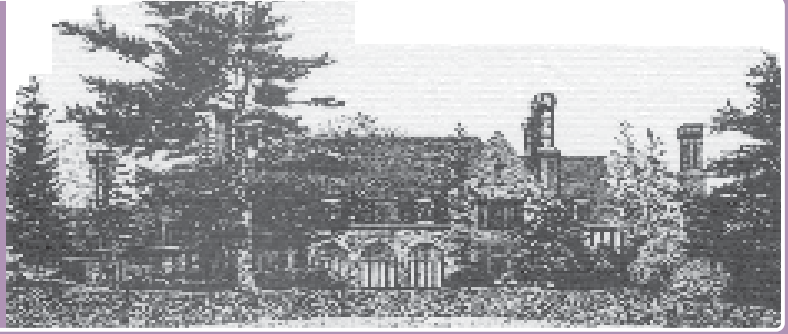




WCC alumnews



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ALUMNI DAY CANCELLATION RAISES BIG QUESTION: WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?

Due to extremely poor advance registration, it was necessary to cancel the annual Alumni reunion scheduled for last October 16th. The lack of support for the 8-year-old event raises the inevitable question: Where do we go from here?

Was the poor response due to apathy or a lack of interest in WCC? Was the program that was scheduled simply unappealing? Should we try to hold another reunion in the near future? We have lots of questions, and only you can answer them.

Please let us know how you feel about having an annual reunion, and what type of event you would most enjoy. You can send us an e-mail at wcc.alumni@sunywcc.edu, use the enclosed envelope to write a note, or call (914) 606-6559. Please let us hear from you!

CONNIE'S BAKERY, JOBSTAR COMBINE TO FORM A SWEET PARTNERSHIP

Connie's Bakery and General Store, which opened in Mount Kisco this past February, is unique in a number of ways. First and foremost, 100% of the store's profits are donated to charities in Westchester County and throughout the Hudson Valley. In addition, all the baking apprentices at Connie's are graduates of Westchester Community College's JobSTAR Program.

"One hundred percent of our net profits go directly to charities," said owner Connie Milstein, the entrepreneur/philanthropist who founded the bakery. Milstein is proud of the enterprise and equally proud of her bakery's staff. "We have created a full-time apprenticeship program," she said. "We train those who have faced barriers to sustainable employment so they can use their new skills to move on to good permanent jobs."

Through JobSTAR, Milstein was able to hire four em-

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Adapted from an article in the Danbury NewsTimes



News-Times photo/Wendy Carlson

In addition to donating all its profits to local charities, Connie's Bakery and General Store in Mount Kisco hires graduates of Westchester Community College's JobSTAR Program to work as baking apprentices. Each year, a new group of apprentices will be given the opportunity to gain invaluable on-the-job experience.

GOVERNOR ATTENDS "GATEWAY" CAMPAIGN KICKOFF

On November 19, 2004 the Westchester Community College Foundation launched a \$14 million capital campaign to ensure the creation of the innovative Gateway Center.

The campaign was announced at a gala luncheon and press conference attended by New York Governor George Pataki and more than 200 state, county and local government officials, educators and leaders of the business community. Flags of many nations decorated the Harold L. Drimmer Library, and strolling mariachi musicians created a festive international atmosphere.

"This is the best community college in the United States," said County Executive Andy Spano in announcing that the county legislature had overwhelmingly approved \$14 million for The Gateway Campaign. Legislative chair Bill Ryan echoed Spano's sentiments, saying that the entire legislature was behind the project "all the way".

New York Governor George Pataki pledged another \$12 million in state funds to help build The Gateway Center. "This is a magnificent thing," he said. "For all the greatness that Westchester Community College has accomplished, I think The Gateway Center will go down as one of the greatest things that's ever been attempted."



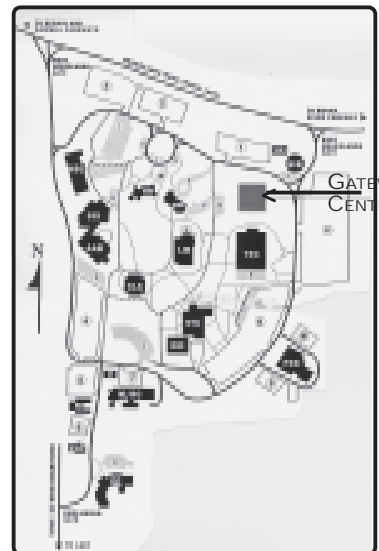
New York Governor George Pataki greets students, staff and members of various community organizations at the Gateway Center Campaign press conference

Construction of The Gateway Center is expected to cost \$36 million. With \$26 million from the state and the county, the Foundation will need to raise \$9 million, plus an additional \$5 million for programs and scholarships. Thanks to a number of generous donations, \$8.3 million has been raised

to date.

"A project with the depth and breadth of The Gateway Center is unprecedented in the history of community colleges throughout the nation," said President Joseph N. Hankin. "No place like this exists that will provide the opportunity for foreign-born men and women to learn about America—its language, its history, its economy, citizenship and social makeup. The Gateway Center, I expect, will become a model for other colleges across the country."

Architects for the building will be Polshek Partnership, designers of the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock. The building will face the College's East Grasslands gate. (See Campus Map below.)



A LONG WAY FROM HOME: LETTER FROM IRAQ

By Eddie Carter, Class of '97

If you had asked me four years ago where I would be today, I would have answered "Working as a fireman in Horry County, South Carolina". I would have said I'd be working, playing golf, and riding my Harley.

But about 12 months ago I made up my mind that I really wanted to be someplace else: Iraq.

I'm Eddie Carter. I graduated from WCC in December 1997. I grew up in Croton-on-Hudson till the age of 12; then moved to Montrose and graduated from Hendrick Hudson in 1983.

Yes, I'm in Iraq. I'm over here working for, and supporting the brave men and women of the United States Military. Living in a trailer and eating in the mess hall. No matter what your feelings are about the global war on terrorism you have to support our troops. They are the ones who are fighting the terrorists and keeping our country free.

I'm currently employed as a fireman with Wackenhut Services Inc. I began looking into the possibilities of working in the Persian Gulf region about 12 months ago. I enjoyed living and working in South Carolina, but I felt I needed to do my own part for the brothers who were murdered on

September 11, 2001. I think most people now know what firemen mean when they say "brother". This is due to closeness in the firehouse. After all we live with each other 1/3 of our life. Though over here in Iraq, it's 24/7; it's 100% of the time.

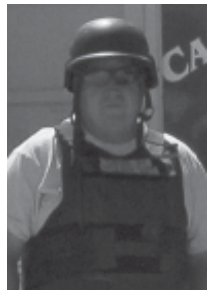
I had grown up in New York, worked for FDNY/EMS for 9 years, and was more than upset when 9/11 occurred. I wanted to do something. You see I was living and working in South Carolina when the cowardly attacks on New York City and Washington, DC happened. I had been in New York for the first WTC bombing, but I wasn't able to do anything after the second one. I felt a need to step forward and do my part as a fireman, as a New Yorker, and as an American.

The perfect opportunity presented itself. Wackenhut Services was looking for certified firefighters to work on

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The "Balad Sheraton", Eddie Carter's temporary home somewhere in Iraq



Eddie Carter

Our Telephone Exchange Has CHANGED!

Westchester Community College has installed a new telephone system, resulting in the change of most campus phone and fax numbers. The former 785 exchange has been replaced by 606 with the rest of the number remaining the same.

Here are some of our new phone numbers:

Main Number: 606-6600

Alumni Office: 606-6559

WCC Foundation: 606-6670

Continuing Education: 606-6830

COLLEGE RING FINDS ITS WAY BACK TO GRATEFUL FAMILY

Judy Risher Christ, a 1960 graduate of WCC, works here on campus in the Women's Forum office. One day last fall she got a call from her sister-in-law, Joan Monk in White Plains. Joan works part-time in a consignment shop in Scarsdale, and while sorting through some small items one day, she came across a college ring. The ring was from Westchester Community College and was engraved with the initials "R.L.A." and the year 1977. Curious, she brought the ring home and gave it to Judy and asked if there was any way to track down the owner of the ring.

The ring was so small that it had to belong to a female graduate. Judy called Barbara Christesen, the college's alumni coordinator, and asked if it was possible to find a 1977 graduate with the initials "R.L.A." Barbara looked up the class of 1977 and found a Rosemarie L. Agostino with a Florida address and telephone number. She forwarded this information to Judy, who called the number and got a message directing her to another number in Massachusetts. When Judy dialed this new number she found herself speaking with a woman friend of Rosemarie Agostino, who told her that Rosemarie died in a car accident several years ago.

The friend put Judy in touch with Rosemarie's family in Florida. She called and spoke to Rosemarie's mother and grandmother, telling them that their daughter's college ring had been found and was being returned to them. It was a bittersweet moment for the three women.

The next morning the ring was on its way to Florida. Shortly afterward, Judy received a package in the mail. It contained a giant chocolate bar with "Thank you" written on it, along with a card that read:

Dear Ms. Christ,

We thank you so very, very much for returning our dear Rosie's ring to us. It means a great deal to our family. I remember this ring, and holding it brings back memories of happier days gone by. Not many would have gone to this trouble, as you did. You are a very special person and I'm so glad you were the one who found it."

Most sincerely,

Eleanore and Michael Agostino and family

According to the alumni records, Rosemarie Agostino was the manager of Whispering Pines, a community association in Jacksonville, Florida. No one knows how or why her college ring turned up in a consignment shop in Scarsdale. But Judy Christ is very happy that it did, and that she was able to return it to the owner's family.

"It is a nice story, but sad," said Judy. "But as a mother of a daughter, what else could I do? I would have wanted someone to do that for me. All we have to do is put ourselves in someone else's shoes to know how they feel."

JANICE ADAMS, '95, RECEIVES STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARD

Janice Adams, '98, who works in the College-Community Relations office, has been awarded the 2005 Staff Excellence Award. This award is presented each year by the WCC Foundation to a staff member who has served the College over and above their job duties. The recipient receives a check for \$1,000.



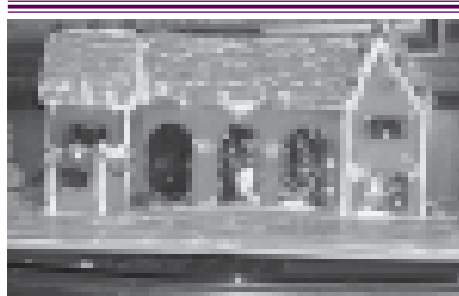
Janice Adams

Candidates are nominated on the basis of how they have given of themselves above and beyond their stated job descriptions for the betterment of the College.

Janice was nominated by several of her co-workers, one of whom wrote, "Janice has been a 'breath of fresh air' to all of us. Her warm smile, cheerfulness and positive attitude are infectious and serve to lighten our loads and ease tense moments in our work...she is truly a 'super star' among us."

While working in the frantically busy CCR office, Janice managed to continue her education at Manhattanville College, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Management in 2001. In addition to her normal work load she finds the time to volunteer in many ways on campus and is instrumental in planning and carrying out all of the alumni events held throughout the year.

At present there are more than 70 WCC alumni working on campus, and every Staff Excellence Award winner since 2000 has been a WCC graduate. The 2000 winner was Catherine DeLucia; 2001, Francine Regan; 2002, Michael D'Alessandro; 2003, Eric Hvise; and 2004, Laura Nudi. Congratulations to all these alumni for continuing to be a credit to their alma mater!



Guests at the alumni holiday party last December were delighted by this gingerbread version of Hartford Hall, complete with "stained glass" windows. The edible mansion was created by Foundation staff members Heather Shank and Kandy Fortier.

The President's Corner



Dear Alum:

Westchester County is continually changing, so this College must continually adapt. For example, in the 2000 census it was determined that 22.2 percent of all Westchester County residents were born in another country! Of those 205,000 residents born abroad, 39 percent had moved into the County in the 1990's.

This has meant change for us. We used to educate hundreds of students in our English as a Second Language (ESL) program, but for the past three years we have had over 4,000 people, born in 78 countries, speaking 44 languages in what we have now come to call our English Language Institute (ELI).

These are individuals, some of whom cannot read a medicine bottle label or a bus timetable or possibly cannot fill out an employment application. Our ten levels of ESL in the ELI allow us to customize the teaching of English for the group depending on their level of mastery, not only of English, but of their own tongue as well.

Now we are planning a new building to house this program and others. For several years now we have been unable to accommodate all these students, even though we offer ESL in our extension sites as well. It is time to house the program along with others which require space in a structure we are going to call the Gateway Center.

When on October 28, 1886 the torch on the Statue of Liberty was lit for the first time, to immigrants coming from all over the world to America the statue was a symbol of freedom. When our ancestors came here, many of them could not read what was on the base of the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free; the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless tempest tossed, to me. I lift my lamp beside the Golden Door." They could not read those words, but they knew what the lifted lamp was all about.

All of us had ancestors who came from different places. It is what has made America strong. Our generations have benefited from this marvelous opportunity. Now we are witnessing a new wave of immigration, similar to the one which transformed our population in the last century, only this time the immigrants are coming from Asia and Latin America in addition. Yes, immigration from 1980 forward has been as heavy as it was from 1880 to 1920.

And now a building which we are going to construct will be like a beacon of light for immigrants of this generation right here in Westchester County, right here at your alma mater. If you want to be part of the campaign to raise this edifice, to provide these needed services, you can contribute to the Gateway Center fundraising. We are going to raise \$14 million; we already have contributions and pledges of \$8.4 million toward that goal. Would you like to be part of this effort?

In the near future the Westchester Community College Foundation will be contacting all alumni and asking them to support the Gateway Center Campaign. When you receive your letter, please send in your contribution, no matter its size. You are vitally needed in this landmark endeavor.

Carl Becker has written that "to venture into the wilderness in the 1700's, one had to see it not as it was, but as it would be. The American frontier was a promised land to be entered...by those with faith in tomorrow...For the many emigrants who pressed behind the first settlers, that tomorrow arrives day after day."

For the many newcomers to Westchester County, as well as those who have lived here for generations, this Gateway multi-national education Center will be the promise for their future. For generations to come, this building will provide an opportunity to learn about America and its language, its economy, and its sociology.

One dollar, spent wisely, multiplies over and over for generations. Please join us in this campaign.

Cordially yours,

Joseph W. Hankin, President

NEWS FROM THE FACULTY

THREE NEW FACULTY CHAIRS ENDOWED

PROF. KATHLEEN DELUCA has been awarded the Joseph and Sophia Abeles Endowed Chair in Practical Nursing. Prof. DeLuca, a member of the WCC nursing faculty since 1991, is chairperson of the college's Practical Nursing Curriculum. She received her undergraduate nursing degree from Hunter College and her Master's Degree from NYU. She is also the recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

PROF. SEYMOUR ROSENFELD holds the new Abeles Chair in Alternative Energy Technology. Prof. Rosenfeld has taught at the College since 1962 in the departments of Physical Engineering, Mechanical Technology, Mathematics and Computer Sciences. His interest in alternative energy led him to mentor a group of students who designed and built a solar-powered boat. He currently mentors another group (the "Green Team") who designed a two-classroom building featuring solar-powered electricity, geothermal heating and air conditioning, and energy efficient doors, windows, and lighting. It is known as the "Green Building".

SUSAN ZUCKER is the holder of the Virginia and Leonard Marx Chair for Child Development. Since 1986, Ms. Zucker has been the Director of the Virginia Marx Children's Center on the Valhalla campus, considered by many educators to be a state-of-the-art child care facility. Ms. Zucker holds a Master's in Education from Queens College and has completed advanced study in Education Administration and Supervision at SUNY New Paltz.

DEAN JOHN FLYNN TO RETIRE

DR. JOHN F.M. FLYNN, Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs, has announced that he will retire at the end of this semester. Dr. Flynn announced that he and his wife, Cathryn, are both giving up their careers in order to spend more time together. Dr. Flynn came to Westchester Community College in 1972 as an instructor of History, and within ten years had been promoted to full professor. He has held his present post since 1982 except for a brief hiatus from September 1992 to June 1993 when he served as Interim President of Rockland Community College.

BILL COSTANZO PUBLISHES NEW BOOK

PROF. BILL COSTANZO is the author of a new book, *Great Films and How to Teach Them*. The book offers high school and college teachers a relevant way to engage their students through a medium that students know and love. Costanzo combines developments in pedagogy with many aspects of film study--film scholarship, the nature of movies themselves, significant changes in the movie industry, film technology, American culture, globalization, and the connection with literary texts.

The first part of the book includes chapters on adapting fiction to film, film technology, film history, film as a business, film theory, film genres, representation in film, film in the English class, and how to "read" film. The second part offers study guides for 14 films, from classics to contemporary international hits. There are three appendixes and a glossary of film terms.

Prof. Costanzo is well known on and off campus as host of the immensely popular *Friday Night Film Series*.



Kathleen DeLuca



Seymour Rosenfeld



Susan Zucker



Dr. John Flynn



Bill Costanzo

Silent Auction Raises \$3500 for Alumni Scholarship Fund

Because of the cancellation of Alumni Day last October, a different venue had to be found for the silent auction which is held each year to benefit the Alumni Scholarship Endowment. The auction was finally held on December 1st in the Instructional Dining Room in the Student Center. Everyone on campus was invited to participate.

The auction was a great success, raising almost \$3,500 for the scholarship fund. The fund now totals \$18,991.75.

Sincere thanks are due to fundraising chairperson Mary Merola, '56, who worked for more than nine months to get donations for the auction from businesses and individuals.

Please note: Alumni may make donations to the Scholarship Endowment at any time. Please call Barbara Christesen at (914) 606-6559 for more information.

AlumNotes

Forties

DONALD COOK, '49 was in the second graduating class from the New York State Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences, the forerunner of WCC. He went to work for New York Telephone, later called NYNEX, then Verizon. He was Staff Manager when he retired in 1990. Most of Don's management years covered planning, first application trials involving Automatic Message Accounting (AMA) billing equipment. He started in 1950 as a draftsman at the White Plains office and then was a No. 5 Crossbar Switchman in various Westchester central offices. In 1969 he was promoted into Management. Much of his work was with outside vendors who would try to do business with the company. In 1990 he was offered a retirement package that he could not refuse. In the meantime Don and his wife had purchased a second home in West Virginia in 1984, which they enjoyed for 20 years.



Don Cook

Fifties

PATRICIA SMITH ROSS, '56 was very active while at WCC as a cheerleader, a writer for the Clipper Log and the newspaper, and a member of the Dance Club and the Mandak Players. She moved to Corpus Christi, Texas in 1978 and worked for 22 years for a retina surgeon, semi-retiring in 2001. Pat now does the accounting for the packaging and shipping supply company that she owns with her husband, Robert. She has 4 children, 7 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

ELIZABETHA NOVAK, '56 moved to Michigan shortly after graduating from WCC and worked in the medical field as a lab tech and office assistant for about ten years. She then got a job with Chrysler Corporation, returned to school and earned her bachelor's degree and her MBA. In 1983 the division she worked for was sold to General Dynamics and she was transferred there. She retired from General Dynamics in 2000. Since then, Elizabeth has spent her time traveling, gardening, roller-skating, and occasionally golfing.

MARTIN SPROCK, '58 majored in Electrical Technology at WCC and went into the telephone field, beginning as an inside technician with New York Telephone. In 1990 he retired from NYNEX (now Verizon) and began working for various firms including the Federal Government in various non-electrical/electronic positions. Since 2002 he has been savoring the joys of retirement.

Seventies

FRED THORNE, '70 and **SYLVIA ZARECKI THORNE '70** met while at WCC and have been married for 32 years. They have a daughter who lives in Connecticut and a son who lives with his family in Pooler, Georgia. Fred and Sylvia were residents of Connecticut until 6 years ago, when they moved to Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina. Sylvia is a registered nurse at Brunswick Community Hospital and Fred is a licensed realtor and broker in both North and South Carolina. His company, Fred Thorne Realty, specializes in golf course community and beach properties in the area of Sunset Beach, Calabash, Ocean Isle Beach, Shallotte, and Holden Beach. If you're interested in property in these areas, visit Fred's website at www.fredthorne.com.



Fred Thorne

KATRINKA WALTER, '72 lives in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, and enjoys taking pictures of beautiful beach scenery. She was thrilled when one of her photos was chosen to be part of the Cummer Museum's exhibit representing "local residents' interpretation of paradise on the First Coast". The photo went on display January 13th and remained on exhibit throughout the Super Bowl weekend.

LORRAINE PIRRO, '74 is in an MSW program in clinical social work at Columbia, and is also a therapist intern at Sarah Lawrence College. She will graduate from Columbia in May, take her licensing exam, and practice as a therapist under supervision for a few years. She eventually plans to open her own practice.

GARRY FISHER, '76 has retired from the military after serving 23 years of active duty with the New York Air National Guard. He is now working for the Schenectady County Department of Social Services as a Social Welfare Examiner.

Eighties

LOUIS AVITABILE, '80, is now known by the name of **LOUIS ROSE** because, in his words, "No one could ever pronounce Avitabile." Last December Louis graduated summa cum laude from the University of North Florida with a Bachelors Degree in Political Science. He expects to complete a master's degree in a comparatively shorter time period. While at WCC, Louis was vice-presi-



Louis Rose (Avitabile)

dent of the Student Senate and president of Alpha Beta Gamma, the business honor society. He'd like to get in touch with some of his old friends from that happy time in his life. You can read more about what has been happening to Mr. Rose on his website, www.louisrose.com.

SPENCER B. ROSMAN, '80 was a recent guest on White Plains Cablevision's talk show, "Alive With Claudia and Clive". The show features interviews with business leaders in the local community. Spence, a Financial Planning Specialist, is Vice President for Investments at Smith Barney in Purchase. Spence and his wife, Roxanne, live in Chappaqua with their children Eric, 5, and Elyse, 17 months.



Spencer Rosman

ALBERT SCHAPIRO, '79/'84 currently lives in Gastonia, North Carolina. He is an electronic technician with Bellsouth Telecommunications.

JANETE FIGUEROA GUARDIA, '85 is enjoying small town life in Downers Grove, Illinois with her husband, Anthony, and their children Bianca, 8 and Anthony Jr., 7. Janete, a science major at WCC, was a member of the Westchester Chemical Society and went on to earn a Bachelor's in Biology.

ALISON PINSLEY, '85 has completed her course work toward an M.S. in Adult Education through Buffalo State University. She is preparing to take her comps and submit her portfolio in anticipation of a May graduation.

Nineties

JUNE V. NEWKIRK, '92 entered Niagara University last fall to pursue a Master's in Criminal Justice Administration. June was a Criminal Justice major at WCC.

ANASTASIA WELSH, '93 is a fifth grade teacher at Ardsley Middle School.

JULIANA HUGHES HANBRIDGE, '93 was a Food and Nutrition major at WCC and loved her experience here. She went on to receive her B.S. degree from Marymount in 1996 and became a registered dietician. In 2001 she earned an MBA from Pace in financial management. She currently works part-time as a consultant in a nursing home so that she can spend time with her beautiful 3-year-old daughter.

AGAMEMNON OTERO, '95 is an artist presently living in London. He is working with the art committee at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh to create and paint images that are helpful to the healing process.

JOSEPH CARLUCCI, '96 is a national pizza-throwing champion. He developed this unusual skill while working with his brothers-in-law at a restaurant in Carmel. After he became expert at making pizza, he decided to develop his skill at tossing it. Joe and several friends got together and formed the World Pizza Champions—a group of young men who not only compete in national and international competitions, but also bring a message to young people across America. "Our goal is to teach kids to stay in school while following their dreams by working hard and being the best they can be," he said.



Joe Carlucci stretches pizza dough to great lengths during a recent competition

Joe and his team recently traveled to Italy and Las Vegas for pizza-baking and tossing contests. They competed against some of the best pizza masters in the world, including teams from Italy, Japan, China, Brazil, Finland, Ireland, and Croatia. Joe was featured on two TV specials shown on the Food Network on March 19-20. One of these programs showed Joe creating an artichoke-topped pizza in the shape of Italy, which he entered in one of the pizza-baking competitions.

When he's not competing, Joe visits local schools to entertain the children with his amazing pizza-tossing performance. They love watching him toss pizzas high into the air, behind his back, through his legs, and even blindfolded. "I love to entertain children. I study every night and practice whenever I can," he said.

2000's

AURELIO CASTANO, '01 was featured in an art exhibit by 15 Latino-American artists at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon. The exhibit, entitled "Latino Jewels" was held in conjunction with Hispanic-American History Month. Aurelio works at the Westchester Art Workshop and has been in a number of regional exhibits. He is also very active in the Latino community, teaching classes for recent immigrants. He was featured on a Spanish TV news program in conjunction with the Beacon art exhibit.

CHRISTINE RUSSELLI, '01 graduated from WCC on the President's List and went on to Fordham University, where she received her Bachelors in Economics in August, 2003. She is now preparing for the GMAT (for her MBA) and the LSAT (for law school). Christine works for an investment banking firm and recently got a promotion from Business Analyst to Associate Director in Special Loans. She hopes to either go to Fordham Law or to NYU's Stern School for her MBA. Christine writes, "I loved WCC as it gave me the opportunity to move ahead in my career and get accepted at Fordham without even taking the placement test. I continued to go full time in the evenings and received a scholarship in 2003 for outstanding high achieving economics majors. WCC was the motivation which put me on the right track. The teachers at WCC left a big impact on me (far greater than those at Fordham) and I will always cherish the memories. I am proud to have graduated from WCC!"



Christine Russell

SABRENA REINHARDT, '03 is Public Relations Coordinator at Greenwich Hospital, where she received a promotion six months after graduating from WCC. She is also a student at Iona College where she is pursuing a Bachelor's degree.

In the Smith Family, Engineering is Women's Work

What are the odds of one family producing three female mechanical engineers? If you think those odds are slim, consider the fact that these three women also have ties to Westchester Community College!

PATTI McCORMACK SMITH graduated from WCC in 1964 with an A.A.S. degree in Mechanical Technology. She was the first woman to graduate from the college in an engineering program, and the first in her family to enter this field. Patti received her Bachelors of Engineering from NYU in 1970 and was registered as a NYS Professional Engineer two years later. In 1977 she was elected to the New York State Society of Professional Engineers Westchester/Putnam County Chapter Board of Directors. Her many awards include the Young Engineer of the Year Award in 1979, the WCC Alumni Voyager Award in 1998, and two Engineer of the Year Awards in 1999.



Patti McCormack Smith

Patti is the owner of a consulting engineering firm in Garrison, NY and a heavy construction contracting company based in Garrison and doing work in the New York metro area. Her husband, Bill Smith, is also an engineer who is retired from Con Edison after 30 years. Their son Erik and daughter Lauren are both engineers. Patti is currently a member of the Civil Technology Advisory Committee at Westchester Community College.

MARGARET SMITH McMANUS, Patti's sister-in-law graduated from Westchester Community College in 1984 with an Associate's in Engineering Science. She was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She received her Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering from Manhattan College in 1986 and her Masters degree in Computer Science from Pace in 1997. Margaret has worked for several private companies and was also an engineer with the Town of Cortlandt and the Cortlandt Consolidated Water District.



Margaret Smith McManus

Margaret is presently working at the firm of Badey & Watson Surveying and Engineering, PC in Cold Spring. She is married to TJ McManus (whom she met while attending WCC) and they have a daughter, Katie. One of Margaret's favorite jobs is serving as co-leader for her daughter's Brownie troop.

LAUREN SMITH, Patti's daughter and Margaret's niece, studied engineering at the University of Rhode Island and graduated cum laude in 1998 with a Bachelors of Mechanical Engineering. Lauren completed the first half of the testing requirements for her Professional Engineers License in 1998. She graduated summa cum laude from Polytechnic University in 2003 with a Masters in Information System Engineering. Lauren presently works as a design engineer for Verizon in Valhalla, and also tutors mathematics at Westchester Community College several evenings each week.



Lauren Smith

Both Lauren and Patti are members of the Perkins Grant Committee at WCC. This federal grant funds programs for disabled students, displaced homemakers, older students, etc.; the committee reviews the manner in which funds are being used and makes suggestions for future projects.

THREE ALUMNI ELECTED TO FOUNDATION BOARD

The Westchester Community College Foundation recently elected six new members to its Board of Directors, which is composed of community and business leaders from every part of the County. Three of the new members are alumni of the College.

Douglas Birdsall, '66 was Senior Vice President-Alliances and Vice President Marketing Affiliates and Strategic Planning at Northwest Airlines from 1992 until his retirement last July; he still works with Northwest as a consultant. Birdsall, who holds Bachelors and Masters degrees from NYU, began his airline career at Eastern Airlines in 1969 where he held several positions including senior financial analyst and director of planning systems. He also served as president and CEO of New York Air and as a senior vice president of Continental Airlines. Birdsall credits much of his success to Westchester Community College and to his mentor, retired Dean Angelo Delgrosso. He has endowed a scholarship fund in honor of Dean Delgrosso.



Doug Birdsall

Peter Herrero is the owner of Sam's of Gedney Way, a popular restaurant in White Plains, as well as two catering companies, The Great American BBQ Co. and First Class Catering. He is also the exclusive on-premise caterer at the C.V. Rich Mansion in White Plains. In 2002 Herrero was named Restaurateur of the Year by the New York State Restaurant Association. From 2001-2002 he was an instructor in Modern Buffets at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park. Herrero serves on the Board of The Business Council of Westchester and is also a member of The Small Business Advisory Council. He is heavily involved with local organizations dedicated to feeding the poor. Herrero lives in Scarsdale with his wife and business partner, Karen, and their three daughters.



Peter Herrero

George Thom and his wife, Ann, have been residents of Pound Ridge for 32 years. Mr. Thom recently retired as President of Datco Sales Associates, wholesale menswear manufacturers representatives. He received his Associates degree from Westchester Community College in 1966 and his Bachelors from the University of Bridgeport, before going on to Columbia Teachers College. Thom presently serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Camp Sloane YMCA in Lakeville, Connecticut and is the New York State representative for The Clan MacThomas Society. The Thoms have two sons, Douglas and Colin.



George Thom

In addition to the three newly-elected members, there are two other WCC alumni presently serving on the Foundation Board. Dr. Iris Cook, '54, is chair of the College's Biology Department. Jose Montiel, '78 is the founder and CEO of Proftech Corporation, an office supplies company located in Elmsford.

JobSTAR Grads Find the Recipe for Success at Connie's Bakery

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ployees who will be trained to work in the bakery for a year. Janie Jackson, Owen Sterling, Luisa Diaz and Rochelle Johnson are all recent graduates of JobSTAR's Food Preparation/Sanitation Certification program, which teaches the basic skills required for entry level jobs in the food service industry. Milstein said she wanted to work with JobSTAR to help people who need that first job on their resume to get ahead. The apprentices are paid living wages and receive benefits. They will work at Connie's Bakery for a year, and then move on to bigger and better



From left, Janie Jackson, Owen Sterling and Luisa Diaz, all graduates of WCC's JobSTAR Program, are learning to make pastry in a year-long apprenticeship program at Connie's Bakery and General Store in Mount Kisco

jobs while a new group of JobSTAR graduates takes their place.

"It's a phenomenal experience," said JobSTAR director Joanne Conway. "Connie's will work to train the students. JobSTAR will evaluate them throughout the year and then help them find permanent jobs. With this on their resumes they will be totally employable."

Heading the bakery's kitchen and apprenticeship training is executive pastry chef Simeon Manber, 34, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y. Before joining Connie's, Manber was assistant pastry chef for Babbo, a restaurant on Waverly Place in Manhattan

owned by chef/television personality Mario Batali and frequented by celebrities.

"I had been at Babbo for about three and a half years and it was time to be moving on," Manber said. "I saw an advertisement in *The New York Times* for the job at Connie's Bakery. A lot of chefs were trying out for it. When I got it, it was like a dream come true, because it combines cooking, which I love, and also social service." The four apprentice bakers at Connie's work under Chef Manber's expert direction.

Apprentice Janie Jackson, 45, is single and lives in Rockville, N.Y. She gets up at 5:30 each morning and takes two buses to reach the bakery by 7 a.m. "I don't mind at all," she says. "This program has changed my life. I had been looking for a job for over two years and there was just nothing out there. Then a couple of people in my apartment started talking about the JobSTAR program at Westchester Community College. They had gone through it and gotten good jobs, so I decided to give it a try." Jackson would like to be a pastry chef some day and perhaps work for a large hotel.

As for working with chef Manber, she said, "He's the best, just the best. He has so much patience. If you mess up, he gives you a chance. I've made two mistakes since I started, but I'm doing fine."

Owen Sterling worked for 15 years as a cook's helper in the kitchen of the Westchester County Medical Center in Valhalla, N.Y. In 2000, the center's food service was purchased by a private company and the entire kitchen staff was terminated. "I went from job to job and then went on public assistance," Sterling says. "Then I heard about the JobSTAR program." He hopes to one day own his own bakery. "I'm 42, so I'm never going to do it if I don't do it now. This apprenticeship gave me the opportunity I needed."

Connie's Bakery and General Store is at 41 South Moger Avenue in Mount Kisco, N.Y. All the bakery's profits go to a charity and each month the charity changes. In February all profits went to Food-P.A.T.C.H., Westchester's food bank. For more information, call (914) 242-2014 or visit www.connies.org.

JobSTAR is a collaboration between Westchester Community College and the county's Department of Social Services. It has been providing educational training, case management and job placement services to individuals and families receiving public assistance since 1990. For information on the JobSTAR program, call (914) 606-6437.

News-Times photo/Wendy Carlson



Pastry chef Simeon Manber, left, shows apprentice baker Owen Sterling how to complete a pear tart.

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A Letter from Iraq

Continued from page 1

military bases in Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Within 3 months of applying I was sweating my butt off just a few miles down the road from the Garden of Eden. (Not many people realize it, but the Garden of Eden was actually in Iraq.)

The base I am on is located in central Iraq; I really can't give you anything further on the location due to security reasons. Right now the weather is not bad over here. The temperature is about 50-60 degrees during the day, 45 at night, and there hasn't been much rain. The weather will start to change in another 6 weeks or so; then it will begin to get warm. At times during the summer it goes up to 145 degrees during the day and 80 at night. There is no humidity so it's not as bad as one would think, but that's still too hot. Because there's no humidity you don't get sunburned, but you wear sun block mostly to avoid the UV rays.

Because I work as a fireman on a military base, we don't leave the base, so we don't get as much exposure to the dangers that you hear about on CNN. But we do witness some bad situations at times.

The first fire I fought here was a tank fire on base, with small arms rounds going off in the storage bin in the tank. We've fought several fires that were caused by hostile acts. At our first location, you could set your watch by the mortar attacks. You remember on MASH they had 5 o'clock Charlie? Well we had 10 o'clock Haji. (Haji is what they call the insurgents here in Iraq.) It always seemed that between 9:45 and 10 p.m. we would get hit. It got to the point where we kept count on a board.

I'm on a base in Iraq...because I want to be...for now. But I'm looking forward to being back in the USA.

Best to all,

Edward T. Carter, Class of 1997

PEEKSKILL EXTENSION SITE CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

The Peekskill Extension Center celebrated its tenth anniversary on January 27th at the 27 North Division Street location. Peekskill offers classes in computer arts, graphics, multimedia and digital music, and boasts more sophisticated equipment than many major art schools.

"The site is one of the county's unique educational treasures," said County Executive Andy Spano, who was among the dignitaries attending the ceremony.

Peekskill Mayor John Testa agreed. "This facility is part of the fabric of the community in Peekskill, and the resources there help support the growing artists' community that is stimulating the city's renaissance," said Testa.



Students in the recording studio

The success of the original Westchester Art Workshop in White Plains led to the opening of the Peekskill facility in 1994. Through these two sites and the main campus in Valhalla, Westchester Community College has become one of the region's premier educators in digital arts and music.

In 2003, the cutting-edge Peekskill Center expanded to 20,000 square feet by adding an additional floor dedicated to general education, non-credit adult continuing education, English as a second language (ESL), and a full range of student services. The facility now serves 1,000 students in seven computer labs, three graphic/interactive design studios, two digital video studios, a music and recording studio, and offers courses including 3D animation, interactive design, and DVD authoring.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

BARBARA CHRISTENSEN, ALUMNEWS EDITOR
E-MAIL: wcc.alumni@sunywcc.edu
VALHALLA, NY 10595
75 GRASSLANDS ROAD
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WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION
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