



# Alumnews.

The Official Alumni Newsletter of Westchester Community College

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NOVEMBER, 2009

## CAREER CENTER SEEKS TECHNOLOGY ALUMS FOR NOVEMBER 20TH PANEL

Marilyn Merker of the Career & Transfer Center writes: The Career & Transfer Center at Westchester Community College is embarking on a series of Career Panel events and would like to have your assistance in making them a valuable experience for our students.

If you would like to discuss your career path as it relates to the major you had at Westchester Community College, please let us know. The panels will take about 3 hours of your day and will be a wonderful way to "give back" to the school.

Our first panel will be held on November 20<sup>th</sup> for the Technology students. If you completed a degree in Civil, Mechanical, Electrical or Computer Technology we want to hear from you. Let us know if you are available that morning to share your career experience. Did you continue your education beyond WCC? Did you extend your career path in these areas?

If you would like to take part in this or other programs, please let us know as well. You can reach us by email at: [marilyn.merker@sunywcc.edu](mailto:marilyn.merker@sunywcc.edu) or by phone at: 914-606-8574. Just let us know your major at WCC, the field you are in today and your interest in participating in a Career Panel.

## KAPPA SIGMA KAPPA AWARDS FIRST SCHOLARSHIP

Kappa Sigma Kappa, a social fraternity which was extremely active on campus from 1957 to 1974, presented the first award from its new Endowed Scholarship Fund at the October 14, 2009 Scholarship Recognition Ceremony. KSK Brothers Gary Cotter, Rich DeMuth, and Kevin Molloy were on hand for the event, which marked a new and exciting chapter in the history of the fraternity at Westchester Community College.

Efforts to establish a scholarship endowment were begun at KSK's 50th anniversary celebration here on campus three years ago. The brothers who attended decided that a scholarship endowment would be a permanent reminder of the fraternity's presence at WCC.

The fundraising drive was spearheaded by brothers Cotter, Molloy and DeMuth. Their initial goal of \$10,000 (the minimum needed for a scholarship endowment) was reached this summer, officially establishing the KSK Scholarship.

To date, a total of twenty-one KSK brothers contributed to the endowed scholarship fund which now exceeds \$10,000, allowing for an annual scholarship of \$500 each October. Their goal is to continue to raise enough funds so that a larger award will be possible in the future. So far they have surpassed their original goal by 20% and are still going strong.

The Kappa Sigma Kappa Scholarship will be presented to a student who demonstrates academic excellence and financial need. The first recipient, Daniel Pozernick, is a straight-A student currently majoring in Liberal Arts/Math-Science who hopes to get into the radiological technology program.

Fraternity brother Kevin Molloy is committed to giving back through his continuing support, and recently issued a challenge to his KSK brothers to match his new donations to the fund.



Kappa Sigma Kappa Brothers Gary Cotter (l.) and Kevin Molloy (r.) congratulate Daniel Pozernick, first recipient of the KSK Scholarship

"Westchester Community College and Kappa Sigma Kappa Fraternity both had a positive influence on my life. I am committed to continuing my support of the scholarship." In response to his "call to action," another \$4,000 was raised for the scholarship in twelve days.

For more information regarding establishing annual or endowed named scholarships, please contact Ilene Lieberman, Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Development, at (914) 606-6834, or [Ilene.lieberman@sunywcc.edu](mailto:Ilene.lieberman@sunywcc.edu)

## FOOTBALL REUNION REINFORCES OLD BONDS

By Don Weigand, '72

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, 60 former members of the Westchester Community College football team returned to the campus for their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual reunion.

Alumni members from as far west as Nevada and south to Florida took advantage of the occasion to get reacquainted with the College and fellow ball players many of whom they hadn't seen in nearly forty years!

Ronald Watson a recently retired USMC Lt. Colonel said that it was "a great day...with great memories. Seeing all the guys and hearing of their post football successes made it clear that our common rite of passage enabled us all to drive onto glory. Looking forward to next year!"

Former football coach Max Bowman rearranged an important speaking engagement and flew in from Texas where he now resides and coaches. There were members from the 1971 National Club Football Championship Team (they beat St. John's University 14 - 12 before some estimated 12,000 fans) and members of the last team in 1991.

"It was great going down memory lane and renewing friendships while also making new ones. I am still shaking my head that after all these years there exists such a powerful camaraderie among a group of guys whose sole connection was playing football. Who knew it at the time that the countless "up-downs", monkey rolls and other torture devices concocted by the coaching staff up at Camp Smith would help forge a bunch of kids from diverse backgrounds not only into winners in football, but winners in life as well," said Bob Lappe.

The day could not have been as successful as it was without the leadership expressed by Andre Herrera and recently retired FBI Agent Joaquin

"Jock" Garcia the author of the recently published "The Making of Jack Falcone" which describes his 24 years as an undercover agent responsible for exposing corrupt police in New Jersey and Miami as well as his infiltration of the New York mob families.



## SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

The fourth Annual Westchester Community College Sports Hall of Fame Induction Awards Ceremony and Dinner will be held on Saturday, November 21, at Juliano's Restaurant in New Rochelle.

The Hall of Fame inductees include outstanding individuals who have achieved greatness in their positions here at the college or who have gone on to achieve national prominence in their respective sport.

This year's honorees are: **Elizabeth Clark** (basketball/softball), **Audrey Cherny** (tennis/swimming), **Walter Hauck** (bowling), **Steve Washington** (basketball), and **Gene Westmoreland** (golf).

Special Service Awards will also be presented to Professors Angelo DelGrosso and Debra Marchesani for their meritorious years of service.

The evening will include special presentations to the award recipients, dinner, and a sports memorabilia sale.

Ticket prices are \$50.00 each or \$500.00 for a table of ten. Please respond by Monday, November 2, 2009 by calling 914-606-7895, or e-mail [larry.massaroni@sunywcc.edu](mailto:larry.massaroni@sunywcc.edu).

## CLASS OF 1959 CELEBRATES AT 50TH REUNION

Twenty-four members of the Westchester Community College class of 1959 arrived at the Valhalla campus on May 21st to celebrate their fiftieth reunion. It was the largest gathering of 50-year alumni held to date, with WCC grads coming from as far away as Colorado, Illinois, and Florida.



The entire group enjoys a great view of the campus from the Hartford Hall patio. How it's changed since 1959!

The alums who attended were: Ronald Angilello, Duval Cellai, Joseph J. Cunnane, Cesare DeFeo, Michael DeFeo, Richard Dobeck, Joyce Ellis, Vincent Fazio, Katy Brady Feinsot, Ida Gramaglia, Anita Granberg, Rita Vosilla Jacobs, Susan Kosche, Madeleine Lambrelli, Marianne Vosilla Levy, Ben Mathews, Joan Kapf Oakes, William Ottly, Peter Pizzuco, Virginia Sharpe Radi, Dr. Fred J. Ricci, Anthony Valentino, John Volpi, and Connie White.

After attending a reception in their honor and a pre-Commencement buffet, the 50-year alums donned caps and gowns and took part in the college's 2009 Commencement ceremony. They led the procession of graduates and were called up to the stage to be recognized individually.

The tradition of inviting the graduates of fifty years

ago to the annual commencement ceremony was started by the Foundation in 2000 as part of the college's Millennium celebration. Now in its tenth year, the event has become one of the highlights of Commencement to both the past and present graduates.

The returning alumni are always thrilled with the heartwarming welcome and recognition that they receive. And for the current graduating class, it is impressive to see how strong a bond exists between the college and the students who graduated half a century ago.

Hopefully, members of the class of 2009 will return to campus in 2059 to celebrate their fiftieth reunion!



Members of the 1959 Medical/Dental class have kept in touch for fifty years

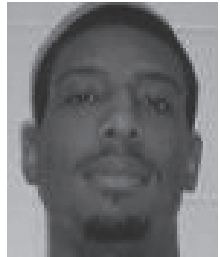


L to r: Tony Valentino, Peter Pizzuco, John Volpe, Vincent Fazio

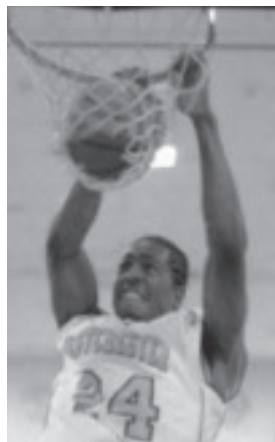
## 2009 Alumnus Is Already Famous

Jarrid Famous has only been an alumnus since last May but he is already making headlines, and has been since his undergraduate days on the WCC basketball team.

Shortly after joining the Westcos, the 6-foot-11 center captured the attention of coaches and recruiters from all over the country who recognized that this young man was no ordinary talent. By the time Famous was in his second year at WCC he was being scouted by just about every four-year college with a basketball team. Offers poured in from schools around the country that wanted Jarrid to play for them.



Jarrid Famous



A "Famous" play during a Westcos game

He narrowed the list down to his top 5 picks--Arizona, Missouri, Pittsburgh, Seton Hall, and South Florida, and made official visits to each school. It seemed as if the whole college sports world was holding its breath, waiting to see who would "win" the Westchester superstar. Famous finally made his choice and in September he headed south to the University of South Florida, where he is now playing for the Bulls under head coach Stan Heath.

"We'll have a good starting five with Famous", said Heath. "This is the year to move up; there is a little bit of a changing of the guard."

## John Egan: A New CD, A New Broadway Role

John Treacy Egan, '83, added another Broadway role to his resume when the new revival of "Bye Bye Birdie" opened on October 15th. John, who got rave reviews for his last Broadway role as Chef Louis in "The Little Mermaid", plays the part of Mr. Johnson in "Birdie".

While he loves being an actor, John also devotes much of his time to his singing career. With one CD already to his credit he recently announced that his latest, "On Christmas Morning", will be released in early November.

"I am so excited about my new Christmas CD", he said. "I love Christmas music and I had the honor of working with some really fine musicians on this project".

John plans to donate \$1 from the sale of each CD to Broadway Cares/Equity Fights Aids. "BC/EFA is now so much more than a charity that provides funding and services directly to people living with HIV/AIDS, it also provides funds to The Phyllis Newman's Women's Health Initiative to fight women's health issues, including breast cancer, and to the Al Hirshfeld Free Clinic and Health Network as well as many other charities across the U.S."

"On Christmas Morning" will be available online at [www.CDBABY.com](http://www.CDBABY.com) or on John's website, [www.JohnTreacyEgan.com](http://www.JohnTreacyEgan.com). It can also be downloaded from [www.itunes.com](http://www.itunes.com).

John will be performing two solo Christmas concerts at The Castle in Tarrytown on December 6th and December 13th at 8 p.m. He'll be happy to autograph the new Christmas CD, as well as his first release, "Count the Stars". The number to call for reservations is 914-631-3646; the website is [www.Castleonthehudson.com](http://www.Castleonthehudson.com)



John Treacy Egan

## Foundation Mourns Loss of Doug Birdsall-- Alumnus, Board Member, and Friend

A graduate of the class of 1966, Doug Birdsall was passionate about Westchester Community College and providing scholarships to students was his primary concern. He faithfully attended practically every Scholarship recognition ceremony: first as a scholarship recipient himself; then as a business executive and keynote speaker; and, later, as a WCC Foundation board member and scholarship ceremony presenter. He was a member of the Foundation's Executive Committee, an active participant on the Scholarship Committee, and chair of the Board's Alumni Committee, which sought to network with, and involve alumni in the life of the college.



Doug enrolled at the college in 1964 because it provided the only opportunity for higher education available to him, given his family's limited financial

## Othmer's Book Looks At Advertising Game

James P. Othmer, '80, published his second book in September. "Adland: Searching for the Meaning of Life on a Branded Planet" is a 320-page memoir of his 20 years on Madison Avenue as an advertising executive with powerhouse agency Young & Rubicam. [SmartMoney.com](http://SmartMoney.com) lists it as one of seven books to read this fall.

Othmer's book gives readers a realistic look at the storied world of advertising, a field often highly romanticized in films and on TV. Most of these movies and shows "are fun and make for interesting viewing", said Othmer. "But really it is a lot of meetings and coming up with ideas. And that's not so much fun to watch."

Othmer said that his book not only attempts to show how the advertising industry really works, but also to make readers realize that they are in control of what products are seen in ads--and ultimately sold.

As former Executive Creative Director at Young & Rubicam, Othmer worked on accounts for such giant corporations as AT&T, Accenture, and KFC. One of his former co-workers said Othmer's memoir portrayed their shared ad-men experiences, adding that "He has a great gift for distilling a complicated marketplace into a funny story".

His first book, a novel, came out in 2005. "The Futurist" is about a guy who doles out careful advice and predictions to governments, corporations and world leaders. The Amazon.com website described it as "an absolutely original novel that is driven by equal parts corrosively funny satire, genuine physical fear, and heartfelt moral anguish." Rights to "The Futurist" were sold in more than 10 countries, and a movie is in the works.

Doubleday, which handled both of Othmer's books, will also publish his next book, "Holy Water," a novel about a Third World country invaded by marketers and branded products.

Othmer, 48, still has vivid memories of the English courses he took at WCC with Prof. Frank Madden, Journalism courses with Prof. Helen Smith, and Creative Writing courses with Prof. Shirley Kim. He went on to Northeastern University in Boston, receiving a B.S. in Journalism. He later earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing from NYU, where his fiction adviser was E.L. Doctorow.

Jim Othmer lives in Mahopac with his wife Judy, whom he credits with giving him the support he needed to realize his dream of becoming a full-time writer.



Jim Othmer

## Bill Winters Speaks at Media Dept. Event

Director of Photography Bill Winters, '96, a graduate of Westchester Community College and the prestigious NYU Tisch School of the Arts film school, returned to WCC to take part in a discussion entitled "Meet the Pros" sponsored by the Communications & Media Arts Dept. and the Beebe Chair in Communications.

Bill, who is the son of WCC Professor William Winters, (also a WCC alumnus) has a versatile credit roster, including shooting a host of spots for brand-name advertisers such as Nike, Microsoft, Apple, Tommy Hilfiger, Panasonic, Sony, Chevrolet, Ford, MTV--the list goes on and on. Bill shot the award-winning hip-hop documentary *Beyond Beats & Rhymes*, which premiered at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival, and the Grand Prize-winning film for the 2007 Chrysler Film project. He worked with directors Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky on the film, *Metallica: Some Kind of Monster* and a TV show that presently airs on The Sundance Channel titled *Iconoclasts*. His work has taken him all over the world, from Iceland to Shanghai, but he always enjoys coming home to New York.

## The President's Corner



November, 2009

Dear Alumnus/Alumna,

It is hard to believe that it has been four decades since two men named Harold Drimmer and John Kley had the vision and generosity to establish the Westchester Community College Foundation. After recruiting several of their colleagues in the areas of business and education to join this new venture, they went around to local corporations to solicit contributions to provide small "scholarships" to students who wanted to extend their education beyond high school but were unable to afford the modest tuition costs at the community college in Valhalla.

Messrs. Drimmer and Kley and the other members of the new organization could never have imagined that within forty years the Foundation would not only be giving out one million dollars in scholarships each year, but would also be providing funds for faculty development, child care, alumni affairs, emergency student aid, and a host of other things not covered by the college's budget. They could never have imagined that the Foundation's fund-raising ability would grow to such an extent that it would raise millions of dollars to help renovate and expand the library and ultimately to make possible the magnificent Gateway Center.

The Foundation Board that was first established in 1969 quickly became a treasure trove of individuals who similarly had the kind of foresight demonstrated by the two founders. Manfred Moses, Raymond Keyes, Frank McCullough, Hans Reiss, Jack Stadler, Sophia Abeles, Virginia Marx, Betsy Stern, David Swope are some of the key people in the Foundation's extraordinary success story. Many of these stellar individuals were first introduced to the Foundation, and the college, by Mrs. Nina Jones Fink, who has herself been a member of the Board since 1975 and has been its driving force for more than three decades.

Needless to say there was a need for administrative direction of the Foundation. Several individuals served in that position before the current Executive Director, Shirley A. Phillips, took over the position in 1988. Mrs. Phillips, who is now also Vice President of External Affairs, has spearheaded the Foundation's amazing growth for more than twenty years. Under her leadership the Foundation has achieved goals that none of its founders ever envisioned.

The college now has a Volunteer Corps - more than 350 qualified Westchesterites who work on campus as tutors, mentors, "Conversation Partners", "Green Thumbs", and more, and the number of volunteers grows higher every year. The Native Plant Center has become a prestigious and influential voice in the area of conservation and restoration of the native trees, plants and flowers of our region. The Virginia Marx Children's Center provides state-of-the-art child care for parents attending classes on campus, as well as members of the surrounding community. Events such as The President's Forum, Celebrity Salons, and Spring for Scholarships combine learning, culture, and entertainment with the necessary task of raising funds to continue the work of aiding students in financial need.

All these things--and many more--are the result of the Westchester Community College Foundation's work over the past forty years, and we congratulate them for achieving an "impossible dream".

Sincerely,

*Joseph N. Hankin*

## WCC ENTREPRENEURS: LISA STAMATELOS

Lisa Stamatelos, '01, is a Human Resources Professional with over 20 years of management experience working with rapidly growing and changing companies. Her expertise includes employment law, recruiting, employee and labor relations as well as training and development.

She recently decided to use her knowledge to start her own company, LJS HR Services ([www.ljshrservices.com](http://www.ljshrservices.com)). "I still have my 'day' job but am working diligently at growing my business," she said.

LJS HR Services is a human resources consulting firm dedicated to providing human resources services to small businesses. Lisa believes that the outsourcing of human resources can greatly benefit many small companies by saving them money and freeing up workers to do other jobs.

Lisa received her Bachelor of Business Administration (summa cum laude) and MBA from Pace University. She received the Lubin School of Business Scholastic Achievement Award and was selected for Who's Who Among Students In American Colleges and Universities.

Lisa is an adjunct faculty member at the Lubin School, serves on the advisory board for the College of Westchester and volunteers as a mentor for the Society of Human Resources. Her new company's address is: LJS HR Services | P.O. Box 572 | Yorktown Heights, NY 10598.



Lisa Stamatelos

# Alumnotes

**1949**

**DONALD COOK** is interested in having a reunion of the class of 1949. If you graduated that year from what was then known as the New York State Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences, please contact us as we are missing the records of many graduates from 1949. Call us at (914) 606-6559 or e-mail [wcc.alumni@sunywcc.edu](mailto:wcc.alumni@sunywcc.edu).

**1951**

**RAYMOND J. CARTER** traveled from Florida to attend the Commencement ceremonies on May 21 and see his granddaughter, **ROBIN MASCIO**, receive her degree in Radiology Technology. Another of his granddaughters, **MICHELLE MASCIO**, graduated from WCC in 2007.

**1958**

**JAMES SULLIVAN** had a long career in the battery business after graduating from WCC fifty-one years ago. He spent 17 years at the Duracell Company in Chicago where he designed and sold the first end-of-life circuit and battery for smoke alarms. After that he worked at PCI in New Jersey for 18 years as Vice President of Sales and Marketing. He designed the 5 Lithium primary batteries for US Army and state of charge circuitry, as well as thermal batteries for missiles, sonobuoys etc. All of these are still in use today.

Jim was Vice President and then CEO of Ultralife in Rochester, NY, a manufacturer of primary and secondary lithium batteries. In addition to his corporate background, Jim started his own company, Cymbet, in Minnesota and also acquired overseas companies and converted them to military suppliers.

Jim retired to DeBary, Florida last year and is enjoying the "monsoon weather", as he put it. He discovered fellow classmate **JOSEPH BROWNE '58** on Facebook, which led him to get back in touch with WCC.

**1959**

**CESARE DeFEO** recently established two annually-renewable scholarships of \$3,000 each here at the college; one through the Italian Club and one in support of a student in Electrical Engineering. Cesare was at his class' 50th reunion in May with his brother **MICHAEL**, also a 1959 graduate.

**KATY BRADY FEINSOT** also attended the reunion and wrote to the Alumni Office: "I am finally on my home turf and imagine things have quieted down some in your work arena. Thursday was a whirlwind of fun activities, good food and happy faces of our 50 year graduates topped off with spectacular weather. Thank you and your very helpful staff for making our second graduation such a success. It was fun to see older but familiar faces, even those who needed a reintroduction! Our Med/Dental class of nine spent the night at the Rye Town Hilton where we rehashed the days events and concluded the day was a delightful gathering of old friends and we felt so fortunate to be among them. We are all ever so grateful. Have you started working on the next one? - but we can't wait another 50 years!"

**BEN MATHEWS**, another reunion attendee, also wrote: "Thank you for the wonderful 50th Reunion. It was so nice to be back at the WCC campus and to renew old acquaintances. The celebration was well organized, with the welfare of the alumni kept in mind. I liked the commencement ceremony, and once again receiving my "diploma". My sincere thanks to President Hankin, Dr. Iris Cook (she was delightful), and all the staff who contributed to such a memorable day for all of us from the Class of '59. I'll keep in touch, and visit you as often as I can. Kindest regards to all".

**1970**

**MARK LANDAU** passed away on May 2 at Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center in Ladera Ranch, California. Landau, who was 59, had undergone two heart transplants, the first in 1997 and the second in 2007. When Mark's wife, Sandra, also underwent heart transplant surgery in 2003 it made the headlines because the Landaus were believed to be the first couple to have heart transplants. Mark earned an associate's degree at WCC and worked as an airline chef before marrying Sandra at age 22. They later purchased a "mom and pop" store in Ardsley, NY and were well-known figures in the community. After the store was severely damaged by a flood in 1987, the residual mold led to Landau's myocarditis.

**1971**

**RUSSELL DeWITT** is currently living in Sandpoint, Idaho. Russell attended WCC from 1970 to 1971 and was a member of the wrestling team, recruited from Bergenfield, New Jersey by Tony Mezzatesta.



Lake Pend Oreille, Idaho

"I had a wonderful time there that year," he writes. "The college flew the entire wrestling team to Florida because we went from almost having our program canceled to being an undefeated team that year. I had a blast there and wished I could have stayed another year. Instead I transferred out to Nebraska on another scholarship. I wanted to go to the Northwest, so here I am. I'm currently enjoying Sandpoint, Idaho, a lovely *unspoiled* winter and summer resort area, after moving north from the Lake Tahoe, California area--a *spoiled* resort area. We live on the nation's 3rd largest lake, Pend Oreille. I'm sending you a picture of my "neighborhood".

**1977**

**OWEN BORDA** completed his Ph.D. in interdisciplinary studies. He wrote to express his thanks to Dr. Hankin and the WCC faculty "for giving me such a great start".

**1984**

**JIMMY ORTIZ**, Global Business Account Manager for the USPS, has been appointed as Universal Postal Union (UPU) Regional Coordinator for Latin America. In his new position he oversees UPU projects in the region covering Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

UPU Director General Edouard Dayan said that Ortiz' appointment increases representation for the United States within the UPU International Bureau, the arm of the agency that provides logistical and technical support among member nations and develops postal markets. Dayan also said he is confident that Ortiz will "make a substantial contribution to the Union's development cooperation projects in the coming years."

**1993**

**DENISE SANSEVERINO ZAFFUTO** is a WCC graduate who is now a teacher in the Yonkers Public School system. She first started college at Iona but was not impressed with the faculty. She enrolled at WCC and went on to graduate with a degree in Liberal Arts. Three years later, in 1996, she received her Master's degree from Pace University.

**1994**

**RICK HYLAND**, former director of WCC's Yonkers Extension Center, has decided to pursue a teaching career. Rick is now a full-time faculty member in the Business Department. He is also an active member of the Foundation's Alumni Committee.

**1999**

**NANCY INZINNA**, former *Viking News* editor and now Assistant Director for The Native Plant Center, wrote the following to *Alumnews*:

"On May 16, I graduated *summa cum laude* from the Accelerated Program at Manhattanville. I can't begin to explain how great it was to be back in school. The professors there were fabulous; much of what I learned from them was practical information used in the business world. While it took me nearly ten years to return to school, I actually completed the program in 18 months. The classes were rigorous, but I learned a great deal. One of the classes I took allowed me to create a blog for The NPC. Forrest Whitaker was the keynote speaker and Congressman Charles Rangel participated in the commencement also.

"I've attached a photo of my graduation day--I'm the short, happy one in the middle. I say that because when I graduated from WCC in 1999, I was taller than my kids. Wow how the years go by too quickly. Carina's entering her junior year at Vassar, and doing a robotics fellowship in the lab over the summer. Alexander will be a junior in high school in the fall, so we'll be looking at colleges for him now. I still remember them tagging along with me to the *Viking News* when I was editor-in-chief. We had a lot of good friends there, and fond memories."



Nancy Inzinna, c., with children Alexander and Carina

**2004**

**TRACEY DiBRINO** is a General Manager for Synergy Workplaces and has been with the company since 2004. Synergy Workplaces provides "Virtual office" space for small businesses, home-based businesses and startups. Some features of a "virtual office" include fully furnished office space for a day, a week, a month--or even a few hours; telephone answering services; conference or meeting rooms; the support of an administrative team; and an address in a prestigious building.

Tracey would like to extend to all fellow WCC Alumni the option to try out the Virtual Office or Full Time Office program free for one month! Visit Synergy's website at [www.synergyworkplaces.com](http://www.synergyworkplaces.com) Tracey can be reached at [traceyd@synergyworkplaces.com](mailto:traceyd@synergyworkplaces.com) or 914-468-0800.



Tracey DiBrino

**2005**

**JASON MOSKOWITZ** continued his education at the University of Connecticut and graduated cum laude in 2007. He received a B.S. in Marketing and was at the top of his class in the Program for Sales Excellence. Before graduating Jason locked up a position in the Small Business Services Division of ADP (Automatic Data Processing) and went to work for the company in January '08. He was promoted to Regional Training Specialist after 6 months, and last March was transferred to the #1 territory in Manhattan as District Manager. Jason also plays on 6 organized sports teams and works at his synagogue on weekends.

**2006**

**MICHAEL CAROZZA** recently graduated from Iona with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work. He is hoping to go on to grad school and is considering Hunter College or Yeshiva University.

**RENATA KELLY**, a native of Hungary, became a U.S. citizen on August 28, 2009 and came straight over to WCC to share the good news with Dr. Hankin and her former teachers. Now a student at Columbia, Renata is currently studying for the LSAT in December and plans to apply to law school in 2010 or 2011.

Renata has been a tournament chess player for over 20 years, and was hired by Columbia to teach beginner, intermediate, advanced and tournament chess classes at The School at Columbia University. She also teaches in Scarsdale at Greenacres Elementary School and at the Coachman Family Center in White Plains, as well as giving private chess lessons to train kids for chess tournaments. In addition to all this Renata has another job at Columbia, working as a Research Assistant in the Department of Psychology, in the Visual Perception lab since 2007. She said, "I always try to keep myself busy and set new goals to achieve. Attending law school is next on my list and I really hope that I will have the strength to make this dream come true too. Please cross your fingers for me to do well on the LSAT!!!"



Renata Kelly

**2008**

**SERGIO F. SERRATTO** came to the U.S. from Uruguay in 2000. Shortly afterward he went to work for Hudson Health Plan as a Marketing/Public Relations Representative. He joined the Westchester County Hispanic Advisory Board and took part in other volunteer activities for the county. By 2006 Sergio realized that he needed a degree in order to realize his dream of becoming a business manager and open a community center. He left his job and enrolled at Westchester Community College, where he majored in Business Administration and Liberal Arts. He was president of the Italian Club, national vice-president of Alpha Beta Gamma Business Honor Society, and student trustee on the college's Board of Trustees. After graduation he transferred to NYU where he is presently working on his bachelor's degree. Sergio wrote: "The quality of education that I received here at WCC is superior and comparable to the same level of education I receive at NYU".

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Bill Regan, '72 (far right) Deputy Mayor of Yonkers, recently met actor Matt Damon during the filming of a movie scene in town. The women are also Yonkers employees.

JOIN WCC'S ONLINE  
COMMUNITY AND BLOG  
WITH OLD FRIENDS!  
[WWW.MYSUNYWCC.ORG](http://WWW.MYSUNYWCC.ORG)

## WCC Foundation Marks 40th Anniversary



On September 23rd the Westchester Community College Foundation celebrated the 40th anniversary of its incorporation with a luncheon at the Tappan Hill Mansion in Tarrytown. Past and present members of the Foundation Board, along with present staff members, were joined by Westchester County Executive Andy Spano to celebrate the organization's accomplishments. Shirley Phillips (above), Vice President of External Affairs and Executive Director of the Foundation, greeted the guests.

## Two Alumni Win Julius Ford Fellowships

The Dr. Julius Ford Teaching Fellowship Program has been created to honor the retired Dean of Student Services by promoting talented individuals from under-represented groups in their advancement in academia. The Fellowship Program is an initiative aimed at diversifying the college's faculty and is especially relevant this year as WCC celebrates a "Year of Diversity".

Alumni Juan Soria and John Watkins are among the first Fellows in the program, who will serve as members of the adjunct faculty while receiving mentoring and training from current full-time faculty members.

Professor Donald Whitely and Dr. Melissa Acevedo, Co-Directors of the Ford Teaching Fellowship Program, are pleased to announce the first cohort of fellows (and faculty mentors) who will be participating in the fellowship program in the Fall semester of 2009:

- George Keteku**, History (mentor: Frank Fato)
- Tanae Franklin**, Philosophy (mentor: Dwight Goodyear)
- Juan Soria**, Computer Science (mentors: Robert Sciabarrasi/Dennis Ramos) WCC ALUM
- Dexter Gittens**, Economics (mentor: Farhad Ameen)
- Maria Kurthy-Sanger**, Sociology/Anthropology (mentors: Lori Maida/Betty Jo Stokes)
- John Watkins**, CIS (mentor: Mary Ann Cassidy) WCC ALUM
- Nancy Lopes**, English (mentor: Liz Gaffney)
- Valerie Mathews**, English (mentor: Michael Bobkoff)

Professors Acevedo and Whitely offer their sincere congratulations to the fellows, together with their heartfelt thanks to all of the faculty members participating in the program.

## May Opening Planned for Gateway Center



Westchester Community College's long-awaited Gateway Center is nearing completion and the excitement on campus is almost tangible. The blue construction fence surrounding the 70,000 square foot, state of the art building is expected to come down by spring 2010, revealing what is sure to become a jewel in the SUNY crown and a landmark structure in the field of community college education.

Barring any unforeseen complications or delays, the ribbon-cutting ceremony has been tentatively scheduled for next May, and the building is expected to be open for classes beginning in July, 2010.

Teresita Wisell, formerly the college's Director of Admissions, has been named Associate Dean and Director of The Gateway Center. Tere will help prepare for the opening of the new building in 2010 and coordinate the various resources and programs planned for The Gateway Center.

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## IN MEMORIAM Coach Winston Nicholas

Winston Nicholas, head coach of the men's basketball team and former WCC Athletic Director, passed away on April 20th after a courageous battle with cancer. News of his death saddened not only the WCC family, but everyone who follows college basketball.



Winston Nicholas

Coach Nicholas was a graduate of Westchester Community College and also a former Westco. He played during the 1981-82 season, commuting from his home in Jamaica every day and never missing a game--or a class. After playing at Westchester, he received a scholarship to Hofstra University where he continued his collegiate career.

Nicholas started his coaching as an assistant under coach Ralph Arietta in 1983-1984. During his first season Westchester Community College finished third in the nation. In the 1984-85 season the Westcos returned to the National Tournament, in Hutchinson, Kansas. In Nicholas' first three seasons as an assistant coach the Westcos made two National Tournament appearances and national rankings in the top twenty.

In 1998 Nicholas became Head Coach and under his guidance the team returned to its former championship status. Coach Nicholas was named Coach of the Year in Region XV (Div. I) in 2001 and 2002 and won two Region XV championships. In the 2000-2001 season the Westcos won their 14th Region XV championship and the school's 15th Region XV championship came in 2001.

Donations may be made to the newly established Winston Nicholas Book Fund for athletes. Please make checks payable to FUF 119 and forward to the Faculty Student Association (FSA). Cash donations will also be accepted. Cards and notes of sympathy may be sent to the Nicholas family at 763 Hancock St., Brooklyn, NY 11233.

## Fran Regan Receives Chancellor's Award

Francine Sanchez Regan, '73 is the 2008-2009 recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Classified Service. The Classified Service category was added this year to the existing categories of Faculty Service, Librarianship, Professional Service, Scholarship and Creative Activities, and Teaching. The awards were conferred at this year's commencement on May 21st.

Francine has been with the college since September of 1993. She is the Secretary to the Behavioral/Social Science Department, which is the largest department on campus with approximately 2,500 students.

The Chancellor's Awards for Excellence are conferred to acknowledge and provide system-wide recognition for consistently superior professional achievement and to encourage the ongoing pursuit of excellence. These programs underscore SUNY's commitment to sustaining intellectual vibrancy, advancing the boundaries of knowledge, providing the highest quality of instruction, and serving the public good. Through these awards, SUNY publicly proclaims its pride in the accomplishment and personal dedication of its instructional faculty, librarians and professional staff across its campuses.



Francine Regan, in cap and gown, with her husband Bill and their daughters

Individuals selected for this honor are role models within the SUNY community. They are given recognition in the college catalogue by the addition of the phrase "State University Chancellor's Award for Excellence in..." and also receive a certificate and a Chancellor's Excellence Medalion. Francine and the other WCC recipients were honored during this year's commencement on May 21. Needless to say, Francine was thrilled with this recognition and was very pleased to have her family at the commencement.

## IN MEMORIAM Dean Calvin Johnson

Shortly after noon on Wednesday, July 22, a campus-wide email from Vice President Chet Rogalski announced the unexpected passing of Dr. Calvin Johnson, Associate Dean of the Division of Natural and Health Sciences.

"We just received the information that our beloved colleague, who worked at the college for more than 22 years, left us this morning. Throughout his tenure here, he was a strong proponent of community college education, notably in the healthcare field. He also spent considerable time teaching in the classroom. You may recall that Dr. Johnson, who was interested in genealogy, recently published his family history. We join the college community in mourning his loss. This will be a difficult day for all of us."



Dr. Calvin Johnson

Shortly before his death, Dean Johnson, who was an avid genealogist, published a book entitled **Who Came Before Me? A Story of the Search for My Tomes and Lightfoot Roots and What I Found**. He had been gathering historical information on his ancestry for twenty years, and spent the past three years writing the book. Readers will travel in time back to when masters owned slaves, sharecropping was a way of life, and men intent on marriage had to put up a bond. The nonfiction book shows how societal changes impacted the personal lives of his Tomes and Lightfoot ancestors. He asked many of his friends and colleagues at the college for their advice and comments as the work progressed.

Dr. Johnson was doing well following a battle with cancer and had continued to work part-time, cheerfully greeting visitors to his office in the Science Building only days before he died during liver transplant surgery. He was buried on July 27 in Randallston, Maryland; a memorial service was held on campus in September. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Mrs. Ann Johnson and family, 302 Ferris Place, Peekskill, New York 10566.

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