Friday, Oct. 22

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.  Registration
Lower Level Reception Area

1:30 - 1:50 p.m.  Opening Remarks
Robert Trullinger
Dean, HVC

2 - 2:50 p.m.  Holistic Living and Our Relationship with Self, Each Other and Our Planet
Susanne Meyer-Fitzsimmons
Graduate Student, HVC
Holistic living is living with the awareness of an integral spiritual cum physical world. The total interconnectedness of those two, often considered separate aspects, entails a different, more harmonious and gentle way to live with self, one another and our planet. The presenter will talk about the readings, research and conclusions she arrived at when she took a course called Integral Ecology, and how this understanding affects the future of our planet.

Yorktown  The Magic Seeds
Rochelle Campbell
Undergraduate, CDL
“The Magic Seeds” is a children’s book, geared toward the reluctant reader, written by Empire State College student Rochelle Campbell and her now 10-year-old son Teraab Feaster. Both authors will show the benefits of working with children to assist them in creating their own works of literature to enhance the value of reading and to help forge a deeper bond with the child. The presenters will give a short talk about their experiences, and will provide handouts to participants about children’s book publishing outlets. The young author, Teraab Feaster, also will take questions from any children participants.

Scarsdale I  Jason Reitman – Turning Our Eyes on a Modern American Director
Walter Da Luz
Undergraduate, Metro
This session will focus on the report the presenter did on Jason Reitman for the “Film Appreciation” class last spring. A powerpoint presentation will illustrate the findings of his research and embed songs from Reitman’s movie soundtracks to demonstrate the subtle way he put forth his feelings about the subjects of his films, while allowing the audience to make their own judgments about them. The presentation ends with the presenter’s observations of the roles women play in Reitman’s movies and the student’s personal feelings about Reitman’s importance as a modern American director.

Scarsdale II  Public Speaking Without Tears
Bill Robbins
Outreach and Recruitment Specialist, HVC
Public speaking – standing up in front of a group of people – to make your case, has been a fundamental means of communication throughout history. If it hasn’t already, the need to be an effective public speaker will almost certainly touch you sometime in your life. When it does, you want to be ready. This seminar will discuss how to overcome your fears, avoid some of the common public speaking mistakes, and make the most of your time at the podium.

Scarsdale I  Exertion/Recuperation and You
Colleen T. Wahl
Undergraduate, Metro
This workshop will explore exertion and recuperation phrasing as it impacts your creativity, productivity and overall investment in your work. Based on Laban movement analysis, this originally was a series of corporate trainings done for offices in N.Y.C. In this workshop, we will explore a bare bones version of how your mind changes your body, instead of your body changing your mind. You will be inspired/pushed to new ways of being, and inspired to take a new approach to your thinking and moving.
Yorktown  
**Operation Save Our Children**  
*Kiaandra McCain*  
*Undergraduate, CDL*  
Child abuse not only hurts during childhood, but its effect follows the victims throughout the rest of their lives. This session will focus on the four main categories of child abuse: physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect and sexual abuse. This presentation details the cause, effect and the warning signs of child abuse. The goal of this presentation is to educate participants and make our society aware of what our children – our future leaders – are going through.

Sprainbrook  
**Media Psychology**  
Student Panel Presentation  
*Eleanor Cox, Cynthia Husband-Cohen and Allison Murphy*  
*Dr. Gayle Stever, Moderator, GVC*  
This panel presentation is in the area of media psychology. Dr. Stever will provide an overview of the work of Keith Hopkins, a M.A.L.S. student working in this area who is unable to attend the conference. His research is on media treatment of female superheroes. Eleanor Cox will give a presentation on “Media Psychology: What is it?” Allison Murphy will present material from her M.A.L.S. research on vampires and vampirology. Cynthia Husband-Cohen will present her M.A.L.S. research work on “Fashion and Rock Star Fans.” Dr. Stever is mentor for all of these students and they all are doing or have done studies with her in this area.

Pelham  
**Issues of Antibiotic Use in Livestock Feed and the Implication for Human and Animal Health**  
*Steve Wood*  
*Alumnus, CNYC*  
It is estimated that 50 to 70 percent of antibiotics used in the U.S. are fed to otherwise healthy livestock at subtherapeutic levels. This practice makes animals grow faster and fatter which increases profits for agribusiness. Many scientists have grown concerned at the rise of drug-resistant bacteria like MRSA in recent years. Many suspect that one of the engines driving drug resistance might be these livestock feeding practices.

Scarsdale II  
**Poking and Prying with a Purpose: Research, Scholarly Work and the Empire State College Mentor**  
Faculty Panel Presentation  
*Steve Lewis, Mark Miyake, Michael Parsons, Diana Sberio-Perez, Miriam Tatzel and Amy Ruth Tobol, HVC*  
Zora Neale Hurston once said that “Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose.” In this panel, mentors from various disciplines will engage in a conversation about what makes them curious; where and why they are poking and prying; how research/scholarly work informs their mentoring; and how their students inform their professional development.

3:50 - 4:30 p.m.  
**Affinity Group Break**  
*Pelham, NFC and CNYC*  
*Scarsdale I, NEC and GVC*  
*Scarsdale II, CDL*  
*Yorktown, HVC, School for Graduate Studies and Center for International Programs*  
*Sprainbrook, Metro, HVACLS and LIC*

4:30 - 5:20 p.m.  
**Anorexia Nervosa: A Cross-Cultural Investigation**  
*Heidi Feichtinger*  
*Undergraduate, HVC*  
During the last 50 years, the incidence of eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa has skyrocketed. Although most often understood as an illness that affects young, white, American women, how do we explain its rise in non-Western societies? Is the spread of Western culture to blame, or are there other, more universal underlying causes? This presentation will explore the etiology of anorexia nervosa from a cross-cultural perspective, and is suitable for anyone wishing to better understand this growing, local and globalized, women’s health concern.
Pelham  An American Policy of Infamy  
Gary Bennett  
Graduate, LIC  
This presentation will look at the contributions of Native American Indians and the treatment of that group by the United States government from the 1500s to the present. Discussion will include the struggle of these people to maintain their identity and preservation of their fragile and disappearing culture, and will examine efforts made by the U.S. government to strip these people of their identity and to deny them complete assimilation to the Euro-American way of life. The U.S. government used this non-assimilation as a tool for mistreatment and atrocities, including a mass movement denying Native Americans settlement in the east, and stripping them of all lands except for chosen reservations unfamiliar to them, all contributing to near extinction of a proud people.

Scarsdale II  Black Panthers, White Supremacy and Sexual Symbols: Important Lessons for all Liberation Efforts  
Maggie Harrison  
Undergraduate, CDL  
This presentation will center around an African American liberation movement and their rejection of sexual symbols of domination that had been placed upon them through the mechanisms of white supremacy. The result of that effort was a mix of greater empowerment for members of the group, and also the adoption of hegemonic ideas of masculinity within the group, which undermined the empowerment of female members. Addressing both of these levels of oppression, this presentation gives voice not only to African Americans rejecting racism, but also to the women of color who had to deal with the compound oppressions of white supremacy and patriarchy.

Sprainbrook  Current Career Resources  
Danielle Benedict, Intern for the Office of Collegewide Student Affairs  
Maureen Winney, Director of Alumni and Student Relations, Coordinating Center  
This presentation will explore the current career resources that are available to SUNY Empire State College students and alumni, including Optimal Resume and the Alumni Online Community. Future career resources at the college also will be discussed.

5:30 - 7 p.m.  Art Show and Alumni Reception  
Exhibitors: Christina Colatorri, LIC; Shawn Carney, LIC; Aimee Riegel, CDL; Joseph Neumayer; Lester Millman; Elizabeth Rosenberg; Genevieve Kara; Cynthia Kamm; Deborah Charnas; Robin Dettman; Hillary Anzis-Hostetler; Peter Diaferia; Deborah Brown, LIC; Timothy Morgan, LIC; Florence Parmelee, NEC; Performer: Amy Fradon  
Come eat and drink and join us for this wonderful reception.
8 - 9 a.m.  Registration
Lower Level
Reception Area

9 - 9:50 a.m.  Menopause: Development, Not Disease  

Ellyce di Paola  
Undergraduate, Metro  
The view held by many in the medical field of menopause as a medical disease of deficiency ignores the broader developmental context of what for many Western women is an identity crisis comparable to that of adolescence. Upon further examination of the topic, it may be seen that while the medicalization of menopause as a hormonal deficiency may be the current status quo of the biomedical industry, research on women who have written and spoken about their experience indicate that midlife is for many a revitalizing and repurposing time of life. This session will examine menopause as the mirror of puberty along the continuum of a woman's reproductive lifecycle. It will look at menopause and sexuality, and why it is important to consider menopause in understanding women's psychosocial concerns and issues. Lastly, it will explore the position of menopause in the context of the developmental theories of Erikson and Gilligan.

Scarsdale I  

Finally, Universal Health Care: What is Really in This Bill?  
Edward Indovina  
Undergraduate, GVC  
The Health Care Bill was passed, and yet none of the media or government outlets has offered a simplified recap of exactly what was in the final passed bill. This presentation will reduce the almost 2,000 pages of the bill into easy-to-understand highlights of what is in it. The presentation also will touch on the background of universal health care in the history of the United States, and will speak to the advantages and perceived disadvantages of the bill.

Sprainbrook  

Poster Presentations  
What is the Student Affairs Committee;  
John Pfahl: American Landscape  
Photography; Classroom Design;  
educational Implications of Attachment  
Research; Voices of Adults and  
Children in Times of Strife  
Anthony Falco, CNYC  
Robin Dettman, GVC  
Jackie Radell, CNYC  
Leigh Haines, CNYC  
Erika Spelman, Metro

Yorktown  

Your Resume: A Working Document  
Karen LaBarge  
Coordinator of Student Services, CDI  
Is your resume doing its job? Is it marketing your accomplishments? Is it convincing the employer that you are the best person for the position? Is it getting you that all-important interview? During this workshop, we will discuss ways to polish your resume so that it gets the attention it deserves. It is time to make your resume work for you. E-mail resume critiques will be made available to workshop attendees.

Scarsdale II  

Unintentional Sociology:  
A Comedian's Perspective  
Raymond Scott Johnson  
Undergraduate, LIC  
when they step out on stage, very few comedians understand the role their "sociological imagination" plays in their preparation, or delivery of their material. They don't understand how culture, values and norms play into why their audiences appreciate them, or why they don't. They know they can affect the way an audience responds to them using delivery and material, but they don't. They know they can affect the way an audience responds to them using delivery and material, but they don't understand the sociology behind the behavior. This session intends to draw parallels between sociologist and comedic entertainers; and show the similarities in the way they study societal behavior and how they use sociology to create a temporary micro-culture. The presenter will show the use of pure and applied sociology in comedy preparation and performance using methods that include observation of recorded and live comedy performances, and the study of previous research as it relates to humor and comedy. The presenter also will
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<th>Speaker/Dates/Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 - 10:50 a.m.</td>
<td>Plenary</td>
<td>Empire State College: New York's Open University</td>
<td>Dr. Alan Davis, President</td>
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<td>11 - 11:50 a.m.</td>
<td>Yoga and Ayurveda for Weight Loss: State of the Research</td>
<td>Pelham</td>
<td>Tosca Braun, CDL</td>
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<td>Obesity is one of the fastest growing health issues in the nation today. Recently scientists have become interested in how CAM modalities – particularly yoga practice – can produce positive changes in overweight and obese individuals. While preliminary evidence is supportive, still more research is needed to understand how these ancient practices can support healthier living. Come learn why yoga and Ayurveda – India's indigenous medical system – may be so effective in mitigating this national trend, and directions for future research in the field.</td>
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<td>Noon - 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Conference Room</td>
<td>Are We More Than We're Led to Believe?</td>
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<td>Melba Tolliver '98, Keynote Speaker</td>
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<td>1:30 - 2:20 p.m.</td>
<td>The Abdomen – A Historical and Contemporary Perspective</td>
<td>Pelham</td>
<td>Alice Klugerz, CDL</td>
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<td>The abdomen contains our center, our organs of assimilation and excretion and even a kind of brain called the enteric nervous system. This “brain” also functions as a key to the present moment, our intuition/gut responses. From corsets and girdles, crunches and diets, the Western world is always trying to control what we breathe, digest and feel. If the war on fat in Western culture is real, then the abdomen is its main battlefield. But is it just about fat? Through Powerpoint and lecture, with humor and both historical and anatomical perspective, we will explore the culture of the abdomen.</td>
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<td>The Unmurdered Darlings</td>
<td>Sprainbrook</td>
<td>Sherrie Winn, Anne Galletta, Micah Saccomanno, Genevieve Kara and Eli Case, HVC and CDL</td>
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<td>Student Panel Presentation</td>
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<td>Empire State College students and alumni – all writers – present their creative fiction and nonfiction.</td>
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<td>Mental Health Care is Not a One-Size-Fits-All</td>
<td>Scarsdale</td>
<td>Alicia Greene, CDL</td>
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<td>Undergraduate, GVC</td>
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<td>Children are not as resilient as once believed. Child/infant abuse, early neglect and trauma causes an overproduction of stress hormones and adrenaline that poison a child's brain. This leads to a variety of long term effects such as learning disorders, memory dysfunction and resetting of the brain causing hyper-alertness. Depression can be caused by poor nutrition or a lack of vitamins. This presentation is on preventative mental health care and improving brain function. Medication is not the only answer; there are ways we can help ourselves that may reduce the need for medication.</td>
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<td>Loans Now, Repayment Later</td>
<td>Scarsdale II</td>
<td>Kristina Delbridge, CDL</td>
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<td>This workshop will describe for students how to make sure they are maximizing the financial resources around them while in school and getting a repayment “plan” ready for when they graduate.</td>
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Scarsdale II Loans Now, Repayment Later
Kristina Delbridge
Financial Aid, Coordinating Center
This workshop will describe for students how to make sure they are maximizing the financial resources around them while in school and getting a repayment “plan” ready for when they graduate.

Yorktown Disaster in New York City
Janice Duncan
Undergraduate, Metro
This session is a dramatic portrayal of the disaster at the Triangle Shirt Waist Factory in lower Manhattan in 1911. The presenter will attempt to reenact the travel of a young girl who left poverty in Kishinev in search of a better life in N.Y.C., only to perish in the disaster. This dramatic effort is based on the presenter's experience in Karyn Pilgrim's creative writing class, The Writing Place – Creative Writing in the City. The class explored historical sights in N.Y.C. and this piece draws from that experience.

Saturday, Oct. 23 (continued)
Saturday, Oct. 23 (continued)

Scarsdale II  Teaching and Learning: Lessons From My Upward Bound Students
Earl McCray
Graduate, GVC
This presentation will focus on the specific tips the presenter is personally applying as an adult learner, as well as tips he promoted as a tutor and program advisor to students who participate in the Upward Bound Program at Monroe Community College in Rochester, N.Y. Some of these strategies include administering a self-assessment test in order to get a snap shot of personal growth opportunities; teaching learning styles and the associated studying tips for that style; explaining how to create an effective study location at home; role-playing how to ask for help and mastering communication skills that foster creating supportive relationships; and identifying self-sabotaging behavior and how to overcome it. This presentation also will address missed steps that have proven ineffective when working with at risk youth.

Yorktown  Clubs and Organizations
Interested in finding out more about starting or participating in a registered Empire State College club or organization? Come to Yorktown room to find out more about this.

Scarsdale I  Keeping Languages from Cultural Extinction
Sharon Kennelty-Cohen
Undergraduate, LIC
As an environmentalist, the presenter has seen the wonder of protecting an endangered species from extinction – and felt a similar emotion when offered the chance to study the Cheyenne language and culture through Empire State College. This workshop will show why it is imperative for us all to keep the knowledge of dying subjects such as Cheyenne language from cultural extinction.

Sprainbrook  How Do You Know If It’s Plagiarism?
Susan Hollis
Mentor, GVC
Get ready for a fun and interactive time when you come to this workshop. Everyone who writes a college research paper needs to make sure they give appropriate credit for the sources they used. This workshop will give an overview of how students can look at their own writing to make sure that the information they are using from other sources doesn’t end up as plagiarism. Students will learn about differences between using direct quotes and paraphrasing, and also about different systems of documenting their sources in the right way.

2:30 - 3:20 p.m.  Interpreting the Southern Gothic through Music and Performance
Solomon Blaylock
Undergraduate, GVC
For the last 10 years, The Lobster Quadrille – a band that bills itself as “purveyors of the New Southern Gothic” – has been writing, recording and performing a unique type of music, espousing an aesthetic in the tradition of the Southern Gothic literary movement. This presentation will explore the band’s music and performance in the light of its being inspired and informed by the work of Flannery O’Connor, preeminent among the Southern Gothic writers.

Pelham  Shakespeare’s Hamlet: A Comparative Study
Laura Williams
Graduate, CNYC
This is a multimedia presentation of the various film adaptations of Shakespeare’s most popular work, featuring film clips and interviews. The program examines how the most celebrated Shakespearean actors and directors of the past century have interpreted Shakespeare’s enduring play.
Scarsdale II  Creative Eye, Competitive Edge  
Marlene Rounds  
Undergraduate, Metro  
This session will focus on the argument that the left and right brain actually stimulate one another and help each other grow. This argument will be examined through the presenter’s own experiences, and through research. The presentation will begin by explaining the brain’s processes: What are the functions of the right brain versus the left? How does one determine if their right brain or left brain is dominating? And what about being balanced between the two? The session will then highlight the presenter’s own experiences, working in a field that is thought of a purely visual realm, but also uses a lot of logic as well. The session will make use of projected images, and as well as information, throughout the presentation.

Sprainbrook  Achieving Social Networking Balance: Tips for Online Identity, Your Career and Fun  
Dana Longley  
Assistant Director, Library Services, Academic Technologies, Office of Integrated Technologies, Coordinating Center  
This workshop will feature a participatory discussion about how to effectively and efficiently balance the personal and the professional aspects of increasingly interconnected social media tools like LinkedIn, twitter, Google and Facebook. These tools can be used to further your education and career, in addition to connecting with family and friends. Tips for managing your online social identity and plugging into a network of experts in your field will be touched on.

Yorktown  From Poverty to Prison: How Do We Change the Path?  
Carolyn Polikarpus  
Undergraduate, NEC  
This presentation will explore the nexus of factors that have created and perpetuated the existence of poor, urban communities of color rife with crime, incarceration and despair. What are the primary historical, sociological and psychological forces that keep inner city communities struggling with poverty, unwed teen pregnancy, unemployment, drugs and disproportionate levels of incarceration? What are some of the solutions that, given the will and determination, our society could bring to bear on these problems? The presenter will look at these issues from a perspective formed by 15 years of volunteering in a maximum security prison, and the learning she gained in a black history study, African-American Experience, with MaryNell Morgan, and an independent study on The Role of Race and Poverty in Urban Social Problems with Jeffrey Lambe.

3:30 - 4:20 p.m.  Intertextual Potential in Contemporary Criticism Through Miyazaki’s “Howl’s Moving Castle”  
Andrea Connolly  
Undergraduate, CDL  
This presentation will focus on a project from Celest Woo’s Literary Theory class titled, Individuality and Sense of Self in Miyazaki’s “Howl’s Moving Castle,” to develop an idea formed in Runa Rahman’s Topics in British Literature class: that contemporary criticism has potential to cross academic boundaries through intertextual analysis in order to produce work relevant to society. The presenter will explain briefly the project and read excerpts to demonstrate how this goal may be achieved, as well as summarizing why she believes such intertextuality is desirable in the academic arena.
Saturday, Oct. 23 (continued)

Scarsdale II  Using Art Therapy in the Treatment of Schizophrenia
Kathleen Bateman
Undergraduate, LIC
This session discusses the power of art therapy in the treatment of one of the more severe diagnoses in abnormal psychology: schizophrenia. Art therapy is discussed with regards to its value as a projective diagnosis tool; the role it plays in bridging communication between the patient and the psychoanalyst; and for the invaluable contribution it makes in a patient's personal healing process and re-emergence into society. Furthermore, the session questions whether art created by the mentally ill exemplifies art in its purest form. In true serendipity, the presenter's research ultimately brings her on a personal journey of self-discovery, leading her to the same gallery which fascinated her 10 years ago and which was the inspiration for the paper.

Scarsdale I  History Comes Alive
Diane Cosh
Undergraduate, HVC
This presentation will focus on two short papers that exemplify the presenter's newfound interest in the subject of American history. The history course these short papers are taken from is called American People, and it is true to its name. It is a study of the people. This course presents the stories, in an almost diary-like form, of the people who made America what it is today. While reading about people's everyday lives, the student inadvertently learns of the events that shaped the nation. In her first paper, the presenter draws a comparison between the stages America went through while becoming a free nation, to the stages a woman goes through to become free from an abusive relationship. In her second paper, the presenter demonstrates the patriotism that Americans have felt since its beginnings.

Sprainbrook  Overcoming Barriers Against Women's Artistic Production
Irene Villaseñor
Undergraduate, Metro
This presentation will focus on a term paper, Overcoming Barriers against Women's Artistic Production, written for Professor Betty Wilde-Biasiny, at the Metropolitan Center, in a study called Issues in Contemporary Art. The paper will examine how contemporary art scholarship can inspire artists to engage in serious personal reflection and undertake immediate concrete action. The paper examines how feminist art education intersects with feminist pedagogy, aesthetics and psychology, to produce in women artists the confidence to execute their ideas and professional ambitions despite the internal and external challenges they often face.

Yorktown  Sustainability of Rural Villages Throughout Afghanistan
Shawn McCabe
Undergraduate, GVC
This presentation will focus on a detailed problem-solving model, based on the sustainability of rural villages throughout the country of Afghanistan. The implementation of specific technologies to allow local Afghans the ability to construct a more prosperous future for themselves will be discussed. Sustainability can only truly be realized when a cooperation exists between all levels of government and their constituents. If implemented, this “Model Village” could reduce tensions between the people and their government and allow them to experience the many opportunities that a democratic society has to offer.

4:20 - 4:30 p.m. Wrap-up
Sprainbrook
Join us for this informal debriefing session to let us know your thoughts on this conference: What worked, what didn’t, etc.
Alumni Luncheon Speaker Biography

Melba Tolliver, a 1998 Empire State College graduate, is a distinguished journalist, writer and journalism teacher. In 1967, Ms. Tolliver became the first African American to anchor a news program, and spent the next 30 years reporting and/or anchoring news at WABC-TV, WNBC-TV, News 12 Long Island and the Food Channel. She has written for a wide range of publications. Among her innumerable contributions to broadcast, Ms. Tolliver created and hosted the news program “Meet the People.” Ms. Tolliver has taught journalism at various colleges and universities, and has received numerous awards for her ground-breaking work. Currently, Ms. Tolliver is working on her memoir, “Accidental Anchorwoman: Chance, Choice and Change.”

Student Presenter Biographies

Kathleen Bateman began her B.A., majoring in the liberal arts, with a minor in clinical exercise physiology in the late 1990s in Montreal, Canada. She has worked extensively with children with special needs, focusing her attention on those children with autism and pervasive developmental disorders. From this experience, she feels that some of the greatest developmental changes for children with special needs take place through the work of occupational therapists in early intervention therapy. It is for this reason that she decided to return to her studies with the goal of first completing her bachelor's degree, and, secondly, being admitted into a graduate program for occupational therapy, with a specialization in early intervention therapy for children with special needs. Bateman lives in Harlem, and is pursuing her goal through work at an organization that enables athletes with physical disabilities to compete in mainstream sports – Achilles International – while completing her grad school prerequisites. Empire State College has allowed her to use her former academic achievements, combined with her professional experience, to create goals which suit her academic and long term life goals.

Gary T. Bennett retired from the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Dept. in 2009, and completed a B.S. in social sciences from Empire State College in 2010. He serves as a paralegal for tort and criminal attorneys, and he is a candidate for Touro Law School, with a special interest in corrections law. Bennett is working to secure an apology from the U.S. government for atrocities committed to Native Americans. He is a member of Massapequa School’s Budget and Finance Committee, and a former union delegate for the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department.

Solomon Blaylock is an undergraduate student at Empire State College in Rochester, N.Y., where he is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies with a focus on art history and religious studies. His major areas of interest include Buddhist religious art and philosophy. He works at Rush Rhees Library at the University of Rochester, and is the founder of The Lobster Quadrille, a Southern Gothic nonette.

Tosca Braun is project manager for a study exploring the impact of yoga and Ayurveda on overweight and obesity in low-socioeconomic status women for Kripalu Center's Institute of Extraordinary Living (IEL), in collaboration with Harvard researchers. She is a psychology student at Empire State College, slated to earn her second B.A. in Spring 2011. She earned her first B.A. in history from Reed College in 2007, before developing a passion for psychology and yoga, and the potential each has to change people's lives. Braun also is a certified yoga therapist, with over 1,500 hours of professional training in the fields of yoga, Ayurveda, leadership and mind-body medicine. Her goals are to pursue an M.P.H. in nutrition and a Ph.D. in clinical psychology, conducting research and integrating yoga and mindfulness into her clinical practice.

Rochelle Campbell began working towards her degree at Empire State College in September 2008, after a lapse of over 20 years. During those years, everything in her life seemed to be moving her toward going back to school and achieving her dream of achieving her bachelor's degree. A key life event that seemed to be the final straw was a fun game with her then 7-year-old son. While driving home one night, the mother and son began a game of “What if?” From that game, the first draft of the children's book, “The Magic Seeds” was born. The process of getting the book published was greatly assisted by the Empire State College courses taken and the discipline required to be a successful CDL student.

Andrea Connolly is in her final semester of undergraduate studies, and she plans to graduate in December with a B.A. in cultural studies and a concentration in British literature. Before transferring to Empire State College's CDL program, she was pursuing literature studies at New College of Florida in Sarasota, Fla. She hopes to teach overseas for a couple of years before applying to graduate programs. Her interest is specifically in fostering young adults' interest in reading, so she is considering youth library services as a career path.
Diane Cosh began her college career immediately after graduating from high school. However, that also is when she met her husband-to-be. He already was running his family farm and he implored her to join him. She set her academic goals aside, married, helped to run the farm and raise their two children. She spent 28 years on the farm. She is now divorced and once again focusing on her desire to earn a college degree. She just completed an associate degree in liberal arts from Empire State College and is working on a bachelor’s degree in community and human services.

Walter Da Luz, a graduate of Hunter College Elementary School and Hunter College High School, describes himself as “a victim of a good liberal arts education.” His early school experience has caused him to focus on improving the quality of public education in New York City. He has worked with Scholastic Book Fairs, Educate Online and Aventa Learning, providing needed resources to underserved communities. He attends Empire State College, pursuing studies to prepare himself for taking on a leadership role in the nonprofit sector. He serves as treasurer of the board of directors of LinkEducation, a nonprofit group that works to bring together the education community in New York City.

Ellyce di Paola dropped out of college 40 years ago to become a professional dancer, choreographer and mom. Later she launched a successful business career, but in 2007, she was determined to complete her degree and prepare for her “retirement” career as an occupational therapist. Graduation is just three classes away. Her academic studies have included human movement, human development, anatomy, physiology, developmental movement as therapy and embryology. Her daughter, Ippolita, is her inspiration.

Janice Duncan has been a student of Empire State College’s Brooklyn Unit since January 2009. She just completed her B.S. in cultural studies, with a major in English. She has been accepted to the M.A.T. program, which she began this fall. The atmosphere and ideology of the college suits her lifestyle just fine, seeing that she is a career-changer and a “woman of a certain age.” *wink*

Heidi Feichtinger is a December 2010 Bachelor of Arts candidate from Empire State College, where she has spent her academic career studying health. Seeking a holistic and interdisciplinary understanding within the classroom, she has investigated health through a biological and social lens. Outside the walls of academia, her experiences have ranged from local volunteer involvements, to traveling to Japan where she studied alternative healing. It is her ultimate ambition to open an integrative health practice, unifying the cutting-edge science of modern medicine with proven modalities in complementary care.

Alicia Greene is in the last year of her bachelor’s degree in human development and psychology. She then plans to pursue a master’s degree in social work and become a licensed clinical social worker. She would like to have a private practice, as well as work with an agency that provides care to United States veterans.

Maggie Harrison has taken an oblique route toward her education, which led her to diverse places and a handful of schools. For seven years, she dove into religious studies, which eventually led her to Earlham School of Religion, a Quaker seminary, where she began a five-year Master of Divinity program. After 18 months in that school, she realized that teaching religion in a Quaker school was not the only thing she wanted to do, and so she withdrew from the program, and entered Empire State College to finish her bachelor’s degree.

Edward Indovina is re-attending school after 30 years. The majority of his adult life was spent in the automotive business as a technician and then manager. During those years, he also traveled across the country as an instructor/consultant in automotive business modules. He also dabbled as a stuntman/actor in independent features. He is in his fourth semester at Empire State College and finds it absolutely great. He has been using the skills that he gained from his education in his hobby and professional life. Indovina has finished writing two children’s stories and started an essay on horror comic books of the 1970s and will be presenting it at the New York Comic Con this year. He feels that his re-attending school is a strong example for his three children and numerous nieces and nephews.

Raymond Scott Johnson has attended two technical schools and has acquired a few credits from Empire State College and Lake City Community College. He is attending Empire State College, pursuing a degree in business, management and economics. He has always had a passion for comedy, and in 2006, he began performing as a stand-up comedian. In studying “Introduction to Sociology,” with Professor Jeffrey Lambe, he has found that the science of sociology closely relates to the world of comedy and humor.

Sharon Kennelty-Cohen has been teaching environmental science and outdoor education through the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County for the past 14 years. She also is an energy educator for the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, for whom she runs “teach the teacher” trainings on energy conservation and its place in the classroom. She also serves as a training facilitator for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Project Wild, Project Wild Aquatic and Flying Wild programs. When she is not teaching, Kennelty-Cohen is active in the New York State Outdoor Education Association and the Long Island Nature Collaborative for Kids. She is a student at Empire State College, focusing on environmental studies.
Student Presenter Biographies (continued)

Alice Jane Klugherz is a performance artist in remission, having poured her time and creativity into Empire State College. She began showing her original text and movement work in 1988 in the downtown venues of New York City. She has received grants to create, teach and perform; and she works as a dance teacher for toddlers and children with special needs. Klugherz has a lifelong love of dance, people and the power of art. Her interest in the abdomen came from a paper she wrote about the subject for a dance therapy class, and her passion draws upon her years of dance training that told her to “lift it up” and (somehow) continue to breathe. She has enjoyed filling in the gaps of her education with the required courses at Empire State College, as well as the studies related to her concentration in art and healing.

Steve Lewis, mentor in Cultural Studies; Mark Miyake, mentor in The Arts; Michael Parsons, mentor in Science, Mathematics and Technology; Diana Siberio-Perez, mentor in Science, Mathematics and Technology; Miriam Tatzel, mentor in Human Development; and AmyRuth Tobol, associate dean, mentor in Social Theory, Social Structure and Change.

Shawn McCabe lives in Rochester, N.Y., and comes from a wonderful family who has been very supportive of him and his dreams. Empire State College has been his academic home for the past four years, and his current focus of study is Creative Problem Solving. He has enjoyed solving complex problems for many years and has been fortunate enough to build a degree based upon his passion. The concept for his presentation at the conference is based upon something he has been thinking about for some time, and was able to focus on in his Risk Management class with Dick Butler. Helping people is very important to him, and this project has allowed him to combine his creativity and his desire to help people.

Kiandra McCain is a third-year undergraduate student in pursuit of a Bachelor of Science in psychology. She was born and raised in a small town called Jonesboro, Arkansas. She graduated from Nettleton High School in 2008, with a college prep diploma, and enrolled at Arkansas State University. In her second year of college, she transferred to Empire State College because her husband was stationed at Fort Drum, N.Y., where they reside. She works as a child and youth program assistant for the Department of Defense Child and Youth Center at Fort Drum, N.Y.

Earl McCray just started the M.A.T. program this fall. His goal is to earn his certification to teach high school math. In the past, he has taught math and science at the middle school level. He has a passion for working with young people in the inner city, and he works for the Upward Bound Program at Monroe Community College in Rochester, N.Y.

Susanne Meyer-Fitzsimmons, who grew up in various European countries prior to coming to the U.S. to pursue her studies, worked as an interior designer here and abroad, then as a small business financial management consultant, before recognizing her true passion – holistic living. She built on her design diploma from Boston’s Suffolk University’s New England School of Art and Design to acquire a B.A. in cultural studies with a concentration in religious studies from Empire State College. Last year, she enrolled in the M.A.L.S. program and has designed her degree around her passion with the intent to write, counsel and coach, and bring her insight and wisdom to a wide audience.

Allison Murphy is a 28-year-old graduate student in the M.A.L.S. program at the Genesee Valley Center. “Vampirology” is her program theme, specializing in vampires in literature. You can find her avidly reading vampire literature for pleasure and career reasons. Cynthia Husband-Cohen is a teacher of fashion design at the GST BOCES in Elmira, N.Y. She began teaching after 25 years of professional experience in New York City’s garment industry, and is now pursuing a master’s degree at Empire State College to advance her teaching credentials and for her own personal satisfaction. Living in Binghamton, N.Y., she is a single mother of a 12-year-old child. Eleanor Cox enjoyed a long career in print publishing, and spent 10 years as website manager for a major New York book publisher, after which she began building and marketing websites for not-for-profit organizations and small businesses. She is director of the New York Chapter at Achilles International, a not-for-profit organization that enables people with all types of disabilities to compete in mainstream athletics in order to promote personal achievement, enhance self esteem and lower barriers to living a fulfilling life. She holds a Project Management Certificate from Baruch College and will complete her B.S. in media and culture at Empire State College in January. She narrates the Great Gatsby Boat Tour in Port Washington, N.Y., which she created in 2008, and also teaches sailing at the Port Sailing School. Dr. Gayle Stever is an assistant professor in human development at the Genese Valley Center of Empire State College. Her area of specialization is media psychology and she does her research on parasocial interaction and relationships.
Carolyn Polikarpus is a returning student, working on completing a degree she started many years ago. Since that time, she has worked in corporate America as a computer programmer, raised four children and retired from full-time work. Fifteen years ago, she became involved in a prison program called “Alternatives to Violence Project” (AVP) that offers three-day experiential workshops in conflict resolution. She became a facilitator, working with a team of inside facilitators, in a men’s maximum security prison. Through the years, she has become more and more interested and concerned about the disproportionate numbers of people of color incarcerated for incredibly long periods of time. Many of the men she works with have made real change in their lives, but are left to rot in prison when they could be productive and contributing members of society. Thus, her college career is formed today for a passion for building positive communities and finding a way to end the conveyor belt of poor people of color who revolve through our justice system.

Marlene Rounds is a freelance product photographer, who also is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in business at Empire State College, with a concentration in management. Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, she has lived in New York City for five years. She earned an associate degree in commercial photography from the Institute of Photography in Dayton, Ohio. Two years ago, she decided she wanted a bachelor’s degree and found Empire State College. Her education at the college has given her a much broader sense of the world. She just began an internship in marketing with a fashion company in downtown Manhattan.

Irene Villaseñor is mestiza: Ifugao/Chinese/Spanish/Mexican. Her commitment to her family’s legacy of social justice activism has led her to work as a nonprofit consultant, independent media professional and serve as a member of grant-making panels for the Ford Foundation, Kentucky Foundation for Women and the Tribeca Film Institute. She also is a recipient of the Women We Love, Women We Honor Award from the Astraea Lesbian Action Foundation, which celebrates “the accomplishments of women who have significantly impacted the political, aesthetic, economic, cultural and social conditions of our lives.” She received this award for producing her first documentary at the age of 18 as part of her training at the Educational Video Center. That film, Out Youth in Schools, which examines the Gay/Straight Alliance movement, has been used as a resource for education and organizing around queer youth issues. Recently, she has served as the director of the Youth Views Project at P.O.V., public television’s acclaimed independent documentary film series. At P.O.V., she developed a pilot youth outreach project into a national program that annually served over 10,000 youth. Villaseñor connected young people with independently produced social issue documentaries and/or trained youth on how to use independently produced media to promote dialogue and action in their communities. She is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in media studies at SUNY Empire State College. She also was published in the September 2010 edition of the Yellow Medicine Review: A Journal of Indigenous Literature, Art and Thought, which is themed “The Ancestors We Were Looking for We Have Become: International Queer Indigenous Voices.”

Colleen T. Wahl is a dancer, choreographer, teacher, somatic movement educator and entrepreneur. She has worked with hundreds of people to improve their relationships with their bodies, resulting in such things as pain reduction, dynamic expressivity, and increased self-confidence. In 2007, she founded Move into Greatness on the premise that it was time for everyone to get moving. She has a B.A. in dance and arts education from William Smith College, is a certified laban movement analyst (IMS), and a registered somatic movement therapist (ISMETA). Wahl has performed with various dance companies in New York state. Her current project, the NYS Dancing Green Project, is a collaboration with Jim Self and Norm Johnson Jr that combines movement choir, puppets and mob dance.

Laura Williams’ interest in history and literature led her to achieve a bachelor’s degree in cultural studies with a concentration in literature from Empire State College in 2010. She is pursuing her Master of Arts in Liberal Studies at Empire State College, with the ultimate goal of achieving a Ph.D. in literature, and teaching at the university level. She has worked for the past 10 years in graphic design, and has a background in interior decorating, textiles and visual arts. She also is the mother of two girls and an active member of her community.
Sherrie Winn (CDL) is about to finish her bachelor’s degree in cultural studies with a concentration in English at Empire State College. It is her goal to complete her Master’s in Liberal Studies, and teach English in a community college setting. In addition, she hopes to develop her writing in the form of short stories and ultimately to complete a novel in the mystery/psychological suspense genre. Anne Galletta (HVC) is a native New Yorker, pursuing an undergraduate degree in business, management and economics at Empire State College. She joined the Hudson Valley Writing Group in September of 2009. Her first thought was “I don’t know how to write, I don’t know how to get started or what to say, maybe they can show me how.” It was at the group’s first meeting, led by Linda Hamell, that Galletta found her passion: Now she loves to write. She writes from the heart, and sometimes from the gut, with passion and humor. She has been working as a senior administrative assistant at Consumer’s Union, the publisher of Consumer Reports Magazine, since 1997. She occasionally writes blogs for Shopsmart Magazine (a magazine for women). Since working with the Empire State College writer’s group, Galletta has found her voice and communicates it with confidence. Micah Saccomanno (HVC) is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in creative writing. He plans to write three novels and a myriad of short stories dealing with the difference between love and obsession, and between faith and reason. Genevieve Kara (HVC) is the mother of two young children, and finds it hard to imagine her life as a writer. She wasn’t always a writer – she started out as an artist, then a mother, then a student, and graduated with her degree as a funeral director in 2005. She is the eldest of three and the only girl, born to an artist father and stay-at-home mother. Her family never had two pennies to scrape together, and she was determined not to end up a starving artist too. She learned how to read by the time she was two and a half, which probably fostered an excessive love of books, knowledge and good writing. As she works on her first book, she wonders, “What the hell am I doing?” She’s doing what she loves, what she’s good at, and for once in her life, what she was meant to do. Eli Case is a graduate of Empire State College. His literary heroes include geniuses such as Salman Rushdie and Ernest Hemingway. He adores Franz Kafka, and has recently acquired a taste for Tobias Wolf; it was just a taste, though, and he’s hungry for more. Then again, with writing, he is always hungry for more.

Steve Wood is a communicable disease educator and trainer based in Syracuse, N.Y. He has provided education seminars to health and human service workers as well as college students for the past 15 years. He graduated from the Central New York Center in August 2010, with a B.S. in zoology. He is now considering graduate school while looking for work in the conservation education field.