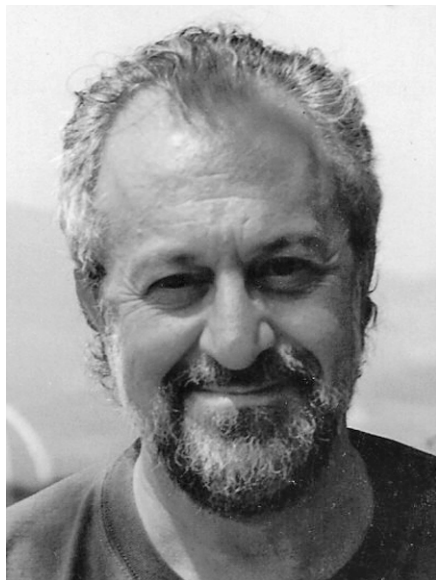


Carlo Coppola

Class of 1956

Throughout his graduate studies and career as a Professor of Modern Languages, Literature, and Linguistics at Oakland University, Dr. Carlo Coppola has made many contributions in literature and the arts, focusing much of his energy into Indian and Southeast Asian literature.

Dr. Coppola attended John Carroll University, where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in English and French, and went on to earn his M.A. in English from the University of Chicago.



During a training course to enter the Peace Corps in 1961, Dr. Coppola had what he calls his “passage to India,” during which he discovered his passion for India and Southeast Asia. “I was enthralled by the languages, the people, the history, everything about it,” Coppola said.

Although Dr. Coppola was unable to continue with the Peace Corps due to health issues, he decided to return to the University of Chicago to study South Asian Studies. During his time at the University of Chicago, Dr. Coppola co-founded and co-edited a literary journal dedicated to English translations of South Asian literature, work which influenced the spread of South Asian Studies programs at universities around the world.

After retiring from full time teaching at the University of Oakland in 2005, Dr. Coppola continues to work on several academic projects, and also serves as a docent at the Los Angeles County Art Museum, giving children's tours. He currently resides in Los Angeles, where he lives with his family and two dogs.

Dr. Coppola's nephew Nick Coppola, a current junior at WHS, will be accepting his award this evening.

— Michelle Sczpanski, *student interviewer*

***“I feel my life, anyone's life, isn't worth living without the arts.
A day without the arts in one's life is a day without oxygen!”***