

HALL OF ACHIEVEMENT

2012/2013
Journal

Annemarie Conlon, PhD

Class of 1977

Annemarie moved to Copiague in 1971. During junior high school and high school she loved spending time with her cousin, Donna (Conlon) Frescott, and her best friend, Lisa (Colicchio) Smith. Her most vivid memories are spending time at Donna's house and laughing a lot with Donna and Aunt Charlotte (Conlon), Annemarie's godmother. Annemarie's favorite teacher was Mr. Tom Diener who helped her create a portfolio, identify colleges and fill out college applications. She credits her parents for instilling tenacity and motivation.

Annemarie was hired by American Express after graduating from NYU. She attended business school in the evenings, earning a Master of Business Administration degree from Pace University. Throughout her ten years at American Express, Annemarie held positions of increasing responsibility: pricing analyst, financial analyst, senior financial analyst, program manager, and manager of international business development. There along with a team of international experts, she developed the American Express Card franchise in overseas markets. She left American Express to relocate to the Netherlands.

Upon returning to the United States, Annemarie volunteered for Houston Hospice. This experience was life changing. She subsequently returned to school to earn a Master of Social Work degree. After graduating, she accepted a position at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, where she provided therapeutic counseling and support to people diagnosed with lung cancer.

Noticing that patients would mention the associated stigma of cigarette smoking – whether they smoked or not, Annemarie wanted to understand the effects of this stigma on the patients' cancer experience. She received a training grant from the American Cancer Society to attend the doctoral program at the University of Texas to research stigma and lung cancer. Annemarie received her PhD in 2011. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at Virginia Commonwealth University where she focuses on lung cancer, health care disparities and aging. She is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW-TX), published poet and a member of Mensa.

“Never underestimate the importance of relationships and communication.”