

Empire State College

ALUMNI AND STUDENT NEWS

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***Learners First
Campaign***

The Inside Story

**Alumni Travel
Opportunity**

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The Inside Story

By Joseph B. Moore
President

Did you know that Empire State College serves more students over the age of 35 than any other SUNY institution, including the large research universities? Or that we enroll more international students through our partnerships than any other SUNY institution? Or that Empire State College serves more students through online learning than any other college or university in New York state? And yet, we must do more if the college is to fulfill its public mission and serve our populations of adult learners with the excellence they expect. There are many challenges ahead, and that is the reason the college has launched a \$51.5 million *Learners First* campaign.

The five goals of the campaign – only the second in the college’s history – are to enhance and expand:

- new academic program offerings,
- financial support for students in the form of scholarships,
- opportunities for faculty and staff development,
- our facilities and technology,
- current academic operations through annual giving.

The college has undergone dramatic change since its inception in 1971. Not only has technology impacted us in ways no one could have foreseen, but we also are facing the reality that this is no longer an institution funded primarily by state tax dollars. We receive only 25 percent of our annual \$70 million budget in state appropriation support. With a decreasing share of the college’s budget from state support, and an increasing share generated by tuition costs to our students, we must continue to educate today’s adult learners in ways that are cost-effective and truly relevant to their lives and futures.

For example, we are continuing to develop new programs to meet the ever-evolving needs of the workforce. Two good examples are our “fast-track” Master of Arts in Teaching program, which places career changers in urban school districts where the need for teachers is greatest, especially in math, science and languages. We also are introducing a degree program in emergency management, a pressing need in our post-9/11, post-Katrina world.

Empire State College retains its historic focus on the adult learner, and this is now more important than ever. With less than a third of America’s working population holding a college degree and with few adult-friendly universities, we will not have a sufficiently educated, mature workforce to meet the demands of an economy that has shifted from production to information management and services. We must continue to meet the special needs of older students who are skillfully balancing their college studies with commitments to family, work and community.

We have a daunting task ahead of us. But whenever I attend an Empire State College alumni function or a graduation, and hear your stories, I am reminded again what a life-changing experience it has been for you to complete your degree. Your success inspires all of us at the college, and makes us even more committed to maintaining the excellence for which Empire State College is known.

I encourage you to take some time with this issue, meet two of our special donors, become acquainted with a scholarship recipient and a mentor, and see how each of their lives touched the others.

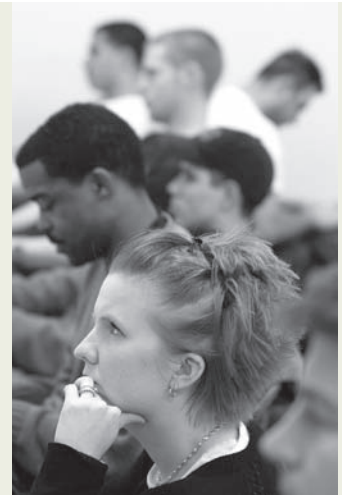
And I invite you to participate in whatever way you can in this exciting campaign to put *Learners First*.

Why a Campaign?



The Case for *Learners First*

There is no better time to launch *Learners First*: The Campaign for Empire State College. State support for public higher education in New York has decreased precipitously – today, barely 25 percent of Empire State College’s budget is funded by tax support. Tuition has increased markedly, posing a challenge even for middle-class workers returning to college. Nonetheless, demand for the college’s programs and services has soared: over the four years ending in 2004, enrollments increased from 13,000 to more than 17,000 students. Distance learners are flocking to the college. In repeated, impartial surveys, our students have given the quality of their academic experience the highest rating within the entire State University of New York.



– From *Learners First*: The Campaign for Empire State College case statement

Immediately after Empire State College concluded its first capital campaign in its history, *The Promise Continues*, in March 2001, plans were being laid for the \$51.5 million *Learners First* campaign. *The Promise Continues* raised \$8,075,053 over the course of four years in support of student scholarships, faculty and staff enrichment, academic programs and technology initiatives.

According to Jeremy Jones, assistant vice president for external affairs, and executive director of the Empire State College Foundation, the new campaign will be seeking funding for some of the same goals, including:

1. academic programs
2. financial support for students
3. faculty and staff development
4. facilities and technology
5. current academic operations through annual giving.

The planning of the new \$51.5 million campaign relied on “a great deal of input from board members, the president’s council, all of the deans. We talked about areas that we wanted to make stronger at the college.” The actual goal for the campaign – \$51.5 million – was decided upon only after the college had secured \$26.5 million in state funding for capital projects. Jones credited President Joseph B. Moore

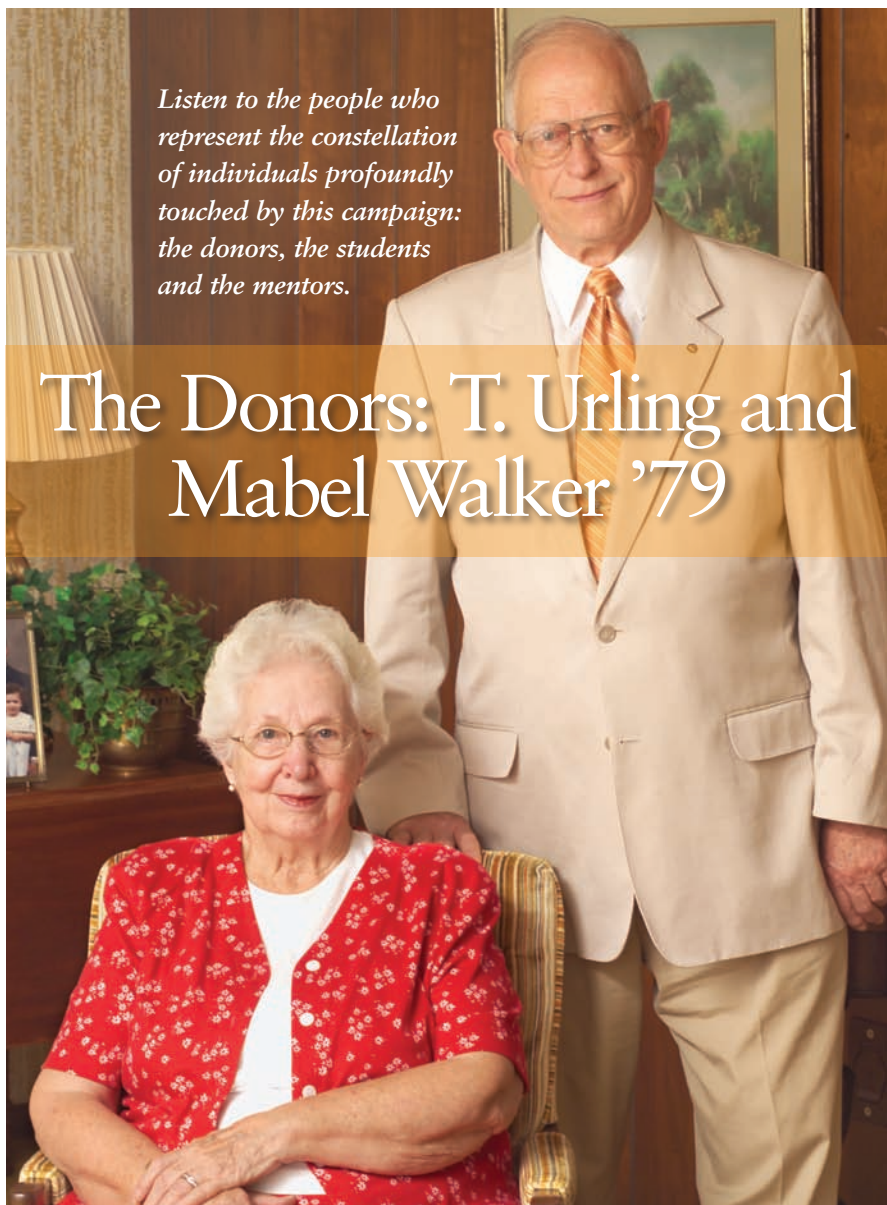
with being able to secure the initial \$26.5 million, and believes he will raise an additional \$10.5 million. The college is currently undertaking large building projects at its headquarters in Saratoga Springs, demolishing and rebuilding one building, and doing intensive renovations on two more. A new Center for Distance Learning also will be built in Saratoga Springs in the near future, and the college expects to begin creating permanent sites for our major regional centers around the state.

“We set the private philanthropy goal at \$9 million, because it was a figure we thought would be a stretch, but reachable,” Jones continued.

“Our foundation board has shown incredible leadership. Inspired by the \$1 million gifts of the Turben and Liebich families, the board has already personally committed \$3.3 million to the campaign. Combined with other leadership gifts, nearly \$6 million of the \$9 million private philanthropy goal has been achieved. Overall, as we broaden the campaign to alumni, friends and others, we have raised approximately \$35 million of our \$51.5 million goal. This campaign is going to remarkably change Empire State College. It’s something that we want the entire college family to have the opportunity to be part of.” ○

Listen to the people who represent the constellation of individuals profoundly touched by this campaign: the donors, the students and the mentors.

The Donors: T. Urling and Mabel Walker '79



It didn't take a lot of convincing for T. Urling and Mabel Walker '79, to establish a scholarship fund for Empire State College students in 1999. The Walkers have always been actively involved in their community. Originally from Pennsylvania, the Walkers have resided in Watertown for more than 50 years. Tom, a mechanical engineer by training, worked for years as an industrial engineer and taught on both the grade school and college level, later becoming mayor of Watertown. Mabel, a diploma nurse, had been involved with an array of healthcare activities within the county, including being a founder of Hospice of Jefferson County. She also was tapped to be a member of Gov. Pataki's Task Force on Women's Concerns.

From the time Mabel Walker graduated in 1979, she has been a faithful supporter of Empire State College's Annual Fund.

"Mabel has never forgotten the value of Empire State College," explained Jeremy Jones, the executive director of the foundation. So when the Walkers were approached to fund a scholarship at the college, they did not hesitate. True to their advocacy for their community, they asked that the T. Urling and Mabel B. Walker Scholarships be given first to students in need in the Watertown area,

(continued on page 8)

Donors T. Urling and Mabel Walker '79 relate their perspective of being involved with the college and its students.

Metropolitan Center Hosts Campaign Kickoff



Dean Christine Persico welcomes over 200 guests to the NYC open house and kickoff.

On September 8, in New York City, the college hosted the first of what will be a regional roll-out of the *Learners First* campaign. Friends, faculty, staff and numerous alumni turned out for the



President Moore (r), founding president James Hall (l) and benefactor Arthur Imperatore.

event, held at the college's new location at 325 Hudson Street on the fifth and sixth floors. The guest list included people like Morton Bahr '83, recently retired president of the Communications



President Moore greets alumni and students from the Verizon Corporate College Program.

Workers of America and The Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies alumnus; Edward Murphy, executive director of the NYS AFL-CIO; Salvatore

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The Student: Julie Bocciolatt '02

Julie Bocciolatt was aware of Tom and Mabel Walker even before she was selected for a scholarship in their name. Being from Watertown, which she describes as a relatively small town, Julie said, “I had actually known of the Walkers because they knew my grandparents.” But the actual meeting – one that the college often arranges between donor and recipient – was something else altogether. “It was a wonderful feeling. I felt that they cared about my story, who I was, and that I mattered. I guess it’s easy to write a check, but to take the time to meet a recipient certainly meant a lot to me.”



Describing her experience at the college, she explained, “It’s about learning; authentic learning.” She turned to Mabel Walker, who had slipped into the den to listen to Julie’s interview in the Walker’s Watertown home. “You were one of the first graduates; that made the experience so much more meaningful.”

Like many Empire State College students, Julie’s educational journey was wide and varied. She had taken courses here and there without earning a degree. Then, “right after my last child

was in kindergarten, I knew I wanted to do something about my education, but was unable to travel. I had heard people talk about Empire State College. So I called to inquire and [faculty mentor] Frances Mercer answered the phone. I made up my mind almost immediately. It just fit, it was the right thing for me to do,” says the mother of two children, a son Skyler, 11, and a daughter, Morgan, 15.

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The Mentor: Frances Mercer

By Scott Dugan

Frances Mercer originally came to New York from Carbondale, Illinois in 1980 to teach at Syracuse University (SU) in the Rehabilitation Department and to implement a nontraditional master’s degree program for which SU had received a federal grant. While looking through student transcripts, she noticed that Empire State College graduates were not your typical student. “Students who were applying to Syracuse from Empire State College had very unique transcripts. This raised my interest in the college and working with adult learners, so I applied to work at Empire State College,” said Mercer. Her first position with Empire State College was as a part-time mentor with the Ithaca Unit in 1985. At the same time, she served as the executive director of the Advocacy, Recreation and Community Living Services (ARC) in Cortland, NY. “I resigned from that part-time position when I became pregnant and could no longer manage a full-time job and a part-time job,” she explained, “I really

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Julie Bocciolatt

(continued from page 4)

Of her unfolding relationship with her mentor, Julie adds, “I so respect Frances, everything she does and everything she stands for.” She was never too busy to take phone calls, and never appeared to be disturbed, no matter what the issue. “She was always there for me. She also was my teacher for several courses.”

With the full support of husband Michael through the years of her studies, Bocciolatt completed her bachelor’s degree in October 2002, and was selected to speak at commencement the following spring. Aptly, for the future elementary school teacher, she began with a quote from Dr. Seuss’s *Oh, the Places You’ll Go*:

**“Congratulations!
Today is your day
You’re off to great
places! You’re off
and away!”**

She went on to earn a master’s degree at SUNY Potsdam, and is now in her second year teaching at Lafargeville Elementary School.

The scholarship helped the family avoid debt – especially important, Julie noted, because, at 45, she is at a time in her life when many of her peers are saving for retirement, yet she is paying off student loans. But even more important than the money, she said, was the sense that this was real and that she was credible and that others believed in her. And she is doing her best to give back as well, now through the time she commits to community groups like the Lyme Community Foundation.

“Every person has a duty, I think, to give to the extent they can – whether monetarily or time. We all need help and assistance at some time. I give of myself to my community. The Walkers and I are of like minds – give back when you can.” ○

Frances Mercer

(continued from page 4)

loved working with Empire State College students, so when a full-time position in Watertown became available, I applied for that position.” Mercer began her full-time mentoring career with Empire State College in 1989.

The greatest satisfaction derived from being a mentor at Empire State College she explained, is working with students on an individual basis. “Working with students one-to-one gave me a chance to really get to know each student as a whole person,” said Mercer. “I get to see how each student evolves throughout their education.”



The relationship forged between these individuals has enriched all of their lives.

Mercer had no problem stressing the importance of donating for scholarships by alumni, faculty, staff and students. “Each person’s willingness to contribute shows their commitment, trust and belief in both the students and college. Most of our students don’t have their parents to back them financially as other college students may,” she says. “In the North Country there are not as many financial opportunities as there are in other parts of the state.” She believes that even the slightest contribution helps. “Most scholarships cover just enough to make a difference. These scholarships provide resources that a student otherwise would not have,” Mercer says. “These donations often mean the difference between

having books, a computer or even just the Internet, for some students.”

Mercer also believes that scholarships can motivate students to make a difference in the areas where they attend college. Once a student has been screened for financial need, Mercer explained that the mentors at the Watertown Unit are asked to recommend appropriate candidates for scholarships. In the case of the Walker Scholarship, Mercer had nominated Julie Bocciolatt. “Julie is a married mother of two who is very active in the community. She is a very exceptional person and always received glowing evaluations,” she says, “The Walker Scholarship shows students that people in the community care and gives students the confidence to stay in the area.” Julie

now is a teacher at Lafargeville Elementary School.

Mercer also expressed the importance of professional development offered by Empire State College. “There is an expectation for professors, faculty and staff to remain current in their fields both professionally and in teaching,” Mercer says. “The money received for these programs keeps everyone updated

with online technology, changes in adult learning and orientating new faculty.”

As a consistent donor herself, Mercer notes, “My motivation for donating for scholarships and professional development is simple: it is a reflection of my gratitude for the scholarship assistance I received when I was a college student and of my belief that lifelong learning is as important and essential for faculty as for students. I see my donation as an investment in students and my colleagues that will ultimately enhance access to, and the quality of, our academic community.” ○

Academic Programs

Our programs must be current, substantive and engaging. Revising and updating curriculum, developing new programs that respond to unmet social and business needs, and upgrading the systems and technology that support our students and faculty must be a constant activity. We are seeking support for academic program development to:

- ❑ create new, innovative academic programs that meet social needs and provide adult learners new or advanced career opportunities.
 - **Urban Teachers Initiative** – designing and launching a model, “fast track to the classroom,” Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) program for career changers to address critical teacher shortages in urban schools;
 - **Emergency Management** – creating an online, nationally available bachelor’s degree to prepare emergency managers for the compelling challenges that our nation now faces in emergency management policy, planning and practice;
 - **Expanded degrees and academic services for the military.**
- ❑ establish an office of program research and development that will “jump start” new program planning for the college. We need authoritative, market-specific research to inform program design, and we must shorten the time span between program design and program implementation.



The Five Goals of *Learners First*

Financial Support for Students

Our multiple locations and our online learning programs make Empire State College geographically accessible to most adult learners. However, the cost of tuition remains a barrier for many adult learners. We are seeking support for student scholarships to:

- ❑ create scholarship endowments to reduce financial barriers for deserving adult learners, and make the benefits of a college degree available to more first-generation college students.
- ❑ assist graduates from each of New York’s 32 community colleges to transfer to Empire State College to earn a bachelor’s degree – and show adults at community colleges that earning a bachelor’s degree is possible.
- ❑ recognize undergraduate students who demonstrate superior academic achievement through merit scholarships – while showcasing the superlative quality of our academic program.
- ❑ fund research projects by our graduate students that address significant issues in public policy and reinforce the college’s public mission.



Faculty and Staff Development

Faculty are the intellectual capital and key academic resource of any college. Recruiting and retaining talented and dedicated faculty is a direct investment in student learning. As we face increasing numbers of faculty retirements in the next five years, we want to attract new faculty who share our commitment to adult learners, who are continuously engaged in scholarly pursuits, and who understand how technology can enrich learning. Complementing the faculty are the college staff who provide support services and who directly influence the quality of our student's collegiate experience. We are seeking support in faculty and staff development to:

- ❑ establish the college's first endowed faculty chairs, in mentoring.
- ❑ secure funds to support visiting scholars and lecturers who bring up-to-date thinking and research to our faculty dispersed across New York.
- ❑ support our faculty's travel throughout the nation and the world: to learn, share the best of their own practice and research with wider audiences, and tell the Empire State College story.
- ❑ expand opportunities for intellectual and professional development to help retain and motivate college employees at all levels and affirm that Empire State College is a good place to work.



Facilities and Technology

To reach working adults, a college must be near them – whether at home, work or through the Internet. Empire State College needs adequate and appropriate spaces to serve our rapidly expanding student body and to accommodate increasing numbers of faculty and staff. In addition to physical space, the college also must acquire and manage increasingly sophisticated educational technology that supports access and students' degree completion.

Educational technology investments include creating Internet-based, online-learning degrees; providing online access for students to personal academic records including financial and enrollment information; and providing superlative academic advising and degree planning, library services and online instruction in writing, mathematics and research. We are seeking support for facilities and technology to:

- ❑ achieve significant savings and establish permanency and visibility for Empire State College by converting at least two of the college's leased centers into permanent college facilities during this campaign.
- ❑ replace or renew inadequate space at the college's Coordinating Center in Saratoga Springs.
- ❑ catapult the college into national and international prominence in educational technology through the construction of a state-of-the-art Center for Distance Learning.



Current Academic Operations Through Annual Giving

Unrestricted annual gifts by alumni and friends support the core mission of the college, including academic program resources, student grants and faculty development. These funds allow the foundation board to allocate new monies each year to ongoing program needs as well as to new academic initiatives. Our goal, during the next five years, is to expand our base of alumni donors and to raise \$2.1 million in annual gifts.

At whatever level, annual gifts represent a yearly vote of confidence for Empire State College and its mission. Not every person who loves Empire State College can endow a scholarship or fund a faculty chair. But everyone can participate in the *Learners First* campaign through an Annual Fund contribution. ○



T. Urling and Mabel Walker

(continued from page 3)

and secondarily, to students in the North Country. Shortly after making the gift, Tom agreed to serve on Empire State College's Foundation board.

"What you have is a picture of people committed to education, committed to community, and very loyal to Empire State College," Jones continued. "At the time we invited Tom to join the board, the college was seeking to expand the foundation board beyond the Capital region. The Walkers immediately came to mind for this."

In an interview in their Watertown home, Mabel recalled that she and her husband gave their first major philanthropic gift in the early '80s. Mabel says the gift was in honor of their two daughters – Winifred and Constance – whose lives were both cut short by cancer. The money went toward establishing the Walker Cancer Treatment Center in 1983 at Samaritan Medical Center in Watertown. Since then, at Jefferson Community College, where Tom taught engineering from 1963 to 1971, the Walkers have funded memorial scholarships in the name of their daughters, as well as an engineering scholarship. The Wendy Walker Nursing Memorial Scholarship is in honor of Winifred, a gifted student interested in nursing, and The Constance Walker Monroe Liberal Arts Memorial Scholarship is named for Constance, an anthropologist.

In 1999, when the couple established a scholarship to enable adult and returning students in the Watertown region to continue their studies through Empire State College, the only codicil that they had was it had to be "something that's going to benefit many people."

So far, the Walkers' generosity has helped more than 200 students in total to complete their college degrees, including seven at Empire State College. Jeffrey Sero, the current recipient, said, "It is a tremendous honor to receive this scholarship from two people whose generosity in northern New York is legendary." Sero, who is earning an associate degree, intends to pursue his bachelor's degree in order to meet his goal of becoming a youth counselor, working with troubled teens and adolescents.

Tom Walker says that the need is crucial. "The support the state gives to the college has been dwindling, meaning that the college has to develop a plan for developing private funding. A lot of people have a mindset that the college is supported by the state. Over the years we have tried to emphasize that we just can't do it anymore without private monies. SUNY Potsdam (on whose foundation board he also serves) just finished a \$12 million fund drive, and now we're starting the next one, that'll span three to five years," Walker explains.

The best part of funding the scholarships, say the Walkers, is hearing the impact it has had on the students who have benefited. Tom recalls a young man he met at a football game, who had since graduated, and who excitedly filled him in on his new job.

"It's as simple as that," says Mabel, who retired from nursing (at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh – one of the largest hospitals in the east), prior to returning to school to earn a degree in human services for personal fulfillment. Mabel says that it gives her particular pleasure to be part of the solution – "so everyone has a chance to go to school." ○

Campaign Kickoff

(continued from page 3)

Bruzzese '81, '82, vice president, IBEW Local #3; **Deborah Gregory '86**, award-winning author of the Cheetah Girls series, which has been made into a Disney movie; **Doris Goldberg**, widow of popular mentor at the Metropolitan Center **Joe Goldberg**; **Andi Emerson-Ditkoff**, a student in the college's Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program; **Marlene Kaufman '91**, former member of the foundation board; **David Asch '83**, a member of the Metropolitan Opera; **Joseph Hofmann '00**, a graduate of The Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies, vice president at Washington Group, International, and former senior vice president of subways for New York City Transit; **James Hall**, founding president of the college; businessman and philanthropist **Arthur Imperatore**; among many other illustrious friends,



(left to right) Morton Bahr '83, President Moore and Jules Pagano

alumni and students. Speakers were **Joseph B. Moore**, president of Empire State College; Metropolitan Center Dean **Christine Persico**; Van Arsdale Dean **Michael Merrill**; Verizon Corporate College Dean **Cynthia Ward**; and **Monte Trammer**, former Empire State College Foundation chair, and his wife, **Hilda**. Trammer is the publisher of the *Star-Gazette*, in Elmira, NY. Besides Monte Trammer, other board members attending the event were **Melba Tolliver '98**, award-winning journalist who now



Joan Mellon, a 2002 alumna of the Center for Graduate Programs, talks with Metro student, Jules Douge.

serves as the chair of the Annual Fund; **Barbara O'Connell '76**, senior vice president for U.S. Trust Co. of New York; and **Jim Del Rossi '96**, chief engagement manager of Sun Microsystems. Other campaign roll-out dates are as follows:

- October 27 – Capital Region
- December 1 – Syracuse
- March 2 – Long Island
- March 16 – Hudson Valley
- April 27 – Buffalo
- May 11 – Rochester ○

College News

College Wins Award for Educational Fund Raising

Empire State College has been recognized with a national award by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), which honors superior fund-raising programs across the country. The award, sponsored by WealthID, Inc., was presented on July 16, during the CASE annual assembly in Miami Beach, FL. Of the 970 educational institutions considered, Empire State College was one of only 46 that received an award this year.

“Empire State College is among an exceptional group of colleges, universities and independent schools named to the Circle of Excellence for overall performance in fund raising in recognition of its exemplary fund-raising efforts over the past three years,” said John Lippincott, president of CASE.

Between 2002 and 2004, giving nearly doubled at the college, rising from \$663,044 in 2002 to \$1,138,794 in 2004. In addition, the number of alumni donors increased 26 percent, topping 4,000 donors in 2004. Finally, foundation and corporate support more than doubled during the three years considered by CASE.

“This award is a tribute to our faculty and staff, our alumni and friends, and numerous foundations who support the public mission of Empire State College,” said President Joseph Moore. “We know that families, communities and our economy are strengthened when adults are able to earn their college degrees and pursue opportunities made possible by those degrees. More and more people are recognizing that making college available to adults is a great investment.”

Winners are selected based upon their submission of data to the Council for Aid to Education’s Voluntary Support of Education survey for three or more consecutive years. ○

College Hosts Annual Professional Womens’ Networking Event

In April, Empire State College hosted the second annual Professional Women’s Networking Reception in New York City. The evening event, held at the Columbus Citizens House on East 69th Street, featured Anne Sutherland Fuchs, chair of the NYC Commission on Women’s Issues, media executive, former auction house CEO, senior advisor to Solera Capital and director of Latina Media Ventures, as the keynote speaker. Seventy-five alumnae, faculty and friends turned out for the program at the beautiful five-story limestone townhouse on the Upper East Side.

Fuchs, the first female publisher of *Women’s Day*, has extensive experience in the media business, gleaned from being responsible for working on some of the best known and successful magazines, including *Vogue*, *Harper’s Bazaar*, *Elle*, “O” *The Oprah Magazine*, *Marie Claire* and *Town and Country*. She spoke about the commission’s agenda and the recent grants totaling \$140,000 awarded to 16 small businesses, which shape and improve the lives of women. She also mentioned the 30th anniversary of the

NYC Commission on Women’s Issues by announcing the launch for a comprehensive public awareness campaign “New York Loves Women” which will promote the opportunities and services available to women in New York City.

“Empire State College is committed to connecting alumni in ways that benefit their personal and professional lives,” said **Maureen Winney**, director of alumni and student relations. “We were pleased to see so many alumnae in attendance as well as many of the faculty from New York City. This gave the attendees the opportunity to not only renew acquaintances, but to establish new personal and professional contacts.”

Barbara O’Connell ’76, senior vice president for U.S. Trust Co. of New York, and member of the Empire State College Foundation board, introduced the speaker. Also attending with Fuchs were: **Elizabeth LoNigro**, executive director, NYC Commission on Women’s Issues, and **Briana Collins**, deputy director, NYC Commission on Women’s Issues. Maureen Winney thanked the members of the planning committee: **Pat LaFreniere ’82**, **Tina Evans ’97**, **Linda Feldman-Lieberman ’77**, **Maureen Meloy ’92**, **Taryn Hunter ’03** and **Andrea Hoffman**, current student at the Center for Distance Learning. ○



Alumnae gathered for our second annual Professional Women’s Networking Reception in New York City. From left to right are Elizabeth Marner-Brooks ’93, Avril Brenig ’73, Dean Christine Persico, Barbara O’Connell ’76 and Marlene Kaufman ’91.

Alumni News

Center for Distance Learning

Reverend Troy C. Epps '00 received his Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary, was ordained as an American Baptist minister and is pastor of the Christ First Baptist Church of Covina.

Janice French '01, a graduate of the Center for Distance Learning and current student in the M.B.A. program, was recently inducted into the Manchester Who's Who Executive and Professional Registry. French, a provider relations liaison with Network Management of Northern Ohio, was noted for her "experience and expertise in contract negotiations with physicians and institutions."

Mildred Harris '04 is enrolled at Baker College where she is working towards her master's degree in computer information systems with plans to pursue a Ph.D. in computer science.



The Emergency Medical Services for Children Project Coordinator of Distinction Award was bestowed on **Susan Hohenhaus '03**, project coordinator of the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Enhancing Pediatric Patient Safety Grant at Duke University Medical Center. She also is the recipient of the Stryker Advance Nursing Practice Scholarship from The Emergency Nurses Association Foundation (given to emergency nurses with a bachelor's degree and pursuing advanced clinical practice degrees). For five years prior to her work with Duke University, Hohenhaus was EMSC state coordinator for North Carolina's Office of Emergency Medical Services. She is the 2005 chairperson of the pediatric section of the Emergency Nurses Association; international editor

of PEMSsoft – the Pediatric Emergency Medicine Software; a nurse editor of *Pediatric Emergency Care*, the primary publication of the specialty of pediatric emergency medicine; and section editor for the *Journal of Emergency Nursing*.

Since graduating from the college, **Susan Sandstrom Madison '00**, lead campus recruiting coordinator and resource management associate with KPMG LLP, has married, enrolled at Marylhurst University and volunteered with the Cascade AIDS Project and the First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon.

June Maxam '99, '00 is an investigative journalist and co-publisher of *The Empire Journal*. She is working on a book about the Terri Schiavo case.

The Long Island chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals has named **Maria Telesca '02** its outstanding fundraising volunteer of the year. Previously

New Payroll Deduction Benefit

Attention New York State Employees:

Did you know that supporting the Empire State College Annual Fund is as easy as visiting your human resources office?

Thanks to a recent change in state law, Empire State College alumni and friends who are employed by the State of New York now have the option of supporting the college through payroll deduction. This quick and easy option allows you to distribute an annual contribution over the course of the entire year.

For more information on how to take advantage of this benefit, please contact the Empire State College Development Office at 800 847-3000 ext. 2372.

received accolades include the 2004 NYS Senate Achievers Award as well as the Volvo Life Award in recognition of her “No Tease” program, a state-registered character education program she developed for kindergarten through middle school-age children. Telesca, who has skeletal dysplasia, a form of dwarfism, has been cited as a tireless crusader on behalf of all people with disabilities. She is an advocate for the creation and financing of a Skeletal Dysplasia Center at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City and was instrumental in the creation of Governor Pataki’s New York State Interagency Disability Task Force for Affordable Accessible Housing. The New York State Independent Living Council, Little People of America and Long Island Accessible Housing can be counted among her volunteer activities.

Mary Ward ’96, program coordinator for the Duke Center for Macular Degeneration, is the author of *Letters Home – From 9/11 to Operation Iraqi Freedom: A Military Mom Shares Her Family’s Story of Patriotism, Courage and Love*. Donna Gregory, of MSNBC, writes, “Mary Ward takes us on an amazing journey, from the terrors of the battlefield to the tenderness of a mother’s heart. Her “Letters Home” should inspire us all to be brave in adversity, and ‘choose the harder right over the easier wrong’.” The book is available at www.marehaven.com and a portion of sales is donated to assist wounded soldiers and their families. In addition to her Empire State College degree, Ward holds a degree in health services management and policy from the New School for Social Research and a master’s degree in public administration from Marist College.

Central New York Center

Marvin R. Jeffcoat ’02, who earned his Bachelor of Science degree with a concentration in political science, continued his studies at Norwich University from which he was awarded a Master of Arts degree in diplomacy. A field service supervisor with DHL, he is a member of the V.F.W. Post 792 and the 82nd Airborne Division Association.

Linda Mardel ’90, who calls herself a “science groupie,” works for a research lab at the Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale, Arizona. The magazine *Science* published an article by scientists from her lab in September, 2004, of which she writes that she is extremely proud.

Mary Murphy ’00 has been named associate vice president for finance with the State University of New York College at Cortland. Previously, she served as director of financial analysis at Syracuse University where she is pursuing a Master of Business Administration.



Theresa Slater ’01 is a professional sign language interpreter and owner of Empire Interpreting Service – named for the second year “one of the top women-owned businesses in Central New York” by the *CNY Business Journal*. She is one of only nine nationally certified interpreters through the National Association of the Deaf and one of 13 to hold the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf specialist certificate (Oral Exam Process). Slater, formerly a business manager with Porsche/Audi and CFO with Candid Photo, combined her interpreting and corporate skills to create Empire Interpreting Service.

John Tumiel ’80, who began his career with the University of New England as assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy, and is now associate dean of the University’s College of Arts and Sciences, was awarded their highest honor, The Kenneally Cup, in recognition of his distinguished service. It was said that, “Dean Tumiel spends an extraordinary amount of time with individual students – advising them, mentoring them, and helping them to find their way. John is appreciated by students, faculty, staff and administration for his commitment, enthusiasm and sense of humor – qualities that make an encounter with him always memorable. He fosters a sense of community and inspires others by example to be better teachers and university citizens.”

Genesee Valley Center

Carol Acquilano ’97, who studied at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, exhibited her landscapes at Casa Italiana of Nazareth College. She has received grants from the Ludwig Vogelstein Foundation, the Constance Saltonstall Foundation and the Arts and Cultural Council of Rochester as well as having been an artist-in-residence at the University of Georgia Studies Abroad Program and the Art Complex Museum in

Massachusetts. She teaches as an adjunct at the college, as well.

Susan Baker ’94, who holds a Master of Arts degree in liberal studies from SUNY Brockport, has been promoted to assistant vice president for student services for Monroe Community College.

Glen Cline ’95 has been named assistant director in the Procurement and Payment Services Department of Alfred State College.

Kezia Records has released an eighth CD by accomplished guitarist **George Collichio ’95**. Self-titled, the instrumental recording reflects his love for Latin jazz, Brazilian samba, authentic flamenco and old-school brassy soul. Of his musical career and the George Collichio School of Music he says, “I love teaching and running the school, and playing a part in the development of young players. And I love playing with great musicians who inspire me to keep getting better and to grow as a musician. But in terms of expressing who I really am, there’s nothing like playing my own gigs and recording these projects. I feel like I have the best of both worlds.”



Carol D’Agostino ’94, ’96, director of the Geriatric Addictions Program at Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Inc., was among 10 substance abuse professionals from throughout the United States to complete the Developing Leadership in Reducing Substance Abuse fellowship offered by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Administered by Portland State University’s Graduate School of Social Work, the fellowship is designed to seek out and mentor the next generation of diverse leaders in substance abuse education, advocacy, service delivery, policy research and policy development. According to D’Agostino, “This fellowship has helped me attain not only a leadership position in this field of geriatric substance abuse but has helped in the next steps of changing the way older adults are perceived and treated. The most significant accomplishment of my fellowship,” she says, “is the appointment to a federal expert panel on older adult mental health and substance abuse issues.” The expert panel is part of the new Technical Assistance Center of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Services Administration – Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

The brainchild of **Ed Gartz '01**, Seeing Necessary Alternatives Photographically (SNAP), is a program in which school children take photos of what they love and value; create a “stay away from list” of risky, illegal or dangerous behaviors that they may confront as young adults; and write essays that contrast their lives as they are and as they are shown in the photographs with the changes that could result from involvement in activities on the “stay away from list.” Used in schools throughout the United States and in Central American countries, SNAP art shows have been held – or are planned for -- The George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film, the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, The Chicago Art Institute, Royce Hall at UCLA, and the Alliance for the New Humanity in Puerto Rico. Senator Hillary Clinton, Maria Shriver, Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg and Queen Noor of Jordan can all be counted among the many supporters of SNAP. Gartz, a manufacturing manager with Kodak at the time SNAP was conceived, now is chairman of the program. Kodak's involvement has grown to include the donation of 50,000 cameras and funds for processing.



“A Woman of Vision” award was presented to **Marie Gibson '93** by the Program in the Study of Women and Gender, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School.

Gibson, an elder with the Downtown United Presbyterian Church and administrator with the Greater Rochester Community of Churches, took part in a panel on race and diversity in the church with other interfaith leaders in Rochester at St. John Fisher College last fall. She also writes a column for the *Northwest Times News* and has been published in local newspapers and magazines.

Fire Chief: Lessons Learned Climbing the Ladder by retired fire chief **Ron Graner '89** has been published by iUniverse, Inc. Graner's career as a firefighter began in the '60s and includes work with several fire departments, of which he has been fire chief of three. He has been director of operations for a multi-jurisdiction Emergency Communications Center and

currently serves as a public safety consultant and peer assessor for the Commission on Fire Accreditation International.

In 1985, **Lucille Kelley '01**, a registered nurse, retired from Monroe County Hospital and after attending Colgate Rochester Divinity School was named an ordained minister. Rev. Kelley works with the Genesee Baptist Church in Rochester.

Annette Reyes-Kendrick '03, diversity programs analyst with Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, was named to *Rochester Business Journal's* 2004 Forty Under 40 which recognizes Rochester's youngest and brightest professionals.

Tom Nichols '86, a library/media specialist with Redjacket Junior and Senior High School, has been included in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*, for the fourth time. He is one of the few librarians to be so honored.

Cynthia Oswald '01 is not only president of the Livingston County Chamber of Commerce but is involved in a number of other organizations that benefit her community. She serves on the SUNY Genesee Corporate/Business Partners Board, the SUNY Genesee Womens' Business Center Advisory Board, the Livingston County Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse Board, the Livingston County Business Education Alliance Executive Committee and Board, the Genesee Community College Lakeville Campus Advisory Council, the Livingston County Workforce Investment Board Partners Committee, the Livingston County Healthy Economy Partners Committee, the Genesee Valley Health Partnership Executive Committee and is a cabinet member of the Livingston County United Way.

Shari Schnell '03 has joined the staff of Catholic Charities Steuben where she will be a prevention educator and instructor for the countywide Drinking Driving Program. Schnell, who holds a degree from Alfred State College, has been elected to their Alumni Association Board of Directors.

In 1999, **Molly VanDuser '97** was awarded a Master of Science degree in counselor education from Alfred University. With the encouragement of her son, a first lieutenant in the Army Special Operations Command, she accepted a position as lead victim advocate with Resources Consultants, Inc., and was

charged with the prevention and intervention of domestic violence at Fort Bragg Army Base. Most recently, VanDuser has accepted a position with Cardinal Clinic, North Carolina and is an adjunct faculty member at Webster University's program at Pope Air Force Base. She was elected president of the Cumberland County Mental Health Association; is a member of the governing council of the American Counseling Association whose volunteer activities include work with the Child Advocacy Center, Disaster Mental Health Services and the American Red Cross; and has conducted workshops on living with teens and another on post-traumatic stress disorder.

Lynn Wickes '77, who has worked at the Hillside Children's Center since 1977, was awarded the Pioneer Award by the Monroe County Department of Human Services and the Preventive Coalition, a consortium of not-for-profit agencies that deliver home-based services to prevent foster care placement. The Hillside Children's Center is a leading provider of care for youth and families with a wide range of emotional, behavioral or life circumstance challenges. The center offers mental health, child welfare, juvenile justice, developmental disabilities and special education services to children and families throughout western and central New York.

Center for Graduate Programs

William Brewer '98, who joined the staff of Monroe Community College in 1999, has been promoted to assistant professor of physical education/health education.

Deborah Davis '78, who is licensed in acupuncture and herbal medicine by the California Medical Board and the National Commission for Certification of Acupuncturists, serves on the faculty at Santa Barbara Community College Adult Education and Santa Fe Community College Continuing Education. She writes on alternative medicine; is a contributing editor for *Healing Retreats and Spas* magazine; and produced “The Spirit of Qi Gong – Exercise for Health and Longevity,” a video that was voted a best resources by *Spirituality & Health* magazine.

The SpeakEasy Group was founded by **Ellen Eichelbaum '94**, a coach, educator and speaker offering seminars on intergenerational communication issues. She also heads up the Center for Aging Resources

and Education, a partnership of The SpeakEasy Group and Dowling College providing the aging population and their families with services, outreach, education and solutions to elder care needs.



This year, **Joseph Fitzgerald '02** was awarded a Ph.D. in African-American studies and a graduate certificate in women's studies from Temple University where he also received a distinguished teaching award. A member of the American Historical Association and Organization of American Historians, he has accepted an assistant professorship in history at Gloucester County College, New Jersey. Future plans include turning his dissertation on civil rights activist Gloria Richardson into a book.

In 2003, **Mary C. Galipeau '00**, a New York State licensed massage therapist and instructor with Therapeutic Motions, received the Distinguished Service Award from the New York State Chapter of the American Massage Therapy Association in recognition of leadership and commitment to the massage profession and, in 2004, was honored by the New York State Society of Medical Massage Therapists for outstanding commitment and dedication to enriching the lives of others and promoting awareness of massage.

In addition to taking third prize in the Saratoga Springs Art Council's poetry slam, artist and author **Barbara Garro '95** has published *Seasons-Haiku & More* (Electric Envisions, Inc.) and two other books featuring her poetry – all in the same day. Two of the books also featured her illustrations, including *Senior Sages*, an anthology of the writers workshop at the Saratoga Springs Senior Center. All proceeds from the book go to the center. Garro has garnered many accolades for both her poetry and her paintings.

Elyse Golob '93 earned a Ph.D. in urban planning from Rutgers University and is an administrator and faculty member with the Cornell Urban Scholars Program, Cornell University. She previously was a vice president of the NYC Development Corp, and lead faculty, International Honors Program at Boston University.

Lisa Hilton '04 wrote to share news of an "... exciting career development." She is teaching at Finger Lakes Community College and is "... looking forward to this new challenge and I feel that my relationship with my mentors at Empire State College played a huge part in my interest in a career in education."

Sophie Marinez '03 has been granted a two-year fellowship toward her Ph.D. at the City University of New York's Graduate Center, where she also is doing some teaching. She presented a paper last year at the annual conference of the Association for Theater in Higher Education.

Nancy Roberts '94 is director for international business development in the Americas with Siemens and warden of her church.

Annie Segan '04, who earned her B.A. at the college's Metropolitan Center, is enrolled at Union Institute and University where she is working toward her Doctor of Philosophy in interdisciplinary arts and sciences with a concentration in creative expressive arts therapies and a focus on women in transition. Her Ph.D. includes a manual and woman-friendly exercises aimed at developing well-being, self-esteem, and confidence and building community.

David Townson '96 earned his Ph.D. in applied management and decision sciences from Walden University and is worldwide portfolio director with Pfizer Pharmaceuticals of New London, Connecticut.



Stephanie Waterman '02, a research associate with Syracuse University's School of Education, has been named a 2005-2006 National Academy of Education/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellow.

According to Professor Tinto, chair of the School's Higher Education Department, her dissertation, "The Haudenosaunee College Experience: A Complex Path to Degree Completion," opened important new ground in the study of the complex paths Native Americans follow to college completion. In the spring of 2005, Waterman was awarded a Ph.D. in higher education administration from Syracuse University.

The Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies



Nancy L. (Turner Gottlieb) Weaver '95 is a self-published author and president of Time and Chance Publishing.

Hudson Valley Center

Claudia Campa '96, who holds a master's degree in guidance and counseling from the College of New Rochelle, is a New York State certified school counselor and member of the New York State Counseling Association. She tells us that in anticipation of a move to Pennsylvania last February, she began the process of obtaining her Pennsylvania State Certificate for school guidance counseling.

AnnMarie Gaudio '00 continued her studies earning an M.B.A. in marketing management from Pace University where she graduated Beta Gamma Sigma and received the Lubin Graduate Leadership Award. She now is general manager of NY Sportimes, World Team Tennis professional league, as well as marketing director and board member with the Hudson Valley Humane Society.

Alexander Koudlai '03 is a gymnastics coach as well as yoga and Karate instructor with Gymnastics City, The Gym. A translator, published poet and author of *A Snow-Drop for Erato*, he is a member of the International Society of Poets and is working toward a degree in philosophy at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Rob Lipsey '03 is the author of *The Dead Dad Gang*. Published by Publish America, it is a heart-touching tale of the relationships of six fatherless friends.

Catherine McVety '81 is sales administrator manager with Harbors at Haverstraw and volunteers her talents as an artist and therapist.

Michelle Catherine Spuck '89, an alternative-healing practitioner with Angelic Awakenings, also is a writer and author of *Heal the Body – Honor the Soul*, published by Trafford Publishing.

Sabrina Teolis '85, a resident of West Virginia, travels a great deal, is active in her church and volunteers at a local hospital and elementary school.

Center for International Programs

Congratulations to **Stratos Nikolakakis '02** on having been accepted at the prestigious University of Amsterdam where he will work toward a Master of Science degree in economics and subsequently the Ph.D. program in econometrics.

Long Island Center

Charles Blessing '80, president and chief investigator with Blessing Investigations and Associates, Inc., also holds the rank of major with the United States Air Force Civil Air Patrol and is a veteran of the Vietnam War. Certified as an aviation safety and aircraft accident investigator, his memberships include the National Association of Investigators and Security Professionals and the International Society of Air Safety Investigators.

Ron Davis '97, who has 25 years of experience buying, selling and collecting art, is the author of *Art Dealer's Field Guide*, published by Capital Letters Press. The book educates those who enjoy "antiquing" on how to make money investing in art.

Catherine "Kay" Edelstein '95, founder and executive director of the Long Island Stroke Association, was named Suffolk County Senior Citizen of the Year. Having suffered an aneurysm herself, she strives to "fill the gap between hospitalization and recovery for stroke survivors and their loved ones," through support, information and participation in research. Edelstein serves on the advisory board of the NYS Interagency Partnership on Assistive Technology, the Public Relations and Media Committee for the governor's Technology Opens Doors Conference, and the Smithtown Handicapped Committee. Other activities include being secretary and treasurer for Books for a Better World which collects medical texts and other materials for third world countries; a board member for TaxPAX, Inc., Township of Smithtown, where she addresses senior citizens groups regarding tax and voter registration issues; and she supports the Rosebud Indian Reservation and its program for physically and/or emotionally abused women and children.

Anne Emerson '85, who has been with Nassau Community College since 1984, most recently as associate dean of instruction, has been named associate vice president for academic affairs. She earned her master's degree at SUNY Stony Brook, her doctorate in educational administration at Dowling College and is the recipient of the New York State Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Memberships include the Long Island Works Coalition, the Nassau Board of Cooperative Educational Services, the Long Island Business Education Council as well as being a parent advocate for Adults and Children with Learning Disabilities, Inc. and an affiliate of the North Shore/LIJ Health System.

Following his studies with Empire State College, **Robert Gross '01** attended Cardoza Law School, from which he graduated in 2004; passed the Florida bar exam and is Miami Dade prosecutor in the Domestic Violence Division. He writes us that, "I ... could not have accomplished any of my professional goals without the Empire State College experience."

"Opening Doors" is the new CD by **Angelo Musolino '78**, an accomplished musician with an impressive and varied career that includes composing music for radio and television, performing and teaching. His father introduced him to music and he then would study harmony, composition, arranging and orchestration by day and at night work as an arranger and sideman in the many bands and theaters that made up New York nightlife. He has played guitar with Dizzy Gillespie; contributed arrangements to the bands of Guy Lombardo and Art Mooney; and written music for the Ed Sullivan Show, nationally syndicated game shows, Sesame Street and Electric Company. He pulls elements of jazz, swing, be-bop and popular styles into his concert works. Musolino has taught at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music and currently directs the Pop Ensemble of Adelphi University. He is member of Local 802, American Federation of Musicians.

Rhoda Newman '90 is past president and treasurer of the Ladies Auxiliary, Statue of Liberty Destroyer Escort Association and vice president of the retiree chapter of the North Babylon Teachers Organization.

Now retired, **Bernard Stein '75** was coordinator and a teacher with the Diversified Cooperative Education Program of the

Middle Country Central School District, a program aimed at reducing the number of potential school dropouts. He is a past president and honorary ambassador of the Work Experience Coordinators Association and member of the Western Suffolk Guidance Counselors Association.



Nellie Taylor-Walthrust '93 was awarded a Doctor of Ministry in theology from the International Bible College and Seminary and is coordinator of outreach services with North Shore Child/Family Guidance.

Juanita Torrence-Thompson '83 gave a dramatic poetry reading, Poetry Among the Flowers: Queens Meets Asia, inspired by Asian immigrants, at the Queens Botanical Gardens. The author of four poetry collections, she has read her works in such exciting locales as Singapore, Switzerland and South Africa.

Congratulations to **Beth Young '04** on acceptance into Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism.

Patricia Zukas '77, a yoga therapist with Treepirit Yoga Therapy, also is an accomplished painter and master gardener.

Metropolitan Center

Congratulations to **Charles Biasiny-Rivera '90** on receiving the (New York City) Mayor's Award for Arts and Culture. A noted photographer himself, Biasiny-Rivera is a founding member and executive director of En Foco, a nonprofit organization dedicated to giving a venue for minority photographers to present their works.

Paintings by **Joan Daugirda '77** were exhibited at the Patrick J. Mogan Cultural Center in Lowell, Massachusetts. The show honors her uncle, Andrius Jankauskas, who was killed by the Nazis.

Julie Dent '90, who earned an M.S., with honors, in education from the City University of New York, is executive director of the Audrey Johnson Day Care Center. In 2005, New York State Senator Martin Malave Dilan presented her a Certificate of Recognition, Assemblyman Darryl C. Towns a Meritorious Service Award in recognition of outstanding achievements and dedication toward the

improvement of the quality of life for the youth of Brooklyn, and Dent and the Audrey Johnson Day Care Center were given a City Council Citation. Her many accolades and accomplishments are cited in her entry in the 2006 edition of *Who's Who in America*.

Ray Gittens '96 continued his studies earning a Master of Social Science degree in international relations from The Maxwell School of Syracuse University.

The National Arts Club in New York City hosted Retrospective – 1942-2003, an exhibition by **Sidney Gluck '79**, featuring emerging photographic techniques from kodachrome to computer-generated canvases enhanced by decorative textile art.

Audrey Taylor Henry '86, a retired broadcast journalist now living in Las Vegas, holds a master's degree in educational theater from New York University. She substitute teaches with Clark county school district and authored an after-school program in the fine arts for K-2 at-risk youth.



Maj Kalfus with The Gates, by artists Cristo and Jean Claude, in Central Park

Following a 25-year career in the fashion industry, **Maj Kalfus '03** now finds herself expressing her interest in the arts through painting and teaching. She has taught Japanese brush painting, fashion drawing and fashion concepts at colleges near her home in Columbia County, New York. Kalfus, a fan of environmental public art visited and photographed The Gates, Central Park, New York City.



The Gates in Central Park

Eric Komoroff '95 is the founder and executive director of Community of Unity, which facilitates the building of communities in which individuals develop the life skills that empower them to make healthy positive choices in pursuit of awakening their true unique potential. Based in New York City, the organization provides dynamic consulting and professional development services to local schools as well as youth development organizations around the world. Komoroff serves on the board of New Design High School as well as *Newsday*.



Marlene Newman '73, a mother, grandmother and retired elementary school teacher of 19 years, has written her first book, *Myron's Magic Cow*, which has been published by Barefoot

Books. She is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators as well as the Authors Guild.

Arnie Nussbaum '87, registered nurse and former national manager with a large pharmaceutical company, is now retired and living in Florida. He acts as a guardian ad litem, an individual who advocates for the child in divorce cases – recommending to the court what is in the best interest of the child.



It was only two weeks following graduation that **Eugene Patron '05** accepted the position of press and communication director with Prospect Park, Brooklyn, New York.

Zahavit Paz '02 is the founder of LD Resources Foundation, Inc. whose mission it is to guide adults who suffer from learning disabilities through the eight stages of their relationship with dyslexia or attention deficit disorder. The foundation provides resources for student testing, accommodation and higher education. More information can be found at www.addhub.com

Sarah Schulman '85, a writer and playwright, has had her play, *Manic Flight Reaction*, produced by Playwrights Horizon. The play opened on October 30 at the Peter Jay Sharp Theater/Playwrights Horizons. Schulman, who also teaches at the College of Staten Island, is the author of seven novels and two works of non-fiction, besides her plays. She is the recipient of many awards, including the Prix de Rome. Schulman was featured in a front-page article in *The New York Times* (Arts & Leisure section) in October.

David Watkins '98, director and producer with Bootleg Theater, wrote, produced, directed and acted in the off-off Broadway play, *Moon Saloon: A Play in Nine Innings*. David writes under the name David Reve.

Andrea Wolper '95, a songwriter, lyricist and arranger, has released the CD "The Small Hours." Past appearances include the Donne in Musica Festival, Italy; the Hot Clube, Portugal; Cape Town Jazz, South Africa; Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz; Fairfax Jazz Festival, California; First Night New York; New York JVC Festival Concerts; Many Colors of a Woman Jazz Concerts; and the Blue Note, New York City. She is past president of International Women in Jazz and on the advisory board of the Jazz Vocal Coalition.

Niagara Frontier Center

Solid Gold Soul radio station of Buffalo has named **Mary Davis '88** their first Solid Gold Citizen of the Year in recognition of her years of public service in communication and community activism. Davis, whose career in radio began in 1988, hosts

The Mary Davis Show, a community and political affairs show “with attitude.”

I.F. Eastman '03 has been appointed coordinator of the Health Communities – Health Youth Initiative of Family Services of Warren County. His prior experience includes managing a school-age childcare program at Ripley Central Schools and serving as pastor of Gen-Next, an innovative outreach program of The Salvation Army. An article by Eastman titled Letter from Dr. PHIL-emon has been published in the religious humor magazine, *The Wittenburg Door*.

John Thomas Wilson Jr. '01 is a tactical operations officer and Black Hawk helicopter pilot with the 1-159th Aviation Regiment, LSA Anaconda based in Iraq. When not serving in Iraq, Wilson is stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Northeast Center

Having worked with the New York State Division of the Budget for 25 years, **John F. Cape '78** was promoted to first deputy director in 2002 and, in February 2005, was named director of the Division of the Budget.

Assunta Cicerone '00, a certified nursing assistant and home health aide, is studying to become a licensed practical nurse.

The Albany County Traffic Safety Committee has bestowed their highest honor – the prestigious Joseph M. Lynn Memorial Award – on AAA Hudson Valley Traffic Safety Coordinator **Roger Dames '83**. The award recognizes an individual who has served in the field of traffic safety for at least 10 years and is a leader in establishing effective traffic safety programs. Dames, who has over 30 years of experience, tours schools throughout the capital region delivering traffic safety messages to thousands of school children as “Otto the Auto,” a robotic car; participates in AAA Hudson Valley’s Driver Improvement Program; is an instructor of driving skills and preventive techniques for accident prevention, lectures to more than 4,000 seniors each year on winter driving, and is a certified child passenger safety technician.

Spotlight

Barbara Nagler, Ed.D. '74, district superintendent and CEO of the Capital Region BOCES, was one of seven professional women to be honored by the Albany-Colonie Chamber of Commerce last June. The “Women of Excellence” awards were given to recognize women in the Capital District who have achieved professional success and given back to their communities. As a BOCES district superintendent, Dr. Nagler serves as the New York State education commissioner’s liaison to 25 school districts in the Capital District area; and as BOCES CEO, she oversees the work of 1,200 employees who provide educational programming, enrichment and technical services to local schools. Since she began as the Capital Region district superintendent, the agency has grown from 750 employees and a \$50 million annual budget to more than 1,200 employees and an \$80 million budget.



Besides being “a proud graduate of Empire State College,” Dr. Nagler has another college connection – her husband **Sylvain Nagler** is a long-time mentor with the college’s Northeast Center in Latham.

With more than 30 years in the educational field, Dr. Nagler has held a variety of positions of increasing responsibility throughout her career. Before coming to BOCES, she was the superintendent of schools for the Brunswick “Brittonkill” Central School District and the superintendent of schools for Maplewood-Colonie Common School. In addition, she has been a teacher of students with special needs, a coordinator of students with handicapped conditions, a committee of special education chairperson, a mediator and an elementary school principal.



Duane Davis '74, who began his coaching career in 1963, is in his 11th season as men’s head basketball coach with Mount Saint Mary College. He was honored by the

Basketball Coaches Association of New York for total career wins, and received a 35-year service dedication award. He also is the recipient of the Dutchess County Basketball Coaches Association recognition award; and, in March 2005, was inducted into the New York State Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame.

Randy M. Diamond '91 is deputy chief of police with the Hudson Falls Police Department and a member of the International Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association and both the Northeast and New York state chapters of the Chiefs of Police Association.

In 2004, following 38 years of service, **Morris Raphael '74**, retired from the New York State Department of Corrections. He is a member of the American Correctional Association, the YMCA and the Columbus Community Church.

Dawn Valk '04 is a special education teacher with the Catskill Central School District and vice president of the parent, teachers and students organizations for grades 7-12.

With the benefit of 30 years of experience, **Doris Wigington '81** has written *The Executor Manual Organizing Guide*, developed to organize you estate and make the responsibilities of your executor flow smoothly and efficiently (PublishAmerica, LLC); *It's Not Your Turn! A Layman's View of the Changes in Civility and How It Affects the Quality of All of Our Lives*; and *Successful State Government Contracting in Arizona* (both published by Dew Resources Group).

Henri Williams '01, director of clinical services with Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth, has earned a Master of Public Health degree from the School of Public Health, University at Albany, State University of New York.

Verizon Corporate College Program

Barbara Bethea '97 '99 is the first African-American woman and registered poetry therapist to be recognized by the National Association of Poetry Therapy.

BACK TO YOU

Alumni and Student Events
Around the College



Genesee Valley area alumni enjoyed an evening at Widmer Wine Cellars in Canandaigua. From left to right are Bryan Baranus, Jeffrey Farrell '91 and Jan Alden '87, '89.



President Moore welcomed over 125 alumni, students, faculty and friends to our annual reception and concert at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center.



The co-valedictorians posed for a photos at our Athens, Greece graduation. From left to right are: Juna Pulaj, B.S. in computer science; Valerie Bauhofer, academic coordinator in Athens and Mirjan Mojsiu who also holds a B.S. in computer science.



This past August, record numbers attended our Empire State College Day at the Races in Saratoga Springs. In the winner's circle, making the trophy presentation, left to right are President Moore; Maureen Winney, director of alumni and student relations; Chris '93 and Jim Karcher '79; Joe Hofmann '00; and Jim Del Rossi '96.



Bonnie Faust '05 and members of her family attended the alumni student mixer for the Center for Distance Learning on graduation weekend.

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.

BACK TO YOU

Alumni and Student Events (continued)

Chair of the Empire State College Foundation Board, Dave Smith, welcomed the guests to the Northeast Center's campaign kickoff celebration and introduced President Moore.



More than 100 friends and alumni celebrated the *Learners First* campaign at the Northeast Center in Latham. From left to right: John Cape '78, Mary Ibbetson '05, Diane Gleason '02, '03 and Pat Gioia '75.



College Council members Mike Dennis (l) and Richard Liebich (r) spend time with President Moore at the campaign kickoff for the Northeast Center.



Fran Keeley '93 and her husband Larry enjoy a recent alumni student event at the Saratoga Springs Visitor's Center.



Rafael Andalia '01 brought several members of his family to the annual dinner for Hudson Valley area alumni and students at the Culinary Institute of America.

Travel Abroad Program

A Tuscan Experience

awaits you!

October 22 - 29, 2006

Please join us as we tour Tuscany, Rome and Florence.

An optional Tuscan cooking class is available for you.

You'll come to find that Empire State College alumni and students are everywhere.

Our trip includes:

- Six nights accommodations at Villa Casagrande in Chianti, Italy
- Deluxe motorcoach transportation including airport transfers
- English-speaking guide throughout
- Italian buffet breakfast daily, excluding the day of arrival with a breakfast "to go" on the day you visit Rome
- One welcome dinner at the villa with drinks included
- One farewell dinner at the villa with drinks included
- One dinner at restaurant of the villa
- One wine tasting at the villa including appetizers
- Full-day tour of Rome including local historian/guide services and admissions
- Full tour of Florence including local historian/guide services
- Porterage of one suitcase per person

All this for \$1,995. (Not included are tips, extra fees, meals, exhibit admissions, single traveler supplement and air departure tax of approximately \$170 per person).

Pricing based on 30 participants, subject to cost increase below 30 passengers.

Reservations and initial nonrefundable deposit of \$100 must be made by **August 1**.

Optional

Tuscan cooking class for \$140 per person. Class is three hours in duration and begins at 4 p.m. on day five. You will learn the basics of Tuscan cooking based upon a seasonal menu. Enjoy the foods you have prepared.

Proposed Itinerary

DAY 1: U.S.A.-Florence – Depart U.S. from Newark International Airport for our overnight flight to Florence, Italy. Dinner will be served on board.

DAY 2: Morning arrival into Florence – We are met by our driver and enjoy a short panoramic tour of Pisa and a short stop to see Piazza dei Miracoli and take a picture at the worldwide famous Leaning Tower before being transferred to your Tuscan villa, Villa Casagrande, where we will enjoy a six night stay. This evening we will have a welcome "Tuscan feast" featuring local wines and traditional Tuscan fare. Buno Appetito! Overnight at the villa.

Day 3: Tuscany – After breakfast at the villa, the day is free to explore the wonderful town of FiglineValdarno. The Tuscany region of Italy offers breathtaking landscapes and a relaxed lifestyle where you can unwind and enjoy. The town, located in the heart of Chianti, is full of museums, cathedrals and historical buildings as well as host to colorful outdoor food markets. This afternoon at 5:30 p.m. we will enjoy a wine tasting featuring wine produced at the villa with accompanying appetizers. Dinner on your own tonight. Overnight at the villa.

DAY 4: Tuscany-Rome-Tuscany – Today embark on a full day excursion to the "eternal city," Rome. We enjoy a guided tour of Rome. Lunch on your own. Dinner at the villa upon our return. Overnight at the villa.

DAY 5: Tuscany – After breakfast at the villa enjoy the day at your leisure. Visit the health center at the villa, rent bikes, go horseback riding, take a walk or visit the cellar and the museum of the villa which has been host to popes and princes. Partake in an optional three hour Tuscan cooking class where you will learn the basics of traditional Tuscan cooking as well as savor the foods you've prepared. For individuals not purchasing the optional cooking class, dinner on your own. Overnight at the villa.

DAY 6: Tuscany-Florence Day Trip – After breakfast at the villa, we journey to Florence. Stroll down cobblestone lanes, through majestic squares and across ancient bridges, pausing along the way to visit and learn about Palazzo Vecchio, Piazza della Signoria, the cathedral and Giotto's bell tower and the Academia. Florence offers the largest number of historical buildings and works of art in Italy, as well as several world-class museums. You might like to do a little leather, gold or clothing shopping near Ponte Vecchio. Dinner on your own. Overnight at the villa.

DAY 7: Tuscany – After breakfast at the villa, the day is free on your own. Time for some last minute shopping or sightseeing. Tonight, enjoy a festive farewell dinner at the villa.

DAY 8: Tuscany-U.S.A. – Morning transfer to airport for your return flight home, taking with you the memories of the best of Italy. "Arrivederci," a nostalgic goodbye with a promise to return.

For information or reservations, please contact Celtic Tours at 800 833-4373 or Ellen Ascone at EllenA@celtictours.com.

I Did It ... *My Way*

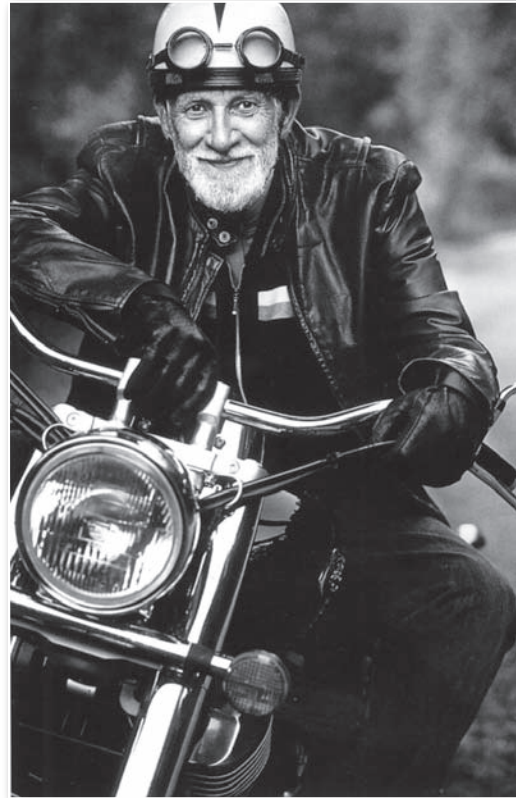
My will reflects my wishes and my values. I have decided to leave my estate to those I care most about instead of letting the state disburse my property.

My will lets me leave money to my children and also to my grandchildren, when I think they will be prepared for the responsibility.

My will identifies several charities to receive special bequests: our local hospital, an animal shelter and Empire State College.

My will can be amended at any time if my family's financial circumstances change.

My will is safely stored. I have a copy at home and the original is filed in my attorney's office. My will is legally valid. I benefited from the expert advice of an attorney who specializes in estate planning.



My will ... my way.

My will is my best plan for my beneficiaries and me. For years, I lived with a nagging apprehension about what might happen if I died without a will. Now, I have control over the future of my estate.

The Empire State College Foundation, Inc. would be honored to be included in your estate plans. Please call the Office of External Affairs at 518 587-2100 ext. 2413 for free information about wills and charitable bequests, or to discuss how you might direct the use of your gift.

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