

NEXUS

Nassau Community College . . . Where Success Starts

Where Success Starts ... And Continues

Twenty Thousand Students Attend Nassau This Fall

Nassau Community College welcomed twenty thousand full- and part-time students this fall. Nassau, the largest undergraduate school in the State University of New York system, enjoys a fine reputation for academic excellence and ease of transferability to four-year schools.

Approximately one in every four Nassau County high school graduates attend Nassau Community College. The college offers over 70 degree and certificate programs. Over ten thousand people participate in our highly acclaimed Continuing Education program every year.

Nassau's 225-acre campus provides the setting for a wide range of cultural, recreational, and sports activities. The college is proud to be the home of many national intercollegiate champions.



Kenneth K. Saunders Named Vice President of Academic/Student Services at NCC



Kenneth K. Saunders has been named Vice President of Academic/Student Services at Nassau Community College, announced Dr. Sean A. Fanelli, President.

Mr. Saunders' appointment comes as a result of a nine month national search. For the past five years, Mr. Saunders has served as the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs at the State University of New York at Old Westbury. Mr. Saunders was responsible for a wide range of administrative areas including personnel matters, student activities, budgetary issues, and financial aid. His professional

experience in higher education includes three years at the University of Michigan-Flint as Associate Dean for Student Services, six years at Howard University as Assistant Dean of Student Life and Activities, and three years at Illinois State University as Area and Resident Coordinator.

"Mr. Saunders has the precise interpersonal skills, the depth of administrative experience, and natural instincts that will bring creative approaches to his new position. We invite all of Nassau to join us in welcoming Mr. Saunders to our campus," said Dr. Fanelli.

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A Message From The President

The Evolution of Teaching and Learning

by Dr. Sean A. Fanelli

Among the several distinctive definitions of “academy,” the one selected here is “a society of learned persons organized to advance the knowledge of art, science, and literature.” The key words here are “to advance ...knowledge.” The process of advancing knowledge from one person to another or from one group to another has changed over the years as a result of technological advances, societal adoption of these new technologies, and the consequent impact on the social mores and attitudes. There was a time when it was generally understood that the process of providing education was simply a matter of spewing out information before a class of eager students in the hope that most of the knowledge would be caught. Then, various testing methods were used to determine if and how much the student understood. This method of teaching, while permitting some creative cognitive interaction, was on the whole not very useful in inducing students to think beyond the material presented.

Today, the process of teaching has changed so completely that it would be almost impossible to remain a viable academic institution of higher learning without engaging the students in the dialectic

process of learning. No longer, with perhaps the exception of learning a foreign language where one out of necessity is compelled to learn the specifics of grammar, semantics, syntax, and vocabulary, is it compatible with modern technology and the incredible amount of information to teach by simply lecturing our students. Teachers must engage their students in creative dialogue listening to their ideas and their approaches to the understanding of knowledge so that their cognitive skills are not limited to the classroom alone. The world of computerized communication has produced prodigious amounts of information, and from such a wide array of vantage points it is possible to have more than one correct answer to the same question.

The emphasis is not focused on what is being taught, but what is being learned and how best to apply this new knowledge to every day living. This process stretches the imagination and the teaching prowess of the instructor so that the challenge is to lead students in the learning process rather than the teaching process.

Increasingly, students come to Nassau seeking knowledge that will prepare them



for a wide range of career, academic, or employment options. Gone are the days when one prepares for one career for the rest of one’s life. Conceivably, one may undergo as many as seven or more career changes during one’s working life, so the chances for being able to adjust to new opportunities will unquestionably depend on how well a person has been trained or educated to think creatively about ways to find, when necessary, the precise information needed at that time.

At our College we have the theme “Nassau Community College... Where Success Starts.” The evolution of education has forced us to modify our College’s theme to say “Where Success Starts and Continues.”

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE RANKS TOPS IN THE NATION FOR NUMBER OF DEGREES AWARDED

According to a report by the U.S. Department of Education, Nassau Community College ranked number one in degrees awarded in all disciplines for a two-year institution in New York State and number two nationwide. This was revealed in a recent special report “100 Top Associate Degree Producers” in *Community College Week*, a publication that covers higher educational issues and trends.

Nassau Community College also ranked high in specific disciplines: in Liberal Arts and Sciences, NCC ranked number one in New York State and number four in the nation;

Marketing ranked number one in New York State and number three in the nation; Hotel Management ranked number one in New York State and number five in the nation; Criminal Justice ranked number two in New York State and three in the nation.

“While we are pleased with the recognition of being second in the nation for the number of degrees granted, we are excited about the high ranking the College receives in specific disciplines,” said Dr. Sean A. Fanelli, President of NCC. “This report demonstrates the wide range of excellence our faculty brings to their students.”

Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow at Nassau Community College

by Reginald Tuggle

When Nassau Community College opened its doors in February 1960, one year after the State University of New York created it, over 600 students enrolled. In its infancy, the campus was located in the Nassau County Court House in Mineola. In May 1962, the College moved to a 135-acre site on the grounds of the former Mitchel Field Air Force Base and was given several buildings. By then, over 3,000 day and evening students were enrolled. Today, Nassau's student population has grown to over 20,000, with students attending classes in state-of-the-art buildings located on 225 acres of land.

Obviously, much has happened over the past 40 years since its founding, and in the spirit of the Y2K hoopla, we thought it

would be of interest to Nexus readers to share some of the history and changes in technology and culture that Nassau Community College has experienced. Over the next several issues of Nexus, we will lift from the pages of our rich history some of the highlights of this incredible institution, which has been the mainstay of public higher education in Nassau County for the past 40 years.

As our society has changed over the past 40 years, so too have the culture, norms, and attitudes at NCC. Below are comments from some of the distinguished faculty that have been at Nassau for at least twenty-five years. We asked the following questions: *Has the culture changed at Nassau? How has technology changed? How has education changed?*



Prof. Kay McKiernan, Math, Statistics and Computers: Thirty years ago, choices were limited and it took longer to do things. Registration, for example, was an exhausting experience. Lines seemingly went on forever. Technology has definitely sped things up. Now, one can register for courses by telephone, use credit cards, and take advantage of an

enormously expanded curriculum. We still have lines but nothing like they used to be. Then there was the debate as to whether to permit students to use calculators in the classroom. Now it is commonplace. Many years ago, students came here with the sole expectation of getting a two-year degree and transferring to a four-year college. Now we have more career programs because of new interests in these areas, too.



Tom Taylor, Director of Academic Computer Services: Years ago there definitely was a dress code. Students didn't question faculty as authoritative figures; there were fewer debates. The growth of technology has had a tremendous impact on education. Computers became very important when they evolved as sources of

communication in the early 90's. With the advent of e-mail, electronic filing, general record keeping, and writing, computers are ubiquitous. Our goal is to have computer services in all classrooms. Most faculty have office computers, and many can, from home, access the campus network. Anyone can browse our College Web site, visit our virtual campus, or review the College catalog and department home pages.



Kenneth Jenkins, Chairperson, African-American Studies Department: Our job was to find a balance within our differences. Today, we need to seek communication opportunities with each other. We have students living in different communities who never interact with people of different cultures or language groups except when they are on the college campus.

People living in Levittown don't get a chance to interact with those living in Hempstead, Long Beach, or Roosevelt. The college campus becomes a place, perhaps the only place where people of divergent backgrounds can come together. Geographically, Long Island is very fragmented. Here we teach students that they are part of a wider world.



Dr. Jack Ganson, Office of Instructional Technology: Today, students have become more consumer oriented and expect more compared to years ago. Our faculty and institution has responded in kind by doing and offering more. In the area of technology, like the rest of the country, we have grown to accept and incorporate the use of the computer. In

the mid '70s, the Apple II computer was the state-of-the-art in computer technology. Then in the '80s, Macintosh was in. Now it's Gateway 2000 and Windows 98. In the area of education, years ago we studied and trained for a career that presumably would last a lifetime. Now it's conceivable that one could change careers many times.



Dr. Joan Sevick, English Department: Electronic communication has changed the way we write and think. Creative writing students now publish their poems and stories on their own Web sites. While that sort of instant gratification can be pleasant, we also have to realize the tremendous amount of undigested information that exists today, and

the new responsibilities this creates for students and teachers. They say that every five years knowledge actually doubles. This forces us to realize that the methods and goals of education have had to change. Nassau has to provide more than just data for the students, it must make meaningful connections between ideas.



Prof. Trudy Ruchman, Student Personnel Services: The culture has changed radically. In the '60s and early '70s, women faculty and staff were not allowed to wear pants to work; and men could not wear jeans. President George Chambers was very upset when some of the secretaries wore pants and demonstrated this by eating their lunch on the quad green. In the area

of education, I feel our students are very appreciative of the faculty's caring. I'm very proud that we have small classes to nurture our students. The College has gone from a place of privilege to mainstream.

Reflections on Nassau Community College

by

Dolores M. Fernandez, Ph.D. - Class of 1974

It took ten years to muster up enough courage to walk onto the campus at Nassau Community College. Ten years after my high school graduation, that is. Back then, at the age of 17, I had been told by a high school guidance counselor that I wasn't college material. That conclusion was reached as a result of my poor SAT scores.

In retrospect, I have often wondered why was I categorized as not being "college material." SAT scores should not have been the sole deciding factor in determining success or failure at the college level. After all, I was in ARISTA, the national honor society. I was an above average student throughout high school. I graduated tenth in a class of over 600 students. I was active in extracurricular activities such as Senior Class Treasurer, Cheerleaders, and Sophomore Class representative. But, because of those SAT scores, I was labeled "not college material."

Why is it that the bad things that are said to you seem to remain in your memory bank longer than the good? There was always a voice in the back of my head that kept insisting I prove that guidance counselor wrong, but it took me ten long years to gather up the courage to do just that and take those steps onto the campus of my local community college.

I did not go alone, however. Along with me on that first day were my two sons, David, age 5, and Steven, age 2. I sat in the admissions office filling out the application form with Steven securely on my lap and David wandering about the office and occasionally pulling at my arm asking, "Mom, what are you doing?" Little did David realize that I was asking myself the very same question, "What am I doing?" I didn't stop, however, and I completed the application, and met with a counselor. I really didn't know what I wanted

to major in initially, but the counselor advised me to take one or two courses, just to get my feet wet and then to take it from there. As is usual with me, I jumped right in and signed up for 12 credits. It was sink or swim. Luckily for me, I swam.

Nassau was a different campus back then. The fancy buildings that you see today were only a dream. The college was on an old army camp and classes were held in barracks. It's ironic that today so much emphasis is put on the learning environment and the importance of the learning environment for the success of the student. Well, maybe for some that might be the case, but for those of us who attended Nassau back in its "barracks days," the environment was not important. What was important was the teaching and learning that was taking place in that environment.

There were many cold winter nights when we would sit in those barracks wearing jackets, mittens, caps, and taking notes against all the odds that Mother Nature threw at us. I wish I could recall each professor by name but I can't, and that is so unfortunate because I know that it was their teaching and encouragement that made me take the next step and move onto a four year college to finish up my degree. It was a professor in an Educational Psychology class who gave an assignment that made us research various programs and innovative approaches to teaching and learning that put me in contact with the ultimate field that was going to be my career in education for the rest of my professional life. It was in writing this paper in which I compared a school in Nassau County with a school in the Bronx that I became aware of a pedagogical and instructional education program entitled, bilingual education. It was that assignment given by a professor at Nassau that put me in touch with my professional love.



Nassau Community College opened up the world of education for me once again. It was at this institution that I learned to have faith in myself and courage to become a risk taker in my field of dreams. As the president of a community college today, I share my story with many young women who attend my school in the Bronx because I see myself reflected in their faces. I make a point of going up to them during registration week when I see them on line with their children in tow and tell them that it is not going to be easy but that they must persevere. They must persevere for themselves, and just as importantly, for their children. I promise them the services and the support systems that were in place for me when I was in their shoes because if it wasn't for the counseling and support of my professors, I really don't know if I would have had the courage to believe in myself and to complete that first rung on my education ladder, my Associate in Arts Degree-cum laude, in December of 1974.

Thank you Nassau Community College for opening your doors for me and for all the others who came after me and who will continue to come seeking their college degrees.

Dr. Dolores M. Fernandez is President of Hostos Community College in New York.

Nassau Community College GEAR UP Program Builds Pathways to College

NCC Awarded Multi-Million Dollar Federal Grant for College Readiness Program

In a continuing effort to champion education and prepare students for a bright future, Nassau Community College has been awarded a GEAR UP Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For the next five years, Nassau Community College is scheduled to receive close to three million dollars to work with students in the Westbury Union Free School District. The purpose of the GEAR UP Partnership Program, *Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs*, is to support disadvantaged youth and foster awareness of the importance of adequately preparing early for college. Nassau Community College will provide intensive, individualized, and coordinated support that includes tutoring, counseling, mentoring, enrichment activities, and college visits.

According to NCC GEAR UP Grant Administrator, Marilyn Monroe, "I am very excited that Nassau Community College has been selected to work on this project. As an institute of higher education we have an obligation to ensure that every person is given the opportunity to receive a quality education." Ms. Monroe continued, "Collectively, we will work to ensure that these students graduate from high school and enter post secondary education as highly competent young adults. Our 'high expectation approach' program will be: stronger schools; solidly prepared teachers; informed parents; and for the students, a future that includes college."

Recent U.S. Education Department studies show that students who take academically demanding high school course work are more likely to go on to college, succeed, and earn more in the work force, regardless of their financial status, race or gender. However, disadvantaged students often are not aware of the need to take rigorous academic courses to prepare for college, like algebra in middle school or chemistry and trigonometry in high school, or of the availability of financial aid to pay for college. The GEAR UP program will provide the necessary resources to assist in the preparation of these young people for higher education.

Kenneth Saunders...New VP

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When asked what he hopes to bring to his new assignment at Nassau Community College, Mr. Saunders said, "I feel honored and very excited about the appointment. To be selected to work at a quality institution like Nassau and to bring together my eighteen years of experience has great potential. I bring vision in shaping an enthusiastic team of co-workers dedicated to creating full partnering opportunities with academic affairs and other campus activities."

Mr. Saunders has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Bowling Green State University and a Master's Degree of Education in Guidance and Counseling from Howard University. He speaks fluent German, having studied at the University of Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria.



L-R: Mark Patterson, NCC Gear Up Associate Director, assists Westbury Middle School students Terrell Adams and Aldys Rodriguez

"These programs can make all the difference in whether a young person goes to college," said President Clinton. "These innovative programs start early, reaching out to students from seventh grade, staying with them all the way - from providing students with mentors who encourage them to have high hopes and high expectations for themselves, to ensuring that schools teach the classes that prepare young people for college entrance exams, to helping families figure out how to pay for college."

Nassau Community College has an extensive history of providing similar services to students through the Liberty Partnership Program. For the past ten years Nassau Community College's Liberty Partnership Program has enriched thousands of students' lives by increasing their motivation and strengthening their self-image, thereby diversifying their career and educational choices.

Did you know ?

- ◆ *NCC is the largest undergraduate institution of higher education in the state of New York.*
- ◆ *One out of four Nassau County high school graduates attends Nassau.*
- ◆ *NCC has the lowest tuition of any college or university in the state of New York.*
- ◆ *We have students from over sixty different countries attending NCC.*
- ◆ *An average of \$68 per year (tax dollars) per household goes to NCC.*
- ◆ *We have one of the largest Continuing Education programs with an enrollment of 11,000.*
- ◆ *NCC has the largest Senior Observer Program in the state of New York.*
- ◆ *We have 1,100 part- and full-time faculty.*

What Does NEXUS Mean?

By Alicia Steger

As editor of this newsletter I am frequently asked what exactly does Nexus mean? Is it a Latin word with a secret meaning? Is it an acronym for a group of NCC departments? Well, I decided to go back to the very first issue of Nexus, which made its debut on the NCC campus February 6, 1968. The college was only about eight years old and the editor at the time explained there was a need to find a vehicle to communicate within a college that was growing so rapidly. In that first issue the editor said, "Nexus, according to Webster's dictionary, is a connection, tie, or link between individuals of a group."

It is interesting to see how our college has grown. Some articles in the first issue of Nexus focused on issues like campus policies and student demonstrations on campus. One of my favorites was the article about the arrival of the new Heidelberg offset printing press for the Printing and Publications department. Well, guess what? The Heidelberg did arrive and it is still here 30 years later. I guess the manufacturer of the press did not hear or think about

planned obsolescence. In fact, this newsletter is printed on the Heidelberg.

Since that first issue, Nexus has evolved and grown like our college. The newsletter has adapted to the needs of the college. Nexus is still our 'link' to our internal as well as our external community. The original Nexus had a circulation of under 1,000. Today Nexus has a circulation of about 25,000. Originally Nexus was only an internal newsletter. With the growth of the college and the need to communicate with our community, the need for an external newsletter grew. Nexus strives to promote goodwill and cooperation with our college community. One of its main goals is to build public confidence; recognize and honor excellence in our faculty, staff, and students; and most importantly, open the lines of communication between our college and our community. The growth of Nexus is due to a team effort by all members of the Office of College Relations and the NCC community. We are proud of its continued growth.



Love Need Not Hurt

October 26 — 28

Nassau Community College is sponsoring a three-day symposium initiated by the NCC Women's Center and the Women Students Association. The *Love Need Not Hurt* symposium will take place in the College Center Building at Nassau Community College. This event will include discussions and dramatic presentations dealing with abuse in relationships and love that affirms and empowers.

Tuesday, October 26

10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. — **The Yellow Dress: He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not**

Wednesday, October 27

9:30 a.m. — **Stories of Dominance & Destructiveness**

11:00 a.m. — **Love Affirmed/Denied**

12:30 p.m. — **Is Reel Love Real Love? Films and discussion**

Thursday, October 28

10:00 a.m. — **Love & Danger: A Morning with Photo Journalist Donna Ferrato**

11:30 a.m. — **An Informal Conversation with Donna Ferrato**



Donna Ferrato

Admission is free and the public is invited to attend. Seating is limited. NCC programs are accessible to the disabled. For more information about this program, call Trudy Ruchman at (516) 572-7696.

FACULTY/STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Prof. Denise Broadhurst, Music, received an award based upon the prestige value of her original compositions, as well as recent performances of those works from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

Prof. Pat Cassin, Biology, was a guest speaker at a Nassau County School to Career Partnership sponsored conference called *In Focus: Hot Jobs for the New Millennium*. The conference provided educators and counselors with information and resources regarding career opportunities.

Richard Delbango, Prof. Marsha Spiegelman, Prof. Nancy Williamson, Library, attended the Association of College and Research Libraries Summer Information Literacy Immersion Institute at SUNY Plattsburgh. Educators gathered to learn about and exchange ideas on information literacy.

Prof. Connie Egelman, SPS, chaired a panel presentation on *Careers in Biotechnology* at a Nassau Boces conference regarding career opportunities on Long Island. Prof. Egelman also hosted the Metropolitan NY College Placement Officers' Association Spring Conference in the NCC College Center Building. The conference featured presentations on innovations and new technology in the area of career development. Prof. Egelman received a distinguished service award from the association for having served as president for the past two years.

Dr. Ronna Feit, Foreign Languages, had an article, *An Episode in Vicente Espinel's Marcos de Obregon Taken from Lope de Vega*, published in the *Bulletin of the Comediantes*, a journal devoted to scholarly articles on 16th and 17th century Spanish Drama.

Dr. Lorraine Findlay, Allied Health Sciences, was a co-convenor of the Education Symposium of the American

Society for Microbiology held in Chicago. Dr. Findlay was also an invited speaker and presented *The Use of Case Studies to Teach Microbiology*.

Prof. Leon Frankston, Art, has two oil paintings, *Chess Players #2* and *Car Wash*, selected for juried exhibit at the Hoyt Art Institute of Fine Arts, New Castle, Pennsylvania, from Oct. 3 - Nov. 5.

Dennis Gai, Assistant Vice President/MIS, was re-elected Trustee and Deputy Mayor of the Village of Huntington Bay. This is his fourth successful election in six years. He also serves as Road Commissioner for the Village.

Prof. Susan Gubernat, English, was awarded a fellowship in the category of Poetry from Artists' Fellowships, a program of the New York Foundation for the Arts.

Prof. Kay McKiernan, Math, was honored as an outstanding volunteer by the Junior League of Long Island for her work as President of Habitat for Humanity in Nassau County.

Steven Morgan, Public Safety, received Officer of the Year award from the East Meadow Civic Association for his outstanding dedication to duty. The Association honors police, fire, and other agencies that service the community.

Dr. Tom O'Brien, Biology, had an article *Learning Strategies* published in the New York Biology Teachers Association's May issue of *Adaptation*. Dr. O'Brien attended the Nova Southeastern University Summer Institute, and he participated in the alumni roundtable discussions on developing and writing a dissertation proposal.

Prof. Michael Ritchie, Art, received a Queens Council for the Arts Individual Artists Award, sponsored by Queens Community Arts Fund of New York City, Department of Cultural Affairs.

Dr. Stella Russell, Professor Emerita, Art, will lecture on *Leonardo, the ENIGMA* at the Bethpage Public Library. Dr. Russell's computer graphic, *Eve, the Mother of all Living*, was exhibited in the New World Art Center, Soho, where the work won the national award for 1999. In November through mid December, five of Dr. Russell's miniature computer graphics will be exhibited at Chelsea Center in East Norwich.

Dr. Neela B. Saxena, English, received an NEH grant and attended a six week seminar, *Reading Ethically, Reading Aesthetically: American Texts as Moral Example*, at Princeton University. Also, Dr. Saxena presented at the *Postmodern Sites* conference of the International Association for Philosophy and Literature, Trinity College, Hartford.

Robert Schnitzer, Associate Vice President/Financial Affairs, was elected 1st Vice President of the NYS Community College Business Officers Association.

Prof. Cheryl Sears, Health, Phys. Ed & Rec., attended the annual American College Health Association conference in Philadelphia, *Establishing Priorities for the 21st Century*. Prof. Sears represented NCC as a grant recipient for the continuation of HIV-AIDS Education on college campuses. Prof. Sears attended the first HIV-AIDS National Prevention Conference sponsored by the Center of Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Joseph Varacalli, Sociology, was co-editor of the recently published volume, *The Saints in the Lives of Italian-Americans: An Interdisciplinary Investigation*. Dr. Varacalli completed his four year term as Editor-in-Chief of the *Catholic Social Science Review* with the publication of Volume IV, 1999. Dr. Varacalli's next book, *Bright Promise, Failed Community: Catholics and the American Public Order*, will be published in early 2000.

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 Campus Calendar

*Nassau Community College Music Department
presents*

MANUEL BARRUECO
classical guitar



*Thursday, October 21
11:30 a.m.*

Nassau Community College / Building Q

Free Admission

Master Classes following the concert

Further information: (516) 572-7447

*Nassau Community College Theatre Department
presents*

Eugene O'Neill's
LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT

October 28 thru 31

November 3 thru 7

Wed/Thurs. \$6; Fri/Sat/Sun \$7

Performances at 8 p.m.

Except Sundays at 3 p.m.

*A Comedy by
Terrence McNally*

IT'S ONLY A PLAY

December 2 thru 5

December 8 thru 12

Wed/Thurs. \$6; Fri/Sat/Sun \$7

Performances at 8 p.m.

Except Sundays at 3 p.m.

*\$2 Discount for Students, Seniors &
NCC Employees—except Saturdays*

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