

The Official Newsletter of

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

nexus

YOUR COLLEGE CONNECTION

www.ncc.edu

Where Success Starts...and Continues

Fall 2007

## OVER 21,500 STUDENTS ATTEND NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE THIS FALL



Photography by William Baker

As over 21,500 full- and part-time students begin classes at Nassau Community College this fall, they are embarking upon a journey that could transform their lives. Known as one of the finest community colleges in the nation, Nassau Community College—part of the State University of New York system—is the first step in the higher education of one in five high school graduates in Nassau county. Students come here for a variety of reasons. Academic excellence, a nurturing atmosphere with an average class size of 21, ease of credit transferability, flexibility, affordability and location are foremost among them. Once they're here, students also discover a rich campus life that includes student clubs and organizations, programs with prominent and interesting speakers and topics and an extensive athletic program. Perhaps the first surprise that greets those

Nassau has a nurturing atmosphere, with an average class size of 21

who come to the NCC campus is its appearance. Nassau's 225-acre campus is located in the middle of Nassau county. There are a total of 47 buildings on campus. A social science and art classroom building with cutting edge facilities and a student center opened in 1997. A planned \$40 million Life Sciences building will add superior classroom and laboratory space to the campus. Registering students are also pleased to find out about the wide range of majors and subjects that are possible to take at the College. More than 65 degree and certificate programs are offered. Whether students are interested in art or mathematics, history or theatre, teacher education or surgical technology, or any one of a myriad of other subjects, Nassau Community College has the courses. Over 3,700 day, evening and weekend class sections were offered this fall.

Freshman Samantha Thomas of Levittown couldn't be more delighted about her choice to come to Nassau. "I like NCC a lot. It's a great place to start and it's close to home." Samantha was a 2007 freshman orientation leader. "One of the subjects I'm interested in is photography, and Nassau has one of the best facilities in the area," said Samantha.

A popular option is the Honors Program, which is open to students who were in the top 20 percent of their graduating class in high school. It has a special core curriculum that features an enriched background in the humanities, the sciences and other specific subjects. Second year student and Student

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Already the largest single campus community college in the State University of New York system, Nassau Community College is again sustaining year-to-year growth for the fall 2007 semester.

- Full-time day enrollment is up 4.19%
- Full-time evening enrollment is up 2.54%
- Continuing student enrollment is up 2.34%
- Returning student enrollment is up 3.14%

# A Message From the President

## NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE: AN ACADEMIC STIMULUS FOR THE COUNTY

by Dr. Sean A. Fanelli



Nassau Community College is known for high quality education, small class sizes, an excellent faculty and very affordable tuition. 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 all of us proud.

What is less known about Nassau is the major part the College plays in the County's overall economy. In the 2005-2006 fiscal year (the latest figures available), the following economic contributions were made by the College:

- NCC contributed \$598 million in the Nassau County region to purchase supplies and pay salaries, wages and benefits.
- NCC is one of the region's largest employers, with approximately 3,000 full- and part-time faculty and staff.
- NCC continues to repay taxpayers year after year, because its graduates continue to live, work and pay taxes in New York State.
- During the fall 2005 semester, 20,979 full- and part-time students registered for courses at the College and contributed over \$243 million in direct spending in the Nassau county region.
- Yearly tuition at the College remains the lowest in Nassau county, coupled with providing the highest quality of instruction, which contributes to the high levels of employment and earning of NCC graduates.

Without question, NCC is a major component of the Nassau county economy, representing essential and vital resources for the county's social and employment infrastructure. If the economy of the county depends on the total sum of all its parts, then NCC would be identified as a significant component of the whole. While providing an excellent education may be

*"Without question, NCC is a major component of the Nassau county economy"*

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 to the nature of our academic enterprise and to the ongoing contribution Nassau Community College makes to the economic stability of the county.



## NCC NAMES DONNA HAUGEN SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR COLLEGE LEGAL AFFAIRS

Nassau Community College President Dr. Sean A. Fanelli is pleased to announce that Donna Haugen has been named Special Assistant to the President for College Legal Affairs. Prior to joining NCC, Ms. Haugen worked for several years on the legal

aspects of higher education issues, including those that relate to a community college.

Ms. Haugen looks forward to working with the students, faculty and staff at Nassau. "I am pleased to be given this opportunity to bring to the College my expertise on legal issues involved with higher education," she said. She added, "I have, for many years,

known of the value that NCC adds to the Long Island community, and I am enthusiastic about working with others at the College to continue that tradition."

In addition to her work dealing with community college issues, previously Ms. Haugen has worked with the firm of Ingerman Smith in representing school districts in collective bargaining and in litigation in matters before the Commissioner of Education and the Public Employment Relations Board. Her work also included the preparation and review of contracts.

After graduating cum laude from the College of New Jersey with a bachelor's degree in political science, Ms. Haugen attended the Hofstra University School of Law. A former resident of Bethpage, she currently lives in Melville with her husband A.J. and children, Drew and Emily.

# Over 21,500 Students Attend NCC

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Trustee Jennifer Winters is in the Honors Program at NCC and is vice president of Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society of two-year colleges. “Nassau is providing me with a golden opportunity for higher education,” says Jennifer. “The intellectual stimulation I get here will help prepare me for my four-year school.” Upon graduation, Jennifer hopes to attend New York University to study business. NCC also has an exceptional faculty. The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools—a non-governmental, voluntary organization of educational institutions that evaluates and accredits educational institutions—has described Nassau’s faculty as “perhaps without rival among the community colleges in the nation.” Outside the classroom, NCC excels as well. There are extensive men’s and women’s sports programs. Both programs have fielded regional and national championship teams. More than 60 academic, athletic, cultural, religious, political and social clubs are active on campus. Something else that might be surprising about Nassau Community College is that



“The intellectual stimulation I get here will help prepare me for my four-year school.”

– Jennifer Winters  
NCC Student Trustee

an additional 14,000 students take courses through the College’s continuing education department, known as Lifelong Learning. Each year, another 1,700 students receive distance education through such telecourse materials as CDs and DVDs available at the College library.

Using the knowledge and study habits they’ve honed at the College, about 70 percent of Nassau’s graduates continue their education at a four-year institution. “The attitude on campus is that people are here to learn. They value their education,” said second year student Nick Carbone, a liberal arts major from Oceanside.

Nassau Community College prepares students for transfer to a four-year college or prepares them for an immediate career. With associate degrees in arts, sciences and applied sciences, one-year certificate programs, lifelong learning courses and evening and weekend courses, NCC has a program for just about everyone.

## FACULTY & STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

**Prof. Kate Beckman, Communications**, gave a master class on the art of cabaret and was a member in Cabaret Conversations at the LI Arts Fest. She also performed in the Oak Room at Carlyle on the Green and presented a program to introduce high school and college students to cabaret. This program was made possible with a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program. Prof. Beckman has also been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Long Island Arts Council at Freeport.

**Dr. Harold Bellinger, J.D., Assistant to the President for Affirmative Action and Diversity, ADA/504 Coordinator, M/WBE Acting Director**, received a leadership award from the Freeport/Roosevelt Chapter of the NAACP. He was the principle facilitator and assisted in coordinating the 2007 Civil Rights Forum held at Adelphi University. Over 450 people participated. Dr. Bellinger was also elected co-chairperson of the State University of New York Affirmative Action Officers Council.

**Dr. Qiong-Ying Chen, Reading and Basic Education**, was elected to the Nassau Library System Board of Trustees. She also presented “Creating Significant Learning Experiences for ESL Students” at the School of Foreign Studies, South China Normal University in Guangzhou, China. In addition, Dr. Chen participated in the NYU Faculty Resource Network seminar on New Trends in Teaching English as a Second Language.” She co-presented a workshop with **Prof. Kerry Sikinger-Golde, Kristin Quinn and Dr. Cheryl Novins (all of Reading and Basic Education)** on

“Utilizing Students’ Schema: A Thematic Approach to Developmental Reading” at the National Association for Developmental Education in Nashville. Finally, Dr. Chen co-presented a session with **Prof. Anne Marie Monaco, Reading and Basic Education**, on “Engaging Students in Active Learning Through Journal Writing” at the Successful Teaching conference organized by the Institute for Community College Development.

**Prof. Douglas Cody, Chemistry**, was recognized by the Board of Certified Safety Professionals for his ten active years as a nationally Certified Safety Professional (CSP). At the spring 2007 Long Island chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers Professional Development Conference he presented a seminar entitled “Chemistry for the Non-Chemist.” Prof. Cody also serves as the chair of NYUST’s task force on health and safety, where he recently chaired a statewide safety conference in Albany. Prof. Cody participated in a technology conference as a member of the Chemistry Faculty Advisory Team.

**Prof. Kevin Costa and Dr. Gary Klingler, Allied Health Sciences**, developed a Youtube video website ([www.youtube.com/nccnat](http://www.youtube.com/nccnat)) for their anatomy and physiology students.

**Dr. Dorotea Litvak, English**, was listed in the *Empire Who’s Who Executive and Professional Women in Education* and was selected as one of the *Who’s Who Among American Teachers and Educators*. She also is in the global directory of *Who’s Who—Honoring Executives and Professionals*.

**Dr. Jack Lubowsky, Math, Statistics and Computers**, gave a talk to the Institute of Electrical

and Electronics Engineers Long Island Consultants Network entitled “A Brief History of Cryptography” at Briarcliffe College

**Dr. Kunkum Prabhakar, Biology**, conducted a presentation entitled “Inquiry-based Instruction in Botany to Enhance Student Learning in a Differentiated Classroom” during the Joint Congress Botany 2007 in Chicago. The conference, sponsored by four botanical societies, was attended by participants from 25 countries. Dr. Prabhakar also spoke about chocolate to high school students at Hofstra and to the Head Injury Association on Long Island.

**Dr. Neela Saxena, English**, presented a paper on “The Black Madonna of Europe” at the International Association for Philosophy and Literature conference held at the University of Nicosia in Cyprus. She also gave the talk “Gynocentric Thinking” at Calcutta University.

**Dr. Joseph Varacalli, Sociology and Catholic Studies**, was interviewed by Voice of America Radio about the state of the Catholic Church in the U.S. as dealt with in Dr. Varacalli’s books, *The Catholic Experience in America* and *Bright Promise, Failed Community: Catholics and the American Public Order*.

*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 Mattimore or Alicia Steger, Editor, in the College Relations Office at 516-572-9634 or 516-572-7249.*

# OPEN HOUSE AT NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Campus Tours 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Physical Education Building Field House

Meet faculty and staff from over 25 academic departments, as well as Admissions, Financial Aid, Academic Support and Counseling Services, The Center for Students with Disabilities and others. Learn about expanded evening and weekend offerings.

Attend workshops on Financial Aid and Services for Students with Disabilities. Tour the campus. Light refreshments provided.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CALL 516.572.7501**

## CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

### CLASSICS FOR KIDS AT NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### **Mallory Lewis and Lamb Chop**

Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30 & 3:30 PM  
College Center Building

*Classics for Kids* is sponsored by the Nassau Community College Cultural Program. Parents are urged to purchase tickets in advance.  
**For additional information call:** 516.572.7153.

### THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE PRESENTS:

#### **The Pajama Game**

Dec. 7, 13 & 14, 8:00 PM  
Dec. 8 & 15, 3:00 PM & 8:00 PM  
Dec. 9 & 16, 3:00 PM

**Tickets:** \$9.00; \$7.00 for NCC Employees, Alumni and Seniors 55 and over  
FREE for any college student with current I.D.  
**Theatre Box Office:** 516.572.7676



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A unit of the State  
University of New York**

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Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
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Garden City, N.Y.  
Permit No. 71

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