



Arete Update

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Arete Gallery

Arete is fortunate to have a diverse roster of clients and very interesting projects. This Update spotlights two of these, as well as the multi-talented team members who work on our projects.



Elizabeth Crownfield, Senior Associate, is nearing completion of a Ph.D. in musicology from NYU. She also has an MA from NYU and an A.B. from Smith. She emerges from the 16th century to work on Arete projects like:

- Library Connections
- “I Have a Dream”®
- Early Steps
- NYC Housing Authority
- Strategic Alliance Fund, United Way of NYC
- Community School District 10 (zoning)
- Community School District 11 (special ed)
- Community School District 20 (arts)
- Literacy Assistance Center
- NYC Department of Employment
- Stevens Institute of Technology
- Brown University, D&D

Rupa Patel, Associate, was born in India, grew up in Virginia, has a B.A. from the University of Virginia and a Master’s of Public Administration from NYU’s Wagner School of Public Service, and was married last year in a traditional Hindu ceremony. She resumes her American identity for:

- Library Connections
- NYC Housing Authority
- TLC @ the Armory
- MOUSE
- “I Have a Dream”®
- St. Raymond’s Community Outreach



Hernan Guerrero’s mapping and GIS expertise made him a valuable volunteer in the WTC cleanup

effort, as well as an asset to Arete. He has a BS in geography and philosophy from Clark University, and is now working on a graduate degree in Urban Planning at Pratt. Hernan has worked on:

- Community School District 10
- TLC @ the Armory
- NYC Housing Authority



Linda Braun is a professional librarian, consultant to school libraries throughout the Northeast, expert on the Internet and information literacy, and author of several books on libraries and the Internet. She has a B.S. from Syracuse University and Master’s degrees in education and library/information science from Lesley and Simmons Colleges. Linda is working on Library Connections.

Dr. Renee Blumstein is President of Informed Decision Services.



Renee has a B.A. in psychology from Queens College and a Ph.D. from Columbia University in Educational and Psychological Measurement, Evaluation, and Statistics. Between her two little boys and projects like Learning Leaders, she keeps busy!

Dr. James Meier, President of Arete (see over), has a B.A. in art history from Williams College, an M.S. in urban planning from Columbia, and an Ed.D. in administration from Teachers College, Columbia University.

Ejim Dike has lived in Nigeria and France, where she spent a year studying at l’Ecole d’Ingenieur des Travaux Publics de l’Etat in Lyons. She also has a B.S. from Berea College and a Master’s of Urban Planning from NYU’s Wagner School of Public Service. Ejim has worked on:



- TLC @ the Armory
- Harlem Renaissance Center
- MOUSE
- RITE Center
- St. Raymond’s Community Outreach
- NYC Housing Authority



Karen Drezner has an extensive background in education and research. In addition to working with Arete, she is Associate Director of the Asthma Initiative of Montefiore Hospital. Karen has a B.A. from Clark University and a Master’s of Education from Boston College. She is working with us on Learning Leaders.

Client Spotlight

Library Connections: Moving to Scale

In 1999, Arete began evaluating **Library Connections**, a new program for inner-city parochial schools in the **Archdiocese of New York**. The program has grown from three schools the first year to eighteen now, with eight more beginning in the fall. Through books, furniture, and intensive training, **Library Connections** is transforming libraries into the hub of the school. Teachers are collaborating in new ways and integrating information skills into the curriculum. Visitors to the schools can feel the children’s pride in their libraries and their excitement about books. Arete’s ongoing evaluation is developing new ways of measuring effects and pinpointing the elements of success. The next step: to expand the project beyond the Archdiocese.





A Look Back at Winter

Arete President Jim Meier's endurance sports exploits have attracted a following among clients, armchair admirers, and fellow competitors. Though a snowless winter made training difficult, Meier took a silver medal in the 50-kilometer Lake Placid Loppet in January, followed by a gold medal two weeks later in the Canadian Ski Marathon (CSM). The CSM, the world's longest open cross-country ski race, is a 100-mile, two-day event. Jim competed in the most grueling category, camping out under the stars and carrying a sleeping bag, food, and other gear in a backpack the whole distance.

Stay tuned for Hudson River swim races this summer!

Client Spotlight

St. Raymond: Building from the Ground Up

Arete has been working with two-year old **St. Raymond Community Outreach Center** in Parkchester, the Bronx, on a problem that most nonprofits would give their eye teeth for: cultivating a new organization offering cradle-to-grave programming by the time their new community center opens in 2005. The last month brought positive developments for SRCO: final environmental clearance and site approval for the 45,000 square foot building, and the first large payment on financing to start demolition of a parking garage site and begin construction. Arete's work with SRCO on strategic planning, evaluation and management systems, and program development is helping them evolve from a small neighborhood operation to a full service center.



Site of future SRCO community center