

# Nassau Community College Nexus

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Where Success Starts...And Continues

Summer 2004

## Class of 2004 A Journey to Success



*NCC students Abla Talhami and Christian Kapey celebrate the day. Both Abla and Christian are NCC honor students and SUNY Chancellor Award winners.*

In one of the largest graduation ceremonies on Long Island, over 13,500 graduates, family members, faculty, staff and honored guests attended the 2004 Nassau Community College graduation ceremony at Nassau Coliseum on Sunday, May 23. In his commencement address to the class of 2004, NCC President Dr. Sean A. Fanelli lauded the courage and determination of the students, as well as the sacrifices made by their families and the College faculty and staff. He told several exceptional individual stories that illustrated the spirit it takes to pursue higher education, sometimes in the face of many obstacles.

Dr. Fanelli also mentioned in his speech that obtaining a degree is certainly a sign of success, but that in life, continued success is not a destination, but a journey. It's the quality of that journey that gives meaning and purpose to our lives. Eric Paulson, this year's valedictorian, stressed the complete educational experience that Nassau provides for its students, and shared a quote that he found particularly inspirational: "It's choice, not chance, that determines your destiny."

In his speech, Dr. Fanelli noted a few of the shared highlights of the class of 2004. For instance, the 2004 NCC wrestling team

*Continued on page 4*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### New \$5 Million Network Technology Upgrade at Nassau Community College

By  
Dr. Sean A. Fanelli

Nassau Community College is committed to providing general education that teaches students to think critically and analytically about a body of knowledge conducive to lifelong learning and to support and strengthen academic programs which will accomplish this task. To fully achieve these goals, the College constantly seeks opportunities and creates initiatives which will promote best practices for teaching and does so using the most recent state-of-the-art equipment and instructional technology.

To this end, I am pleased to announce that NCC is upgrading its entire network infrastructure. This \$5 million project, partially funded by a NYS Technology bond grant, is now in the construction phase (after two years of design work) and will be completed before the end of the summer. As of the beginning of June, about half the campus

buildings have been converted to the new CISCO network hardware.

This project was developed to replace the College's eleven-year-old, outdated data network infrastructure with state-of-the-art wiring and equipment. The new network will be far more reliable, more secure, and much faster (ten to 100 times faster). It will employ redundant hardware in multiple building locations, enterprise-wide firewall security protection, and high speed fiber-optic cabling and switching gear.

In addition to supporting our PC connection for internet server applications and printing, the future new network will include tv, video on demand and voice transmission. The College's current internet service will not change with this project. So, although the new campus network is faster than the old network, our internet response time will not change. We



*Dr. Sean A. Fanelli*

hope to address this in the new academic year.

As teaching modalities and instructional technology change and improve, we have pledged ourselves to make effort to keep pace with the times. Nassau Community College is a great institution and we plan to become even better.

## *Ann Wolf Named New Director of Development at NCC*



fundraising, marketing and special events. Prior to that, Wolf was Director of Development and Alumni Affairs at Bronx

N a s s a u Community College is pleased to announce that Ann Wolf has been appointed to the position of Director of Development. Wolf brings a wealth of experience to the College. Her most recent post was as Director of Community Outreach & Development for the Hebrew Hospital Home of the Bronx and Valhalla, New York, where she was responsible for all

Community College. Included in her responsibilities there were major corporate and foundation fund raising, working on a one million dollar challenge grant for the Hall of Fame for Great Americans for capital restoration, as well as the organization of a gala celebrating the Hall's centennial and establishing major donor initiatives with honorees and selected gala donors. In addition, Wolf has served as the Director of Alumni Affairs and Director of the Alumni Association at SUNY Stony Brook and SUNY Albany. She also has development consulting and contracting experience with Adelphi University, Winthrop University Hospital and Mercy Medical Center.

"We're excited about the creation of this new position which will bring much needed non-governmental funding to the College," said Dr. Sean A. Fanelli, President. "Ms. Wolf comes to NCC with exactly the right background and experience for meeting the responsibilities of her multi-tasked position."

Wolf lives in Stony Brook with her husband Gerrit, a professor at Stony Brook University.

## The Path to a Rewarding Career Begins at Nassau

**D'ARTAGNAN BEBEL -Vice President and General Manager of  
Fox 26 KRIV-TV and UPN 20 KTXH-TV.**



After D'Artagnan Bebel graduated from Baldwin High School in 1978, he was most anxious to attend college. The Queens native then came to Nassau Community College to take advantage of its affordable, quality education as well as its scheduling flexibility. Bebel had always had an interest in the inner workings of the media, and communications courses he took at Nassau piqued his curiosity even more. "Initially I was fascinated by the technical aspects of the media. My classes at NCC exposed me to many other parts of the industry," he remembered. In fact, Bebel's experiences during his first semester at the school were so positive that he decided to stay at Nassau and complete his associates degree.

Bebel, who spent two years in the United States Air Force, graduated from NCC in 1980. He continued his education at Howard University in Washington, D.C., where he graduated cum laude with a bachelors degree in broadcast management in 1982. After that, Bebel returned to the metropolitan area to attend New York City's Columbia University and obtained an MBA in marketing, graduating magna cum laude.

The nature of the journalism industry is such that many people take jobs in various parts of the country as they are building their careers. Bebel's first position in broadcasting was as an account executive for WCBS Radio in New York City. Subsequent positions took him to several cities, including Los Angeles, Indianapolis and Memphis. Most recently, Bebel and his family—which now consists of his wife Angela, son D'Artagnan II, 14, daughter, Alysia, 12, and twins Julian and Kalina, who are six—reside in Houston, where he is employed as Vice President and General Manager of Fox 26 KRIV-TV and UPN 20 KTXH-TV. Putting his multi-faceted education about the media to good use, Bebel oversees the operations of the two stations, including their newsrooms, marketing, human resources, engineering and community outreach. "One of the most positive experiences I have had in my travels is that I have intimately learned about different parts of the country and made friends in all of the cities in which I've worked," he said.

In addition to his work in the broadcast industry, Bebel is on the boards of several businesses and non-profit associations. Among them are: Golfers

Against Cancer (Kingwood, Texas), the Minority Media & Telecommunications Braintrust (Washington, D.C.), the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International (Houston) and the Memphis Urban League Board of Directors. He also lends his time and talent to many events in his community and especially enjoys coaching local children in such sports as tennis and golf.

Bebel is thoroughly convinced that the education he obtained at Nassau Community College launched him on the road to success. He encourages others to follow in his footsteps. "The world is continually becoming more competitive, and a college degree is important to being able to get ahead in the job market. NCC is a great place to begin to figure out what you want to do and get a start in life."

## Electronic Doors Installed at Nassau Community College with \$735,000 New York State Senate Grant

Senator Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr. (8<sup>th</sup> Senate District – Merrick) was instrumental in obtaining a New York State Senate grant of \$735,000 for Nassau Community College which funded new electronic doors for improved access for disabled students. Installation of the doors was completed this spring.

"This grant helped limit barriers that disabled students face on campus and allows them and others improved access to higher education," Senator Fuschillo said. "Nassau Community College has over 1,000 students with various disabilities currently enrolled at the College and they are entitled to receive an education without the frustration caused by obstacles that prevent them from getting to their classes on time and earning their degrees."

NCC students expressed their gratification to Senator Fuschillo, stating that the new electronic doors provide improved access around campus and help them get to classes promptly.



*NCC President Dr. Sean Fanelli; Student Evan Skidmore, former president of the NCC Access Club; and New York State Senator Charles J. Fuschillo.*

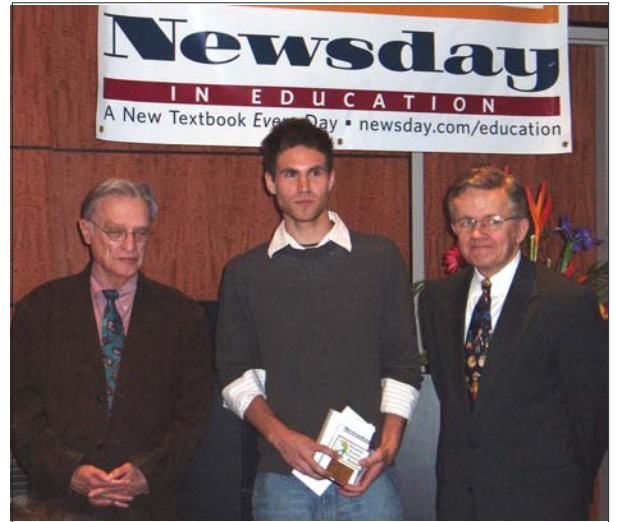
# NCC Student Newspaper Wins Top *Newsday* School Journalism Awards

R.J. Encizo, who writes for the NCC student newspaper the *Vignette*, was the winner of the prestigious Alan Hathway Award for excellence in writing, a *Newsday* School Journalism Award. The article that was chosen for the award was "Sensitivity or Censorship?", which covered the controversy surrounding the display of a piece by artist Dread Scott in an NCC Firehouse Art Gallery exhibit entitled "Vexillology: The American Symbol in Art" in September 2003. The piece was controversial because it included an American flag that could be laid on the floor for patrons to walk over before they signed a book and wrote down their feelings about doing so or choosing not to do so.

R.J.'s article was selected from among those of college students across Long Island. "It was a beautifully written piece," said longtime *Newsday* Senior Editor and contest judge Harvey Aronson, "It demonstrated passion, eloquence and excellent reasoning." The award was named after a former

editor of the paper. R.J. also won first place in the Commentary section of the *Newsday* School Journalism Awards.

Other *Vignette* staffers were chosen for awards as well. Ben Faulding, who also writes for the *Vignette*, won a *Newsday* School Journalism Award for Local News and History Reporting for his article "Gay-Straight Alliance Rebukes Anti-Gay Protestors at Mepham High." Divine Varghese accepted a third place award for Typography and Layout. Divine, who is the editor in chief of the *Vignette*, accepted the award on behalf of the staff of the paper. The *Vignette's* typography and layout was selected from among those of college students across Long Island. Anna Bernstein won the first place award for



Harvey Aronson, Senior Editor, *Newsday*; R.J. Encizo, NCC *Vignette*; Robert Keane, a Managing Editor and Vice President of *Newsday*.

Photography for a cover photo she took that accompanied an article on breast cancer awareness on Long Island.

## A Journey to Success...continued from page 1



Dr. Sean A. Fanelli addresses the 2004 graduating class

won its second consecutive National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) title in 2004. Dr. Fanelli congratulated the team on its victory and made special note of the fact that seven graduating members on the team received full or partial scholarships to four-year colleges and universities. He also informed the audience that the team is coached by Paul Schmidt, who was the NJCAA Coach of the Year in 2003 and its Man of the Year in 2004.

The staff of the *Vignette*, the College's student newspaper, also had a banner year. Staff writer R.J. Encizo won the prestigious Alan Hathway Award for excellence in writing as well as first place in the Commentary section of the *Newsday* School Journalism Awards. Editor Divine Varghese and other staffers of the *Vignette* also won awards in the competition.

In addition it was noted that this year approximately \$400,000 was awarded in scholarship money under the auspices of the Nassau Community College Foundation to assist students with continuing their education.

In total, 3,357 students graduated, 682 of them with honors. Forty-four had a perfect 4.0 average. The youngest graduate was 18 while the most mature was 71; the average age was 27.

All who attended the ceremony were especially moved by Dr. Fanelli's closing words: "My wish to you, the new heroes for the generations to come, is for you to make your mark in the world. Be an inspiration to others. Continue the journey. And may it always be filled with success. In that quest, we who are assembled wish you Godspeed."

# About Schmidt: NCC Wrestling Coach Leads Students to Success at Nassau and Beyond

The value of collegiate athletics has been a source of great dilemma among educators. With multi-million dollar contracts, endorsements and television deals at stake, some collegiate coaches allow their priorities to become tainted, abdicating education and long-term life lessons for short-term success.

Nassau Community College's wrestling program strives to restore faith in collegiate athletics, and to demonstrate that there is a much greater value in sport, one that goes far beyond wins and losses. While wins, titles, and awards are certainly goals for Coach Paul Schmidt's wrestling program, his priority is not on the mat, but in the classroom. Schmidt's commitment to the betterment of his athletes as people is the catalyst for Nassau's reputation as the dominant wrestling program in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).

For his coaching prowess, Schmidt was selected by the National Wrestling Coaches Association as the honorary coach for the 2004 NWCA All-Star Classic, a showcase for the nation's most renowned wrestlers. Moreover, in each of the last three years, he has been bestowed with wrestling's highest coaching honors: the 2002 New York State Coach of the Year, the 2003 NJCAA Wrestling Coach of the Year, and the 2004 NJCAA Wrestling Man of the Year. All these rewards come for a good reason: This year, Schmidt led the Nassau wrestling team to its second consecutive NJCAA division championship.

Nassau's exploits on the mat, though, pale in comparison to the intangible lessons that students receive from Schmidt and Assistant Coach Chris Edmund, one of the nation's premier technicians and a former Division I national champion at the University of Tennessee. Due to the leadership of Edmund on the mat and Schmidt off of it, many students who otherwise would not have been afforded the opportunity have received scholarships to four-year schools.

"If students are going to four-year colleges, we're on track. People

know our main goal at Nassau is to have students graduate," explains Schmidt, who himself wrestled at Nassau as a student before moving on to the University of Florida. "This is especially true for students who need some academic help."

Joining the long list of Nassau alumni making an impact on four-year programs are 2004 graduates Chris DeLuca, who is headed to North Carolina State, and Chris Weidman, who will wrestle at Hofstra, both Division I schools.

"Both Schmidt and Edmund are dynamic coaches," says Weidman, an All-American. "I've never met anyone like Coach Schmidt. He knows a lot about wrestling, but he also made us feel like we were special, that each one of us was important. He cares about where we're going to school after Nassau. I couldn't have gone anywhere without him. He showed me he really cares."

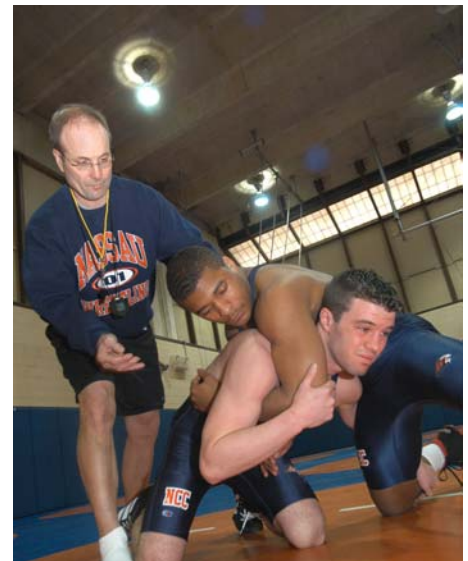
During its forty-year history, with six national champions and 58 All-Americans, Nassau has established itself as a breeding ground for wrestlers to continue on to four-year programs. Last season, for example, NCAA National Champion Artie Weidler of the State University of New York at Brockport was one of 13 Nassau graduates who



*NCC Wrestling Coach Paul Schmidt embraces former NCC Coach and Mentor Chuck Henke.*

participated in the wrestling programs at their four-year schools.

"As I look back at the individual accomplishments and the National Championships that this team has won and all the notoriety and opportunities that I have received, it's overwhelming. The question I keep asking myself is: 'How this did all happen?' The answer is that I have a great support system here at Nassau, with quality assistant coaches, an



*Coach Schmidt guides All-American wrestlers John Cummings (left) and Carlos Partrick.*

administration that supports the program, my old coach Chuck Henke and an Athletic Director, Mike Pelliccia, that I can always go to for advice. But most of all I have great athletes. With all that, how can you lose?" says Schmidt, an All-American at Nassau in 1975. "That's what NCC provides."

Schmidt is a prime example of a student becoming a success as a result of precepts learned while wrestling at Nassau Community College. After starring in high school, Schmidt attended Nassau and thrived under the tutelage of Head Coach Chuck Henke. That earned him a scholarship to Division I University of Florida, where he wrestled in the national championships. After spending 21 years in the New York City Fire Department, Schmidt returned to Nassau and assisted Henke for a decade before taking the reigns from him.

Says Henke: "I spent most of my career coaching and teaching at Nassau. Our job is to get students through school and on to a four-year school that has the major they want so they can have a career after they graduate. Paul has been the most successful coach there is as far as getting kids into the four-year schools. He is like a son to me. I'm so happy for him and for the school."

*Written by Nassau Community College Alumnus Joshua Casper (Class of 2001). A Former Sports Editor of the Vignette, Casper still serves as the voice of Nassau Sports on WHPC 90.3 FM.*

## Leroy Clarke Elected Student Government Association President



Leroy Clarke has been elected president of the Student Government Association (SGA) at Nassau Community College for the 2004-2005 academic year. A resident of Freeport, Leroy is a graduate of Bayside High School in Queens. Prior to coming to Nassau, he attended John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

The major thrust of his term in office, according to Leroy, will be an effort to get students more involved in campus life. "At first, I was one of those students who went to class and then left campus," he remembers. "Once I became more involved in student life, I saw all of the opportunity we have, not only to make a difference in our College experience, but also to learn valuable skills for our future careers." Leroy, who is 22, is pursuing a degree in paralegal studies with the hopes of eventually having a career practicing law or being in government service. He also served as president of the NCC Paralegal Society. On a personal note, Leroy feels that his getting involved in College activities will help him hone such important skills as communication, leadership and the ability to mediate problems.

Leroy also plans to work hard towards increasing support for the Children's Greenhouse. "We have an outstanding child care facility on campus. I would like to maintain and hopefully help increase the funding of that care."

The experience that Leroy has had at Nassau has been very positive. He has especially kind words for the faculty with whom he has come into contact. "My professors have been excellent and caring. In fact, being at Nassau has given me focus and direction in pursuing a career path," says Leroy, who has been on the Dean's List. In both his term as SGA president and his future endeavors, he plans to follow his personal goals of making a difference and helping people.

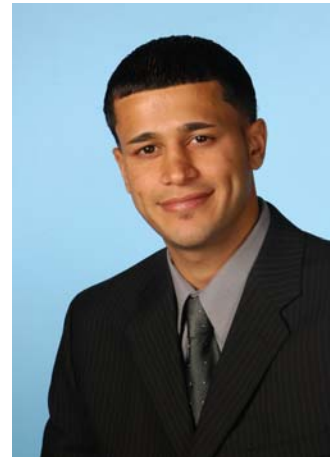
## Rajeev Aery Appointed Student Trustee at NCC

Rajeev Aery, known as Raj, has been appointed Student Trustee at Nassau Community College for the 2004-2005 academic year. Raj—who was born in Queens and now lives in New Hyde Park—is a graduate of Northport High School. Prior to coming to Nassau, the 24 year-old traveled extensively and held jobs in the areas of insurance and public relations. He currently is a partner in a catering company and does consulting work for an insurance company in addition to being a student.

Raj was curious about how decisions were made at the school, so he began to attend Student Government Association meetings. He's delighted that he's now going to be part of that process. "I see my role on the Board as being an advocate for the students. I'm looking forward to the challenge." In addition, Raj hopes to put his experience in the business world to good use as trustee.

Overall, Raj's experience at the College has been positive. He believes that the education students get at NCC is of the highest quality, and that even the physical nature of the campus contributes to its comfortable atmosphere.

Among the countries that Raj has visited are India, Canada, the United Kingdom, France and Germany. His interest in travel has not only expanded his horizons and exposed him to different ways of life; it has provided him with a career path as well. A business administration major who is on the Dean's List and in the honors program as well as a recipient of the Prentice-Hall Business Law Scholarship, Raj plans to continue his education after he graduates from NCC and then take up a career in international business marketing.



## Eric Paulson Named Valedictorian for the Class of 2004



No one can accuse Eric Paulson, selected as the valedictorian of the class of 2004, of being boring. In fact, even the abridged story of what brought him to Nassau Community College sounds like an action adventure movie. Eric's first career was as a professional cyclist. He worked for a professional mountain bike team which produced action sports videos. Unfortunately, injuries eventually curtailed that vocation. Eric's other incarnations took place in Canada (he's a native of British Columbia), where he served as a field technician in that country's logging industry and worked at a ski resort managing its water supply in order to make artificial snow.

Eric eventually came to Long Island and enrolled at NCC. "Nassau has been absolutely amazing. I never thought I would go to a school that would completely transform my outlook on my future," he recalls. In fact, Eric did so well that he tutored several students at his home. He also was a member of the Civil Engineering Technology Club, where he scheduled trips to other technology colleges, organized the annual barbeque and helped the concrete canoe club build their canoe. He even took a summer course final on the morning of his wedding.

Eric's parents, who are extremely proud of his achievements, traveled from western Canada to attend his graduation. He graduated with an AA degree in Civil Engineering Technology. In the fall, he will attend Cooper Union, with the hopes of building a career in environmental science.

# Eight NCC Faculty Members Receive SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence

The Chancellor's Award for Excellence was presented to eight Nassau Community College faculty and staff members at a ceremony held on April 13. This prestigious award provides statewide recognition for superlative performance and outstanding professional achievement. Chancellor's award recipients are professionals who have repeatedly sought improvement in themselves, their campus, and ultimately the State University system. These individuals serve as professional role models for a university system in pursuit of excellence.

The Chancellor's Awards program was created 30 years ago to honor the distinguished performance of SUNY's teaching faculty, librarians and members of the professional service. "The committee is constantly amazed by the creative, innovative work our colleagues exhibit. We truly have an exceptional faculty and staff," said Professor Carol Farber, Chair of the NCC Chancellor's Award Selection Committee.



SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence recipients – Standing (L to R): Dr. John Ostling, VP for Academic Affairs; Dr. Phil Nicholson; Prof. Cherrie Sears; Prof. Theresa Vecchiarelli; Dr. Richard Brooks; Dr. Paula Carlo. Seated: Prof. Delores Smalls; Carol Farber, Chair of the NCC Chancellor's Award Selection Committee; Prof. Kathryn Podwall. Not pictured: Dr. Ricardo Santos.

## FACULTY/STAFF Highlights

**Harold Bellinger, Assistant to the President for Affirmative Action and Diversity /ADA/504 Officer**, was the guest presenter on the April 20 show *Next Generation*, hosted by Dr. Drew Bogner, President of Molloy College. The program, entitled *Brown vs. Board of Education—Erasing Racism*, aired on the Telecare network May 6, 11, 12, 18 and 19.

**Prof. Dominic Ciardullo, Engineering/Physics/Technology**, has completed an interactive video entitled "Preparing for a Career in Engineering or Engineering Technology" that will be used as an advisement tool for prospective students. The video addresses commonly asked questions about the field and includes interviews with middle and upper management in local industry.

**Dr. Sally Ann Drucker, English**, presented the paper "Worlds of Their Own: Images of Marriage in the Writing of Scudery, Montpensier, Lafayette and Graffigny" at the Renaissance Society of America conference in New York City in April. The paper grew out of her work

at a National Endowment for the Humanities Institute she attended at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill last July.

**Dr. Barbara Horn, English and Women's Studies**, was selected as a "Woman of Distinction for 2004" by *Distinction Magazine* of Melville. She and the other Women of Distinction were honored with their photo and biography printed in the magazine as well as a special Long Island Association business breakfast attended by U.S. Senator Charles Schumer.

**Dr. Constantine Kallaur, Prof. Emeritus, Foreign Languages**, recently presented the lecture "Contemporary Russian Literature" at the Merrick Senior Center.

**Prof. Allen Kupfer, English**, is the author of *The Journal of Professor Abraham Van Helsing*, a novel of the supernatural, published by Tor/Forge Books in March.

**Dr. Philip Nicholson, History**, has written the book *Labor's Story in the United States* (Temple University Press). The book examines the broad landscape of labor in

the U.S. from before the American Revolution up to the present day.

**Prof. Emeritus Arnold Rosen, Office Technology**, wrote *Sea Gate Remembered: New York City's First Gated Community*, published by Xlibris, a subsidiary of Random House, Inc. The book made Xlibris' Ten Best List for sales during the first quarter of 2004.

**Dr. Neela Saxena, English**, recently had the book *In the Beginning IS Desire: Tracing Kali's Footprints in Indian Literature* published in India. She also presented two papers at the Indic Religious Conference in New Delhi and another at the Language, Consciousness and Culture Conference in Calcutta.

**Prof. Barbara Vitale, Nursing and Dr. Patricia Nugent, Prof. Emeritus and former Chairperson of Nursing**, co-authored *Fundamentals Success: A Course Review Applying Critical Thinking to Test Taking*. The book comprehensively addresses the content commonly included in nursing curriculum.

**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, in the College Relations Office at 572-9634 or 572-7249.**

# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2004



*Twin sisters Ann (left) and Maria Cintino celebrate graduation day with fellow graduate Phyllis Albano (center).*

## Nexus

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