

NEXUS

THE ART OF EDUCATION AT NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE FACULTY AND FACILITIES ARE CUTTING EDGE



Photo by William Baker

Nassau student enjoying a sculpture at the NCC Firehouse Plaza Art Gallery

Artists are known for being passionate about their work. The professors in the Art Department at Nassau Community College express their passion in a myriad of ways—from staying on the cutting edge of trends and technology changes in their various fields, to the enthusiasm with which they engage students, to displaying their own artistic vision in exhibits and in guiding students in the classroom. This passion is also reflected in the many students who take art courses at Nassau and in the experiences of those who take advantage of such services as Firehouse Art Gallery exhibits, art clubs and the forums the department sponsors about art related topics.

Susan Kravitz, Dean of Arts and Humanities, and Prof. Susan Dooley, Chairperson of the Art Department, give two other major reasons for the success of the department: its faculty and its facilities. Care was taken over the years to construct a faculty that meets an exacting criteria. Art Department professors are drawn from top schools. They are subject to ongoing inside and outside peer reviews and are required to exhibit their own work. Many of

the professors win awards or are otherwise recognized on a local and national basis. Each year, they mentor students over and over teaching them in the classroom.

The department introduced two new degree programs within the past few years—an A.S. in Art and an A.S. in Photography. Both are proving to be quite popular. The number of students enrolled in the Art A.S. program increased by over 200 percent in the fall of 2005 as compared with the fall of 2004, while the A.S. in Photography increased by 86 percent. Both figures are among the highest for departments in the College.

Art majors at NCC choose from among the following degree and certificate options: Associate of Science (A.S.) degrees in Art, in Photography; Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Commercial Art: Digital Technologies; Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree in Art Studies; and a Photo Certificate Program. Each major has its own requirements and elective options. Many graduates go on to four-year universities, while some immediately enter the job market. Still others are current professionals wishing to hone

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

From Student To Teacher, Seamlessly At NCC



by Dr. Sean A. Fanelli

Many of those who stand in front of classes throughout Nassau County teaching eager and inquisitive minds were once students at Nassau Community College. Taking advantage of very strong courses in education, thousands of these professionals started their teaching training and preparation here. We've long been very proud of the robustness of our education program, and I'm pleased to announce that it has recently become even more effective.

Now at Nassau Community College, students may register for one of six degrees in Teacher Education that will ultimately transfer seamlessly to any four-year State University of New York (SUNY) Teacher Education Program. With proper

advisement, students can transfer to local four-year private institutions with similar ease. At NCC, one can obtain an Associate of Arts (AA) degree in Early Childhood Education, Childhood Education or Adolescent Education. Alternatively, students may choose to pursue an Associate of Science (AS) degree in Early Childhood Education, Childhood Education or Adolescent Education. Nassau offers comprehensive Teacher Education Programs covering the education of children from birth through 12th grade. These programs are designed to facilitate transfer from NCC to colleges offering teacher education baccalaureate degrees. Upon completion of their baccalaureate degree, students are eligible to apply for New York State teacher certification in Early Childhood Education, Childhood Education or Adolescent Education. In September 2005, NCC's Teacher Education Program was registered with the State University of New York and the New York State Department of Education. That means that now our students can take the first part of the three-part test for teacher certification right here at Nassau. This is most significant. In addition, assuming that a student has at least a 2.75 grade point average, virtually all of their courses will seamlessly and easily transfer to a four-year public or private college or university.

About 1,500 students are currently enrolled in the College's Teacher Education Transfer Program. More than half of

its graduates go on to private colleges and universities. The rest pursue their bachelor's degree at public institutions.

Nassau Community College has articulation agreements with Adelphi University, C.W. Post, Molloy College, Hofstra University, Baruch University, New York University and St. John's University, as well as many others. The College is also about to conclude a similar agreement with Queens College.

As part of its ever-evolving curriculum, three new courses were recently made available to add support for the Teacher Education program at NCC. They are: Foundations of Education, Physics for Educators and Foundations of Mathematics for the Elementary School Teacher. As you can tell from their names, these courses were designed to meet the specific needs of students in the program.

As the need for teachers grows and the cost of college tuition continues to increase, NCC's Teacher Education Program will become even more vital to the overall stability of the educational system in New York State. I'm very proud that one can begin his or her college career at Nassau—where the tuition is very affordable and the quality of education is excellent—before easily transferring to a four-year school and eventually going back to the classroom as a teacher, guiding other young Long Islanders. It proves once again that Nassau Community College truly is where success starts and continues.

Martin Roddini Named New Director of Public Safety at Nassau Community College

Nassau Community College has named Martin Roddini as its new Director of Public Safety. Roddini assumed his position on September 1.

Roddini brings a wealth of higher education law enforcement experience to the position. Prior to joining Nassau, he was Director of Public Safety at the Newark campus of Rutgers University. Before that, he was the Deputy University Director of Public Safety at the central office of the City University of New York (CUNY), where he oversaw and coordinated the public safety operations of the 19 senior and community colleges of CUNY. Roddini also spent over twenty years with the NYPD, retiring as a deputy

chief in the traffic department.

Believing that security is everyone's business, Roddini looks forward to working with the entire campus community at the College. He said that his philosophy of life is summed up in a quote from a poem: "to eat of the fruit that all life we may taste, to fear if we don't, part of life we may waste." To him, the quote means that we should be willing to try different things, to get as much life experience as we can.

Roddini has a master's degree in Public Administration from C.W. Post and a bachelor's degree in sociology from St. John's University. He is the proud father of three grown children.



A L U M N I / P R O F I L E

FROM NASSAU TO OXFORD UNIVERSITY MELISSA FRIEDMAN, CLASS OF 2003, INTERNATIONAL PHYSICS AWARD WINNER

The first exposure Melissa Friedman—Nassau Community College, Class of 2003—had to physics came when she was ten years old. It so impressed her that at that tender age she decided to become a physicist. Little did she know then that it would lead her years later to be a 2005 winner of a Marshall Scholarship, one of the most prestigious honors in U.S. education. The Marshall Scholarship is on a par with the Rhodes Scholarship. It will permit Melissa to continue her studies in physics with graduate work at Oxford University.

Back in high school, however, Melissa changed her choice of profession, as a love of the arts came to the forefront. She went to a specialized high school, majored in visual art and developed a portfolio good enough to earn scholarship offers from a number of prestigious colleges. Melissa eventually chose to attend an internationally recognized four-year university.

After attending the university Melissa decided to rethink her career path. She took a year off from school to regroup. Then she entered Nassau Community College in 2001. “Nassau became the cornerstone for rebuilding my academic career,” she remembers. In the nurturing environment provided by NCC, Melissa

got to know her professors and took the time to experiment with different courses and think about what she wanted to do with the rest of her life. “I found the school to be very personal and intimate,” she says. Before long, she was once again thriving. She rediscovered her love for physics and math as while she was earning an associates degree in liberal arts from Nassau in 2003. Credits earned at Nassau helped Melissa transfer to Stony Brook University.

“Nassau became the cornerstone for rebuilding my academic career”

During the summer of 2004, Melissa did research at the University of Colorado under a Nobel Laureate. She also was elected to the Sigma Pi Sigma physics honor society. The following summer she spent in Germany working in one of the world’s most prestigious groups in atomic and optical physics.

Her hard work at school and doing research paid off. Marshall scholarships



are awarded annually to approximately 40 U.S. college seniors. They are funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth office and administered by the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission in the United Kingdom. Melissa was recommended for the scholarship by Stony Brook University Physics Professor Dr. Howard Metcalf, who has mentored her. “I feel very honored to have been selected for this very prestigious award,” she says. She also feels fortunate to have found gifted teachers and colleagues at Nassau and elsewhere who inspired her and helped her along the way.

Editors Note: Melissa is graduating from Stony Brook in May 2006 with a B.S. in physics. She was awarded a full scholarship to Oxford University in London, where she will pursue a Ph.D degree in atomic molecular optical (AMO) physics. Melissa then hopes to teach and do research in physics.

Nassau Community College Ranks Tops In New York State for Number of Degrees Awarded

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

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

FACULTY / STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Kate Beckman, Director of the Communications Lab and a vocalist, presented three cabaret concerts on December 4 at the New York Institute of Technology. On Dec. 11 she performed a program of swing music at the Rockville Centre Public Library. On Dec. 19, she presented a benefit concert for the Salvation Army Ministry at Theatre 315 in New York City.

Dr. Harold Bellinger, J.D., M.P.I.A., Assistant to the President for Affirmative Action and Diversity and ADA/504 Officer, was a member of the panel discussion "The American Patriot Act and Its Implications on U.S. Immigration Policy" with Steven Drummond, partner in Drummond & Crawford; Irwin Clare, CEO, Caribbean Immigrant Services; and Prof. John Gregory, Hofstra University Law School, held in October. Dr. Bellinger also presented a workshop at the 18th annual National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education, sponsored by the Southwest Center for Human Relations Studies, Public and Community Services Division, at the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Bellinger's workshop was on "The Basic Legal Principles Subject to the 'Strict Scrutiny Doctrine' Required in All Higher Education Affirmative Action Plans."

Susan Bello, Assistant Dean, Institutional Research, spoke at the North East Association of Institutional Researchers (NEAIR) 32nd annual conference in November. She was also a member of NEAIR's Community College Assessment Panel of the Consortium on Financing Higher Education. Ms. Bello spoke about creating a culture of assessment with faculty through course level and general education assessment.

Dr. Sally Ann Drucker, English, recently received a National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks in American History grant to study how environment affects culture and history. She also did a presentation on Lucretia Borgia at a Renaissance Chautauqua sponsored by the Oklahoma State Humanities Council.

Dr. Arthur Friedman, College of the Air, has been elected as a trustee of the Stony Brook-based Long Island Library Resources Council. Dr. Friedman's five-year term runs from 2006 to 2010.

Dr. Phil Cheifetz, Mathematics/Statistics/Computers, received the 2005 American Mathematical Association of Two-Year College's (AMATYC) Presidential Award for exemplary service to AMATYC and the AMATYC Foundation.

Dr. Bernice Kliman, Prof. Emeritus, English, was the brainchild behind a database that includes all available commentary on Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. She was working on a printed edition of such a collection for the Modern Language Association in the 1990s and thought that the Internet would be a better tool for such a project. The database, which was developed with a one million grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, is expected to debut within the next few months.

Dr. Salvatore LaGumina, Prof. Emeritus and former president of the American Italian Historical Association, was honored in November by Radio Maria Italia as a successful, outstanding individual who has proven himself to be of sound moral and religious values. Radio Maria Italia was born as a parish radio in 1983 in Milan, Italy. Today, The World Family of Radio Maria has stations in over 30 countries, including the United States. It spreads the Christian gospel and has a commitment to evangelization.

Prof. Lucy Landesberg, Reading/Basic Education, received an award for educational leadership at the Goudreau Museum of Mathematics 13th Annual Awards Dinner at the Swan Club in November.

Dr. Evangeline Manjares, Associate Dean/Director of Financial Aid, Tom Casserly, Associate Director of Financial Aid, Doreen Davis, Assistant Director of Financial Aid, Mark Campbell and Gustavo Rivera, Federal Work Study Coordinators, were presenters of "Automated Solutions, Financial Aid Packaging Philosophy at Nassau Community College and Federal Work Study Procedures/Processes" at the recent State University of New York Financial Aid Professionals Staff Development Training held at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City.

Prof. Gary Ostertag, Philosophy, had the article "Descriptions and Beyond" published in the *Notre Dame Philosophical*

Reviews, which contains substantive length scholarly philosophy book reviews.

Prof. Janis Schimsky, TRIO Project Director, Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD), has been selected as one of seven AHEAD (Association on Higher Education and Disability) members nationwide to participate in its newly formed Curriculum Advisory Committee (CAC). This committee will coordinate AHEAD's curriculum development for a proposed disability services certification program. Such a certification is especially needed in smaller institutions, where there may not be a separate office for disability services and where the Dean of Students must provide these services. The first meeting of the CAC took place in Nashville in November.

Dr. Joseph Varacalli, Sociology, Catholic Studies, most recent book has been published. It is a sociologically informed history of the Catholic Church in the United States geared towards the advanced high school and introductory college student. *The Catholic Experience in America* is published by the Greenwood Press of Westport, Connecticut.

Dr. Paula Wheeler Carlo, History, Political Science, Geography, recently published the book *Huguenot Refugees in Colonial New York: Becoming American in the Hudson Valley* (Sussex Academic Press). Earlier this year, she presented a paper entitled "New York Huguenots and the American Revolution" at the Washington Headquarters National Site in Newburgh, New York. In addition, Dr. Wheeler Carlo's biography was selected for inclusion in the 2005 edition of *Who's Who in America*.

Dr. Clive Wynter, Chemistry, will be included in the 9th edition of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. In September, Dr. Wynter participated in the International Conference on the Mossbauer Effect in Montpellier, France. NCC will host the 4th Mossbauer Symposium in January.

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 Mattimore or Alicia Steger, Editor, in the College Relations Office at 572-9634 or 572-7249.

THE ART OF EDUCATION AT NCC

FACULTY AND FACILITIES ARE CUTTING EDGE

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their skills or learn a new skill or non-majors interested in exploring a creative outlet.

NCC's Art Department facilities are state-of-the-art. The building is one of the newest on campus and was designed with sophisticated studios that take advantage of their natural northern light. It also contains modern kiln facilities, color and black and white dark rooms and complete photo studios.

In addition to a special photography classroom, there is a separate workspace for film processing and contact sheet preparation. The facilities are so remarkable, in fact, that an external program review conducted in 2005 by Dr. Susan Susman Palmer, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Suffolk Community College, stated,

"The state-of-the-art

facilities are unparalleled locally. The seven specialized art studios, three Mac computer labs, an art history lecture hall and a large photography suite are impressive and impeccably maintained." The review also says that students are provided with the latest in software and technology.

While the latest in art technology is made available, Prof. Dooley and the other members of the faculty in Nassau's Art Department believe strongly that students must receive basic training in the traditional methods of making art as well. Consequently, courses are offered in everything from printmaking to ceramics to digital photography. The department works with an outside advisory board who have input on curriculum and other

matters.

Nassau's Art Department oversees the Firehouse Plaza Art Gallery, which is now located on the plaza level of the College Center Building. The gallery exhibits artists from several different populations: faculty, students, and local artists, as well as regionally and nationally known artisans. It's free and open to students, faculty, staff and the community at large.



Prof. Izolda Maksym confers with student Gonzalo Monroy during an Art and Design for Multi-media class.

In addition to coursework, professor/student mentoring, and the Firehouse Art Gallery, the Art Department annually holds an open house for students who might be interested in pursuing their art education. Professors also regularly visit area high schools to review student portfolios and talk to students. This kind of community outreach gets the word out about NCC. For instance, Sandra Carrion, District Art Coordinator for the Sewanaka Central High School District—one of the largest on Long Island—thinks very highly of the program. "Across the board, I see good teachers, leadership and an overall caring for the good of the students," she said. "The strength of the department is the high artistic caliber of the faculty and the facilities. It's one of the best programs

in the region."

Faculty advisors from the Art Department at NCC oversee students in the Art Club, the Computer Graphics Club and the Photography Club. These clubs meet regularly and provide a way for students to interact with one another outside of class. They also take advantage of the College's close proximity to New York City by sponsoring field trips to

major galleries and museums.

In 2004, a joint partnership was formed between the College and the Nassau County Museum of Art, which calls for internships for NCC students and exhibitions of student artwork. The Nassau County Museum of Art is located in Roslyn Harbor.

The NCC Art Department has articulation agreements with the School of Visual Arts in

New York City, SUNY New Paltz and C.W. Post. It also has close relationships with several other schools, including the New York University School of Education, Parsons, SUNY Purchase and Pratt.

As part of its ever present mission to keep pace with technological innovation and to give students a well rounded artistic education, the department has pending a new certificate program in Desktop Publishing and Design, and a course in Non-Western art history. The department will reactivate a survey course that entails visiting art museums and galleries.

The Art Department at Nassau Community College is passionate about its goal of offering the best courses in the best facilities in the Long Island region.

NCC CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Events at Nassau Community College

THE NCC THEATRE PRESENTS
EAST TEXAS HOT LINKS

January 27-29 & February 1-5
NCC Little Theatre

Written by Eugene Lee, *East Texas Hot Links* is a kinetic, ruthless portrayal of self-interest and betrayal. Powerful events ensue when eight poor, black, rural Texans in the pre-integration South watch their world change and then crumble from their favorite café. To order tickets, call (516) 572-7676.

The Firehouse Plaza Art Gallery Presents

MAKING THE CUT

January 23-February 16

This year, NCC's annual juried art competition is judged by Apsara DiQuinzio from the Whitney Museum of American Art. For more information, call (516) 572-0619.

THE NCC CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAM PRESENTS

Lois Jenson—The Real Life Mine Worker who inspired the recent hit film North Country



Making History and Leading the Way: My Role in the First Class Action Sexual Harassment Suit in the United States

March 22 — 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM
College Center Building

Lois Jenson's experiences when she worked as an iron miner in Minnesota resulted in the first class action sexual harassment lawsuit in U.S. history. For information, call (516) 572-7153.



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