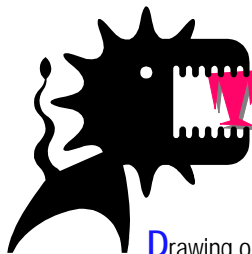


# Arete Update

*Arete*  
(Greek):  
Pursuit of  
excellence

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## CLIENT SPOTLIGHT



## BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE @ THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Drawing on our experience with inner-city Community Technology Centers and libraries, Arete is working with the **New York Public Library (NYPL)** to shrink the "digital divide." The challenge presented by the digital divide is to reach people with lower incomes or education levels, minorities, and unemployed workers who often lack access to computers.

The NYPL began **Click on @ the library**, a program of free computer classes, in March 2001, with support from the Picower Foundation. **Click on** has mushroomed from five training centers to serve over 1600 students per month in 42 library branches throughout the city. Equally impressive, NYPL is institutionalizing the program by moving virtually all instruction from regional specialists to branch library staff.

This latter achievement should not be taken for granted in an institution as large and complex as NYPL. Over a century old, it is unique in its dual mission as a world-class research library and a local resource for 85 distinct and heterogeneous neighborhoods throughout Manhattan, the Bronx, and Staten Island. The **Click on** courses on computers and the Internet are an important part of NYPL's mission as a 21st-century information channel, free to all comers. While **Click on** classes are open to everyone, reaching the target population can be a challenge, as those who would most benefit from computer training may be least likely to learn of its availability.



As the NYPL attempts to reach people in high-need neighborhoods, Arete is helping to evaluate its success in providing essential computer skills to those who need it most. We have created a comprehensive database of **Click on** users that allows the NYPL to measure its progress in reaching these groups. We have compared the demographic profile of each **Click on** branch with US Census data for the same neighborhood. Our analysis also addresses the ways in which students learn about **Click on**, their evaluations of courses and instructors (very high) and how well the courses met their particular needs (mostly very well). The results of the analysis enable the NYPL to pinpoint areas that are especially strong and those that need more attention.

## SAMPLE OF ARETE CLIENTS

### CITY AGENCIES

City of Yonkers (Mayor)  
Mayor of NYC  
NYC Board/Dept. of Education  
NYC Department of Employment  
NYC Department of Youth Services  
New York City Housing Authority  
New York Public Library

### FOUNDATIONS

Altman Foundation  
Robert Bowne Foundation  
Robert Sterling Clark Foundation  
William T. Grant Foundation  
Charles Hayden Foundation  
J.P. Morgan Charitable Trust  
New York Community Trust  
New York Foundation  
Charles H. Revson Foundation

### EDUCATION

Archdiocese of New York  
Early Steps  
Learning Leaders  
NYC Board/Dept. of Education  
READ Foundation  
Replications, Inc.  
New Visions for Public Schools  
Community School Districts 7,10, 11  
Cross City Campaign  
Commission on Jewish Continuity

### HIGHER EDUCATION

Brown University  
New York University  
Stevens Institute of Technology  
Teachers College Columbia Univ.  
Bank Street College of Education

### NONPROFITS

Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corp., RITE Center  
City Project  
Community Service Society  
Fund for the City of New York  
Harlem Renaissance Community Tech Center  
"I Have a Dream"  
Jewish Community Council/Greater Coney Island  
Literacy Assistance Center  
MicroSociety  
MOUSE  
St. Raymond Community Outreach Center  
Temple Emanu-El, Skirball Center  
TLC @ The Armory, New York  
UJA/Federation of New York  
United Way of New York City  
WorldStudio Foundation  
Youth Counselling League



## A Man for All Seasons...



**D**ashing through the snow — and the surf — Arete President Jim Meier finds new challenges every season. This February he attained his sixth gold medal in the Canadian Ski Marathon, a two-day, 100-mile event.

Once the snow melts, Jim takes to the waves. In April he swam the Tampa Bay Marathon, a 24-mile swim across Tampa Bay, as part of a four-person team (the “Brighton Beach Memoirs”), and in June he finished

27th out of 160 in the first Hudson River race of the season. In preparation for the open water competitions, he trains from early May through November on weekends in the chilly ocean waters of Brighton Beach. Next: the 10K open water championships in Huntington Bay, Long Island.



## And a New Spring Chicken! Introducing Junior Associate



### Anisa Kai Patel

**A**nisa, daughter of Arete Research Associate Rupa Patel and her husband Samir, was born April 15, 2004. She is a healthy and happy child whose hobbies include eating, sleeping, and waving her hands and feet.

Clients who have worked with Rupa will be glad to hear that she returned to Arete on June 1, leaving Anisa in her grandmother’s loving hands.

## CLIENT SPOTLIGHT: TEACHER RETENTION



Arete is evaluating two professional development programs for new school teachers, one at **New York University’s Steinhardt School of Education** and one at **Teachers College Columbia University**. These programs are funded by the Charles H. Revson Foundation and have the goal of improving teacher retention, a serious problem in New York City public schools, where an estimated third of the beginning teachers quit during their first year. Both programs have targeted novice teachers in low-performing school districts. We will complete our analysis in the fall of 2004.