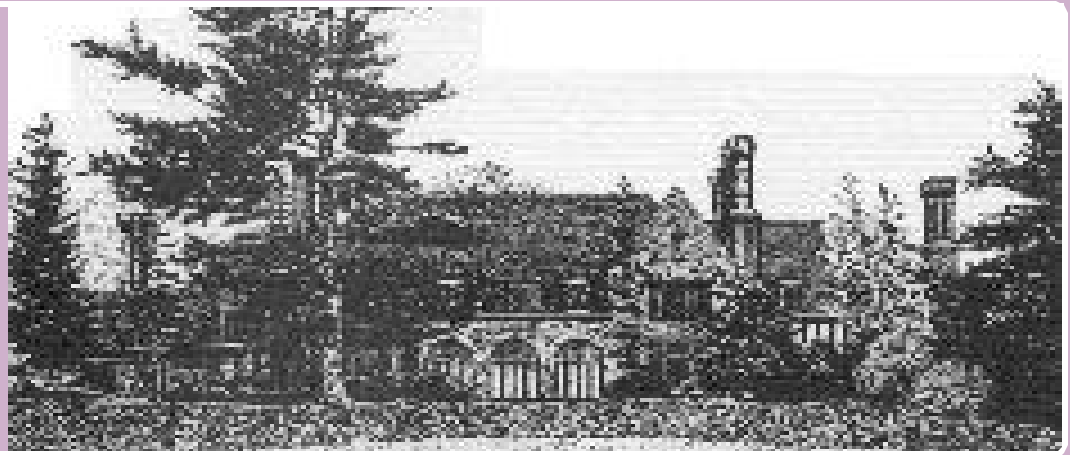




WCC ALUMNEWS



SUNY/WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

VALHALLA, NEW YORK

MARCH 2004

Published by the Westchester Community College Foundation

SUNY PLANS REUNIONS IN EAST COAST CITIES

The State University of New York (SUNY) has launched a major effort to connect with hundreds of thousands of alumni scattered throughout the United States. Local alumni groups are being formed and reunions for SUNY alumni are being held in major metropolitan areas. Graduates of all the SUNY colleges, including WCC, are invited to these reunions.

SUNY's efforts to date have focused on the Atlanta area, the east and west coasts of Florida, and the Washington, DC 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 staff members 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 attending the event. WCC alumni living in the Atlanta area are invited to join the SUNY group and enjoy the opportunities it provides for networking and socializing. For more information, email: sunyalumniatlanta@yahoo.com

Two SUNY reunions will be held in Florida in March. Alumni living in the Tampa area are invited to a reception at Higgins Hall Banquet Center in Tampa on Tuesday, March 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. For alumni near Boca Raton, a reception 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 30th there will be a reception in Washington, DC for SUNY presidents, staff, congressional members and their staffs, and alumni in the DC area. Many SUNY alums have gone on to distinguish themselves in Federal or Congressional service and their active support of the State University is 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, Arizona, North and South Carolina, and the Chicago area. You won't have to do it alone--we'll be glad to help!

Kappa Sigma Kappa Conducts Member Search

Kappa Sigma Kappa was an active social fraternity on the WCC campus from 1958 through the mid '70s. During its heyday, a large percentage of the (male) campus leaders were members — student government officers, orientation committee members, etc. There are literally hundreds of WCC alumni who were members of KSK.

Gary Cotter, Rich DeMuth and Mark Kierstein are conducting a search for members of the fraternity. If you are a brother of KSK, please e-mail Gary at gwc@gate.net or Mark at mkierstein@aol.com. The objective is to have a reunion in 2004, hopefully this summer. Even if you are not interested in a reunion, please make contact. You may find yourself reconnected with an old friend. Also, you may wish to register under NY Eta Chapter at www.ksk.org. If you don't have access to a computer, please call Gary at (813) 831-5359 or Mark at (914) 245-6787.



*"Kappa Sigma Kappa,
which full from my
heart I shall know how
to speak, when I have
forgotten the rest of my
Greek."*

NATION'S CAPITAL, BRONX BOROUGH FEELING IMPACT OF WCC ALUMNUS

Carlos Ramos has come a long way from being a high school dropout. Mid-way through a prestigious Washington, DC fellowship, he's returning home to ensure Latino youth take the path to higher education

Today, Carlos Ramos, Jr. sits a block from the White House at a lobbying firm, Perennial Strategy Group, engaging in global diversity and government relations projects for clients such as cable program development company, **IAV**, and Fortune 1000 company Sodexo USA. As a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) Public Policy Fellow, Ramos is considered among the nation's top emerging Latino leaders.

"Mr. Ramos brings a wealth of experience to the nation's capital based on his community and grassroots work," stated Lamell McMorris, Founder, President and CEO at Perennial. "His passion for diversity is evidenced in his efforts to continue to support diverse communities, specifically the Latino community."

Who knew a high school dropout could come so far?

"Dropping out of high school was like a rite of passage to me because so many of my friends and family members have traveled that road before me," said Ramos, 33, who received his GED in 1989. "I have gone from being a dropout 'who would never amount to anything,' to graduating with honors from Baruch College, to being accepted to the CHCI fellowship program."

The 2001 WCC graduate with a B.S. in Public Affairs is working towards greater corporate diversification by interacting with members of Congress, the Bush administration, private sector and non-profit organizations.

His resume is impressive. Ramos helped spearhead an aggressive campaign to get the first Latina, Nilda Morales-Horowitz, elected to the Family Court Bench in Westchester County. Furthermore, his riveting testimony before the County Board of Legislators in May 2001 resulted in the

election of the first Latino, Jose Alvarado, to the board.

Ramos, former staffer for State Assemblyman Ruben Diaz, Jr. (D-85), is orchestrating the First Annual Bronx College Readiness Day on March 27. The event will include a workshop on college preparation and financing, followed by an opportunity to meet college representatives at an afternoon college fair.

"I designed this project to empower the young people of my community," said Ramos. "By having such an event for Bronx high school students in their own community, we will send them a powerful message: 'We expect you to achieve'."

Not much was *expected* of Ramos, who was the product of an upbringing strongly opposed to assimilating to American culture and education. Ramos' parents immigrated to New York City from Puerto Rico in the late 1950's in hopes of economic prosperity, but racial discrimination caused them to hold on to their cultural identity. He maintains that his mother, until this day, refuses to learn English.

Yet, Ramos envisions a community on the opposite end of cultural seclusion.

"I have aspirations and a strong interest in building a coalition between Latinos and other ethnic minorities that have a desire to help others from the same ethnic and socio-economic background," said Ramos. "I believe the single most important obstacle the Latino community must overcome is our inability to come together in furtherance of a common goal."

CHCI provides leadership development programs and educational services for Hispanic college and post-graduate students. For information go to www.chci.org.



Carlos Ramos at a reception in the White House Rose Garden

BILL REGAN, CLASS OF '72, NAMED DEPUTY MAYOR OF YONKERS

William T. Regan, '72 who served as Bronxville Village Administrator for the past ten years, has been appointed deputy mayor for the city of Yonkers. The 56-year old Yonkers resident started his new job on January 12 after being chosen by newly-elected Mayor Philip Amicone to fill the number 2 position. In his new job, Regan will be responsible for the daily operations of each department of the city, the "nuts and bolts of city government," as Amicone described it.

Regan said that the decision to leave his Bronxville position was not an easy one. "I really loved working there," he said. But when Yonkers' incoming mayor Philip Amicone called him and offered him the Yonkers post, Regan couldn't resist the opportunity to work for the government of the state's fourth largest city.

Although being deputy mayor of a large city will likely have different challenges than a village of Bronxville's size, Regan said his years of government experience will be an asset to Yonkers. Prior to working in Bronxville, Regan was the administrator in Sleepy Hollow. He was also assistant city manager in Yonkers from 1984-1988 and assistant to former Mayor Gerald Loehr in 1980-1981.

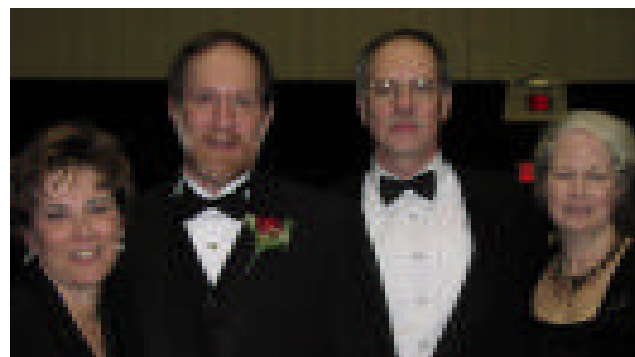
Regan plans to work with Amicone to try to get "recurring revenue" from the state and other sources so that the annual school budget crises of recent years could be prevented.

He agrees with the mayor that the city should receive a percentage of the revenue from video lottery terminals scheduled to be installed at Yonkers Raceway and earmark the money for the schools.

Among his accomplishments in Bronxville, Regan cites his work with capital projects to the business district, flooding abatement, beautification, improvement of services and a \$2 million fund balance. Bronxville

Mayor Nancy Hand described Regan as a "top notch" administrator who "knew how to get things done efficiently and effectively."

A Yonkers native, Regan has always been interested in government service. He holds a Master's in public administration from NYU. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1966 to 1969 and was honorably discharged at the rank of sergeant. He is married to Francine Regan, '73 whom he met when they were students at WCC. Fran, who has been working here on campus for ten years, is presently division secretary for the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences.



Left to right: Fran Regan and husband Bill, both WCC alums, with Yonkers Mayor Philip Amicone and Mrs. Amicone at the Inaugural Ball

WCC INITIATES BOLD NEW PROJECT "Gateway Center" to Open on Valhalla Campus in 2007

A new project of historic significance to the Westchester community is being initiated by Westchester Community College. The new Gateway Multinational Education Center will be constructed on the Valhalla campus with an anticipated opening date of 2007. The Center is intended to assist recent immigrants, adult children of recent immigrants, and international students, in learning new skills and attaining the information necessary to advance within the American college education system and/or to succeed in the workplace.

In undertaking a comprehensive approach to the higher education and workforce development needs of multinational students, *The Gateway Center* will represent the most significant commitment by WCC to a specific segment of the population since its founding sixty years ago to serve the needs of returning World War II veterans. It will also be the largest public and private partnership of a project in the college's history.

The establishment of *The Gateway Center* will represent a substantial expansion of the College's *English Language Institute*, which currently serves more than 4,000 students. The increased space will make it possible to increase the number of ESL classes being offered and to enhance the curriculum content of the courses. The program will also emphasize technology, cross-discipline education, intergenerational learning and socialization, information sharing, and essential partnerships with community-based organizations and businesses, and it will serve as a community education resource for issues of interest to the foreign-born population.

The new center will house the WCC Foundation's Volunteer Corps, the mentoring and tutoring programs, the college's *Professional Development Center* workforce training program, and the *Mainstream Institute for Mature Adults*, in addition to the programs and courses designed specifi-

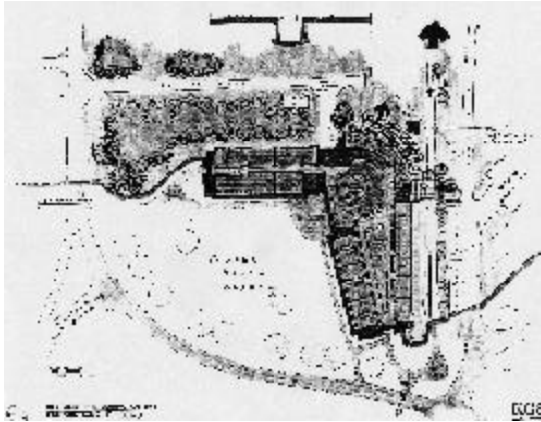
cally for the foreign-born student. It will also serve as an internet hub, connecting the college with the many community-based service providers.

The new building will be located on the grassy corner facing the East Grasslands entrance. While the design has not been finalized, plans call for a building approximately the size of the library, or about 100,000 gross square feet.

Initial plans for the Center arose from the findings of a program funded by a three year grant from The Hitachi Foundation to help learn how immigrants and employers could work more effectively and productively together. As a result, a private donor made a commitment of \$3 million to WCC to help initiate the construction of the center.

To date the college has commitments of \$11 million from the State of New York, \$10 million from Westchester County, a Congressional appropriation of \$450,000 sponsored by Congresswoman Nita Lowey, and the \$3 million private donor pledge.

With \$24.4 million to begin the project, the WCC Foundation will launch a campaign later this spring to raise the balance of the private funds needed to complete construction as well as provide scholarship and program support.



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

Remembering Sophie

By Eileen Hart

Sophie Konechny, '75 passed away in January. Sophie enrolled at WCC several decades after finishing high school, earned her degree, and began a career here at the College. Her many accomplishments included working with Bunny Marks to establish the alumni program. The following was written by a member of the college staff.

I met Sophie more than 20 years ago. My mother Joan and Sophie worked together at Westchester Community College. They were great pals during their tenure at WCC from the 1970s through the 1990s. During those decades, the College grew in enrollment and stature by leaps and bounds. Much of that growth is attributable to the excellent educational environment fostered by the administration, faculty, staff and students themselves. But during those years, the staff in particular played a pivotal role.

Sophie was a dedicated and enthusiastic member of that College staff. As an alumna, she was proud of the educational opportunities available in Valhalla to anyone willing to make the commitment to attending classes.

Sophie served in various capacities during her twenty-five years at WCC. She single-handedly ran the Personnel Department (now called Human Resources) and also served as Assistant to the Executive Officer of the College.

Sophie also created the Word Processing Department at WCC. When she came here in 1966, the standard office equipment consisted of what would now be considered relics or antiques: typewriters and mimeograph machines. Under Sophie's direction, the typewriter and mimeo were replaced by the computer. She established policies and procedures for the introduction of what was then considered cutting edge technology. She developed courses, wrote manuals and taught Word Processing to College administrators, faculty and staff.

Sophie retired in 1991. Yet, when the campus was notified of her passing, dozens of people e-mailed me to express

New Bookstore Gets Rave Reviews

The new WCC Bookstore opened for business last semester, much to the delight of just about everyone on campus. 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



Photo courtesy of the Viking News

The new FSA Bookstore provides an oasis where shoppers can read, study, or just relax

Building store. It boasts increased floor space, as well as a brighter, more modern design that includes--wonder of wonders--windows!

David Shulman, executive director of the Faculty Student Association which runs the bookstore, beamed with pride as he led visitors on a tour of the new facility. "The College has a real bookstore now", he said.

The bookstore building is well-designed and utilizes natural light and warm colors, giving the space a roomy, inviting feel. A uniquely shaped ceiling space 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 facility. There are more books readily available to students, along with a wider variety 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 cheerless gray establishment where most WCC alumni once purchased their books. Stop in for a visit--you'll be pleasantly surprised.

The President's Corner



February 18, 2004

Dear Alum:

When I was young one of my favorite subjects was Geography. I could name the capitals of all the States, and I could find geographical objects with relative ease. But, as I grew older I kept on reading that most Americans could not locate Japan on a world map, or did not know which was the world's most populous country (Russia when it was still intact), or who America's leading trade partner was (no, it's not China, it is Canada!).

Many of you have traveled or will travel. Can you name the states in order that you will pass through if you traveled along the southern border of the U.S.? They are: Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California.

Don't be like the students, none of whom could name a single country south of the Sahara, but north of South Africa! Don't be like the average Americans who could not name a single member of NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Don't be one of those people who can dial directly to England, but who cannot find it on a world map!

Continental drift causes the Atlantic Ocean to increase its width by about an inch per year, but metaphorically speaking the world is shrinking all the time. And it is constantly being renamed. You do not have to go to Africa to see a name change, say from Rhodesia to Zimbabwe; you can just go a few miles away to North Tarrytown, which a few years ago changed its name to Sleepy Hollow. Some years the changes in the world are so drastic that the National Geographic Society has to revise its map numerous times. (For example in the first six months of 1992 the map was revised no fewer than six times, there were so many changes in the status of countries.)

Keeping all this geography in mind, we want you to know that the College is seriously considering forming alumni chapters in local cities around the country. You could be among the first in your city or area to volunteer to be the contact person for WCC alums in your "neck of the woods." To learn more about this program, please contact Barbara Christesen at (914) 785-6559. We need you more than ever!

So, quick: how do you pronounce the capital of Kentucky: "Loo-EE-ville" or "Loo-ISS-ville"? In this case the "s" in Louisville is silent, but what is important to know is that the capital of Kentucky is Frankfort!

Write us, let us know how you are doing, and what is happening in your area.

Joseph N. Hankin, President

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their condolences. They all remarked about how hard Sophie worked, what a great sense of humor she had, and how she was always ready to help with a project. Stories about her quick wit were recalled by person after person.

I think that was what I enjoyed most about Sophie--her very quick wit and sense of humor mixed with just a dash of cynicism. I really loved that little cynicism part. I think that combination is just magical and makes life so much more enjoyable and just plain fun.

My mother and our entire family were very blessed to have Sophie in our lives. We will all continue to smile and laugh when we think and speak of Sophie over the years to come. Sophie was a really great kiddo.



Sophie Konechny, '75

The 2003-2004 Annual Fund Needs Alumni Support

Dear fellow alumni,

I am writing to ask your support for an institution that has greatly influenced all of our lives. Westchester Community College not only provided us with an excellent education, it also gave many of us opportunities that we would not have found anywhere else. Now, as successful alumni, we have the opportunity to give something back to the place that gave so much to us. Through the WCC Foundation's Annual Fund we can help future generations of students follow in our footsteps; we can even help many of them change the course of their lives.



Dr. Brian Monahan
Class of 1968

Since leaving WCC, I have studied at many other institutions. Nowhere was the teaching more skilled or more enthusiastic than at WCC. My teachers encouraged me, inspired me, and helped me to set goals higher than I would have thought possible. At WCC I learned the difference an outstanding teacher can make in a person's life; it was there I decided to devote my life to education.

Over the years, I have been privileged to meet some of the students who have received scholarships from the Foundation. Each has been an inspiration--proof that WCC makes a difference and provides its incredibly diverse student body with opportunities that simply do not exist elsewhere. I'm happy and proud to contribute in order to help someone else succeed at the College that helped me. I know that my contribution is an investment in the future of our community and its people.

My life is far richer because of the education I received at WCC. That is why I give to the Annual Fund each year--to ensure that the College will always have resources 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 me in supporting WCC, a college that makes a difference and a place where your gift will also make a difference.

Sincerely,
BRIAN D. MONAHAN, PH.D.

Asst. Superintendent, Haverstraw-Stony Point C.S.D.
Mayor, Village of Dobbs Ferry

Fifties

JOAN PEZZUTI GIUFFRE, '58 and her husband, Ed are both retired from the West Islip School District. They have three grown sons and three beautiful grandchildren. And, says Joan, "Retirement is wonderful!"

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. 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 graduate from the University of Bridgeport in 1968 with a Bachelors degree, and then went on to Columbia University Teachers College. He left Columbia to pursue a successful career in the men's wholesale apparel trade. He is now retired and lives with his wife in Pound Ridge, NY.

EDWARD J. PULIK, '67, chose a career in Gerontology after graduating from WCC. He 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 Dade 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 Memphis Project on Aging. This led to his joining the staff of AARP as a member of the New York regional staff, where he eventually became the Director. After 18 years in New York, he moved to Washington, DC to join the Headquarters staff and is currently liaison to the Southeast Region. He has been with AARP for 29 years. Ed, his wife Kathy and two children ages 4 years and newborn, live in suburban Maryland, where he and his wife designed and built their Victorian dream house. Ed is a volunteer tutor at the local elementary school. "Graduating from WCC was the first, important step in attaining degrees in higher education and the stepping stone to a wonderful and rewarding career in aging", he writes.

Seventies

FREDERICK R. THORNE, '70 met his wife **SYLVIA ZARECKI, '70** while they were both attending WCC. Fred was a member of the Veterans Club here on campus. He went on to Pace University and earned a bachelors degree in business administration while Sylvia studied to become a nurse. The couple moved to Sunset Beach, North Carolina in 1999. Fred is presently working in real estate and Sylvia is an R.N. at a local hospital. They have two children, Heather and Kevin.

MICHAEL WALDMAN, '70 is Senior Project Manager with Gilbane Building Company in Dallas, Texas. Michael majored in building construction at WCC and earned his B.S. in Construction at Bradley University. He spent more than 26 years with Turner Construction, working in a number of cities before going to Dallas. Michael has been involved with numerous construction projects including corporate headquarters, maximum security prisons, schools, hotels, and retirement homes. He even managed the renovation of the old NHL Hartford Whalers locker room. Michael wrote to us, "I can say without any doubt or hesitation that WCC set the solid foundation for my education and for whatever success I have enjoyed".

JUDITH JUBACK, '73 is the head of her own management training company and runs numerous workshops and seminars for people in business. She is presently working with WCC's Professional Development Center. On April 21 Judith will lead a workshop on "Selling to the Federal Government" for small business owners. (See details under "Upcoming Events" on page 4.)

NILS F. STRANDSKOV, '73 is the owner of S & D Associates, a Main Street Insurance Agency in Towaco, New Jersey. Nils 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 between 1972 and 1974, Gary helped turn radio station WARY from a tiny carrier-current facility into an operating FM broadcast station. He fell in love with the station and became its first News Director. After earning a B.A. in Communications from SUNY Buffalo in 1975, he went on to work as a journalist at various radio stations and ABC News. He subsequently returned to school to study law and received his J.D. *cum laude* from Pace in 1982. He has been working for the FCC in various legal positions since 1984. "WCC played a very big role in where I am today," he said.

JUDY PERRIN, '77 is the Director of Fund Raising for the American Lung Association. She changed careers after 12 years as co-owner of an antiques auction business. Judy received her B.A. from Pace and is currently pursuing an M.B.A. at Western Connecticut State Univ.

RICHARD CIRULLI, '75 received an A.A.S. degree in Civil Engineering from WCC and has gone on to build an impressive career as a business executive, architect, engineer, teacher, college administrator, photographer and published poet. His resume includes extensive senior manage-

ment experience managing Health Care Facilities; he is now working as a Facilities Consultant to architects, engineers, building owners, and health care institutions. In a letter to Dr. Hankin he wrote, "I can never forget that fateful night in September 1973 when I entered my first class at Westchester Community College seeking to better my family's position in life. When I entered I was merely a brick mason's apprentice. Today I can look back at that day to see how far I have come. Certainly words cannot express my sincere gratitude...In retrospect, I truly owe an outstanding debt to the college."

MELANIE SPARKS HARDIN, '75 is a retired U.S. Army communications officer (SFC). Melanie joined the Army in 1976 and earned her Parachutist wings and Airborne Rigger badge, with 26 jumps while serving as an Airborne Rigger. She served as a recruitment officer and was later put in charge of a communications site in Germany. Melanie met her husband, Ed, at an Army Communications school and they were married in 1986. Melanie was later stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky where she was in charge of Information Management, all Post phone lines, a communications site, and the Military Amateur Radio Station. After retiring in 1990 Melanie operated a successful pet sitting service for 5 years. She is now happily dedicating her life to her husband and to community projects.



Melanie and Ed Hardin

DONN SHOCKLEY, '77 is a Loan Manager at Houston Federal Credit Union in Houston, Texas. Donn was on the football team at WCC. He headed for Texas shortly after graduating, and earned his bachelor's degree in Management from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio.

Eighties

PHILIP C. RESTINO, '81 is a certified public accountant in Daytona Beach, Florida.

STEPHANIE SALUSTRI D'ONOFRIO, '82 is running her own business from her home in Connecticut while her husband, **CARMINE, '83** works for Oxford Health Plans. The couple met at a basketball game in the fall of 1980, when they were both students at WCC. They have been married for 14 years and have two children.

JIMMY ORTIZ, '84 is taking weekend courses toward his Masters degree at the Central Michigan University College of Extended Learning. He expects to have his Masters in International Administration by this summer and plans on returning to WCC for the Alumni Reunion on October 16th.



Jimmy Ortiz

ROB WEITZNER, '84 has had a fascinating career in the entertainment industry. After earning a Bachelors degree in Economics from Stanford University in 1987, he formed Monster Management, an artist management firm which focused on developing the careers of a number of major recording artists and partnering with the leading music corporations in the industry. In a quest to continue his personal development, Rob entered Harvard Business School in 1996 and earned an M.B.A. After five years of serving in executive positions at several recording companies, he founded Incredible Artists Group, a multi-platform artist development company. As Managing Partner for Development & Strategy, Rob's role is to identify, acquire and promote the creative products of artists in every sector of the entertainment business. Rob recently joined the WCC Alumni Council as a first step toward reestablishing an active involvement with the college. "The finest, most important time I spent in academia was clearly my time at WCC", he writes. "I know how great an institution WCC was, is, can and will continue to be and I say this having both Stanford and Harvard as my other points of reference".

Nineties

MARIA BUA, '90 received a bachelors degree in K-6 Education from Pace and a masters in Reading from Western Connecticut State University. She taught first grade at Hillcrest Elementary in Peekskill, NY until 2000 and is now tutoring through the Cornwall School District. Maria has two children, Alyssa, 8 and Peter, 3 and lives in Salisbury Mills, New York.

JOSEPH CANICATTI, '92 has been 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, Pinocchio Pizza and Pasta, in New Canaan, Connecticut. The local newspaper gave the new eatery a glowing review. Joe, who was born in Sicily, came to the U.S. at the

age of 10 and grew up in Yonkers. He earned an associate's degree in business management at WCC and got his on-the-job training at a restaurant in Queens. Joe describes himself as "a self-taught chef who started out in the kitchen filling up soda cups." Joe and Bruno often visit local elementary schools to show children how to make pizza; they even provide the kids with "How-to" kits. Joe lives in Yonkers with his wife, Gloria.



Joe Canicatti

ANITA ROTH BAKER, '95 is an attorney doing compliance consulting in the securities business. She has had her own company, Baker ANI Consulting Inc., since January 2002, and is "really enjoying" what she does. Anita writes, "My interest in business and finance started at WCC, and I credit Prof. Hugh McCabe for this interest. His encouragement helped me all the way through my path to success. I was also very pleased and impressed with the rest of the staff. Thank you!" Anita and her husband, Erich, live in Pennsylvania with their son Andrew, born last July.

SABRINA LaFAVE, '96 is a part-time student at SUNY Purchase and will soon have her B.S. degree in Environmental Science. For the past five years she has worked as a research assistant at the Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, NY. She works on projects related to climate change and human impacts on ecosystem function. Sabrina is also a lead chemist for the Baltimore Ecosystem Study. Prior to her current position, she worked for three years as a Volatile Organic Analyst for Severn-Trent Environmental Laboratory. She credits her WCC education, mentorship by WCC professors, and a required summer internship for her great start! Her plans for the future include graduate school in one of two tracks: a Ph.D. in Ecology, or a secondary education science teacher.

JANET KNIGHT, '97 enrolled at WCC in 1994 after a 33-year hiatus from school. She graduated with a 4.0 GPA and went on to earn a Master's degree in Teaching from Fordham University--also with a 4.0. Janet, who was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, presently teaches first grade in the Bronx.

JOSEPH M. SOLIMENE, '97 completed his J.D. degree in May, 2003 and was married the following September. He and his wife live in Rockville, Maryland where he is pursuing an LL.M degree at American University in Washington, DC.

21st Century

LISA DENIG, '00 is Director of Communications for State Senator Vincent Leibell. Two years ago she was recommended to the Senator by WCC adjunct Professor Joseph Girvan for an internship, and she has come very far in a very short time. While a student here, Lisa served as news editor of *The Viking*. An outstanding English student, she won the prestigious Beacon Award four consecutive times. After graduating from WCC, Lisa went on to Vassar College and earned a degree in Political Science and a membership in Phi Beta Kappa. "People are quite impressed when I tell them that I graduated from Vassar but I am always quick to add that I got my start at WCC!" Lisa writes.

PAMELA HEMADEVI LEONARD, '00 graduated from Columbia University in 2003 as a Gates Scholar.

PATRICIA GALFANO, '01 graduated from WCC and transferred as an older returning student to Smith College as a member of the Ada Comstock Scholars Program. She graduated in December 2003 with a BA in American Studies and a minor in International Relations. "It was a fabulous opportunity", writes Patricia. "I cannot say enough about the program and the opportunities WCC and Smith offered me to grow and learn. I am very thankful to finish my degree. Any older woman may contact me about this experience and I will gladly speak with them."

SANI ALHASSAN, '02 came to the U.S. from Ghana in 1998, with no idea that he could ever be college material. His perception on life changed when he enrolled at WCC. Sani quickly improved his English language skills and decided to major in Accounting. He was accepted into Phi Theta Kappa and Alpha Beta Gamma Honor Societies, made the President's List, and graduated with no less than 5 scholarships and awards. He is presently a senior at Pace University and will earn his BBA in Public Accounting this June. Sani has already accepted a job offer from the prestigious accounting firm of Deloitte and Touche.



Sani Alhassan

ANDY RAMNANAN, '02 is majoring in Computer Science at City College. Andy received the Personal Development Award in his last semester at WCC. The award is helping to finance his continuing education.

Missed an Issue?

You can read past issues of the Alumnews on our website

www.sunywcc.edu

50TH REUNION SET FOR CLASS OF '54

All members of the WCC class of 1954 are invited to a gala 50th Reunion celebration on Thursday, May 20th at the Valhalla campus. The high point of the day will be the presence of the "Golden Anniversary" alumni at commencement exercises for the class of 2004.

The festivities will begin with a wine and cheese reception at 2 p.m. in Hartford Hall, followed by a pre-graduation buffet in the Student Center. Then the '54 alumni will don caps and gowns and lead the procession of six hundred graduates to the commencement ceremony at 6 p.m.

If you graduated in 1954, please call the Alumni Office at (914) 785-6559. While invitations have gone out, there are some alumni we may have missed because their year of graduation is not noted in our files. We would love to have you take part in this truly memorable event.

Westchester Community College Tenth Annual Faculty/Staff/Student/Alumni

Bowl-A-Thon!

Saturday, April 3, 2004

Homefield Bowl, Yonkers

12 PM - 4 PM

Sign up to bowl with the ALUMNI ALL*STAR team and help us raise money for scholarships at WCC! Free bowling, free shoe rental, free lunch. Minimum pledge total of \$25. Call the Alumni Office, (914) 785-6559.

THE NATIVE PLANT CENTER

AT WESTCHESTER
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 20: 2004 WILDFLOWER SYMPOSIUM
Native Plants Are for the Birds
Tess Present, Nat'l Audubon Society
Ted Gilman, Greenwich Audubon Center

March 27: The Wildflowers of Westchester
Speaker: Beth Herr

May 1: WILDFLOWER & NATIVE PLANT SALE
Admission Free--Open to the Public
10 a.m.-1 p.m. Valhalla campus

June 5: Streamside & Wetland Restoration
Speakers: Diane Miller, Rob Doscher

July 17: Medicinal Uses for Native Plants
Outside Lecture by Clare Pierson

July 18: GARDEN CONSERVANCY OPEN DAYS
Admission Free-Open to the Public
12-4 p.m. at WCC -- Parking Lot #1

**September 17-21: NPC TRIP TO THE
GREAT NATIVE PRAIRIES OF THE MIDWEST**

Reservations required for above events, unless otherwise stated. Call (914)785-7870.

CHINESE CULTURAL EVENING PLANNED FOR WCC ALUMNI

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 Beyond" in the Academic Arts Building Theatre at 8 p.m. A block of seats has been reserved for WCC alumni and dinner has been arranged at an excellent local Chinese restaurant, all for \$35 per person.

The Lily Cai group offers traditional and contemporary, from court dances of Chinese dynasties to the traditional 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 reservation. 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 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 Educational Opportunity Center of Westchester (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 unsurpassed excellence. It was established to recognize Hispanic individuals who have persevered and succeeded against great odds, particularly adults who have decided to go back and complete their education, start a successful career, and give back to their community. EOC director Renee Guy felt that Nat Quintero was a perfect choice for the award.

Quintero, a computer technician for the City of Yonkers and a member of the Yonkers Board of Education, dropped out of high school to support 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 equivalency diploma and was urged by EOC faculty to enroll at WCC, where he earned a 3.75 GPA and a degree in Computer Information Systems in 1994.

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 program at St. Peter's Church and later expanded it to become the Southwest Yonkers Boys and Girls Club, of which he is now executive director. He is co-director of Grupo Latino/Latinas, a dance group composed of high school students which has performed nationally, including an appearance 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 appointment from Mayor Spencer," said Quintero, "and I am committed 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 consider government service so that I can continue to give back to the community."

The Phoenix Award was presented 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 children, 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 Guy, Director, at 966-6812, or e-mail Renee.Guy@sunywcc.edu.



Nat Quintero at the award ceremony with his wife, Rosa, left, and Renee Guy, director of the Yonkers EOC

SELLING TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

A 4-Hour Workshop

Instructor: Judith Juback, 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 can think of is purchased by the Federal Government. If you have been in business for 3 years or more and have 20 or more clients, your business might become certified to bid on government contracts. Learn how to obtain a GSA Schedule and become pre-qualified as a vendor to the Federal Government.

For more information, call the WCC
Professional Development Center
785-6669

To register by phone using a credit card, call
(914) 785-6598

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Save the Date!

Saturday, October 16

ALUMNI DAY 2004

Items are needed for our famous Silent Auction. If you'd like to donate something that we can sell, please call Mary Merola at (914) 738-1541. All the money raised will go to the Alumni Scholarship Endowment.