

Professor Wayne Cioffari Leaves Lasting Legacy for Mercy Students



In August, the Mercy Community lost a cherished and long-term faculty member, Associate Professor Emeritus Wayne Cioffari, who made an enduring impression on countless Mercy students. When news of Cioffari's passing spread, it was no surprise that his former students expressed

outpourings of admiration along with numerous accounts of his positive influence.

Cioffari was a graduate of Mount Vernon High School and Iona College, where he earned his B.A., M.B.A., and post-master's certificate. He later earned a Master of Arts from Long Island University. Shortly after completing his graduate thesis on money and banking, Cioffari began his teaching career in Iona's Business Program. From there, he was recruited by Benjamin Weisman, Ph.D., chair of the Business and Accounting Division, as one of the original faculty members where he helped establish Mercy's Division of Business and Accounting in the 1970s.

Over the course of nearly four decades at Mercy, Cioffari served in a wide range of administrative roles. Before Mercy established its own MBA program in 1998, Cioffari was assistant dean of the Long Island University branch campus, located at Mercy's Dobbs Ferry Campus, and chair of LIU's MBA Program.

Cioffari then served as program director of the Mercy MBA Program, assistant chair of the Business and Accounting Division, acting chairperson of the entire Division in the mid-2000s, and interim dean of the newly formed Mercy College School of Business in 2008. In addition to his work with the Business Division, he also helped to create the Corporate and Homeland Security program with former FBI agent and former Mercy College faculty member Philip Sarcione. Together they worked with other professors to create the curriculum.

After 39 years of teaching, Cioffari retired in 2011. Thanks to Cioffari's contributions Mercy's Business programs continue to grow and offered access to thousands of students across multiple campuses and extension centers.

Cioffari achieved many professional accolades, yet he will be remembered most for the things that cannot be found on a resume. Throughout his years of administrative appointments, Cioffari remained the consummate teaching professor, beloved by faculty and students for his depth and breadth of business knowledge and acumen, sound career advice, compassion, charm, generosity and an unforgettable sense of humor.

Cioffari made it a point to create a sense of belonging for students who were far from home. Cioffari was a connector, and always at his best while helping others. He never asked for anything in return other than a smile and a handshake.

Cioffari was a fixture on the Dobbs Ferry Campus and was legendary in the halls of the Southwest Annex in Mercy Hall, where he made it a point to regularly bring students and staff together. He had a special place in his heart for helping his students, and student workers, who he supported on their road to success. Many of his students and student workers came from all over the world. Cioffari made it a point to create a sense of belonging for these students who were far from home. Cioffari was a connector, and always at his best while helping others. He never asked for anything in return other than a smile and a handshake.

Retirement allowed Cioffari to return to his favorite place and true home, Brant Lake, NY, where he lived since he was a boy.

He often said it was better to give than to receive and he very generously gave his life to this philosophy. All of his friends from Westchester, Brant Lake, and across the country will forever miss him. How fortunate for those of us who had the privilege of knowing him. He leaves behind an amazing legacy of a love of academics, laughter and many acts of service.

Mercy College and many of Cioffari's former students have created a scholarship in his memory. If you are interested in giving in Professor Cioffari's memory to support School of Business students, please visit www.mercy.edu/cioffari.



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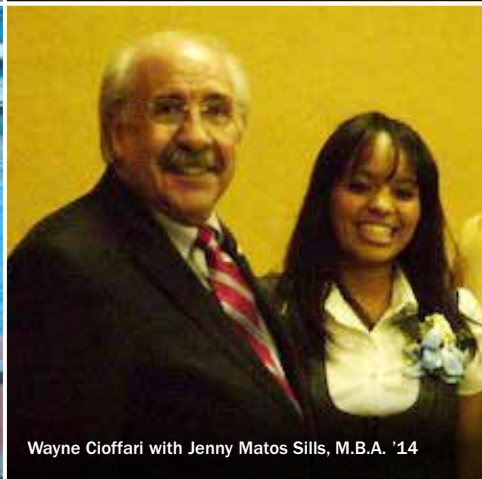
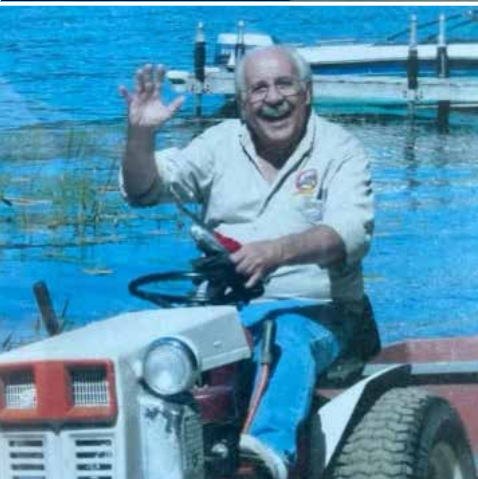
Erin Brady '01 with Wayne Cioffari

“The world lost a giant of a man over the weekend. A man that made an indelible impression and impact on my life. A man that I’ve thought about regularly and quoted often over the years. A man that was kind, soft spoken and so very funny.

Professor Wayne L. Cioffari was the interim dean of the School of Business, and I was his graduate assistant during my MBA studies at Mercy College. My days working alongside Prof. Cioffari were filled with hard work, fun and a lot of laughter. He taught me so much about life, teamwork and the importance of being a good person.

What started out as a working relationship changed into an amazing lifelong friendship. He was the best. He is the gold standard in terms of what a friend and boss should be.”

- Brian Walsh '06, M.B.A. '09



Wayne Cioffari with Jenny Matos Sills, M.B.A. '14

“Professor Cioffari was a boss, a mentor, a true friend. Even as a graduate assistant, he empowered me to do my job with the knowledge that he would always have my back. He was instrumental in getting me on the right path when I didn’t have others to show me the way in the business world. I will be forever grateful for his friendship.”

- Jenny Matos Sills, M.B.A. '14

“Professor Cioffari was the very reason I decided to go for my M.B.A. The biggest champion you’d ever want to have in your corner. Funny, personable, sweet, kind and a rare find. The world lost a giant.”

- David Collins '03, M.B.A. '11



Wayne Cioffari with Ed and Lucretia Mann, Associate Professor Emerita, Accounting

“Wayne Cioffari offered me a graduate assistantship to work for him for 20 hours a week in exchange for a free tuition to attend the MBA program at LIU. He was ahead of the times, as this was in 1993. Although he was not a CPA himself, he was just so focused on helping students rise. Instead of hiring a full-time secretary, he offered high-achieving students the position in exchange for free tuition. It’s amazing what one individual can do to change a person’s life! Through Wayne’s offer, I was able to continue my studies and stay in the U.S., which set me up nicely for future success.”

- Sheila Enriquez '96



Brian Walsh '06, M.B.A. '09, with his parents and Wayne Cioffari at his MBA graduation ceremony.

