The University of New York (SUNY) has launched a major effort to connect with hundreds of thousands of alumni scattered throughout the United States. Alumni groups are being formed and reunions for SUNY alumni are being held in major metropolitan areas. Graduates of all the SUNY campuses—including WCC—are invited to attend these reunions. SUNY’s efforts to date have focused on the Atlanta area, the east and west coasts of Florida, and the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

On Friday, February 6th, the SUNY Alumni of Atlanta Club held its Third Annual Networking Experience at the Sheraton Midtown Hotel. The 123 attendees (representing 19 SUNYs) included SUNY Chancellor Robert King, SUNY Research Foundation Vice President Michael Luck, and alumni from the Albany office.

Invitations were sent to alumni of all the SUNY colleges who are presently living in the Atlanta area. Many colleges sent staff members to Atlanta to meet their alumni attendees.

Two SUNY reunions will be held in Florida in March. Alumni living in the Tampa area are invited to a reception at the Higgins Ballroom Banquet Center in Tampa on Tuesday, March 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. For alumni near Boca Raton, a reunion is planned for Thursday, March 11 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Hilton Hotel in Deerfield Beach. If you live in Florida and have not received your invitation to these events, please call the WCC Alumni Office at (914) 785-6559.

On the evening of March 30 there will be a reception in Washington, D.C. for SUNY presidents, staff, congressional members and their staffs, and alumni in the DC area. Many SUNY alumni have gone on to distinguish themselves in Federal or Congressional service and their active support of State Alumini of SUNY has been crucial to its continued success in the midst of strong competition from private colleges.

If you are interested in helping to form a local chapter of WCC Alumni in your area, please let us hear from you. We have the addresses of nearly 600 alumni presently living in Florida, and hundreds of others concentrated in Georgia, North and South Carolina, and the Chicago area. You won't have to do it alone—we'll be glad to help!
The new WCC Bookstore opened for business last se- mester, much to the delight of just about everyone on cam- pus. Housed in the impressive stone and glass structure that stands next to the Student Center and was the site of the temporary library for three years, the new bookstore is much larger and offers more merchandise than the old Tech

Building store. It boosts increased floor space, as well as a brighter, more modern design that includes—wonder of won- ders—windows!

David Shulman, executive director of the Faculty Stu- dent Association which runs the bookstore, beamed with pride as he led visitors on a tour of the new facility. “The College has been waiting years for this,” he said.

The new bookstore is well-designed and utilizes natural light and warm colors, giving the space a roomy, inviting feel. A uniquely shaped eating area with recessed lighting also was included to add an interesting aesthetic dimension to the premises.

The store’s new location makes it much more accessible to students and its pleasant interior makes customers want to linger awhile to examine the merchandise. With over 11,000 square feet of floor space, the new bookstore is more than three times larger than its former location. There are more books readily available to students, along with a wider vari- ety of merchandise including CD players, digital recording equipment, and greeting cards.

Another significant new amenity is a seating area with four lounge chairs equipped with fold-out lap desks that allow folks to relax with some reading material.

The new bookstore is a far cry from the cheerful gray establishment where most WCC alumni once purchased their books. Stop in for a visit—you’ll be pleasantly surprised.

**The 100,000 square foot Gateway Center will be located directly across from the East Grasslands Gate (at lower left corner)**

With $24.4 million to begin the project, the WCC Founda- tion recently lauded a grant to the collaborative efforts be- tween the private funds needed to complete construc- tion as well as provide scholarship and program support.

Dr. Brian Monahan
Chair of Education
February 18, 2004

Dear Alumni,

I am writing to ask your support for an institution that has greatly influenced all of our lives. Westchester Community College not only helped to make our education as well as to provide an opportunity to give back to the people who helped us along the way.

The excellence of a college can be measured to a large extent by the support it receives from its alumni. Please join us in supporting WCC, a college that makes a difference and provides an opportunity for all.

Over the years, I have been privileged to meet some of the students who have received scholarships from the Foun- dation. In my conversations—to enhance their ability to help students meet the new demands that our changing world will place upon them.

The excellence of a college can be measured to a large extent by the support it receives from its alumni. Please join us in supporting WCC, a college that makes a difference and provides an opportunity for all.

Sincerely,

BRIAN D. MONAHAN, PH.D.
President and CEO

The 2003-2004 Annual Fund Needs Alumni Support

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Sixties

WALTER F. VAN METTER, '65 retired from New York Telephone Company in 1985 and moved from Westchester to Pennsylvania. His wife, Marguerite, is a retired registered nurse and they have six children and five grandchildren. GEORGE M. THOM, JR., '66 credits WCC “for getting me back on track academically.” George went on to gradu- ate from University of Denver in 1968 with a master’s de- gree, and then went on to Columbia University Teachers College. He left Columbia to pursue a successful career in the real estate business. He and his wife live with his daughter in Pound Ridge, NY.

EDWARD J. PULIK, '67, chose a career in Gerontology after graduating from CC and received a B.Ed. degree from the University of Miami and an M.S. degree with a specialty in Aging from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His career started when he was looking for summer work while teaching in the Daisy County area of Miami and he responded to an ad to become a Senior Center Director. From there he completed his Masters work and moved to Tennessee to become the Director of the Mem- phis Project on Aging. This led to his joining the staff of AARP in New York, and he eventually became the Director of the Southeast Region. After 18 years in New York, he moved to Washington, DC to join the Headquarters staff and has been working with AARP since the late 1980’s. He has been with AARP for 29 years. Ed’s wife Kathy and two children ages 4 years and newborn, live in suburban Mary- land. He is a member of the WCC Alumni Association. He is the head of his own manage- ment training company and runs numerous workshops and the stepping stone to a wonderful and rewarding career in aging,” he writes.

Seventies

FREDERICK K. THORNE, '70 met his wife SYLVE ZARECKI, ’70 while they were both attending WCC. Fred was a member of the first entering class here in 1966. He went on to complete his B.A. degree in Public Communications at WCC and earned his B.S. in Public Relations from Pace University in 1970. Fred is presently living in real estate and Sylvia is an R.N. at a local hospital. They have two children, Heather and Zachary.

MICHAEL WALDMAN, '70 is Senior Project Manager with Gilbane Building Company in Dallas, Texas. Michael majored in Civil Engineering at WCC and earned his B.S. in Civil Engineering at Bradley University. He spent more than 26 years with Turner Construction, working in a num- ber of capacities. While at Turner, Michael was involved with numerous construction projects including cor- porate headquarters, maximum security prisons, schools, hospital and medical facilities. He was responsible for the ren- ovation of the old NHL Hartford Whalers locker room. Michael wrote to us, “I can say without any doubt or hesitation that WCC prepared me for my education and for whatever success I have enjoyed.”

JUDITH JUBACK, ’73 is the head of her own manage- ment training company and runs numerous workshops and seminars for people in business. She is presently working with WCC’s Professional Development Center. On April 21st, she presented a workshop on “Selling to the Federal Gov- ernment” for small business owners. (See details under “Up- coming Events” on page 4.)

NIKI F. STERNBERG, '73 is the owner of 5 & D As- sociates, a Main Street Insurance Agency in Towaco, New Jersey. Niki is involved in sales and service of all forms of insurance.

GARY SCHONMAN, '74 is an attorney with the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, DC. While at WCC, Gary was a member of both the 1972 and 1974 Graduating Classes. He got his first job at a television sta- tion WARY from a tiny carrier-current facility into an operat- ing FM broadcast station. He fell in love with the station and soon left school to work there. He has received his J.D. cum laude from Pace in 1982. He has been working for the FCC in various legal positions since 1984. “WCC was the most important step in attaining degrees in higher education and the realization of a personal dream house. Ed is a volunteer tutor at the local el- derly center. "Graduating from WCC was the first, im- portant step in attaining degrees in higher education and the stepping stone to a wonderful and rewarding career in aging,” he writes.

Eighties

PHILIP C. RESTINO, ‘81 is a certified public accoun- tant in Daytona Beach, Florida. STEPHANIE SALUSTRI D’ONOFRIO, ’82 is run- ning her own business from her home in Connecticut while her husband, CARMINE, ’83 works for Oxford Health Plans. They have two small children. Stephanie was in the fall of 1980, when they were both students at WCC. They have been married for 14 years and have four children.

JIMMY ORTIZ, ’84 is taking weekend courses toward his Mas- ters degree at the Central Michigan University College of Extended Learning. He expects to have his degree in Information Technology by this summer and plans on returning to WCC for the Alumni Re- union Octuber 13th.

ROB WEITZNER, ’84 has had a fascinating career in the entertainment industry. After graduating, he began a Bachelor of Fine Arts program in 1987, he formed Monster Management, an artist management firm which focuses on developing the careers of numerous emerging artists and bands. Rob is partnering with the leading music corporations in the in- dustry. In a quest to continue his personal development, Rob is a member of the Conscious Capitalism Institute where he is pursuing his life-long interest in business and finance. He has had his own company, Baker ANI Consulting Inc., since January 2002, and is the owner of S & D As- sociates, a multi-platform artist development company. As Managing Partner for Development & Strat- egy, Rob’s role is to identify, acquire and promote the emerging and independent artists in every sector of the indus- try. Rob recently joined the WCC Alumni Council as a first step toward nestablishing an active alumni involvement with the college. “The finest, most incentive year I spent in academia was clearly my time at WCC”, he writes. “I know how great an institution WCC was, can and will continue to be for its students.” Rob is currently a Senior Associate at Stanford and Harvard as my other points of reference-”

Nineties

MARCIA BUA, ’90 received a bachelor’s degree in K-6 Education from Pace and a masters in Reading from West- ern Connecticut State University. She taught her first grade class at the Norwalk Elementary School until 2000 and is now tutoring through the Cornwall School District. Marcia has two children, Alyssa, 8 and Peter, 3 and lives in Salisbury Mills, NY. JOSEPH CANNICI, ’92 was co-owner of Amore Pizza and Italian Restaurant in Scarsdale for the past ten years. Last spring Joe and his partner, Bruno DiFabio branched out by opening a second restaurant, Pinochio Pizza and Pasta, in New Canaan, Connecticut.

Sani Allhasan, ’92 recently graduated from the University of Ghana in 1998 with a Master’s in Science degree in Economics and a second major in College Material. His perception on life changed when he enrolled at WCC. Sam found the perfect environment that helped him improve his skills and decided to major in Accounting. He was accepted into Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society, Alpha Beta National Accounting Societies, made the President’s List, and graduated with no less than five scholar- ships. Now he is currently a full time student at Pace University and will earn his BBA in Public Accounting this spring. Sam has already accepted a job offer from the prestigious accounting firm of Deloitte and Touche. ANITA RAMANAN, ’92 is majoring in Computer Sci- ence at the City College of New York. She received her Personal Development Award in her last semester at WCC. The award is help- ing him to finance his continuing education.
If you enjoy Chinese food, music and dance, the Alumni Council has a very special evening planned for you. On Saturday evening, April 24th, the world-famous Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company will present "Dynasties and Be- yond" in the Academic Arts Building Theatre at 8 p.m. A block of seats has been reserved for WCC alumni and din- ner has been arranged at an excellent local Chinese restaur- ant, all for $35 per person.

The Lily Cai group offers traditional and contempo- rary, from court dances of Chinese dynasties to the tradi- tional ribbon dance and stunning candlelit choreography. Their performance blends timeless elements with a modern flair. This tour is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation.

Alumni will meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at the Imperial Wok restaurant on North Broadway in White Plains. We will then travel the short distance to WCC and be in our seats by 7:30 for the spectacular performance.

Seating is limited, so please call early to make a reser- vation. You can call the Alumni Office at (914) 785-6559, or Rob De Roy, Alumni Council president, at (516) 297-4808. Checks should be made out to the WCC Foundation.

The Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company
The traditional ribbon dance performed by the
Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company

NAT QUINTERO RECEIVES HISPANIC HERITAGE AWARD

Nathaniel Quintero of Yonkers recently became the first recipient of The Phoenix Award, presented by the New York State Hispanic Heritage Month Committee. Quintero is one of the many successful graduates of the Educa- tion Opportunity Center at Westchester Community College (EOC), a non- traditional adult educational facility located in Yonkers and administered by Westchester Community College.

The name “Phoenix” was given to the new award to symbolize a rebirth and/or a person of unsur- passed excellence. It was estab- lished to recognize Hispanic indi- viduals who have persevered and succeeded against great odds, particularly adults who have de- cided to go back and complete their education, start a successful career, and give back to their com- munities.

EOC director Renee Guy felt that Nat Quintero was a per- fect choice for the award.

Quintero, a computer techni- cian for the City of Yonkers and a member of the Yonkers Board of Education, dropped out of high school to sup- port himself and contribute to the family. But jobs were scarce and he found himself in difficult straits. A friend told him about the EOC and he decided to give it a try.

“I enrolled at EOC at a very low point in my life when I didn’t have a job but did have a family to support,” said Quintero. “Almost immediately I knew I had come to the right place, because I started feeling very good about myself and my abilities. Instead of thinking that I couldn’t do anything, now I felt that there was nothing that I couldn’t do. EOC helped us to believe in ourselves.”

Quintero graduated from the Westchester EOC with a certificate in office skills and a SUNY Chancellor’s Award for academic excellence. He earned a high school equivalent- ence diploma and was urged by EOC faculty to enroll at WCC, where he earned a 3.75 GPA and a degree in Com- puter Information Systems in 1984.

Quintero had also fulfilled the second criteria of the Phoenix Award: giving back to his community. For years, Nat Quintero has been founding, organizing and leading programs for Yonkers youth. In 1987 he initiated the sports programs and at St. Peter’s Church and later expanded it to be- come the Southwest Yonkers Boys and Girls Club which is now executive director. He is co-director of the Classic Latino/Latinas, a dance group composed of high school students which has performed nationally, including an ap- pearance at the Gator Bowl. He served on the Yonkers Police Juvenile Policy Board and the Westchester County Gang Prevention Board.

In October 2002, Quintero was appointed by Yonkers Mayor John Spencer to serve a five-year term on the city’s Board of Education. "I feel extremely honored to have received the award," said Quintero, "and I am com- mitted to do all I can for the students because I know from my own life how important education is. After fulfilling this five-year commitment, I may con- sider government service so that I can continue to give back to the community."

The Phoenix Award was pre- sented to Quintero at the Hispanic Heritage Celebration in Albany last September. Present were his wife, Rosa Bannister Quintero (also an EOC graduate) and their four chil- dren, who heard their father praised as “a shining example of what this award represents.” Also on hand were representatives of the Westchester EOC. It was a very proud moment for all.

The Educational Opportunity Center of Westchester is located at 26 South Broadway in Yonkers. For information on programs and course offerings, contact Renee Gay, Director, at 966-6812, or e-mail Renee.Gay@sunywcc.edu.

SOLDING TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

A 4-Hour Workshop
Instructor: Judith Jubaek, class of ’73
Wednesday, April 21
8:30 am-12:30 pm
Administration Building Room 207
Registration fee: $40

Just about every product and service you think of is purchased by the Federal Government. If you have been in business for 5 years or more and have 20 or more clients, your business might be con- sidered certified to bid on government contracts. Learn how to obtain a GSA Schedule and become pre-quali- fied as a vendor to the Federal Government.

For more information, call the WCC Professional Development Center
To register by phone using a credit card, call (914) 785-6598

Save the Date! Saturday, October 16
ALUMNI DAY 2004

ITEMS NEEDED FOR OUR FAMOUS SILENT AUCTION
If you’d like to donate something that we can sell, please call Mary Merola at (914) 739-1541. All the money raised will go to the Alumni Scholarship Endowment.