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Wagner College honors four alumni for community service

by DIANE LORE

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — Wagner College honored four alumni for community service and accomplishments Sunday, during its annual reunion weekend on the Grymes Hill campus.

The honorees, all current or former Staten Islanders, included Pat Pappalardo, Patricia Amis, and Al and Christine Palladino.

Pat Pappalardo, of Grymes Hill, was given the Dr. Kevin Sheehy Alumni Leadership Medal for “consistent leadership and service to Wagner College and the Alumni Association.”

He graduated from Wagner in 1970 with a bachelor of science degree in economics and business administration. His name was a staple on Staten Island before he even graduated from Wagner College, as his dad founded the Island’s own Joe and Pat’s Pizzeria on Victory Boulevard in Castleton Corners. Pappalardo ran the family business until he started Papp Realty, affiliated with Century 21. Papp Realty, the first Century 21 office on Staten Island, has since become a highly successful venture. The realty has been in business for more than 20 years, winning 11 Centurion awards and four Gold Medallion awards from Century 21.

At Wagner, Pat Pappalardo was involved in Kappa Sigma Alpha fraternity. A dedicated Wagner booster, he served on the Alumni Association Board for 6 years and is a longtime supporter of the Wagner Fund. He attends many campus events and functions of Wagner’s DaVinci Society.

The late Patricia A. Amis, formerly of New Brighton, was named a Distinguished Graduate of Wagner for her unique contributions to her community, which brought honor to the college.

A Manhattan native who grew up in Stapleton, Amis earned her B.A. in sociology from Wagner in 1990 and did post-graduate studies in social work at New York University.

She worked for the NYNEX Corporation and for New York City’s Consumer Affairs Department as an assistant tobacco enforcement coordinator. A strong advocate for the elderly and victims of domestic abuse, she served her community as a social services manager for various agencies, including the Jewish Community Center of Staten Island and the Community Agency for Senior Citizens.

She highlighted her own experience of escaping domestic violence in her book, “Snatched from the Fire.” She was the host and co-executive producer of “Elderview” on Staten Island Community Television. In 2013, she earned the NOVA award for the program.

Dedicated to showing kindness and love to others, she was recognized by the Staten Island Chapter of the NAACP with the William A. Morris Humanitarian Award.

Patricia Amis died in August 2014. She is survived by her husband, Reginald, her two children and her five stepchildren.

Alfred Palladino and Christine Zullo Palladino, formerly of New Brighton, were named John “Bunny” Barbes ‘39 and Lila T. Barbes ‘40 Wagner Alumni Laureates for their service to Wagner College. The Palladinos met at Wagner during their undergraduate studies. He earned a

B.S. in economics in 1961 and she attained a B.S. in education in 1964. Upon Alfred's graduation, they were married, and now have two children and six grandchildren.

Alfred Palladino has dedicated many years to working on Wall Street, beginning at Goodbody & Co. He is now the first vice president of investments for Stifel. He has generously contributed his financial expertise to Wagner for many years, serving as a trustee for 24 years, co-chairing and participating in the Wagner College Investment Committee, as well as supporting the Touchdown Club and the Hugh L. Carey Institute for Government Reform.

He is a past honoree of Wagner College's DaVinci Society. He has also contributed to professional and civic life in New York City as a member of the Bond Club of New York, a trustee and treasurer of 36 SPS, a trustee of the Puccini Foundation and a member of the Columbus Citizens Foundation. He was also inducted into the Curtis High School Hall of Fame.

Mrs. Palladino began her career teaching in the public school system. In 1981, she became a commodity trader broker. She started her own floor brokerage firm in 1982 and ran this firm on the New York Futures Exchange for 20 years.

One of the few women in this field of work, she has mentored many high school and college students, spoken at seminars, lectured at the New York Stock Exchange and taught classes at the New York School of Finance. She is also a longtime supporter of Wagner College, assisting in many fundraising drives and serving on presidential gala committees. In 1983, she was honored with the Wagner College Alumni Achievement Award.