

The Official Newsletter of

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Where Success Starts...and Continues

Spring 2009

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS THE TRANSFER OFFICE IS THE CONDUIT BETWEEN NCC AND FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES NATIONWIDE

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE HAS MEANT A LOT OF THINGS TO A LOT OF PEOPLE IN ITS FIFTY YEARS OF EXISTENCE. TO SOME IT HAS MEANT BEING THE FIRST IN THEIR FAMILY TO GO TO COLLEGE. TO MANY OTHERS, IT'S BEEN AN EXCELLENT, AFFORDABLE SUPPLEMENT TO THEIR FOUR-YEAR SCHOOL. FOR A LARGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS—THANKS TO THE NCC TRANSFER OFFICE—IT HAS BEEN THE STEPPINGSTONE TO A FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE.

Transfer Coordinator Prof. Evor Ingram and Transfer Counselor Prof. James Hoyt have facilitated thousands of students' journeys from Nassau Community College to colleges and universities near and wide, including: the Ivy League schools; the SUNY and CUNY schools; colleges in North Carolina, California and Florida; Hofstra; Adelphi; C.W. Post; Dowling; the University of Maryland; Johnson & Wales University; Fordham; NYU; and St. John's University. "We serve as a liaison between Nassau and the four-year schools," said Prof. Ingram. "We want to make students aware of the opportunities that are out there; to help them crystallize their goals."

Towards that end, she and Prof. Hoyt see hundreds of students each year on a personal basis. In addition, approximately



Photography by William Baker

3,000 students and representatives from over 100 colleges and universities come to Transfer Day, which is held each fall on campus. An evening transfer program is held each year as well. The transfer office also arranges for NCC students to visit the campuses of other colleges in which they may be interested. It works in tandem with other departments to provide students with appropriate information and connections within specific programs, such as nursing or teacher education.

Over the years, thousands of students have taken advantage of the services of the NCC Transfer Office. One recent program they've been working on is the Pathways to Success Community College Partnership program, in which Cornell University commits financial aid and other resources to

high-achieving Nassau students selected to be in the program. The program is funded by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation.

With its excellent academic reputation and extensive network of advisement and support, Nassau is considered a good "feeder school" for other colleges, according to Prof. Ingram. Transfer coordinators from four-year colleges and universities agree. "Hundreds of successful Nassau students have graduated from the NYU Steinhardt

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A Message From the President

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO THE NASSAU COUNTY ECONOMY

by Dr. Sean A. Fanelli



What is less known about Nassau is the major part the college plays in the county's overall economy. In the 2006-2007 fiscal year (the latest figures available), the following economic contributions were made by NCC:

- As a major employer, a major purchaser of goods and services and a leading educational institution in the Long Island region, NCC contributes over \$651 million per year to the local economy.
- NCC continues to repay taxpayers year after year, because Nassau graduates continue to live, work and pay taxes in New York State.
- The college provides New York and Nassau county taxpayers with a return of \$13.46 for each \$1 of their investment of state and local support.
- NCC is Long Island's 26th largest employer, with approximately 3,240 full- and part-time faculty and staff (*Newsday*, May 14, 2007)
- During the fall 2007 semester, 21,483 full- and part-time students registered for courses at the college. They contributed over \$260 million in direct spending in the Nassau county region.
- Yearly tuition at the college remains one of the lowest in the region. That, coupled with the fact that we provide the highest quality of instruction, contributes to high levels of employment and earning for NCC graduates.

Without question, Nassau Community College is a major component of the Nassau county economy, providing essential resources in the county's social and employment infrastructure. The economy of the county depends on the sum of all its parts. NCC is a significant component of that economy. While providing an excellent education is certainly the primary mission of the college (a task we take very seriously), we also recognize that by our very presence we form a considerable partnership with all of the students, citizens, taxpayers and vendors in the county of Nassau.

Our school motto, "Where success starts...and continues," speaks both to the nature of our academic enterprise and to the ongoing contribution Nassau Community College makes to the economic stability of the county.

Nassau Community College is known for its high quality education, small class sizes, excellent faculty and very affordable tuition. In fact, NCC has been cited as one of the best institutions of higher learning in the nation in terms of the number of degrees offered, the number of graduates who successfully transfer to four-year institutions and the exceptional quality and depth of our faculty. These attributes make us proud.



RICHARD M. GUTIERREZ APPOINTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AT NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Nassau Community College is pleased to announce that Richard M. Gutierrez has been appointed to its Board of Trustees by Nassau County. Gutierrez was appointed for a three-year term which began on December 15, 2008.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to serve on the Board of Trustees of Nassau Community College. I will do my best to uphold the excellent reputation the college has achieved in providing affordable and quality higher education for its students," said Gutierrez. NCC President Dr. Sean Fanelli is excited that Gutierrez has joined the Board. "The role of the Trustee has become increasingly more central to the overall performance of the college. We count ourselves fortunate to have Mr. Gutierrez join us at this critical juncture of the nation's challenges and in the 50th year of our college's existence. His legal background and his commitment to the college's mission

to provide quality and affordable education to our students will enable us to serve all of the citizens of Nassau County," he said.

Richard Gutierrez is an attorney with a private practice in Forest Hills, New York. He also appears regularly as a legal commentator on Court TV. Prior to his current position, he served as a trial attorney in the Criminal Defense Division of the Legal Aid Society and an associate attorney in the law offices of Jose M. Betancourt. Gutierrez received his bachelor's degree from Brooklyn College and his juris doctorate from Seton Hall University.

Gutierrez is past president of the Latino Lawyers Association of Queens County. He is a member of the New York State Bar Association and the New York Trial Lawyers Association. In addition, Gutierrez is a member of the Puerto Rican Bar Association, the Board of Managers of the Correctional Association of New York and the grievance committee for the second and eleventh judicial districts. Gutierrez, his wife Yvette and their two sons live in Bellmore.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS A MONSTER SUCCESS AT NCC

This year's spring musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*, was a monster success (pardon the pun). Audiences loved the popular story of nebbishy Seymour Krelbourn, who discovers a new breed of plant with a taste for human blood. Audrey II, the man-eating plant from outer space, forever changes the fortunes of Seymour and his little flower shop on New York's Lower East Side. As you can see from the photos, colorful costumes, cool props and terrific performances by the cast added to the general merriment.

Photographs by Richard Ginsburg

From Nassau Community College to a Four-Year University

(continued from page 1)

School," said Bart Grachan, Director of the Community College Transfer Opportunity Program (CCTOP) at New York University. Sunil Samuel, Director of Admissions at Hofstra University, agrees. "Hofstra University welcomes Nassau Community College students with open arms," he said. "They come with great collegiate preparation to continue their studies here at Hofstra and move on to achieve their dreams in career paths that are both rewarding and fulfilling."

The Transfer Office encourages students to come see a counselor as soon as possible in their NCC career. This way, they can be advised as to which colleges might be best for their professional aspirations and the types of courses they need to take at Nassau to get there. "I always ask them, 'What do you want to do with your life?' and then I encourage them to think beyond their sometimes self-imposed limits," said Prof. Hoyt. He and Prof. Ingram also let students know which colleges have articulation agreements with Nassau—that is, which ones will accept all NCC credits for particular programs of study. In addition, many schools provide scholarships to students who meet their requirements.

Prof. Ingram is also faculty advisor to the transfer club. Students in the club visit other colleges, invite representatives from other colleges to come speak to them and perform civic activities.

NCC Student Jennifer Brand, 29, is a member of the transfer club and president of the honors club. "I left high school at 15 and worked for many years. Eventually I realized the only way to better myself was



Nassau student Jennifer Brand speaks with Prof. Evor Ingram, NCC Transfer Coordinator.

"Hundreds of successful Nassau students have graduated from the NYU Steinhardt School."

—Bart Grachan, Director of the Community College Transfer Opportunity Program at New York University.

to get an education. I attribute my success in higher education so far to the support I found at Nassau and the bond I made with my professors," she stated. Brand hopes to attend Cornell.

Prof. Ingram and Prof. Hoyt keep in contact with several of the students with whom they have worked and are especially heartened to see their success. One such

successful student is Ginelle John, who grew up in Hempstead. Ginelle graduated from Nassau in 1994 and worked with the Transfer Office to be admitted to Cornell University. She obtained her bachelor's degree from Cornell and then moved on to Columbia University Teachers College, where she got her master's. "The support and encouragement I received from NCC's staff and faculty prepared me for success," said Ginelle. "There are excellent resources there and opportunities for students to explore and develop their potential." Ginelle is currently pursuing her doctoral studies at New York University.

"We see ourselves as advocates for the college community. If the students we work with continue on to the college or university of their choice and then have a successful career, we're satisfied," concluded Prof. Ingram.

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS OF SUCCESS



The "new campus," circa 1980.



Former Mitchel Field military barracks were used as temporary classrooms during the early days of NCC.



Campus construction, circa 1975.

In many ways, the history of Nassau Community College mirrors the history of Long Island. After World War II, prosperity and population growth fueled a mass migration to the suburbs. The post-war baby boom caused a swell of school construction across the country. By the 1950s, a generation of parents—many of whom had gotten a college education via the GI Bill—wanted their kids to go to college as well. The drive was on to create an affordable college on Long Island.

Long Island actually had a community college of sorts for a while during the depression. The Nassau Collegiate Center was "a temporary public junior college" set up by New York State and CCNY, the City College of New York, and later run by the Workers Progress Administration (WPA). But the Nassau Collegiate Center closed in 1937, leaving the area with no local affordable institute of higher education.

CREATING A COLLEGE

In the early fifties, the Citizens Committee for a Community College, in a grass-roots effort to persuade the State University of New York system to open a college in Nassau or Suffolk, collected signatures, petitioned local and state government and publicized Long Island's need for affordable higher education. They cited a study estimating that the 1960 enrollment in high schools in Nassau and Suffolk counties would be double that of 1954 and that demand for college space would grow accordingly. The hard work of the Citizens Committee paid off. Nassau Community

College was created by SUNY in 1959. When the college first opened in February 1960, it was housed in a wing of the old county courthouse in Mineola. There were some 632 full-time students and 30 faculty. The first commencement was at A. Holly Patterson County Home in Uniondale on January 28, 1962; 42 students received degrees as 500 guests looked on. The first September graduating class—students who had attended the college for a full two years—graduated on June 12, 1962 in the auditorium of W. Tresper Clarke High School in Westbury. Among them was NCC's current Coordinator of the

THE CURRENT FACULTY AND STAFF OF NCC ARE THE STEWARDS OF A GREAT LEGACY. THEY STAND ON THE SHOULDERS OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE THEM.

Adult Resource Center, Prof. Bob Rubin, who was also the first student government president. "I can remember the college when it was just a building or two. We were honored to work and study at a place where so much history had taken place," he recalled.

Taking its cue from a sign on the Long Island Expressway that read "Welcome

to Nassau County: The Fastest Growing Community in the United States," enrollment at NCC increased dramatically after 1962. Classes and offices were moved to more spacious, if not more elegant, facilities at the former U.S. Air Force base at Mitchel Field—a \$130,000,000 collection of wooden barracks buildings, hangars, an administration and operations building, a mess hall, a hospital and runways. An old chapel served as the theatre.

GROWING AND MATURING

By the summer of 1965, the student population had risen to more than 7,000 and the professional staff numbered 245. The first school newspaper, *NASCO*, ran an editorial requesting that the college be made into a four-year school. Growth continued throughout the booming 1960s. It was during this period that the college became the largest of 28 community colleges in the SUNY system. Academic offerings were expanded and NCC athletic teams thrived. Existing facilities were refurbished and many of the old barracks torn down to make way for additional parking areas, but the campus overall still left a little to be desired. In the late sixties, there were some student protests as was the fashion at the time, but none of the large protests that went on at other colleges.

As the 1970s dawned, enrollment

stood at more than 16,500. To accommodate such rapid growth, the clusters—or what some who have been at Nassau for decades still call the "new" campus—was completed, creating a significant amount of new classroom, lab and office space. Little by little, pieces of Mitchel Field began disappearing. Advances in technology and societal changes started to also change the way the college worked.

Student enrollment growth stabilized during this decade. In the late '70s, the method of admission changed from the lottery system that had been used since NCC's inception to open admission. Students of different ethnicities began to attend the school, albeit in small numbers. Students also got representation in the academic senate for the first time.

Campus life thrived as well. Prof. Phyllis Kurland of Student Personnel Services, who joined the college in 1969, remembers the most well attended cultural program in NCC history. In 1973, at the height of the Watergate scandal, eminent newsman Edwin Newman moderated the program "Ethics and Politics" which featured pollster George Gallup, Daniel Ellsberg of "Pentagon Papers" fame, Congressman Charles Sandman and Senator Ed Muskie. Three thousand people attended the event, which was held in the gym.

The 1980s and '90s brought still more expansion to Nassau Community College. The student body became much more diverse, once again mirroring the population of the Island. This led to the development of several more ethnic and religious student clubs. Degree programs grew in number and size. Dr. Sean Fanelli

became president of the college in 1982. Plans were drawn up for a modern social science and visual arts building and a student center building. Building G, which was completed in 1997, has 37 classrooms, two black and white darkrooms, a color darkroom and a modern kiln. The College Center Building (CCB) consists of 85,000 square-feet of space that is used for cultural programs, conferences, student clubs and other campus activities. A new food court opened in the CCB in 2001.

UPHOLDING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

Today, Nassau is the largest single-campus community college in the state of New York. More than 22,000 students are enrolled in 30 academic departments. Among them are individuals from nearly 60 countries who speak 35 different languages. Another 14,000 people take non-credit continuing and professional studies courses. Over 110 academic,



The Cluster buildings were completed in the late '70s.



The courtyard adjacent to the College Center Building.

athletic, cultural, religious, political and social clubs are available to students. Nearly 70 percent of NCC graduates go on to a four-year school.

In 2009, Nassau Community College consists of 47 buildings on a 225-acre campus, with more on the

way. Construction is scheduled to begin this year on a \$40 million Life Sciences Building, which will house the Nursing and Chemistry departments. An open-air courtyard will be enclosed within the U-shaped building. Dr. Fanelli has also reported that the college is developing a collaborative five- to ten-year strategic plan that will match budgetary priorities with operational plans.

For a half-century, Nassau has had a tremendous impact on the lives of those who have attended the college. As it has grown, NCC has also been an ever-increasing economic stimulus for Nassau County as well, as can be told from Dr. Fanelli's message (see pg. 2). Without question, NCC is a major component of the Nassau County economy.

Even with all of this growth, however, the college campus still contains many reminders of its unique history. Whether it be the old hospital building that now houses the Music and Communications departments; Bradley Hall, the former officers' headquarters, which is the current headquarters of the English Department; or the officers' dining hall, which houses the Hospitality Business Department, buildings from the Mitchel Field base are all around. Even the generals' houses are still standing. Many of them are now used for various administrative departments.

The current faculty and staff of NCC are the stewards of a great legacy. They stand on the shoulders of all those who have gone before them—not just their own predecessors, but the nearly 120,000 students who have graduated from the college since its inception and the nearly three quarters of a million people who have taken advantage of NCC resources as well. All of us are charged with maintaining the excellence of the college for generations to come.



Join Us in Celebrating 50 Years of Success



Mineola Courthouse, original site of Nassau Community College, circa 1960.

Nassau Community College
Celebrates 50 years of success with
a gala 50th anniversary reception

Thursday, May 28, 2009

Carlyle on the Green, Bethpage
State Park, Farmingdale

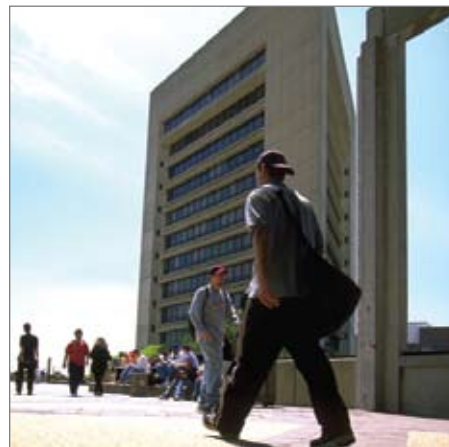
For more information, call
516.572.8972 or e-mail
development@ncc.edu.

RECORD AMOUNT IN GRANTS RECEIVED BY NCC OVER \$9 MILLION FOR 2007-2008

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research is pleased to report that a record \$9,297,642 in external funding was received by Nassau Community College during the 2007-2008 academic year. This amount represents more than double the \$4,409,914 in grants received by the college the previous year. Such a result is especially remarkable considering the increased competition for many of these awards in difficult economic times.

Individual awards were made to many different college departments to fund a variety of programs. Among these are several large multi-year federal grants to Student Support Services, the nursing program, college-wide emergency management activities and a partnership program between NCC and the Uniondale school district to prepare secondary school students for postsecondary education.

Other national awards garnered by Nassau were from the National Institutes of Health for the Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program, The National



Science Foundation for two projects from the Chemistry, Physical Sciences and Math Departments, and the National Writing Project for NCC's Long Island Writing Project.

On the state level, New York awarded grants to the college to support workforce training and development activities, including partnership projects with two local Workforce Investment Boards. The Children's Greenhouse received funds to support its childcare activities and nine college departments were awarded funds to improve and upgrade equipment and instruction. Additionally, 15 faculty projects from various departments were successfully funded.

Congratulations to all recipients. We look forward to another successful year in 2009.

Kudos to the NCC Speech and Debate Team: Number One Five Years in a Row!

In January, Nassau Community College's Speech and Debate team traveled to Towson University in Maryland for the Northeast Speech and Debate Championships. Prof. Trent Webb, Coordinator of the team, reports that NCC was named the top community college for the fifth year in a row. This achievement comes on the heels of the Speech and Debate team's first place overall finish at the New York University tournament in November, where the college bested the likes of Cornell University, the University of Houston and Seton Hall University. Well done, team!



NCC NAMES JOSEPH MUSCARELLA VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

Dr. Sean Fanelli, President of Nassau Community College, is pleased to announce that Dr. Joseph Muscarella has recently been named vice president for administration and planning. "Dr. Muscarella will bring to the NCC campus community the in-depth experience in public works and facilities management that he has already demonstrated in institutions as varied as the University of Illinois at Chicago and Fort Knox (yes, *the* Fort Knox)," said Dr. Fanelli. "His extensive experience in working with public agencies on the national, state and local levels will also assist in continuing the cooperative relationship between NCC and its governmental sponsors on behalf of our students."

Dr. Muscarella has had a distinguished career in the U.S. Army and in higher education. His most recent position was

Vice Chancellor for Administration at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Muscarella has had vast experience in working with public agencies on all levels. He held the positions of Director of Public Works at Fort Knox and Deputy Director of the New York District of the Corps of Engineers. In one way, Dr. Muscarella is coming home. While in the deputy director position, he lived on the Mitchel Field base.

Dr. Muscarella is excited about his new position. "I'm looking forward to getting back to New York and working as part of the leadership team of Nassau Community College, a nationally recognized institution of higher education. While the current environment is challenging, there is always plenty of opportunity for innovation and progress," he said.

After obtaining a B.S. in engineering from West Point, Dr. Muscarella earned a masters and a Ph.D. in Structural Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.

FACULTY/STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Joseph Coppolino, Communications, conducted a workshop for the Nassau County Library Association (NCLA), Clerical Division, on the topic of "Power, Influence, Conflict and Teamwork in Interpersonal Communication." He also did a presentation for the NCLA Continuing Education Committee on "The Ten Worst Listening Habits of Most Americans."

Dr. Sally Ann Drucker, English, led three five-part book discussions on Jewish literature in public libraries. Her topics were "Fathers and Daughters" in Merrick and Durham, North Carolina and "Between Two Worlds" in Port Washington. Each five part series was funded by Nextbook/American Library Association "Let's Talk About It" grants.

Prof. Dianne Guarino, Assistant Director of Admissions, was the recipient of the Counselor of the Year Award from the Nassau Counselors' Association for her contributions to the organization.

Dr. Dorotea Litvak, English, was named top educator in the *Global Directory of Who's Who* and an honored member in the *Premiere International Who's Who Registry of Outstanding Professionals* in the 2009-2010 editions.

Prof. Jack Mandel, Marketing/Retailing /Fashion, was interviewed on a *News 12 Long Island* segment on the demise of Fortunoff's. He was also an in studio guest at the station on the influx of pre-"Black Fridays" on Long Island retailers. Prof. Mandel spoke at Harborfields Library, Half Hollow Hills Library and Rockville Centre Library. His topic was "Everything You Need to Know About Dating, the Second Time Around," which he also spoke about at the 3rd annual Long Island Singles Lifestyle Expo. Whole Foods hired him to produce its Valentine's Evening Singles Soiree. As a keynote speaker for the Glen Cove Business Improvement District, Prof. Mandel spoke about "How Magnetic Marketing Can Keep Your Business Profitable in This Recession." Finally, he writes a monthly column in *LI Pulse Magazine* on singles issues.

Prof. Stephen Sparaco, English, has written a novel entitled *Strawberries and Diamonds, An Ellis Island Mystery*, which was recently published by Trafford Publishing in British Columbia, Canada.

Dr. Joseph Varacalli, Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, Director of the Center for Catholic Studies, was quoted in *The Long Island Catholic* in an article about the passing of Father Richard John Neuhaus, who served as an adviser

to former president George W. Bush on bioethical issues.

Profs. Denise Witt and Kristine Coles, Allied Health Sciences, Surgical Technology Program, were asked to present a review course for nurses who are planning on becoming certified pre-operative nurses. This two-day course was given at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, St. Francis Hospital, Maimonides Medical Center and North Shore University Hospital. It's approved by the Association of Peri-Operative Nurses and has received that organization's national first place continuing education award.

Dr. Elizabeth Anne Wood, Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, published "Consciousness-Raising 2.0: Sex Blogging and the Creation of a Feminist Sex Commons" in *Feminism & Psychology*. The edition was a special issue addressing developments in the New View campaign against the medicalization of sexuality.

Note: All members of the college are invited to send articles pertaining to professional and community activities for inclusion. To do so, call Marketing & Communications at 516.572.9634 or e-mail marketing-communications@ncc.edu.



GRADUATION 2009

Save the Date

Nassau Community College's 49th commencement will take place on Wednesday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m. at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

For more information,
check out
WWW.NCC.EDU/GRADUATION

REGISTRATION IS GOING ON NOW
FOR SUMMER SESSION 2009 AT NCC

Summer Session I:	May 26 – June 25
Summer Session I Late:	June 1 – July 2
Summer Session II:	July 6 – August 6
Summer Session II Late:	July 13 – August 7

For more registration information, please visit
WWW.NCC.EDU/MYNCC

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