Join us next year for the 11th anniversary of the Student Academic Conference
Oct. 23 - 24, 2015
Holiday Inn, 205 Wolf Road, Albany, N.Y.
Hope to see you there!
Join us for the third annual Student Wellness Retreat at the Hilton Albany in downtown Albany, N.Y. This event is free for all students!

Over 350 students attended last year, and this year will be bigger than ever. Highlights will include sessions on stress management, yoga, dance, nutrition, a health fair with free screenings, professional massages, entertainment and a well-known keynote speaker to be announced soon!

Registration will open in January and more details will be posted at choose.esc.edu/SWR when they become available.

The Health and Wellness Residency also will return this year, and you can earn credit by registering for the residency in the Spring 1 Term. Residency details are available now at http://residencies.esc.edu/health-wellness/

Contact: Andy Binder, Andy.Binder@esc.edu
Welcome

Welcome to SUNY Empire State College’s 10th annual Student Academic Conference. This academic conference represents an incredible opportunity for you to network and share your scholarship and expertise. You also will attend fascinating presentations and engage with fellow students, faculty mentors, alumni and friends of the college. At Empire State College, we are dedicated to transforming the world through the power of learning, and this conference is designed to provide you with one such powerful learning experience. Over the last 10 years, this event has grown both in scholarship and in attendance. We thank you, and the alumni who have gone before you, for your contributions and commitment to its success.

We look forward to sharing many new experiences with you over the next two days.

Sincerely,

Merodie Hancock, Ph.D.
President

Alfred Ntoko, Ph.D.
Provost

Welcome to the 10th Annual SUNY Empire State College Student Academic Conference. We are pleased to host the conference in Albany, N.Y. Many of you have traveled from locations throughout New York state, across the country and internationally to be here. This conference provides a tremendous opportunity for students to share original research with peers and mentors from our entire college community. To enhance the conference this year, we are recording different sessions throughout the next two days to a national and global audience using ESC-TV. In using this technology, you can watch the recordings so you do not miss out on the variety of presentations we have to offer. On behalf of the faculty, administrators, professional employees and support staff of SUNY Empire State College, we wish you an exciting experience as you present your ideas and connect with friends and colleagues. We extend our thanks to the Student Academic Conference Planning Committee that worked so hard throughout the year to make this weekend’s conference possible.

Thank you and best wishes for an inspiring conference.

Thomas P. Mackey, Ph.D.
Dean, Center for Distance Learning

Gerry Lorentz, Ph.D.
Dean, Northeast Location

M. Bridget Nettleton, Ph.D., RN, CNE
Dean, School of Nursing

Tai Arnold, Ph.D.
Dean, School for Graduate Studies
Hello and Welcome to the 10th Annual Student Academic Conference

There are lots of great events happening at this year’s conference, so we’ve come up with some tips to help you make the most of your experience.

Put Yourself Out There
The Student Academic Conference is a great place to network, make new friends and meet interesting people from across the Empire State College community. Attend social events like the art show and alumni reception and 10th Anniversary Gala Dinner. You also can meet with a variety of representatives from collegewide offices and clubs and organizations at the Information Tables on Friday and Saturday.

Panels and Presentations
Attend some sessions that relate to your area of study. This year we have presentation tracks for Health and Wellness, Cultural Studies, Educational Studies and Historical Studies. You also can attend sessions that pique your interest or sessions that you know nothing about. Who knows, you might uncover a new interest or passion.

President’s Town Hall
Take the opportunity to have a conversation with President Hancock about Empire State College, and share your ideas with her about what you are looking for from the college.

Poster Session
Take this opportunity to engage in an active conversation with the presenters. Our poster presentations offer you the chance to see visual representations (posters) of academic presentations. You can mingle around the room and chat with the presenters, ask questions, etc.

Art Show and Alumni Reception
If you like art, food and mingling with interesting people, then this is the perfect event for you. Paintings, photographs and sketches – this art show has it all. Take the time to meet with other students, local alumni, faculty, staff and administrators.

The 10th Anniversary Gala Dinner
Immediately following the Art Show and Alumni Reception, we will honor the past, celebrate the present and embrace the future of the conference. We will have Enrique Lopez (’12) provide DJ entertainment, and don’t forget to check out the Photo Booth for a lasting memory of this year’s conference.

Community Service
We want to honor our 10th Anniversary by giving back. This year, we are asking all attendees to participate in a Collegewide Food and Fund Drive lead by the Center for Distance Learning. All food and funds collected at StAC will be donated to the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York. Our goal is to collect 500 items, and $100 dollars.

We’re thrilled you could join us for another year of engaging presentations, plenary sessions and, of course, the art show and alumni reception.

Enjoy your StAC experience, and we’ll see you again next year in for the 11th Annual Student Academic Conference in Albany, N.Y.

Sincerely,
The StAC Planning Committee
Conference Schedule

**Friday, Oct. 24, 2014**

9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  Registration
*Upper Mezzanine*

Noon - 4:45 p.m.  Information Tables
*Lower Mezzanine*

1:30 - 1:50 p.m.  Opening Plenary
*Stonehenge D*

2 - 2:45 p.m.  Concurrent Session I
*Multiple Locations*

3 - 3:45 p.m.  Concurrent Session II
*Multiple Locations*

4 - 4:45 p.m.  Concurrent Session III
*Multiple Locations*

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  Art Show and Alumni Reception
Art Awards Presented by SUNY Empire State College
President Merodie Hancock, Ph.D.
*Courtyard*

6:30 - 10 p.m.  Evening Gala
Dinner and Dancing
*Stonehenge Ballroom*

**Saturday, Oct. 25, 2014**

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.  Breakfast
*Courtyard*

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.  Registration
*Upper Mezzanine*

8:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  Information Tables
*Lower Mezzanine*

9 - 9:45 a.m.  Concurrent Session IV
*Multiple Locations*

10 - 10:45 a.m.  President’s Town Hall
*Phoenix Ballroom*

11 - 11:45 a.m.  Concurrent Session V/Poster Presentations
*Multiple Locations*

Noon - 1:30 p.m.  Lunch
Keynote Speaker – Cristy Dwyer ’08, ’10, ’13
*Courtyard*

1:45 - 2:30 p.m.  Concurrent Session VI
*Multiple Locations*

2:45 - 3:30 p.m.  Concurrent Session VII
*Multiple Locations*

3:45 - 4 p.m.  Conference Finale/Raffle Drawing
*Phoenix Ballroom*
All information tables will be located in the lower mezzanine.

**Friday, Oct. 24**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information Table</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disability Services</td>
<td>Noon - 2:15 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of Military and Veteran Education (OVME)</td>
<td>Noon - 2:15 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid/Student Accounts</td>
<td>Noon - 4:45 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Library</td>
<td>Noon - 4:45 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>School for Graduate Studies</td>
<td>Noon - 4:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for International Programs</td>
<td>2:30 - 4:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student and Alumni Advisory Group (SAAG)</td>
<td>2:30 - 4:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Distance Learning</td>
<td>2:30 - 4:45 p.m.</td>
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**Saturday, Oct. 25**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center for International Programs</td>
<td>8:15 - 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minority Students in Action (MSIA)</td>
<td>8:15 a.m. - 1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Island Location</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>College Achievement Requires Engaged Students (CARES)</td>
<td>10:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Niagara Frontier Location</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outreach</td>
<td>10:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science Club</td>
<td>1:15 - 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Location</td>
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<tr>
<td>40 Plus and Fabulous Club</td>
<td>1:15 - 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Location</td>
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There also will be handouts available all weekend on the following: Health and Wellness, Sustainability, Title IX and Sexual Assault and Voter Information.
Academic Tracks
This year we’re introducing Academic Tracks to the conference. This is an excellent opportunity for those who may be enrolled in these particular areas of study and also those who may be looking to try something new. Each year, we will highlight different Areas of Study based on the proposal submissions to further enhance your experience at the conference. Our hope is to change these out each year to highlight new areas.

Cultural Studies

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helping Others to Enter Our Culture</td>
<td>Capital Room</td>
<td>Friday, Oct. 24</td>
<td>2 - 2:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Experience in China</td>
<td>Hudson Room</td>
<td>Friday, Oct. 24</td>
<td>3 - 3:45 p.m.</td>
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<td>A Literary Injustice: The Marginalization of Harold Loeb</td>
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<td>Faith, Feminism, and Social Justice</td>
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<td>Saturday, Oct. 25</td>
<td>11 - 11:45 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Precedent and Privilege: The Illusion of “Whiteness,” Justice and Equality in America</td>
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<td>Saturday, Oct. 25</td>
<td>2:45 - 3:30 p.m.</td>
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Educational Studies

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<td>Accelerate Your Degree Program Through Your “Prior Learning” Experiences!</td>
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<td>Friday, Oct. 24</td>
<td>3 - 3:45 p.m.</td>
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<td>Working With Autistic and Troubled Children in the NYC Public School System</td>
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<td>Friday, Oct. 24</td>
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<td>Keeping the Professional in Paraprofessional</td>
<td>Stonehenge B</td>
<td>Saturday, Oct. 25</td>
<td>11 - 11:45 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative Modes of Teaching</td>
<td>Stonehenge D</td>
<td>Saturday, Oct. 25</td>
<td>1:45 - 2:30 p.m.</td>
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Historical Studies

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<tr>
<td>Socio-economic Class as Portrayed in American Cinema</td>
<td>Hudson Room</td>
<td>Friday, Oct. 24</td>
<td>2 - 2:45 p.m.</td>
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<td>Julius Caesar: The Uncrowned King of Rome?</td>
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<td>Friday, Oct. 24</td>
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<td>Capital Room</td>
<td>Saturday, Oct. 25</td>
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<td>Connecting the Past to the Present: Exploring Immigration Through Independent Study</td>
<td>Hudson Room</td>
<td>Saturday, Oct. 25</td>
<td>2:45 - 3:30 p.m.</td>
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Student Wellness
Student wellness is a priority for Empire State College. We want a student be healthy, both physically and mentally. To promote student wellness at the 10th Student Academic Conference, concurrent sessions that exemplify wellness are:

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<tr>
<td>Steps to a Pain-Free Life</td>
<td>Stonehenge A</td>
<td>Friday, Oct. 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESC Health and Wellness Initiative</td>
<td>Stonehenge A</td>
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<td>Understanding Your Personality and How to Work With Others: The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator</td>
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SUNY EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE • STUDENT ACADEMIC CONFERENCE • OCTOBER 2014 5
Friday, Oct. 24

9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  Registration  
Upper Mezzanine

Noon - 4:45 p.m.  Information Tables  
Lower Mezzanine

1:30 - 1:50 p.m.  Opening Plenary

Stonehenge D  Welcome  
Casey Kohler, Coordinator of Student Services, Center for Distance Learning

Opening Remarks
Tom Mackey, Dean, Center for Distance Learning along with Tai Arnold, Dean, School for Graduate Studies; Gerald Lorentz, Dean, Northeast Location and Bridget Nettleton, Dean, School of Nursing

2 - 2:45 p.m.  Concurrent Session I

Capital Room  Helping Others to Enter Our Culture  
Sara Rofofsky Marcus, School for Graduate Studies

Each person is part of a culture, and also is an outsider of other cultures. By exploring these differences through the need for help, participants will learn about membership and nonmembership. The workshop, based on The Olimpias Performance Research Project, aims to explore the diverse world of disability, especially the hidden ones, gender and sexuality through helping dances.

Hudson Room  Socio-economic Class as Portrayed in American Cinema  
Gayle Schechter, Genesee Valley Location

In America, every facet of our lives is impacted by the pervasive nature of capitalist class structure. When most people speak of “class,” they are speaking in terms of income; however, class truly speaks to an inherent power structure in America. As America’s preeminent art form, cinema is uniquely able to present a viewpoint to the public on the nature of socio-economic class in America.

Stonehenge A  Steps to a Pain-Free-Life  
Liza Feldman, Assessment Specialist, Northeast Location

Do you have chronic aches and pains that won’t go away? If you do, this workshop is for you. Learn the root cause of your pain and how to quickly and easily reduce or eliminate that pain.

Stonehenge B  The College Addresses Sexual Violence  
Mary Morton, Affirmative Action Officer, Empire State College

Empire State College is deeply committed to fostering an educational environment free of discrimination. This presentation focuses on gender-based discrimination, particularly sexual misconduct and sexual violence. We will define terms and discuss college policy regarding sexual discrimination, how to avoid sexual assaults, what to do if sexually assaulted and services available to victims. We also will learn about the internal reporting and investigation process and explain external reporting options so students gain understanding of the process of filing a complaint.

Stonehenge D  “Can You Hear it?” ESC Poetic Expressions – Voices Poetry Group  
Kristen LaBoy, Metropolitan Location; Omar Richards, Metropolitan Location; Korea Tate, Metropolitan Location and Tyrone Watson, The Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies

Members of the Voices Poetry Group communicate their poetry using various mediums; chanting, urban style spoken word, poetic prose, exotic fantasy and spiritual symbolism. There are no limits to the style or methods Voices members use to communicate and let their verses artistically emerge. Voices Poetry Club welcomes students, alumni and faculty and will offer a forum to share, develop, create and hone this creative form of expression.
Friday, Oct. 24 (continued)

3 - 3:45 p.m.  Concurrent Session II

Capital Room  What does Math have to do with Art?
Claire Wasserman, School for Graduate Studies
Tessellations; this is an arena where the beauty of math meets the beauty of visual pattern. Many students are befuddled by math and do not see where they would apply concepts in the real world and this is an example where the magic of math lives. This workshop seeks to explore where they exist in art (i.e., mosaics) and nature (i.e., beehives). Attendees will have the chance to create their own tessellation.

Hudson Room  My Experience in China
Ada Martiri, Center for International Programs, Tirana, Albania
Having participated in the summer business study program in China, Ada realized that her pre-conceived ideas of what to expect were not accurate. Come learn about what she was able to experience and learn during three weeks of business lectures and interaction with Chinese culture and traditions.

Stonehenge A  ESC Health and Wellness Initiative
Andy Binder, Community Outreach and Events Coordinator
Empire State College's Health and Wellness Initiative offers students a wide array of benefits and services. This session will explore what students can take advantage of as part of this ESC program.

Stonehenge B  Julius Caesar: The Uncrowned King of Rome?
Darci Clark, Northeast Location
While Julius Caesar's military exploits are well documented the question of whether he planned to make himself king in Rome remains a mystery. This presentation explores the research that demonstrates Julius Caesar's motivations during the Civil War and the evidence for, and against, the accusation he planned to institute a monarchy in Rome.

Stonehenge C  A Beginners Guide to Rigging Elections
Stephen Holland, Central New York Location
Mark Twain once said, “If voting made any difference they wouldn’t let us do it.” The Redistricting Majority Project (REDMAP) is a clever political strategy whose goal, in its effect, was to translate ones cynical wit into a practical political model for predetermining the outcome of congressional elections.

Stonehenge D  Accelerate Your Degree Program Through Your “Prior Learning” Experiences!
Sandra Barkевич, School for Graduate Studies; Emilie Masiello, Assessment Specialist and Part-time Mentor, Center for Distance Learning and Jawana Richardson, Long Island Location
We all have valuable learning experiences. Come explore how you can apply your learning to your course studies and achieve a high rate of return on your personal learning investment. Get valuable advice and tips on how you can successfully navigate through the Prior Learning Assessment process by writing essays and/or taking exams. Learn how you can save significant tuition costs, and accelerate your degree program through Empire State College's PLA program. You may just surprise yourself.

4 - 4:45 p.m.  Concurrent Session III

Capital Room  ESC Education for All: Ban the Box
Omar Richards, Metropolitan Location and Tanya Thompson, Metropolitan Location
The Empire State College Education for All (ESCEA) group supports the removal of barriers to higher education for currently and formerly incarcerated individuals. Join them as they discuss the Ban the Box initiative and present a short film titled “Passport to the Future.” They will then open up the room for discussion and questions.
Hudson Room  
Native American Struggle: Assimilation to Activism  
*Melinda Wills-Stallings, Long Island Location*  
This presentation will review centuries of U.S. government actions and examines consistent multilayered “wounds” inflicted on Native peoples from 1890 Massacre to the 1973 Takeover incidents at Wounded Knee.

Stonehenge A  
Empire State World Cafe  
The Student Affairs Committee  
Join the Student Affairs Committee for a mini World Café where you will learn the elements of hosting a world café, and provide data on their interests for purposes of increasing student engagement. A World Café is an opportunity for structured conversations to occur that elicit input from diverse groups of people.

Stonehenge B  
Working With Autistic and Troubled Children in the NYC Public School System  
District 75 in New York City Public School system serves students will all forms of disabilities. This panel will discuss autism and varying degrees of autism among the students. They explain how autism affects some students’ learning in the classroom, methods used to assist this student population and success rates. They also will discuss training and implementation skills for paraprofessionals.

Stonehenge C  
Understanding Your Personality and How to Work With Others:  
The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator  
*David Caso, Director of Student and Academic Services, Center for Distance Learning and Interim Coordinator of the Student Information Center*  
We interact with people every day. Sometimes we do things which we think are hard wired. Sometimes other people do things which we think are so very different than us. So, what gives? This interactive presentation goes over the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, the most widely used personality type tool. It will explain things you do and help you understand those strange things that others do and discuss how we can all work more effectively together.

*Note:* This presentation is only open to those who preregistered for it

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Courtyard  
Art Show and Alumni Reception  
Come eat, drink and join us for this wonderful reception of student artwork and the presentation of the Art Awards by President Merodie A. Hancock, Ph.D.  
*Cash Bar*

6:30 - 10 p.m.  
Stonehenge Ballroom  
Evening Gala  
Please join us for an evening of dinner and dancing as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Student Academic Conference with DJ entertainment from Enrique Lopez ’12 and a photo booth to commemorate your attendance at this milestone event.  
*Cash Bar*
Saturday, Oct. 25

7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Breakfast  
Courtyard

8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Registration  
Upper Mezzanine

8:15 - 3:30 p.m. Information Tables  
Lower Mezzanine

9 - 9:45 a.m. Concurrent Session IV

Capital Room Farmers, Shields and Money: An Iterative Approach to the Rise of the Greek Polis  
*Mike Lally, Genesee Valley Location*  
This presentation will bring the orthodoxy and the revisionists together in one, iterative model detailing the emergence of hoplites in a continuous cycle. A debate will be framed using Kagan’s definition and then proceed to highlight the main contenders: Victor Davis Hanson for the orthodox, Hans van Wees for the revisionist and also John R. Hale for a radical revisionist proposal.

Hudson Room A Czech Perspective on the Ukrainian Crisis  
*Lenka Houskova, Center for International Programs, Prague, Czech Republic*  
The Czech Republic, an EU member state since 2004, has been starting to face the consequences of Russia’s purposeful destabilization of Ukraine. The aim of this presentation is to discuss the impact of the crisis in Ukraine on the Czech Republic and the European Union.

Stonehenge B A Literary Injustice: The Marginalization of Harold Loeb  
*Michael Kaufman ’14, Hudson Valley Location*  
Using original research, this presentation will make the case that Harold Loeb deserves recognition, not scorn, for his contributions to the “Lost Generation” of expatriate American writers in 1920s Paris.

Stonehenge C Resiliency, Healing and Self-Efficacy for the African-American Student: The Development of Strategies to Successfully Combat Institutionalized Racism and Internalized Oppression in Higher Education  
*Baraka Corley, School for Graduate Studies*  
Focusing on the African-American student in higher education this presentation will highlight strategies that foster resiliency, healing and self-efficacy in overcoming racial and internalized oppression.

Stonehenge D The Workers Art Coalition: Creating Socially Engaged Art in the Public Realm  
Join these students as they each discuss and reflect upon their experiences working collectively to present socially engaged art in the public realm through the Workers Art Coalition.

10 - 10:45 a.m. President’s Town Hall  
Phoenix Ballroom  
*Merodie A. Hancock Ph.D., President of Empire State College*  
During the past year, President Hancock has asked members of her leadership team to ‘blue sky’ what an employer of choice would look like for our faculty and staff. Given this unique opportunity to talk with students, she wants to ‘blue sky’ with you about your college of choice. Join in this great opportunity to chat with President Hancock and have your voice be heard.
11 - 11:45 a.m. **Concurrent Session V / Poster Presentations**

**Capital Room**
**Exploratory Survey of Invasive Plants in Mohawk River State Park**  
**Joseph Corra, Northeast Location**  
Invasive plants can colonize foreign ecosystems, crowding out native flora, consuming water, nutrients and space, and blocking sunlight. The resulting changes to plant communities can have dramatic impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem processes. This presentation chronicles one's field study as it examined the presence of invasive plants in Mohawk River State Park through the use of an exploratory survey.

**Hudson Room**
**Which Adult Learning Strategy is Most Effective in the Workplace?**  
**Mark Rider, Genesee Valley Location**  
There is no single effective strategy for training in the workplace. Multiple scenarios and desired outcomes require consideration of multiple adult educational philosophies to be most effective. This presentation reviews several adult education philosophies and the roles each of them can play in a workplace learning environment.

**Stonehenge A**
**Poster Presentations**  
**Layla Abdullah-Poulos, School for Graduate Studies; Tehmina Ashraf, Niagara Frontier Location; Sandra Barkevich, School for Graduate Studies; Cheryl Murphy, Northeast Location; Claire Wasserman, School for Graduate Studies and Mary Morton, Affirmative Action Officer for Empire State College**  
Poster presentations are visual displays of scholarly work or research projects. All poster presenters will be in attendance to field questions and to engage in lively discussions.

**Stonehenge B**
**Keeping the Professional in Paraprofessional**  
Very often, students, parents, administrators, teachers and paraprofessionals are confronted with upset and or unhappy individuals or groups in ways that are unprofessional. This panel will discuss various successful strategies and methodologies used to diffuse tension, negotiate disputes and accommodate differing individuals or groups that approach paraprofessionals on the job in public schools.

**Stonehenge C**
**Conscious Freedom**  
**Omar Richards, Metropolitan Location**  
Grounded on the struggles of people of color to attain freedom and equality in a society determined to segregate people by race, class and gender. This artistic performance will incorporate Caribbean folk music describing the racial call for redemption from a racially oppressive system. The performance will include reggae songs of spirituality, chants of identification within culture and spoken word poetry of self-awareness and mutual respect.

**Stonehenge D**
**Faith, Feminism and Social Justice**  
**Felipe Sostre, School for Graduate Studies**  
In this session, we will discuss broad definitions of feminism, patriarchy and revalorization. As a group, we will then explore how the process of revalorization has unfolded or is currently unfolding in different religious expressions, specifically Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Christianity to impact Social Justice.
Saturday, Oct. 25 (continued)

Noon - 1:30 p.m. Lunch and Keynote Speaker
Courtyard Cristy Dwyer '08 '10 '13

1:45 - 2:30 p.m. Concurrent Session VI
Capital Room Using Your Strengths to Manage Challenges
Susanne Murtha, Center for Distance Learning
Even though caregivers may not have control of the situation of their care receiver, feeling more competent in their abilities to perform their role can decrease encumbrance and increase coping. More positive daily experiences arise when one is grounded in his or her character strengths and virtues. Small groups will brainstorm how to use strengths to manage self-selected challenges.

Stonehenge B The Van Arsdale Way
This panel will highlight The Harry Van Arsdale Center’s operation with a reflection from the standpoint of students and staff. The panel will discuss their experience in how they partner with the various trade unions and their experiences as women in the building trades.

Stonehenge C Getting in and Looking Out – Fan Fiction, Cinema and Desire
Paul Rehac, School for Graduate Studies
Slavoj Zizek proposes that cinema is the ultimate pervert art, relative to Lacanian psychoanalysis. This presentation examines whether the art of fan fiction is better suited to the claim as ultimate.

Stonehenge D Alternative Modes of Teaching
Bernard Smith, Metropolitan Location and Renita Reid, The Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies
Paraprofessionals are often called upon to implement a teacher’s lesson plans with students. As all students have very different learning styles, paraprofessionals must find a way to uniquely help each student. This panel will share some of the alternative teaching methods paraprofessionals use in the classroom. These methods may include: rap music, comic books, guitar and other instruments, etc.

2:45 - 3:30 p.m. Concurrent Session VII
Capital Room Beyond Setting – The Importance of Worldbuilding in Creative Fiction
Sandra Barkovich, School for Graduate Studies
This interactive workshop will introduce new writers to the basic foundations of worldbuilding. Learn how to use questions to add dimension to your plot and character motivations through the world in which they play out.

Hudson Room Connecting the Past to the Present: Exploring Immigration Through Independent Study
Jessica Withers, Central New York Location
One of the benefits of independent study is that the Learning Contract can be personalized to challenge the student academically. This presentation will discuss the development of a Learning, the importance of situating the learning in the community, and some significant connections drawn from the experience.
Stonehenge B  Breasts and Beards: A Lesson in Western Secular Extremism and the Significance of Cultural Relevancy
Layla Abdullah-Poulos, School for Graduate Studies
This presentation shows how one feminist group’s homogeneous use of topless protests formed a schism between women/feminists and the value of cultural relevancy to forging global feminist alliances.

Stonehenge C  Expanding or Redefining Our Understanding of Entrepreneurship
Don Desroches, Metropolitan Location; Holly Pecora, Metropolitan Location and Julian Wyllie, School for Graduate Studies
A “broad” and “meaningful” discussion of entrepreneurship that explores its historical role in human development and how it can be further utilized to benefit modern societal needs.

Stonehenge D  Precedent and Privilege: The Illusion of “Whiteness,” Justice and Equality in America
Mark Solomon, Metropolitan Location
This presentation attempts to unravel the masquerade of “whiteness,” which acts as a pervasive deterrent for the struggle of justice and equality. Together we will look at the ways political and economic elites maintain and expand social control of the mass working class population, fostering a racial divide to separate oppressed people from one another. Through open dialogue, we can come to a common understanding in hopes to unite and overcome inequalities.

3:45 - 4 p.m.  Conference Finale/Raffle Drawing
Phoenix Ballroom
Join us for this informal debriefing session, a chance to network with your peers and a chance to win an iPad Mini. (You must be in attendance to win.)
Zombie Gender: Sexualizing the Undead  
*Layla Abdullah-Poulos, School for Graduate Studies*

As characters generated from the imagination, zombies often reflect cultural notions about what it is to be human. This poster presentation will examine popular cultural imaginings of zombies with a feminist critical lens to show how filmmakers carry sexual exploitation into the realm of the undead.

Utilizing LaTeX as a Mathematical Tool to Present Research on Pathological Functions: The Continuous but Nowhere Differentiable  
*Tehmina Ashraf, Niagara Frontier Location*

In the early 19th century, mathematicians believed that a continuous function is always differentiable except at certain points. However, further exploration between the relationship of continuity and differentiability led to the discovery of continuous nowhere differentiable functions. This presentation showcases the research on the history of Pathological Functions both in LaTeX code and in the presentable output file.

The Student Connection – Your Student Newsletter  
*Sandra Barkevich, School for Graduate Studies*

The Student Connection, Empire State College’s student-run newsletter, is seeking submissions. Just as current editor Sandra Barkevich has done, you also can gain valuable publishing experience by contributing your work. This poster session will show you how to get involved and how you can transform your completed assignments into articles.
Changing a Tiger’s Stripes to a Leopard’s Spots:  
The Ethics of Sexual Orientation Conversion Therapy  
Cheryl Murphy, Northeast Location

This poster presentation explores the ethics of using conversion therapy on members of the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered) Community in order to change their sexual and/or gender orientation. It also will examine the history of conversion therapy and its recent reemergence in the news with the Texas Republican Committee adding the recommendation of conversion therapy for gays and lesbians.

Giving Growing Garden  
Claire Wasserman, School for Graduate Studies

In order for our community to be more self-sustained, we need to learn more about how to grow our own food and understand that what we eat affects our health. This poster will involve deciding which vegetables make sense to grow during the school year or when students have access to the garden and what foods have a sturdy shelf life. The proposed project is to learn how to grow vegetables on school property and to learn about nutrition and food accessibility with the goal that the produce will be donated to local food shelters.

The College Addresses Sexual Violence  
Mary Morton, Affirmative Action Officer for Empire State College

Empire State College is deeply committed to fostering an educational environment free of discrimination. This poster presentation will focus on gender-based discrimination, particularly sexual misconduct and sexual violence. It will define terms and discuss college policy regarding sexual discrimination, how to avoid sexual assaults, what to do if sexually assaulted, and services available to victims.

Awards, Fellowships and Recognitions  
Office of Collegewide Student Services, Coordinating Center

Empire State College offers many opportunities for students to be recognized for the work that they do. This poster will give descriptions of what awards, fellowships and other opportunities in which students of Empire State College can apply.
Cristy Dwyer ’08, ’10, ’13

Following a 15-year career in the music business that included working with the Rolling Stones and Frank Zappa and approaching the age of 40, Cristy Dwyer ’08, ’10, ’13 tired of being on the road and was ready for a change.

After playing with Don Preston of the Mothers of Invention and with her own band, Dwyer took a job with Chrysalis Records in artist development and continued to play and travel with many English rock bands in the late 70s and early 80s. She settled in New York City in the late 80s and worked as a recording studio manager. One of her first projects was for the Stones “Dirty Work” CD. Keith Richards learned of Dwyer’s musical talent, gave her a 1956 Gibson Les Paul Jr. guitar, and encouraged her to play more rock-and-roll.

At the suggestion of a friend who recognized Dwyer’s ability to communicate with rock-and-roll musicians, Dwyer, who is a classically trained pianist, investigated becoming a professional counselor for those suffering from alcoholism and substance abuse.

She earned her Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) certification and went on to work at the treatment facility of a midtown Manhattan hospital for 12 years and served as clinical director of rehabilitation services for her last seven years. While serving as clinical director it became clear to Dwyer that she could better serve the people she worked with and advance her career with the knowledge gained from earning a college degree. But it was her husband and fellow Empire State College alumnus Hugo Dwyer ’06, a recording engineer in the music industry, who provided the inspiration and motivation for her to return to college.

In 2007, Dwyer left her position at the hospital to pursue her undergraduate degrees as a full-time student. She also interned with the community affairs unit of the Manhattan Borough President’s office and began to work as a part-time faculty course designer and teacher at the Alcoholism Council of New York’s (ACNY) CASAC training program.

She went on to earn an associate in 2008 with a GPA of 4.0, a bachelor’s in 2010 and a 3.97 GPA and her master’s degree in 2013 with a GPA of 4.0. She was named among the 2010 recipients of the Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence, the highest student award SUNY bestows. In 2012, Dwyer became the first student from the college to receive the annual ACT Excellence and Student Initiative scholarship for SUNY comprehensive colleges given by the Association of Council Members and College Trustees of the State University.

Dwyer also was honored to be among the 2012 recipients of the School for Graduate Studies Dean’s Medal, as well as the sole recipient of the Roger Keeran Outstanding Scholarship Award. Her master’s thesis, “Unemployed Over 55: The Emerging Policy Threat of Older Workers in America,” was inspired in part by her adult students at ACNY who were working to obtain their CASAC credentials.

Dwyer currently serves as a member of the senior faculty of the Outreach Project’s Outreach Training Institute (OTI) where she serves as a curricula designer, senior trainer and adviser to adult students earning their CASAC’s. Dwyer envisioned and helped shepherd to completion an articulation agreement between the college and OTI that now affords OTI’s students’ academic credit toward their own undergraduate degrees. In addition to her role as an educator and adviser, Dwyer serves on Manhattan’s Community Board 2 as the vice-chair of the Environment, Public Safety and Public Health Committee and as a member of the Social Services and Education Committee.

Additionally, she and her husband, Hugo, serve as New York state coordinators and legislative advocacy volunteers for VOR, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring the civil rights of individuals with profound and severe intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Dwyers live in Manhattan’s Greenwich Village with their two cats, Gracie and Hudson.
Save the Date

Join us for the third annual Student Wellness Retreat at the Hilton Albany in downtown Albany, N.Y.

This event is free for all students!

Over 350 students attended last year, and this year will be bigger than ever.

Highlights will include sessions on stress management, yoga, dance, nutrition, a health fair with free screenings, professional massages, entertainment and a well-known keynote speaker to be announced soon!

Registration will open in January and more details will be posted at choose.esc.edu/SWR when they become available.

The Health and Wellness Residency also will return this year, and you can earn credit by registering for the residency in the Spring 1 Term. Residency details are available now at http://residencies.esc.edu/health-wellness/

Contact: Andy Binder, Andy.Binder@esc.edu
Join us next year for the 11th anniversary of the Student Academic Conference

Oct. 23 - 24, 2015
Holiday Inn, 205 Wolf Road, Albany, N.Y.

Hope to see you there!