

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# NEXUS

*Your College Connection*

## NASSAU ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF MULTIMEDIA DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

For several years, art and technology have been converging. Nassau Community College has been at the forefront of this wave, offering certificates in Desktop Publishing & Design and Website Design, as well as an A.A.S. degree in Commercial Art: Digital Technologies. Students in these programs take such courses as Graphics Design, Digital Imaging, Digital Video & Special Effects, 3D Modeling, 3D Animation and Web Design. Currently, there are over 500 students enrolled in more than 40 sections of 16 computer graphics classes.

Computer Generated Imagery (CGI) is used for a variety of applications, for everything from information seeking online, to watching videos and playing Internet games, to social interaction and staying connected through such things as Facebook and email. Now, according to a recent survey by the Pew Research Center, these technological advancements are being used more and more in the palms of peoples' hands. The 2010 survey found that 35 percent of American adults owned a smartphone device—an iPhone, Android, etc. Internet access was critical to



Prof. Jason Gorman of the Art Department advises a student.

smartphone owners: 87 percent of those surveyed accessed the Web or email on their phone, with 68 percent of that group accessing such information on a daily basis. Nearly 25 percent of smartphone owners said that their phone was the primary Internet connection in their lives, rather than the traditional desktop computer or laptop. These statistics will only increase in the future, as will the number and type of digital applications used. Employee demand will rise accordingly. Therefore, demand for the latest in multimedia courses will continue to grow.

Art Department Prof. Jason Gorman and his multimedia students' involvement in a recent international competition is a case in point. Students in college-level multimedia courses were asked to design a 3D video game application for a smartphone from the ground up. "We not only finished a 3D mobile game in two months, but also participated in a student online community forum, created a marketing website for

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"Macky," a 3D animation designed by NCC Art students.

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# ON A CLEAR NIGHT YOU CAN SEE FOREVER

## STARGAZING AT THE NCC PLANETARIUM

Everyone has had the experience of looking up at the stars and being amazed at the vastness and beauty of the nighttime sky. Observers at Astronomy Nights at the NCC Planetarium are indeed amazed when they can explore the stars, sun and moon, as well as other bodies within our galaxy, right from campus. Located on the third floor of Cluster C, the Planetarium is under an 18-foot diameter dome that replaces the roof of a classroom.

According to Prof. Thomas Bruckner, an instructor of Astronomy who plans and executes the Astronomy Nights each semester, the Planetarium is powered by a computerized Spitz planetarium projector, which can be set to any date in history. When aided by the Planetarium's sound system, simulated skies light up the eye and the imagination. One can see rings around Saturn, moons orbiting Jupiter, sunspots, comets and a host of other astronomical phenomena.

A different type of dome—a six-foot dome called an Observation Dome or Observatory—houses a 14-inch Celestron telescope for viewing the skies.

Although it's mainly used for astronomy classes, the Planetarium is also used by physics, math and meteorology students. Public school teachers who come to Nassau to gain additional course credits leading to certification in Earth Sciences also take advantage of the Planetarium.

For more information about the Planetarium and its free semi-annual Astronomy Nights—which include Planetarium shows, telescopic observations and mini-lectures—at Nassau, call 516.572.7278.



Young and adult guests looking through the 11-inch Celestron telescope as it tracks the planet Jupiter and several of its moons.



Planetarium visitor Colin Benitt looking for interesting features on the Lunar surface.

*Photos, ©Norman Harris*

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT KAREN CHICAS



Karen Chicas' road to the presidency of the Student Government Association (SGA) has been one that would be familiar to many of NCC's past SGA presidents. "I was in the political science club with Lorenzo (Simpson, 2010-2011 SGA president) and he told me there was a position open as Freshman Senator. I ran and was elected," she remembers. Chicas became interested in having a voice in College issues, so she decided to run for student government president as well.

During her term as president, Chicas hopes to instill a sense of school spirit in her fellow students by better communicating to them what the College has to offer. "I think that maybe some students and clubs might not know about all the things Nassau Community College can provide to them," she remarked. Chicas believes that students' experience at NCC is what they make of it, and the best way to make the most out of it is to work hard in your classes, find out about student life and then get involved in the things that interest you.

One aspect of student life at the College that Chicas is especially proud of is its diversity. "I love having friends from different backgrounds and cultures," said Chicas. After she graduated from MacArthur High School, the Levittown resident wasn't sure what she wanted to pursue. She realizes that a lot of people her age feel the same way she did—and she knows the value of attending NCC in that situation. "I knew that Nassau is a place where you can discover new things about yourself and figure out what you want to do with your life," she said. "I feel like I made the right choice." Chicas is now thinking of pursuing a career in law.

Chicas is a liberal arts major at Nassau with a GPA of 3.5. She is in the honors program and is vice president of the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society. In her free time, Chicas enjoys such outdoor activities as hiking and camping. She's a member of the College's Outing Club.





# A \$17.6 MILLION PROJECT TO IMPROVE CAMPUS PARKING AND ROADS

Nassau Community College is in the process of a \$17.6 million multi-year capital project to upgrade parking and roads on campus. Phase One of the project, which was completed in 2010, added a new parking lot and over 500 spaces to the West parking lots. It also included improved drainage, handicapped parking areas and entry signage.

According to Joe Muscarella, Vice President, Facilities Management, Phase Two of the project includes replacement of lots 5A and 5B (behind Clusters A to D), as well as vacant space up to and including the runway area east of the East parking lots. Improvements will include a visitor drop-off area, a visitor waiting lot, access gates with a security card reader, improved lighting

and an additional 425 parking spaces. “This project will completely revolutionize parking at NCC,” said Muscarella. “For the first time ever, students will be able to drive from one parking lot to another without driving through or around the campus. There will be more, safer parking closer to the cluster buildings and a dedicated visitor parking lot and drop-off area. Additionally, the entire lot will be

**“This project will completely revolutionize parking at NCC.”**

—Dr. Joseph Muscarella  
VP, Facilities Management

beautifully landscaped and environmentally sensitive. This will probably become the parking lot of choice for most students.” The

designer of Phase Two of the project is the Long Island office of the RBA Group. Inter County Paving has been awarded the contract to do the work.

A noteworthy environmentally sensitive aspect of the capital project is the design for runoff retention on the site via an underground drainage system, which carries rainwater to retention ponds where it percolates into the ground over time, rather than carrying possible pollutants into local streams. Other “green” initiatives include a tree-lined entrance at Blenn Boulevard (the entrance road off of Charles Lindbergh Boulevard to the east of the main entrance), energy efficient lighting, lighted pedestrian walkways and landscaped islands.

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## Digital Art Technology Media At NCC: Creating “Macky’s Mountain Adventure”



An early stage “Macky,” created as a clay sculpture.

the game and produced a documentary video of the process,” said Prof. Gorman.

Early on, the students decided that their game would involve a penguin on a mountain. “Macky’s Mountain Adventure” came to

feature a small but advanced society of penguins in the Antarctic trying to figure out how to beat the seemingly imminent destruction of their ice mountain home due to global warming. Creating the game from scratch meant that the students would need help from students from several departments, including mathematics, fashion design and art. The main character of “Macky’s Mountain Adventure” is Macky, a Macaroni penguin. Student volunteers in sculpture, 3D modeling, video, Photoshop and painting all assisted in the creation of Macky. Art Department students and faculty created artwork of Macky and the various things he encounters.

Macky was created as a clay sculpture,

then scanned using a NextEngine 3D scanner. The resulting model was touched up using various software programs, digital bone-driven animations, particles and the Unity terrain editor, among other things. Throughout the entire process, Prof. Gorman and his students communicated with others by way of a community forum, Internet relay chat and message boards.

“Macky’s Mountain Adventure” won first round, with over sixty international universities and colleges competing globally in the Unity Mobile Generation Education Giveaway.

Digital technology will continue to be important in the future of multimedia design and Nassau Community College will keep on the cutting edge of the latest developments in the field.

## DR. JORGE GARDYN NEW NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEE

Nassau Community College is proud to announce that Jorge L. Gardyn, MD, FACP has been named as a new trustee. Dr. Gardyn was appointed by Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano and the full Nassau County Legislature. His term ends in 2012.

“Dr. Gardyn is a wonderful addition to our Board. His professionalism and dedication to higher education will serve the College well. We look forward to benefiting from his insight and creative energy,” said Dr. Donald Astrab, president of Nassau Community College.

Dr. Gardyn is a Board Certified Internist who is currently the Division Chief of Occupational and Corporate Medicine at Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow. He has been in private practice since 1990, and in 1995 started Island Occupational Medical Resources, which specializes in Occupational Medical examinations. Dr.

Gardyn has been at the forefront of providing quality medical services for the volunteer firefighters of Nassau and Suffolk counties. He is the Medical Director for the Nassau County EMS Academy, the Nassau County Fire Service Academy and the Vocational Educational Extension Board License Practical Nursing Program. Dr. Gardyn also serves as the Vice Chairman of the Nassau County Firefighters Museum and Education Center.

Dr. Gardyn has been active over the years in the teaching of medical students, residents, nurse practitioner students and physician assistant students, and has clinical academic appointments to Stony Brook University School of Medicine, New York College of Osteopathic Medicine and Touro College of Health Sciences.

“It’s a pleasure to serve on the board of an institution that provides so much for its



students and for the community, among them our future leaders,” said Dr. Gardyn, a resident of Garden City. “Working with President Astrab, the other trustees and the faculty and staff, I hope to help the College maintain and enhance its educational excellence.”



## Dawn DiStefano Appointed Executive Director of the NCC Foundation

Dawn DiStefano became Executive Director of the Nassau Community College Foundation on September 1. She comes to her position with a wealth of experience in both the financial industry and higher education. Among the companies DiStefano has worked for are Fidelity Investments and Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. She has also taught on the college level and has extensive experience with Long Island non-profit organizations. “We are indeed fortunate to have someone with Dawn’s capabilities at the College. Her skills and enthusiasm make her the perfect fit for this position,” said Dr. Donald Astrab, president of NCC.

DiStefano is a proud alumna of Nassau. She also has a BBA and an MBA in management. She looks forward to working with the College community, as well as to partnering with prominent business leaders and nonprofit organizations. “I feel like together we can accomplish big things that will really benefit Nassau Community College students and our community,” she said.

The Nassau Community College Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation created to support the mission of the College by providing an independent avenue to receive philanthropic aid. It also provides scholarships for Nassau Community College students and is dedicated to the educational, cultural, and financial enhancement of the College. The Foundation values honesty and integrity in its relationship with the College, its donors, and the community.

## FACULTY/STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

**Dr. Ileana Carillo, Coordinator, Center for Workforce Development**, presented at the New York Association for Training and Employment Professionals (NYATEP) conference in Albany, New York. Her presentation was on “Innovative Workforce Development Partnerships.” Sponsored by the New York State Department of Labor and NYATEP, the conference focused on economic development and higher education, collaboration with business, and industry and sector strategies.

**Prof. Jack Mandel, Marketing, Retailing, Fashion**, wrote an article entitled “Get With the Program...And Here’s How!” for the fall edition of “Aspire” magazine. He was also a keynote speaker for the Rotary Club of East Northport, where he spoke about “The Art of Magnetic Marketing and How it Can Help Your Business.”

**Dr. Evangeline Manjares, Veterans Affairs/Serivce Learning**, was featured in “Horizons,” a publication of the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia. The United Board works with a network of universities and colleges to enhance Christian presence in higher education in Asia.

**Dr. Kumkum Prabhakar, Biology**, and her Independent Study Course (BIO 699) student Chamir Chouloute attended and presented “Cultural Myths to Evidence-Based Knowledge: Engaging Community College Students in Scientific Exploration” at the Third International Science in Society Conference held at Catholic University in Washington, DC in August.

**Maureen Ramert, Drinking Driver Program**, was the guest speaker at the Nassau County Traffic Safety Board meeting in September. She discussed the new Impaired Driver Services Initiative to establish standards for clinical services provided by certified treatment providers in New York State.

**Dr. Mario Susko, English**, has had two poetry collections published: “Epi/Logos” and “Framing Memories.”

*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 email marketing-communications@ncc.edu.*



# NCC FASHION DESIGN STUDENTS RUN AWAY WITH THE SHOW

## WORK WITH SIMON MALLS FOR EXCITING "DESIGN WARS" COMPETITION

The dress that won first place was a light-gray jersey-knit gown with black lace and Grecian-inspired draping. But all the entrants in the "Design Wars" style competition at the Roosevelt Field mall in October were award-winning. That's because eight Nassau Community College fashion design students presented a stunning show when they paired up with local celebrities in a red carpet competition in front of four fashion industry judges. The students—who worked on their imaginative and exciting garments from inspiration, to draping the pattern and constructing the garment, to multiple fittings—had to stay on a \$100 budget and consult with the models for their preferences.

Sophomore James Marvullo designed the gown the judges chose for first place. "I was very surprised," he said. "Going into it, I thought I had a really good chance, but once I saw everyone's designs I thought everyone had a good chance of winning," he said. Marvullo won a \$500 American Express Simon Giftcard. Second place went to Royner Sarria, who designed a strapless dress made of dark purple, leopard-print chiffon.

Fashion Design Prof. Sharyne Wolfe was very proud of all the students who participated in the "Design Wars" competition. "We strive to get the students involved in activities outside the classroom that complement their design courses. I said to them, 'Any one of you could have won,'" she said. "They're all winners."

Nassau Community College offers an Associate in Applied Science degree in



Fashion Design Student Celin Cardoza works on his design.

*Photo is courtesy of "Newsday"*

fashion design. The comprehensive program includes draping, fashion art, computer design, pattern making and garment construction, using techniques and equipment employed in industry. Students develop the skills necessary to translate their original sketches into finished garments. Many NCC Fashion Design students have continued on to four-year schools and careers in the fashion industry, working at some of the top design

firms, including Anna Sui, Perry Ellis and Liz Claiborne.

The expertise and enthusiasm of the students at "Design Wars 2011" was infectious. It was also a model example of how Nassau Community College helps prepare its students for their professional lives after graduation.

## THERE'S NO DEBATE ABOUT IT—NCC'S SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM IS TOPS

### FIRST PLACE FOR 11 STRAIGHT YEARS AT REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



The 2011 Nassau Community College Debate team. The students are (l to r): Joe Curran, Jennifer Pappas, Ryan Mancini. Seated: Charlene Bell, George Morrish

Congratulations to the Nassau Community College Speech and Debate team for winning top community college honors at the Northeast Regional Championship Tournament held at St. Anselm's College in Manchester, New Hampshire in November. Team Coordinator Prof. Trent Webb reports that this is the 11<sup>th</sup> straight time that Nassau's team has come in first in this contest for the northeast region. The team ranked third overall among community colleges and universities. Team members also won many individual honors.

The Speech and Debate team and Prof. Webb are excited about representing the College at the Phi Rho Pi National Junior

College Championship Tournament in April in Chicago.

Nassau's Speech and Debate team is open to all students enrolled in six or more credits. Students are trained and coached in public speaking, oral interpretation and debate events. The team represents the College at tournaments coast to coast. Students compete in such events as poetry reading, duo/duet acting, persuasive speaking and debate. The Speech and Debate team competes against other colleges from across the nation, leading up to the national championship tournament held at the end of each school year. It meets every Tuesday and Thursday during club hour.



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# REGISTRATION & APPLICATION INFORMATION

WINTERIM 2011-2012 MINI-SEMESTER & SPRING 2012 SEMESTER DATES & DEADLINES

## WINTERIM 2011-2012

Mini-Semester Deadlines & Dates

### LAST DAY FOR IN-PERSON ADMISSION COMPLETION:

December 20, 2011\*  
\*May be subject to change

### SEMESTER DATES:

December 27, 2011 to January 13, 2012

## SPRING 2012

Semester Deadlines & Dates

### LAST DAY FOR IN-PERSON ADMISSION COMPLETION:

January 5, 2012

### SEMESTER DATES:

**Day, Evening and Distance Education Classes**  
January 23, 2012 to May 18, 2012

### Weekend Classes

January 27, 2012 to May 18, 2012



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