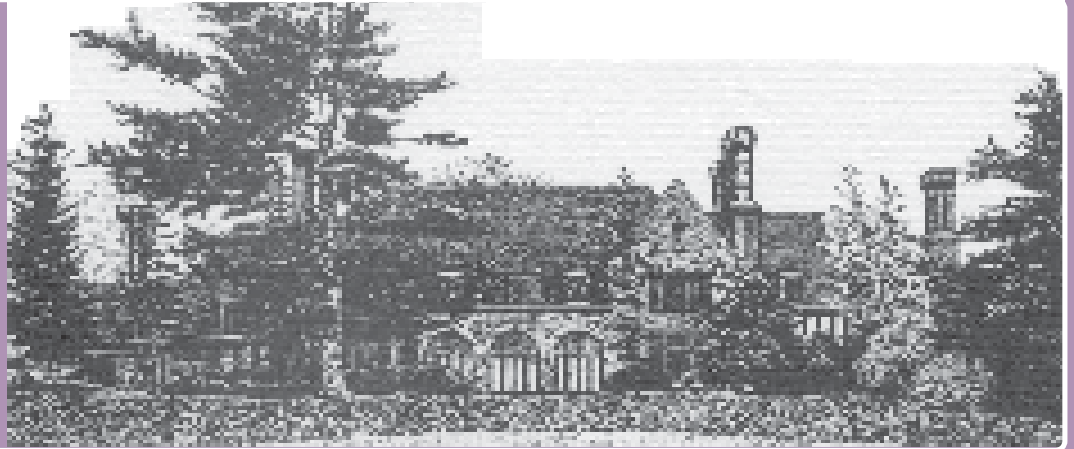




# WCC

## alumnews



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### FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON SPEAKS AT WCC EVENT



Lester Crystal, I., president of MacNeil Lehrer Productions, seated onstage with former President Bill Clinton

Former President Bill Clinton spoke to a crowd of 700 at a Westchester Community College fundraiser on Sunday, November 20. He discussed a wide range of topical issues at the event, including the war in Iraq, and also spoke at length about the role of community colleges. The sold-out event raised \$125,000 for the Foundation's scholarship fund.

"A Conversation with President Bill Clinton" was the latest in the College's annual President's Forum events. The discussion, moderated by Lester M. Crystal, president of MacNeil Lehrer Productions and former executive producer of *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, was followed by a question-and-answer session with the audience.

As a longtime proponent of community colleges, Clinton's remarks at the event included comments on the role of higher education.

"The thing I like about the community college system is that it is basically a low overhead, high flexibility, completely adaptable system that fits what America desperately needs," said Clinton. He went on to discuss the fact that median wages in this country have been "stuck" since the

*Continued on page 4*

### Harold Drimmer, Longtime Board Chairman, Dies

Harold L. Drimmer, a 26-year trustee of Westchester Community College and chairman of the board for 22 years, died December 3rd. He was 91.

Drimmer was an intellectual and a wordsmith who attended Harvard on a scholarship, graduating magna cum laude in 1935. He became an attorney and later went into an eclectic and highly successful mix of businesses. He was also the author of several books, including a history of the Jews in Westchester.

As a College trustee and board chairman he worked for 26 years to improve access to higher education by co-founding the WCC Foundation, which provides scholarship money to needy students. Drimmer was also instrumental in supporting cultural activities at the College. Of all his accomplishments, he was perhaps most proud of his contributions to WCC.

"I think he felt that privileged people could always get an education, but those less privileged needed a place that would be as welcoming as possible," said President Joseph Hankin.

When Drimmer retired in 1994 it was announced that the new library to be built on the campus would be named for him. Today the Harold L. Drimmer Library and Learning Resource Center is a state-of-the-art facility which serves as a fitting memorial to a giant of a man.



Harold L. Drimmer

### ARCHITECTS UNVEIL PLANS FOR GATEWAY CENTER

The much-anticipated preliminary drawings of the future Gateway Center were unveiled at the Foundation's annual board meeting on November 16. Design architect Susan Rodriguez of Polshek Partnership presented the firm's preliminary sketches of the 70,000 square foot building, describing it as "a building of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, yet connected to the historic quality of the existing buildings on campus."

The sketches depict two separate structures forming a "V" and connected by a glass-enclosed "gateway", a spacious and welcoming atrium where visitors get their first impression of the Gateway Center and are directed to its various areas and facilities. The atrium will also be a gathering place where students can meet and enjoy conversation in an open, outdoor atmosphere, regardless of the weather.

Leading from the atrium are clusters of offices forming three distinct centers: a welcome center, a business center, and a language center. Business and language centers will contain classrooms, computer rooms, seminar rooms and faculty offices. The welcome center will consist not only of offices but also a lounge, café, conference rooms, and a 120-seat auditorium.

"For students, this building will be a place of welcome,

conversation, and education," said Ms. Rodriguez. "We wanted to create a new threshold. This will be the first thing you see as you enter the campus, so it is very much about first impressions of the College. The Gateway building will form the outer loop of the campus and create a whole new identity."

In designing the building's exterior, the architects faced several real challenges. "We needed a design that would be worthy of the beautiful campus and preserve its landscaping. We plan to remove as few trees as possible and add beautiful new vegetation to the area



Architects' proposed design for the Gateway Center, scheduled to open in 2009

around the building. We also had to deal with the multi-level site, which necessitated having the rear of the building one floor below the front entrance. This will tie in the two levels and connect the view of the building with the rest of the campus."

Ms. Rodriguez noted that the Gateway building will be a 'green' building, packed with features designed to conserve sunlight and heat. She also stated that the building will be symbolic at night as well as in daylight.

"One thing Dr. Hankin insisted on was that the building had to glow at night. Well believe me, this building is going to glow at night."

### 2006 ALUMNI ANNUAL FUND GETS UNDER WAY

At many universities and colleges across the nation, the Annual Fund Campaign is the backbone of alumni giving. It's not unusual to see an alumni participation rate over 50% at these 4-year institutions. Community colleges however, have traditionally seen much lower participation by alumni. On average, less than 1% of community college alumni give to their first Alma Mater.

At Westchester Community College, we are leading the way in alumni development and are proud of the support we have received over the years. Total alumni giving has more than doubled in the last five years and each year more alumni are joining the ranks of contributors. Last year witnessed a 39% increase in alumni giving to the WCC Annual Fund Campaign, with donations totaling more than \$6,000.

These funds go a long way in supporting vital programs at the College, not the least of which is the Alumni Program. As we approach the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the College, we have some exciting alumni events now in the planning stage.

Annual Fund donations, known as "unrestricted funds", also support our Volunteer Program, pay the expenses of our Scholarship Office, and fund the day-to-day operating expenses of the Foundation. Without the donations made

each year to the Annual Fund, the Foundation would not be able to function.

The excellence of an educational institution is often judged by the contributions of its alumni. Please help to enhance this College's reputation for excellence by making a gift to the Annual Fund Campaign. An envelope has been enclosed in this Alumnews and your gift, regardless of the amount, will go a long way toward securing the future for so many students and insuring the continued success of Westchester Community College.

### From Valhalla to Broadway: JOHN EGAN STARS IN "THE PRODUCERS"



John Treacy Egan, left, a 1983 graduate of WCC's drama program, is currently starring as Max Bialystock in "The Producers" on Broadway. John has played nearly every part in the hit play and was given the starring role last October.

### UPCOMING REUNIONS

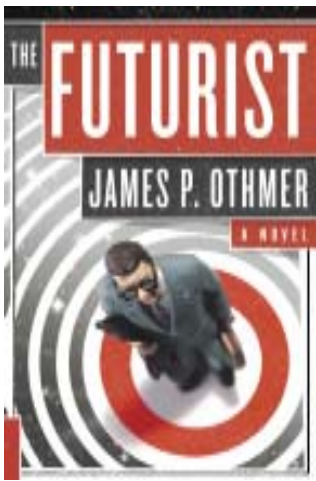
#### CLASS OF 1956:

The 50th Reunion of the Class of 1956 will be held on Thursday, May 18, 2006 on the Valhalla campus. If you graduated in 1956 and have not received an invitation, please call the Alumni Office at (914) 606-6559.

#### KAPPA SIGMA KAPPA:

Kappa Sigma Kappa fraternity invites all its WCC brothers to a Reunion weekend, June 23-25, 2006. See page 4 for more details.

## NOVEL BY JAMES OTHMER SET FOR JUNE RELEASE



James P. Othmer, '80, will have his first novel, **The Futurist**, published as Doubleday's lead literary title in June of this year.

Kirkus Reviews described the book as "a geopolitical thriller", "a shrewd, funny and sometimes brutal vision of troubled times", and described Othmer as a "sure-footed commentator" writing in "fast-paced prose".

Othmer, who recently returned from a coast-to-coast promotional tour for the book, told us that foreign rights have been sold to eight countries so far, and film rights have been optioned to Reason Pictures in Los Angeles.

The author attended WCC from 1978 to 1980, and still has vivid memories of the English courses he took with Frank Madden, Journalism courses with Helen Smith and Creative Writing with Shirley Kim.

"I wasn't the best student when I arrived at WCC," said

Jim. "But with each semester I became better, more sure of myself and convinced that I wanted to be a writer. The professors I had during that time were as good as, or better than, any I have encountered anywhere."

In 1980 Jim transferred to Northeastern University, spent three years as a co-op student reporter for The Boston Globe, and received a B.S. in Journalism. He later earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing from NYU, where his fiction advisor was E.L. Doctorow.

Jim went on to become an Executive Creative Director at advertising giant Young & Rubicam. His short story, "The Futurist", which is an excerpt from this novel, appeared in The Virginia Quarterly Review and was a finalist for the National Magazine Award in Fiction. When Doubleday bought his novel, Jim left his job at Y&R to devote all his time to promoting it.

A synopsis of Jim's novel appears on the Amazon.com website. The book is described as "an absolutely original novel that is driven by equal parts corrosively funny satire, genuine physical fear, and heartfelt moral anguish..... **The Futurist** is wry, picaresque, and a wicked barb aimed at all that is fatuous. It manages to be wildly entertaining and deadly serious at the same time."



James Othmer

## WCC Ring Found

A 1951 WCC graduation ring has been found on the Valhalla campus. The initials "A. C. C." are engraved inside the band. If you lost this ring, please call (914) 606-6559.

## Exhibit Showcases Ron Brown's Sculpture

Professor Ron Brown, a WCC alumnus and member of the Counseling Department since 1974, is also an accomplished artist and sculptor. He recently gave the public a glimpse of his vast talents at an exhibit entitled "Faces and Feathers", which showcased the African-inspired art of mask-making.

Prof. Brown's method of sculpting is called handbuilding--the construction of a piece without the use of a wheel. The masks in the exhibit were sculpted of clay and decorated with feathers in traditional African style. Some visitors to the exhibit commented that Prof. Brown had "captured the spiritual essence of those who long ago made the African works of art" and that "his use of colored feathers and facial characteristics are fascinating to observe!"

The exhibit opened February 18th at the Mount Vernon Extension Center, and was scheduled to run through March.



One of the African masks created by Prof. Ron Brown

## AMMAZZALORSO JOINS EDUCATORS ON SAUDI TRIP

Thomas Ammazalorso, '94, who teaches world history in the Washington, DC public high school system, was selected to participate in a program called Aramco Educators to Saudi Arabia. The program was started in order to examine education, industry, technology, culture, history, and global relations in Saudi Arabia through site visits, panel discussions and cultural activities in the cities of Dhahran, Riyadh and Jiddah.

The ten-day sojourn that Tom and his colleagues participated in began on November 15th. The program also aims to cultivate a greater awareness and understanding of Saudi Arabia in U.S. schools and communities. Additionally, the program seeks to encourage teachers to establish creative means of sharing this increased appreciation with their students, colleagues and communities.



Tom Ammazalorso in his classroom

"In my opinion, education is the most important public policy component of any country and this was an incredible opportunity to take an in-depth look at the Saudi Arabian model," said Ammazalorso, who received his MA in International Commerce and Policy. "I was thrilled to have the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the people of Saudi Arabia and how they educate their future generations."

The Aramco program was created by the Institute of International Education on behalf of Aramco Services Company, an affiliate of Saudi Arabian Oil Company. The Institute, which also administers the program on behalf of the company, was founded in 1919 and is one of the oldest and largest international education and exchange organizations in the United States.

## COLLEGIUM Provides Food For Hungry Minds

Are you a retiree who longs to be a student again? Do you hesitate to take a college course because you're afraid you'll be the oldest one in the room? If so, WCC has the solution. It's called COLLEGIUM and it's guaranteed to restore the vitality of those who have retired from their jobs and are looking for more intellectual stimulation.

Collegium for Lifelong Learning is embarking on its third full semester at WCC this spring. For six weeks in the spring, and again in the fall, COLLEGIUM courses meet on the Valhalla campus on Wednesdays, ending each day with a special lecture open to all. Members pay \$150 per semester to enroll in up to four courses (and enjoy discussions with classmates in the times between).

Founded and run by volunteers, COLLEGIUM operates with a volunteer faculty, some of them retired professionals exploring subjects of personal interest. Last semester, *Military Leadership as Seen Through the Lives of Six Famous Military Leaders* was led by a man still working in the world of finance; *History and Hollywood, the Civil War Era* was taught by a retired political science teacher; and a corporate computer programmer taught *The Milky Way, Meteor Showers, and Matters Celestial*.

COLLEGIUM's Spring 2006 semester will run from April 19 through May 26. Some of the course offerings include *Hollywood Moguls and Fiction*; *State and County Public Policy Issues*; *The Bill of Rights*; *Science and Survival*; *Thinking Like an Economist*; *Short Stories to Read and Remember*; and *British Foreign Policy in the 1930's*.

If you are interested in taking a COLLEGIUM course, or in teaching one, call 914-606-6848 for more information.



COLLEGIUM founder Edith Litt, r., chats with Dr. Mahjabeen Hassan, a physician who taught a COLLEGIUM course on the Koran

## The President's Corner



Spring, 2006

Dear Alum:

In preparing this letter I looked back on the last half dozen communications I have had with the alumni through the medium of *AlumNews*, and I covered several things: letters received from you which commented on the College; the new Gateway Building we are planning; changes in the student body since you were here; individuals who you felt made a difference in your life; and "change is in the air"—various other things which may have changed since you were here.

Now what? Well, it is really simple and I prefer to approach the topic through a story: a four-year old child actress was appearing in a movie with an aging cranky star. One day the star came on the set all made up and the little girl said to her, "You look so nice." The actress made a pouty face and spoke: "What am I supposed to say to that?" Without missing a beat the little girl immediately replied, "You're supposed to say 'thank you!'"

And that is what I want to say to all of you. Thank you for:

- being here in our formative days
- doing so well and leaving to go to work or continue your education
- continuing to do well in your chosen careers
- keeping in touch with alma mater, even when you have many other things to do
- and remembering us fondly.

All of us here at the College know that strong foundations are important, and that, as much as you credit us with giving you a background to build upon, we also recognize that YOU have provided this College with a strong foundation upon which we continue to build. Without you we would not be here today, nor be as strong.

So, THANK YOU, and continue to keep in touch, visit us, send postcards and letters. We are so proud of you all.

Cordially yours,

*Joseph N. Hankin*

## NPC PLANT SALE WILL FEATURE RARE SPECIES

On Saturday, April 29th, home gardeners who can't seem to get enough wildflowers will have a chance to buy some rare and unusual varieties at The Native Plant Center's annual spring plant sale. The sixth annual Wildflower and Native Plant Sale will be held at the College's Valhalla campus from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hundreds of plants will be available at the sale, which is open to the public. But a word of advice: get there early!

The Native Plant Center is a nonprofit organization affiliated with Westchester Community College and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas.

This year, The Native Plant Center is working with the venerable New England Wild Flower Society to offer a wider variety of unusual wildflowers, ones rarely available in commercial nurseries,

from the society's expanded nursery operation in Framingham, Massachusetts. Pinelands Nursery in Columbus, New Jersey, is another new supplier this year.

Also new this year, the Center is providing designs for "mini-meadow" and "shady grove" gardens by renowned horticulturist Ruth Rogers Clausen. The plant list also identifies plants that are deer- and drought-resistant and ones that draw butterflies and hummingbirds.

In response to many requests, the sale will include more shade-friendly plants this year, says NPC director Brooke Beebe. The sale will also include about 100 ferns grown in the greenhouse program at Children's Village in Dobbs Ferry.

Since its founding in 1998, the Native Plant Center has been encouraging people to garden with low-maintenance wildflowers and other noninvasive plants that are native to the Hudson Valley and naturally drought-tolerant. The organization has begun to have a significant impact on Westchester County. If you would like information on becoming a member, please call 606-7870.



The NPC's popular plant sale is held rain or shine

# AlumNotes

**1953**

**EDWARD FALLON** has been enjoying retirement for the last seven years, spending winters in Florida and summers at his home in Massachusetts. He and his wife, Shirley, find life very busy with 12 grandchildren ranging from age 4 to 20. The three oldest are freshmen in college and Ed really enjoys his conversations with them. Ed and Shirley became friends with **CAROL FICO, '54** and her husband, John, when he and John served in the Army together.

**1956**

**BILL ("Sticks") DAVIS** is looking forward to his class' 50th reunion in May. Bill is an adjunct instructor of Speech Communications at WCC in Peekskill, and also teaches at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, leading an online course called Employment Practicum which teaches students how to write resumes and cover letters and prepare for job interviews.

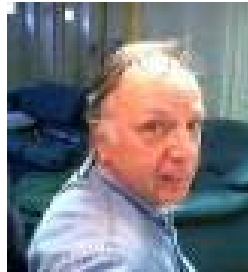


Bill ("Sticks") Davis

Bill was a member of the WCC track and basketball teams. He was the Most Valuable Athlete in 1956 and never lost at high jump in two years of competition. After graduating with an AAS in Electrical Technology he worked at General Electric in Syracuse for several years. He later spent 24 years at IBM in East Fishkill, NY and Danbury, CT doing technical writing, project administration and technical communications. Bill earned a Bachelor's degree from Marist in 1973 and an M.S. in Communication Arts from Iona in 1993. "Nothing thrills me more than coming back to WCC and teaching the next generation of future leaders to communicate more effectively," said Bill.

**1958**

**GEORGE SEPE** was Pledge Master of Kappa Sigma Kappa fraternity at WCC (see article, p. 4). After graduation he went on to the University of Bridgeport and graduated in 1962 with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. That same year he got married and began a career as Composite Engineering Chief at Sikorsky Aircraft.



George Sepe

In 1991 he retired and started a small consulting firm, which he headed until 2000. He became interested in HTML programming, developed his own website ([www.georgesepe.com](http://www.georgesepe.com)), and then created a website for his family genealogy, with direct lineage and copies of records back to the 14th century.

George is an active member and webmaster for the Sikorsky Golden Wings Retirees and the Sikorsky Archives. His current project is transforming old reel movies to VHS tape and subsequently to DVD format. George has 2 children, Christine and Damon, and 3 grandchildren, Katherine, Patrick, and George. He also has two miniature Schnauser puppies. "They are my joy," says George. "Believe it or not, I talk to them a lot and they have quite a vocabulary."

**1963**

**JOE ROTH** majored in mechanical technology at WCC and spent some time working in quality control at Technicon Instruments. He later became a police officer, and retired from the Larchmont Police Department in 1993 after 22 years of service. Joe, who lives in Harrison, is now working in the home building industry. "I have had a great life, great kids and grandkids," Joe said. "I'd like to know what ever happened to that great class of '63. As I look back, WCC had a great influence on my life and I am grateful that I experienced life at WCC."

**1970**

**FRED THORNE** and **SYLVIA ZARECKI THORNE** graduated from WCC in 1970 and married in 1973. After 26 years in the northeast they discovered the beautiful beaches and golf courses in the South Brunswick Isles of North Carolina and moved to Sunset Beach, where they built a new home overlooking the 17th green of Lion's Paw Golf Course. They love the milder weather, uncrowded beaches, and their many new friends and neighbors. Their two children have also moved south: one to Atlanta and the other to Savannah.

The Thornes are very involved in their community. Sylvia is a Registered Nurse at Brunswick Community Hospital in Supply, NC. Fred is a Director with the Brunswick County Association of Realtors, an Advisory Board member of the O'Dell Williamson Center for the Performing Arts, and is on the Executive Committee of the Nocha A. White American Legion Post 503 in Calabash, NC. In 2003 he formed his own real estate company; the website is [www.fredthorne.com](http://www.fredthorne.com).



Fred and Sylvia Thorne

**1971**

**ROBERT GALANTE** was a marketing major at WCC and is now employed by Sound Federal Savings Bank in White Plains as Vice President of Marketing. He was named The Person of the Year 2005 by the Harrison Chamber of Commerce for community involvement. Bob has been with Sound for 22 years, and his son Matt also works there, making him a third generation banker.

**1972**

**KATRINKA WALTER** is living in Ponte Vedra Beach in Florida, and is working in real estate. She is also on the board of the Beaches Historical Society and has been invited to join the Jacksonville Human Resources Council and to become a facilitator for study groups on racism. She is especially proud of her 3 gorgeous grandchildren: Alexandra 8, Jordan 5, and Freddie 2.

**1974**

**GARY SCHONMAN** recently celebrated his 20<sup>th</sup> year with the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, DC. Gary got his start in broadcasting with WARY(FM) and worked with Westinghouse Broadcasting and ABC News among other companies. After earning his law degree, he went on to work for the FCC. He now serves as Special Counsel in the Commission's Enforcement Bureau. Gary also does professional voice-over and narration work and is a member of AFTRA (American Federation of Television and Radio Artists). His clients have included MasterCard, Discover, and many others. Visit Gary's website at [www.GarySchonmanVoices.com](http://www.GarySchonmanVoices.com)



Gary Schonman in his studio

**1977**

**ROBERT ROMANO** was recently inducted into the IBM Quarter Century Club for 25 years of service at Big Blue. He is currently a Software Account Manager supporting an upstate NY/New England territory. Bob has two sons, Thomas (16) and Brandon (13) who both play on the Varsity Golf team at Farmingdale High School. The family resides in North Massapequa on Long Island and Bob coaches basketball locally in PAL and CYO leagues.

**1980**

**SPENCER ROSMAN** was recently promoted to "First Vice President-Wealth Management" at Smith Barney in Purchase. He has been with the firm for over 16 years, and has been a financial advisor for more than 18 years. Spence works primarily with families and business owners in the area of retirement planning. His website is <http://fa.smithbarney.com/rosman/>

**1981**

**JERI STARK** began a career in interior design over 20 years ago by working with her father, who was a specialist in upholstery and fabrics. After opening her own business, Jeri found that many of her clients were asking her for advice with larger home projects such as kitchen and bath remodeling. As a result, she has expanded her business to include general contracting as well. She works on both residential and commercial design and construction, and has her own website, [www.jeristark.com](http://www.jeristark.com). Formerly of Westchester, Jeri has recently returned to City Island in the Bronx and is lovingly restoring the home she grew up in for her mother, herself, and her young daughter Sarah.



Jeri Stark

**1985**

**ALISON PINSLEY** was recently named an Honored Member of the 2005 - 2006 Empire Who's Who Empowering Executives and Professionals. She was also named Woman of the Year 2005 by the Professional Women's Advisory Board of the American Biographical Institute. Last October, she was elected to the Board of Directors of the Scarsdale High School Alumni Association.

**1991**

**ALEX REYNOLD HECHT** lives in the historic district of Norcross, Georgia and works for Sprint Nextel as a liaison on the national level for both Legacy Sales Teams. The team's main goal is to educate the sales force to ready all current and potential clients for future integration of wireless services. Alex is also part of Sprint-Nextel Emergency Response Team which has been active during such disasters as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The "ERTs" are responsible for providing seamless communication to the military and other government agencies on location in a disaster area.

**1992**

**JUNE V. NEWKIRK** is presently a volunteer member of the Human Rights Commission and volunteers as a Family Advocate in Chautauqua County. She is two semesters away from earning a masters degree in Criminal Justice at Niagara University. "As an alumna of WCC and a MOMS graduate in 1992, I feel very blessed to have made it this far," said June. "The moral support, positive energy and enthusiasm to succeed against all odds began here."

**1994**

**JOHN BRADY** went on to graduate from SUNY Purchase with a degree in Fine Arts. He is now married and works as a motorcycle officer for the White Plains Police Department.

**1995**

**ANTONIO CORREIA** is station manager of New Castle Community Television. A retired Portuguese army captain, Antonio has been working in community media for the last 26 years on both sides of the Atlantic. He holds degrees in Media Communications and in Film. Find out more about public access television at [www.ncctv.org](http://www.ncctv.org)



Antonio Correia

**AGAMEMNON OTERO**, who was mentored by retired Professor Tom Halsall, is now an artist with an international reputation. A native of Uruguay, Agamemnon now lives in London with his new bride, Makaela. He spends much of his time travelling through the UK, Europe and the United States, completing commissioned works and exhibiting his paintings. You can see a good sampling of his work at [www.AgamemnonOtero.com](http://www.AgamemnonOtero.com)



Makaela and Agamemnon

**1996**

**KIM MASON**, former editor of *The Viking News*, won first prize in the Westchester County Office of Travel and Tourism's amateur photography contest. His winning photo will be used as the cover for WCOTT's 2006 travel guide.

**1997**

**WENDY LASSITER**, the Division Secretary for the WCC Technology Department, recently completed graduate school after several years of working full-time and attending classes at night. Wendy is extremely proud to announce that she now holds a Masters degree in Counseling from Pace University. Now her biggest problem is what to do with her "free" time?



Wendy Lassiter

**1999**

**DAVE ZIPPO** has been named Assistant Athletic Trainer for the Fordham University Athletics Department. Dave graduated from WCC with a degree in Math and Science; he went on to receive a degree in Athletic Training from Dominican College in 2004. Dave has worked and studied in the field of athletic training at Port Chester High School, Iona College and Manhattanville College. He is certified by the American Red Cross in CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer, Water Safety Instructor and Lifeguard Training and First Aid, and by the American Heart Association in CPR/AED & First Aid.

**2000**

**STEVEN BRADY** went on to graduate from Stony Brook University and then obtained a Masters degree from Adelphi University. He is currently teaching Physical Education at the East Bronx Academy.

**CAROL PFEFFER** is an attorney, a physicist, and an artist. Her work with camera-less photography has been written about in scientific journals and her photographs have been displayed in art galleries in the New York area. You can see some of her work on her website, [www.carolpfeffer.com](http://www.carolpfeffer.com)

**2002**

**CAROL LEE BYRNE** recently changed jobs and is now working for the Hawthorne Foundations Inc. She is manager of the Day Hab program located in Elmsford, NY.

**2004**

**JOSE RAMIREZ**, winner of the Human Services Curriculum Award in 2004, is currently majoring in social work at Lehman College. "I appreciate WCC for giving me the foundation for a future career in social work practice," he writes.

**SANDRA TAURISANO** is now studying at Columbia University and is proud to report that she made the Dean's List for two semesters. Sandra still misses WCC!

**2005**

**DION TAYLOR** just finished her first semester at NYU with a 3.8 GPA, and is elated that she made the Dean's List. Dion graduated with honors from WCC last May. She is working toward a Juris Doctorate in Law and expects to graduate with a B.S. from NYU in spring 2007.

## KAPPA SIGMA KAPPA PLANS REUNION IN VALHALLA



**Kappa Sigma Kappa Reunion  
June 23-25, 2006**

**Calling all brothers!**

**KΣK will have its long-awaited reunion June 23-25 in Westchester. The reunion will include campus events on Saturday and lots of opportunities to catch up with brothers you haven't seen in years.**

**We already have lots of response, all the way back to the charter class of 1958! Don't miss out! To get a full schedule of activities and hotel arrangements contact Gary Cotter at [gwc@gate.net](mailto:gwc@gate.net) (813) 831-5359 or Rich DeMuth at [rdemuth@midmaine.com](mailto:rdemuth@midmaine.com) (207) 675-3042.**

**Some of those who have said they'll be there are Tony Bianchini, George Sepe, Pat Lauria, Jim Wright, Vinny Foti, Tom McCullough, Joe Daily, Don Weigand, Kevin Slavin, Gene Frye, Frank Mancuso, Bob Zambelli, Hugo Bonafede, Mark Kierstein, Bob Frechette, Sal Pace, Marty Swartz ... and the list keeps growing. Be on it! Call or email today!**



Gary Cotter, '68

Gary Cotter, '68, and Rich DeMuth, '70 are two of the hundreds of alumni who belonged to Kappa Sigma Kappa fraternity while at WCC. The fraternity was active on campus from 1958 through the mid-seventies.

After graduation, Cotter and DeMuth both transferred to the University of Corpus Christi in Texas.

They helped form a chapter of KSK there, and as a result more than a dozen fraternity brothers from Valhalla headed to Texas to continue their education, and the friendship that KSK had offered them.

"The interesting part of the story," according to Gary, "was the enormous impact of these WCC transplants on the university. We had ideas, energy, and we challenged much of the status quo at the time. We are fondly remembered."

In April 2004, Cotter and six other WCC alumni returned to UCC for a reunion with some of their Texas brothers. The success of that reunion inspired them to hold another, much larger, gathering here at WCC this June.

At present, Gary and Rich are spending every minute of their spare time trying to locate the hundreds of members who pledged KSK while they were students at Westchester. If you are a KSK brother and are interested in attending the reunion, please contact Rich or Gary at the numbers given in the invitation above.

## Clinton Speaks at WCC "President's Forum"

*Continued from page 1*

1970's, but that "...everybody with two years of post-high-school education or more tends to have a job where the incomes rise...it's clear that just from a social proposition, we'd be better off if every American had at least two years or more of higher education."

The event raised funds for the Westchester Community College Foundation. Proceeds will go toward scholarships and academic support for faculty.

"This institution is very important, not only to Westchester County and to the people who benefit from it, but also to the economic future and the social fabric of America. To all of you who have contributed to these scholarships, you've done a good thing not only for the people who will be helped but also for the future of this whole country," he told the audience.

The former president seemed to enjoy the event immensely. After speaking for nearly two hours and giving highly detailed answers to questions from the moderator and the audience, Clinton stayed to sign autographs, pose for photographs, and chat with the attendees for an hour and a half after the program ended.



Janice Adams, '95 volunteered at the event and took home this photo as a souvenir

The President's Forum (formerly the Literary Symposium) has been a Foundation event for 21 years. The list of past speakers includes Henry Kissinger, Madeline Albright, Tom Brokaw, Alistair Cook and Art Buchwald. Normally held in the AAB Theater, this year's event had to move to the gym because the advance ticket sales were so great.

## Zappi Family Boasts Five WCC Alumni

Vincent Zappi entered Westchester Community College as a student in September 1948. After earning his Bachelor's at NYU, teaching electrical engineering as an adjunct, and spending two years in the Army, he returned to WCC as a faculty member and stayed for nearly 40 years.

All four Zappi children attended WCC. Bob was president of the Student Senate; he is now in marketing and lives in Westport, Connecticut. Linda was a student trustee and the first WCC grad to win a trustee scholarship at Boston University. She later earned a law degree from St. John's and is now an attorney in Rhode Island. Jim went on to study engineering at Manhattan College and is now in the land developing field. Diane attended SUNY Albany, and is now a CPA working part time and raising three children.

Retired since 1991, Vince Zappi divides his time between New York and Florida. He is president and treasurer of the Century Village Mandolin Orchestra.

## News from the Faculty

### Faculty Aids Katrina Victims

The WCC Center For Faculty is partnering with Delgado Community College in New Orleans, which was ravaged by Hurricane Katrina. Faculty members contributed \$1150 at their holiday party to aid in Delgado's recovery. "We will continue to be in touch with faculty there to discover ways in which we might be helpful," said Laurie Corey, director of the Center for Faculty.

### NEH Awards Grant

Profs. Linda Sledge, Christolynn Williams and Scott Zaluda were awarded a \$66,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to fund a project entitled *Africa and the Americas*. The program will help faculty at WCC and neighboring institutions study relationships between the literature of contemporary Africa and the African diasporas of the Caribbean and the U.S. Noted scholars in African, Afro-Caribbean, and African American literature, history, and culture will participate.

### New Endowed Chair Named

Prof. David Wedlick has been named to hold the Joseph and Sophia Abeles Endowed Chair in Criminal Justice. Prof. Wedlick chairs the Criminal Justice Dept. and is also a 1970 graduate of Westchester Community College.

### John Flynn Joins School Board

Dr. John F.M. Flynn, former Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs, has been named to the Yonkers Board of Education to fill the term of a trustee who resigned recently. Dr. Flynn retired from his WCC post last fall.

Yonkers Mayor Phil Amicone said that Flynn, 62, was an experienced educator who will help move the district forward. "We wanted to find the person with the best qualifications and educational experience," he said. "John Flynn brings professionalism to our school system, and hopefully he will serve for many years to come."

### Memorial Scholarship Will Honor Christine Mastrangelo

The Computer and Office Technologies Department plans to establish a memorial scholarship in honor of Prof. Christine Mastrangelo, who passed away last November. Prof. Mastrangelo had begun her career as a faculty member at Westchester Community College in 1983.

Prof. Janet Ranucci, chair of the department, said that "We hope that Professor Mastrangelo's family, friends, former students and colleagues will join us in this endeavor. The effects of the scholarship will reach far into the future as students go on to achievements that were made possible by this award."

Please send your gift in memory of Prof. Christine Mastrangelo to: Westchester Community College Foundation, 75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, NY 10595 and memo *Christine Mastrangelo Scholarship Fund*.

### Rosanne Kalick Writes Book on Cancer Etiquette

Rosanne Kalick, former chair of the WCC library, has written "Cancer Etiquette: What to say, what to do when someone you know or love has cancer." The book by this two-time cancer survivor is published by Lion Books. It contains suggestions on the most helpful, compassionate, and appropriate ways to discuss the disease and includes real comments that patients have heard when they have been involved in conversations about cancer.

### Farhad Ameen Visits Bangladesh



Prof. Ameen, rear seat, rides through the village of Domar in northern Bangladesh

During a recent sabbatical leave, Prof. Farhad Ameen worked as a Visiting Fellow at Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, a development NGO in Bangladesh. He was at their Research and Evaluation Division where he worked on a project called CFPR/TUP (Challenging the Frontiers of Poverty Reduction/The Ultra Poor). Prof. Ameen was originally helping their team analyze some data that had been collected in a survey of households in several villages. He is now continuing to work with them on a research paper on "Social Capital and the Ultra Poor."

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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