



Kaleidoscope #1 – Professors Who Inspire

KCC Professors Who Inspire – Dr. Morton Wagman

More than just a pathway to a degree, a Kingsborough education is a life-changing experience, broadening students' intellectual horizons while also helping them find their true callings. Few individuals embody this ethos better than Professor Morton Wagman, who for over forty years has taught in Kingsborough's history department. With degrees from Brooklyn College (B.A.) and Columbia University (M.A., Ph.D.), Professor Wagman has been a prolific scholar in his own right, publishing books and articles on topics as diverse as astronomy and New York history. Equally remarkable, though, is Professor Wagman's undeniable passion for Kingsborough and its students.

For Alan J. Lipsky '83, Professor Wagman was a singular influence on his education. Decades later, Mr. Lipsky remembers him as a riveting lecturer who could make any historical topic come to life, and as a demanding instructor who expected nothing short of excellence. Professor Wagman was also a critical mentor *outside* of the classroom, helping Mr. Lipsky land his first job at a museum after he graduated from Kingsborough. Today, Mr. Lipsky is a partner at a museum consulting firm, and he credits his favorite professor for helping him discover his dream profession:



"Although it is an often-used statement when it comes to talking about mentors, I truly would not be where I am today without the influence of Professor Wagman. He was the most engaging teacher I have ever had, and he expected excellence from his students. Whether it was the feudal system in Europe or Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal, he could make any facet of history exciting. To this day, I can still hear his voice and cite his lectures—30+ years after my first class with him! Without Professor Morton Wagman's help and encouragement, I would not be working in this field that I love."

Alan J. Lipsky '83, on Professor Morton Wagman

As Mr. Lipsky's story shows, a great professor can make all the difference in a student's life. Kingsborough is tremendously grateful to have professors like Dr. Wagman, who are not simply experts in their fields but passionate educators, dedicated above all else to helping students

realize their dreams.

Every month, the Kaleidoscope presents a different facet of the Kingsborough experience—inspiring professors, student success stories, alumni testimonials, exciting new programs, news-making events and much more. We hope you enjoy these stories, and we also encourage you to share *your* unique KCC perspective with us. *Whether you are a current student or an alum, a faculty or staff member, a retiree or a distinguished donor, [you can also share your story!](#)*

Join us as we celebrate 50 years of excellence at KCC! Visit the Kingsborough 50th Anniversary website for more information: www.kingsborough.edu/50anniversary. As part of our celebration, please also consider making a [charitable donation](#) to support the next 50 years at Kingsborough.

