

NEXUS

Nassau Community College . . . The Right Start

Early Childhood Education at NCC A Career for the Future

By Professor Renee Kaplan

As far back as 1968, when Head Start, Day Care, and Pre-K settings were being instituted, Nassau Community College introduced an Early Childhood Program.

Today, contemporary influences have created an even greater focus on early childhood. More and more children are being cared for outside of the home in the years prior to public school attendance. Consequently, a pressing need has developed for many more qualified caregivers. As we move toward the turn of the century, we as a society must stop and ask ourselves, "Who will care for the children?" We must be sure that our children are being nurtured and educated.

We know that there is a great deal of evidence to convince us that the early years of a child's life set the stage for later years and are quite critical. We also know a great deal about child development and the ways that children learn best. It is within this framework that people who care for children must place their focus, so that our children will be equipped to deal with the adult world they will find. We must focus on the cognitive, physical, emotional, and social development of children in an attempt to enhance their creativity, critical thinking abilities, and problem solving techniques. These are all interrelated and important.

Our program at Nassau Community College is dedicated to the preparation of individuals who are able to enhance their knowledge base, expand their views, and develop their skills to meet the ever-increasing challenge of a diverse and changing society. The program is a field-based, hands-on training program which involves placement in centers with children from birth to five years of age. The field sites provide opportunities to observe and model the performance of a skilled teacher. Our students are able to explore new ideas in the field site. They interact with the children, prepare developmentally appropriate activities, engage in dialogue with the cooperating teacher, and are evaluated periodically by the college supervisor. They have opportunities to observe and assess students and to create a "plan of action" to help particular students. Our students become skilled in creating learning experiences and in evaluating their own performances. They are encouraged to attend in-service courses and conferences by the Nassau County Association for the Education of Young Children. The program is intense,



A student intern in the Early Childhood Education Program works with three year olds in The Children's Greenhouse located on the NCC Campus. (l to r) Sean Ouellette, Malvia Jacobs (student intern), Juliana Leach, and Alexandria Sanders

broad based, and hands-on. Our curriculum embodies a knowledge of child development, developmentally appropriate activities, the history and philosophy of education, a grasp of professional standards and ethics, in addition to a broad background of liberal arts courses.

While our program is generally thought of as a career-oriented program, the majority of our students transfer to a four-year college and go on to become certified teachers. Many have gone on to achieve their Doctorates. In general, our students have met with real success. They often return to visit and tell us that the early childhood program and their teachers had the greatest impact on their lives.

Our goal is to provide potential educators with the knowledge and resources necessary to inspire and motivate our children, who are our hope for a better society. A career in early childhood is never boring, always challenging and satisfying, and very beneficial to our young children and their families! Enthusiasm runs high! Children are indeed a priority!

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND C.W. POST SIGN ADMISSIONS AGREEMENT

Nassau Community College and the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University signed a Joint Admissions Agreement on Thursday, December 10, 1998 to provide an opportunity for students who are admitted to NCC to also be granted admission to the C.W. Post Campus in Brookville.

Under the new agreement, eligible students must hold an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree from Nassau Community College to continue their education at C.W. Post. Students admitted to the Joint Admissions Program will be considered as being dually enrolled at both institutions and will have junior year status upon registering at C.W. Post. They will also receive a C.W. Post student I.D. card allowing them to use the C.W. Post library, computer laboratories, and athletic facilities.

"We are extremely pleased to have established this Joint Admissions Agreement with C.W. Post," said Dr. Sean A. Fanelli, President of Nassau Community College. "Both institutions will benefit from it, but more importantly and to an even greater extent, it will be a benefit to our students."

Transfer students can choose from more than 85 bachelor's degree programs at C.W. Post and will be guaranteed on-campus housing upon transfer. While studying at NCC for the associate's Degree, students who participate in the program will be invited to on-campus events and activities at C.W. Post and can meet with an academic counselor who will offer periodic information about their intended academic area of study. Scholarship assistance is automatically available to students transferring with a 3.0 or better grade point average. Special scholarships for students with a 3.5 grade point average or higher are also available.

"Through our new Joint Admissions Agreement, associate's degree graduates of Nassau Community College are able to maintain the momentum of their education as they continue on to the bachelor's degree level," said C.W. Post Provost Joe Shenker. "We've developed a seamless process that employs all the advantages of earning an associate's degree and a bachelor's degree from two of Long Island's most notable schools."

Currently Nassau Community College has similar articulation agreements with other institutions such as Adelphi University. Students can also transfer to any institution in the State University System without loss of credits earned at NCC. The College is always interested in welcoming other such public/private partnerships with other universities.

Guest Professor For A Day: Mitchell Modell



The President of Modell's Sporting Goods (left) is shown receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from Prof. Jack Mandel (Marketing) who coordinates the Guest Professor Program for his department. Over 150 students attended this special lecture. Modell's is the largest family-owned business in the sporting goods industry. Mr. Modell remarked that NCC students impressed him with their maturity and savvy questions.

NCC Students Receive State Excellence Awards for Research in Communications



Accepting their awards at the New York State Communication Convention in Monticello, New York are (l-r) Barbara Heslin, Allison Collura, Dr. Joseph Coppolino, Dory Anne Kehrer, and Theresa Riccobono.

Four students from Nassau Community College each received an Excellence Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Student Research from the New York State Communication Association (NYSCA). The students, Allison Collura, Barbara Heslin, Dory Anne Kehrer and Theresa Riccobono, presented their research papers earlier that day at NYSCA's 56th Annual Convention, Monticello, New York.

The research, done under the direction of Dr. Joseph Coppolino, Associate Professor of Communications, was originally part of the requirements for the Nonverbal Communications course offered by the Nassau Community College Communications Department. "I'm really very proud of them," Dr. Coppolino said. "They worked very hard and we were the only community college presenting papers at the conference. They earned the respect of some distinguished and nationally known communication professors who attended their panel."

The Nassau College/Community Orchestra Celebrates Its Fiftieth Concert



Dr. Richard Brooks (standing), Chairperson of the NCC Music Department, conducts the College/Community Orchestra in a rehearsal of *J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 4*

On Tuesday, May 4, The Nassau College/Community Orchestra will perform its Fiftieth College/Community Concert. After an outstanding performance of Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony* last December, the players are looking forward to performing the *Third Brandenburg Concerto* by J.S. Bach, Mozart's *Impressario Overture* and Mendelssohn's *Italian Symphony*. The orchestra is conducted by Dr. Richard Brooks, Chairperson of the NCC Music Department, and is one of several ensembles open to participation by students, community players, and high school juniors and seniors.

In addition to the orchestra, the Concert Chorus, Chamber Choir, and Jazz Ensemble are also open to participation by students and community players. These programs are successful due to the large participation and interest of community members and students. The Concert Band rehearses on Monday nights, and a big band jazz ensemble is available on Thursday evenings. In addition, a jazz combo class and a jazz improvisation class are offered on

Tuesdays and Thursdays in the early evening hours.

The orchestra performance is part of a series consisting of recitals by music students, concerts by all of the ensembles, and special events involving invited guest artists. In the past, such notable artists as Marian McPartland, the Count Basie Orchestra, Western Wind, Partita, Continuum, the Gregg Smith Singers, and many others have been presented. Later this spring the American Brass Quintet will perform here at NCC. Often the guest artists, in addition to playing concerts, conduct master classes with students in the program. These activities provide educational enrichment for the music students as well as contribute to the cultural life of the College.

The primary objectives of the NCC Music Department are to provide: a degree program for music majors, a certificate program in studio recording technology, and a variety of humanities electives for non-music majors. Electives include music appreciation, jazz appreciation, history of rock music, opera, twentieth century music, folk music, and

the symphony. The general student population of NCC can also take rudiments of music theory, song writing, and performance classes in beginning and intermediate piano, beginning and intermediate guitar, and beginning voice.

The College is extremely proud of the achievement of its music major alumni in such diverse areas as performance, music scholarship, and music education. A recent survey found nearly 100 music educators in Nassau County alone who started their education at Nassau.

The Music Department is expanding its computer learning labs and computer-aided instruction capabilities in an effort to provide even better experiences for the students. Twelve full-time and approximately 25 part-time faculty are all active as performers, composers, and music scholars. The opportunity to work with such an outstanding faculty provides an enormously valuable experience for the student musicians. The Department has been an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Music since 1978. The Music Department continues to grow and thrive at NCC.

FACULTY/STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Lieutenant Mary Bagnasco, Public Safety, was awarded the Top Public Safety Officer of the Year Award by the East Meadow Civic & Community Service Association. This award is in recognition of her dedication to duty and outstanding service to the East Meadow community.

Prof. Meredith Baker, Music, conducted Vivaldi's *Magnificat* and *Gloria* with solo excerpts from Bach's *Magnificat* and *B Minor Mass*, with full orchestra conducted from the harpsichord at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City, NY.

Dr. Richard Brooks, Music, recently performed his *Trio for Violin, Cello, and Piano* at the Society of Composers Region I Conference at SUNY Stony Brook. Dr. Brooks also recently performed *Divertimento* for brass quintet at the Society of Composers Region IV Conference at Valdosta State University in Georgia.

Douglas S. Cody, CSP, Chemistry, was named the 1998 Safety Professional of the Year by the Long Island Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers. Mr. Cody currently serves the Long Island Chapter as the Vice President and Publisher of the Chapter Newsletter.

Evelyn Comer, Special Projects Coordinator, College Relations, served on the 12th Annual Corporate Luncheon Committee for the Girl Scouts of Nassau County. This event raised funds to maintain and expand quality Girl Scout programs for more than 19,000 girls in Nassau County.

Prof. Art Friedman, Associate Dean, College of the Air, has been appointed as a Trustee of the Long Island Library Resources Council (LILRC) for 1999. LILRC is the regional library system which serves over 190 academic, hospital, school, public, and special libraries in the bi-county area.

Prof. Betsy Gulotta, Biology, received the 1998 Arts and Environment Award, presented by the Long Island Arts Council at their 25th Anniversary for her environmental efforts in open space preservation of Cow Meadow and Brookside Preserves in Freeport.

Dr. Hadassah Guttmann, Music, was the accompanist at the *Sidor Belarsky Centennial Concert* in New York City. The concert, televised on cable TV, celebrated the life and song of the Master-Singer Sidor Belarsky, who was the troubadour of Israel's rebirth.

Dr. Bernard Katz, Psychology, hosts a weekly television show called *MetroPsych* on the Metro Learning Center network on Tuesdays at 9 p.m. on Channel 18. Dr. Katz interviews guest experts and answers calls and faxes from viewers.

Profs. Marie Kratochvil and Louis Buda, Economics/Finance, were selected by the NYS Council on Economic Education to conduct a three-day workshop for secondary school teachers at NCC. The theme was *Personal Financial Literacy for Secondary School Teachers*.

Prof. Myrna Nachman, Music, recently performed Arnold Schoenberg's *Friede auf Erden* with the Canticum Novum Singers as part of the Festival/Symposium, *Arnold Schoenberg: Conservative Radical*, at Merkin Hall, New York City.

Dr. Natika Newton, Philosophy, presented a lecture at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, featuring selected issues from her recent book *Foundations of Understanding*. Dr. Newton also published an article, *Three Paradoxes of Phenomenal Consciousness*, with Dr. Ralph Ellis in the Fall 1998 issue of the *Journal of Consciousness Studies*.

Dr. Tom O'Brien, Biology, presented at the National Biology Teachers' Association Annual National Conference in Reno, Nevada. Dr. O'Brien is the organization's New York State representative.

Dr. Kumkum Prabhakar, Biology, participated in organizing the *Community Environmental Health Conference on Breast Cancer on Long Island* in affiliation with SUNY Old Westbury and the 1 in 9 L.I. Breast Cancer Coalition.

Prof. Richard Randall, Accounting & Business Administration, conducted a seminar entitled *Entrepreneurship-The Concept of Starting a Successful Product or Service Enterprise* at Lindenhurst Memorial Library. The program emphasized the need for a marketable business plan and how to develop one.

Alicia Steger, Assistant Director, College Relations, will be a panelist for the 1999 Annual Society of Professional Journalists' Conference at Hofstra University, *101 Things To Do With A Journalism Degree*. College students from schools throughout the northeast are expected to attend this event in March.

Dr. Joseph A. Varacalli, Sociology, served as Editor-In-Chief of Volume II of *The Catholic Social Science Review*. He also organized and contributed to a symposium in Volume III entitled *Catholicism and the Practice of Sociology and the Social Sciences*, which included articles by Dr. James R. Kelly of Fordham University and Rev. Michael Baxter, Ph.D. of the University of Notre Dame.

Prof. William Zito, Music, was guitarist for a concert, *Music in the Court of Spain*, with the musical ensemble *Poetica Musica* held at Old Westbury Gardens, New York.

Note: All members of the College community are invited to send articles pertaining to their professional and community activities to Nexus for inclusion on a space availability basis. For more information call Alicia Steger, Editor, or Patricia Davis, College Relations Office at 572-9634 or 572-7249.

NCC to Host International Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches March 6 —9

Nassau Community College, in cooperation with Yad Vashem and the Philadelphia Center on the Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights, invites the public to attend The 29th Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches on March 6-9, 1999. This year's Conference theme will be *The Burdens of History: Post Holocaust Generations in Dialogue*.

The 1999 Annual Scholars' Conference will mark the first time the event is held at a community college, bringing the leading Holocaust and genocide scholars of the world to the Long Island community. The Conference will draw participants from around the world, including the Middle East and Europe, along with strong representation from the Long Island, New York City, and greater Metropolitan areas.

The Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches, an international, interfaith, and interdisciplinary conference, examines issues raised by the Holocaust and the response of the churches – before, during, and after the tragedy. Held every year since 1970 at university centers in different locations in the United States and

Europe, The Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches was the first international event of its kind to be established in North America.

Founded by two professors – Holocaust scholars – who were also Protestant clergymen, Franklin H. Littell and Hubert G. Locke, the Conference has become an academic tradition for scholars, members of the clergy, community leaders, and students seeking a nuanced and multi-faceted understanding of the Holocaust, including how and why major institutions – universities, professions, the church, the courts – contributed to the genocide perpetrated by the Nazis.

Nassau Community College invites the public to attend The 29th Annual Scholars' Conference. The public may attend the full Conference or selected days. For information about Conference registration and fees, please call MIM Associates at 1(800) 457-9925 or visit our Conference website: www.sunynassau.edu/holocaustconf99.

Nassau Community College will also feature special Weekend Evening Seminars

March 6-7, featuring Yaffa Eliach on March 7, *Holocaust Education in the 21st Century*, and Gottfried Wagner on March 6, *Beyond Richard Wagner and Hitler: Confrontations with the German Past and the Family Present*. Yaffa Eliach is a National Book Award Finalist for *There Once Was A World* and creator of *The Tower of Life* in The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Gottfried Wagner is the great-grandson of composer Richard Wagner and is an award winning filmmaker and author of *Twilight of the Wagners*. The Saturday night Gottfried Wagner Seminar will be held in the Nassau Community College Gymnasium at 8:30 p.m. The Yaffa Eliach Seminar will be on Sunday, 8:30 p.m., at the Uniondale Marriott.

Tickets for the Weekend Evening Seminars are \$18 (for both nights). Checks should be made payable to the Nassau Community College Foundation no later than February 25, 1999. For reservations and more information about the Weekend Evening Seminars, call the Office of College Relations at Nassau Community College (516) 572-7250.

National Traveling Exhibit Anne Frank: A History for Today Premiers on Long Island Nassau Community College—March 3-10

Anne Frank: *A History for Today* will make its Long Island debut on the Nassau Community College Campus March 3-10. (Please note: exhibit is closed Saturday, March 6.) This internationally acclaimed educational exhibit by the *Anne Frank Center USA* is designed to inform the viewer about the history of the Holocaust from the perspective of Anne Frank and her family. Special attention is paid to dangerous attitudes and ideologies that can lead to acts of discrimination and persecution. The exhibit challenges the viewer to consider fundamental social values.

This traveling exhibit illustrates the continuing relevance of Anne Frank's story and the important lessons it can teach us today. The exhibit reminds us that the discrimination and racism that brought an end to her life did not disappear when World War II ended. Learning about her life story challenges the viewer to think about tolerance, mutual respect, human rights, and democracy.

This presentation is part of the ongoing programs of the International 1999 Conference of the Holocaust and the Churches hosted by Nassau Community College. The program will take place at the NCC College Center. Admission is free and the public is invited. Guided group tours are available. The hours of the exhibit are: Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information about the exhibit call (516) 572-9634.



NCC Campus Calendar

Nassau Community College Cultural Program Announces

The New '99 Spring Cultural Program

The Nassau Community College Cultural Program has something for everyone, from a lecture by former weapons inspector Scott Ritter to Omar Wasow, Cyber Correspondent for MSNBC/NBC TV. Admission is free and the public is invited. All programs will take place in the NCC College Center.

Wanted: X-Cheerleaders - Wednesday, March 24, 2:00 p.m.

Former cheerleaders, ages 25-50, use the cheering format to comment upon contemporary gender issues.

Charles Darwin: Live and In Concert - Richard Milner - Monday, April 12, 2:00 p.m. A song, story and slide presentation of the life and times of Charles Darwin, performed by the senior editor of *Natural History* at the American Museum of Natural History.

Scott Ritter - The Truth Behind Weapons Inspections in Iraq - Monday, April 19, 12:30 p.m. Former weapons inspector for the United Nations Special Commission in Iraq, Scott Ritter resigned in frustration over the world response to Saddam Hussein. He has been labeled a hero by some, a maverick by others, and a spy by the Iraqi government.

Omar Wasow, Cyber Correspondent for MSNBC/NBC TV - Thursday, April 22, 2:00 p.m. The 'seer of cyberspace', Omar Wasow is the technology correspondent for MSNBC and our local NBC affiliate, Channel 4.

The 28th Nassau Community College Folk Festival - March 16, 17, 18 Daytime and evening concerts featuring multicultural performers from all over the world and the United States. (*Times to be announced*)

Admission is free and the public is invited. For more information about the NCC Cultural Program, call Phyllis Kurland (516) 572-7153.

NCC THEATRE & DANCE DEPARTMENT
presents

An Evening of One-Acts
March 11-14 and March 17-21
TWO TALES OF ABUSE

BIRDBATH

By Leonard Melfi

HOME FREE!

By Lanford Wilson

Tickets: Wed/Thurs: \$6 (\$4 Sr/NCC ID)
Fri/Sun: \$7 (\$5 Sr/NCC ID)
Saturday: \$7 (no discounts)
Performances at 8 p.m.,
Except Sundays at 3 p.m

NCC Spring Musical
Damn Yankees

April 29-May 2 and May 5-9

Tickets: Wed/Thurs: \$8 (\$6 Sr/NCC ID)
Fri/Sun: \$10 (\$8 Sr/NCC ID)
Saturday: \$10 (no discounts)
Performances at 8 p.m.,
Except Sundays at 3 p.m.

For additional information call NCC Theatre Box Office: (516)572-7676

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