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NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE... WHERE SUCCESS BEGINS

JUNE 1999

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Class of 1999 - A Graduating Class Filled With Hope & Inspiration



Dr. Sean Fanelli (far right) celebrates the day with NCC graduates.

In his commencement address to the Class of 1999, Dr. Sean A. Fanelli, President of Nassau Community College, said "Savor the world and then go out and save it. You can do it. After all, you are someone special. You're a graduate of Nassau Community College."

On Sunday, May 16, at an outdoor ceremony held on campus, Dr. Fanelli spoke to an audience of over eight thousand people made up of NCC graduates, family, friends, board members, faculty, staff, and honored guests. In one of the largest graduation ceremonies on Long Island, the second largest in the nation among single campus two-year colleges, 3,247 graduated from Nassau.

With a student body of over 22,000 full- and part-time students, Nassau awards more associate degrees than all but one community college in the country. Nearly one-fifth (648) of the graduates of the Class of 1999, graduated with honors with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher. Graduates ranged in age from 18 to 78 years, with an average age of 27. About 75 percent of the graduates will continue their education at a four-year institution. Top academic honors went to Lucille Di Salvo, valedictorian.

Dr. Fanelli cited many individual stories of graduates that illustrated the courage, determination, and the dedication of this graduating class. The stories were filled with hope and inspiration to all. He spoke about many of the challenges and obstacles students faced to earn their degrees. Dr. Fanelli also had high praise for Nassau's talented and dedicated faculty.

Dr. Fanelli congratulated the last class of this century, "As you commence a new phase of life, the faculty and I are eager to see how you will respond to these new challenges. We and others want you to realize your dreams and assist your family, community, and country to realize theirs as well. We are proud of you today."

NCC Lacrosse Team Wins 17th National Championship Title



Nassau Community College's lacrosse team, the Lions, won the 1999 National Junior College Athletic Association Lacrosse Championship. On May 9, the NCC lacrosse team defeated Essex Community College in Annapolis, Maryland, and won its 17th national championship. With hard work and dedication, the team members upheld the winning tradition of NCC's nationally recognized lacrosse program.

Professor Richard Speckman has coached more national lacrosse championship teams and more junior college championship teams than any other coach in the United States.

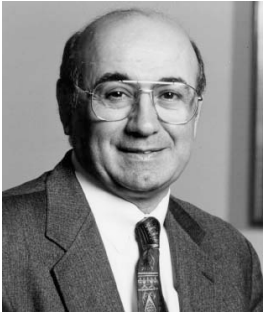
The lacrosse team is just one example of NCC's outstanding sports teams. In addition to lacrosse, the men's soccer team, under the direction of Coach Kevin Bradley, won the National Championship in the fall. The men's and women's teams at NCC are often ranked among the top teams nationally.

A Message From The President

Technology at Nassau Community College

by Dr. Sean A. Fanelli

A Message From The President



Among the many ingredients required to make an academic institution great, three are absolutely essential: (1) excellent faculty dedicated to the task of teaching; (2) an institutional infrastructure committed to the maintenance of sound administrative practices yet flexible enough to respond to new and innovative ideas; and (3) an ability to keep pace with the latest ideas and technology. While Nassau is fortunate to have all three, it is the third component, technology, that I wish to briefly address.

Nassau Community College has always had a reputation for keeping pace with technology and technological instruction. Over the past five years, these efforts, I am proud to say, have intensified. Major strides have been made to ensure that our faculty and students have the necessary state-of-the-art computer resources for both teaching and learning. Through our academic computer services department, five major computer labs have been established to augment the several others located in academic departments and the library. Often, students do their homework and research in these labs where a "Windows" environment with access to the Internet is provided. In addition to these five major computer labs, there are over 20 departmental labs throughout the campus. In one such facility, our ESL students take full advantage of these services with the use of chat rooms and to participate in language development skills activities. We are about to implement the World Wide Web Course Tools (WebCT), which facilitates the creation of sophisticated World Wide Web-based educational environments by non-technical users. It can be used to create entire on-line courses or simply to publish materials that supplement existing courses.

Our goal is to have computer services in all classrooms. Presently, 55 percent of our faculty have office computers, and many can, from home, access the campus network, e-mail, and browse the Internet. Anyone

can access our College web site, visit our virtual campus, or review the College catalog and departmental home pages.

As for the current state-of-the-art technology, we are comparable to four-year institutions. In recent years we have created a *super smart* lecture hall equipped with a computer system which provides for slide shows, sound, power point, CD-ROM capability, multisource media, and interactive instruction. Mobile computers on carts, with the capability to provide overhead projection, power point presentations, and Internet access, get wide use throughout the campus.

Given the reality of the rapid pace of technological development and the changes resulting there from, and the reality of budget limitations, we attempt to replace 25 percent of our computers and add new ones every year, so that by the end of four years, virtually all existing computers have been replaced and new ones are added with the most current state-of-the-art capability. We are very confident that Nassau students are trained on the most recent technology available so that when they leave NCC, they are well prepared.

We are committed to the proposition that the next millenium will find Nassau Community College prepared, willing, and able to encounter its new challenges.

Nassau's Cultural Program Attracts The Best!



by Reginald Tuggle, Director of College/Community Relations

Nassau Community College attracted some of the best scholars, newsmakers, and celebrities in the 1998-99 school year. Highlights from this year's cultural program included: Elizabeth Holtzman, former congressperson and Brooklyn District Attorney; Abigail Thernstrom, New York Times best selling author of *America in Black and White: One Nation, Indivisible*; Dick Morris, top political strategist and campaign manager for President Clinton and Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott; Juan Williams, journalist and author of *Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years*; Philip Gourevitch, journalist and author of the best selling non-fictional account of events in Rwanda in his book, *We Wish To Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Families*; Jan Schlichtmann, crusade attorney who inspired the John Travolta movie, *A Civil Action*; Bob Watson, the first African-American major league baseball general manager; Scott Ritter, former weapons inspector for the United Nations Special Commission in Iraq; the national traveling exhibit of *Anne Frank: A History for Today*; and many prominent performing groups and individuals from the Irish, African-American, Latino, French, and Caribbean communities.

Thousands of community members, in addition to NCC students, faculty, and staff, have enjoyed these programs. Nassau Community College cultural programs are free and open to the public as a community service.

MNIPROFILE:

Alumni Profile:

Nassau County Clerk

Karen V. Murphy

Class of '77



Karen V. Murphy, a graduate of Nassau Community College with an AS Degree in Accounting, has used the accounting principles she learned at NCC to modernize accounting procedures in the Clerk's Office and aggressively invest millions of dollars annually to provide additional revenue to the County, thereby playing a vital role in keeping taxes down each year she has been in office.

During her tenure, the Office of County Clerk has annually come in under budget, thereby allowing excess allocations to be returned to the Nassau County General Fund and applied toward other departments' expenses.

Karen Murphy is a graduate of the Wantagh School System. She received an Associate Degree in Accounting from Nassau Community College, a Bachelor Degree in Psychology from Adelphi University, and her Juris Doctorate Degree from Hofstra University Law School. Ms. Murphy is licensed to practice law in New York, Florida, and the Federal Court System. Prior to her election as Nassau County Clerk, Ms. Murphy served as the Principal Law Clerk for Judge O'Shaughnessy in the State Supreme Court and Nassau County Court. Her responsibilities included serving as legal advisor to and managing Judge O'Shaughnessy's caseload, performing extensive research, drafting decisions, and serving as liaison between Judge O'Shaughnessy, the District Attorney's office, Sheriff's office, and the Probation Department.

Ms. Murphy has long been active in community and county organizations. She serves as Second Vice President of Irish Americans in Government; Board Member of the American Academy for Professional Law Enforcement; and Board Member of Family and Children's Service of Nassau County. She is a member of the Catholic Lawyers' Guild and the Technology Task Force of the Nassau County Bar Association.

Throughout her distinguished career, Ms. Murphy has received numerous awards recognizing her commitment and dedication to assisting others and effectuating positive change in public, legal, and community affairs. Organizations that have bestowed awards upon her include the Court Officers Benevolent Association (Woman of the Year, Nassau County Police Department Superior Officers Association (Distinguished Service Award), and Congregation Beth Shalom Chabad (County Service Award). In addition, Ms. Murphy was the 1996 recipient of the Women's History Month Award presented by the Nassau County Office of Women's Services. Whether she's seeking new ways to improve the efficiency of the office or speaking before elementary school children on her background, Ms. Murphy always credits Nassau Community College for providing the solid foundation on which she built her subsequent educational endeavors.

Ms. Murphy currently resides in Wantagh with her husband and family.

Thirty-Seven NCC Faculty and Staff Obtain Over \$1.6 Million In Grants, The Largest Dollar Total In Grants Ever

by Dr. William A. Atkins, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

On Wednesday, April 28, thirty-seven Nassau faculty and administrators were presented Certificates of Achievement at the Fifth Annual Faculty Distinguished Achievement Awards Ceremony for the more than \$1.6 million in grants they have obtained during the past year from the federal and state government, businesses, and foundations. This is the ninth consecutive year in which grants obtained by NCC exceeded one million dollars. This year's total of \$1,628,467 is the largest ever, and involved the greatest number of NCC faculty and staff ever. There were twenty-seven different grants which ranged in size from \$2,000 to \$309,252.

These grants were for a wide variety of projects including a new computerized placement testing center, support programs and services for disabled students, tuition subsidies and renovations for the Children's Greenhouse, workshops for high school teachers and students in scanning electron microscopy, English as a

Second Language, a mentoring program for NCC students, computer assisted ride sharing, a project for nursing students on preventing birth defects, workshops for elementary and secondary teachers on improving their students' writing skills, a mathematics curriculum development project, the Liberty Partnership Program, books for the library, Americorps, programs and services for single parent students, tutoring and counseling programs, a hazard mitigation project, a work experience program, School-to-Careers, office technology training for public assistance recipients, faculty development projects, research on Hamlet, recruiting minority students for scientific careers, and specialized training programs for businesses on Long Island.

NCC Student

Highlights

Lucille DiSalvo Named Valedictorian



Nassau Community College named Lucille DiSalvo Valedictorian for the Class of 1999. Lucy, a resident of Lindenhurst, will be graduating from Nassau with an Associate of Applied Science Degree/Physical Therapist Assistant.

Lucy's hard work and determination paid off. Lucy decided, at the age of 37, to return to school and pursue a career as a physical therapist assistant. She was inspired by the care her mother received and by her volunteer work in the field.

Lucy is married and the mother of four children. Lucy was determined not to let any obstacles stand in her way. In fact, this year her determination became more evident. Lucy gave birth to her youngest son during the 1999 winter break and continued her studies this spring without interruption. Lucy notes, "When someone tells you that it can't be done prove to them it can!" Lucy feels her experience of returning to school has had a positive influence on her older children. They were inspired by their mother's commitment to her own educational goals and worked harder at their own studies.

Lucy looks forward to working as a physical therapist assistant in an orthopedic rehabilitation or sub-acute center, "I hope to make a difference."

Sergio Argueta Elected New SGA President



Sergio Argueta has been elected president of the NCC Student Government Association. Mr. Argueta is a resident of Uniondale and a graduate of Baldwin High School.

This past year Sergio has been quite active in campus life at NCC. Sergio was the president of the Student Organization of Latinos, a freshman senator in the Academic Senate, and a board member of the Faculty Student Association.

Sergio talks enthusiastically about his new position in SGA, "Communication is key for good student/faculty/administration relations. I would like to see greater participation by students in SGA activities and increased participation by students in the Academic Senate. I feel students should take full advantage of the shared decision making process on campus. I am very pleased by the steps the administration has taken to research and increase food services and by adding more student lounges on campus." On a personal note Sergio adds, "I love Nassau. I feel I have grown as a person, acquired important leadership skills and most importantly, I have matured as a student."

Sergio is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society for two-year colleges, a 1999 recipient of the NCC Who's Who Award, and has been selected to be a 1999 Freshman Orientation Leader. Upon graduation from Nassau, Sergio, a Criminal Justice major, plans to continue his education and pursue a career in law.

Alan Bonilla New Student Trustee



Alan Bonilla, a freshman at Nassau Community College, was recently elected by the students to serve a one-year term as student trustee of the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees. Mr. Bonilla is a resident of West Hempstead and a graduate of West Hempstead High School.

Alan has been an active member of the NCC Student Government Association where he served on the Student Activities Committee and was a student senator representative for the NCC Academic Senate. Alan was also involved in the Student Organization of Latinos where he was vice president. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society for two-year colleges.

After graduation from Nassau, Alan plans to continue his education and hopes to attend the Stern School of Business at New York University. He would like to pursue a career in Business Marketing.

In closing, Alan Bonilla states, "I am very appreciative of the commitment and dedication of the faculty and staff at Nassau Community College. I hope all students at NCC take advantage of the wonderful resources and

support available here on campus. As student trustee, I will develop and improve leadership skills that will help me in the future. I look forward to serving as student trustee next year and being the 'link' between the students and the Board of Trustees."

NCC Student Newspaper Vignette Wins Top Newsday Journalism Awards



(L to R): Standing: Josh Casper, Head Sports Writer; Cristina DeOliveira, Poetry Coordinator; Richard Conway, Advisor. Sitting: Samantha James, Managing Editor; Kimberly Greenwald, Editor-in-Chief; Cinthia Navarro, Features Editor.

The Vignette, NCC's weekly student newspaper, was the recipient of two *Newsday School Journalism Awards*. The Vignette received third place awards in two categories, Photography and Typography/Layout, for issues produced in the Spring 1998 semester. The *Newsday School Journalism Awards* were established to recognize and encourage student journalists.

The Photography award is given to the newspaper making the best use of photography as part of the presentation of the newspaper throughout an entire issue. The choice of subjects, variety, editing, and technological quality of the photos were examined.

The Typography/Layout award is given to the newspaper with formats judged most consistent and attractive, making the newspaper interesting to look at and easy to read.

Congratulations to the staff of the Vignette on receiving these awards!

Nassau Community College Makes All The Right Moves

NCC Chess Club Beats Hofstra in Local Tournament For Second Consecutive Year



NCC Chess Club practices sharpening their skills and strategies.

Under the leadership of Professor Kolman Brand and Technical Assistant Ed Hom, Math/Statistics/Computers Department, the Nassau Community College Chess Club defeated the Hofstra Chess Club this spring at a tournament hosted by our College. During the past three academic years, the NCC Chess Club has come in second place in two successive tournaments sponsored by Adelphi University. The Nassau Community College Chess Club was established in the early days of the College under the guidance of the Mathematics Department. Starting in the 1990's, the club decided to train not only for interclub play and tournaments, but also to play in competition with other colleges and universities.

Nassau students find the Chess Club activities very rewarding. In addition to prizes awarded to the two top players each semester within the Chess Club, the students improve their concentration and their logical and decision making abilities.

NCC Faculty Receive Distinguished Achievement Awards



(L to R) Standing: Dr. Sean A. Fanelli, Dr. Philip Cheifetz, Dr. Joan Gordon, Dr. Bernice Kliman, Dr. John Ostling. Seated: Dr. Joann La Perla, Dr. Jeanne Katherine Golan, and Dr. Jennifer Hecht. Not shown: Dr. James Blake

The 1999 Faculty Distinguished Achievement Awards were presented to six members of the Nassau Community College faculty in a ceremony held April 28 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. James Blake, Professor, English Department; Dr. Philip Cheifetz, Professor, Mathematics Department; Dr. Jeanne Katherine Golan, Instructor, Music Department; Dr. Joan Gordon, Associate Professor, English Department; Dr. Jennifer Hecht, Assistant Professor, History Department; and Dr. Bernice Kliman, Professor, English Department.

The awards include recognition for writing poetry, prose, and scholarly texts, recordings of an accomplished pianist, leadership roles in scholarly fields including Celtic Studies and Science Fiction, and an internationally recognized Shakespearean scholar.

According to Dr. Joann La Perla, 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."

First Card, Inc. Receives Vanguard Employer Partnership Award



(L to R): William Torres, Vice President of Human Resources, First Card; Louise Rotchford, Assistant Dean, Director Special Programs for Business, NCC; Jeanette Flores, Assistant Vice President, First Card.

First Card Inc., of Uniondale, has just received the 1999 Vanguard Employer Partnership Award from Nassau Community College. Accepting the award for First Card Inc., was Ms. Jeanette Flores, Assistant Vice President, and Mr. William Torres, Vice President of Human Resources. The 1999 Vanguard recognition campaign honors employers statewide.

Nassau Community College has shared a long-term relationship with First Card. Since 1990, NCC's Office of Special Programs for Business has designed and delivered training programs to upgrade and enhance First Card employees' skills. As neighbors, First Card and Nassau Community College continue to demonstrate a cooperative relationship which benefits students, employers, and the community at large.

The employers receiving this award provide invaluable opportunities for students to pursue careers based on their valuable abilities and talents.

Everyone Wins In This Post Season Wheelchair Basketball Game!



NCC Lions Get Ready to Play the Nassau County Kings Wheelchair Basketball Team at Nassau Community College

The Nassau Community College Access Club hosted its first annual Wheelchair Basketball Game in the NCC Physical Education Complex. The NCC Basketball team, *NCC Lions*, played the *Nassau County Kings Wheelchair Basketball Team* in this special benefit game. The purpose of this event was to promote the growth and development of disabled athletes.

The Nassau Community College Access Club works to promote campus awareness for students with disabilities. The Club's programs include career workshops, self-advocacy skills, speakers, trips, and social events. The *Nassau County Kings Wheelchair Basketball Team* is a division of the Eastern Amputee Athletic Association. The *Nassau County Kings Basketball Team* was established in 1988 to provide an opportunity for disabled basketball players to participate in the sport. This program was developed by Nassau County and Jack Graff, who is an inductee in the Wheelchair Basketball Hall of Fame. Nassau Community College supports the Kings by providing the "home" court at its campus in Garden City.

Faculty/Staff Highlights FACULTY/STAFF HIGHLIGHTS FACULTY/STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. William Atkins, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, was honored recently by the Staten Island Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, a national educational honorary fraternity on the occasion of the 45th Anniversary of his initiation into the fraternity at the University of Denver Chapter. Dr. Atkins served as the President of the Staten Island Chapter in 1989-90. He has previously been awarded the Chapter's Distinguished Kappan Award and a Phi Delta Kappa Service Key by the national office.

Prof. Richard Conway, SPS, published two articles: *Know Your Campus And Tap Its Resources*, in the

Winter issue of *College Media Review*, and *Teaching Ethical Decision Making* in the May 1999 issue of *The Teaching Professor*. Prof. Conway was also a speaker at the 21st Annual College Media Convention in New York City. He presented sessions on conducting successful interviews, writing profiles, and diversifying sports coverage.

Prof. Leon Frankston, Art, exhibits his works, *Alissa of P.O.V.*, *Save the Animals*, *Bagpipers*, *Times Square-Night*, *Times Square-American Airlines*, *Chess Players #2*, and *Easter Sunday-Fifth Avenue*, at numerous shows around the country.

Prof. Marilyn Gotkin, Biology, earned the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Dr. Gotkin's studies concerning the biosynthesis of collagen were performed in the laboratories of Schneider Children's Hospital-Long Island Medical Center.

Prof. Susan Gubernat, English, won the prestigious 1998 Marianne Moore Poetry Award for her collection of poems, *Flesh*. The Marianne Moore Poetry Award was established to honor the poet whose work reflects the pioneer spirit, poetic mood, and creative energy of America.

Prof. Helen Kegerreis, Music, co-organized a *Director's Workshop* and a *Children's Choir Festival*. Fifteen choirs participated in the festival.

Dr. Salvatore LaGumina, Professor Emeritus, History, and Dr. Joseph Varacalli, Sociology, represented the NCC Center for Italian-American Studies at a SUNY conference on *Italian Immigration to America*.

Dr. Sara Landon, Foreign Languages, will participate in a summer institute at Duke University under a grant from the *National Endowment for the Humanities*. Dr. Landon is one of 24 college instructors selected from around the country to devote six weeks of intensive study to the theme of women and adultery in the nineteenth century realistic novel.

Dr. Jane Leslie, Music, released *Dreamsongs*, a CD of her original composition and performance of piano solos.

Prof. Jack Mandel, Marketing, was a keynote speaker at the C.W. Post Center For Family Business dinner meeting. His topic was *Marketing Success For The Family Business*.

Prof. Myrna Nachman, Music, wrote biographical articles, stylistic analyses on the lives and works of three 20th Century composers for the major English language music encyclopedia. Prof. Nachman's CD reviews were published in the *Journal of the International Alliance for Women in Music*.

Dr. Tom O'Brien, Biology, was elected as Vice President of The Northeast Regional Two-Year College Association and reelected to the Executive Board of the Community College General Education Association and The New York Biology Teachers Association.

Dora Ohrenstein, Applied Tutor, Music, received an award from the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust for recording 20th Century vocal music by British and American composers. Ms. Ohrenstein recently performed as a soloist with *Sequitur*, performed in concert with pianist Lisa Moore, and performed in concert with *Present Music*.

Prof. Robert Osborne, Music, recently released a CD, *Songs of Henry Cowell*, on the Albany Record label.

Prof. Louis Panacciulli, Music, performed in *Christmas With The Nassau Pops*, a concert of Christmas and Holiday music presented by The Nassau Pops Symphony Orchestra. Special guests included The Mineola Choral Society.

Dr. Laura Sidorowicz, Psychology, was awarded a second Fulbright-Hays Scholarship. This scholarship will allow her to study and do research in Africa during the summer of 1999. In addition, one of her research papers, *A Cross-Cultural Exploration of Attributions Concerning the Y2K Computer Problem*, was accepted for presentation at the 57th Annual Convention of the International Council of Psychologists.

Prof. Kathryn Stanley Podwall, Biology, attended the National Science Teachers Association's (NSTA) National Convention in Boston. Prof. Podwall gave a presentation to her colleagues on *Study of Biology - "Bringing Home Literally."*

Dr. Susanne Linden Seidel, English, was co-chair of publicity and media liaison for TESOL '99, an international conference of ESL teachers.

Duncan Smith, Professor Emeritus, SPS, was awarded *Knight of the Blind* honors by the Lions Clubs of Connecticut for founding The Association For Macular Diseases and for his service on the Boards of the Connecticut State Library For the Blind and the Southeast Connecticut Community Center of the Blind.

Dr. Mario Susko, English, was awarded the 1998 *Nuove Lettere* International Prize for Poetry and Literature. The award is for his volume of poems *Mothers, Shoes and Other Mortal Songs*. Dr. Susko has also been elected to serve on the Scientific Committee of the Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Napoli.

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.

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Congratulations - Class of 1999C

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