

Dear Colleagues,  
I am deeply saddened to report that Robert Leuci passed away. Below is a bio prepared by Ryan Trimm, Chair of English. Bob taught for us for many years and was a valued contributor to our Ocean Summer Writing Conference. He will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him and especially his family, colleagues and students.  
Sincerely,  
Winnie Brownell  
Dean



Robert Leuci worked for the New York City Police Department for 20 years, with most of his time spent in the organized crime and narcotics enforcement units. Bob was thought by

figures such as Frank Serpico and David Durk to be one of the few honest detectives in the NYPD at the time. As a result, he was asked by the Knapp Commission into police corruption to go undercover to investigate malfeasance in the entire law enforcement system; Bob spent two years working with the Commission. Former NYPD Deputy Commissioner Robert Daley later based a best-selling book, *Prince of the City*, on Bob's story; Sidney Lumet directed the cinematic adaptation with Treat Williams in Bob's role.

After *Prince* and a conversation with novelist Robert Stone, Bob decided to become a writer himself. He published six novels and numerous short stories, as well as a multitude of magazine pieces and book reviews. His memoir, *All the Centurions*, was published by Harper Collins in 2004 and focused on his years with the NYPD. To date, four of his novels have been translated and published in Germany, France, Italy, Spain, and Croatia.

Bob studied writing at the New School for Social Research, Fordham University, and NYU. Before coming to URI, he taught at the University of Nebraska and the University of Western Connecticut. He taught in Rhode Island for two decades and was recognized by the Rhode Island Center for the Arts for his literary contributions in 1998. In addition to teaching creative writing, Bob lectured on police ethics and undercover work at over 40 colleges, universities and law schools. He also lectured on these subjects at numerous municipal and state police departments across the country, and at the FBI's academy at Quantico, Virginia.

Bob's students and colleagues knew him as a dedicated and compassionate teacher, one characterized by a warm spirit and a hearty laugh. His friendly demeanor touched all who encountered him. He will be sorely missed. Our thoughts go out to his wife, Kathy, and his children, Anthony and Santana.

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