

# The BULLETIN

WPC

VOL.10, NO. 4

WILLIAM PATERSON COLLEGE

FEBRUARY 5, 1996

## College Holds 162nd Commencement

Amidst giant mounds of snow left by the Blizzard of '96, William Paterson College's newest graduates and their families and friends celebrated on January 11 at the first mid-year commencement in more than a quarter of a century.

Two thousand guests crowded the bleachers in the Rec Center, joining trustees, administrators, faculty and staff for the historic event, which took place only days after the giant storm dumped two feet of snow on campus. Seven hundred and sixty-one degrees were conferred on graduates who completed their studies in August, 1995 and January, 1996.

College marshal Doris White, senior faculty member and professor of

curriculum and instruction, carried the college mace aloft as she led the academic procession. The graduates processed into the Rec Center after gathering in four heated tents placed in the lowest tier of the parking lot adjacent to the building.

Susan McNamara, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs, gave the commencement address. Pointing out that life is a series of events and actions which "rarely, if ever, have clearly delineated beginnings and endings," she said that for many of the graduates their years at the college had existed "in the middle of already complicated lives" with obligations involving employment, family or service.

McNamara challenged the graduates to sustain a way of life "which places learning directly in the middle

(Continued on page 3)

## Chernoh Sesay Named Provost

Chernoh M. Sesay, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Chicago State University, has been named to that position at William Paterson College, President Arnold Speert announced. He assumed his new office February 1.

"Dr. Chernoh Sesay comes to William Paterson College at a time when we are poised to establish ourselves as an important and necessary resource for northern New Jersey's cultural, educational and economic vitality," said Speert. "His vast and successful experience in the recruitment and retention of students, program development, and commu-

(Continued on page 2)



Chernoh M. Sesay

WPC Staff



Craig Phillips

Susan McNamara, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs, gives the keynote address at WPC's first winter commencement in more than a quarter of a century.

## Trustees Support University Status

The Board of Trustees has authorized President Arnold Speert to take the necessary steps for the college to secure university status.

The action, taken in a resolution passed by the trustees at their December 9, 1995 public meeting, follows a recommendation made by Speert in September.

The resolution points out that the college has "conducted a comprehensive analysis of its academic programs and administrative functions and is strategically preparing itself to maximize its competitive advantages."

The trustees also stated that "comprehensive colleges and universities with institutional profiles similar

to William Paterson College have been permitted to assume the name of university."

WPC currently offers 13 graduate programs enrolling 1,200 students, 27 undergraduate programs, and has a total student body of 9,100 students. It maintains art galleries, orchestras and ensembles, and a library collection which supports its programs, and has a reciprocal relationship with its region.

**Inside:**  
Biology (B.S.) -- First of a Series Focusing on the Commended Programs

**Provost Named** (Continued from page 1)  
nity outreach make him the ideal choice for provost. Dr. Sesay's accomplishments as a team builder and leader will enhance the college's shared governance and student outcome orientation."

In an interview with *The WPC Bulletin* editor, Sesay stated that he had been at Chicago State University for 17 years and "we've made great accomplishments. But I've always liked new challenges, and I especially like the three components of WPC — academic excellence, diversity and community," he said. "When I saw the work being done at WPC, especially the comprehensive analysis, I decided it was a place where I'd like to be involved."

The new provost stated that he is a strong believer in communication. "I think it is key," he said. "When people don't understand what is going on things get out of hand." Describing his method of operation, Sesay said: "I am a team player and believe in working with people to get things done. I see my role as a facilitator of faculty and staff in an effort to serve students who are our consumers. We must do what we can to satisfy their needs; that is very critical."

Sesay came to Chicago State University in 1979 as an assistant professor of political science and became a tenured professor in 1987. After serving as acting chairman of the department of economics and political science in 1982, he was named an ACE fellow in academic administration and served as administrative assistant to the president of CSU. From 1984 to 1986 he was chairman of the department of economics and political science and after serving for eight months as acting dean, was named dean of the college of arts and sciences in 1987. In 1990, he served for three months as acting provost and vice president for academic affairs before assuming the position in November, 1990.

In his letter of application, Sesay explained that at CSU he was the "point person in spearheading strategic planning initiatives that included a bold retention plan and aggressive enrollment management efforts." At the heart of the plan, he said, was a "three-point model for student success" which included "preparing and

recruiting students through precollege initiatives involving elementary and high schools; retaining students through innovative programs and safety nets; and providing students with windows of opportunity through graduate/professional study and career enhancement opportunities."

He pointed out that since 1990 CSU "has become Illinois' fastest growing public institution of higher learning, increasing enrollment from 6,032 in fall 1990 to 10,108 in fall 1994."

Sesay was born in Sierra Leone in West Africa and came to the United States in 1966 to attend Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa where he received his B.S. in political science and economics. He obtained an M.A. in political science from Iowa State University in 1972 and his Ph.D. in political science from Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada in 1978. Sesay has delivered papers in the areas of international affairs, public administration, and higher education.

He and his wife, Aleta, met at Morningside College. They have three children, Chernoh M. Jr., a graduate student in history at Northwestern University; Mariama, a sophomore at Florida A&M University; and Abdulai, a junior in high school.

## Leo Hilton Remembered

Leo Hilton, WPC professor emeritus and a nationally recognized expert in urban education, died on December 31, 1995.

Hilton joined the faculty of the department of educational leadership in 1965 and retired as a full professor in 1988 at the age of 70. Early in his career at WPC, he was principal of what was then the "campus school" located on the site of the present admissions office behind Hobart Hall, where WPC's aspiring educators completed their student teaching requirements. "He always put students first," recalls colleague Vincent Baldassano, educational leadership. "His lifelong interest in multiculturalism and diversity led him to take leadership roles in the development of an urban education curriculum on campus and of programs for urban children for the Boy Scouts of America."

Hilton is survived by his wife Geraldine, a former teacher in the Bloomfield public schools; two daughters, Dr. Susan Hilton, a physician; and Melinda Butler, an engineer; and three grandchildren.



WPC's Fulbright Scholars: Pictured at a special reception held in their honor at Hobart Manor in December are 10 of the college's 15 Fulbright Scholars. From left, seated, are Leslie Agard-Jones, African, African-American and Caribbean studies; Isabel Tirado, history; Catarina Edinger, English; and Carol Gruber and George Robb, history. Standing are Reynold Weidenaar, communication; William Wolak, English; Bruce Williams, languages and cultures; Ching-Yeh Hu, biology; Mel Edelstein, history; and Martin Laurence, economics and finance. Not pictured are Vernon McClean, African, African-American and Caribbean studies; William Small, Martin Weinstein and Lois Wolf, political science.

Michael Chubb

## Jazz Great Milt Hinton in Residence in February



Milt Hinton

Milt Hinton, one of the world's greatest jazz bass players as well as a noted photographer, will share his multiple artistic talents during an upcoming two-

day residency at WPC.

The event begins on Sunday, February 18 when Hinton brings his trio to the Shea Center stage for a 4 pm concert as part of the winter 1996 Jazz Room Series. Prior to the concert, at 3 pm in Shea 101, the jazz legend will discuss his more than 60-year performing career during "Sittin' In," an informal session for Jazz Room ticketholders hosted by David Demsey, coordinator of WPC's Jazz Studies Program.

Hinton will discuss his collection of more than 40,000 images of jazz artists and popular performers during a lecture on Tuesday, February 20 at 12:30 pm in the Ben Shah Galleries, which will display an exhibit of 50 of Hinton's black and white photographs in the South Gallery from January 28 through March 1. Following his address, Hinton will hold a 2 pm master class in Shea Center.

Born in Vicksburg, Mississippi, Hinton began playing bass during his high school days in Chicago, where he went on to play in bands led by Boyd Atkins, Erskine Tate and Freddie Keppard. In 1936, he joined Cab Calloway's band as a temporary member — and stayed for 16 years.

A chance meeting with Jackie Gleason in 1951 led to Hinton's first big recording date. As a free-lance musician, he played with Johnny Mathis and Aretha Franklin on their first record dates, and joined Bing Crosby as his first tour. He has also played with Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Louis Armstrong and Count Basie.

Tickets for the Jazz Room concert are \$6 for WPC faculty, staff and alumni, and are available at the Shea Box Office, x2371. The lecture and master class are free.

## Commencement

(Continued from page 1)

of those many obligations, occupations and preoccupations...We would have you write into your script learning, education, as a centerpiece of your life's work."

She also urged the graduates to "meet enthusiastically the obligation to serve, to enter into the middle of things...to engagement with 'meaningful work,' with the civic society, with the issues, the debates of the times."

## BOARD NOTES

The Board of Trustees of William Paterson College held a public meeting on December 9, 1995 in the Board Room, College Hall. The trustees adopted a resolution calling for the pursuit of university status (see story, page 1) and granted tenure effective January 1, 1996, in their positions of professor, to Elaine Gardiner, dean of the School of Humanities, Management and Social Sciences; George McCloud, dean of the School of Arts and Communication; and Nancy Seminoff, dean of the School of Education. The trustees noted that the three deans "have established records as excellent teachers and scholars with tenure prior to their appointment."

The Board approved transmittal of the FY 1997 operating budget request to the Department of Treasury for the support of 5,865 undergraduate FTEs and 535 graduate FTEs for a total of 6,400 FTE enrollments. The request consists of a base budget of \$35,168,000, a priority budget of 2,716,000 and tuition and fees of \$19,572,000, for a total of \$57,456,000.

The trustees approved the waiver of tuition for cooperating teachers enrolled in the course PDED 850, "Teachers as Mentors," effective in the spring 1996 semester.

The Board authorized the president to enter into an agreement with the architectural firm The RBA Group of Morristown, NJ for architectural and consulting engineering design services in connection with the historical exterior and interior modifications and relocation of the president's office to Hobart Manor. The fee for this project is not to exceed \$70,920 plus an additional \$5,000 to cover all reimbursable expenses.

## Personnel Matters

### APPOINTMENTS

Karen Amo, Instructor, Accounting and Law, 9/1/95-1/31/96  
Kevin Chaplin, Project Specialist, Mail Room, 11/20/95-1/19/96  
Olga Angela Commission, Instructor, Community Health, 9/1/95-1/31/96  
Angela DeLaura, Assistant Professor, Art, 9/1/95  
Dorian Douglas, Assistant Director, Minority Education, 10/1/95  
Carol Gulija, Assistant Field Hockey Coach, Athletics, 10/16/95-5/31/96

Student speaker Jennifer D'Amelio, a January 1996 graduate with a degree in special education, encouraged the graduates to keep their lives in perspective. "We need to ask ourselves these questions: Am I happy? Is this what I really want?" she said. "We will walk away today with our degrees, but we need to remember this: our lives are not defined by our degrees or majors."

Robert Marsh, Project Specialist, English (20 hours per week), 9/8/95-9/18/95

Christine Natale, Professional Services Specialist, Speech/Hearing Clinic, 9/1/95-6/30/96

Marcia Oxley, Instructor, Exercise and Movement Sciences, 10/9/95  
Donna Potacco, Coordinator, Science Enrichment Project (grant funded), Academic Support Programs, 9/1/95-6/30/96  
Melissa Visotsky, Project Specialist (half time), School of Education, 11/27/95-12/23/95  
Paul Younghouse, School Support Specialist, Instruction and Research Technology, 12/4/95-12/4/96  
Ya'akov Ziso, Librarian 2, Library, 1/2/96

### EXTENSIONS OF APPOINTMENT

Christopher Brune, Librarian 3 (part time), Library, 1/2/96-6/30/96  
Mary Alice Casari, Librarian 3 (part time), Library, 1/2/96-6/30/96  
Anita Daniel, Librarian 3 (part time), Library, 1/2/96-6/30/96  
Susan Hacker, Program Assistant (part time), Library, 1/2/96-6/30/96  
Norma Levy, Interim Director, Library, 10/16/95-12/31/95  
Aldona Pintsch, Librarian 3 (part time), Library, 1/2/96-6/30/96

### MANAGERIAL STAFF REAPPOINTMENTS

July 1, 1996 - June 30, 1997

Diane Ackerman	Henry Gardner
Jeffrey Albies	Judith Gazdag
Leonard Bolyan	Nina Jenmott
Stephen Bodoy	Walter Johnson
Claudia Broglio	Henry Krell
Joseph Caffarelli	Barbara Kurek
Robbie Cagnina	Norma Levy
Ramzi Chabayta	Peter Ljutic
Ana Class-Rivera	Phillip Long
Georgia Daniel	Lysa Martinelli
Leo DeBartolo	George McCloud
Arthur Eason	Jonathan Mc Coy
Mark Evangelista	Lester McKee
Mitchell Fahrner	Susan McNamara
Timothy Fanning	Richard Nirenberg
Richard Felton	Nancy Norville
Dona Fountoukidakis	Priscilla Orr
Pamela Fueshko	Robert Peller
Eva Elaine Gardiner	Dolores Podhajski
	Peter Ryerson

Dennis Santillo  
Peter Schaeffer  
Paul Schmidt  
Nancy Seminoff  
William Siegrist  
Rajendra Singh  
Peter Spiridon  
Joseph Tanis  
Frank Tedesco

Nina Treliisky  
Kathy Unger  
John Urinyi  
Letitia Vadala  
Roland Watts  
Pamela Winslow  
Anne Wright  
Jane Zeff  
Kenneth Zurich

#### FACTUAL REAPPOINTMENTS

July 1, 1996 - June 30, 1997

\* creates tenure status

Peter Appelbaum, Assistant Professor, Curriculum and Instruction  
Mary Baumgartner, Assistant Professor, Sociology  
William Boos, Assistant Professor, Philosophy  
Francis Cai, Assistant Professor, Economics and Finance  
Mary Ann Coe, Instructor, Curriculum and Instruction  
Joanne Cunningham, Assistant Professor, African, African-American and Caribbean Studies  
Sheridan Dodge, Assistant Professor, Environmental Science and Geography  
Diane Falk, Assistant Professor, Music  
Terence Finnegan, Assistant Professor, History  
Bradley Gooch, Assistant Professor, English  
\*Thomas Heinzen, Assistant Professor, Psychology  
Daphne Joslin, Assistant Professor, Community Health  
Emroy Knaus, Assistant Professor, Marketing and Management Sciences  
Patricia Malone, Assistant Professor, Curriculum and Instruction  
George Martin, Assistant Professor, Curriculum and Instruction  
Esther Martinez, Assistant Professor, Languages and Cultures  
Kevin Martus, Assistant Professor, Chemistry and Physics  
John Mason, Assistant Professor, Political Science  
\*Daniel Meaders, Assistant Professor, History  
David Miller, Assistant Professor, Mathematics  
Jeanne Nutter, Assistant Professor, Communication  
Gilbert Ndjatou, Assistant Professor, Computer Science and Quantitative Analysis  
Geoffrey Pope, Assistant Professor, Anthropology  
Lily Prince, Assistant Professor, Art  
Carole Rhodes, Assistant Professor, Curriculum and Instruction  
George Robb, Assistant Professor, History  
Susanna Tardi, Assistant Professor, Sociology  
Jinn-Tsang Teng, Associate Professor, Marketing and Management Sciences  
Phillip Thiuri, Associate Professor, Environmental Science and Geography  
Stephen Vail, Assistant Professor, Biology  
Joseph Van Putten, Instructor, Art  
Reynold Weidenaar, Assistant Professor, Communication  
Bruce Williams, Assistant Professor, Languages and Cultures

#### LIBRARY STAFF REAPPOINTMENT

July 1, 1996 - June 30, 1997

Yvonne Roux, Librarian 2

#### PROFESSIONAL STAFF REAPPOINTMENTS

July 1, 1996 - June 30, 1997

Louise Albers, Job Location and Development Coordinator, Career Services  
Lisa Wolfson Brenenson, Assistant Registrar  
Ronald Christensen, Assistant Director, Admissions  
Margaret Culmone, Program Assistant (10 months), Art Gallery  
Caroline Doyle, Assistant Director, Admissions  
Deborah Gilleran, Publications Writer/Editor, College Relations  
Karen Hilberg, Assistant Director, Recreation Services, Recreation Center  
Gayle Horner, Laboratory Technician, Biology  
Michael Iannotta, Resident Director, Residence Life  
Meryle Kaplan, Coordinator, Women's Center  
Erin Kelleher, Assistant Director, Career Services  
Anthony Leckey, Assistant Director, Admissions  
Albert Martinez, Resident Director, Residence Life  
Reynaldo Martinez, Assistant Director, Advisement  
Charles McMickle, Assistant Director, Telecommunication, School of Arts and Communication  
Donald Phelps, Assistant Director, Campus Activities  
Susan Rienstra, Assistant Director, Financial Aid  
Maximina Rivera, Area Coordinator, Residence Life  
Sharon Rosegart, Assistant Director, Career Services  
Erin Shaughnessy, Head Coach (10 months), Women's Basketball, Athletics  
Susan Sgro, Biotechnology Technician, Biology  
Ann Marie Schweer, Coordinator, Graduate Services  
Ella Thacker, Assistant Registrar  
John Viterito, Counselor, Student Services  
Alfred Vizzone, Training Support Specialist, Instruction and Research Technology

July 1, 1996 - June 30, 1999

Gilbert Correa, Assistant Director, Student Development, Campus Activities  
Anne Deighan, Area Coordinator, Residence Life  
Vilma Elliott, Assistant Director, Educational Opportunity Fund  
Susan Reiss, Director, Child Care Center

#### LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Paulette Brower-Garrett, Assistant Director, Advisement Center, 10/21/95-1/14/96 and 1/15/96-3/3/96  
Bradley Gooch, Assistant Professor, English, 1/31/96-6/30/96  
Suzanne Hawes, Professor, Community Health, 9/1/95-12/3/95  
Susan Laubach, Associate Professor, Exercise and Movement Sciences, 10/19/95-11/30/95  
Gerald Sheehan, Associate Professor, Accounting and Law, 9/1/95-12/31/95

#### EXTENSIONS OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Janet DeSenzo, Assistant Director, Residence Life, 10/16/95-1/7/96  
Swadesh Raj, Associate Professor, Chemistry and Physics, 11/1/95-12/15/95

#### CHANGES IN STATUS

Audrey Bonaparte, from Temporary Assistant Director, Alumni Affairs, to Assistant Director of Advancement for Programs and Activities, External Relations, 12/1/95  
Roy Davis, Associate Professor, Accounting and Law, from retirement 5/1/95 to leave of absence 5/1/95-8/31/96  
Jeffrey Jones, from Director, SCOPE, to Director, Resource Center, School of Education, 11/1/95-6/30/96  
Eswar Phadia, from Professor, Mathematics, to Interim Dean, School of Science and Health, 10/27/95-6/30/96

#### RESIGNATIONS

Todd Dalhausser, Assistant Soccer Coach, Athletics, 10/13/95  
Marguerita Duggan, Professional Services Specialist, Communication Disorders, 1/31/96  
Cathryn Gaur, Director, Speech/Hearing Clinic, 12/2/95  
James Sadler, Assistant Professor, Art, 6/30/96

#### CHANGE IN TITLE

Hector Vila, from Instructor to Assistant Professor, English (Ph.D. conferred 10/30/95)

#### CAREER DEVELOPMENT LEAVE

Nancy Einreinhof, Director, Art Gallery, spring 1996 semester

#### CHANGES IN EFFECTIVE DATES OF APPOINTMENTS

Robert Harris, Student Consultant Coordinator, Instruction and Research Technology, 9/1/95-9/11/96  
Teresa Hurtado, Assistant Director, Admissions, 11/1/95-10/31/96

The **WPC**  
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# The **SPECIAL REPORT** WPC BULLETIN

## Biology Program Commended for Excellence

### Biology (B.S.) -- RECOMMENDATION: Commendation

"This program has arrived at its high level of achievement through establishment of clear goals, systematic planning, close attention to student outcomes, and determined efforts at serving a diverse student body. It deserves study by other departments of the College as a model."

The statement quoted from the faculty review panel's rating of college programs in the academic comprehensive analysis, which was endorsed by the deans and the office of academic affairs, is short, terse and to the point. But as *The WPC Bulletin* staff interviewed each member of the biology teaching faculty as well as staff, students and alumni for this special report, it quickly became apparent that in addition to strategic planning, sound management, and a clear vision of future goals, something even more fundamental anchored the department's success story.

It can be summed up as a combination of hard work, a caring attitude, and mutual respect and support which can best be expressed as an ability to concentrate on the big picture and

work together as a team for the benefit of both faculty and students. Without exception everyone we talked to expressed a heartfelt interest and concern for the success of students and colleagues both on a professional and human level. Typical comments came from two biology majors who have been accepted into medical school.

#### Ponizio and Lombardo

Geralyn Ponizio graduated from Columbia University with a major in Spanish and came to WPC to take two courses. She liked it so much she stayed and will receive a B.S. in biology in May. Next fall she will begin her dream of becoming a doctor when she becomes the first WPC student ever accepted by the University of Vermont College of Medicine.

How did it happen? Says Ponizio: "Dr. Weisbrot told me that if I wanted to get in to medical school I should take additional biology courses. Thanks to him, I have developed the background I will need."

Ponizio said she couldn't afford the postgraduate program at Columbia and "with 300 to 450 students in a class I couldn't get any help or learn anything. At WPC I have wonderful professors who help you, and I've never been in a class of more than 25 students."

Her story is echoed by Salvatore Lombardo, who received a B.S. in business administration and management at WPC. This May, he too will get a second degree, this time in biology. By December, he had been

(Continued on next page)



Biology department faculty and staff, from left: First row, John Rosengren, Miryam Wahrman, Donald Levine, Stephen Vail, Danielle Desroches, Norman Schantz and Eileen Gardner. Second row, Edith Wallace, Carol Wilderson, Susan Sgro, Gayle Horner, Kathy Hu, Martin Hahn and Jaishri Menon. Third row, Lance Risley, Jean Werth, Sharon Hanks, Michael Sebetich, Robert Chesney, David Weisbrot, Jane Voos, Neil Grant, Ching-Yeh Hu, Robert Benno and Allen Isaacson.

## Biology Faculty Speak Out

### Robert Benno

"Faculty get no release time to involve students in research. It's a labor of love."

### Robert Chesney

"It's a nice department to work in unlike some other places I've taught where departments were divided into factions. We try to make sure it remains that way."

### Danielle Desroches

"The faculty tend to work as teams. They all contribute food to department meetings and have a social gathering at a restaurant once each semester."

### Eileen Gardner

"The department is collegial. That's why I came here."

### Neil Grant

"Two years ago I established a butterfly garden in front of Science Hall. I always tell my students to leave the world a little better than you found it. I want to leave this area a little more hospitable to the bees and butterflies."

### Martin Hahn

"We are dedicated to science, to students, to WPC. That's the secret."

### Sharon Hanks

"I really feel the biology faculty puts students first."

### Ching-Yeh Hu

"Everyone cares about the department. We spend the time to discuss how to solve problems."

### Donald Levine

"Every year we attract more students. Word gets out. We are a good department."

## Biology Program Commended

(Continued from previous page)



John Rosengren, who has edited the Bio-Alumni News for 20 years and taught for 37 years, says "learning is a lifelong thing." Each year, he gives his graduating students a "Post-Final Quiz Assignment" which calls for them to select five books and five trips or museums from a list he has prepared and send him a post card with a few lines about the book or visit. He is pictured in front of his office door where this year's postcards are displayed.

accepted into four medical schools and was waiting to hear from a few more.

"It's the warm, interpersonal connection with the professors I've found most helpful," says Lombardo. "Dr. Levine, chair of the pre-professional committee which holds practice interviews for applicants to professional schools and writes all letters of recommendation, guided me the whole way through the application process to medical school. Dr. Gardner let me work with her in the lab, first as a volunteer and then she hired me as a research assistant. She taught me the investigative method of research so I was able to make the connection between my lab work and what I learned in class."

Faculty interest in students is exemplified by the five \$1000 scholarships for biology majors that are funded by the four lab books written by biology faculty. The latest, *Biology: Laboratory and Field Guide* edited by Martin Hahn, Stephen Vail and Jane Voos, has been published by W.C. Brown and is being sold nationally to students taking general biology. More than a dozen biology faculty members have been involved in writing various portions of the book. "It is a labor of love," says

Hahn. "All royalties are donated to the scholarship fund."

### History of the Department

The biology department has changed significantly from 30 years ago when it had a natural history focus and trained teachers for elementary school. The first chair in 1956 was C. Kent Warner, says John Rosengren, who keeps track of historical notes and biology alumni. "He established strong programs, including a course in environmental studies, long before it became a popular thing to do."

WPC also was the first college in northern New Jersey to incorporate cell and molecular biology in its curriculum development. In 1987 a three-year, \$3.1 million Challenge Grant from the state of New Jersey, in recognition of the quality of the college's science programs, provided for purchase of state-of-the-art equipment used by both faculty and students.

In February, 1993, the biology department became the first department to hold a strategic planning retreat and reached a consensus on future goals including an emphasis on strengths in ecology, biotechnology, and behavioral biology.

Records show the department has increased its number of majors by 57 percent in the last five years. One of those majors was Carol Ann Schaeffer who received her B.S. in biology in 1991 and is now working full time as an associate scientist at

(Continued on next page)



Donald Levine, chair of the biology department's pre-professional committee, is shown with students recently accepted to medical schools. From left, they are Eric Diana, Salvatore Lombardo, GERALYN PONZIO and Shaya Ansari.

## Jane Voos: Foresight, Dedication and Leadership

A mover and a shaker and a self-described workaholic who is never satisfied with the status quo, Jane Voos chaired the biology department for 12 years and is an acknowledged leading force behind the department's outstanding reputation.

"She's a powerhouse," explains Martin Hahn, who has worked with her on many projects. "I get calls from her at 9:30 on Sunday evenings. She lives the department."

Neil Grant, a longtime colleague, calls her "a big influence. She has high ethics, is a very hard worker and fights for what she believes. Her bottom line is educating students." Lance Risley, a comparatively new member of the department who is being mentored by Voos, describes

her as "a catalytic force. She gets the rest of us to work harder." Adds Ching-Yeh Hu, "she leads us in many ways."

Colleagues and students agree it is her energy, hard work, keen mind and vision that have won the college numerous large grants, led to the establishment of the environmental studies program in 1972, the B.S./M.S. biotechnology program which has served as a model for other colleges and universities, and created summer science programs and workshops for high school teachers to keep them excited about science and current in their field.

Voos praises her colleagues and says they are known for their *esprit de corps*. "Everyone contributes in one way or another," she says.



Jane Voos

WILL COLEMAN

## Biology Program Commended

(Continued from previous page)

Hoffmann-LaRoche while obtaining a WPC master's in biotechnology.

"Biology is an incredible program," she says. "I was able to do hands-on research and got a job a month before I graduated. I attribute it to the faculty. They are very current in their research and their level of knowledge is on the cutting edge. In addition, they care very much for their students and take the time to make sure they know what's going on in the field and how to apply it."

### Important Research

A trademark of the department's success is the extensive record of important research by faculty, which is an essential ingredient for university status, and the careful selection by faculty of new professors who will carry on the department's strategic thinking and fit into its established pattern of collegiality and dedication to research partnerships with other faculty and students. There also is an increasing awareness of the changing profile of the student body and needed support for students in advisement, mentoring and tracking of their academic

(Continued in next page)

## Jashri Menon

"My colleagues have gone out of their way to help me. Dr. Callahan came back to the campus after he retired to help me set up the transmission electron microscope."

## John Rosengren

"Our students are a really great group. Many work 20-30 hours a week and have a lot of family responsibilities.

But they take tough courses. To teach them is a privilege."

## Lance Risley

"There is a willingness to look for new ways of doing things in research, teaching, recruitment, retention, student experience."

## Michael Sebetich

"My greatest joy at WPC has been working with students on their projects. It takes an enormous amount of time in addition to my teaching duties, but it has given me the most satisfaction."

## Stephen Vail

"Everyone involved in research has students working with them."

## Jane Voos

"There is a strong work ethic. Our faculty spend their time at this college."

## Miryam Wahrman

"The biology faculty is a dynamic group. That's one reason our program continues to evolve."

## Edith Wallace

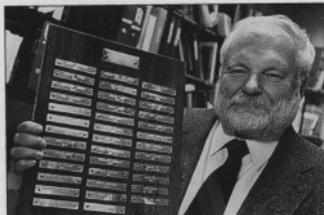
"We do so well with the atypical student."

## David Weisbrot

"Each faculty member has at least three committee assignments. We devote time to the administration of the department."

## Jean Werth

"We don't agree on every issue but we come to consensus."



Neil Grant helps students make it from week to week. "I'm their uncle," he says. "I scold them if they do something wrong; help them when they are in trouble. I encourage them to talk and tell me what's on their minds." He is pictured holding a wall plaque with the names of 38 students he has mentored.

WILL COLEMAN

## Research Experience Gives Undergraduates Competitive Edge

Linda Rohonyi and Ellen See are studying the effects of temperature and humidity on the survival of Lyme disease-transmitting ticks, under the tutelage of Stephen Vail. Nima Abrary and Jay Mack climbed trees last summer with Lance Risley to observe biodiversity in the forest canopy. Stacey Brown is working with Danielle Desroches on a study of the effects of alcohol and cocaine on mice. Ching-Yeh Hu took students Mina Chaudhary and George Balady to Penn State last May to present a prize-winning abstract of their research in plant physiology.

What's so remarkable about that? After all, don't many biology professors throughout the country involve students in their research? The answer is yes — if they are graduate students. However, Abrary, Balady, Brown, Chaudhary, Mack, Rohonyi and See are biology majors working toward their undergraduate degrees. And in most university programs, undergrads would never get the opportunity to work closely with faculty on lab projects, much less

involvement through experiential learning on the undergraduate level. In fact, the departmental action plan for 1995-96 (Year One) calls for exploring "the philosophy and practical implications of incorporating undergraduate research throughout the major curriculum, starting with the foundation courses in the department."

The involvement of undergrads in research means the best students have a real advantage, explains Vail. Sharon Hanks, who teaches the scanning electron microscope, and Jaishri Menon, instructor for the transmission electron microscope, note that at WPC undergraduate students get opportunities to work with state-of-the-art equipment. "For example," says Hanks, "the scanning electron microscope would be a

lecture/demo at other universities — here, our students learn hands-on."



Danielle Desroches works with undergraduate Stacey Brown on a research project in the animal lab.

David Weisbrot, who has worked with students on the effects of low-energy electromagnetic fields on the human body, agrees. "Undergraduates at Columbia would never get near those microscopes," he says.

### Biology Program Commended

(Continued from previous page)

progress.

"We discussed assessment long and hard as a faculty, and decided it would be a good thing if the department wanted to progress," says Sharon Hanks, current chair of the department's assessment committee, which also includes Jane Voos and Edith Wallace. "Every course now has student learning outcome objectives. By assessing whether students achieve those objectives, we can determine how well the program is serving those students."

#### Community Service

Active participants in community service, both on campus and in the surrounding communities, biology faculty take turns serving on numerous campus committees. Benno, Hahn, Risley, Gardner and Weisbrot taught a graduate course in Sussex County for teachers who couldn't get to WPC. Voos and others have formed partnership agreements with local high schools to keep their teachers excited and abreast of developments in science. Risley and his students are developing nature trails on campus. Grant has created a butterfly garden in front of Science Hall and participates in a science-by-mail program for elementary school children at the Liberty Science Center. Others are engaged in a wide variety of research projects, often aided by their students, which benefit local and statewide communities and add to the world's scientific knowledge (see separate article on faculty-student research).

An important part in making the department run smoothly, says Miryam Wahrman, current chair of the biology department, is played by the technicians (Gayle Horner, Kathy Hu, Norman Schantz and Susan Sgro), who make the labs operate efficiently, and the two secretaries, Carol Wilderson and Rosie Miles, who in addition to keeping everyone on track, take messages, bake birthday cakes, send flowers to those who are sick and in general make biology a special place to work.

What about the future? Wahrman says her vision includes "a group of faculty who continue to interface with the community and establish more contacts and networks; faculty who are involved in research and scholarship, who keep current with the discipline, and are nationally and internationally known for their contributions to the discipline."



Stephen Vail supervises student Ellen See as she dissects ticks as part of a study on Lyme disease.

present the results at professional symposia or earn the honor of co-authorship on the professor's published paper.

WPC's biology faculty believe that undergraduate research is the first step in the development of a scientist and a competitive edge in a field offering diverse opportunities. Therefore, the department has made a commitment to the development of student