

**KATHRYN W. DAVIS**  
*Global Community Scholars*








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*Global Community Scholars*

*Class of 2010-2011*



WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE FOUNDATION  
HARTFORD HALL  
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# KATHRYN W. DAVIS

## *Global Community Scholars*

The Kathryn W. Davis Global Community Scholarship Program brings together outstanding students from diverse backgrounds for education, international understanding, exchange and service.

Now in its fourth year, the success of the program is evident. Many of the Davis graduates have gone on to prestigious four-year institutions such as Columbia, Cornell, NYU, and Cooper Union.

During the third year of the program, students implemented diverse projects ranging from a film documentary on Hispanic immigration in Westchester County to campus health and wellness programs to planting sustainable gardens at a senior citizens residence in Tarrytown. This year, we look forward to incorporating what we have learned to make the students' experiences even more dynamic. Members of the college community have been invited to participate in regular seminars on Global Sustainability and to present and lead discussions from their unique perspectives.

The students' participation in the program is made possible by the scholarships, but the initiative offers much more than a traditional scholarship program. The Davis Program promotes the interchange of ideas, enlightens participants about global and local issues, and engages the students in cooperative and productive experiences.

The fund provides an exceptional educational and personal growth experience, using the facilities of Westchester Community College and Westchester County, as well as the rich cultural, artistic, and business resources of the New York metropolitan area, while engaging the students in activities with a global perspective.

The scholars have been selected for their remarkable commitment, extraordinary leadership and academic excellence. It is our pleasure to introduce you to the Kathryn W. Davis Global Community Scholars Class of 2010-2011.



Colombia

Jenny  
Alfonso

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

*I am the first person in my family to ever go to a foreign country. When I left Colombia and my family five years ago to study in the U.S., I knew that my life would not be the same. But through this experience I have learned fantastic things that help me grow as a woman and as a person.*

*Westchester Community College has given me wonderful experiences, including performing service for others through Phi Theta Kappa honor society, and learning about law enforcement and issues through the Criminal Justice Club.*

*My country is culturally different in many ways, but I enjoy the diversity of cultures in this country because I can learn from other people's experiences. Day by day, I walk with the hope of achieving my goal: to be a homicide detective. This career is challenging, but my parents taught me great values and lessons needed to succeed in life.*



Grace  
Asante



Ghana

## LIBERAL ARTS/MATH-SCIENCE



*I was raised by my aunt in Ghana and came to the U.S. three years ago to live with my father. Learning about life in America has been a true revelation to me. I've learned for example that children are allowed to participate in decision-making and have the freedom to make their own choices once they reach eighteen.*

*I am really proud that my education in this country began at Westchester Community College. Both the teaching and non-teaching staff have treated me like family. At first the language and cultural differences were intimidating, but I am adjusting to my new environment and also excelling academically.*

*My goal is to attain a degree in nursing and perhaps go beyond that to become a Physician's Assistant. I am very determined and know that I hold the path of my life in my hands. I intend to steer it towards success.*



Uganda

Natasha  
Bakunda

## NURSING RN

*I came to this country three years ago with my husband. I had many promises, dreams, and the hope that we would build a happy future in America. A year later, a victim of domestic abuse, I ran away with just the clothes on my back.*

*I am now in the process of learning who I am, and I know what I want to do. My life will signify something. I used to think the way to happiness was through self-sufficiency and independence, but now I realize that it is through the pursuit of kindness and compassion. This is why I want to be a nurse.*

*My natural parents and family are in Africa, but I have received invaluable guidance from my foster parents and my teachers at Westchester Community College. They have helped me choose nursing as a path that would develop my unique talents and strengths.*

*This scholarship will help me achieve more than an education, and more than a career. It will help me grow spiritually by providing me with the opportunity to help others.*



Frank  
Braiotta



United States

LIBERAL ARTS/SOCIAL SCIENCE



*I never cared. High school was a joke for me, and my first college experience ended abruptly when I just stopped attending classes without bothering to withdraw. I thought I would be content in some low-level job, but a year later I was bored, lonely, and sick of being a grocery clerk. Depression overtook me. When I finally sought the advice of a friend, he gave me a copy of Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita* to read. I had never been a good reader; I'd had to struggle with reading a single page of anything in high school. But I was ready to do anything to break up the monotony. By the time I finished I felt relaxed, my mind was filled with a new clarity and a newfound love of literature that took me by complete surprise. My brain was stimulated to the point that I've brought myself back to school to do whatever I can to keep these gears running in my head. I'm currently focusing my studies on an English curriculum and I hope to move on to a four year school to study post-modern literature.*



United States

Leticia  
Chavez

## LIBERAL ARTS/MATH-SCIENCE

*I came from a home where drugs were an ever-present horror, and I decided that I do not want to be just another girl from Harlem without an education. Westchester Community College has given me a fresh start. I have a 3.7 GPA and my sights are set firmly on becoming a zoologist.*

*I volunteer at the ASPCA and it has become my sanctuary. I've taken classes on how to care for abandoned cats and I teach and preach about the benefits of adopting pets from shelters. I want to become a zoologist so that I can work with animals on a larger scale. My dream is to work with orphaned wild animals.*

*I don't just talk the talk, I walk the walk. Getting my education from such a fine institution will make it possible for me to one day earn my Ph.D. in Zoology. I am determined to become the voice of animals that, like me, have been abandoned and neglected, and I know the building block of my goals is an education.*



# Szu-Ching Chen



Taiwan

## LIBERAL ARTS/MATH-SCIENCE



*Before coming to Westchester Community College, I never thought I had the ability to be a leader. I had language problems and I did not dare to talk to people; I felt like a nobody in a crowd. But here I became the Math Club senator, chair of the Film Committee, and an orientation leader to help incoming students.*

*A Chinese proverb states: "Poverty is not a sufficient cause of disgrace, but poverty without resolution to help oneself is a disgrace." My mom used this quote to encourage me to work harder and to never lose my motivation and ambition.*

*I plan to continue my education at a good four-year college so that I can get a better job and support my family. I don't know what challenges are waiting for me, but I know that I can never give up. To be a successful person is the way out of economic difficulties, the way to give my family a brand new life.*



Jamaica

Jenefer  
Dawkins

## RADIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGY

*I am a very ambitious 22-year old from the beautiful island of Jamaica, where I lived with my mother and two siblings and worked as a medical assistant. Two years ago I came to the United States to attend a wonderful college—Westchester Community College.*

*I have always wanted to do something in the health field. Becoming a “Rad Tech” is one of my short-term goals and is also a stepping stone to fulfill my future aspiration, which is to become a professor who teaches radiology.*

*At WCC, I am very fortunate to meet faculty and staff who are willing to positively guide me along the way. In Jamaica it would be impossible for me to attend college. But here it is possible, and by becoming a radiologic technician I will be able to show my gratitude by helping the people of the United States.*



# Marcelo Fischer



Brazil

LIBERAL ARTS/MATH-SCIENCE



*I arrived in the U.S. in 1999 hoping to find a job so I could help support my family back in Brazil. I discovered a whole new world. The roots of American culture and the idea of the “American Dream” have really impressed me and given me the sense of an immeasurable fortune waiting to be claimed. I started working in restaurants and at the peak of my career I was General Manager for a small restaurant group. After that, I knew that I wanted to get back in school.*

*Now 32 years old, engaged, and having lived abroad for more than ten years, I am a student at Westchester Community College. I am proud to have an almost perfect GPA and to be a member of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. I want to live in New York for the rest of my life, and I plan to apply to Columbia University to finish my undergraduate degree in economics. For the immediate future, my greatest wish is to make it possible for my father to retire from work.*



United States

Eric  
Gonzalez

## LIBERAL ARTS/MATH-SCIENCE

*Many of my friends ask me why I chose to study nursing rather than working to become a physician. My response to them is that I love to help people and I would like to experience making a difference in somebody's life. I believe that physicians are more focused on curing illnesses than on helping patients and their families get through their situation; this is where the nurse often plays an important role.*

*Westchester Community College has one of the best nursing programs in the country. I am going to take this opportunity seriously and do the best I can to earn this degree. Growing up in a foster care system has presented me with both financial struggles and academic challenges, but I plan to focus on my major and prove that I can make it as a nurse and as a person. I want to become the best there is, not only for myself, but for the well-being of others.*



# Seamus Hoffnagle



United States

## NURSING RN



*To borrow from the Beatles, a long and winding road that has seen me to my current place in life. I learned the benefits of hard work from the examples set by my parents. In my third year at college I decided to take a break from school. When I went back a few years later nothing was the same and I soon became discouraged.*

*I found an assistant teaching job that did not require a degree. It was a very fulfilling job, working with mentally ill children, and I stayed there for 8 years before deciding that I would have a lot more to offer the children if I furthered my education.*

*Now 35 years old, I've been married for two years and have a daughter and stepson. I'm studying to become a nurse. I have a strong feeling that I will choose to work in psychiatric care. I scored in the 98th percentile nationally to get into the ADN program, have never missed a class, and have a 4.0 GPA. Though I haven't always chosen the straightest path, I will pursue my continuing dream of helping others in difficult situations.*



United States

Jennifer  
Kunar

## NURSING RN

*My first year in the ADN program at Westchester Community College has been an amazing experience, and I am looking forward to the challenges next year will bring. Before coming to WCC I had already earned a Bachelor's in Psychology and a Masters in Children's Literature, and had spent several years working for a children's book publisher. But after encountering the hospice nurses who cared for my grandmother as she battled cancer, I knew that I wanted to follow in their footsteps.*

*My husband and I thought we could handle the financial burden of my leaving my job, but unexpected medical bills have made things very difficult for us. But I am working very hard to maintain my 4.0 GPA at WCC in order to start a new career that will not only help us but will also, I hope, have a significant impact on our community. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to begin making that impact now.*

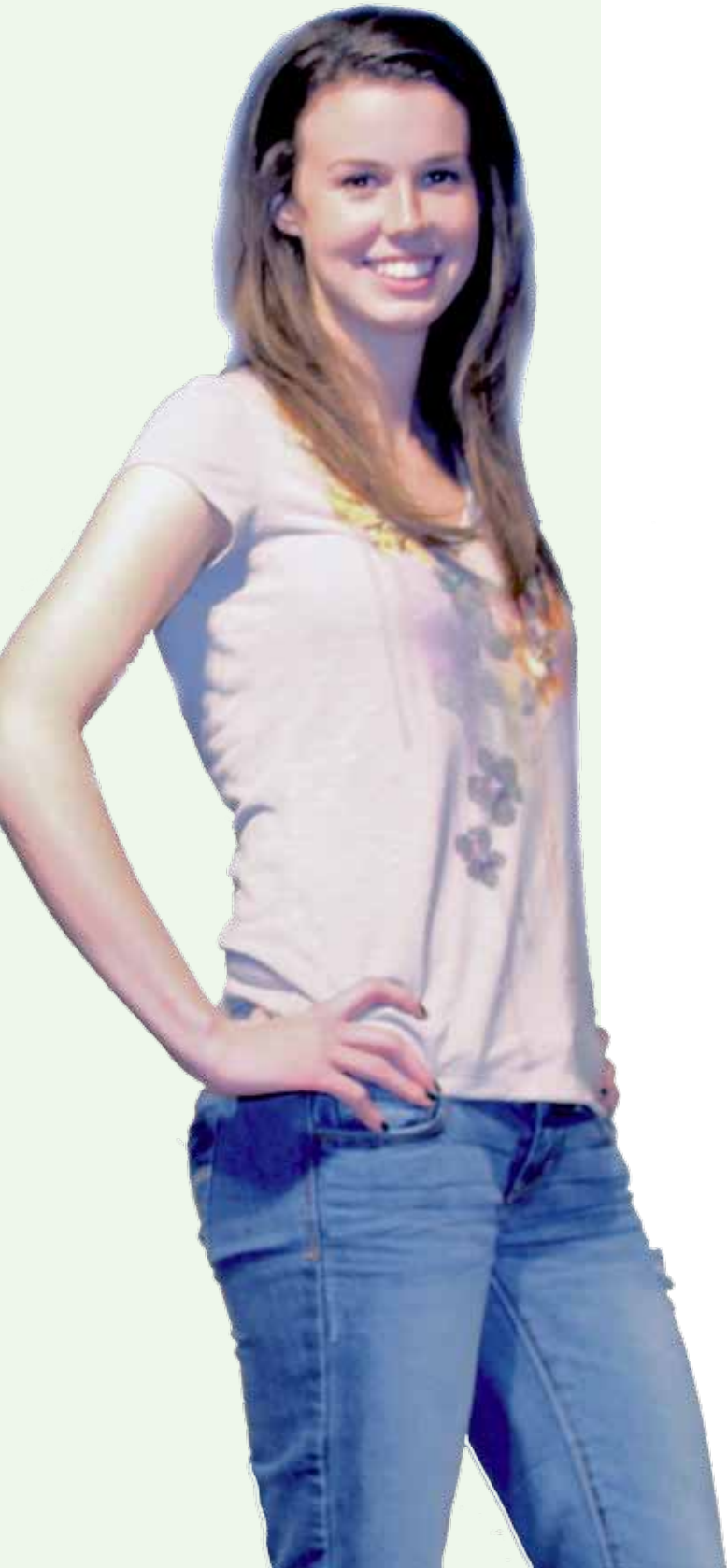


Jennifer  
Meury



United States

LIBERAL ARTS/MATH-SCIENCE



*On the day I received my Bachelor's degree, I was still unsure of my future career plans. After deciding that I wanted to help people by becoming a physician's assistant, I realized that I needed additional college courses. Westchester Community College offered all the classes that I needed to take, at times that fit into my work schedule.*

*The main reason I take pleasure in studying science is its inherent challenging nature. I plan to use my education to better the lives of others, and to help me accomplish this goal I volunteer for organizations such as the Girl Scouts, TOPSoccer, and the Capuchin Franciscan youth ministries.*

*I am happy I chose to attend Westchester Community College and believe that my time here has more than sufficiently prepared me for my future studies to become a physician's assistant. I have gained a network, which I can rely on in the future for help as well as to celebrate my successes.*



Jamaica

Tannessa  
Morrison-Blackwood

## LIBERAL ARTS/MATH-SCIENCE

*I am completing my prerequisite courses to prepare for a B.S. in nursing at a four year school. Becoming a nurse was a dream I never thought I could achieve, since no one in my family has ever received a college education. But coming to Westchester Community College and being chosen to receive this award has enabled me to break that pattern, and I now know that my dream will come true one day.*

*I have two children, and I want them to be both inspired and encouraged by my accomplishments and to learn from my failures. The economic crisis that is affecting the country has taken a toll on our lives. Day care expenses and low-paying jobs have made it difficult for me to afford college tuition. But now we have been given a tremendous advantage. Barriers have been broken, and I know that the way has been paved, not only for me, but also for my children to follow their dreams.*



Elijah  
Noble



United States

## ENGINEERING SCIENCE



*After my first semester at Westchester Community College was cut short by unexpected surgery I bypassed the next semester and invested all of my efforts into the corporate world and somehow allowed a “job,” not a career, to become the focal point of my life. When I decided to re-enroll I was able to achieve a perfect 4.0 GPA thanks to the help of many tutors. That feeling was better than any paycheck because it fostered motivation and inspiration.*

*The past year has been turbulent, but I feel blessed because I’ve learned to make the best of uncomfortable situations. I have set my sights on becoming a physician. It is a lifelong dream that I always considered beyond my reach before coming to this college. My professors and classmates are like an extended family; we motivate and drive each other. I can now state with confidence and conviction that through hard work and sheer determination, my aspirations will be reached.*



Germany

Alexandra  
Oliet

## INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

*Born and raised in Hamburg, Germany, I started working as a babysitter when I was ten. I have been working and saving my earnings ever since. When I graduated from German secondary school I went straight into the workforce. I had interesting jobs which allowed me to travel extensively, but I knew that I would never get any further up the ladder without a higher education. I quit my job, took my savings and came to study in the U.S.*

*I chose Westchester Community College because of its cultural and age diversity and wide range of services. Little by little I am getting more involved with all the opportunities and challenges the college has to offer. I had the honor of being nominated as an orientation and peer advisor, to support new students and give them the same wonderful start as I had.*

*After completing my four year degree I hope to work for a multinational company in the field of corporate social responsibility.*



# Macleiris Pratt



Dominican Republic/U.S.

LIBERAL ARTS/SOCIAL SCIENCE



*As much as I love my birth country, the Dominican Republic, my heart belongs to America. After high school, I spent 8 years in the U.S. Army and was an honor graduate of my Advanced Individual Training class, a very special distinction.*

*After the military I felt that I was missing something in my life. One pivotal day, I accompanied a friend as she registered for classes and I soon enrolled. My first semester was exhilarating. My professors encouraged me to pursue a degree in psychology. No matter what your dreams or goals are, you can reach them as long as you have a solid support system. My children have been amazing. They hang my graded papers on the fridge along with theirs and we have a common bond that brings us closer. My friends, professors and tutors have done nothing but encourage me and I am so thankful for the financial assistance I have received. I want to be a school psychologist in the hope that I can make a difference in the lives of students.*



United States

Chenease  
Smith

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

*My birthstone is a diamond, which is also my daughter's name. A diamond is a precious stone made from pressure, and that is what I am. When I was six years old, my family life began to diminish, and eventually dissolved into chaos. My brother and I were taken away from my mother and uprooted from our home. Instead of dwelling on all the pain around me, I focused on achieving good grades. I have maintained a GPA of 3.7 since I started college in 2008. I believe in hard work and dedication. I feel that my life has a purpose: to encourage and motivate other people who have been in similar situations.*

*Education has opened more opportunities for me and my children than I would ever have thought possible. I am honored and thankful to be a recipient of the Kathryn W. Davis Scholarship and to know that there are such caring people in this world.*

*A diamond is an unbreakable stone created by pressure. I think it's the pressure that makes me stronger and tougher. That's why in the end I will always shine.*



# Cleveland Walters



Jamaica

## ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY



*After arriving in the U.S. from Kingston, Jamaica in 1983, I studied for and received my equivalency diploma. I was 20 years old and wanted to go to college, but instead I decided to work for a little while first.*

*Twenty-five years and several jobs later, I was laid off when business was bad. I wasn't worried because I had a lot of experience as an electrical technician, and was a thorough, hard worker. Five months and many interviews later, I realized I was losing job offers to applicants who had college degrees and certificates.*

*In the fall of 2009, I began my studies at Westchester Community College. Thanks to skillful instruction from my excellent professors I completed my first semester with 12 credits and a 3.88 GPA. Wow!*

*At the end of this college experience, I plan to seek employment with a company that appreciates the achievements and accomplishments I have made at Westchester Community College.*



Poland

Patricia  
Zielinski

## BIOCHEMISTRY

*I wander around the Westchester Community College campus, enchanted by its changing appearance and growing beauty. I chose to come here because it was affordable and conveniently located. After discovering the numerous courses and activities it offers, as well as the many excellent professors, I decided to stay for another year.*

*I chose to study biochemistry to become a pharmacist. I thought about becoming a physician or a veterinarian until I found out that I faint at the sight of blood! I am also passionate about writing and letting my imagination soar and come to rest on a piece of paper. But though I love writing and literature, I know that my life will soon become a textbook of chemicals, DNA, cells, and molecules.*

*I participate in blood drives whenever I can, belong to several clubs on campus, and tutor students in calculus. I take the road less traveled and as I find myself surrounded by nature's beauty I feel that I am simply and unmistakably me.*



# KATHRYN W. DAVIS

*Global Community Scholars Program  
Administration, Faculty & Staff*

The Kathryn W. Davis Global Scholarship Program energizes a new generation of students with a passion for greater global understanding. The scholarship support allows students to gain the education that can transform their future, while the seminars and service projects create new bonds among students from around the world.



## ROBERT A. SCHLESINGER, JD

*Vice President & Dean, External Affairs  
Executive Director, WCC Foundation*



## DR. JIANPING WANG

*Associate Dean, Arts and Humanities*

## KATHRYN W. DAVIS

*Global Community Scholars Program  
Administration, Faculty & Staff*

Dr. Jianping Wang strongly believes in the importance of global understanding. As an immigrant herself, she has a special appreciation for the opportunities that the Kathryn W. Davis Global Community Scholars Program presents to our students and to the college. She works closely with Robert A. Schlesinger in providing overall administrative oversight of the program. She continues to work with the faculty co-coordinators in designing, implementing, and evaluating the program to achieve its maximum potential.

# KATHRYN W. DAVIS

*Global Community Scholars Program  
Administration, Faculty & Staff*

Dr. Lori Maida teaches sociology courses in traditional, honors and distance learning programs. She enjoys challenging students academically. Dr. Maida remains a teacher at heart and receives the greatest satisfaction from guiding, mentoring, and helping students achieve academically and socially. She welcomes the opportunity to learn from and to work with international and American students in the Kathryn W. Davis Global Community Scholars Program. She received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2000 and the Foundation Teaching Excellence Award in 2007.



## DR. LORI MAIDA

*Professor of Sociology*

*Co-Director,*

*Kathryn W. Davis Global Community Scholars*



## KENT TRICKEL

*Modern Languages Department  
Co-Director,  
Kathryn W. Davis Global Community Scholars*

## KATHRYN W. DAVIS

*Global Community Scholars Program  
Administration, Faculty & Staff*

As a full-time faculty member in Modern Languages, Kent Trickel coordinates and teaches academic ESL writing courses and an introduction to linguistics course. In 2008, Kent's outstanding work was recognized when he received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Kent serves as chief editor/advisor for *International Voices*, an annual publication featuring the work of Westchester Community College students from around the globe. He has a keen interest in educational technology, including online learning, and serves on several campus-wide committees involving technology and online learning.

## KATHRYN W. DAVIS

*Global Community Scholars Program  
Administration, Faculty & Staff*

As the college's scholarship administrator, Sandra Ramsay reviews scholarship applications, interviews students, and then selects them as part of the committee making the final judgments. She works closely with the coordinators of the Kathryn W. Davis Global Community Scholars Program to ensure student success.

She is responsible for more than 900 student scholarships totaling one million dollars annually. Under her leadership, she helped students win six prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Foundation National Transfer Scholarships in seven years. She has been active in the student services area in post-secondary education for almost two decades, and was recently recognized for her outstanding work with a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Services.



### SANDRA RAMSAY

*Scholarship Administrator,  
Kathryn W. Davis Global Community Scholars*



## DR. RUBEN BARATO

*Director, Student Development Programs and  
Community Standards*

## KATHRYN W. DAVIS

*Global Community Scholars Program  
Administration, Faculty & Staff*

Dr. Ruben Barato has the privilege of seeing the college's wealth of diverse students develop into the finest academic scholars. This particular scholarship program highlights the achievements of some of the institution's best foreign born and American born students. With this innovative effort, WCC is globalizing the college. Bringing students from home and abroad together to study and work in partnership to provide services to our community and the community of the world is now part of the institution's mission.

**KATHRYN W. DAVIS**  
*Global Community Scholars Program  
Administration, Faculty & Staff*

Teresita Wisell is Associate Dean and Director of the Gateway Center at Westchester Community College. The Gateway Center demonstrates the college's longstanding commitment to address the educational needs of the county's increasingly diverse population. Through its programs and services, immigrant and U.S.-born students learn together while preparing to become integral contributors to the economy and social fabric of Westchester County and our surroundings. The Welcome Center in Gateway serves as the first point of entry to new students and guests, and the Center houses academic programs in business and language as well as the English Language Institute, Professional Development Center and the Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies.



**TERESITA WISELL**

*Associate Dean and  
Director of the Gateway Center*

**Westchester Community College**  
Joseph N. Hankin, President

**Westchester Community College Foundation**  
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***Credits***

Linda Champanier, Design & Photography  
Barbara Christesen, Editor of Student Profiles  
Ken Gabrielson, Photography  
Edward Tatton III, Photography

