

NEXUS

Where success Starts . . . And Continues

The Class of 2003

Where Success Starts . . . And Continues



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NCC graduates Angela Bae, Rafael De Jesus III and Nathalie Fournillier celebrate the day

Spirits were soaring as the Nassau Community College Class of 2003 graduated in a ceremony held at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum on May 18. Over 12,000 graduates, family, friends, faculty, staff and honored guests attended the event. With over 3,200 graduates, Nassau is the largest community college in the state of New York and one of the largest in the country. NCC has had over 100,000 graduates in its 44-year history. During that time, over one million students have taken classes at Nassau.

Included in the Class of 2003 were 607 graduates with honors—281 cum laude, with a GPA of 3.5 to 3.69, 218 magna cum laude, averaging between 3.7 and 3.89, and 108 summa cum laude, with a 3.9 or perfect 4.0 GPA. Graduates ranged in age from 18 to 70, with an average age of 27.

On a beautiful Sunday, the assembled guests offered cheers to the Class of 2003, and wished them continued success in the future.

A Message From The President

You Had Focus and Constasy of Purpose— Two Sure Factors for Success

by Dr. Sean A. Fanelli

Excerpts from Dr. Fanelli's commencement address to the class of 2003:

'Nassau Community College. . . Where Success Starts and Continues.' I am sure that you have read or heard this many times and thought: 'just a catchy marketing slogan.' Yes and no. True, it appears in all our ads, but it's meant more to summarize our purpose than to sell the College. I am sure that no one in this class chose to come to Nassau just because they read or heard those words.

Those words are all about today's event. Today, we celebrate your success as a graduate. Attaining that goal was not easy. Many of you came to Nassau directly from high school, while others came after attending another college. A large number of you came after meeting family or personal responsibilities. For many of you, your studies at Nassau had to be balanced with job and personal responsibilities requiring part-time attendance and more than two years to graduate. The youngest in your class is 19, while the most senior member of the class of 2003 is 78. You are 3,233 in number and 59.4 percent of you are women. You came from diverse backgrounds and cultures—some native English speakers and others collectively speaking 60 different languages. Some of you have had to cope with limited abilities, but you all succeeded in the attainment of your goal.

All of you had one thing in common. You learned that only in the dictionary does success come before work. You have worked hard to be here today and we, all those gathered in this hall, salute you for your success. Each of you in many ways is a pioneer. You did something that no one else had done, because your circumstances were different than everyone else's. You prepared for your quest. You had focus and constancy of purpose—two sure factors for success.

Your efforts are evident in your achievements. Six hundred forty-three of you are graduating with honors, and 32 of you are graduating with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

You will be hearing from one of those 32, Jacqueline DeRosa, your class valedictorian. You excelled in the classroom and in extracurricular activities as well. To mention just a few, our debate team placed third in a national debate tournament and our student newspaper the *Vignette* won awards for excellence. Eight students were named SUNY Chancellor Award winners. We inducted more than 200 students into Phi Theta Kappa, the international two-year college honor society. Phi Theta Kappa graduates are wearing the symbols of their success, gold stoles.

We had a national women's singles tennis champion and our wrestling team won the national championship, with Coach

*"NCC Would Be My Stepping
Stone, But Now I Realize
It Is My Cornerstone,
My Foundation"*

—*Jacqueline DeRosa,*
2003 Valedictorian

Paul Schmidt named as the nation's coach of the year.

Each of you knows the personal efforts it took to graduate. You were not alone in your quest. Your faculty, the administration, the staff, your family and loved ones wanted you to succeed as much as you did. Others, less visible behind the scenes, played a key role in giving you the educational opportunities that you used to arrive here today: the Board of Trustees, the State and County governments, the academic senate, and Nassau taxpayers all contributed in a significant way.

And so the first part of our motto, 'Nassau Community College . . . Where



Dr. Sean A. Fanelli

Success Starts,' comes to an end today. But like all commencement ceremonies, a new beginning dawns. And that's why we have as part of our motto the last words, '...and Continues.' Nassau is all about preparing you for your life's goals, be they further education or job entry. Seventy percent of you will go on to earn the baccalaureate degree, and many of you a masters and a Ph.D. after that. [Some of you will attend such schools as] Harvard, Cornell, Brown, Northeastern, and many others, including other schools within the SUNY system.

So you might think that is what the words ' . . . and continues' are all about—preparing you for further education and employment. Yes and no. Nassau's mission is to prepare you for further higher education and for a profession, but there is much more meaning to those words. There is an essential element in our motto that goes far beyond those two lofty promises.

Perhaps your valedictorian put it best in a letter to me. She wrote: "I once thought NCC would be my stepping stone, but now I realize it is my cornerstone, my foundation."

Hopefully we have prepared you for continued success by providing you with a cornerstone upon which to build your future and the future of mankind.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the administration and staff, and your faculty, I wish you continued success in your personal quest, but more importantly, I wish you lofty goals, new and uncharted. I wish you a constancy of purpose. May you continue to learn along the way and use your knowledge for others. And in all your endeavors, I wish you Godspeed.

Student

Highlights

Jacqueline DeRosa Named Valedictorian

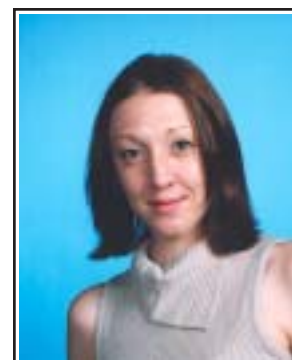


A life-long love of learning and literature helped persuade Jacqueline DeRosa, 42, to return to higher education while raising her family. Deciding to pursue a career teaching English, Jacqueline was very involved in the NCC Future Teachers Club, an organization that she says greatly assisted her and supported her activities. In fact, “all my professors were amazingly helpful,” she maintained. “They went out of their way to become personally involved in motivating and supporting both me and their other students.”

Jacqueline returned to school the week of her 41st birthday. She believed that obtaining a degree and possibly embarking on a different career path was the best birthday present she could give herself. “It was kind of a second chance,” she remembered. She encourages others, especially mothers who would be returning to school, to do the same thing: “Nassau Community College is a very nurturing place, a place where you can resume your education and figure out what you might want to pursue.” Jacqueline’s own current plans are to continue learning in the five-year teachers’ program at either Adelphi or C.W. Post, which consists of a bachelors degree in English and a masters degree in education, with an eye towards teaching high school English. “What could be better than to work in a job you love?” she asked.

Melissa Carrick Elected New Student Trustee

For Melissa Carrick, becoming the new student trustee at Nassau Community College is a continuation of her long time interest in activism. The 21 year-old Buffalo native was a student musician playing the saxophone at South Park High School in her hometown when budget cuts threatened to do away with the music program at the school. Melissa and other students successfully lobbied the school board and other community leaders to save the program. Then, after initially attending the University of Buffalo, she came to Long Island and transferred to Nassau. Once here, Melissa continued her interest in activism, becoming a member of the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) and co-chairing that organization’s higher education campaign. She and the other members of NYPIRG felt a sense of accomplishment when New York State restored aid to higher education and the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). So taking an interest in student life at NCC came to Melissa naturally. “I consider it a privilege to be able to represent all the students at Nassau Community College on the Board of Trustees,” she said, “I’m looking forward to working with the student body to improve the quality of campus life.”



Melissa is currently a liberal arts student. She has many good things to say about the College. “I’m pleased with Nassau. It has a wide offering of courses and the professors are very high quality,” she notes. Eventually, Melissa hopes to be accepted into Nassau’s nursing program, and/or to pursue a career in law. She also plans to maintain her keen interest in public affairs: “I very much believe in activism and in people having a say.”

David Swift Elected SGA President



David Swift has been elected the president of the Student Government Association (SGA) at Nassau Community College. His term in office runs through the 2003-2004 academic year.

Twenty-one year old David first attended Penn State University before transferring to Nassau. He has found the College to be warm and friendly. “At Nassau, I have been able to get to know my professors, and I’ve been encouraged to become actively involved not only in my education, but also in student life,” he said. This encouragement has come from both his teachers and his fellow students, continued David. The biggest influence on his decision to take a strong role in life at NCC, however, has been his mother, who is very active in her local PTA. As a result of all this, one of David’s major goals as SGA president will be to create an atmosphere in which current and incoming students will be also be motivated to take an interest in campus life. He also intends to explore more ways in which student government can help publicize all that Nassau has to offer to prospective students. In addition to his extracurricular activities at the College, David also takes an active role in his church.

As a business major, David takes an interest in financial matters as well. After graduating from NCC, he plans to continue his education with an eye towards eventually pursuing a career in banking or finance.

David feels that his involvement in student government at Nassau Community College will enrich his college experience and is therefore beneficial to himself as well as those he will serve. “I really love this school. Being on the SGA is my way of giving something back to a place that has given so much to me,” he said.

NCC Sports Highlights

Nassau Community College National Champs

NCC TENNIS PLAYER TOPS In THE NATION

Nassau Community College's Women's Tennis Coach Peggy Toomey is delighted to report that one of her team members, Claudia Arteaga, is the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) champion for 2003. Claudia also achieved All-American status.

Claudia first proved herself to be the strongest player on the NCC team. During the regular season, she competed against and defeated the best players from all of the schools in the region. The NJCAA National Championship Tournament was held in College Station, Texas in May. There, Claudia competed against the best Division III players across the country.

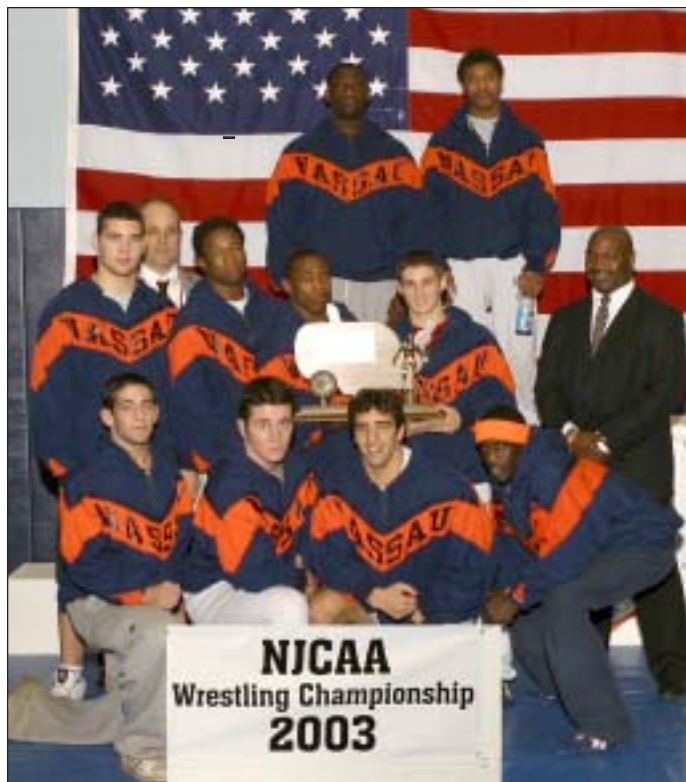
Throughout the regular season, the regional championships and the national championships, Claudia never lost a set. In fact, until she reached the nationals, she had only lost a total of seven games. In the nationals, Claudia defeated the player from Mohawk Valley Community College 6-4, 7-5 to win the NJCAA title.

Congratulations to Claudia on her championship!



NJCAA Women's Champion Claudia Arteaga.

NCC WRESTLING TEAM WINS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FOR 2003



(Top row): Greg Thomas, Carlos Patrick. (Second row): Chris Weidman, Coach Paul Schmidt, Hanif Abdush Shahid, Tyshawn Scarlett, Walter Sosnowski, Assistant Coach Chris Edmond. (Third row): Chris DeLuca, Austin Kitt, Shawn Swift.

NCC Head Wrestling Coach Paul Schmidt guided his squad to a first place finish (Division III) at the 2003 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Championships earlier this year in Rochester, Minnesota. The team had six individual place winners in the two-day tournament, including a national champion, Carlos Patrick. It also placed fourth out of 23 teams at the 34th Annual New York State Championships earlier this year.

Coach Schmidt is especially pleased that many of the wrestlers who graduated in 2003 are continuing their education at such schools as New York University, the University of Virginia and Hunter College. He believes that camaraderie, discipline, and working together towards a common goal assisted the students in their academic endeavors. In fact, the team included six academic All-Americans, who must maintain a 3.0 grade point average while wrestling.

Schmidt attended NCC and wrestled on the College's team, earning All-American honors. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Recreation Administration from the State University of New York-Empire. Schmidt has been head coach of the wrestling team for seven years. This year, he is especially excited at being named coach of the year by the NJCAA. "It's such an honor to be recognized by my peers, especially for coaching at the school I attended and wrestled for as a student," he said.

Ten Nassau Community College Faculty Members Receive the 2003 Dean of Instruction's Distinguished Achievement Award

The 2003 Faculty Distinguished Achievement Awards were presented to ten members of the Nassau Community College faculty in a ceremony held on April 2 at Nassau Community College. These awards honor the highest caliber of scholarly pursuits, artistic endeavors, and professional achievements of our faculty. The Faculty Distinguished Achievement Awards were instituted to recognize outstanding professional accomplishments among both full and part time members of the College faculty.

This year's Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award recipients were: Dr. Richard Brooks, Music; Dr. Paula Wheeler-Carlo, History/Political Science/Geography; Prof. Robert Costello, Criminal Justice; Dr. Jennifer Michael Hecht, History/Political Science/Geography; Dr. Bernice W. Kliman, Prof. Emerita, English; Prof. Suzanne Liff, Reading/Basic Education; Prof. Ricardo Santos, English; Prof. Ronald Skurnick, Mathematics/Statistics/Computer Processing; Dr. Mario Susko, English; and Dr. Pramila Venkateswaran, English.

The awards include recognition for original musical composition; poetry; and research and publication in the fields of mathematics and legal studies.



(L to R) (Standing): Dr. William A. Atkins, Dean of Instruction; Prof. Ronald Skurnick; Dr. Pramila Venkateswaran; Dr. Richard Brooks; Dr. Mario Susko; Prof. Robert Costello. (Seated): Prof. Ricardo Santos; Dr. Bernice W. Kliman; Prof. Suzanne Liff; Dr. Jennifer Michael Hecht; Dr. Paula Wheeler-Carlo.

According to Dr. William A. Atkins, Dean of Instruction, "The accomplishments of our faculty this year are as outstanding and diverse as the individuals whose achievements we celebrate. These individuals have taken their scholarship and talent beyond the classroom and as a result have both informed and enriched the teaching and learning mission of the College."

Nassau Community College Faculty and Staff Members Receive State University Chancellor's Award for Excellence

The Chancellor's Award for Excellence was presented to ten Nassau Community College faculty and staff members at a ceremony held on March 26. This prestigious award provides statewide recognition for superlative performance and outstanding professional achievement. Chancellor's award recipients are professionals who have repeatedly sought improvement 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 29 years ago to honor the distinguished performance of SUNY's teaching faculty, librarians and members of the professional service. "The committee is constantly amazed by the creative, innovative work our colleagues exhibit. We truly have an exceptional faculty and staff," said Professor Carol Farber, Chair of the NCC Chancellor's Award Selection Committee.

This years recipients are: Dr. Lyle Hallowell, Sociology; Dr. John Speigel, Academic Advisement Center; Prof. Jeanne Golan, Music; Prof. Douglas Cody, Chemistry; Prof. Deborah Kimbrough-Lowe, Student Personnel Services; Dr. Evelyn Deluty, Philosophy; Dr. Gary Klinger; Allied Health Sciences; Dr. Ethel Weeks, Economics; Dr. Mario Susko, English; Dr. Michael Steinman, English.

Nassau Community College Hosts Business Forum with State University of New York Chancellor Robert King

Nassau Community College hosted a meeting featuring State University of New York (SUNY) Chancellor Robert King in April. Chancellor King spoke to Long Island business leaders about “How SUNY Contributes to the Growth of the Long Island Economy.”

In 2002, the five SUNY campuses generated \$1.5 billion of economic activity on Long Island. Over 70,000 full- and part-time students attend the five SUNY schools in the Nassau/Suffolk region: Nassau Community College, Suffolk Community College, SUNY Old Westbury, Stony Brook University, Farmingdale State University and Empire. The schools have a combined work force of approximately 17,000. This makes the State University of New York system one of the largest employers on Long Island. Most of these employees also live on Long Island.

The State University of New York is the largest comprehensive university system in the United States, with 403,000 students enrolled in 6,400 fields of study on 64 campuses.



Chancellor Robert King with NCC President Dr. Sean Fanelli.

NCC Student Newspaper Vignette Wins Top Newsday Journalism Awards



Tim Bolger, Vignette editor, Prof. Richard Conway, Vignette faculty advisor.

The *Vignette*, NCC’s weekly student newspaper, was the recipient of two *Newsday* School of Journalism Awards. The *Vignette* received third place awards in two categories, editorial/commentary and political cartoon, for issues produced in the fall 2002 semester. The *Newsday* School of Journalism Awards were established to recognize and encourage student journalists.

In the editorial/commentary competition, Timothy Bolger won first place for a staff editorial written in the fall of 2002 about the handling of an incident involving a student who had overdosed on heroin on campus last spring. The award was the newspaper’s first in this category.

Staff Illustrator Sinhai Jeong won second place in the political cartoon competition for a cartoon that appeared in a special section of the fall 2002 issue dedicated to personal health. The cartoon was of a pig ordering a long list of fast food at a counter and finishing it off with a diet soda. This is the first time the newspaper has placed in this category in several years.

Nassau Debate Team Wins National Honors Again

The Nassau Community College Speech and Debate team traveled to the 2003 Phi Rho Pi National Junior College Speech and Debate Championships this spring and won third place in the overall team tournament. Prof. Trent Webb of the Communications Department led the team.

In addition to the overall team medal, Nicholas Amante won a bronze medal for Duo Interpretation and Debate; Jonathan Gillman won a bronze medal for Duo Interpretation; and Richard Wisneski won bronze medals for Impromptu Speaking, Prose Interpretation, and Debate.

The debate team is open to any student in good standing at Nassau. Prof. Webb is very proud of the students who attended this year’s nationals and is looking forward to fielding a team for the 2004 tournament, which will be held in Los Angeles.



(From left to right): Nicholas Amante, Richard Wisneski, Prof. Trent Webb, Mike Esposito, Jon Gillman.

FACULTY/STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Prof. Mike Anzelone, English, spoke at Suffolk Community College in April. The statewide conference, entitled “Blurred Boundaries: Valuing Writing and Reflection,” was part of the SUNY Council on Writing, and Prof. Anzelone’s presentation was called “Moving from the Journal to the Formal Essay: The Informal to the Formal Disclosure of the Academy.”

Prof. Ken Bellafiore, Library, is serving as the 2003 elected president of the Nassau County Library Association. This organization has been in existence for over 65 years and has over 950 members.

Prof. Marianne Berka, Health, Physical Education and Recreation, won the 2003 Higher Education Teacher Award from the Nassau Zone of the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Prof. Esther Bogin, Communications, Dr. Terry F. O’Dwyer, Physics, Dr. Kumkum Prabhakar, Biology and Prof. Holly Giordano, Physics, presented a panel discussion entitled “Quickstart to Classroom Assessment” at the annual conference of the Northeastern Association of Two-Year Colleges, Inc., held in Middletown, Pennsylvania in April.

Prof. Emeritus Ronald S. Cunsolo, History & Political Science, has completed critical reviews on nationalism for several historical journals, and his ongoing Annotated Bibliography of the Risorgimento (Italian Nationalism) is published in the *Canadian Review of Studies in Nationalism* of Prince Edward Island, Canada.

Prof. Hilda Dallal, Student Personnel Services, received a professional grant from the Region X National Association of Community Colleges.

Dr. Sally Ann Drucker, English, received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities to attend a summer institute entitled “Women Writing—Venice, London, Paris—1550-1700,” which will take place at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

Dr. Joan Gorton, English, co-authored an essay, “Edging Into the Future: Science Fiction and Contemporary Cultural Transformation,” which appeared in *Choice* magazine.

Dr. Beverly Harrison, Associate Vice President Human Resources & Labor Relations, was one of two chairpersons at the day-long “Labor Relations Issues on Long Island in 2003,” sponsored by the Long Island chapter of the Industrial Relations Research Association. She also was one of three key speakers at the Association of Black Women in Higher Education (Nassau/Suffolk chapter) program called “Pathways to Success,” held at the African American Museum in Hempstead in April.

Prof. Warren Hostetter, Allied Health Sciences, was one of the keynote presenters at the 18th annual *Pulmonary Update* symposium. His presentation was entitled “Techniques for Administering Bronchodilators in Mechanically Ventilated Patients.”

Dr. Charline Sacks, Foreign Languages, presented “Focus on Strategies for Adult Learners” at the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in April in Washington. In addition, her review of the novel *Le Mal de Mer* by Marie Darrieussecq was published in the *French Review*.

Prof. William Shillalies, Art, hosted four displays of his artwork this spring—at C.W. Post, Unison Gallery (New Paltz, NY),

Celadon Gallery (Watermill, NY), and Guilford Handcraft Center (Guilford, CT).

Prof. Delores Smalls, Student Personnel Services, was chosen as one of “Long Island’s 50 Top Women” by the *Long Island Business News* for her level of personal achievement, mentoring and community involvement. Prof. Smalls also presented a workshop “Changing the Way We Think, Changing the Way We Work—Revitalizing Your Organization” at the 28th Annual Long Island Library Conference in May.

Prof. Joyce Stern and Suzanne Liff, Reading and Basic Education, have developed a supplement to the McGraw-Hill textbook *Opening Doors*, published on that company’s educational web site. The book is part of a project called “Application of Skills,” which supports students in their management of college textbook reading and study across disciplines. Prof. Liff also wrote the article “A Strategy for Previewing Textbooks: Teaching Readers to Become Thieves,” which originally appeared in *The Reading Teacher Journal*, and was republished in the Alberta, Canada Council of the International Reading Association publication *Literacy Links*.

Dr. Clive Wynter, Chemistry, and E. Ercan Alp of Argonne National Laboratory organized a one-day symposium on the further development and novel application of the Mossbauer Technique—an effect which permits scientists to investigate the elements (particularly iron) in certain materials, which has helped environmentalists measure the effect of acid rain on outdoor structures—held at NCC this spring. Among those attending the symposium were Dr. Wolfgang Sturhahn of Argonne National Laboratory, Prof. Dennis Brown of Northern Illinois University, Prof. John Cadogan of the University of New South Wales; and Audria Stubna of Carnegie Mellon University.

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 Gail Ignacio or Alicia Steger, Editor, at the College Relations Office at 572-9634 or 572-7249.

Congratulations Class of 2003



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NCC Grads Enjoy the Day

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