

NEXUS

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Where Success Starts...And Continues

Winter 2007

NASSAU MUSIC DEPARTMENT HITS ALL THE RIGHT NOTES A Quality Music Education and A Cultural Resource for the Community



Photography by William Baker

Diana Simon, a student from the percussion studio, performs on the chimes.

IT'S ONE OF OUR BEST-KEPT SECRETS—NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE HAS ONE OF THE TOP MUSIC PROGRAMS OF TWO-YEAR COLLEGES IN THE COUNTRY. THE COLLEGE HAS AN EXTENSIVE music program, providing students with comprehensive classroom training, numerous opportunities for performance, and state-of-the-art technology. Nassau is a fully accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music and has articulation agreements with many four-year schools. The Music Department faculty at the College is outstanding, comprised of professional performers, composers, conductors and musicologists, all of whom are dedicated educators. The Department has three main objectives: first, to prepare students for careers in music; second, to provide courses in various aspects of music as humanities and general electives for students in other degree programs; and third, to serve as a cultural resource center

for its students and the larger community of Nassau County. Music majors at NCC earn a two-year Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Performing Arts-Music, including training in music theory, aural skills, keyboard skills, applied music (instrumental/vocal study) and music literature and history. Students are accepted into the program through an audition and placement process. Every student studies an instrument or voice and participates in at least one ensemble. Each student is also assigned a music faculty advisor who serves as their mentor throughout their time at Nassau. Music majors at Nassau Community College receive professional training that enables them to achieve a high standard of artistic performance in their chosen field. They are also exposed to the many career options in the field of music. Once students graduate, their degree is easily transferable to many four-year schools,

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

NCC Awarded Prestigious \$2 Million Federal Grant

by Dr. Sean A. Fanelli

COLLEGE FUNDING HAS BECOME MORE PROBLEMATIC AND COMPLEX IN RECENT YEARS. THAT'S WHY I AM GRATEFUL to announce that Nassau Community College has just received a prestigious Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant for almost two million dollars from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant selection process is highly competitive. Of the 34 grants awarded nationally, Nassau is one of only two institutions in New York State to receive this award. Awarded to NCC on its first attempt, this grant is an outstanding achievement for the College and for those who worked on this project. With more than 21,000 undergraduate students and another 14,000 continuing education students at Nassau, it is essential that the College keep up with changing technology. The new Title III grant will provide \$1,275,000 to be used for technological improvements to strengthen NCC's Management Information System (MIS). In addition, it will make available resources to train faculty, staff and administrators to use the new system. These technological improvements will enhance fiscal stability, academic success and student support services at Nassau Community College. College academic programs will receive \$250,000. These funds will be used to significantly expand NCC's online course



offerings. Faculty will be trained in online course design and implementation, with a focus on information literacy. The outcome of these efforts will be 31 new

period. This money will be used for technology, faculty development and other needs.

This prestigious grant, and others like it, are made possible because of the excellent work of the members of the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research and the other administrators at Nassau. The staff of The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research is extremely knowledgeable and pursue grants with great skill and extraordinary zeal. They are an important part of the team of faculty, administrators and staff that work hard to provide the best education for our students.

"Awarded to NCC on its first attempt, this grant is an outstanding achievement for the College and for those who worked on this project."

online courses that will enable Nassau to offer more diverse course options and therefore better meet student needs.

Finally, the Title III grant will support a \$400,000 endowment fund to be matched dollar for dollar over the five-year grant

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 educational issues and trends.

"While we are pleased with the recognition of being third in the nation for the number of degrees granted, we are 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."

DID YOU KNOW?

- Nassau Community College was created as part of the State University of New York (SUNY) in 1959. When the College first opened on February 1, 1960, it was housed in a wing of the old Nassau County Courthouse in Mineola, New York. It had only 632 students.
- Enrollment increased dramatically after 1962. Classes were moved to more spacious facilities at the former U.S. Air Force base at Mitchel Field.
- Today, Nassau is the largest single-campus community college in the State of New York. Over 20,000 students are enrolled in 30 academic departments.
- Approximately another 14,000 people participate in Lifelong Learning (Continuing Education) and Special Programs for Business.
- The College is centrally located in Nassau County on 225 acres. There are 47 buildings on campus. They include the Library, Physical Education Complex, Administrative Tower, two academic wings and refurbished former military buildings used for classrooms and administrative offices. A new Social Science and Art classroom building and a College Center Building opened in 1997.

DID YOU KNOW?
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Welcome to the New Nassau Community College Website — ncc.edu

If you've checked out the newly-designed Nassau Community College website, you already know how user-friendly and enhanced it is. If you haven't seen it yet, go to www.ncc.edu and check out some of the exciting features:



Contact Us — is available on every page. On the Contact Us page, you'll find a handy list of pertinent phone numbers and e-mail addresses for several of the main areas of the College, as well as a link to the College Directory in its entirety.

Channels — The main categories, or "channels" on the site are About NCC, Admissions, Academics, Student Life, News & Events, Lifelong Learning (Continuing Education and Professional Studies) and Alumni. Every other area falls under one of these categories.

Distance Education (Web CT) — is a link from the home page. You can also access Distance Education by choosing the following: Academics/Distance Education/Nassau on the Web.

Library — is a link on the home page. You can also access the library by choosing Academics/Library.

The new website has separate pages for the Registrar, Bursar, Public Safety and Student Financial Affairs Departments, as well as many other new and convenient features. It looks pretty good too. Check it out!

FACULTY / STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Merik Aaron, Health and Physical Education and a lawyer, was appointed a judge in the Nassau County Family Court system.

Susan Bello, Asst. Dean of Institutional Research, gave an interactive presentation entitled “Assessment of Student Learning: Involvement, Improvement, Interaction” at the Institute for Community College Development conference entitled “A New Era of Accountability” this summer at Cornell University.

Dr. Qiong-Ying Chen, Reading and Basic Education, has made a few presentations this year. She presented a paper entitled “Creating Significant Learning Experiences for ESL Reading Students” at the 21st IRA World Congress on Reading in Budapest. She also presented the workshop “POW!! Our Learning Communities Provide Opportunities that Work” at the Long Island ESOL conference at Molloy College. In addition, Dr. Chen presented “Creating Significant Learning Experiences for Developmental Reading Students” at the 30th annual conference of the National Association for Developmental Education in Philadelphia. She published the article “A Project for Integrating Fundamental Strategies/Activities to Promote Active Learning” in *Innovative Learning Strategies, Eighteenth Yearbook, 2005-2006*, College Literacy and Learning of the International Reading Association in May. The project was originally published in 2003 by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education as “Distributed Approach to Information Literacy at a Two-Year Institution” in *Developing Research & Communication Skills: Guidelines for Information Literacy in the Curriculum*.

Prof. Grace Gilner, Allied Health Sciences, coauthored a research paper entitled “Collaboration Between Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants: Fostering the Development of the Preferred Relationship Within a Classroom Setting.” The original research for this paper was published in the Spring 2006 edition of *The Journal of Physical Therapy Education*.

Profs. Philip Cheifetz, Paula Kreinbuhl, Greg Spandler and Joan Tomaszkeski, all of the Math Department, have published an article entitled “Success with Assessment: Responding to a System Mandate” that appeared in *Assessment of Student Learning in College Mathematics: Towards Improved Programs and Courses*, published by the prestigious Association for Institutional Research this fall.

Prof. Connie Egelman, Student Personnel Services, has been selected as a Fulbright Scholar grantee to the U.S.-Germany International Education Administrators Program.

Prof. Pat Falk, English, recently published the book *It Happens As We Speak: A Feminist Poetics*. The book explores the role of women writers in current literary and political landscapes.

Prof. Constantine Kallaur, Foreign Languages, recently spoke about “Russian Contribution to American Life and Culture” at the Long Beach Public Library.

Dr. Vladimir Konovaliuk, Foreign Languages, graduated this spring from SUNY Stony Brook with a degree of Doctor of Arts/Foreign Language Instruction-Concentration in Russian.

Prof. Jack Mandel, Marketing, Retailing, Fashion, was a contributor to the fall 2006 issue of *Elements Magazine*.

Prof. Marcia McNair, English, joined *The Lakeview Community* as Arts & Entertainment Editor earlier this year.

Dr. Caroline Olko, Psychology, presented a talk at The 20th Annual Conference on Undergraduate Psychology: Ideas and Innovations, sponsored by the Psychology Department at Farmingdale State University, earlier this year. Her talk was entitled “Learning by Doing: Teaching Introductory Psychology.” Dr. Olko also gave a talk to high school students as part of “Nassau Science Explorations” sponsored by Hofstra University. Her interactive presentation was on “Aromachology: Making Sense of Scents,” a talk which she also gave at the South Shore

Senior Center. She spoke at the Five Towns Senior Center on “Laugh Your Way to Health” and at the Valley Stream Jewish Center on “For the Love of Chocolate.” In November, she spoke about “Laugh Your Way to Health” at another senior citizen’s center.

Prof. Steven L. Rosenhaus, Music, co-wrote the book *Writing Musical Theater* with Allen Cohen of Fairleigh Dickinson University. The book is published by Palgrave Macmillan.

Dr. Neela B. Saxena, English, published an essay in *Interculture*, a journal that appears in English, French and Italian. She also presented a paper at the International Association for Philosophy and Literature conference held in Frieburg, Germany earlier this year. In addition, Dr. Saxena was a guest speaker at the Kazi Nazrul Islam Symposium organized by the University of Connecticut in September. Finally, Dr. Saxena presented a paper at The World’s Religions after September 11, a global congress held in Montreal in September.

Jane Segadelli, Student Personnel Services, was invited to join the Nassau County Executive’s Task Force on Family Violence as a result of her work on the 2005 Women’s Center Symposium. She will be a member of the task force’s university subcommittee, which focuses on issues of the campus community, including family and dating violence.

Prof. Mario Susko, English, was a guest reader at the 37th Poetry International Festival in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, in June. His poem “Audition” won the 2006 *Nassau Review* Poetry Award. Also, his book of new and selected poems, *Life Revisited*, was published this fall in Allahabad, India.

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.

NASSAU MUSIC DEPARTMENT HITS ALL THE RIGHT NOTES

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including New York University, SUNY Potsdam (Crane School of Music), Hofstra and C.W. Post. Nassau graduates have also been accepted into prestigious music conservatories, including the Manhattan School of Music, Mannes College of Music, the Peabody Conservatory and the Eastman School of Music.

Opportunities to perform music abound

NCC has numerous instrumental and vocal ensembles that provide students and music-loving community members with the chance to experience learning about and performing many types of music in a variety of settings. Several of these groups perform weekly or end-of-semester concerts during the school year that are open to the public for free or for a nominal charge. The NCC College-Community



Jason Daly and Faculty Member Garry Ouellette work on ProTools, an audio production system, in the Music Department's Audio Production Lab.

to the twenty-first centuries. It also has members from the community as well as the College. The Chorus, comprised of music majors and other students, presents a concert at the end of each semester and also does free performances at nursing homes, libraries, senior citizen centers and other facilities. There is a Chamber Choir, selected by audition. Students, as well as

College and county events.

A comprehensive certificate in Sound Recording Technology, which prepares students for careers in various facets of the music industry by training them in music theory, music business, and studio recording, is also available. Students are accepted into this program through an interview process. This program is in high demand, with many students eager to enter this growing field.

“Graduates of the NCC music degree and certificate programs have gone on to pursue successful careers in music, music business and music education.”

Concert Band, for instance, is a wind ensemble that has over 70 participants from the College and the community. It plays symphonic music and Broadway and pop arrangements. The NCC College-Community Orchestra performs major orchestral works from the seventeenth

people from the community, participate in four jazz ensembles, including Big Band, jazz combos and jazz improv ensembles. The Music Department at Nassau also has a Chamber Music Ensemble, a Guitar Ensemble and a Percussion Ensemble. These groups perform at numerous



Jessica DeOlmo practices the French horn.



The NCC Guitar Ensemble (left to right): Matthew Guarniere, Dustin Boxe, Mitchel Langsam, Daniel Keene, rehearses for a performance.

Music is thriving at NCC! Graduates of the NCC music degree and certificate programs have gone on to pursue successful careers in music, music business and music education. Numerous music teachers in public and private schools across Nassau and Suffolk counties began their training at Nassau Community College. For more information about the Music Department and its programs, call 516-572-7446.

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS:

FIREHOUSE PLAZA ART GALLERY

Upcoming Shows

January 22 – February 15, 2007

Open Competition

Annual Juried Open Competition

March 5 – March 29, 2007

Organic Meets Inorganic

A combination of bio-morphic, curvilinear forms with hard-edged, geometric forms, resulting in a rich intermingling of seemingly contradictory ideas

Call 516-572-0619 for more information



Jennifer Scott of the *Organic Meets Inorganic* art exhibit
Cutaways and Counterparts (detail), 2006,
Mixed media installation

NCC THEATRE

Spring/Summer 2007 Productions

The Mighty Gents

By Richard Wesley

(A Joint Production with African-American Studies)

NCC Little Theatre, Jan. 26 - 28; Jan. 31 - Feb. 4, 2007

The Passion of Dracula

By Bob Hall and David Richmond

NCC Mainstage Theatre, March 1-4; March 7-11, 2007

Performances: 8:00 p.m., except Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

Call 516-572-7676 for more information

SAVE THE DATE

*Join us in celebrating the 25th Anniversary of
President Sean Fanelli
May 16, 2007
Crest Hollow Country Club
For more information, please call 516-572-8972*



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