Welcome to the first edition of ERC Update, which looks at the breadth and depth of Thirteen/WNET New York’s educational activities. In our 40th broadcast year, this edition reaffirms that education is at the very core of our mission. Thirteen originated as educational television and has remained true to that mission.

ERC Update replaces Ed. News and Literacy Center News, which many of our readers have received in the past. This edition covers the period from October through December, describing intensive educational efforts that will accompany upcoming major series including The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow; Cyberchase, public television’s popular animated math series; and In the Mix: The New Normal, which looks at the impact of 9/11 on young people. ERC Update also looks at our adult literacy and GED programs, as well as our extensive online and ITV resources for teachers.

In our “Theory and Technology” column, we introduce video streaming and downloading, a new service available to New York State teachers, with over 15,000 video clips on demand to supplement the curricula. The article about the National Teacher Training Institute describes our extraordinary professional development program that has trained over 150,000 teachers to use technology in the classroom. And please check the free offers for cassettes and materials on the last page.

We thank our sponsors, who have joined Thirteen in the effort to provide stimulating programs and resources that will enrich people’s lives with learning and memories of public television.

New York State teachers now have free access to an extraordinary new world of online resources. In cooperation with the eight other New York State public broadcast stations and the New York State Department of Education, Thirteen is making 1400 videos available on demand via United Learning’s streaming and downloading technology. With a password and a few clicks of a mouse, local educators, parents and students can access a virtual video library. Broken down into 15,000 clips, the videos cover a diversity of curriculum topics, from Art to Zoology, addressing instructional objectives and New York State learning standards.

Visitors can search the video library using database titles, keywords or standards. Once selected, videos can be shown immediately or they can be downloaded to a local area network, saved to a computer or copied onto a CD-ROM. Teachers can use the videos to take students on virtual field trips and other online adventures. This innovative educational system contains valuable learning resources, offers closed-captioning, and is PC and Mac compatible. Teacher’s guides, blackline masters and post-viewing evaluations accompany the videos.

To get a password and begin accessing this wealth of educational materials, public school teachers in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, Staten Island, and Westchester, Rockland, and Orange Counties should contact their local school district’s chief technology director. Private and parochial school teachers in these areas should contact itvrequest@thirteen.org. This pilot program is currently limited to New York State educators. For more information contact itvrequest@thirteen.org.

Thirteen will provide streaming system training for local teachers, home schoolers, and parents. See Special Events (page 8).
This September, Thirteen/WNET teamed up with the Emmy-winning series In the Mix to examine September 11th through the eyes of teens. Check your local listings for rebroadcasts.

In the Mix: The New Normal is a provocative collection of documentaries in which teens relate personal stories about the day of the attacks, discuss important residual issues such as stereotyping and diversity, interview well-known journalists and activists, and engage in heated group discussions.

These teenagers come from many backgrounds. Jamie, a Long Island teenager, talks about coping with the death of her stepfather, a New York City firefighter. Los Angeles high schoolers share their thoughts about the far-reaching effects of September 11th. Roksana, a 16-year-old Muslim girl, organizes a diversity awareness workshop designed to dispel stereotypes and myths.

The series’ first episode, Living With Change, focuses on teen reactions to September 11th. Get the News? analyzes the media’s role in shaping teens’ attitudes to the tragedy. Dealing With Differences showcases the myriad creative solutions devised by schools, community groups and individuals to promote tolerance at a time when a growing number of Arab-Americans and Muslims find themselves victimized.

The In the Mix: The New Normal Web site at www.pbs.org/inthemix/newnormal features a “perception quiz” that explores issues of bias, stereotyping and media literacy. The site contains additional teacher resources including a discussion guide, links and a section on e-mail pen-pals.

Over 35,000 educators subscribe to Thirteen Ed Online. Each month they receive updates on new and innovative ways to use media in their classroom. To join them, log on to www.thirteen.org/edonline.

Our Ed Online and NTTI lesson plans are viewed by educators between 4000 and 5000 times every month.

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Lynchings and beatings by night. Demeaning treatment by day. And a life of crushing subordination for Southern blacks that was maintained by white supremacist laws and customs known as “Jim Crow.” It was a brutal and oppressive era in American history that spanned the years from the end of the Civil War to the start of the modern civil rights movement in the 1950s—and beyond. Now, for the first time, the complexities that defined life during the Jim Crow era will be explored in a major documentary. The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow is a new four-part series for PBS from Thirteen that premieres nationally October 1st at 10:00 p.m. (check local listings)

A Web companion produced by Thirteen offers an assortment of interactive features, including a multimedia history of Jim Crow, biographies of key persons in the struggle, accounts by elderly eye-witnesses, and special classroom activities. A national outreach effort will spark discussions between adults who lived during the Jim Crow era and today’s younger generation. They will use the film as a catalyst for discussion to discover the stories of local heroes who fought the oppression of Jim Crow.

An Intergenerational Discussion Guide will include essays on the struggles and triumphs in the fight against Jim Crow, personal accounts, anecdotes, profiles, questions for thought and discussion, art and music projects, and listings of resources. A downloadable version of the guide will be available on the Jim Crow Web site; or write to guiderequest@thirteen.org to receive your free copy.
ERC’s highly acclaimed National Teacher Training Institute (NTTI) has entered its 13th year. NTTI provides resources for educators seeking to turn their classrooms into high-tech, high-energy learning labs utilizing PBS programming, the Internet and other emerging technologies. Since the project’s inception, NTTI has provided professional development to over 150,000 teachers across the country.

Last year, NTTI began providing sustained, on-site professional development for teachers in the tri-state area. By training teachers in their own schools with their own technology, and by securing a commitment from administrators, staff and technology specialists, the Institute is bringing systemic changes in technology utilization to regional schools and districts.

The Institute also holds several “open enrollment” events throughout the school year. These workshops – open to all teachers in the tri-state area – are frequently tied to upcoming Thirteen productions. Educators receive behind-the-scenes information on the production as well as resources and materials. They are led, step-by-step, through a media-enhanced lesson plan utilizing the production and its online components. During the 2001 – 2002 school year, NTTI hosted workshops focused on NATURE’S Africa series, the animated math hit series Cyberchase, and PBS’s own hands-on reality history series, Frontier House.

In 2002 – 2003, NTTI will host more open enrollment events, focused on Cyberchase, NATURE and the highly-anticipated Freedom: A History of US. To get on the mailing list for these popular, exciting, hands-on workshops, send an e-mail with your contact information to ntti@thirteen.org.

Parents/Caregivers

• Create an activity schedule for each child and stick to it. Allow time to ensure that your child can complete all scheduled entries.
• Stock your cupboard with nutritional snacks. Junk food may be fun, but over time it drains a student’s energy.
• Get to know your child’s teacher. Provide contact information and good times to call. Let the teacher know if your child has allergies or is on special medication.
• Update your child’s emergency card in the school’s main office.
• Take your children to the local public library where they can find great books and free internet access.
• Visit Thirteen Ed Online’s Parent Area to find low-cost activities for your child.

Educators

• Create an environment that invites learning and exploration.
• Establish your expectations for excellence early and let parents know what they are.
• Always keep promises to your students.
• Establish and maintain a routine with your students.
• Advise students and parents about the school’s grading policies.
• Call parents early in the term. They will have helpful advice and information about their kids.
• Subscribe to Thirteen Ed Online, which offers a monthly newsletter with free, kid-safe teacher resources.

Students

• Start each day prepared for learning.
• Read. Read. Read.
• Study at the same time each day.
• To improve your mathematics skills, watch Cyberchase.
• Visit the Cyberchase Web site (pbskids.org/cyberchase) for fun games.
Instructional Television (ITV) is a free educational tool that teachers can use to enhance their classroom lessons. There are 165 different series available for taping and over 1400 titles online. Programs come with teacher support materials and address New York State Learning Standards.

Check out our Web site, www.thirteen.org/edonline/itv, to learn how ITV can make teaching easier and more fun, and to request free copies of our handbook and calendar.

Watch for these exciting new ITV programs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Title</th>
<th>Series Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inventing Flight</td>
<td>Science/Physics series</td>
<td>7–9</td>
<td>10/3/02, 4–5:30 a.m.</td>
<td>A multimedia series that looks at the science and history behind the Wright Brothers’ invention of powered flight, which celebrates its centennial year in 2002. Teachers can use this compelling historic event to showcase inquiry-based science.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masterpieces of the Hermitage Museum</td>
<td>Art/Art History series</td>
<td>9–Adult</td>
<td>Tuesdays 10/1/02–11/5/02, 4–5:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Taking students on a guided tour of the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, this series examines the artistry and history of the collection’s sculptures, paintings, tapestries, and glassware. The series highlights art from a variety of periods, including Classical, Neo-Classical, Baroque, Gothic, Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, and Cubism. Students will better understand the visual arts in relation to history and culture.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science Concepts in Context</td>
<td>Science/Physical Science series</td>
<td>5–9</td>
<td>10/10/02 &amp; 10/17/02, 2–4:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Organized into four discrete topics — Earth, Life, Physical, and Space science — this series will help students develop a comprehensive understanding of fundamental science concepts and historical discoveries in each field. Each concept is explored in a real-world context.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jazz Heroes</td>
<td>Arts/Music series</td>
<td>9–12</td>
<td>10/22/02 &amp; 10/29/02, 2–3:15 a.m.</td>
<td>A concise look at six late, great jazz giants. Archival footage shows the musicians in performance. Contemporary musicians such as Dee Dee Bridgewater, Kurt Elling and George Benson discuss the technical and artistic aspects of the music while jazz historians and producers provide a historical and social context for each artist.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passport to the Solar System</td>
<td>Science/Space &amp; Earth Science series</td>
<td>5–9</td>
<td>12/19/02, 2–5:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Packed with expert advice and proven tips to promote active learning, TV411 focuses on real-life topics that teach pre-GED level basic skills. Topics include parenting, money matters and health. Subjects include reading comprehension, research how-to’s, writing, filling out forms, calculating percentages, using fractions, test taking, and more.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life in Marine and Freshwater Environments</td>
<td>Science/Biology series</td>
<td>6–12</td>
<td>10/24/02, 3:30–4:35 a.m.</td>
<td>These programs examine habitat, diversity, adaptation, ecological niches, and interrelationships in marine and freshwater life. Clear modular presentation, stunning photography and up-to-date learning design create excellent teaching resources for the study of marine organisms.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TV411</td>
<td>Pre-GED series</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>Mondays 9/16/02–12/23/02, 1–1:25 p.m.</td>
<td>What's Up in the Environment? Science/School-to-Work program Grades 5–9</td>
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</table>

Major funding provided by the New York State Education Department.
Adult students who want to move up the educational ladder or improve their life skills should keep their eyes on Thirteen. On September 16th, the station launched TV411, a series of lively, half-hour shows geared to adult learners at the pre-GED level. Produced by the Adult Literacy Media Alliance (ALMA), TV411 embeds basic reading, writing and math skills in lively real-life situations dealing with money, parenting and health.

The Emmy award-winning TV411 series is educational entertainment. Celebrity guests such as Dennis Franz from NYPD Blue offer tips on reading and writing, how to get the most out of a newspaper article or how to write with precision. Members of the Dallas Cowboys explain key math concepts from fractions to percentages. Among many other special TV411 features are Oprah-inspired book clubs, animated segments that build vocabulary and simplify the dictionary, and inspirational, documentary portraits of adults who are on the path to life-long learning.

By calling Thirteen’s Literacy Center at 212.560.2831, viewers can get tutorial help or request a copy of TV411 workbooks, which provide opportunities to practice the skills modeled on the show. They can also visit www.tv411.org for innovative Web lessons on reading, writing, and math at the pre-GED level.

TV411 will air on Thirteen on Mondays 1:00–1:30 p.m. beginning September 16, 2002. The series will then repeat January 28 through June 10, 2003, 5:00–5:30 a.m. To study at your convenience and learn at your own pace, please set your VCRs to record each program. For more information about our tutorial services and workbooks, please call 212.560.2831.

The Adult Education Department's Literacy Center is pleased to announce its First Annual Adult Student Institute, a conference for adult students who are learning to read, to speak English, to enhance workplace/employability skills, or are studying to pass the GED exam. The Adult Student Institute will take place on Tuesday October 22, 2002, 8:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Several workshops, each able to accommodate 100 to 150 adult students, will be held. Workshop topics include using the internet to locate sources of information, using Crossroads Café to learn English, using Thirteen’s on-air programs to enhance student skills, and using Math Basics to overcome a fear of math. Workshops on student leadership, the Casio fx 260 calculator, family literacy, and managing student finances will also be held. At the F.A.T. City Student Panel one can experience how challenging it is to be a non-reader. Recent GED graduates can also get information about attending the City University of New York (CUNY).

For more information or to reserve a space please call or e-mail André S. Gleaton, Director, Adult Education, at 212.560.2928 or gleaton@thirteen.org. Seating is limited. RSVP is a must!
In partnership with the New York City Board of Education’s Office of Alternative Adult and Continuing Education, Thirteen hosted a GED Graduation and Student Recognition Ceremony on Tuesday June 25, 2002. This 12th annual ceremony honored and celebrated the accomplishments of graduates from our adult basic education, English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL), and GED programs. Teachers, families and friends celebrated the accomplishments of 191 adult students. Special recognition was given to the GED graduates.

Guest speakers included Lyn Brown from Fox 5’s Good Day New York, Phyllis White-Thomas, Manager of Strategic Giving for Con Edison, and Timothy F. Lisante, Deputy Superintendent of Alternative Adult and Continuing Education Schools and Programs.

The event received local press coverage from The New York Times, Hoy newspaper and the Sing Tao newspapers. In his New York Times article, Clyde Haberman described the graduation as “a celebration of learning by people who had come to it the hard way, in most cases while raising families and juggling a job or two.”

In her Sing Tao article Rebecca Ying Chieh Lin wrote about a Chinese graduate. The piece sparked the interest of 38 new Chinese-speaking adult education students who plan on enrolling in Thirteen’s ESL, TV411 (Pre-GED), or GED Connection program. Rebecca, as well as three members of the Chinese community, offered to volunteer for the Adult Education Department, translating program schedules, assisting with tutoring ESL, and answering hotline calls in Chinese.

Featured in the Education section of Hoy newspaper on Monday July 8, 2002, Maruxa Relaño’s article highlighted the speech of GED graduate José Ledesma, who said, “Voy a ser un ejemplo para mi comunidad (I’m going to be an example for my community).” Relaño’s article inspired 11 new Latino students to enroll in Thirteen’s Adult Education program.

TELL US YOUR SUCCESS STORIES

It is always inspiring to hear how teachers and students utilize content from Thirteen’s GED Connection, TV411, Workplace Essential Skills, Learn to Read, and other enhancement programs. Highlighting progress is rewarding and invaluable for other students to see and read. If you have a success story to share, e-mail it to gleaton@thirteen.org, or mail it to Thirteen’s Literacy Center, 450 West 33rd Street, New York, NY 10001-2605.
**MetroArts/Thirteen, the cable arts service of Thirteen, is the perfect companion for the classroom.** Featuring the best of arts programming from acclaimed series such as *Great Performances*, *American Masters* and *EGG the arts show*, MetroArts also presents diverse programming by and about our local arts community, celebrating the entire spectrum of the arts and culture, from jazz to classical music, film to theater, dance and the visual arts.

MetroArts is available daily on the MetroStories channel, digital cable, 9:00 p.m.–9:00 a.m., and on the Metro TV channel starting Saturday at 10:00 p.m. through Sunday at 4:00 p.m. (Cablevision, channel 16; Time Warner Cable, channel 70).

For more information visit www.thirteen.org or call Susan Kim at 212.560.6820.

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**Student Institute (Adult Student Conference)** The adult student institute will take place on Tuesday, October 22 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. For information contact gleaton@thirteen.org.

**Streaming Video on Demand** On the first and third Thursday of each month, two-hour training workshops will be held at our training center at Thirteen. The first workshops will be held on October 3 and 17 4:00–6:00 p.m. To enroll in these workshops please e-mail itvrequest@thirteen.org.

**Red Gold** Clip reels, posters and discussion guides for *Red Gold: The Epic Story of Blood* are available. Please send your e-mail requests to itvrequests@thirteen.org. Please provide your name and complete mailing address. Supplies are limited.

**Gettin’ Wild** *Wild TV*, a *NATURE* program first broadcast in September, inspires viewers to explore the variety and accessibility of the natural world around them. Thirteen’s Outreach department is distributing free copies of the *Wild TV* video and educational guide. To request them please e-mail guiderequest@thirteen.org and describe how you plan to use them.

**Africa** The Educational Publishing Department is offering free *Africa* video sets and educational guides. E-mail us at guiderequest@thirteen.org, specifying how many guides you would like and how you will use the materials.