

The Official Newsletter of

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

nexus

YOUR  
COLLEGE  
CONNECTION

www.ncc.edu

Where Success Starts...and Continues

Fall/Winter 2009-2010

## DR. DONALD P. ASTRAB, 5<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT OF NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Astrab was the ideal candidate to lead the Nassau campus as it experiences record enrollment and interest from the local, state and international communities. I commend both the college Board and the SUNY trustees for this appointment.”

Dr. Astrab—who earned both a Ph.D. in synthetic organic chemistry and an MPH in environmental-occupational health management at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and a BA in chemistry and biology at SUNY Oswego—brings over 25 years of experience in higher education and industry to Nassau, both at

Dr. Astrab worked as a professor of Chemical Instrumentation, chair of the Palm Bay campus Science and Technology Department, and College-wide Dean of Technical Education. Among the many initiatives he undertook at BCC during these years were the transformation of the college’s curriculum design program through the use of the Worldwide Instructional Design System (WIDS); articulation agreements and dual enrollments between BCC and the Florida State University System and other Brevard public and private schools; and the establishment of an academic technology department to support teaching and learning by early implementation of technology, enabling the school to reach dramatically larger numbers of students while reducing costs and increasing productivity and profitability.

Before going to BCC, Dr. Astrab worked as a Water Quality Control Coordinator for the city and county of Honolulu, a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Hawaii, and laboratory manager at Aecos Environmental Services in Honolulu.

Dr. Astrab looks forward to sharing his vision for Nassau Community College and Long Island with the campus community as well as the community at large. “I look forward to working with everyone. Together we can build our community to foster justice, compassion and productivity with a vision for the future.”

**O**N NOVEMBER 20, DR. DONALD P. ASTRAB ASSUMED DUTIES AS THE FIFTH PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE. “I am extremely proud and honored in being selected to join this truly great institution,” said Dr. Astrab. “I will strive not only to carry on but to enhance its exemplary tradition and reputation.”

Mary Adams, Chair of the NCC Board of Trustees, is excited about working with Dr. Astrab. “Nassau Community College is fortunate to have as president someone with Dr. Astrab’s background,” she said. “His wealth of experience will enable us to continue on as one of the premiere community colleges in the nation, even in this increasingly challenged time.”

“Donald Astrab comes to us with two decades of experience in the community college sector as a teacher, administrator and leader,” said SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher. “After interviewing him for the position, it was evident that Donald

the community college and university levels. His focus has been on strategic planning, campus development, budget management, leadership development, distance learning and instructional technology. Most recently, he was Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Learning Officer at Brevard Community College (BCC) in Florida, an institution with four campuses and over 30,000 students. In this position, Dr. Astrab’s oversight responsibilities included all academic, technical, workforce and health sciences programs. He also initiated faculty professional development opportunities by establishing BCC as a regional Professional Development Center, created the Office of Student Diversity and Equity and helped design a unique academic structure that allows for a truly learner-centered, responsive organization built around student engagement, student empowerment and core values.

Prior to his position as Vice President,



Photography by William Baker



## NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR MARY A. ADAMS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary A. Adams, chair of the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees, was this year elected president of the New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT)

Board of Directors. The Albany, New York-based NYCCT is a voluntary nonprofit consortium of community college trustees established to strengthen the effectiveness of New York's community college trustees. It strives to be an active force in the development and implementation of public policy impacting community colleges. NYCCT represents the appointed board members who govern the 30 community colleges in the State University of New York (SUNY) system and the six community colleges in the City University of New York (CUNY) system. With nearly 300 members, the consortium focuses on the legal, fiduciary and governance responsibilities of being a trustee.

In addition to her duties as president of the NYCCT board, Adams was asked by SUNY President Nancy Zimpher to be part of a statewide 18-member Strategic Planning Steering Committee, which will play a pivotal role in shaping the development of SUNY's new strategic plan.

Appointed by former New York State Governor Mario Cuomo, Adams has served on the NCC Board of Trustees for 14 years. She was recently reappointed by Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi and the Nassau County Legislature. Prior to serving on the Board, Roosevelt resident Adams had a long and distinguished career in education. She taught mathematics and was an assistant principal in the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School district. Among Adams' many affiliations have been serving as the vice president and then president of the 100 Black Women of Long Island, and being a member of the National Association of University Women and the Roosevelt/Freeport branch of the NAACP.

## LET THEM EAT CUPCAKES

### Over 1,000 celebrate Nassau's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party



The over 1000 students, faculty and staff who attended Nassau Community College's 50th birthday party on October 27 were treated to a sea of blue and orange frosted cupcakes (the colors of the college), a cake baked and frosted to look like the tower building and lunch. Everyone—president Dr. Sean Fanelli, local legislators, faculty, staff and students—had a terrific time eating, listening to music played by a DJ, dancing and enjoying each other's company. Held in the College Center Building, the historic event was very successful, as was a similar event held for evening students. The parties were sponsored by the Student Government Association, the Programming Board, the Evening Activity Hour, the NCC Foundation and J&B Restaurants. Nassau Community College began in 1959 with a little over 600 students. Today, there are nearly 23,000 full- and part-time students and almost 15,000 continuing education and professional studies students. In terms of number of students, quality of staff and being a resource for the community, Nassau is currently one of the most successful community colleges in the country.

# NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPENS NEW NORTH ANNEX BUILDING



NCC's North Annex Building opened this semester.

The new NCC North Annex building opened this semester adjacent to the campus, near the Endo Boulevard entrance. According to Joseph Muscarella, Vice President of Administration and Planning, "This new facility provides desperately needed state-of-the-art classroom space within easy walking distance of the campus. The design of these rooms serves as a model for future improvements to NCC's many academic buildings so that we can better serve our students."

The North Annex is a two-story building of approximately 27,000 square-feet. It includes 13 classrooms, 11 offices, a computer lab and a student learning center/lounge. All of the classrooms have smart boards and natural lighting. The building interior is entirely new and handicapped accessible. There is ample parking around it. The North Annex is part of the college's continuing efforts to maintain and improve our campus.



Prof. Alfredo Mellace instructs a chemistry class in the North Annex Building.

# FACULTY/STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

**Rob Baranello, a tutor in the Writing Center,** was awarded first place by the Long Island Press Club (a chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists) in the Magazine Features/Lifestyle category for an article he wrote entitled “Chuck Close—The Pleasure is in the Process” in *Distinction* magazine.

**Dr. Robert Costello, Chair of Criminal Justice,** recently gave a presentation at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. He spoke about the Rockefeller Drug Laws, which were adopted in New York State in 1973 and gave New York the distinction of having the most punitive drug laws in America at the time. The laws ended in April 2009. The Institute of Criminology at the University of Cambridge, the first criminological institute in Europe, has exerted a strong influence on the development of the discipline. Prof. Costello also presented papers at the annual conference for the Justice Studies Association, Northeastern Association of Criminal Justice Sciences and Dowling College’s 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Symposium. Finally, his book review of *Delinquent Girl* will be published in the April 2010 edition of *Youth Violence & Juvenile Justice*.

**Prof. Richard Delbango, Library,** spent two months this summer working as the Ship Librarian for the State University of New York Maritime College’s training ship the *Empire State VI*. Over 700 people and Prof. Delbango sailed 12,000 miles around the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, traveling to the Azores, Gibraltar, Morocco, Iceland and Northern Ireland, crossing the Arctic Circle on the way. The trip was Prof. Delbango’s second stint as Ship Librarian.

**Prof. Susan Dooley, Chair of Art, and Susan Kravitz, Dean of Arts and Humanities,** were featured this fall in a show at fotofoto gallery of Huntington. Their paired series “Counterpoint” was comprised of photos taken during Dean Kravitz’s visit to Argentina and Prof. Dooley’s travels in China, Europe and the U.S.

**Dr. Mark Halfon, Chair of Philosophy,** was interviewed by Mark Schwab of WTAM, the radio station of the Cleveland Indians, about his book *Can a Dead Man Strike Out?*

**Prof. Jack Mandel, Marketing, Retailing and Fashion,** appeared on a *News 12 LI* segment on the back-to-school Long Island economy. Earlier this year, Prof. Mandel was asked to host the “Grace’s Marketplace ‘Flavor of Love’ Singles Night” in Greenvale. Over 150 people attended the event. He also wrote a column for the fall issue of *Aspire* magazine about developing your personal success contract. Finally, under the guise of Prof. J M Love, Prof. Mandel writes a monthly column for the *Queens Courier* as its roving singles editor.

**Dr. Julio Marzán, English,** was featured recently in *Columbia, The Magazine of Columbia University*, on account of his being the poet laureate of Queens. Dr. Marzán, who graduated from Fordham University, received his MFA from Columbia. A Queens resident for 38 years, Dr. Marzán has published two books of poems, a novel, numerous essays and a work of criticism. As poet laureate, he has done readings at venues throughout Queens.

**Dr. Kumkum Prabhakar, Biology,** attended a workshop on “Case Study Teaching in Science” at the National Center for Case Study Teaching in Science at the University of Buffalo. She also conducted an interactive workshop and presented “Teaching Botany in the Liberal Arts Curriculum” at Botany & Mycology 2009, an international conference of four professional societies in Snowbird, Utah.

**Dr. Anne Romano, Sociology,** was honored by the St. Mary’s Feast Society and the Rhode Island Italian American Historical Association in Cranston, Rhode Island. The event was a kick-off for an annual feast honoring La Madonna della Civita, the patron saint of the city of Itri in Italy. Dr. Romano’s book *Distant But Loyal: Cranston’s Italian Americans*, traced the immigration of most of Itri’s residents to Cranston.

**Dr. Rick Santos, English,** gave a lecture this fall at Yale University. His talk, “Conceição Evaristo and the Oral Tradition in Afro-Brazilian Literature,” was sponsored by Spanish and Portuguese departments. It also featured Afro-Brazilian writer Conceição Evaristo, whose work Dr. Santos translated into English.

**Prof. Rosanne Scarpelli, Marketing, Retailing and Fashion,** received the distinction of being named to the 2008 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for her extraordinary and exemplary community service contributions. Prof. Scarpelli and her interior design students renovated Mommas House, which provides deserving young mothers aged 17 to 21 and their children with a nurturing home for up to two years.

**Prof. Patti Tana, English,** was selected by the Walt Whitman Birthplace Association as its 2009 Long Island Poet of the Year. Prof. Tana is author of several books of poetry and editor of others.

**Reginald Tuggle, Associate Vice President for Marketing and Communications,** was honored for lifetime service by ProjectGRAD Long Island at the Achieving Dreams Seminar.

**Dr. Joseph Varacalli, Sociology and director of the Center for Catholic Studies,** was featured in two articles in *The Long Island Catholic*. One was on the upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Center and quoted **then NCC President Dr. Sean Fanelli; Dr. James Polo, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Dr. Phil Nicholson and Marynita Anderson, both of History.** The other article covered the Center for Catholic Studies’ “Youth and the Future of the Pro-Life Movement.”

**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](mailto:marketing-communications@ncc.edu).

## NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES PERKINS GRANT OF OVER \$500,000

Nassau Community College has been awarded a \$525,359 Perkins grant. The grant serves career and technical education students, as well as two local Workforce Investment Boards in Nassau County. The NCC Foundation and Finance Departments will be responsible for the fiscal management of this project.

Perkins grants are awarded to develop more fully the academic, vocational and technical skills of secondary and post-secondary students who elect to enroll in vocational technical education by, for example, building on the efforts of states and localities to develop challenging academic standards; promoting the development of services and activities that integrate academic, vocational and technical education; and increasing state and local flexibility in providing services and activities designed to develop, implement and improve vocational and technical education.

The Perkins Project at Nassau Community College is directed by the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research.



# NASSAU EXCELS

## MORE STUDENTS TAKING HONORS CLASSES AT NCC



Prof. Dale Stanley (center) teaches an honors general biology class about mammalian anatomy.

Nassau Community College has one of the largest honors programs in the SUNY system. Its continued growth over the course of its 28 years in existence has made it a top choice of high school graduates. In fact, this fall more students are taking honors courses at the college than ever before, according to Carol Farber, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, founder of the program. Approximately 400 students are enrolled in honors classes this semester. “Academically successful students realize Nassau’s Honors Program offers them a solid liberal arts foundation and then seamless transfer to almost any four-year school. The enriched curriculum enables students to excel in all areas of study,” she said.

Students are invited to participate in the program if they have completed three years of regents English, regents mathematics, sciences and social studies with an average of at least 87 in each subject. Current NCC students who have achieved a GPA of 3.4 or better are also

invited to take honors classes.

Honors courses are enriched versions of the regular sections of the same subject. They have one or more of the following supplemental components: different textbooks and outside readings, different assignments and projects, more in-depth discussions and a demand for more abstract thinking.

Not every course taken by students in the honors program is an honors course. Students may elect to take certain subjects only out of the 50 or more honors sections offered each semester during the day and evening. All honors courses fulfill the requirements for any associate degree offered.

Honors students have several perks, including priority registration, personal advisement and special scholarships. An “honors” designation next to each course appears on students’ transcript.

Articulation agreements with most four-year institutions—including such local schools as Hofstra, C.W. Post, Adelphi and Dowling—facilitates the

transfer process. In addition, the Honors Office offers transfer advisement and letters of recommendation.

Students have opportunities to put their learning into practice through the Honors Club. The club sponsors trips and speakers, as well as outreach programs to local elementary, junior high and high schools and the community at large. Some examples are the Adopt-A-Class program, where a class is brought to campus to participate in art, science and theatre activities; the Selected Scholars Programs, in which high school juniors and seniors are

invited to attend academic presentations by NCC faculty; the Arts and Science Fair, where competitions are held in science, art, music and theatre for 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students; and special programs, such as the Honors Colloquium, where chosen students present papers; and publication of art work, poems, plays and research papers in the Honors journal, *VERITAS*. Students also conduct charitable fund raising activities.

High school students who meet the criteria have the opportunity to take Honors courses through the Honors Connections Program and get a jump-start on their college education. Overall, the Honors Program at Nassau has proven to be successful for three decades, serving the Long Island community.

*by Carol Farber, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs*

# NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

One Education Drive  
Garden City, NY 11530-6793  
www.ncc.edu  
A unit of the State  
University of New York

<b>President</b>	Dr. Donald P. Astrab
<b>Publisher</b>	Reginald Tuggle
<b>Editor</b>	Alicia Steger
<b>Writer</b>	Gail Mattimore
<b>Layout/Design</b>	Mary-Jeannette Floratos
<b>Support Staff</b>	Kathleen Johnson
<b>Principal Photography</b>	William Baker
<b>Production</b>	Thomas Conigliaro

**This newsletter is published by:**  
The Office of Marketing & Communications  
**TEL:** 516.572.9634  
**FAX:** 516.572.7497  
**E-mail:** marketing-communications@ncc.edu

Non-Profit Org.  
Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Garden City, N.Y.  
Permit No. 71

## REGISTRATION & APPLICATION INFORMATION

### WINTERIM 2009-2010 MINI-SEMESTER DEADLINES & DATES



### WINTERIM 2009-2010 MINI-SEMESTER

#### CLASSES MEET

December 28, 2009 to January 15, 2010

#### LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION

December 15, 2009

#### LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR WINTERIM FOR ALL STUDENTS

December 24, 2009

[WWW.NCC.EDU/WINTERIM](http://WWW.NCC.EDU/WINTERIM)

### SPRING 2010 SEMESTER DEADLINES & DATES



### SPRING 2010 SEMESTER

#### DAY CLASSES MEET

January 25, 2010 to May 23, 2010

#### EVENING CLASSES MEET

January 28, 2010 to May 23, 2010

#### WEEKEND CLASSES MEET

January 29, 2010 to May 23, 2010

#### LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR NEW STUDENTS

January 5, 2010

#### LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR ALL STUDENTS

January 15, 2010

[WWW.NCC.EDU/REGISTRATION](http://WWW.NCC.EDU/REGISTRATION)