

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NEXUS

Your College Connection

IT ALL STARTS AT ORIENTATION

New Student Orientation Gives Nassau Students a Head Start on College Life

New Student Orientation at NCC covers a lot of ground, literally and figuratively. Literally, one important part of orientation is familiarizing incoming students with Nassau's campus—all 48 buildings and 225 acres of it. Students participate in a walking tour of campus led by New Student Orientation leaders (about 50, who go through an extensive two-day training period ahead of time) who also are called upon during the year to give tours to prospective students and parents. During the tour, students are shown classroom buildings and other significant campus facilities.

Figuratively, New Student Orientation at Nassau is a "how to" guide about being a successful NCC student. Staff members from many walks of College life, including Career and Educational Counseling, Student Activities, Health Services and Public Safety, tell students about their services.

Parents of incoming students are invited to an "orientation" session with an NCC counselor and the College president in late August. They also receive a "Parents Guide" with helpful tips about the needs and changing lives of young adult college students.

New Student Orientation is organized by the Student Personnel Services Department's Office of Student Activities. "New Student Orientation is a wonderful way to begin your college career. All NCC students should take advantage of it," said Prof. Phyllis Kurland, Coordinator of Student Activities. "Friendships are developed, even among student leaders." Prof. Richard Conway of Student Activities agrees. "Orientation introduces students to the promise and possibilities of College. It also helps students become acquainted with the campus, especially with those resources that will be of importance to them in their first year and beyond," he remarked. Student Activities faculty estimate that tens of thousands of students have participated in orientation over the years.

Orientation takes place over the entire summer, in small groups of



New Student Orientation student leaders.

"I remember my own experience before I came to the College. It was kind of scary, starting at a new school . . . Orientation makes the transition much better."

Luis Miguel Abreu, Student Leader

Student orientation leaders who participate in New Student Orientation enjoy the experience and would definitely recommend it to other students. "I remember my own experience before I came to the College," said Luis Miguel Abreu, a second year student. "It was kind of scary, starting at a new

All incoming students receive a letter inviting them to one of these sessions. During orientation, they are given snacks and a student welcome bag. Students who take part in New Student Orientation meet their fellow classmates, smoothing their transition into College life. Many of these students ultimately become lifelong friends.

continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

New Nassau Community College Website Wins Gold Award – Page 3

Nassau Community College 2011 Graduation – Page 4

The Arts at Nassau Community College – Page 7



NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A PLACE THAT WILL,
MORE THAN LIKELY,
EXCEED YOUR
EXPECTATIONS

by Leah Winfield, NCC Class of 2011

Nassau Community College has been giving the young and the old opportunities for over 50 years. Yet the common misconception of the College being “13th Grade” is embedded in the opinions of most of the youth in Nassau County and on Long Island, period. I personally find that belief ignorant. From my own experience, I know this not to be the truth and I always to advocate the contrary.

I find it bothersome when I hear people talk badly about Nassau, as if only those of low intelligence and standards attend this institution. I feel that I show that is not the case. I graduated from high school in 2009—an entire year early—and was accepted to Rutgers University, yet I opted for Nassau. Why? Well, when I tell most people why they’re baffled, but for me, it was never a hard decision to make.

I always found Nassau to be the best place to get started, especially when you’re not exactly sure what you want to do with your life. Getting a liberal arts degree from Nassau allowed me the opportunity to explore all the fields that interested me and gave me a better understanding of what I want to do as a future career. I will never cease recommending Nassau to people looking to continue their education beyond high school. It really opens doors for you.

In the fall of 2009, my first semester at Nassau, I joined the student newspaper *Vignette* with an aspiration to pursue a career in journalism. I became the copy editor not too long after and, for the 2010-2011 school year, took on the title of managing editor. It is my personal belief that the individual makes the best out of every situation

“All in all, I met wonderful people at NCC, learned from amazing professors and formed friendships that will hopefully last a lifetime.”

to them, because they are prime examples of the products that NCC polishes and sends on to the rest of their lives (both of them are doing very well). My parents summarized their experience at NCC many times to me by saying that “it had to have been the best thing to ever happen to [them].” Truthfully, now I think I can say the same for myself.

they experience and that is certainly what I feel I did. If it had not been for my involvement in extracurricular activities at Nassau, for example, I would never have had the full college experience. All in all, I met wonderful people at NCC, learned from amazing professors and formed friendships that will hopefully last a lifetime. Nassau Community College acclimated me to the college environment and, most importantly, it made me a well-rounded person.

Both my parents attended Nassau Community College when they were in their mid-thirties. I attribute my bright outlook about Nassau

Leah Winfield, who graduated on the Dean’s List and as a member of the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society, will be attending Stony Brook University in the fall as a journalism major. A former student orientation leader, Leah was also a winner of the Who’s Who and Student Activities awards. She is the third generation of her family to attend Nassau Community College.

continued from page 1

New Student Orientation Essential for Incoming Students

school. I didn't know what to expect. Orientation makes the transition much better." Returning student Kathy Lee, 38, remembers the same feelings about returning to school as a mature student. She also said, "I absolutely love NCC, and enjoy relating to young college students. I want to give back, especially to fellow mature students."

In addition to New Student Orientation, the Office of Student Activities hosts a Welcome Back party for students during the first club hour of every semester and a Student Activities Fair, during which many of the major student clubs provide information about their groups.

For more information about New Student Orientation, call 516.572.7148 or visit www.ncc.edu/orientation.



GUL BERKTAS ELECTED STUDENT TRUSTEE



Gul Berktaş believes in getting involved. In high school, the Wantagh resident joined the amnesty club and the recycling club and was a photographer for the yearbook. She also volunteered for the Wantagh/Levittown Volunteer Ambulance Corp and is currently in Emergency Medical Training school in order to obtain her EMT certification. Once she came to the College this past fall, Berktaş started an amnesty club and was elected freshman senator in the Student Government Association. The 19-year-old has been fully involved in her courses as well. Earning a 3.98 grade point average during her first year at Nassau, Berktaş is the current president of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Now elected as the student trustee for the 2011-2012 academic year, Berktaş plans to get even more involved in the day-to-day running of NCC. "I look forward to working with President Astrab and the other trustees. I hope to be a voice advocating for my fellow students," she said. After attending one board meeting with her predecessor, Berktaş believes more than ever that the student trustee is in a position to influence many of the things that affect students' lives at the College. "One of the things I would like to do is extend services for students; to make it even easier for them to take advantage of things like using the library or going to a lab," she said. Berktaş also expressed her hopes to further open up the lines of communication between the Board of Trustees, the College administration, the faculty and the students so that students fully understand the many extra-curricular activities that are available to them at NCC. She encourages all students to get involved in student life, both for their benefit and for the College as a whole. Berktaş' experience at Nassau has certainly opened up a new world for her. "I have made friends here that I plan on keeping in touch with for the rest of my life," she stated.

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S NEW WEBSITE WINS GOLD AWARD

Nassau Community College is proud to announce that its new website, ncc.edu, is the winner of a gold award for interactive media from the American Advertising Federation (AAF). The ADDYs® are the advertising industry's largest and most representative competition, attracting over 60,000 entries every year.

Nassau's award was for Website, Consumer HTML, Services. Selection of ADDY® award winners in each category involved a panel of judges who evaluated the creative dimensions of every entry. A gold award is recognition of the highest level of creative excellence.

The ADDYs® are awarded by a three-tiered national competition. Across the country, entrants vie for recognition as the best in their markets. These winners then compete against other winners in district competitions. District winners are then forwarded to the third tier, the national ADDY® awards competition.

The College developed its website in partnership with Stamats Inc., a national marketing and communications company that provides strategic and creative services for higher education.





Dr. Donald P. Astrab, President, Nassau Community College

NCC'S CLASS OF 2011 NUMBERS NEARLY 2,900

Nearly 9,000 family and friends gathered at Nassau Coliseum on May 18 to celebrate the graduation of almost 2,900 Nassau Community College graduate candidates in the Class of 2011. The rain could not dampen the spirits of all who attended the ceremony.

President Astrab was the keynote speaker at the commencement. He shared the five guiding principles that drive his vision for the College: Be your own person and set your own sights; Choose challenge over comfort; Seek opportunities—you're not working hard enough; Remember who helped you along the way and remember to give back; Have a dream. Dr. Astrab noted that dreams are your personal goals that you want to achieve; a bridge between "what is" and "what can be." He challenged the graduate candidates to find their own guiding principles and to dream big. We all can go farther than we think we can go and are told we can go, remarked Dr. Astrab.

Nassau Community College's 2011 valedictorian, Alex Kamath, also encouraged his fellow students to dream big during his speech. He noted that their education at Nassau provided an avenue for them to exchange their ideas and views with one another and to develop in all areas of their lives. Echoing Dr. Astrab, Alex said, "The future is ours for the taking—let's make the most of it."

Lorenzo Simpson, the Class of 2011's Student Government President, spoke about the importance of family and accepting assistance when it's provided. He said that families can take many forms—even that family that is Nassau Community College.

Dr. Astrab spoke for all of Nassau's faculty, administration and staff when he used these words about the future of the College in his commencement address: "We must be a College whose students are motivated not only by our high expectations for them, but also by our strong nurturing of them. We must create a climate on this campus that embraces diversity and champions the development of the individual."

ALEX KAMATH, VALEDICTORIAN NCC CLASS OF 2011

Alex Kamath has never been an underachiever. The Massapequa resident graduated from Chaminade High School in 2009 second in his class with an average of 99. He was editor in chief of the student newspaper, captain of the speech and debate team and a member of the math club, the Spanish club and the chess club, among others. He was winner of the president's award for educational excellence and a semifinalist in the Intel Science Talent Search Scholarship and the National Merit Scholarship. So when Kamath arrived at NCC in 2010, he arrived armed with several scholarships and a preconceived notion of Nassau Community College.

"I was very pleasantly surprised. My experience at NCC has been very positive," said Kamath, 20. "The professors here are wonderful. My courses were challenging and both students and professors are passionate about what they do." In fact, Kamath changed the course of his professional life at Nassau. Prior to attending the College, he thought he would pursue a career in science. After his time at NCC, however, Kamath has shifted his efforts into international law and business. Kamath is a member of the Honors club and the Phi Theta Kappa honors organization. He was also president of the entrepreneurs club and a staff writer on the *Vignette*, NCC's student newspaper. During his valedictory speech at graduation, Kamath spoke about the amazing opportunities available to all Nassau students, both inside and outside the classroom. He noted how he and his fellow students were able to listen to diverse points of view on many topics. Kamath challenged his fellow graduates to make the most of the future that is theirs for the taking. In his spare time, Kamath likes to participate in physical activities. He especially enjoys running and the martial art Tae Kwon Do. After interning at a law firm this summer, Kamath plans to attend NYU and major in political science. He hopes one day to start his own company and do business with such emerging economies as China, India and Brazil.



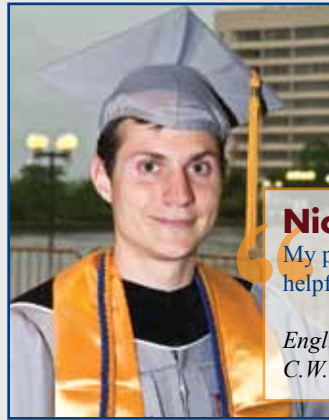
2011 GRADUATE HIGHLIGHTS



Loretta Quinn

Going to Nassau Community College was a wonderful experience for me. I made many new friends.

Loretta, who was active in Nassau's Theatre and Dance program, plans to go to Stony Brook in the fall.



Nicholas Siciliano

My professors couldn't have been more helpful. Nassau is a wonderful school.

Nicholas, who is interested in English and writing, will continue on to C.W. Post next year.



Ingrid Jasmine

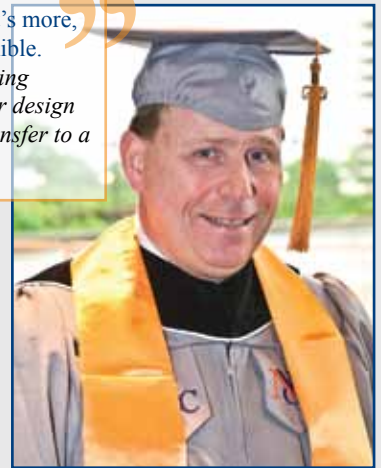
NCC has a great learning environment. I felt free to explore any course that interested me.

In the fall, Ingrid will be attending York College to study nursing.

Jim Capone

I went to Nassau because it offered a quality education at an affordable price. What's more, my classes were incredible.

Jim, a returning student, was an interior design major. He hopes to transfer to a four-year school.



Lisa Marie Pryor

I returned to school because I love learning. I found my time at NCC to be very enlightening.

Lisa, who was president of the evening chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, hopes to attend Hofstra this fall.



Meredith Boguslaw

I loved NCC. My professors were great and I'm so glad that I got involved in campus life.

Meredith is going to C.W. Post in the fall to study early childhood education.

Gina Dudley

Going to Nassau was the best experience of my life. I'd recommend it to anyone.

A SUNY Chancellor's Award recipient, Gina took social work courses and was involved in the Interact club. In the fall she will continue her social work studies at Adelphi.



DR. ROBERT COSTELLO NAMED FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR



Dr. Robert Costello, Chair of the Nassau Community College Department of Criminal Justice.

Dr. Robert Costello, chair of the Criminal Justice Department, has been granted a Fulbright Senior Specialist Award by the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. He has also been invited by the Faculty of Law at the University of Malta to visit for a six-week period in the Fall of 2011. As a Fulbright Senior Specialist, Dr. Costello will present lectures to undergraduate and graduate law students on the administration of justice in the United States. In addition, he will review the curriculum for the undergraduate program as well as facilitate workshops with faculty members. In his work, Dr. Costello examines the criminal justice system with publications in law reviews, justice and criminology journals and national periodicals of the American Bar Association.

Dr. Costello's prior appointments include the Institute of Criminology at the University of Cambridge; the Center for Children, Families and the Law at Hofstra University School of Law; and Columbia University's Faculty Seminar Series. Nassau Community College bestowed upon him the Dean of Instruction award in 2003 and the Academic Affairs Award for Outstanding Achievement in 2011. Dr. Costello achieved his doctoral degree in Educational Administration from Dowling College, his Juris Doctor degree and a Master of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from SUNY Albany and his Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences from Hofstra University. He holds adjunct faculty status at Hofstra and St. John's Universities where he teaches in their Criminology & Justice graduate programs. A faculty member at NCC since 1999, Dr. Costello became chairperson of the Criminal Justice in 2004.

Nine Nassau Community College Faculty Members Receive the State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence

The Chancellor's Award for Excellence was presented to nine Nassau Community College faculty and staff members at a ceremony held in March. 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 the pursuit of excellence.

The Chancellor's Awards program was created 37 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



Standing (L to R): Prof. Glenn Williams, Physical Sciences; Prof. Robert Lazaroff, English; Dr. Donald Astrab, President; Dr. Jack Lubowsky, Math, Computer Science, Information Technology; Dr. Marynita Anderson, History, Political Science, Geography. **Seated (L to R):** Prof. Thomas Emmerson IV, Art; Nina Holvedt, Academic Senate; Dr. Jeanne Golan, Music; Dr. Caroline Olko, Psychology. **Not pictured:** Dr. Yih-Jin Young, Sociology.

the creative, innovative work our colleagues exhibit. We truly have an exceptional faculty and staff," said Professor Deborah Tyler, Chair of the NCC Chancellor's Award Selection Committee.

FACULTY/STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Prof. Lisa Bastiaans, Physical Sciences, was an instructor for the SUNY Oswego Storm Forecasting and Observation Program. In this three-week course, one hundred research scientists and students, 10 mobile Doppler radars and 40 vehicles with weather instruments on the roof observed the atmosphere and chased tornados across the Great Plains. Information gathered in this way is used by computer modelers to understand more about tornados.

Chuck Cutolo Esq., Director of Governmental Affairs, was the guest speaker at the Port Jefferson Historical Society's annual dinner. His topic was "The Constitution and Members of Congress—Lethal Brew Or Good For What Ails 'Ya: An Insider's View."

Jennifer Drucker, Marketing and Communications, Creative and Interactive Services, recently had an article published in *College Community Times'* Special Technology section. The article, "Saving Green, Going Green," was about the creation of NCC's new online catalog.

Dr. Dolores "Curly" Faber, Prof. Emerita, Health, Physical Education and Recreation, was the recipient of the Pathfinder award by the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. The Pathfinder award was established to provide national recognition to women who have demonstrated continuous dedication to the advocacy, recruitment and enhancement of girls and women in sport. Dr. Faber was a two sport coach and one of the first women in the country to be an Athletic Director.

Dr. Janet Farrell L'Eontiou, Communications, wrote a book entitled *What Do the Doctors Say?*, which provides stories from her experience as a mother. As a communications professional, Dr. Farrell L'Eontiou identified 12 language patterns that are used to create medical culture.

Dr. Lorraine Findlay, Allied Health Sciences, has been reappointed as a member of the Public and Scientific Affairs Board of the American Association for Microbiology, which has over 100,000 members. The 12-member board makes recommendations concerning microbiological issues impacting the public to various government agencies.

Mary Floratos, Marketing and Communications, Creative and Interactive Services, was a speaker at the Omni Update Users conference in Los Angeles, which focused on technology and community colleges. She also appeared in a video detailing the creation of the College's website.

Prof. Frank Frisenda, Engineering/Physics/Technology, was named Higher Education Member of the Year by NYSUT, New York State United Teachers. Prof Frisenda has been an activist and member of the Nassau Community College Federation of Teachers for 26 years. He also helped organize Long Island business, labor and education leaders to discuss and explore the role NCC can play to prepare people for the challenges of the future.

Prof. Jack Mandel, Marketing and Retailing, was listed in and article in *South Bay's Newspaper*. The article spoke about Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor John Venditto's appearance as Professor for a Day in Prof. Mandel's class. Supervisor Venditto's lecture was on An Insider's Look Into Nassau County Politics.

Prof. Deborah O'Brien-Smith, Reading and Basic Education, published the article "Classroom Management: Techniques that Work" in *IDIOM*, the professional publication of NYS Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (NYS TESOL). She also presented at a workshop on that topic at the NYS TESOL conference, Forty Years and Forward, held in Albany.

Prof. Gary Ostertag, Philosophy, has for the second consecutive year been appointed Visiting Professor at the City University of New York Graduate Center.

Prof. Emerita and Adjunct Librarian Florence Scarinci was awarded the Muse Medallion by the Cat Writers Association for her article on feline animal assisted therapy "Pet Therapy—Not Just for Golden Retrievers Anymore." Her article entitled "Dog Law 101," which appeared in the summer issue of the *Mayflower Corgi Cryer* has been nominated for a Maxwell Award by the Dog Writers Association of America.

Dr. Scott Walden, Philosophy, has had the article "Photography and Knowledge" accepted for publication in the *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*.

Prof. Sharyne Wolfe, Marketing/Retailing/Fashion, published *The Fashionista's Shopping Guide to the Galaxy of Discount New York Fashion*, which covers off-the-beaten-path fashion resources, including thrift shops and wholesalers, as well as locations of big-name discounters. The book was featured in an article in a recent issue of *Aspire* magazine.

Aurora Workman, Human Resources, graduated from the Office of Emergency Management's Community Emergency Response Training program. The program, which met for eight weeks, took place at C.W. Post.

The Arts at Nassau Community College

The fine and performing arts were alive and well at Nassau Community College during the 2010-2011 school year. From drama and comedy to photo and art exhibits, the College brimmed with artistic activity.

Each year, the NCC Theatre and Dance Department produces a major musical, a children's musical, a joint production with the Africana Studies Department, a dance concert and a wide variety of dramas and comedies. This year began with the children's musical *Frog and Toad*, based on the popular children's books written by Arnold Lobel. Young and old alike enjoyed the exploits of a friendly frog and his serious toad friend. *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* struck a more serious note, chronicling the artist's incendiary real-world trial for "gross indecency" stemming from his homosexual lifestyle. In December, theatre students staged *Bus Stop*, which was famously made into a movie starring Marilyn Monroe.

During the spring semester, the Theatre and Dance Department produced *The 'Wreckin' Ball*, co-sponsored by the Africana Studies Department. *The 'Wreckin' Ball* explored the changes one family in particular—and a



NCC Theatre and Dance students strike a pose in costume for the spring musical *Cabaret*.



Sarah, 2006, Stephen Shames, from the *Transforming Lives* exhibit at the NCC Firehouse Art Gallery.

community in general—endure when their inner-city neighborhood is slated for urban renewal. The exciting *Cabaret* was this spring's musical. This critically-acclaimed, groundbreaking revival vividly portrayed the anti-Semitism and repression that marked the rise of the Third Reich. *Cabaret* is a Tony award-winning play, a version of which was later made into an Oscar award-winning movie. In April, the NCC Spring Dance Concert featured original modern dance pieces choreographed by Prof. Stanley Berke. *Doubt* was the drama that closed the academic year. It was about a devout and uncompromising nun who faces off against the charismatic Father Flynn, whom she suspects of sexual misconduct with an altar boy.

The Firehouse Art Gallery is equally busy each academic year, with works by students and faculty as well as important local, national and international artists. Even before the school year started the gallery began hosting the 2010 Annual Open Competition, in which local artists are invited to submit works to be judged. Next came *Doing Good Works*, which reflected the charities and issues in which the exhibitors were involved. *Doing Good Works* was a Nassau Community College faculty exhibit. *Accelerate*, the Firehouse Gallery's next show, featured emerging artists aged 16 through 25 who were asked to exhibit a piece that spoke to accelerating their desire to create.

The spring semester brought to the campus the exhibit *Transforming Lives*, which ran January through March. *Transforming Lives* featured photographs of Uganda's youth taken by artist and activist Stephen Shames. This experience—especially a friendship Shames formed with the youngest of the children of a woman who passed away—prompted him to develop L.E.A.D. Uganda, a non-profit program that collects donations to educate vulnerable children in that country. Each spring, the Firehouse Gallery also holds a competition and exhibition of works by students from the NCC Art Department. The juried competition includes painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, graphic designs and mixed media work.



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REGISTRATION & APPLICATION INFORMATION

FALL 2011 SEMESTER

CURRENT AND ADMITTED STUDENTS MUST REGISTER FOR FALL 2011 NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31

DAY & EVENING CLASSES BEGIN ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

WEEKEND COLLEGE CLASSES BEGIN ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

ADMISSIONS APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY AUGUST 15

Call the Admissions Office at 516.572.7345
 or check us out online: www.ncc.edu/admissions

CURRENT STUDENTS CAN REGISTER ONLINE AT

WWW.NCC.EDU (some restrictions apply)
 Avoid standing in line by registering online!

ACADEMIC ADVISEMENT

Academic Advisement is available through the Academic Advisement Center (Building U).
 Please visit www.ncc.edu/advisementschedule.



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