

# NEXUS

Where success Starts . . . And Continues

## *Education Beyond the Classroom — Internship Programs at NCC Continue to Grow*

**T**here's good news for liberal arts degree students at NCC. In the fall 2002 semester, Cooperative Education internships were introduced into the curriculum in five academic areas: art, computer science, economics, English, and psychology. Designed for the general liberal arts major, the internship courses offer students the opportunity to earn credit toward their degree in a course that combines classroom study with career related professional training. These new course offerings also increase and strengthen connections between the College and the community, as students pursue their internship work in a variety of settings, including businesses, schools, museums, non-profit organizations and municipalities.

Companies and agencies that serve as our work-site partners include Computer Associates (CA), Omni Media-Martha Stewart Living, Dillon Graphics, Island Metro Publications, Latin Long Island, and The Rehabilitation Institute, to name a few. The list is always growing.

Cooperative Education internship courses require students to commit approximately 15 hours per week to the work setting as well as attend five two-and-a-half hour on-campus seminars each semester. In these seminars, students discuss job related concerns, examine work place structures and functions, develop career-building strategies, and learn from other students' experiences. For liberal arts students, the internship course is an excellent way to test tentative career choices



*Gregory Berman, NCC student and CA intern, monitors business applications with help from manager Pat Buffolino.*

while there is still time to explore and plan for future academic majors.

For Nassau students and their internship employers, the fall 2002 internship experience was a decided success. "I highly recommend that every Nassau student makes time in his or her schedule to participate in an internship," said Gregory Berman, an NCC student interning at Computer Associates. "It's a great way to see if you really like to do what you think you want to do."

Employers also benefit from the relationship. "I enjoy participating as a technical manager in the internship program here at CA. The internship program has

been a 'win-win' proposition as the intern gains valuable real-world experience and CA begins to groom and nurture the next wave of IT professionals," said Pat Buffolino, Global Information Systems Manager at CA. "I have found it personally gratifying to contribute to the growth and development of these outstanding students. Having been involved in this program for some years, I have had the satisfaction of seeing several of our interns return to CA as full-time employees after graduation," he continued.

Patricia O'Beirne, coordinator of the internship program, is delighted with its progress. "This has been a truly cooperative

# Six Myths About Community Colleges

by Reginald Tuggle

The two key words in our name, Nassau Community College, are “community” and “college.” Both clearly identify the mission and the purpose of the institution. We serve the entire community without regard to race, gender, culture, language group, income, or any criteria other than the desire to learn, by providing a quality college education. Yet there are some people who are still given to the notion of certain myths about who we are and what a community college provides. This article is written in response to some of those myths.

**Myth #1: We are a community college. The perception is that because we are a local institution with the words “community college” in our name that we are not very good.**

**Response:** There are 1,171 community colleges in the United States with an enrollment of 10.4 million students, according to the American Association for Community Colleges. Within the State University of New York (SUNY) system, which has 402,945 students overall, 198,525 are enrolled in community colleges. At Nassau Community College, the largest of the community colleges in the SUNY system, 22,000 full- and part-time students attend. The most commonly heard phrase mentioned by students from Nassau who transferred to four-year institutions is “Some of the best professors ever were those I had while a student at Nassau.” Nassau Community College produces over 3,000 graduates annually, and has more than 100,000 alumni.

**Myth #2: A degree from Nassau Community College isn’t as good as a university degree.**

**Response:** Tens of thousands of college students begin their career in a community college. Nationally, 450,000 associate degrees and 200,000 certificates are

awarded annually. Approximately one in four Nassau County high school graduates begin their college education at Nassau. Between 65 and 70% of our graduates successfully transfer to four-year institutions and graduate. Nassau graduates transfer to colleges and universities here and abroad, including Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Hofstra University, Stony Brook, Adelphi University and countless others.

**Myth #3: The people who go to Nassau Community College are the ones who can’t get in anywhere else.**

**Response:** While it is the policy and mission of the College to maintain open admissions, the truth is that all sorts of people attend Nassau. In fact, Nassau is the first choice of many students. A large percentage of our entering students have grade point averages over 3.0. We offer honors programs, business courses, calculus, computer technology, office technology, a comprehensive liberal arts program, and much more. Our Allied Health program is second to none. Many area hospitals and businesses rely on our graduates to fill needed positions. In fact, a good GPA from Nassau is, in many instances, a better credential than one’s high school rank or ACT, SAT score. The best indicator of college ability is a successful college record.

**Myth #4: Nassau Community College’s faculty isn’t the same as faculty in four-year schools.**

**Response:** No they are not the same. All faculty at Nassau teach all the time. Students are taught by faculty who care for them personally and about how and what they learn. Faculty are recruited from across the country to give students the benefit of diversity. All of our faculty have a masters degree and nearly 40% of them have a Ph.D. or other terminal degree. Plus, students have the added advantage of

having no more than 21 fellow students, on average, in a class. All of this promotes a quality education. At Nassau, one-on-one doesn’t mean basketball, it means personal attention.

**Myth #5: The courses don’t transfer.**

**Response:** This not true. Our transfer credits transfer. That’s what they are designed for; they’re designed in cooperation with the universities in New York State. In fact, we have articulation agreements with state colleges and universities, and many private colleges and universities, that will take Nassau’s associate degree credits with no strings attached. If a student follows one of our 70 degree transfer credit programs and maintains a grade of C or better, virtually every required course taken will be accepted at a SUNY institution as well as most private schools.

**Myth #6: Community colleges are cheap, so they can’t be any good. You get what you pay for.**

**Response:** Cheap, no. Affordable, definitely. There is nothing at Nassau Community College that is cheap, cheesy, shoddy, or inferior. At Nassau we offer a very high quality education, a nationally competitive sports program with championship teams in wrestling and lacrosse, a nationally ranked football program, basketball for both men and women and more. Newsmaker quality speakers and entertainers regularly appear on the campus enhancing our cultural program. Dozens of student clubs and organizations bring programs to our students designed to enrich their college and life experience. Students don’t pay for what they get—they get more than what they pay for. Students get much more for their tuition and more for their time spent at Nassau Community. Nassau Community College is where success starts and continues.

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## Internship Programs at NCC—continued

venture. The responsiveness of the business community and the enthusiasm of our students has been most gratifying,” she related. “The participating companies have generously devoted their resources to mentor our students and have encouraged them to develop professional skills. Students get an entirely new set of answers to the question, ‘What experience do you

have?’ when they complete an internship course,” said O’Beirne.

Clearly, the Cooperative Education internship courses have already proven mutually beneficial to students and employers. Happily, too, as a result of them, several students have been offered permanent positions upon completion of their course. The College looks forward to

expanding this opportunity for liberal arts majors to apply theory and academic learning in the world of work.

For information about enrolling in an internship course or becoming one of our work site partners, please contact Prof. Patricia O’Beirne at (516) 572-7992.

—By Ann Muth, Associate Dean of Instruction

## ALUMNI PROFILE

### Mary Ann Holzkamp, First Woman Mayor of Glen Cove

After she graduated from Our Lady of Mercy Academy in Syosset, Mary Ann Holzkamp—or Mary Ann Kelly, as she was known then—wasn't quite sure what she wanted to do with her life. The Hicksville native had thought about becoming an actress or going into nursing, among other things, but had no definite goal. Such was her mindset when she came to Nassau Community College in the mid-60s. She chose to come to NCC to help find her way. "Nassau was a very affordable school, and at the same time it offered a tremendous educational opportunity," remembers Holzkamp. Little did she realize then that one day she would become the first woman mayor of the city of Glen Cove.

Holzkamp took many types of classes at NCC. Among those she remembers fondest are the political science courses with their lively debates. Warm afternoons spent reading, studying and socializing on the quad also come to her mind.

After graduating from Nassau with a liberal arts degree and while raising her family, Holzkamp went to Wall Street, got her series seven and became a stockbroker. She then went to work with her husband George in the family business—Neger-Gilder Flowers of Glen Cove. Her activities in the business community led her to participate in Glen Cove politics, and she eventually ran for city council, serving eight years. When then-Glen Cove City Mayor Tom Suozzi became Nassau County Executive, Holzkamp became the new mayor, the first female to serve in that position. Since then, she has been busy with the day-to-day activities of running a city, making sure its residents enjoy the quality of life they deserve. Holzkamp said one of her major goals as mayor, the revitalization of Glen Cove's waterfront, is well on its way to fruition.

When Holzkamp first attended Nassau, it had about 1,000 students. Today it has about 22,000. While attending a function



held at NCC recently, she was surprised and delighted at the growth of the school, in both the number of students attending and the size of the campus. Still, "for a big school, Nassau is very nurturing. I have known many students who found direction while attending there," she stated.

Currently, Holzkamp is occupied running Glen Cove and enjoying life with her husband George and their children and grandchildren. She also still believes in the importance of Nassau Community College. "Nassau is a phenomenal asset to the county of Nassau. It affords educational opportunity to so many who might otherwise not be able to continue their education," Holzkamp said.

## NCC Lobbies Local Legislators in Albany



*NCC students, faculty, and administrators get ready to bring their concerns to members of the New York State Legislature. The group gathered on the steps of the legislative office building in Albany.*

On March 4, students, faculty, and administrators from NCC visited the members of the Nassau County delegation in the state senate and assembly in Albany. The prime topic of conversation in the individual meetings with legislators was budget proposals for 2003-2004, including those that could result in as much as \$6.3 million in cuts affecting the College. The students emphasized how these proposed cuts could have an adverse impact the quality education at NCC.

The students reported that reactions from the members of the legislature were generally favorable, although all members emphasized that it's a difficult year because of the projections of a large state budget deficit. The legislators also indicated that it was important for the students to keep pressing their case and to keep them informed about the effect on proposed cuts on the College.

# AN EARTH SHAKING EXPERIENCE

Whether they're examining rain forest ecology in Costa Rica, doing a comparative study of the criminal justice systems of the United States, France and England, taking an international hospitality excursion to Italy, or any of the other available courses, the Nassau Community College International Education Program provides students with a once-in-a-lifetime educational experience. According to Maria Conzatti, Assistant Dean of International Education, Nassau is committed to offering students the best educational opportunity while they earn credit. Many of these students return with their outlook forever changed by the time they spent abroad.

Costa Rica, for example, is an ideal place to introduce students to the study of tropical ecology, according to Professor Betty Borowsky. This Central American country has a great variety of habitats within a relatively small geographic area. Professors Betsy Gulotta, Vincent Puglisi, and Betty Borowsky have been conducting *Tropical Field Biology in Costa Rica* in the Winterim semester for the last six years. The trip teaches students about the tropical rain forest, the ecology of the Caribbean and Pacific coasts, and the paramo, a habitat high in the central highlands that has a truly unique assemblage of animals and plants. Along the way, they see such spectacular animals as the resplendent Quetzal, considered the most beautiful bird in the new world, crocodiles, anteaters, and sloths. A wide variety of plants are also commonly observed. Activities may include a walk through the rainforest in a downpour, observation of a local scientist capturing and banding bats after dark, and a boat ride to see crocodiles up close. Students are also exposed to the customs and political environment of Costa Rica.

The course requires students' total immersion in the ecology and culture of Costa Rica. Formal classes are held for several hours every day, wherever they find themselves, but in reality students are learning every minute they are there. They keep a log of their activities and observations, take several tests and a final, and prepare a research paper on a relevant topic.



*Students and faculty from Biology 219 on a lava outcrop at the base of Mount Arenal, an active volcano, during their visit to Costa Rica in January. From left: Fiona Rairigh (Evergreen College, Washington State), Stephen Lelo (NCC), Diana Ortega (NCC), Dr. Betty Borowsky (NCC), Holly Weinstock (NCC), Philip Sachs (SUNY at Oneonta), and Michael Wynne (NCC).*

Some students find the course a life-altering experience, having gained not only the knowledge of what the tropics are like, but also an appreciation of the culture of a third world country—and, by extension, their own. In turn, it is a joy for the professors to share their love of nature and biology with the students, and to see them grow in knowledge and maturity. Students report: "I had barely heard of Costa Rica before, now I've learned how important it is to protect Costa Rican rain forests. But also I want to become more active in protecting my country, the U.S.A.," and "I'm now aware of how special every living thing is, and before we think something doesn't have a purpose in this world, we should do research so we don't destroy something that can't be replaced."

Anybody who is involved with this course must have a good sense of humor, so that the inevitable misadventures that occur can turn into memorable events. Professors find themselves saying things like: "It looks like you won't be able to shower this morning because a cow stepped on the water pipe" (Professor Gulotta); or "Okay, everyone, stand back—I'll get the scorpion out of your room" (Professor

Puglisi—and he did. He even put it in a jar so all could see it the next day); or "Tom, put that tarantula down (Professor Borowsky)."

In another part of the world, Professor Sharon Keneally of the Hotel and Restaurant Department took a class of 15 students to Italy over the winter break. During their trip, the students participated in a three-day course at the famous Cordon-Bleu cooking school. Each student who completed the program received a certificate in Italian cooking.

Over the years, other groups of NCC students and teachers have studied African-American literature in West Africa; international business throughout Europe; renaissance art in Italy; international economic systems in Poland; ecosystems in Vietnam; foreign buying in Paris and Thailand; foreign languages in several countries; and social psychology in Thailand. All report enlightening experiences similar to those described above. It seems International Education is an aptly named program.

For information about these programs, call Dean Maria Conzatti, Office of International Education, at 516-572-7213.

# FACULTY/STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

**Prof. Farcia (Ricky) Bialstock, Allied Health Sciences**, received a presidential nomination by the East Meadow Civic and Community Service Association acknowledging her as a Distinguished Educator.

**Prof. Dominic J. Ciardullo, Engineering/Physics/Technology**, recently received a “Best Practices” award from the Verizon Next Step Program for a 14-minute documentary he put together.

**Prof. Rosemary E. Fielden, Office Technology**, presented “Anything You Wanted to Know About Records Management and Were Afraid to Ask” at a meeting sponsored by the Association of Information and Image Management in December.

**Dr. Hadassah Guttman, Music**, was invited to play the piano for the inauguration of the Edna Hibel Museum at Florida Atlantic University, Palm Beach. As a result of this, she was asked to perform for American troops in Iraq, as part of a program sponsored by the U.S. State Department. In addition, Dr. Guttman played at Merkin Concert Hall in New York City for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Lucy Moses Music School.

**Prof. Kenneth V. Jenkins, History**, was honored at the annual Black History luncheon sponsored by the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. in February.

**Dr. Gary Kinger and Prof. Dorothy Winegar, Allied Health Sciences**, will be receiving a Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.

**Prof. Lois Lucca and Dr. Lorraine Findlay, Allied Health Sciences**, have been appointed State Advisors for New York by the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCAP). They organized and co-chaired a joint conference between NCC and SUNY Farmingdale entitled “Long Island Update in Clinical Microbiology.” Last fall, they

were also invited to Chicago to attend a leadership matrix meeting of ASCAP.

**Prof. Alec Naiman, Communications**, gave the presentation “ASL (American Sign Language) and Deaf Culture” at the “Fitting the Pieces Together: Understanding the Needs of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students & Parents” conference at the Mill Neck Manor Deaf Education Center in February.

**Dr. Fran O’Connor and Dr. Elizabeth Wheeler, English**, co-chaired the Eastern Division Community College Humanities Association (CCHA) conference. The conference theme, “The Community College as Nexus: Disciplines, Differences, Debates,” drew more than 100 participants, some of whom traveled from as far away as Japan. Sixteen NCC staff members presented at the event, and Dr. Anna Katsavos of English was re-elected CCHA president.

**Dr. Kumkum Prabhakar, Biology**, conducted the presentation “Transforming Core Botanical Concepts into Golden Opportunities for Student Learning” at the annual meeting of five Botanical Societies, Botany 2002, held in Madison, Wisconsin.

**Prof. Stephen C. Solosky, Mathematics/Computer Processing**, has had three books published by Kendal/Hunt Publishing Company. They are: *Microsoft Access: Practices and Exercises*, *Microsoft Excel: Practices and Exercises* and *Microsoft Word: Practices and Exercises*.

**Prof. Robert J. Sparaco, Allied Health Sciences**, attended a conference on community college leadership held in Shanghai last fall. The conference was sponsored by the U.S.-China Education Fdn., Ltd., the Community Colleges in China Project, and the Chinese Community College Research Center at Shanghai Teachers University, in association with the Tertiary Technical and Vocational Education Research Association of China.

**Prof. Patti Tana, English**, Coordinator of the Creative Writing Project, has had her sixth book published: *Make Your Way Across this Bridge: New & Selected Writings* (Whittier Publications, Inc., 2003).

**Prof. Trent Webb, Communications (Speech and Debate Coach)**, and his team traveled to Kingsborough Community College for the CUNY (City University of New York)-wide championship debate tournament. State University of New York schools were also allowed to enter the tournament. NCC took 8<sup>th</sup> place overall, and individual awards went to Michael Esposito for Dramatic Interpretation and Richard Wisneski for Impromptu Sales Speaking.

**Dr. Paula Wheeler-Carlo, History, Political Science and Geography**, presented the paper “The Huguenot Diaspora: Patterns of Migration and Acculturation in Colonial New York” at the “Global Diasporas and the United States” conference in Boca Raton. In December she was the guest of honor at the Huguenot Society of America’s annual luncheon meeting in New York City, where she received an award for her research on the Huguenot experience and delivered a paper entitled “Reverend Pierre Stoupe: Anglican-Huguenot.” Dr. Wheeler-Carlo also recently contributed an article on Pierre Stoupe to the *American National Biography*, published by Oxford University Press.

**Prof. Nancy Williamson, Library, and Ann Muth, Dean of Instruction**, successfully completed Cornell University’s Institute for Community College Development’s New York Leadership Academy Program—a skills-based program consisting of two five-day training sessions over a 12-month period, which included a practicum experience. During this experience, they put into practice what they had learned during training and practiced reflection and journaling in order to record their insights into their experiences.

*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.*

# NCC Campus Calendar

## Nassau Community College Presents The 32nd Annual Folk Festival

**Tuesday - Thursday**

**April 8, 9 & 10 – 8:00 P.M.**

*Scheduled guests: Dan Bern and the IJBC, Oscar Brand, Jean Ritchie, Granian, Sharon Katz and the Peace Train, Roger Deitz, The Nields, Andy Stewart and Gerry O'Beirne, Mary Gauthier, Los Hermanos del Ritmo, Regie Cabico, The Harlem Blues and Jazz Band, Da Vinci's Notebook, The Campbell Brothers, Stuart Markus and Judith Zweiman, Saul Broudy, Jorge Quevedo*

**Craft Fair All Three Evenings**



*The Harlem Blues and Jazz Band*

*The NCC Folk Festival is free and open to the public. All programs will be held in the Nassau Community College College Center Building. They are sponsored by Nassau Concerts and the NCC Faculty/Student Association. For further information and schedule of the performers, please contact Phyllis Kurland at (516) 572-7153.*

### **NEXUS**

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