

Alumnews.

The Official Alumni Newsletter of Westchester Community College

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FEBRUARY, 2009

Do You Want A Class Reunion? Let Us Know At www.mysunywcc.org

Hundreds of Westchester Community College alumni have already registered at the college's new online community: mysunywcc.org. Faculty and staff members (including retirees) are also joining as word spreads and enthusiasm mounts for this great new communication tool.

mysunywcc.org allows you to create your own personal web page that can be linked to other sites such as Facebook and My Space. It features an online member directory so you can track down old friends, blog with them, share photos, etc. It is a secure website which enables you to register for events at the college and safely pay for tickets with a credit card; you may also make a donation to the college without having to write a check.

New features are being added regularly. We recently uploaded photos of the 2006 graduation ceremony and invite you to scroll through them on the Class of 2006 Homepage. More class pages will be created as we gather photos and email addresses.

We have also had several inquiries from "landmark" year alums (1984, 1994, 1999) about the possibility of having a class reunion sometime this year. If you'd be interested in seeing the classmates you graduated with ten, fifteen, or twenty-five years ago, **LOG ON TO THE WEBSITE NOW AND LET US KNOW:**

<http://www.mysunywcc.org>

The 50th Reunion of the Class of 1959 Thursday, May 21, 2009

IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR INVITATION, PLEASE CALL THE ALUMNI OFFICE AT (914) 606-6559
OR LOG ON TO WWW.MYSUNYWCC.ORG AND LET US KNOW!

WCC ALUMNI, FACULTY AND STUDENTS JOIN 1.8 MILLION IN WASHINGTON FOR PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

The historic inauguration of President Barack Obama on January 20 drew huge crowds to Washington, D.C. Nearly two million people packed the city, and among them were students, faculty and alumni of Westchester Community College.

One alumnus, Carlos (Charlie) Ramos, Jr., not only joined the crowd and was part of the city-wide celebrations, but he also attended one of the inaugural balls as well. (See photo far right.)

Ramos, a 2001 graduate of WCC, is a native of the Bronx with a passion for politics. After graduating with honors from Baruch College he received a fellowship from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute of Public Policy which took



Photo by Charlie Ramos

him to Washington, DC. He worked for a lobbying firm in Washington for several years and earned a reputation as one of the nation's top emerging Latino leaders.

On the home front, Charlie helped spearhead an aggressive campaign to get the first Latina elected to the Family Court bench in Westchester County. And his testimony before the County Board of Legislators in May 2001 resulted in the election of the first Latino, Jose Alvarado, to the board.

Charlie's passion for political activism began in the Bronx, and he recently returned to his home territory to accept a position as the Bronx Representative in the New York City Comptroller's Office of Community Relations. But he was more than happy

to travel back to Washington for the presidential inauguration, and a chance to meet the new President at one of the inaugural balls.

Charlie Ramos (r.) with former U.S. Senator and current Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar at the Latino Gala Ball at Union Station in Washington



Photo by Charlie Ramos

COLLEGE RECEIVES \$5 MILLION GIFT

The Westchester Community College Foundation has received a gift of \$5 million to establish the Joseph N. Hankin Gateway to the Future Fund. The landmark gift was made by an anonymous donor in recognition of President Hankin's extraordinary leadership of the college since 1971. As only the second president since its founding in 1946, Dr. Hankin has guided the college to its current position as one of the most prestigious community colleges in the nation and one of the gems of the SUNY system.

One of the largest donations ever received by a community college, the Gateway to the Future Fund will transform the college's ability to implement visionary new endeavors. The \$5 million dollar gift will be made over the next four years, with \$2.5 million paid in 2009 and the second \$2.5 million paid by installments as a 3:1 challenge match is met, bringing the gift's total value to \$12.5 million. These funds will allow the college to implement strategic priorities and key initiatives

The first half of the gift will complete the \$14.5 million capital campaign for The Gateway Center, and provide for



Construction Update: The tower of the new Gateway Center now rises above the campus. The building will open in 2010.

leadership of Gateway programs. In a 70,000 square foot building that will open in 2010, The Gateway Center will provide the essential new classrooms and academic resources with cutting-edge technology, innovative programs, and an opportunity for students from all backgrounds to gain the skills they need for success in the workforce.

"We are honored and delighted by this gift, which affirms Westchester Community College's position as a leader in providing excellence in education to meet the needs of our diverse community," said Hankin. "I can think of no better



The building is totally enclosed and work is underway on the 70,000-square foot interior

recognition than a fund to ensure that our programs will grow in innovation and quality. Gifts of this magnitude offer the opportunity to meet emerging challenges and create a legacy for the future."

It is noteworthy that the Westchester Community College Foundation annually ranks among the top ten community college foundations in the nation for its fundraising success. Among SUNY two-year colleges it is second only to the Fashion Institute of Technology in Manhattan. The Foundation is responsible for raising all private, corporate and foundation gifts on behalf of the college, providing student scholarships, program development, faculty opportunities, as well as facility and technology enhancement.

Alumni who are interested in participating in the challenge match for the \$5 million gift should contact Shirley Phillips, Vice President of External Affairs and Executive Director of the WCC Foundation, at 606-6670.

Can YOUR Business Help A WCC Student??

Do you have employment needs that could be handled by a college student? Have you thought about utilizing college interns to fulfill some of those needs?

The Cooperative Education/Internship Program at Westchester Community College is an experiential learning program that provides opportunities for students to gain career-related work experiences while completing a degree.

For employers, the program brings the workplace and academic curricula closer together. It provides a direct service to community organizations and builds a communication channel that has the potential for continual cooperation between the college and local organizations. The program contributes to economic development by providing a steady flow of highly qualified, appropriately skilled employees for the community.

Since 1994, employers have provided students at Westchester Community College the opportunity to work in career-related positions in corporations, small to mid-sized businesses, museums, schools, non-profit organizations and municipalities. Students get a head start in making professional contacts while strengthening their resume for future employment opportunities. Employers receive highly motivated employees who are enrolled in coursework that meets their needs, and they can utilize that educational knowledge at the worksite.

For more information, please contact Yvonne Rosario, Internship Program Coordinator, at 914-606-7734 or e-mail Yvonne.Rosario@sunywcc.edu.

JOHN ANDERSON '72 NAMED ALFRED STATE PRESIDENT



Dr. John Anderson, front row center, with some of the dignitaries who attended the installation ceremony

Dr. John M. Anderson, '72 was inaugurated as President of Alfred State College, a member of the SUNY system located in Alfred, New York. The inauguration ceremony was held on October 16th. Dr. Anderson is the college's 11th president

A native of Tarrytown, Dr. Anderson holds a doctorate in education from Cornell University, an M.S. in physics from SUNY Geneseo, a B.S. in physics from SUNY Brockport, and an associate's degree in math and science from Westchester Community College. He has also done post-graduate studies at Harvard, the University at Buffalo, and Alfred University.

Before becoming president, Dr. Anderson held a number of other administrative posts at Alfred State. He also served as executive vice president and provost at Hartwick College in Oneonta, and as vice president of academic affairs at the SUNY Institute of Technology in Utica.

Speakers at the ceremony praised Dr. Anderson's innovations at Alfred State in organics and sustainable agriculture, and in wind and solar energy. In the next five years, Alfred State anticipates producing more qualified green-collar workers than any college its size in the nation. A planned commercial wind farm will produce enough energy to power both Alfred State campuses.

"These are not pipe dreams; these plans are rooted in reality", Dr. Anderson said. "Alfred State will become the model to which all colleges of technology aspire."

BILL CARTER '93 TO HEAD COMMUNITY CENTER

William "Bill" Carter, '93, has been appointed commissioner of the Theodore D. Young Community Center in Greenburgh, New York. The Greenburgh Town Board unanimously approved the appointment last October and Bill began his duties as commissioner on November 15th.

Carter, a Columbia University graduate, has served as program administrator for the Westchester County Youth Bureau and as an adjunct professor at Westchester Community College. He has also worked as a counselor at Hawthorne Cedar Knolls School and at A.B. Davis Middle School in Mount Vernon.



Bill Carter: "Here in Valhalla, deferred dreams become reality".

Bill, a native of West Virginia, moved to Westchester 36 years ago. He is a longtime resident of White Plains and is active in many community organizations and volunteer projects. He has worked extensively with youth organizations and is widely sought-after as a speaker at youth-oriented educational conferences throughout the state.

His plans for his new position include making the Theodore Young Community Center more accessible and welcoming to all Greenburgh town residents.

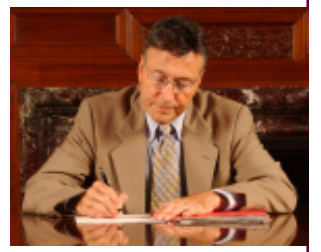
"I want to bring additional outside resources to the center to meet the needs of the citizens of the town of Greenburgh," he said. "I want to build powerful cooperative agreements with other entities in the town to expand services in the community."

Bill Carter was in his late thirties when he began his college education at Westchester Community College in 1991. He graduated two years later with numerous honors, including a full scholarship to Dominican College. He earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in social work and went on to Columbia University where he completed the course work for a Ph.D.

Shortly before leaving WCC in 1993, Bill addressed an audience of dignitaries and described his experience at the college. He concluded with these words:

"The poet Langston Hughes once stated that 'a dream deferred is a dream denied'. But Langston never knew about Westchester Community College. Because here in Valhalla, deferred dreams become reality."

The President's Corner



February, 2009

Dear Alumnus/Alumna:

It is once more my pleasure to write a few words to you. At WCC this has been proclaimed the "year of diversity." Not only will we be stressing globalism more and more in this shrinking world, but we will be trying to further diversify the student body and the professional staff.

Already we are 47.3 percent minority in the student body, but we are much less diverse in the professional staff. What do we mean by diverse? Well, it is more than just the attempt to increase the four classes of underrepresented individuals who are African-American, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American. It also includes women, senior citizens, gays, the disabled (or "differently abled" as I like to call them), and others you might not have thought of at first.

This is not a simple matter. There are no monolithic groups—not White, nor Black, nor Hispanic, nor Asian, nor Native American, nor anything else. Robert Fulghum, who wrote *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, has written that if we were to line up on one side of the earth every human being who ever lived or ever will live, you would not find anyone quite like you; that is how different people are genetically.

The issue has become more complex over time, not less. For example, I believe that there are now 67 ways one can report race during a census. This may be illustrated by one of our most famous golfers, Tiger Woods, who is often referred to as "Black," but he is actually only 25 percent Black. He calls himself Cablinasian to reflect his Caucasian, Black, American Indian, and Thai heritages.

Perhaps Jesse Jackson said it best: "The White, the Hispanic, the Black, the Arab, the Jew, the Woman, the Native American, the Small Farmer, the Businessperson, the Environmentalist, the Peace Activist, the Young, the Old, the Lesbian, the Gay, and the Disabled make up the American Quilt."

This will be an exciting year with lots of activities scheduled to point up the quest for diversity. You can help! If you know someone whom you can recommend for our professional staff, or even for our student body, we would appreciate your help.

Best wishes for 2009. We hope that you'll come back to visit soon--and often.

---Joseph N. Hankin

NATIVE PLANT CENTER CELEBRATES TENTH ANNIVERSARY WITH STAR-STUDED FOUNDERS DINNER

The Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College celebrated its tenth anniversary with a gala Founders' Dinner and Awards Reception on September 27th in Bedford.

The sold out event, attended by 150 gardening enthusiasts, raised \$140,000 for the Native Plant Center. The funds will be used to expand educational programming at the Center, and to enrich its educational mission.



Westchester County legislator Ursula LaMotte (l.) with Lynda Johnson Robb, daughter of President Lyndon Johnson

The Native Plant Center was founded ten years ago by three local residents -- Marybeth Weston Lobdell, Marie Smith Schwartz and Betsy May Stern--who were all members of the Board of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas.

These visionary women initiated a plan to develop the first regional affiliate of the Johnson Center, to be located in the northeast. They believed that native plants could be promoted and preserved most effectively by regional centers, and established the first one on the campus of Westchester Community College in 1998. There are now 22 national and international affiliates of the famed Texas wildflower center.

Lady Bird Johnson's daughters, Lynda Johnson Robb and Luci Baines Johnson, were honorary co-chairs for this celebratory event, and Mrs. Robb was able to attend. It



Shirley Phillips, VP of External Affairs and Executive Director of the WCC Foundation, with Martha Stewart and President Hankin

was her second trip to the campus; she and her sister accompanied their mother to Valhalla in 1999 for the dedication of the Lady Bird Johnson Demonstration Garden.

Another celebrity guest at the gala was Martha Stewart, founder of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia. Ms. Stewart was on hand to accept The Native Plant Center's first annual "Acorn" Award, which honors an individual or group that inspires people to learn about native plants and grow them in their own gardens. Stewart, an enthusiastic gardener, has developed an extensive woodland garden at her home in Katonah. She expressed her gratitude for the award and her support for the work of The Native Plant Center. The following day she gave the center national exposure on both her TV show and her website.

SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTS FIVE ALUMNI FOR 2008

The Westchester Community College athletic department held its third annual Sports Hall of Fame Induction Awards Ceremony and Dinner on Saturday, November 15th at Juliano's Restaurant in New Rochelle.

The 2008 honorees, all WCC alumni, are: **Andre Herrera** (football); **Tony Fiorenza** (soccer); **Dennis Light** (bowling); **Wayne Morgan** (basketball); and **Nancy Thomas** (tennis).

A Meritorious Service Award was presented to Dr. Henry Stampur, the physician who has conducted the required NJCAA physicals for WCC athletes for the past 30 years.

The Sports Hall of Fame was established in 2006 to honor college athletes and members of the athletics department who have gone on to achieve national prominence in their respective sport or in their positions here at the college. A wall in the lobby of the Phys Ed Building showcases all those who have been inducted.



Newest members of the Hall of Fame, l. to r.: Andre Herrera, Tony Fiorenza, Dennis Light, Wayne Morgan, Nancy Thomas

Hartford Hall Society
Westchester Community College Foundation

HONORING DONORS OF GIFTS TO CREATE A LASTING LEGACY
To learn more, call Linda Champanier at 914-606-6804

Outright gifts of cash or securities are essential to the day-to-day operations of the college, but legacy gifts build the foundation for the future. We hope to welcome you as a member of the Hartford Hall Society, which honors people who have chosen to create a legacy through their bequest or other planned gifts. We want to have the opportunity to thank you for your gift, so we urge you to let us know if you've already made plans for a legacy gift.

Bequests: With a simple codicil, you can add Westchester Community College Foundation to your will. We gratefully recognize the significance of being remembered with those you care about most. You can even remember us "last" by bequeathing the residual of your estate to the Foundation.

Life Income Gifts: A gift to Westchester Community College Foundation can offer a lifelong income. If you establish a charitable gift annuity with a gift of \$10,000 or more, payments for the lifetime of one or two people are guaranteed to remain the same, no matter how the economy fluctuates. Whatever funds remain after your lifetime will go to support Westchester Community College Foundation.

Beneficiary Designation: You can name Westchester Community College Foundation a beneficiary of your retirement plan or insurance policy.

Planning a legacy gift is a significant step, and we are grateful to be considered for this lasting tribute. Contact Linda Champanier at 914-606-6804. She'll be happy to answer questions, send sample bequest language, or meet with you to discuss options for a life income gift. There is absolutely no obligation and your inquiry is completely confidential. We don't offer legal or financial advice, so we're happy to meet with your advisors if you wish.

Alumnotes

1957

F. MICHAELLEWIS graduated from WCC in 1957 when it was located on Battle Hill Avenue in White Plains. He received his degree in Mechanical Technology and is very interested in getting back in touch with some of his classmates. Mike now lives in El Segundo, California and enjoys riding his 185 HP supercharged Sea Doo. The photo shows him on a recent jaunt to Catalina Island off the coast of Los Angeles.



1962

JOHN LEDYARD enjoyed the article about retired Dean Angelo Delgrosso which appeared in the last issue of



Alumnews. John was kind enough to send us this photo that he took back in 1961. It shows Dean Delgrosso (left) and two students with a string of freshly-caught pickerel. (Looks like they all cut classes that day!) If anyone recognizes the two students, please identify them for us!

1965

MATTHEW J. FLANIGAN who holds an A.A.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from WCC, is interim chief executive officer of the Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA), a trade organization for electronics manufacturers in the U.S. Prior to joining EIA he was President of Telecommunications Industry Association from 1994 to 2006, and served as President and CEO of Cognitronics Corp., a telecommunications manufacturing company, from 1988 to 1994. Matt Flanigan lives in Fairfax, Virginia.

1969

CAL GORMICK and his wife **JEANNE ('71)** would like to contact other members of their classes at WCC. The Gormicks live in Laguna Niguel, California. Cal is retired and Jeanne is the Vice President of Community Services for Home Instead Senior Care in Mission Viejo, California. They have 3 kids and 4 grandkids, with another on the way. They would especially like to get in touch with **Richard Pileggi**. If anyone knows Rich, please pass along this information!

1971

THOMAS G. BERSTENE, a former member of the U.S. Coast Guard, enjoyed Dr. Iris Cook's article about Antarctica in the last *Alumnews*. Tom was stationed aboard the Coast Guard Cutter GLACIER for 18 months and cruised from Long Beach to the Arctic and then the Antarctic. "Given the bleak picture we have in our heads of glaciers racing down to the sea and icebergs bigger than Hartford Hall, it really is a beautiful place," he wrote. "Cold, but beautiful. If there was one thing I missed near the end of my career in the Coast Guard, it was not being able to sail one last time to Antarctica. Thanks for sharing your dream and reviving my memories of penguins, ice, and Antarctica."

1972

SIOBHAN A. REARDON is the new president and director of the Free Library of Philadelphia as of September 4, 2008. Siobhan was Executive Director of the Westchester Library System for several years, and her resignation was "reluctantly" accepted by the WLS Board of Trustees. The president of the WLS Board stated, "We have accomplished much over the nearly three years of Siobhan's tenure, and have all enjoyed the wonderful leadership, dedication and commitment that she has brought to the Westchester Library System. We wish her every success".



Siobhan Reardon

1973

JOHN COFFINO was named head coach of the Albuquerque Thunderbirds for the 2008-2009 season. John was an assistant coach for Ralph Arietta at WCC. He spent nine years as a Division I assistant coach: at Iona College from 1997-1999, at Niagara University from 1999-2002, and at St. Peter's College from 2002-2006. He is the Thunderbirds' third head coach in the team's four-year history.

ROBERT P. DUBOIS, JR. got his Bachelor's degree in accounting from Pace University and worked as Accounting Manager for AIG Insurance through 1984. He relocated to Tucson, Arizona and became CEO of Uniforms Plus, Inc. until 2007. He was awarded Retail Advisor position from Crest Inc. based on national recognition of being a leader in the field of medical apparel. Bob and his wife, Debra, still live in Tucson and have two children: Danielle, 21 and Jared, 14. While at WCC Bob was a member of Kappa Sigma Kappa fraternity and would like very much to hear from any

of his KSK brothers. "When I went to WCC I was a Vietnam era vet", said Bob. "The brothers called me 'Gramps' because I was older than any of them. I don't remember our secret password, but I can still do the handshake." If anyone wants to get in touch with Bob Dubois, his e-mail address is dubois04@comcast.net

1974

RON WATSON is Business Development Director for Lockheed Martin Transportation & Security Solutions. Ron played football at WCC and went on to play for two years in the East Stroudsburg, PA Conference Division II, after which he taught and coached football for six years at DWC. He then joined the U.S. Marine Corps where he spent the next 22 years, retiring in 2004 as a Lt. Colonel. Years of traveling the world made him well suited to the position with Lockheed Martin, a global defense contractor. Ron and his wife Liz have two sons, Ronnie and J.J., who appear to be following in their father's footsteps: Ronnie is a senior at SUNY Maritime in the Bronx, and J.J. attends the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY.

1975

MARK MANCUSO, Sr. is Vice President of CPL Properties, a real estate company in Massachusetts. Mark played football at WCC during 1973-74. Other members of that memorable team were **John Rulli**, who is now President of Simon Management Group, and **Andre Herrera**, who went on to play with the Kansas City Chiefs and now owns a publishing company in Michigan. **Don Weigand**, head of the WCC Counseling Department, also worked with the team on the administrative end and keeps in touch with them regularly.

1978

MARK PFAFF, Senior Vice President at New York Life Insurance Company, was recently named director of the company's life insurance manufacturing and marketing operations. These include the company's individual, bank- and corporate-owned life insurance, as well as its Group Membership Association Division, the largest underwriter of professional association insurance programs in the United States, and life insurance sold through an exclusive, endorsed program with AARP.

A native of Pearl River, NY, Pfaff received a B.A. from Manhattan College and an A.A. degree from Westchester Community College. He joined New York Life in 1985 as an agent and was rapidly promoted to sales manager.

1980

RICH MINZER is still enjoying great success with his Los Angeles-based Celebrity Gyms. In addition, Rich has branched out into a new field and is now the LA/Southern California account rep for a company called Drinks Americas/Trump Vodka. Drinks Americas markets beverages associated with iconic celebrities, and hosts promotional events around the world.

1983

PETER GLEASON, a former NYC cop and firefighter who is now a successful attorney, has decided to run for New York City Council. Gleason has announced his candidacy for the 2009 election to fill a vacant Council seat. A



From left: Olympic gold medal winner Susan Francia, Rick Hyland (with Oscar), Pete Gleason, Monte Russo

recent fundraiser in support of his political venture attracted several celebrities including Olympic gold medal winner Susan Francia, New York Post columnist Steve Dunleavy, and Maria Cooper Janis, daughter of late actor Gary Cooper. Ms. Cooper Janis brought along the Oscar statue which her father won for his role in the classic 1952 western, "High Noon". The event was also attended by fellow WCC alumni Rick Hyland '94, director of WCC's Yonkers Extension Center, and Monte Russo, a classmate of Pete's in 1983.

1985

JOSEPH CALDROPOLI is the new Executive Chef/Director of Dining Services at the luxury Brightwater Retirement Community in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. He manages the kitchen and oversees a myriad of related operations. Joe graduated from WCC with an AAS degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management. He opened his own gourmet deli in Connecticut and did all the cooking, but soon afterward was hired by Flik International in Rye Brook, New York, first as District Manager and then as Food Service Director of Flik's Nine West Group. After moving south, Joe founded and ran Coastal Catering and Events in Myrtle Beach. He was also the Assistant General Manager of a resort on Bald Head Island, North Carolina.



Joe Caldropoli

1990

JOSEPH R. MASTRANGELO was recently promoted to vice president of the equipment division at GE Oil & Gas.



Joe Mastrangelo

Prior to his current role, Mastrangelo had global responsibility for the division's commercial operations within the organization which is based in Florence, Italy. Joe joined GE through the Financial Management Program in 1993 and held roles of increasing responsibility in finance, rising to Executive Audit Manager on GE's Corporate Audit Staff. Mastrangelo holds a Bachelor of Science degree in finance from Clarkson University and an Associates of Science degree in business administration from Westchester Community College.

1995

GARY BEERS has a passion for writing and has had 38 pieces published to date. He hopes one day to teach creative writing on the college level. After graduating from WCC he went on to major in psychology at Mercy College, where he won the National Social Science Award (one of only 7 given out annually) for his creation of the Beers Personality Stability Inventory. His ultimate goal is to develop his personality inventory on a Master's level and have it published in the journal of the American Psychological Association. Meanwhile he continues to write and is presently editing and revamping his play, "Heaven Only Knows", for future production. He is also planning his next book, a philosophical work based on how personality traits are developed, their impact on the psyche, and how they affect social and economic status.

1996

LOUISE TURINO of Lagrangeville joined Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck as a registered dietician. Most recently, Louise was a dietetic technician at Elant in Newburgh and prior to that at the Sarah Neuman Center for Healthcare and Rehabilitation in Mamaroneck. She holds an A.A.S. degree in dietetic technology from WCC and a B.S. in food and nutrition from Marymount College.

1997

JESUS E. LOPEZ was delighted to inform us that he became a father for the first time last summer. Jesus and his wife, Marisol, welcomed their first child, baby Sofia Angela, on July 7th, 2008. Mom, Dad and Baby are all doing great! Jesus, who was awarded numerous scholarships while at WCC, is now a successful financial advisor for Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., in Briarcliff Manor, New York.



Proud parents Marisol and Jesus Lopez with Baby Sofia Angela

2001

VIKTORIA SUNDQVIST has been named Managing Editor of The Register Citizen in Torrington, Connecticut. Viktoria is a former editor of *The Viking News*. She continued her education at Quinnipiac University, where she earned a Master's degree in journalism in 2006. The Register Citizen is a 9000-daily circulation newspaper covering the northwest corner of Connecticut.

2006

MARYAM FEREYDOUN, salutatorian of the class of 2006, graduated *summa cum laude* with a B.A. in economics and mathematics from Barnard College and was accepted to Columbia's Master's program in Financial Engineering. In the meantime Maryam's fiance was transferred to his company's London office and she decided to move to England with him. Before leaving she wrote to the Alumni Office: "My experience at WCC was truly wonderful...it gave me all the confidence I needed to succeed at an Ivy League school. To be honest, I enjoyed school much more at WCC than Columbia! I would like to express my deepest gratitude for each and every one of my professors, counselors and supporters who made my experience at WCC one of a kind."

ROBERT ORLANDO graduated from Manhattanville College with a 3.98 GPA and received his New York State certification to teach social studies 5-12. The college honored him with its Academic Award for Excellence in Social Studies Education, along with a summer teaching job at Manhattanville. After teaching philosophy, social studies and debating skills to 8th, 9th, and 11th grade students, Robert is 'hooked' on the rewards of being a teacher and is considering college-level teaching as well.

Are You Interested in Having A Class Reunion? Let Us Know at www.mysunywcc.org

MOM-TURNED-PASTRY CHEF: "I LOVE MY LIFE"

Three years ago, Jaime Jeffrey was an unemployed single mother living in a homeless shelter. Today she is an assistant pastry chef at Connie's Bakery in Mount Kisco, thanks to the JobSTAR program at Westchester Community College.

Jaime, a native of Tobago, had been struggling for years to survive and care for her child at the same time. Just when she felt she had run out of options, she heard about the



Jaime Jeffrey with some of her sweet creations at Connie's Bakery

JobSTAR program and decided to enroll.

JobSTAR is a collaboration between the college and the Westchester County Dept. of Social Services which provides educational training and job placement to low-income persons,

including those on public assistance. Scores of Westchester residents have been removed from the public assistance rolls as a result of their JobSTAR training.

Among JobSTAR's course offerings is a 12-week food preparation/sanitation certification program. This attracted Jaime's attention because she loves to cook and had always dreamed of being a chef. She went through the program with enthusiasm and was an A-plus student.

After graduation she was interviewed by Connie's Bakery and General Store in Mount Kisco, a unique business operation which donates most of its profits to charity. Connie's has a one-year apprenticeship program which offers training, a full-time job, and health benefits to four participants each year--all selected from the JobSTAR Program.

Jaime was accepted as a bakery apprentice in April 2006. She completed her apprenticeship and did so well that she was hired by Connie's as an assistant pastry chef. Today she spends her days teaching other apprentices the art of baking pastries, including her own famous apple pies.

Jaime said that after all she has been through, she is finally very content.

"My life is better," she declared. "I get up every day and I make a difference. I love my life. I thank God for it. I am not just living."

But just when Jaime thought that things couldn't get any better in her life, another wonderful opportunity came her way. For the historic inauguration of President Barack Obama, Connie's Bakery decided to donate 20,000 brownies to various inauguration events. Jaime was given the honor of distributing 10,000 of them at Inauguration services at the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium in Washington. She took part in the "Day of Service" event on Martin Luther King Day.

Before leaving for Washington, Jaime said she could not believe that she was actually going to be part of history.

"When I get down there, I don't know how I am going to react," she said. "I am so excited!"

INTERESTED IN MENTORING?

The Alumni Committee of the Westchester Community College Foundation Board seeks qualified alumni who are interested in helping current students in their educational and personal growth by offering guidance and support.

Sharing your personal and professional expertise with a student is a wonderful way to "give back" to the institution that helped put you where you are today.

For further information please contact George Thom ('66) at 914-764-4708.

TEACHER AND MUSICIAN: JULIE HAS TWO PASSIONS

It's often said that the key to a happy life is having a job that you love. So those of you who don't love your jobs will probably envy Julie Corbalis (class of 1998). Julie has two careers and she is passionate about them both.

For the past nine years the 30-year old Westchester native has been teaching sixth and eighth grade social studies and environmental action at Manhattan East Middle School in Harlem, a magnet school that brings together a diverse group of 270 students from around New York City's five boroughs. Her classroom is filled with energy and enthusiasm as her students take their cue from their vivacious teacher. "They are awesome", she says. And they feel the same way about her.



Julie Corbalis

But once school is over for the day, Julie turns her attention to her other passion--her career as a singer/songwriter. Until recently, she had been performing in a quartet called "Jules and the Family", playing original songs and those of the Beatles, Tom Petty and Elvis Costello. But since her first solo CD, "Old Flames & New Names", was released last October, Julie has been busy with appearances showcasing her new work. She plays at coffee houses, cafes, summer festivals, benefit concerts and anywhere else she can; her performance schedule is pretty rigorous for someone who also has a very demanding day job.

Julie's love for music began while she was still in elementary school. She started taking alto saxophone lessons in fifth grade, and by high school she was also playing the guitar. When she entered Westchester Community College in 1996 she had already written her first song.

"When I enrolled I had no idea what my future was going to look like," said Julie. "I had no money. No one in my family had a college degree. I worked 2 jobs at night and on the weekends. WCC put me on track to change all that. The professors at WCC were amazing. One in particular, Robert J. Battaly, inspired me through U.S. history like no one had ever done before. Professor Battaly inspired me to become a New York City public school teacher. He is still my favorite professor. He passed away a couple of years ago".

In addition to history, Julie studied music at Westchester Community College. She spent her leisure time exploring area clubs and coffeehouses and met some local singers and songwriters who inspired her to write her own songs. Unfortunately, her stage fright kept her from sharing her musical gift with anyone but her closest friends.



Julie singing at the Norwalk Oyster Festival

ROSANNE KALICK LOSES 13-YEAR BATTLE WITH CANCER

All of us who have known and loved Rosanne Kalick as a friend and colleague will be saddened to know that she died on August 27th at her home in White Plains.

Rosanne was the long-time director of the Westchester Community College library who retired over 13 years ago due to a serious cancer diagnosis. However, Rosanne overcame the cancer not only then, but again 8 years ago. She enjoyed a full and active life until recently when the cancer returned, leading to her passing last August.



Only a few months earlier, Rosanne had traveled to Italy with a group of tourists led by Prof. Carlo Sclafani. The group included a number of other

WCC retirees, all of whom are grateful that they were able to share this happy experience with Rosanne.

Rosanne's funeral service was held on August 29th at the Chapel in the Woods at Congregation Kol Ami in White Plains. It was attended by a great many of the close friends she had made during her years at Westchester Community College. She will be remembered not only by her colleagues, but by the countless numbers of students to whom she was so dedicated for so many years.

She was "dying" to perform onstage but couldn't bring herself to do it.

Julie was awarded a full scholarship to NYU's School of Education and received her Bachelor's degree in Social Studies Education. She became her family's first college graduate and went on to become a teacher.

"My professors at WCC were better than most I encountered at NYU", said Julie. "They were equal in intelligence but they seemed like they cared a lot more, and they got to know me more than most at NYU".

A year after she began teaching she took a trip to Greece where she met a singer/songwriter named Pat Kelly who cured her of stage fright by encouraging her to appear with him on stage and sing her own songs. Once back home, she decided to form a band, "Jules and the Family", with guitarist Jonathan Lloyd, drummer John Madden and bassist Marc Osborn. The group put out two CDs; the last one, "Border Radio," came out in 2007.

Julie loves singing and playing for an audience and her schedule takes her all over New York State and the surrounding area. Now that she is promoting her own CD she spends many evenings and weekends traveling to and from such venues as The Towne Crier in Patterson, New York, Gaffney's in Saratoga Springs, and the famous Bitter End Cafe in Greenwich Village.

"I'm really proud of the new CD," Julie said, explaining that it was titled "Old Flames & New Names" because "half the songs are about 10 years old, and the rest were written in the last few months," and the subject matter focuses on past loves and "family stuff." The 10 songs on the CD are probably best described as folk-rock.



At the Hartsdale Farmers Market



"Jules and the Family" at the Starving Artist Cafe

While Julie is determined to build a name for herself in the music business, she's never lost her enthusiasm for teaching and learning. Two years ago she earned a Master's degree in history from Hunter College CUNY. She lives only a few blocks from the school where she teaches so she can have more time to work on lesson plans for the next day. And she still gets a kick out of the fact that the first thing her students do is look on the Internet "to see who I am," when they discover their teacher's musical career.

You can hear Julie's music on her excellent website, JulieCorbalis.com. The site is updated regularly and contains sound clips, tons of photos, information on purchasing CDs, and a schedule of upcoming performances.

CAREER CENTER OFFERS SERVICES TO ALUMNI

Prof. Susan Hacker, Coordinator of the college's Career Services Office, wants all alumni to know that the services of her office are available to them at any time. "We want our alumni to know that we are here to help them whenever they need us," she stated.

Some of the services available to all alumni of Westchester Community College are:

- CAREER COUNSELING
- CAREER COACHING
- RESUME PREP/REVIEW
- INTERVIEW TRAINING
- PRACTICE INTERVIEWS
- JOB SEARCH STRATEGIES
- JOB LISTINGS ON OUR WEB JOB BOARD CCN

Alumni can register, post resumes, and view job listings at www.collegecentral.com/sunywcc (click on the Alumni button).

Alumni are also invited to the Annual Job/Internship Fair, scheduled for March 25, 2009, and the Health Fair on April 1, 2009, both from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Details are on our website and employer information will be available before the fairs.

Detailed information on the Career Center is also available on the college website:

www.sunywcc.edu/ctcenter

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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