

Graduate Student Research and Professional Development



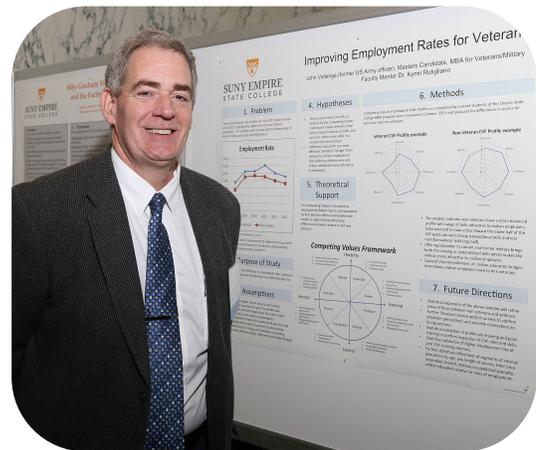
SUNY EMPIRE
STATE COLLEGE

SUNY Graduate Research Symposium: ESC Graduate Student and Alumni Participation

On February 11th, the SUNY Graduate Research Poster Symposium took place at the State Legislative Building in Albany. This is an exciting event where students from most SUNY schools present their research, and ESC was well represented with two posters, and Dr. Roz Rufer sharing opening remarks in her role as Chair of the University Faculty Senate Graduate and Research Committee.



Josh Horn is an Empire State College alum who received his master's degree in Social Policy. His final project was entitled "Why Graduate Students Choose to Attend SUNY and the Factors Influencing their Satisfaction" and his research was overseen by Drs. Roxana Toma and Rosalyn Rufer. To conduct his research, Josh secured a graduate assistantship with the SUNY Faculty Senate Graduate Research Committee, which allowed him to gain valuable insights in the fields of enrollment management and higher education research. Josh currently serves as the Director of Admissions at Columbia-Greene Community College in Hudson, New York, where he began his studies through Empire State College in 2010. Josh has also served as head baseball coach at Columbia-Greene after playing four years of baseball at the University of Richmond.



John Vellenga also presented his poster entitled "Improving Employment Rates for Veterans," with Dr. Kymn Rutigliano as his research advisor. John Vellenga is a first year MBA student with Empire State College who just celebrated his 15 year anniversary with the AMETEK Corporation. At AMETEK, John has run multiple profit & loss business units and most recently is working as Vice-President of Operations responsible for several AMETEK Aerospace factories. As a former US Army officer, John joined ESC through the Veteran Pathway to the MBA program and is working closely with his advisor Dr. Kymn Rutigliano on projects related to veteran care and employment in addition to his studies. When not working or studying, John loves visiting the many New York State parks for hiking and cross-country skiing.

MAAL Alum Sally Speed Presented Research at SUNY CIT



I spent thirty years working in the workforce development training for the public sector and in not-for-profit management. When considering retirement from this field, instead of considering more traditional retirement pursuits, I decided to pursue two, rather contradictory, lifelong interests: adult education/instructional design using technology and organic farming.

For the adult education: I wanted to take the knowledge I had built during my first career and work with students in more traditional academic arenas, specifically in higher education. A Master's Degree was required to instruct at this level of education and I enrolled in the MAAL program at Empire State College. My thesis project combined my two academic interests by helping Buffalo State College Creative Studies (BSC-CS) graduate students develop strategies to manage the behaviors of adult students in their creativity facilitations. The project focused on a learner-centered approach of 'knowing one's students' by building the CS students' knowledge of adult learners through Malcolm Knowles and colleagues' characteristics of adult learners (Knowles, Holton, & Swanson, 2012). The students developed strategies and then tested those strategies with avatars in a mixed-reality simulation called TeachLivE. TeachLivE was developed by the University of Southern Florida to help elementary and exceptional education students build their skills. This is the first time TeachLivE has been used in adult education.

The pilot was highly successful and the curriculum was been incorporated into a BSC CS course in the 2015 Spring semester.

I presented a poster with Dr. Elizabeth Bradley at ESC on this project at the SUNY CIT conference in May at SUNY Geneseo. The BSC faculty and I will be conducting a workshop at the International Center for Studies in Creativity 2015 Creativity Expert Exchange Conference in June at SUNY Buffalo State. This workshop will include an opportunity for participants to interact with the TeachLivE avatars. I am also working with Drs. Bradley and Krista Vince-Garland of BSC on an article that describes the project and the results. This article will be submitted to the Journal for Educational Technology Systems for publication consideration.



Picture of the TeachLivE avatars used during the Buffalo State Creative Studies Course.

In the meantime, I was very fortunate to be offered an adjunct instructor position with ESC. I am currently instructing in the Center for Distance Learning and am thoroughly enjoying this! I will also be working with more experienced faculty to revise/update a course this summer.

As for my third career: My son and I started a small organic farm last year. We are producing organic pastured raised poultry and pork, eggs, various kinds of produce, hops, and alpaca yarn. We're learning a lot and promoting sustainable locally grown food.

Now that's retirement!

MAT Alum Kristin Angello Teaches Project Lead the Way



In the fall of 2012 Kristin Angello (MAT, 2014) transitioned from a career as a civil engineer to a classroom teacher. “I felt this growing desire to share my love for science and engineering with students, so I decided to change course and become a physics teacher.”

Angello began her teaching career at LaFayette Junior/Senior High School and incorporated engineering literacy into her science classroom. Students apply their physics knowledge to open ended, design based projects such as using concepts of electricity to wire a model house, developing ways to evacuate NASA astronauts from a launch pad using ideas about velocity, and protecting an egg from cracking by applying theories of momentum.

Recognizing her passion for bringing engineering into the school, Angello’s administration asked her to teach the Introduction to Engineering course that is part of the school’s Project Lead the Way (PLTW) program. PLTW is the nation’s leading science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) solution and is found in over 6,500

schools across the country (source: www.pltw.org). Students who complete courses in the PLTW sequence are eligible to earn college credits through some of the nation’s top engineering schools.

During the summer of 2013, Angello attended the intense two-week Summer Institute at the Rochester Institute of Technology to learn the PLTW course curriculum and 3-D modeling software. “It was a great experience! I met teachers who love to bring hands-on activities to their students and had the opportunity to collaborate with other educators on creative ways to present engineering material to my class.”

In her Introduction to Engineering class, Angello focuses on allowing the students to experience what it is like to be an engineer. Students work in small groups to build skills including communication, team work, and problem solving. The students work on various projects including developing a three-dimensional puzzle, designing a toy train set, reverse engineering a common household item, and creating a Rube Goldberg machine that can integrate with machines from other teams.

“Problem-solving doesn’t come naturally for all students. Sometimes I have to let them struggle for a bit. It’s a balance between letting the students work things out for themselves and saving them from becoming too overwhelmed and frustrated. But in the end, the students have to learn that they have the ability to find a solution through their own means and creativity. When they finally realize that it helps them immensely - not just in my class, but throughout their entire academic career.”

This newsletter was created by the Graduate Student Research and Professional Development Committee: Elizabeth Bradley (chair and newsletter editor), Meg Benke, Frank McDonald, Dianne Ramdeholl, Rhianna Rogers, Kymn Rutigliano, Francois Silatchom, and Sylwia Starnawska. Content was written by the students, alums, and faculty featured in the articles.

Interested in submitting a piece for our Fall issue? Please email Elizabeth Bradley at Elizabeth.bradley@esc.edu with questions and content.

Interlibrary Loan, WorldCat, and SUNY Open Access Policy



By Heather Shalhoub, Information Resources Coordinator

At the Empire State College online library, we know that our graduate students may need to do more advanced research and may need materials that are not available in our online collection. With this in mind, we have put together a few resources that we hope will be helpful for our graduate students.

One of our resources that I would like to highlight is Dissertations and Theses: Humanities & Social Sciences from ProQuest. This is a name that you may recognize if you use the online library often because we have a number of different resources from ProQuest. This particular database is especially beneficial to graduate level research. It holds over a million full-text copies of various dissertations and theses from the Humanities and Social Sciences, including Master's theses. This database is searchable by subject or location depending on what you are looking for. You can narrow your browsing down by location in the U.S., then select New York and see what documents are available from various colleges and universities across New York State. For example, there are 769 documents from SUNY Empire State College in this database. It also includes thousands of subjects to browse. Since this database is connected to ProQuest, you can also select other ProQuest databases that are available through our online library to expand your search. You will see this option at the top of the screen where it says "Searching: 1 database." Select "1 database" to open up the list of resources that you can add to your search.

You can find Dissertations and Theses in Humanities & Social Sciences by going to the library homepage www.esc.edu/library. From there, you can locate this collection through the Article Databases link or through the tab for Graduate Students.

The library has interlibrary loan available to all graduate students as well as faculty and staff through an agreement that we have with the University at Buffalo. Items that can be borrowed through this service are books, book chapters, journal, magazine and newspaper articles, conference proceedings, and audio/visual materials. If an item is in our online library, you will be notified as a response to your request. To learn more, register for an account and request items, visit: <http://www.esc.edu/ill>

Another tool that graduate students would benefit from is WorldCat, which is an online catalog that searches for items in libraries around the world. You can search for an item that you need there and enter your zip code to see if it is available near you. Learn more about WorldCat and access it at: <http://esc.v1.libguides.com/worldcat> If it is available at a SUNY or NY State Community College library near you, there is a policy called SUNY Open Access that allows Empire State College students with a photo ID to go to that library and borrow materials. For more information on the policy, visit: <http://www.esc.edu/library/locate-libraries/open-access/> If materials you want are not available at a SUNY school near you, but they are available at a library near you, you should still be able to visit the library and use the materials there at the library but you cannot check the items out to take home.

The librarians at the online library are always happy to help our students with their research needs and questions. You can chat with a librarian from our online library during our business hours and during our office hours: <http://www.esc.edu/library/>
800-847-3000, ext. 2222
Office hours Sun 1pm-9pm, Mon-Thurs 9am-9pm, Fri 9am-5pm

Upcoming Conferences, Grants, and Scholarships

Empire State College Scholarships

Early Childhood Educators Scholarship

Established through the generosity of Dean Deborah Amory. The scholarship will be awarded to students studying Early Childhood Education at any center or unit, with first preference for students at the Watertown-Fort Drum unit, enrolled in the Pathways Program in Early Childhood Education with Jefferson Community College. Special consideration is also given to military spouses.

Empire State College Scholarship

Established through private contributions to the college, this scholarship provides aid to undergraduate or graduate students with financial need.

Peter Gilbert Scholarship

Established in honor and memory of Mentor Peter Gilbert, this is available to undergraduate or graduate students who demonstrate a strong interest in technology and human values.

KeyBank Scholarship

The KeyBank Scholarship will be awarded annually to students who are residents of the ten-county Capital Region, have a minimum of 2.5 GPA, enrolled full or part time, and who have a history of community involvement. May be an undergraduate or graduate student.

Janet Wood McGregor Scholarship

Established in 2008 by Janet Wood McGregor, an Empire State College alumna who received her associate degree in 1979 and her bachelor's degree in 1981 from the Long Island Center. This award is for a deserving student with financial need, with preference given to single mothers.

Peter Silverhart Scholarship

Established by former Empire State College Foundation board member Sondra Silverhart in memory of her son Peter, this is available to undergraduate or graduate students who demonstrate a strong commitment to helping people.

Award for Excellence in Public School Teaching

Established by retired mentor Dr. Fernand Brunschwig, the scholarship is to be awarded to a student enrolled in the Master of Arts in Teaching program who demonstrates teaching effectiveness, as evidenced by initiative, resourcefulness and creativity.

The Drs. James Gibson and Patricia Brozinsky Endowed Graduate Scholarship

The Drs. James Gibson and Patricia Brozinsky Scholarship will be awarded annually to students enrolled in the Social Policy program at the Master's level of Empire State College who demonstrate academic excellence and financial need. Preference will be given to students currently working in, or aspiring to establish a career in higher education.

Ortiz Family Scholarship

The Ortiz Family Scholarship is established to promote diversity in the pool of people pursuing careers as K-12 educators. This scholarship will be awarded with preference given to students from a traditionally underrepresented background enrolled in Empire State College's Master of Arts in Teaching program. Secondary consideration is given to similar students working towards a master's degree to achieve permanent certification, or working towards an undergraduate degree with the intention of teaching or entering a Master of Arts Teaching program shortly after graduation.

Additional Grants and Scholarships

Learning and Leadership Grants

Amount: \$2000

Abstract: The grants support public school teachers, public education support professionals, and/or faculty and staff in public institutions of higher education.

Eligibility: Any practicing U.S. teacher, counselor, or education support professional* employed by a public school, including public higher education institutions, is eligible to apply for a grant from the Foundation.

To apply: <http://anp-foundation.org/programs/scholarships-grants/funding/>

Deadline: 30 Sep 2015

NEF Scholarships

Amount: varies

Abstract: The mission of Nurses Educational Funds, Inc. is to advance the profession of nursing through the promotion of graduate education.

Eligibility: Master's Students: Enrolled full- or part-time in a NLNAC or CCNE accredited nursing program; Completed at least 12 credits of the program (at the time of application); Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.6.

To apply: <http://www.n-e-f.org/index.php/apply.html>

Deadline: 01 Feb 2016

Sara Jackson Award

Amount: \$500

Abstract: In recognition of Sara Jackson's commitment to minority students and graduate research, an annual award will be given in support of student (M.A. or Ph.D.) research in the field of Western history.

Eligibility: Preference will be given to African American or other minority students.

To apply:

<http://www.westernhistoryassociation.wildapricot.org/awards/student/jackson>

Deadline: 01 Apr 2016

ANP Foundation MSN-NP Student Scholarships

Amount: \$2000

Abstract: ANPF seeks to prepare the next generation of NP leaders through educational support and the support of innovative.

Eligibility: The scholarships is open to any NP Specialty. Applicants must be United States citizens and reside in one of the 50 States or District of Columbia. Applicants must either be formally admitted to and currently attending courses in a fully accredited MSN or Post-MS-NP program.

To apply:

<http://anpfoundation.org/programs/scholarships-grants/funding/>

Deadline: 30 Sep 2015

To apply for grants and scholarships:

1. Identify one (or more) of the scholarships that you think you are eligible for
2. Ask your mentor to submit a recommendation letter on your behalf through Empire State College's Scholarship Tracker
3. You will be required to complete the FAFSA to be considered for any need based scholarship

Upcoming Conferences

Emerging Learning Design

2015 conference was at Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ

Submissions for the May 2016 conference are due in November

<http://eld.montclair.edu/>

NYSATE and NYACTE Annual Fall Conference

Saratoga Springs, NY

October 15-16, 2015

Submissions for the 2015 conference are due in September

<http://www.nyacte.org/conference/conferences.html>

Canadian Association for the Study of Adult Education (CASAE)

University of Montreal, Montreal, Quebec

June 9-11, 2015

Submissions for the 2016 conference are due in March

<http://www.casae-aceea.ca/?q=node/30>

Adult Education Research Conference (AERC)

2015 conference was at Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas

Submissions for the May 2016 conference are due in October

<http://conferences.k-state.edu/adult-education/>

Join Us in the Graduate Student Association!

SUNY Empire State College Graduate Student Association (hereafter referred to as ESC-GSA) is an organization, currently under development, that is meant to serve all Graduate Students across the state and beyond. ESC-GSA is committed to creating and sustaining a variety of experiences that encourage the development of a graduate student community.

We are in the final stages of development and we would love to have you involved! The ESC-GSA is currently looking for students interested in being an officers and planning some events for students for the coming year. If you are interested in doing this, please reach out to us! Please take a look at our new website (still under construction) and comment on it. Please check it out here: <http://commons.esc.edu/escgsa/>

We are also interested in how we can better serve you. What would you like for the ESC-GSA to do for you? Here are some suggestions that have already been presented to us, but do you have any more to add to the list? If so, we would love to hear from you!

1. More professional development workshops?
2. Discussions about how to write your Final Project?
3. Strategies for adjusting to graduate school work and time management?
4. How to write papers and/or present at professional conferences?
5. How to conduct research on your own or with a faculty member at the College?

To give you some insights about our group, we are attaching our mission and vision statements:

“Our Mission is to promote and sustain a variety of educational and cultural experiences that will encourage graduate student members to broaden their knowledge, generate communal interaction, and develop a collective of scholarship amongst our diverse student body.

Our Vision is to bring positive energy to a diverse population of students who are willing to share their various ideas and experiences while creating an atmosphere of cohesion. We would like to provide opportunities for social interaction and academic dialogue amongst our members. We will help bridge the gap between graduate students who often feel isolated from peers while pursuing their collegiate goals in a non-traditional environment.

The GSA will be a platform from which fellow students will network, create, and engage in various academic endeavors, professional developments, and social interactions. We hope to enrich our members through the promotion of diverse disciplines and perspectives. The GSA is a SUNY Empire State College student organization that will demonstrate and foster the inclusive academic culture.”

AY 2014-2015, the ESC-GSA elected the following club officers: Kenneth Watson Jr. (President), Layla Adbullah Poulos (Vice-President), Julian Wyllie (Secretary), Carolyn Massey (Treasurer). We also have two vacant positions still open: Membership Coordinator and Social Media Administrator. For its inaugural year, the ESC-GSA is currently facilitated by Drs. Dianne Ramdeholl, Meg Benke, and Rhianna Rogers.

Graduate Student Association

We are in the process of developing a Graduate Student Association. Interested in participating? Check out the group's website at: <http://commons.esc.edu/escgsa/> and contact Rhianna Rogers at rhianna.rogers@esc.edu, Meg Benke at Meg.Benke@esc.edu, or Dianne Ramdeholl at Dianne.Ramdeholl@esc.edu for more information on how to get involved!

MAAL Student Cheryl Shiemer Receives Teaching Award



Cheryl Murphy Schiemer is this year's recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching at Fulton-Montgomery Community College (FMCC). Cheryl has been an Adjunct Instructor at FMCC since 2010 teaching American Sign Language courses. While she has only been at FMCC for a short period of time, she has made a positive impact on the campus and is a valued member to the FMCC community both in and out of the classroom.

Word has spread fast on campus about how good of a teacher Cheryl is and how interesting, informative and interactive her class is. Her intro-course fills up semester after semester from word of mouth between students and she often has a waiting list of students who quickly join if a seat becomes available. Cheryl believes that everyone should have the opportunity to broaden their horizons and learn other cultures through foreign language studies and her passion for teaching ASL and for advocating for the Deaf community is felt by anyone who comes in contact with her. Her passion and enthusiasm is contagious and she has "infected" many students on campus.

An Advisor at FMCC wrote; "Students regularly tell me that Cheryl is one of the best instructors they have had at FM. They comment on her positive attitude, her passion for working with the hearing impaired, and her sincerity. They are excited and eager to learn from her."

Cheryl brings all of her knowledge, experience and expertise with her into the classroom and is able to be effective with many different student learning styles and levels of knowledge. Cheryl recognizes that many students walk into her class on the first day with many misconceptions about American Sign Language, often stemming from the fact that they do not realize they will be learning a real foreign language; a visual spacial language with grammar, sentence structure and facial expressions that are unique from English. Cheryl uses a very interactive teaching style that uses visual, auditory and kinesthetic learning styles.

Perhaps one of the most valuable lessons and experiences that students receive when they take Cheryl's class is the opportunity to practice the ASL language with the local Deaf community. Cheryl fully appreciates and recognizes that learning takes place not only in but also outside of the classroom. Cheryl is the host of FMCC's monthly Deaf coffee chats held on campus where students have the opportunity to meet and greet with the local Deaf community. While attendance to one event is mandatory for course completion, students enjoy the opportunity and find it such a valuable experience that they often chose to attend monthly.

Cheryl also facilitated setting up an ASL club on campus that has grown to have over twenty active student members. The club hosts many events on campus but is probably most known for the Spring Deaf comedy show for which the ASL club is the opening act. Additionally, the Student Government Association recently awarded the ASL club with the "Most Enthusiastic Club" Award.

Cheryl has an extensive background and experience in American Sign Language both interpreting and teaching. She is currently registered as an Associate Interpreter through the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and is a Freelance American Sign Language Interpreter for the Deaf at various local doctor's offices and agencies. Cheryl stays abreast of her field by attending workshops and interpreting expos, and she is a member of the American Sign Language Teachers Association.

MALET Students Present at SUNY CIT



Terri Worman and Al Ritondo, students in the Master of Arts in Learning and Educational Technology program, presented at the SUNY CIT conference at SUNY Geneseo in May. CIT is the statewide conference on innovation in teaching and technology. The presentation entitled “Planning and Designing in Next-Generation Virtual Reality: Lessons Learned within an Immersive Course Environment” was a collaboration with MALET faculty Eileen O’Connor. Connections to the students involved and their projects are linked below:

Irene Cruz: ELL / ESOL (English learners) support - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bk7kUlfOkI>

Marjorie Thompson: Art teaching & design - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36RrsY9aiuM>

Al Ritondo: Video Production - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfpWLVImKUc&feature=youtu.be>

Terri Worman: Conference Planning - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1yBI0bIGBto>

Erik Chianowski: Theater set design - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JBp4rMloXo>

Maja Anderson: Biology for middle school - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEML-r94xwo>

Sean Andrews: A science lesson - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kiNzhaM7sil>

Scott Bruno: Healthcare training - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDRDMMUZ2sw>

With the advent of open source in virtual reality, the process of planning and designing in virtual reality has taken new dimensions. Moving beyond the costs and constraints of Second Life, students in an immersive practicum course planned and then designed their own virtual reality islands or events.

Since early efforts with Second Life and higher education, starting around 2007, educators, staff, and students have been engaged and *challenged* by working within immersive, complex virtual environments. However, with the advent of open-source virtual reality in 2010, more options for development have surfaced. During this presentation, Worman and Ritondo brought forth their work in developing virtual-reality islands and events and in creating the plans and the practices necessary for designing virtual environments to meet the needs of each student’s intended audience. Within this online environment, students moved from exploring virtual possibilities, to articulating their own “vision,” to eventually creating their own islands or professional events. Learning often in an experiential way, students struggled with the complex technologies; shared ideas and island visits with colleagues in the class; wrote papers that delineated their design philosophies and implementation approaches; considered resources and supports they would need for their intended audience; and, constructed, deconstructed, and built-again their virtual environments. Throughout the course, they documented their considerable efforts using both video and narrative.

During the presentation, Worman and Ritondo addressed the process of planning and designing that emerged from their work. In the relatively uncharted waters of instructional design in complex virtual-reality environments, these unique stories are starting to suggest new ways to approach the challenges of designing virtual environments.

For more information about SUNY CIT, visit: <http://www.cit.suny.edu/>