In Memoriam

Professor Robert Battaly

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Poor health led Prof. Battaly to retire last summer, after 27 years with the Department of Social Services and other County offices. After graduating from WCC in 1977, she earned advanced degrees while holding a full-time job. She holds a law degree from Pace University School of Law, other County offices. After graduating from WCC in 1977, she earned advanced degrees while holding a full-time job. She holds a law degree from Pace University School of Law, where she was a ranking scholar in 1993.

Check Out Our New Web Site!

The new WCC alumni web site will be online literally any minute now. Go to www.sunywcc.edu and click on "Alumni". You can find out about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities, add your name to an online directory, and even read the Alumnus. More information is continually being added, so check back regularly. And please, please, please give us your feedback!

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When John Blazo graduated from WCC in 1969, his goal was to become a missionary and work abroad. He went on to study at Rogers, a small Catholic missionary institution in Ossining, New York where he received a bachelor’s degree in Adult Education with a minor in Latin American Studies.

He also attended St. Mary’s College and became a Maryknoll missionary, and went off to work in Guatemala and Nicaragua from 1976-1982. During these years he spent all his time getting to know the people and working with the local communities on literacy programs.

"With the help of our parish youth group plus the local boy scout troop," said Blazo, "I was able to set up a small recreation center and a library for the youth of our town of Poptan, located in the Peten area of Guatemala. As a result of this program, the town library reopened and more townspeople had access to reading materials." The photo below shows Brother John (striped shirt) with a Guatemalan family in front of the missionaries' house in Poptan. "They used to pasture their horse and mule around our house so that we never had to mow the grass."

The six years he spent hiking, riding mules and horses up and down hills full of dust or mud began to take a toll on Blazo's health. "As did bouts with hepatitis, leishmaniasis (jungle fever) and intestinal parasitism. These health problems led him to return to the U.S. in 1982. He now works out of the Maryknoll Society Center in Ossining.

"My work involves visiting participants and churches to talk about my experiences in Central America in relation to our own lives in this country," said Blazo.

"My two years at WCC were great preparation for what I've done in my life. Professor Carlos Del Rey was my Spanish teacher for 4 straight semesters. This was great continuity for learning the language. For three summers surrounding these courses I practiced the language by working in Spanish-speaking areas of New Mexico and Los Angeles. All this gave me a base before my formal language studies in Cochabamba, Bolivia a few years later."

"Having served overseas surrounded by another language and culture and trying to learn, helps me understand our own immigrants here who are trying to do the same thing. It takes lots of time and energy and I didn’t even have to be concerned about family and paying the bills! That experience also gave me insights and understanding about how other people live and think as well as how I live and think as a white male of Polish/Italian background who grew up in the United States."

"As a Catholic Brother, I’ve met so many different people over years. Prof. Jerry Bucci’s psychology classes gave me great insights into human behavior, which helped me to interact with people of so many different backgrounds.

"During my last visit to the campus about a year ago, I was amazed at how it has grown, with new roads and buildings everywhere. I was so pleased to see that WCC is still expanding the number and varieties of reading materials to WCC students, faculty and staff."

"Mr. Roy Philip, an evening student at WCC, manages "The Stand," which is open from 8:30 to 2:30 on Monday through Saturday for the convenience of the college community. The manager is pleased to report that The Stand is thriving as it is continually expanding the number and variety of items offered for sale."
Fifties

WILLIAM MAYER, ’52 was honored at last year’s commencement as one of the year’s “golden anniver- sary” alumni. Bill, who lives in Cazenovia, New York, wrote to let us know that he had a great time at his class’ 50th reunion.

FREDRIC BEARD, ’56 will be moving into his new house in Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania, this spring. Fred built the house on a golf course to be close to one of his favorite pastimes. He is also kept busy by his two grandchildren—Jack, 3 and Ethan, 1½.

Sixties

ROBERT DOWGIALLO, ’62 and CAROL SCHULZE-DOWGIALLO, ’63 recently had their first book published, “The First Christmas Eve,” is an illus- trated children’s poem that tells the story of the first Christmas as seen through the eyes of a young shepherd boy. The text and illustrations are laid out in such a way that it can be used as a coloring or activity book for young readers.

Writing a book was a complete turnaround from the Dowgiallos’ nor- mal business. As owners of Programming Research Office they sell, install, and train physician offices in medical billing software. But the recent arrival of their two grandchildren inspired them to take on a new endeavor.

Bob and Carol are pleased with the interest shown in their book, which was published by Vantage Press and released in late October. “We have done local book signings and already have various bookstores and re- ligious gift stores carrying it,” they said. “Interest and sales have far exceeded our expectations, keeping both the publisher and us extremely busy.” The book is currently available from Amazon.com, or may be ordered directly from the publisher.

Seventies

MARC V. LA BANCA, ’73 is both a chef and a master scuba diver trainer. He has combined his two passions into a cookbook entitled “The Transcenden- Divers Cook Book.”

KEVIN JENKINS, ’74 is the General Counsel for the Utility Workers Union of America Local 1-2.

Eighties

PETER HERRERO, JR., owner of Sam’s of Gedney Way Restaurant in White Plains, received the New York State Restaurant Association “Restaurateur of the Year” award at a banquet last October in Lake Placid. The award was for his 16 years of service to the restaurant industry and his continued support of every aspect of it. Peter was also honored as the Grace Church Community Dinner for be- ing active in many White Plains community organizations. For many years he has assisted in feeding the mealt at Grace Church Community Center Open Arms Shelter. Some of the other groups who call him their friend include The Food Patch, The Lord’s Table, Putnam-Sarcastle-Fishkill Services, The Friendly Gathering, and the White Plains Beautifi- cation Committee. Peter’s generosity also extends to the WCC Alumni Association and the WCC Founda- tion. In 1993 he contributed to their annual appeal.

MICHAEL MESZAROS, ’82 has worked in the field of Information Technology for the past twenty years. Since 1998 he has been employed by Royal Bank of Canada Capi- tal Markets. He is in charge of Systems Operations.

CINDY D’AMBROSIO ARGENTINO, ’83 met her hus- band, RALPH while they were students at WCC. They married four years later and now live in North Carolina with their three children. Cindy writes a humor column for a local newspaper and hopes to become syndicated. She’s also working on a book about the development of her writing skills back to her classes with Prof. Chicatelli and other WCC professors. “Their teachings did not fail on deaf ears,” she writes.

ALISON PINSLY, ’85 recently had some of her po- etry professionally recorded. Her song, “A Dream I Had”, was accepted for an upcoming CD being produced by Tamba Records in Massachusetts and entitled “Hands Across America.” Another song has been recorded as a demo and may soon be picked up by a record label. For the past 16 years Alison has worked for the Westchester County Division of Disease Control, Bureau of Sexually Transmit- ted Diseases. She has recently been accepted to the M.S. in Adult Education program offered at WCC through Buf- falo State University.

CHARLES LERCARA, ’85 is happy to announce that he retired last October. Charles had been a Laboratory Di- rector for the Department of Environmental Protection.

Nineties

CHRISTINA CALIBERTO COONS, RN, ’93 earned her nursing degree from WCC. She returned and took a variety of courses including International Business, in which she earned an “A.” She is presently serving as Nurse Adminis- trator and Health and Wellness Director at “The Fountains”, an assisted living facility in Tuckahoe.

MICHAEL SHEEHAN, ’93 wrote to Dr. Frank Fato from Ireland that he has completed a Masters Degree in Euro- pean Economics and Public Affairs from University College Dublin, and is currently working for Fianna Fail (the Irish equivalent of the Democratic Party). In 1999 he was elected as a member of the Local Authority, New Ross Town Coun- cil, and now at the age of 29 he is the youngest ever elected Hands Chairman (Mayor) of New Ross in County Wexford. While at WCC, Michael studied International Politics with Dr. Fato. “Being a graduate of WCC has prepared me for the future,” he said. “I feel indebted to the college and faculty who helped me reach my goals,” he said. He will be traveling in the U.S. this spring and plans to do a few speaking engagements in the New York area.

KIM MICHIE LDAN EDWARDS, ’96 graduated from WCC with a degree in Fine Arts. In May, 2000 she received her Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies from SUNY Purchase, with a major in Visual and Performing Arts and a minor in Black Studies. After 7 years as a part-time college student, she is justifiably proud of her achievement. Kim is very active in community and church affairs in her home town of Mount Vernon. In addition to working at her church’s food pantry Kim belongs to the Mount Vernon Women’s Service League and the Episcopal Churchwomen, among other or- ganizations. She recently attended the 20th reunion of her high school class. Kim is especially proud of her status as an aunt to 2-year-old twins Samantha and Erik.

WENDY LASSITER, ’97 graduated cum laude in May, 2002, from New York Institute of Technology with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. She plans on pursuing a Master’s Degree in counseling. Wendy’s son also graduated from high school last year and is now attending SUNY Maritime College. Wendy is presently the division secretary for the Technology Division at WCC and is very active in alumni affairs on campus. (See photo below.)

Remi Overeult, ’97 was valedictorian of her graduating class at WCC and went on to graduate summa cum laude from Pace University. She has since become a Certified Pub- lic Accountant and is now working as a senior accountant at a major accounting firm, with aspirations of becoming a man- ager within two years.

Dorna Michelle, ’97 has been appointed Interim As- sistant Professor of Nursing at WCC. Jeanne Gibson, ’97, continued her education at Mercy College. She graduated cum laude in February 2001 with a bachelors degree in Gerontology and a minor in Health Care Management. She is currently working part-time as a volunteer coordinator with the elderly, and has plans to pur- sue a master’s degree with a concentration in Geriatric Care management. Jeanne writes, “Keep up the good work in providing a well-rounded education at the college which gives individuals like me a start on the road to success!”

Antonio Santohemma, ’97 is Director of Beverage Services at the Marriott Hotel in Tarrytown. He graduated from WCC’s Food Service Administration Program in 1997 while working part time at the Marriott, and was hired full time upon graduation. Last October, Antonio welcomed Prof. Daylu Nosek’s Restaurant Management class to the Marriott for a tour and presentation on the “back of the house” op- erations of a large hotel. Prof. Nosek describes Antonio as “an excellent role model for students…a success story, a person who acquired both his intelligence, industry experi- ence, and has a passion for the hospitality industry which has resulted in a successful career path.”

Flavie Bagnol, ’98 is a producer at CBS News.

News from Our "Faculty Alumni"

ANGELO DELGROSSO, former Dean of Students, is so busy travel- ing these days that it’s almost im- possible to track him down. Angelo and his wife Audrey moved from their last residence last fall and now divide their time between their Penn- sylvania and Cape Cod homes. That is, when they aren’t off on a trip somewhere!

JOANNA SCALABRINI, former Nursing Department Chair, was recently appointed Dean of the Hopper School of Nurs- ing at Mount Vernon Hospital. Professor Scalabrini retired last August but decided that the nest couldn’t stay away from educat- ing future nurses. She still keeps in touch with her former students at WCC. We wish her all the best in her new position.
Mary received her AAS in Food Service Technology in 1956. Soon afterward she embarked on a rewarding 38-year career as a School Food Service Manager for the New York City Board of Education. She was an active member of the American Food Service Association and the New York State and New York City Food Service Associations and received many prestigious awards for her accomplishments in her field. Mary has been an active member of the Pelham Woman’s Club and the WCC Alumni Council. She enjoys travel, cooking, entertaining, dancing and sometimes flies with her husband John who is a FAA pilot examiner. Married forty-four years, they have one son, John, also a WCC graduate (1993). Mary is the Alumni Council’s fundraising chairperson.

Join the Alumni Volunteers!

Your old classmates are looking for you, and we’d love to help them out! With the 2003 Reunion coming up, alumni from the 50th Reunion of Class of ’53, 40th Reunion of Class of ’63, ATTENTION ALL PHI THETA KAPPANS!

ATTENTION ALL PHI THETA KAPPANS!

You’re Invited to the Alpha Iota Omicron Chapter’s 20TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

On Saturday, October 18th, 2003 (Alumni Day) PLEASE JOIN US...

...To Reminisce, To Share, To Exchange Ideas, To network

Questions? Program Ideas? Comments?
Call Prof. Connolly, 914-785-6566 OR Prof. Berkowitz, 914-785-6915

Register Today for Alumni Day—Call the Alumni Office, 914-785-6559

THE ALUMNI COUNCIL CORNER

AN INVITATION FROM COUNCIL MEMBER

JANICE R. ADAMS, CLASS OF ’98

I started my college career here at WCC and earned my Associates degree in August of 1998. It was a wonderful experience and I immediately found a home—so much so that I came to work at WCC in 1998. I work in College-Community Relations, the marketing and public relations center for WCC. We work at a hectic pace, but it’s rewarding to witness the success of our students. I went on to graduate with a Bachelor’s degree from Manhattanville College, but I stayed where my roots were planted—WCC.

The WCC Alumni Council is a great organization and a great way to keep in touch with all of our wonderful graduates. If you’re not already involved, check us out! We’re planning a number of fun and interesting events and we’d love for you to join us. Upcoming events include a fundraising Bowl-a-Thon (a real bowl!), a casino trip (know anything about one-armed bandits?), walking tours of New York City (“Gangs of New York” has nothing on us!), and tours of our wonderful Historic Hudson Valley. If you’re up for more of a challenge, how about a kayaking trip down the Hudson? And don’t forget Alumni Day in October!

The Alumni Council is pleased to plan these events for you—and we need you to come and enjoy all that is offered. We’re always open to suggestions, so if you have something in mind, or if you’d like to be involved with the Alumni Council, just let us know. Send us an e-mail at wcc-alumni@sunywcc.edu. Remember, we’re here for you!

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26: “The Cloning Frenzy: What Does It All Mean?”, a free lecture by Dr. Iris Cook, ’54. 7 pm, Classroom Building Room 204. SPECIAL ALUMNI RECEPTION at 6 pm, Hartford Hall. RSVP.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5: WCC Bow-l-a-Thon Faculty, students, alumni and staff bowl to raise money for scholarships. Join the Alumni All-Stars team and get free bowling, free shoe rental, free lunch. Call for your pledge sheet (minimum pledge total of $25).

THURSDAY, MAY 22nd: 50th Reunion of Class of ’53.

SOMETIME IN JUNE: Kayaking trip down the Hudson River!* Date to be announced.

OCTOBER 18th: Alumni Day, PTK Reunion

Call 785-6559 for information on these events.

Join the Alumni Volunteers!

CIRCULAR SERVICE AGREEMENT

Administrator: WCC Alumni Office

E-mail address: alumnirelations@sunywcc.edu

By signing below, I agree to the terms and conditions as set forth above.

Your old classmates are looking for you, and we’d love to help them out! With the 2003 Reunion coming up, alumni from the 50th Reunion of Class of ’53, and students who no longer live at your address, please forward it to them, or notify us of their new address. We would greatly appreciate your help to keep our mailing list up to date.

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