

CNR Alumni Spotlight

Dorothy Calio, GS '91



Dorothy Calio, Graduate School '91, has had several careers, all driven by her passion for art. Dorothy grew up in Queens and commuted to Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, majoring in advanced graphic design. She met her husband while attending Pratt and upon graduation (1958) got a job at the Douglas Lee Company in Manhattan. Dorothy worked on major advertising campaigns in Times Square and on fashion design ads for Revlon. After five years, Dorothy and her husband started a family and, in those days, women were no longer employed by the company once they had children. However, Dorothy said raising her four children has been her most fulfilling and rewarding job.

Although Dorothy was very busy with her family, she always managed to pursue her love for design and art. She did freelance work, at times with her husband's own advertising firm. At one point, Dorothy was approached about teaching at Holy Rosary School in Hawthorne, NY, where she lived with her family. Once she started to teach art to children, Dorothy discovered another passion – art education. That is when she decided to attend the College of New Rochelle.

Dorothy believes her experience at CNR was wonderful and so stimulating. She is grateful that she obtained a Master's Degree in Art Education. She described her professors as talented and inspiring – Bob Wolf in sculpture and Barbara Levine in art education were just two of the professors who gave her a love for teaching and taught her how to motivate and encourage her own students.

Dorothy knows she has inspired some of her students to pursue careers in art. On one occasion, she took a class of first graders to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. One student who was so struck by the visit to the Temple of Dendur became an Egyptologist. Dorothy taught art at other grammar schools in Westchester County – Mount Carmel and Our Lady of Sorrows – as well in after school programs.

Then Dorothy switched gears and began working with the Creative Learning Institute on Crystal Cruises, teaching watercolor and acrylic painting courses – and continued for 22 years, finally retiring at 81! She traveled extensively and thoroughly enjoyed teaching painting at sea. Although retired, Dorothy still paints every day and describes her art as Abstract Impressionism. "It involves my experience with nature, and I often use my photography or memory, it comes mostly from my imagination," she explained. She continues to exhibit her artwork as well – visit her website www.dorothycalioart.com and see her art!

Dorothy's family has three generations connected to CNR and Mercy. When Dorothy received her graduate degree, her daughter also received her graduate degree in early childhood education at CNR. Her granddaughter Brianna graduated from Mercy and is now a Veterinary Technician. Dorothy loved attending CNR and is so happy to learn that its legacy continues at Mercy University.

- Chris Morrison, SAS '72
CNR Alumni Communications Committee