

Women Making History in Erie County

Erie County Celebrates Women of Accomplishment



Shirley Ann, Ph.D. **Maribel Howard, Ph.D.** **Patricia Bowen** **Geraldine Ochonike** **Florita Henderson** **Dianne Bennett, Esq.** **Linda Chapman** **Wynan Cady, Ph.D.** **Patricia Cahela** **Joan Yang, Ph.D.**
Executive Director, Erie County Office of Economic Development | Executive Director, Erie County Office of Economic Development | Erie County Office of Economic Development | Erie County Office of Economic Development | Erie County Office of Economic Development | Erie County Office of Economic Development | Erie County Office of Economic Development | Erie County Office of Economic Development | Erie County Office of Economic Development | Erie County Office of Economic Development

National Women's History Month • March 2003



Joel A. Giambra
Erie County Executive

Clotilde Perez-Bode Dedecker
Commission on the Status of Women

Susan Davidson
Council on Children & Families

Charles E. Aughtry
Division of Equal Employment Opportunity

JOAN YANG Ph.D. President/Founder Rand & Jones Enterprises



BIO: Joan Yang founded Rand & Jones Enterprises Co., Inc. in 1985 after 10 years of "financial management in corporate America" following completion of a Ph.D. in Biology and an MBA from the State University at Buffalo. She also holds a BS in Plant Pathology from Taiwan University. Her first business adventure with her new company was importing oak vanities, which progressed to ownership of a factory on Buffalo's East Side to produce cultured marble. In 1990, Dr. Yang entered the general construction business, attending Erie Community College to obtain the construction education and management skills she lacked.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: Building Rand & Jones into a \$10 million company that has successfully completed numerous projects for federal, state and local government agencies. Projects include Veterans Administration offices in Buffalo, Canandaigua and Albany and most recently, the new Roswell Park Mirand Library. Successful completion of a \$3 million renovation at the VA in Canandaigua in 2002, a \$2 million project at West Valley Nuclear Center in 2001, her nomination for "Small Business of the Year in 2001" from the Small Business Administration, being awarded "Outstanding Supplier of the Year 2000" from the West Valley Demonstration Project, and being selected as a fellow of Leadership Buffalo in 1999.

CHALLENGES: As a woman in the male-dominated construction industry, overcoming her lack of knowledge in this field. Toward that end, she has taken eight construction courses at ECC and continues to learn first-hand about the technical aspects of the trade by involving herself in each project, start to finish. Her background in biology and finance provided her with the conceptual ability, but because she had no technical engineering knowledge, she had to rely on other professional in the construction industry to carry out management duties.

ADVICE: Work hard and do the best you can - there is no substitute for working hard. Be daring to think out of the box and challenge the status quo. Have some balance in your life. The most rewarding accomplishment for me is to have raised her two sons while building my business. You will make mistakes, learn from them and move on.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH