience. One reviewer in Ireland gushed, "Calling *Mobius* a poetry magazine is like calling Eric Clapton a guitar player. It's a lavishly produced, silver-covered (no, I am not joking) exhibition-space for all sorts of poetry, published with a stanza-staggering professional allure that should scare off small magazines everywhere ..."

Torrence-Thompson, who has read poetry in a multitude of venues, here and abroad, and has authored her own books of poetry, including *New York and African Tapestries* (Fly by Night Press), a *Small Press Review* "pick" for 2007, is "encouraged about the future of poetry," she says. And no wonder. She and her staff read more than 600 poems and selected just 233 for the premiere issue under her editorship.

Celebrating a quarter of a century of publishing in October 2007, *Mobius* had an established roster of regular contributors. Torrence-Thompson explained, "When I bought the magazine, most people who had published with my predecessor were sending things still." Word also travels through news articles in several states and Queens, where Torrence-Thompson resides with her husband. She invited some poets to submit – indeed, the premiere issue has poems by such luminaries as Rita Dove, Nikki Giovanni and Marge Percy. Poems poured in from across the United States, and eight foreign countries. For the 2007 edition, poets from 14 nations were represented.

For more information, go to www.mobiuspoetry.com.



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Saratoga Springs • ***Thursday, August 7, 2008***

**Empire State College Track
Pack for \$30 includes:**

- Grandstand admission
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- Program
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faculty member **Andrew
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administration, **William Ferrero**

Registration begins at 10:30 a.m., at which time you will pick up your pass, program and lunch. We will be serving coffee and pastries during that time. The handicapping seminar will begin at 11:00 a.m. and will be held at the Canfield Casino in Congress Park. Post time for the first race is 1:00 p.m. Seating is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. We will reserve your seat when we receive your check made out to **Empire State College Foundation**. Simply use the order form below. You may make a copy of the order form for your guest/s. Once you are registered, we will send you directions, parking and other information.

Please complete and return to:

Maureen Winney
Empire State College
Alumni House
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Name _____
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Make your check payable to: **Empire State College Foundation**.

The box lunch will include a sandwich, condiments, side salad, dessert, fruit and chips. Drinks are on your own.

Please circle your sandwich choice

1. Turkey
2. Roast beef
3. Chicken salad
4. Baked ham
5. Vegetarian

***NEW THIS YEAR** We have reserved a number of parking spots across from the main track entrance where you can park after you leave the handicapping seminar.

Please reserve _____ spot/s at \$10 each. Add this amount to your ticket cost.

**Look what
I discovered!**



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the new web site?
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YOU ARE IMPORTANT TO US!

Send news of your accomplishments and activities so that we can feature them in future issues of Empire State College Alumni and Student News. If possible include a recent photograph (with your name on the back). Please spell out all organization abbreviations.

Name _____

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Job title _____

Business name/address _____

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Year graduated/degrees _____

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Send to: *Empire State College Alumni and Student News*, Office of College Relations, Empire State College, Two Union Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-4390, or visit our web site at www.esc.edu/alumni and add your news online.

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