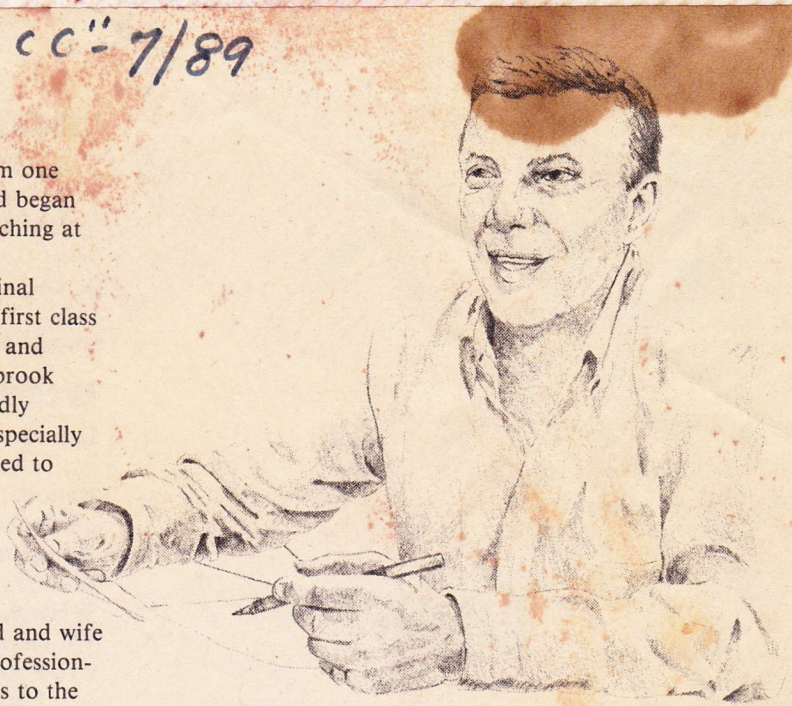


"Learning at OCC" 7/89

Richard A. Lombardo

"In the summer of 1973, I walked into a classroom one morning with a textbook and a piece of chalk, and began what was to become a lifelong love affair with teaching at OCC."

Richard A. Lombardo, professor in the Criminal Justice department at the college, remembers that first class of nine students who were interested in the "trials and tribulations of my young students held at the Hillbrook Detention Home. I remember several students vividly because of the unique qualities they possessed. I especially remember non-traditional students since they seemed to work extra hard to accomplish their goals.



"Among my favorite students were a husband and wife team, John and Margaret Downes, both retired professionals, who audited all my classes. Their contributions to the class were immeasurable. The younger students would listen in awe as they talked about life in Syracuse when they were teenagers, a time when doors were left unlocked, a grandmother rocked on every porch, and people generally cared about what happened to each other. The problems with crime today make it impossible to leave doors unlocked, and

the fear of crime prevents one from reaching out to strangers. Sadly, some of the students wished that the world discussed by Margaret and John was with us today. The students seem to realize that much of their innocence and even their childhood has been taken from them by the moral climate of today's society.

"In my class, I always stress that which is good and noble about our country and hopefully instill in the students' minds how much their contributions are needed to make a better world for all. The students may get discouraged at times, but I think they see the light at the end of the tunnel that will assure them of a productive, satisfying, meaningful life. If I have contributed to their happy lives, then I think my teaching has been a success. I hope so."

Dick is a graduate of LeMoyne College and earned his M.S. at Wayne State University. On his own time, he enjoys oil painting, photography and summering at his camp in Port Ontario.

after retirement
we took many
courses at Onondaga Community
College