

The Official Newsletter of

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

nexus

YOUR COLLEGE CONNECTION

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Where Success Starts...and Continues

Spring 2010



Photography by William Baker

Nassau Community College Health Information Technology students in class.

NEW HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

NCC AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE EFFORT TO MODERNIZE AMERICA'S HEALTH RECORDS

PRESIDENT OBAMA SIGNED THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) INTO LAW IN FEBRUARY 2009. THE HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FOR ECONOMIC AND CLINICAL Health Act portion of ARRA is the part of the stimulus package that provides \$19.2 billion for health information technology. Nassau Community College is preparing students to meet the demands of this marketplace with a new certificate program in Health Information Technology.

In a speech he gave at a community college, Obama emphasized the importance of a modernized national health record system. "We are taking long overdue steps to computerize America's health records. This is going to reduce the waste and errors that cost billions of dollars and thousands of lives—while protecting patients' privacy," he noted. The goal is that by 2014 every American will have an electronic health record that can be securely exchanged by providers nation-wide.

According to Prof. Susan Goldson, Director of NCC's Health Information Technology program, "This program is drawing a diverse group of people, from traditional students, to adult learners returning to the workforce, to current professionals looking to increase their skills." Theresa McGarrity, for instance, recently graduated from the program after several years as a business analyst at a software company. "The Health Information Technology program provided

me with a very good background in all of the areas that I needed," Theresa said. "I would definitely recommend it to both traditional students and returning ones."

"WE ARE TAKING LONG OVERDUE STEPS TO COMPUTERIZE AMERICA'S HEALTH RECORDS."

-President Barack Obama

Possession of these credentials is crucial for obtaining employment in the health information technology field. After finishing the certificate coursework, Health

Completion of the certificate program qualifies students to take national certification exams to become credentialed coders.

Information Technology students complete a work-study internship at a local hospital to gain experience working in the field.

Hospitals that agree to host the work-study students also benefit, as they have an opportunity to employ educated workers. "Programs of this caliber are an

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NEW LIFE SCIENCES BUILDING AT NCC

by Dr. Donald P. Astrab



as sun-lit interior corridors. The building is sure to bring a sleek, contemporary look to the campus, and its use of natural light and landscaping will contribute to the greening of NCC. The design of the building has already won a silver rating for energy and environment from the United States Green Building Council and seeks to attain the council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) "Gold" certification. Aurora Contractors—a Long Island based firm—has won the bid. Construction on the Life Sciences Building is expected to take approximately 20 to 24 months.

finished in time for the fall 2010 semester.

Finally, since 1992, Nassau Community College has provided distance learning courses. Over the years, distance learning has taken on a life of its own, in large measure due to technological advances and lifestyle changes in today's society, which have created increased interest in this learning/teaching format. I envision that over the coming months distance learning opportunities will be expanded, so that more course offerings and more students can take advantage of this relatively new teaching platform. Presently, 3,000 of the College's 23,000 students are enrolled in one or more distance learning courses. We believe that this number will rapidly increase as we bring more courses online.

When I began my tenure as president of Nassau Community College last

We are particularly grateful for the support that the Nassau County

Executive and the legislature provided for this project by authorizing \$20 million, matching the \$20 million allocated for it in the New York State Capital Budget.

The life sciences are among the most active areas of study at NCC. For example, the Nursing department has about 10 times the number of applicants as it has space available. The new Life Sciences Building will allow for the education for the next generation of nurses and other health professionals on Long Island.

OTHER INITIATIVES

The second capital project that the College is initiating this summer is to repair and overlay the West parking lots, which will add 450 to 500 new parking spaces. This is the first phase of a multi-phase, \$17.6 million dollar road and parking improvement project. The phase one part of the project is slated to be

"Community colleges have become the bedrock of the higher education system throughout the nation."

Community colleges have become the bedrock of the higher education system throughout the nation. Certainly within the State University of New York system, community colleges have opened the door of opportunity for many students to get a college education. It's important for community colleges to keep pace with advancements in instructional technology and equipment in the classroom and the laboratory. Towards that end, I am pleased to give you an update on NCC's Life Sciences Building. Soon the College will hold the groundbreaking ceremony for a new state-of-the-art Life Sciences Building. At an estimated cost of \$40 million, the 74,000-square-foot building is expected to house the Nursing and Chemistry Departments, including laboratories, classrooms, faculty offices, conference space, computer labs and group study spaces. The building will be "U" shaped with glass walls lining the inside of the "U" and its interior offices will have a view of a green, open-air courtyard. This unique design provides intimate outdoor gathering spaces as well

November, I felt extremely fortunate to lead one of the most exciting and prestigious colleges—be they two- or four-year schools—in the nation. It's especially gratifying to work with such an exceptional group of administrators and faculty, who have worked tirelessly to make these capital projects possible and will be equally dedicated to the enhancement our distance learning opportunities. At NCC, student education and social and cultural development are both extremely important. The projects described above are a testament to the value we place on them.

Nassau Community College is where success starts... and continues.



LEGENDARY CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST JESSE JACKSON SPEAKS TO NASSAU STUDENTS

Civil rights activist and former presidential candidate Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. spoke at Nassau Community College this spring in a cultural program entitled “With Justice for All: Human Rights, Civil Rights, Diversity.” Jackson spoke about his experiences during the civil rights movement and his belief that this is an equally critical time in the history of our country. He said that our mission now is to tear down the walls between our respective cultures.

Rev. Jackson also stressed the need for young people of all backgrounds to get involved and pay as much attention to their studies and the world around them as they do to athletics or their social lives. In this way, he believes, conditions for everyone in the U.S. and the world will continue to move forward.

NASSAU STUDENTS RECEIVE SUNY CHANCELLOR’S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

Nine students from Nassau Community College were among the 238 SUNY college students who received 2010 Chancellor’s Awards for Student Excellence this spring. “The students we honor have excelled academically and taken advantage of what SUNY has to offer. These students are proven leaders, athletes, artists, community servants and much more,” said SUNY Chancellor Dr. Nancy L. Zimpher. This year’s Chancellor’s Award recipients have an overall grade point average of 3.8 and records of significant contributions to their campuses and communities.



NCC students who received a 2010 Chancellor’s Award in Albany with SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher: (L-R) Rebecca Medina, Janet Dillon, Marina Gama, Parinita Singh, and Jeff Freeman. Not shown are Andrea Macancela, Samantha O’Brien, Venis Sudu-Brown and Yorlery Vicioso.

Health Information Technology to Grow Faster Than Average Through 2016

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Prof. Susan Goldson is Director of NCC’s Health Information Technology program.

essential part of the future of healthcare,” said Petra Freese, Nassau University Medical Center’s (NUMC’s) Director of Health Information Management/Medical Records and past president of the Long Island Health Information Management Association. She was so impressed by McGarrity, who interned at NUMC, that she hired her full-time.

The College is currently in the process of establishing a two-year associate’s degree in Health Information Technology.

There already is a nationwide shortage of educated, experienced health information technologists, said Prof. Goldson. The constant increase in documentation guidelines mandated by Medicare, Medicaid and private insurers—along with the country’s determination to modernize and coordinate electronic medical records—ensure that the need for qualified health information technicians will continue to grow. The Department of

Labor *Occupational Outlook Handbook* lists health information technology/medical records technicians in its highest category of “faster than average” growth through 2016.

As the healthcare field is transitioning from traditional paper-based records to an all-electronic format, the privacy,

“PROGRAMS OF THIS CALIBER ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE.”

—Petra Freese
Nassau University Medical Center’s Director of Health Information Management/Medical Records

confidentiality and security of health records will become even more crucial. Health Information Technology specialists are at the forefront of the effort to modernize America’s health records.

TWELVE NCC FACULTY MEMBERS RECEIVE STATE UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR'S AWARD'S FOR EXCELLENCE

The Chancellor's Award for Excellence was presented to 12 Nassau Community College faculty and staff members at a ceremony held on March 23 in the College Center Building. This prestigious award provides statewide recognition for superlative performance and outstanding professional achievement. Chancellor's Award recipients are professionals who have repeatedly sought improvements in themselves, their campus and ultimately the state university system. These individuals serve as professional role models for a university system in pursuit of excellence.

The Chancellor's Awards program was created 36 years ago to honor the distinguished performance of SUNY's teaching faculty, librarians and members of the professional service. "The

committee is constantly amazed by the creative, innovative work our colleagues exhibit. We truly have an exceptional faculty and staff," said Professor Linda Gorman, Chair of the NCC Chancellor's Award Selection Committee.

This year's recipients are: Jean Dolce, Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs; Prof. Lisa Bastiaans, Physical Sciences; Dr. Pat Halcrow, Sociology; Dr. Kunkum Prabhakar, Biology; Dr. Miriam Afkhami-Ramirez, Student Personnel Services; Amanda Fox, Academic Advisement; Prof. Laurie Joseph, Student Personnel Services; Prof. Faren Siminoff, History/Political Science/Geography; Prof. Anne Comiskey, Nursing; Dr. Lorraine Findlay, Allied Health Sciences; Prof. Dale Stanley, Biology; and Prof. JoAnn Thissen, Physical Sciences.

FACULTY/STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Prof. Bob Costello, Criminal Justice, was placed on the Fulbright Specialist roster for the next five years. He had the following book reviews accepted for publication: *Crimes of Power and State of Impunity: The U.S. Response to Terror*; *Critical Criminology: An International Journal*; *Cruel & Unusual: The Culture of Punishment*; *Criminal Justice Studies: A Critical Journal of Crime, Law & Society*; and *Sisters Outside: Radical Activists Working for Women Prisoners*. Prof. Costello also presented a paper about at-risk youth at the 8th annual Safe Schools & Communities conference at Hofstra University, which was published by the Criminal Justice Section of the American Bar Association.

Dr. Sally Ann Drucker, English, received a Queens Council on the Arts Grant for a project featuring her poetry and her father's photography. The project was called "New York in the 1930s: the Photography of Max Drucker." In the reading accompanying the exhibit, Dr. Drucker was joined by English Department poets **Julio Marzan** and **Richard Newman**. The exhibit was at the Greater Astoria Historical Society through April.

Dr. Lorraine Findlay, Allied Health Sciences, has received the 2010 American Society for Clinical Pathology Regional Associate Member Award for the Northeast Region. Only one recipient is selected annually from each of the eight nationally divided regions of the society, which numbers over 100,000 members. Dr. Findlay received this prestigious award at a special awards dinner held in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Beverly Harrison, Associate Vice President of Human Resources and Labor Relations, was recently accepted to The Scheinman Institute of Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations. The Scheinman Institute is the nation's only program of study for conflict resolution in the workplace. Dr. Harrison will study in the Employment Law Arbitrator Training Program.

Prof. Janet Johnson, Placement Testing, and chair of the NCC Federation of Teachers political action committee, was featured in *New York Teacher* newspaper on the occasion of her recent visit to Albany to plead with lawmakers to restore funds the governor proposes to cut from higher education.

Prof. Jack Mandel, Marketing/Retailing/Fashion, has a column in *LI Pulse Magazine* called "From the Heart" and is an editorial contributor to *Aspire* magazine. He was a guest on the News 12 Long Island program *Long Island Talks* discussing retailing trends on Long Island and profiled in *Newsday* in an article titled "How to Market Yourself as an Expert". Prof. Mandel presented a lecture at the Syosset public library about "The ABCs of Starting Your Own Business" and one at the Oyster Bay-East Norwich public library on "Developing Your Personal Success Contract in Business." He was also named a "Best of Long Island" winner by the readers of the *Long Island Press*, based on an online poll.

Prof. John Scarinci, English, was one of the illustrators for the recently published children's book *The Watching*.

Prof. Emerita Florence Scarinci, Library, was a contributing editor of *The Watching*. She was also nominated for the prestigious Maxwell Award from the Dog Writers Association of America for her regular column "Doggone Good Books" which appears quarterly in *The Corgi Cryer*.

Prof. Mario Susko, English, was a reader and a participant at StAnza, the 2010 Scotland International Poetry Festival in St. Andrews, Scotland.

Note: All members of the College are invited to send articles pertaining to professional and community activities for inclusion. To do so, call Marketing & Communications at 516.572.9634 or e-mail marketing-communications@ncc.edu.

NCC OFFERS NEW DISABILITY STUDIES CERTIFICATE

This fall, NCC offered a disability studies certificate for the first time. "The certificate program in disability studies is designed to prepare students for a career in the field of disability service provision," said coordinator Prof. Diane Martin. "Students will gain the theoretical knowledge and practical skills that will allow them to effectively provide services that meet the unique needs of individuals with disabilities across their life span."

The program consists of 28 to 30 credits in such courses as Introduction to Developmental Disabilities, Psychology of the Exceptional Child and Biomedical Ethics. Courses in the program assist students in developing an understanding of disabilities that take into consideration and individual, societal influences as well as the mandates of disability law. Upon completion of the program, they may continue on for further education or go directly into the workforce. Students currently working towards their certificate find their courses to be very beneficial.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that by the year 2020 the number of professionals required to meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities will increase by 37 percent.

The field of caring for those with intellectual disabilities is increasingly complicated, requiring the mastering of a variety of competencies for success. According to Seth Stein, Executive Director of the Alliance of Long Island Agencies, Inc. for Persons with Developmental Disabilities, "NCC is already working with the Alliance in the Direct Service Professional Credit Program (DSPCP) with a customized five course college certificate program. Graduates of the DSPCP would find the Disability Studies Program to be a natural extension for furthering their studies and commitment to the field," he said.

Prof. Martin said the College is looking into developing a two-year associates degree program in disability studies, which will hopefully be available for enrollment by spring 2011.

ALUMNI PROFILE



JAMES COLL CLASS OF '93

COURAGE AND COMPASSION

Even before James Coll arrived at Nassau Community College in 1991, he knew he wanted to help people. With a father already in the police department, he had an idea that he might be headed down that career path as well.

As a detective in the Emergency Services unit of the New York City Police Department (NYPD), Coll is currently a member of an elite NYPD-NYFD (New York City Fire Department) tactical rescue team called Task Force 1 that specializes in urban search and rescue. In January 2010, the Task Force 1 team was sent with other rescuers to Haiti to aid in rescue efforts when a major earthquake devastated the country. The teams' painstaking work paid off. During the eight days that New York Task Force 1 was in Port-Au-Prince, it rescued six people who were trapped in collapsed buildings. "My heart went out to those people who had suffered so much," said Coll.

Coll also was among those who first responded to such incidents, for example, as the emergency plane landing that came to be known as the "Miracle on the Hudson." In that incident, Coll and others swam through the plane looking for passengers.

In addition to his other work for the NYPD, Coll conducts emergency psychological training for new police officers on how to deal with emotionally disturbed people. "I love doing the work that I do for the police department," he said. "It's very fulfilling. Every day you can see first-hand the positive impact we have on peoples' lives."

Coll graduated from Nassau Community College in 1993 with a degree in criminal justice, continued on to Hofstra University, got a degree in American History and ultimately obtained a master's degree in the same subject from Hunter College. In 2001, with a self-admitted passion for American history, Coll came back to NCC to teach history part-time. He is currently pursuing another post-graduate degree. Coll is happy to wear several hats in his professional life. "I'm a very lucky man in that I get to do it all," he said.



At right, NCC History Prof. James Coll and the Task Force 1 team assisting in the rescue efforts in Port-Au-Prince after the earthquake in Haiti.
Photos Courtesy of the New York Post

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Register Now Summer Session 2010



Registration is
going on now for
Summer Session
2010 at NCC

Summer Session I:
June 1 – July 1

Summer Session I Late:
June 7 – July 9

Summer Session II:
July 12 – August 12

Summer Session II Late:
July 19 – August 13

For more registration information, please visit
WWW.NCC.EDU/MYNCC

GRADUATION 2010



Save the Date

Nassau Community College's 50th
commencement will take place on
Tuesday, May 25 at 7:00 p.m.
at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

For more information, check out
WWW.NCC.EDU/GRADUATION