

COLLEGE MARKS 60TH BIRTHDAY WITH YEAR-LONG CELEBRATION

Westchester Community College is 60 years old! In honor of "Sixty Years of Excellence", a year-long birthday party is being held, and everyone is invited!

The celebration began with the start of the fall semester in September. Faculty members, dressed in full academic regalia, processed from the Student Center to the Academic Arts Building, where an opening convocation was held. Since then, special events have been held all over campus and will continue until next summer. All members of the College family--students, faculty, alumni, staff, administrators and retirees--will be included in the birthday events to be held throughout the coming year.

Originally known as the New York State Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences, the College welcomed its first students in September, 1946 at the Battle Hill School in White Plains. The students, mostly returning veterans seeking to develop marketable job skills, had to share classroom and cafeteria space with middle school children who prob-



Westchester Community College launched its sixtieth birthday celebration with an academic procession from the Student Center to the Academic Arts Building

ably found it hard to understand why their space had been invaded by all these "old people".

The new two-year technical college attracted so many students that the need for more space and more course offerings quickly became apparent. By the mid-fifties the college became part of the State University of New York, its name was changed to Westchester Community College, and the search was on for a permanent campus. Happily, the search ended on a magnificent estate in Valhalla, which has been

"home" to WCC ever since.

The college graduated its first class at Battle Hill in 1948. The sixtieth class will graduate in May, 2007.

The Battle Hill School in White Plains (inset), was torn down to make way for condominiums



**SPORTS HALL OF FAME
 INDUCTS FIRST MEMBERS**



The First Annual SUNY Westchester College Sports Hall Of Fame Induction Awards Ceremony and Dinner was held on Saturday, November 18 at Juliano's Restaurant in New Rochelle.

The SUNY Westchester Hall Of Fame was established to honor outstanding individuals that have achieved greatness in their respective positions here at the college and others that have gone on to

achieve national prominence in their respective sport.

The Awards Ceremony honored five persons who have been instrumental to the success of the college's sports program, and included past and present faculty members and one WCC alumnus. The evening's activities included a special presentation to the award recipients along with dinner and a sports memorabilia sale.

The Inaugural Class Inductees were:

- RALPHARIETTA** – NJCAA Basketball Hall Of Fame; former head basketball coach at WCC
- STEVE DONOHUE** – Current trainer for the NY Yankees and WCC alumnus, class of '77
- EUGENE "BUZZ" KEEFE** – (presented posthumously) Former WCC Athletic Director and PE department chair; basketball, track and golf coach
- TONY MEZZATESTA** – Former WCC Athletic Director and wrestling coach; present PE department chair
- JOHN YASINSAC** – NJCAA Soccer Hall Of Fame; former soccer and golf coach at WCC



Don Weigand, I., a 1972 alumnus and head of the Counseling Dept., with Hall of Fame inductee Steve Donohue, class of 1977, who is currently a trainer for The New York Yankees

**DR. HANKIN HONORED FOR
 35 YEARS AS PRESIDENT**

Dr. Joseph N. Hankin is celebrating his 35th year as president of Westchester Community College. Dr. Hankin came to the college in 1971, succeeding Dr. Philip Martin who had held the post since the institution began in 1946.

Before coming to Westchester, Dr. Hankin served for two years as president of Harford Junior College in Maryland. He was 26 when he was named to that post-- the youngest college president in America.

Dr. Hankin's 35th anniversary was formally celebrated at the end of last semester when he was honored by the WCC Foundation at its annual "Spring for Scholarships" event (formerly the Medallion Awards Dinner). Many of his colleagues, friends, college trustees, legislators and county officials attended the event to pay tribute to Dr. Hankin's long career and his brilliant leadership of Westchester Community College.

During his 35 years at WCC, Dr. Hankin has received numerous awards. In 1986 he was chosen by his peers as one of the 100 most effective college presidents in America, and in 1988 as one of the nation's fifty best community college presidents. At the end of the last Millennium, he was named by Westchester Gannett News as one of the most influential people of the century in Westchester and Putnam. We are proud to congratulate Dr. Joseph N. Hankin.

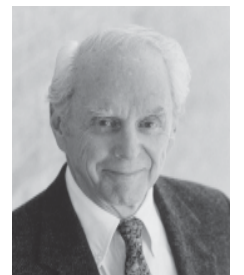


County Executive Andrew Spano (r.) was on hand to help celebrate Dr. Hankin's 35th anniversary as WCC president

**FOUNDATION TO AWARD
 \$1 MILLION THIS YEAR**

Westchester Community College Foundation is proud to announce that it will award \$1,000,000 in scholarships for this academic year, the highest amount in its history.

The Foundation attributes this landmark achievement to the vision, passion, and dedication of one man, Mr. Jack Stadler. Mr. Stadler's staunch support for Westchester Community College, and particularly for scholarships, spans decades. Since 1984, he has faithfully served on the Foundation Board of Directors; in March of 1990 he was also appointed to the college Board of Trustees. For the past several years, he has been enthusiastically promoting the ambitious goal of \$1,000,000 in scholarships to be distributed by the College's 60th anniversary, and making donations toward that aspiration.



Jack Stadler

In addition to his significant personal gifts toward scholarships, Mr. Stadler shares his commitment and caring for students at every opportunity. The profound effect that scholarships have on young lives means everything to him, and his ardent support for scholarships at Westchester Community College inspires more and more people to give.

From everyone at Westchester Community College and the Foundation, we would like to express our profound gratitude to Jack Stadler for inspiring us all!

**HONOR THE COLLEGE, AND YOUR
 FAVORITE PROFESSOR, WITH A
 BIRTHDAY GIFT TO WCC**

As a Westchester Community College alumnus/alumna, you can help to celebrate the college's 60th birthday by making a gift to the Foundation in honor of a favorite professor--living or deceased--who was influential in your life. To do this, send a check to the WCC Foundation, 75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, New York 10595. On the memo line, write the name of the person you wish to honor; or you may include a note with your check. The professor you honor (or his/her family) will be notified of your tribute with a lovely commemorative card from the Foundation.

The college has always depended on the generosity of its alumni. In fact, it has been said that the excellence of a college is measured by the financial support it receives from alumni. During this special year, your gift will not only be a personal tribute to one of your professors; it will also help the Foundation reach its goal of helping an increasing number of students each year to achieve their dream of a college education.

And remember, your contribution is tax-deductible.

...save the date...save the date...save the date...

**Alumni Reunion Barbecue
 Saturday, May 19, 2007**

Mark your calendars now for the special **ALUMNI CELEBRATION** of WCC's 60th Birthday. Plan on bringing your family for a great day of food and fun with old friends and favorite teachers, college staff and administrators. Watch for details in the next **Alumnews**, and on our website:
www.sunywcc.edu/alumni

...save the date...save the date...save the date...

PROF. JOHN CHRISTESEN HONORED AT DINNER

On Friday October 27th, a banquet honoring Professor John Christesen was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in White Plains. The event, which was a surprise, was attended by



State Senator Nicholas Spano (L) with Prof. Christesen

nearly 100 friends, colleagues, and alumni.

Prof. Christesen, a member of the faculty since 1973, is Chairman of the Department of Business and holder of the Joseph and Sophia Abeles Distinguished Chair in Business Administration. He is also

Chief Executive Officer of Alpha Beta Gamma, the international business honor society for two year colleges. He was instrumental in bringing ABG to Westchester, and has been largely responsible for the organization's growth to more than 62,000 members in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

Speakers at the tribute event included WCC alumni Bruce Papps '82, and Richard Testa '92, who both praised Prof. Christesen for his years of dedication to his students and for his mentorship and guidance.

A proclamation and a medallion from the New York State Senate were presented to Prof. Christesen by state Senator Nicholas Spano

Prof. Jeff Conte, Associate Dean of the Business Division, also spoke and shared a message from WCC president Joseph Hankin. Other speakers included Business Department secretary Brenda Bogren, who planned and organized

the event; Prof. Carolyn Christesen, John's niece and Accounting Curriculum chair, and Professor Hugh McCabe.

The Master of Ceremonies was Rick Hyland, '94, Director of the WCC Yonkers Cross County Extension Center and Director of Fundraising for ABG national. Rick said of the evening's tribute, "This event is long overdue. There are a number of faculty members and administrators at the



Rick Hyland '94 (L) and Paul Cunningham '83 present \$10,000 check to Prof. Christesen

College who deserve our thanks, but we think John deserves special recognition - and tonight is his night."

At the end of the evening, Prof. Christesen was presented with a check for \$10,000 for an Alpha Beta Gamma scholarship in his name.

"It is very satisfying to be able to do two good things at the same time", said Rick Hyland. "We've given a big 'thank you' to John while raising a substantial amount of money for ABG. It was a low-key but elegant evening and I get the impression that everyone had a great time."

COLLEGE FAMILY LAMENTS CLOSING OF THE CABIN

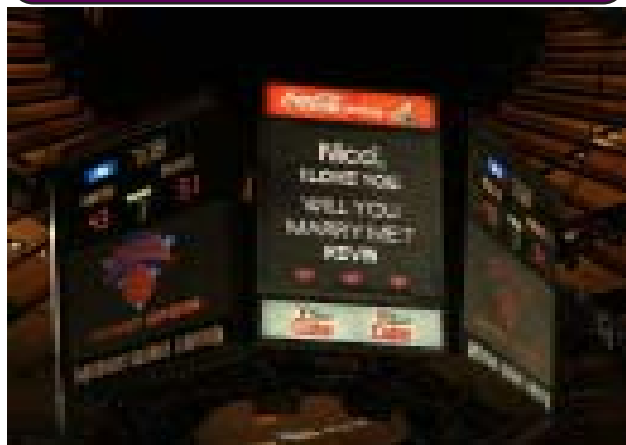
The Cabin Restaurant, a popular WCC meeting place since the sixties, closed on September 30th. Formerly known as "Ozzie's" (to WCC students in the sixties), the long, brown building at the corner of Knollwood and Grasslands Roads was a neighborhood fixture since 1948.

The Cabin's rustic wooden interior and "homey" atmosphere made it the gathering spot for local residents long before the college moved from White Plains to Valhalla in the sixties. Since then, countless WCC functions--dinners, reunions, retirement parties, birthday parties, class meetings, showers, and late night gab sessions--were held at the Cabin. Coincidentally, page 4 of this issue contains articles about two recent WCC events held at the restaurant.

The Cabin was owned and operated by the same family since 1948. Michael Bassett, grandson of the original owner, Oldrich Havranek, ran the Cabin with his wife Jody for the last 35 years. The Bassetts finally decided it was time to retire and, since their children did not want to take over the business, they opted to close the legendary place.

The Cabin has been compared to the bar on the TV show Cheers, where regulars sat at the same bar stools and everybody knew everybody else's name. It will be missed, not only by WCC students and faculty, but by local residents. In the days before the closing one local commented that he and his neighbors are anxious to see what happens to the building, and hope it's not going to turn into McDonald's."

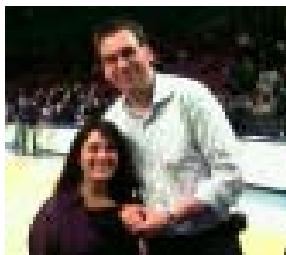
LOVE BLOOMS AT THE GARDEN



Kevin Fennell, '04 and Nicole Toppi, '04 became engaged earlier this year. Kevin, an avid New York Knicks fan, proposed to Nicole in a rather unique way.

A financial advisor at First Investors, Kevin learned that one of his clients happens to work for the Knicks. With the client's help, Kevin managed to have "The Big Question" posted on the scoreboard during a Knicks game at Madison Square Garden.

Nicole said yes. Thousands of fans cheered. The couple will be married on July 15, 2007. No word yet where the wedding will be held, but rumor has it that 'The Garden' has been booked for a private party that day....



Nicole and Kevin at Madison Square Garden

FORMER COMMUNICATIONS MAJOR NOW CBS PRODUCER

Flavie Bagnol, a former Communications major at WCC, is now a producer for CBS News-The Early Show, as well as The Saturday Early Show. She produces news, current events, and feature segments.



Flavie Bagnol

After taking 79 credits at WCC, Flavie transferred to Hunter College in 1998. Upon graduation two years later, she was hired by CBS as a Broadcast Associate for the news department and the evening news. Flavie worked as a desk assistant for the national and international desk.

She then moved to Network News Service, a CBS, ABC and FOX cooperative, where she started as an editor and producer and worked her way up to lead producer in charge of the newsroom, overseeing nearly two dozen people nationwide. In 2005 she was promoted to her current position on The Early Show.

Flavie says that a typical day for her can easily last 12 hours. She begins by reading some 20 newspapers from all over the U.S., looking for a story that she feels is different and would interest the program's audience. If her idea is approved she begins tracking down the people involved, arranging interviews, locating previously-taped material about the story, etc. If there is breaking news in the meantime, she drops everything to cover that. Her job sends her on the road a lot, and she loves it.

Flavie, a native of France, barely spoke English when she came to this country in 1994. She said that the patience and guidance of her WCC professors helped her to get where she is today.

RICH MINZER TAKES FITNESS TO THE LEVEL OF THE STARS

The convenience of a workout at your home or business can now have the quality and class you would enjoy at the finest gym, thanks to Rich Minzer, '80, owner of Celebrity Gyms.

Rich has been in the fitness industry for over 20 years. He started out as a fitness equipment Rep for Polaris, then worked for 11 years at the corporate headquarters of the famous Gold's Gym in Venice, California. At Gold's he worked with top equipment manufacturers to make sure the company had the best fitness equipment.

At Gold's, Rich worked with many of the celebrity clientele, helping them secure fitness equipment for their home. He eventually decided that there was great potential in outfitting customized home workout centers, and in 1999, Rich set out on his own to form **Celebrity Gyms**. The company provides consulting and planning of commercial and home gyms. Their client list includes Mark Wahlberg, Hulk Hogan, Wilemr Valderrama, WWE Superstars - Shawn Michaels, Stone Cold Steve Austin, Jean-Claude Van Damme, Ira Dean of the country music group Trick Pony, and Bubba the Sponge-- to name a few.



Rich Minzer, '80

The President's Corner

At the end of World War II a new institution was opened in White Plains to aid returning veterans in acquiring skills they needed to find jobs. The New York State Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences (also known as "State Tech") occupied a portion of the Battle Hill School, and 226 college students became pioneers there. Over the years, "State Tech" acquired a new name and become an integral part of the State University of New York. Today, sixty years after it began, Westchester Community College serves more than 25,000 individuals annually on a 218-acre campus in Valhalla.

In this sixtieth anniversary year of the College, many words of praise have been written and spoken about this fine institution of higher learning. Journalists and speech makers, feature writers and public relations personnel, administrators and faculty members--all these worthy and talented people have lauded the College for the significant role it has played in the lives of the residents of this County for the past six decades.

But the real story of Westchester Community College can only be told by its alumni. Within each issue of the *Alumnews* you will find stories about the college that go beyond the laudatory comments penned and spoken by others. These are the stories of former students who actually lived through the WCC experience and have told us about the important role it has played in their lives and careers. From nurses to corporate executives, CPAs to politicians, social workers to attorneys--the occupations represented in each issue are as diverse as the college itself has become. The single thread which unites these men and women is that they attribute to Westchester Community College some measure of the success that they have enjoyed in their lives thus far.

The people whose stories are told in the *Alumnews* are a credit to this institution; their accomplishments are impressive. They represent thousands more who, like them, dreamed of obtaining a higher education to enrich their lives and the lives of their children and grandchildren. We are proud that Westchester Community College was here to make their dreams come true; we can only wonder what marvelous things will be accomplished by those who graduate in the next sixty years.

Joseph N. Hankin

COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA TO HOST 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

As the College celebrates its 60th anniversary, the Communications and Media Arts Department is also celebrating a landmark year--its 25th anniversary of awarding this degree. Dr. Eileen Shea, department chair, is asking that all alumni who graduated with a degree in Communications/Media Arts contact her or another faculty member.

During the spring 2007 semester, the department will host a special Silver Anniversary celebration and will invite back to the campus all of the graduates since 1982 when the degree was first awarded.

Recently, a survey was sent to all graduates of the program asking WHERE ARE YOU NOW, AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING? If you have not received a survey, know any CMD graduates not on our mailing list, or have any questions, please contact Dr. Eileen Shea at 914 606-6935 or email her at Eileen.Shea@sunywcc.edu.

Watch your mail for further details and an invitation to the Silver Anniversary celebration of the Communications and Media Arts Curriculum. It will be a great way to celebrate your accomplishments and meet old friends and faculty from Westchester Community College.

Please be sure to return your survey to Dr. Eileen Shea, WCC, 75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, NY 10595.

TWO ALUMNAE RECEIVE STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Robin Warner, '04 and Katie Casey '66 received the college's 2006 Staff Excellence Awards. Robin (at left with Dr. Hankin) works in the college's Mail Room; Katie is Secretary for the Division of Arts and Humanities. Both women were honored for their service to the college above and beyond their job descriptions. They each received a check for \$1000.

AlumNotes

1955

BARBARA DISTASIO is now in her sixth year as a member of the WCC Volunteer Corps. While working for PepsiCo, Barbara was a mentor in the college's Workplace Culture Coaching Program. After retiring from PepsiCo she was a tutor in the writing center and also worked with ESL students as a Conversation Partner. This year she is a senior Writing Center tutor and continues as a Conversation Partner.



Barbara DiStasio

1958

JOE BROWNE and his wife Connie moved to Florida last year. But Joe decided he isn't ready for retirement, and went back to work for the same company he used to work for in Connecticut. He sends his best to Iris Cook and Angelo Delgrosso. A few months ago the Brownes visited **JACK GALVIN** and his wife Pat, also Florida residents. Jack was the Student Council president in 1958.

1963

STEVE HOPKINS just celebrated thirty years at Cornell University's Equine Drug Testing Unit. His latest job involves testing all New York State race horses for total carbon dioxide, a job which he finds to be interesting, and fun. He hopes to retire in three years and divide his time between Kailua, Oahu and Ithaca, NY. The photo shows Steve with his dog Rosie. He would love to hear from anyone in his WCC chemistry class; email Seh6@cornell.edu.



Steve Hopkins

1969

JOHN F. LARKIN has been teaching Government Economics at Mount Vernon High School since January, 1973. He is also the varsity softball coach and is the only coach in the city's history to send an athlete (Katryna Gaither) to Notre Dame on a full scholarship.

1970

MICHAEL WALDMAN is currently the Senior Project Manager for Gilbane Building Company, serving on an \$18 million renovation and addition project for Children's Medical Center of Dallas, Texas. Mike's wife is a realtor in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.



Mike Waldman

1971

TIMOTHY S. CAREY, president and CEO of the New York Power Authority and chair of the WCC Board of Trustees, was appointed to the board of the U.S. Green Building Council. Located in Washington, DC, the Council is a coalition of leaders in the building industry working to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy places to work.

1976

TERENCE KELLY has been named Director of University Relations and Alumni Affairs at the University of Maine at Fort Kent.



Terry Kelly

"I am delighted that we were able to find someone with Mr. Kelly's depth and breadth of experience in public relations for this very important job," said UMFK President Dr. Richard Cost. "This position works directly with me and Terry will be a vital communications link between this University and our many friends here in the Valley and across the country."

Terry has 25 years experience in public, community and media relations. He has worked on the federal, state, county and municipal levels of government, as well as in the private sector. He worked for 12 years as the manager of community relations for Metro North Commuter Railroad, the nation's second-largest commuter rail line, which serves more than 100 communities in the northern New York and Connecticut suburbs of New York City.

1980

GERALD F. CULLITON was recently honored as the 2006 Distinguished Federal Executive of the Year by The New York Federal Executive Board, representing 52,000 federal employees and 150 federal agencies in the greater New York area. Gerry is Deputy Network Director, V.A. New York/New Jersey Veterans Healthcare Network. He was selected based on his work supporting returning veterans, leadership assisting the Gulf Coast region in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and for his daily operational management of one of the largest V.A. Healthcare networks in the nation.

The award was presented at a special ceremony on the historic Ellis Island by Clifford Kirsch, Chairman of the Federal Executive Board. Mr. Kirsch praised the hard work and dedication of Mr. Culliton and all the federal employees who were honored, saying "We need to remind America's best and brightest that public service remains a noble calling and will provide its employees with greater rewards than monetary ones."



Gerald Culliton

VITTORIA McINNES lives in Canada with her husband of 21 years, Douglas, and their sons Joey and Nicholas. Vittoria has worked for the Provincial Government in the Department of Corrections since 1985. Her family moved from Italy to Canada in 1965 when she was a young girl, but Vittoria spent several years in the U.S. while attending college.

1982

FLORENCE NORTH and her husband Bernard have retired to Tucson, Arizona, where they have spent their winters for the past 15 years. Florence is a volunteer at the local UN information Center, a mentor at the elementary school, and coordinator of three Great Decisions discussion groups which are affiliated with the Foreign Policy Association. This year the Norths have traveled to Cambodia, Vietnam, Belgium, Holland, and Alaska.

1983

PETER GLEASON, a practicing NYC attorney and member of the Screen Actor's Guild (SAG) recently represented a fellow actor, Preston Handy. Handy, who has played police officers in movies and on TV for years was carrying a uniform for his job when he became the subject of arrest. Unfortunately, SAG's New York Board of Directors offered no legal assistance to Handy. That's when Gleason stepped in to assist his fellow actor. Handy, who was facing up to a year in jail left the Court after a two day trial with no criminal record. An appreciative Handy nominated Gleason to become SAG's New York Regional President. Elections will be held soon.

BOB SANTORO, a graduate of WCC's Criminal Justice Program, is enjoying retirement with his wife Irene. They divide their time between Rye Brook and Calabash, NC, five minutes from Myrtle Beach. After 34 years with the Rye Town Police Department, Bob retired as Chief of Police in November 2004. Bob strongly believes his WCC education played a major part in his career advancement from patrol officer to detective to sergeant, and ultimately to Chief of Police, a position which he held for 13 years.

1986

GARY GIEWAT is a social psychologist and is presently a freelance trial consultant in New York. He received his Associates degree in Criminal Justice from WCC, a Bachelor's in psychology from SUNY Cortland, a Master's in psychology from Northern Arizona University, and a Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Nevada. Gary moved to New Orleans in the late 1990's and worked as a senior trial consultant. He managed, designed, conducted and analyzed mock trial research, jury selection, and post-trial interviews and provided recommendations and guidance to attorneys. He and his family left Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina and relocated to New York; they now live in Purdys and Gary continues to work as a trial consultant.

1990

JOSEPH MASTRANGELO was recently promoted to General Manager, New Units at GE Oil and Gas-Italy. Joe began his career with GE in 1993 and joined the Audit staff where he progressed to Executive Audit Manager. He joined the Oil & Gas Business in 2000 as FP&A Manager after which he became Quality Leader, GM Midstream and most recently GM, Units Commercial Operations.

1992

RON BELFONT and his wife, Kathleen, welcomed their first child, Kayla, last January. Ron, who was one of the founding members of the WCC Alumni Council, recently started a new job for Perdue Farms, Inc. in Delaware and relocated there from Montrose. Ron, Kathleen, and Kayla can't wait to move into the new house they are building in Millsboro, Delaware.



Kayla Belfont

1998

JULIANNE CORBALIS is a social studies teacher for the NY City Board of Ed. She received her Bachelors in Education from NYU and her Masters in History from Hunter College. Julianne was in the Honors program at WCC, tutored in the Writing Center, and worked in the security office. She received a CCTOP scholarship to

attend NYU. "Attending WCC was the most important event in my life after graduating high school," she said. "It gave direction to my adult life".

KATHERINE LYNCH POWERS, who received her A.A.S. in Respiratory Care, has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Pace University's Leinhard School of Nursing. She was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society and received the "Spirit of Nursing" award at graduation. Kathy is now a Registered Nurse and will be working at Northern Westchester Hospital's Intensive Care Unit.

1999

ARLENE CARRINGTON, a graduate of the Early Childhood curriculum, has assumed the position of Director at Whitney Young Head Start in Yonkers. Arlene received her Bachelors at the College of New Rochelle and is presently working on her Masters degree.

2003

LIYBOV ATAMANIYK BILAS continued her education at Maritime College where she received a B.S. in International Transportation and Trade in 2005. She is now working as a logistics coordinator for a global export company, while being a wife, mother, and full-time graduate student. Liybov plans to get a Masters degree in Marine Transportation. She sends her special thanks to the WCC Women's Center and to Prof. Hugh McCabe, her mentor.



Liybov Bilas

BRIAN CENTRONE has finished his course work and dissertation for his M.A. in Novel Writing at the University of Manchester, England, and will receive his degree this month. One of Brian's short stories, "Mates", is being published this coming year in "Ultimate Gay Erotica", a major anthology. It's already available for pre-order on Amazon.com.

2005

SYLVIA KYERAAASARE is a respiratory therapist at St. John's Riverside Hospital in Yonkers. She loves her work and sends her thanks to all her professors and everyone who works at the college.



Sylvia Asare

HELIANA MEZZABOLTA recently graduated from WCC and transferred to Sarah Lawrence College with an almost full scholarship. "I am an international student from Argentina who is very proud to

have been able to attend both, WCC first, and Sarah Lawrence College now", she said. "I am very happy with the level of education I received at WCC and I recommend it to anyone who is looking for a great education that would give them a jump start to success!"



Heliana Mezzabolta

"WCC made me learn how to value education, and now at a 4-year school I continue the path I started in the year 2001 at WCC (when I still didn't speak a word of English). Since then, things were not always easy, but at WCC there was always somebody to show me the way when I thought I couldn't do it anymore."

DION TAYLOR was erroneously identified as a female in the last issue of Alumnews. Dion is actively pursuing his dream of becoming a lawyer. Our apologies, Dion!



Dion Taylor

LIANE VOGEL was valedictorian for the class of 2005. She's now a senior at Manhattan College and will



Liane Vogel

graduate in May with a Bachelor's in International Studies. She hopes to get a job with a NGO/Non-Profit organization in NYC and one day travel and work in different parts of the world and aid with countries' development. She completed a summer internship with the UN Association/Westchester Chapter. One of her projects involved the development of the second season of the TV series "Going Global with the UN".

SHA-NETTE WILLIAMS is a practicing RN in the Level 1 Trauma Center, Westchester Medical Center. She received her PN certification in 1995 from WCC, and her ADN in 2005.

ALUMNI VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
to help out with the Alumni Reunion
Barbecue on May 19, 2007. Please call
Janice Adams at 606-7709.

KAPPA SIGMA KAPPA REUNION A HUGE SUCCESS; BROTHERS ESTABLISH NEW SCHOLARSHIP AT WCC

BY GARY COTTER, '68

More than fifty Kappa Sigma Kappa brothers from the era of 1958 to 1973 and their guests gathered on the WCC campus June 24th for "Renewing the Quest", a reunion that drew attendees from as far away as Texas, California and Florida as well as a good number from the tri-state area.

They began the day with a reception in Hartford Hall



"With their glasses raised on high", brothers of Kappa Sigma Kappa celebrate being together again in the Student Center

with a sharing of fraternity memorabilia and photographs, then moved to the Student Center for a sumptuous barbecue and a rousing rendition of The Whiffenpoof Song, with glasses raised on high.

The reunion actually began the previous evening with a dinner party at the Cabin Restaurant at which brothers and guests filled the private dining room to capacity as they greeted each other and rekindled memories of college afternoons spent in that same establishment.

George Sepe, a charter member of the chapter at its 1958 founding, shared many memories and got to see the "new" campus for the first time. Several brothers from other chapters, including Texas Alpha Chapter, which was founded by brothers from the chapter at WCC, visited the WCC campus for the first time as well. All were impressed with the beauty of the campus that most of us were too busy to notice when we were students.

Brothers Rich DeMuth (who lives in Maine) and Gary Cotter (who lives in Florida) organized the event with help "on the ground" from brothers Kevin Slavin and Don Weigand who are both staff members at the college.

During its years of activity on the campus, the fraternity included a large majority of male campus leaders including student government presidents, leaders of the orientation committee, founders of the literary magazine and many more.

An important development at the reunion was the decision to establish a scholarship endowment in the name of Kappa Sigma Kappa here at the college. The brothers present that weekend have contributed over \$5,000 to date, and donations from all brothers are being encouraged.

KSK was once a driving force here at Westchester Community College; your contribution will help continue our proud legacy.

Please send your donation to the Westchester Community College Foundation, 75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, NY 10595, and write "Kappa Sigma Kappa Scholarship" on your check. (Your contribution is tax-deductible.)

To be put on the list for future reunions, email me (Gary Cotter) at gwc@gate.net.

IRIS COOK, FRANK MADDEN HONORED BY SUNY

The State University of New York has named two Westchester Community College professors, Dr. Iris M. Cook and Dr. Frank Madden, to the ranks of SUNY Distinguished Faculty, the University's highest academic honor. The recognition ceremony was held in Albany on November 14th.

This was the first year that the SUNY Distinguished Faculty Ranks have been offered to the faculty of community colleges within the SUNY system, and Westchester was one of only three community colleges to have its faculty members so honored.

Dr. Iris M. Cook, '54, chairperson of WCC's Biology Department, was named SUNY Distinguished Service Professor. Dr. Cook, who has been on the faculty of Westchester Community College for the past thirty-five years, was one of only thirteen professors from the 64 campuses to receive this distinction.

Dr. Frank Madden, chair of the WCC English Department, was recognized as a SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor. Dr. Madden was one of only eleven faculty members so recognized.

Distinguished Professorship is a tenured University ranking that is conferred for consistently extraordinary accomplishment. In order to be considered, a faculty member must have held the rank of full professor for five years, have three years of full-time service or teaching at the nominat-



Dr. Iris Cook and Dr. Frank Madden have been named to the prestigious ranks of SUNY Distinguished Professors

ing institution, and have completed at least 10 years of service or full-time teaching within the SUNY system. The award recognizes the significant body of work accomplished by each honoree.

In presenting medallions to the recipients at the award ceremony, SUNY Chancellor John R. Ryan said, "The ranks of the Distinguished Professorship will be greatly enhanced, and the prestige of SUNY increased, through the inclusion of our outstanding community college faculty in this most prestigious award."

"SUNY's distinguished faculty roster is made up of the finest minds, most outstanding teachers, innovative researchers and the strongest academic leaders across the disciplines".

The State University of New York is the largest comprehensive university system in the United States, educating more than 424,000 students in 7,669 degree and certificate programs on 64 campuses.

Westchester Community College is proud to be among the first community colleges to receive these awards; Monroe Community College and Genesee Community College were the only other two-year schools to be so honored. We congratulate alumna Dr. Iris Cook and English Department chairperson, Dr. Frank Madden.

PHI IOTA SIGMA SORORITY REKINDLES OLD FRIENDSHIPS AT "CABIN" REUNION

BY FRANCINE SANCHEZ REGAN, '73

SORORITY – the state of being a sister or sisters. A group of women joined together by common interests for fellowship lasting a lifetime.

Earlier this year, twelve members of the Phi Iota Sigma Sorority met at The Cabin Restaurant in Valhalla to catch up and talk about the good ol' days.

I was 18 years old when I joined the Phi Iota Sigma Sorority in 1971. My two girlfriends and I didn't know anyone and thought this would be a great place to make friends. Little did we know that a bond would be created that still exists to this very day.

I asked Marie Nicoletti Crawford, the founding member, about how the sorority got started. Marie said it all began in 1967 when she and her girlfriends were sitting at the Kappa Sigma Kappa fraternity table in the cafeteria. Marie and her friends felt that starting a sorority at this time would certainly complement the fraternity. (It certainly did in more ways than one, since several of the sorority sisters married fraternity brothers.)

Now the work began: Gail Spagnoli was the only girl in the group who had been in a high school sorority, so she provided information on how to form a sorority. Marie then wrote to various sororities and received some sample charters, and then sat down and created one for Westchester Community College. When the charter was completed, it was submitted to the Student Council and approved by the school administration. A sorority crest, song, and pledge program were put together and then the advertising started.

Basically, Phi Iota Sigma was a service organization which assisted with the various mixers (everyone knows what a mixer is, right? Or am I giving away my age?) that

were held during the semester. Also, fundraising was done to buy Christmas gifts for children who were in various homes throughout the county. We would visit nursing homes and bring food and sing holiday songs. I remember a fundraiser for a young boy who was in need of a kidney. This was 1972 before kidney transplants were commonplace.

The charter members were Dianne Ciufetelli, Sharon Gregory, Marion Lepore, Marie Nicoletti, Stephanie Russo, and Gail Spagnoli. The first pledge class to be considered were Peggy Buck, Tania D'Alessandro, Patty McHugh, Doreen Rossi, Diane Schulze, and thus a new lifelong bond of sisterhood had begun—the sisters of PHI IOTA SIGMA.

As members started to arrive for the dinner, the years began to melt away through smiles, hugs and squeals of delight. It was one of those special moments in life when you can just be a young girl again, laugh and be silly and enjoy being together as one, in the way we know women love, no matter what their age.

The bond that was created all those years ago was as strong this evening as it was back in '67. The stories about the different pledge classes and of course the fraternity

brothers filled the room. (I truly felt sorry for the people who were sitting outside of our room. They certainly got an earful.)

The night ended way past midnight with promises to get together in the not so distant future and to reach out and try to get more sisters to attend our next gathering.

It's sad that sororities have gotten a bad rap in recent years because something special took place in The Cabin that night; and I, Francine Sanchez Regan, Phi Iota Sigma sister since 1971, feel extremely fortunate to be a part of it.



L. to r.: Marie Nicoletti Crawford, Peggy O'Brien Bartholomen, Emilia Soave Koster, Janice Wascak Zeitler, Eleanor Patane, Michelle Hanlon Weigand, Francine Sanchez Regan, Penny Stuklen Seekircher, MaryLynn Rapaci Begasse, Sally Pastore Molloy. Not shown: Angela DeVito Spinelli, Donna Petretti Markum

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BARBARA CHRISTENSEN, ALUMNEWS EDITOR

E-MAIL: wccalummi@sunywcc.edu

VALHALLA, NY 10595

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