The Faculty Backbone of CUNY

While Alumni are the lifeblood of any college or university, its backbone is its faculty. Like a backbone, a university’s faculty provides structure and internal strength, and CUNY’s faculty is one of the best.

This new feature of the Campaign E-newsletter will feature a spotlight on faculty members at our colleges who are leading the way in philanthropy as well as in academics and pedagogy.

Professor Gordon Di Paolo began his career in marketing and sales in the cosmetics industry originally working for the Revlon Corporation. After completing his academic studies and earning his MBA and PhD at New York University’s Graduate School of Business, Professor Di Paolo began a career in higher education at St. John’s University. In 1971, he transferred to the then Staten Island Community College which merged with Richmond College in 1976 to form the College of Staten Island.

He chaired the Department of Business in the late 1970’s and has been an active member of the department, serving for many years on the Appointments Committee and on various other departmental and college level committees. He has been responsible for the Management Concentration in the department and has chaired several search committees for new faculty.

His academic interests are primarily in the areas of small business, organizational behavior and labor compensation.

Beyond Professor Di Paolo’s impact as educator, he is also one of CSI’s most generous benefactors. In addition to his 37 years of service in academics, he has contributed over $300,000 to CSI since the launch of the CUNY campaign. His contributions have affected a wide variety of programs and constituencies, from classroom technology to overseas scholarships. He has used creative techniques to magnify the impact of his gift-giving, such as IRA transfers made possible through the Pension Protection Act of 2006.

Professor Di Paolo’s generosity hasn’t stopped there. As a tireless ambassador of the College, he actively participates in development efforts, resulting in philanthropic commitments of community members.

Professor Di Paolo gives new meaning to the fundraising adage that funds are raised “from the inside out!” When those closest to the College give and give as generously as Professor and Mrs. Di Paolo have, the impact of their generosity extends well beyond their individual commitment. The Di Paolos have had a tremendous impact on CSI, its students, and all of CUNY for which we owe them a debt of thanks.