

NEXUS

Nassau Community College . . . The Right Start

Curtain Rises For Another Entertaining Theatre and Dance Season at NCC

Who needs Broadway when there's an accomplished group of theatrical artists right here on campus? For over three decades, the Nassau Community College Theatre and Dance Department has served the community with nearly 100 performances a year. This year is no exception, as the department gears up for another exciting season.

Rhinoceros Tap, an original children's musical, will see its premiere at NCC in October, followed in November by the classic George Bernard Shaw comedy *Arms and the Man*. The semester will close in December with *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, a play written by comedian Steve Martin.

Nassau's Theatre and Dance program is creative and comprehensive, combining classroom and hands-on opportunities for budding actors, dancers, technical directors, scenic designers and other theatre professionals. All majors are required to take, among other courses, several sections of Production and Performance, which require extensive hours of service on departmental productions. Degrees are offered in Acting, Technical Theatre and Dance.

The Theatre and Dance facilities, located on the South Campus, contains two small informal theatres, a 200-seat Mainstage Theatre, and a 100-seat Little Theatre that is used for acting classes, plays and the children's shows.

The NCC Theatre and Dance faculty is dedicated to the arts and educational excellence. Members have studied at such esteemed institutions as Yale School of Drama and Carnegie Mellon University. Each year, to enrich the educational experience for the students in the degree programs, the department hires guest artists (pro-



NCC Drama students rehearse a scene from the original children's show *Rhinoceros Tap*, the first production in an exciting theatrical season. L-R: Elizabeth Hall, Patti Goettlicher, Lesley Honan, Sean Fitzgerald, Jon-Michael Rivinius, Danielle Ng, and Damian Maffei; center: Andro Kim.

duction directors, musical directors, set designers, choreographers and musicians) to assist in producing various shows.

The Theatre and Dance Department draws thousands and thousands of patrons from the College and surrounding communities to its productions every year. As the lights come up on the new season, thousands more are sure to experience the thrill of live theatre thanks to NCC Theatre and Dance students.

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE RANKS TOPS IN THE NATION FOR NUMBER OF DEGREES AWARDED

According to a report by the U.S. Department of Education, Nassau Community College ranked number two in degrees awarded in all disciplines for a two-year institution nationwide and number one in New York State.

This was revealed in a 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 second in the nation for the number of degrees granted by the community colleges, we are excited about the high ranking the College receives in specific disciplines," said Dr. Sean A. Fanelli, President of NCC. "This report demonstrates the wide range of excellence our faculty bring to their students."

A Message From The President

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION REVIEW

By President Sean A. Fanelli

As a member institution of the State University of New York System, Nassau Community College is participating in a Mission Review process mandated by the State University of New York (SUNY) Provost's Office. The general scope of the College's mission is projected to remain fundamentally unchanged – to provide a high quality, low-cost college education and career preparation; maintain an open admissions policy; create educational programs responding to diverse community needs; maintain developmental programs which upgrade student skills for success in college-level courses; provide support services to realize maximum potential in a multicultural environment; encourage faculty to develop programs that promote scholarship and creativity; support academic programs which best prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions and career programs to prepare students for employment and/or advancement on the job; and enhance the economic and cultural vitality of the County by promoting an educational environment.

The Mission Review process requires that we make an in-depth assessment of the College and determine what modifications, additions, and deletions are necessary to best carry out the various aspects of our mission. To that end, we are ever seeking to be distinctive in our tendency toward proactivity and efficacy. Nassau's current aspirations are to better serve an increasingly diverse service region population; improve reten-

tion; increase programmatic responsiveness; and develop additional appropriate degrees.

Some of the other highlights of the College's Mission Review process, as noted by Dr. Jack Ostling, VP for Academic Affairs, include:

- Nassau will continue to experience enrollment increases from business and industry, Asian and Latin American students, along with increases in international and ESL students.
- Multi-culturalism in the curriculum will continue to be an area of emphasis.
- Already very successful in transferring students to four-year colleges, the number of articulation agreements will continue to rise. Presently, NCC maintains articulation agreements with Adelphi University, Molloy College, Plattsburgh State University, Harper College of SUNY/Binghamton, SUNY at Old Westbury, SUNY/Stony Brook and others.
- NCC will develop over the next five years more contract service programs with the private sector similar to contracts we presently have with Bell Atlantic.
- New priorities to sustain academic excellence have emerged – technology and faculty development and training. Teaching methodologies for all students will be



expanded to respond more efficiently to students requiring one or more remediation courses, as well as high-achieving students who are eligible to participate in the Honors program and the Harvard Pre-Calculus Project. "There is, finally, the persistent hope that the College will eventually institute the week-end college," said Dr. Ostling.

These are just a small sampling of the Mission Review's items under consideration. Nassau is fortunate to have exceptionally strong and creative faculty and administrators, eager students, dedicated trustees and a supportive County. All these ingredients make for a community college which the Rolling Stone magazine identified as one of the ten best in the nation.

As we encounter the challenges of the 21st Century, we will increasingly engage in the Mission Review process to assure high academic and training standards for our students.

Alum Notes:

Nassau Community College Alumni Association Awards Local Scholarships

The NCC Alumni Association recently presented twelve scholarships to area high school students at a ceremony this fall. Each year, the Alumni Association receives applications from every high school in Nassau County, from which they select the best of the best. Awards are given based on high school academics, outside activities and a personal essay.

This year's scholarship recipients were: Jeannine Paris, West Hempstead; Kristen Varvaro, Floral Park; Nikole McCrory,

Wantagh; Dina Castro, Wantagh; DebraLozner, Wantagh; Janine Mantell, Hicksville; Jacqueline Traham, Hicksville; Maxine Poppe, Locust Valley; Brook Condon, Levittown; Manny Goldman, Roslyn Heights; and Augustine Sciabarassi, Levittown.

In attendance at the ceremony were: NCC president, Dr. Sean A. Fanelli; NCC Alumni Association board members, Jewel Weinstein, Larry Engel, Rocco Saraceni, Rosemary Styne, Anne Brack, Michelina Saracino, Fran Izzo and Diana Katz.

MDC Program Celebrates Tenth Year

*Innovative Program Connects
Ideas Between
The Sciences and Humanities*

Students and faculty at Nassau Community College began their year-long celebration of the first decade of the innovative MDC (Multi-Disciplinary Courses) program. This fall there was a conference on October 22, entitled *Murderers and Victims: Kids Today*, involving scholars from Nassau and other institutions. The activities will continue throughout the spring semester with a series of student-centered activities, such as film festivals, essay contests, plays and concerts.

The MDC program, initiated ten years ago with \$400,000 in grants from The National Endowment for the Humanities, Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education, and The National Science Foundation, consists of five courses: *The Making of the Modern Mind I & II*, which explore the foundations of 20th Century Modernism, powerful ideas that transformed human attitudes and brought revolutionary changes that still shape contemporary thought today; *Studies in World Cultures*, which examines the diversity of human experience through case studies of Asian, Latin American, and Islamic cultures; *Issues in Science*, which introduces students to the inter-relationship of science, technology and society; *Major Ideas in the Post-Modern World*, which follows the making of the modern mind into the 21st Century, exploring post-modern thought in Western and non-Western societies.

The MDC program has grown from a group of seven faculty members, in mathematics, sciences and humanities, to include over seventy faculty from twenty-eight departments. Grant funding supported the intensive seminars. Faculty were required to take and teach the courses. This fall, the program offered twelve sections of the courses. Classes are given in the evening and during the summer as well. The courses transfer easily to all four-year institutions, especially those requiring a "core" or foundation course in the twentieth century, such as Adelphi University and Queens College.

Students who took the courses in the past are being contacted to join the celebration. Many have maintained contact with their MDC instructors. Visiting lecturers from the past, such as Richard Milner from the Natural History Museum, Arthur Danto, author of *Beyond the Brillo Box* and *The Death of Art*, and the virtuoso musician Chris Merlin have also been invited.

For information about the program call MDC coordinator, Dr. Joan Sevick at 572-8030, or visit the MDC web site at www.sunynassau.edu under "department web pages."

NCC International Study Program Knows No Boundaries



NCC Hotel and Restaurant Management students pose for a group photo in front of London's Big Ben.

NCC students interested in the hospitality business had the opportunity to enrich their knowledge by working in a foreign hotel or restaurant last summer on the International Work Abroad Program in London. Preparations are already underway for next summer's program, which offers students not only hands-on work experience, but also the invaluable benefits of living and learning in another country. For more information about this program call the NCC Hotel and Restaurant Management Department, 572-7344.

*Visit the
Nassau Community College
web site
WWW.SUNYNASSAU.EDU*

FACULTY/STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Prof. Gerald Bartell, English Department, spent his summer traveling to Arizona and Colorado, sponsored by the respective states' Departments of Tourism. The trips were specially organized for travel writers like Prof. Bartell, whose writing and photography have appeared in the *New York Daily News*.

Dr. Sally Ann Drucker, English Department, performed as early 20th Century feminist/anarchist Emma Goldman at *The American Century*, in Chautauqua, Portsmouth, sponsored by the New Hampshire Humanities Council. Dr. Drucker also appeared as Goldman at NCC's cultural event *They Came from Russia*.

Prof. Mark Gwydir, Math Department, and Dr. Tom O'Brien, Biology Department, were elected to the Executive Board of the Northeastern Association of Two-Year Colleges. Dr. O'Brien was also elected to the Executive Board of the New York Biology Teachers' Association, representing middle and high school biology teachers.

Dr. Sara Landon, Dr. Maria Mann, and Dr. Charline Sacks, Foreign Languages Department, participated in a conference entitled *Foreign Language Curriculum Articulation from Middle School to College—Searching for Strategies*, sponsored in conjunction by the Foreign Languages Department and the Italian Consulate General of New York. The well-attended one-day event was presented for secondary and college teachers in the New York area.

Prof. Tom O'Brien and Dr. Kumkum Prabhakar, Biology Department, conducted a workshop recently entitled *Active Learning: A Modified Pedagogy* at a National Conference sponsored by the Community College General Education Association.

Dr. Roman A. Ohrenstein, Professor Emeritus, Economics Department, was presented with a Citation of Excellence by Anbar Electronic Intelligence in England for his original article *The Socio-economic Time Dimension in Talmudic Literature* published in the *International Journal of Social Economics*.

Dr. Jeff Rosenfeld, Sociology Department, recently spoke at a conference in the Dag Hammerskjold Auditorium at the United Nations on *Interior Design In An Aging World* as part of the UN-sponsored International Year Of Older Persons. Dr. Rosenfeld is also a consultant on a project to design a senior center, a collaboration with the five interior design schools of New York to provide design students with social and psychological input on older people.

Dr. Stella Russell, Professor Emeritus, Art Department, designed the logo and promotional booklet of the National Association of Women Artists, the nation's oldest and largest art organization.

Prof. Florence Scarinci, Library, was a guest recently on Channel 12's, *The Family Pet*, Prof. Scarinci, president of the Nassau County Library Association, spoke about the use of dogs in pet-facilitated therapy, and also about her participation in Bide-A-Wee's education program which teaches children responsible pet ownership.

Prof. Cherrie Sears, Health, Phys. Ed. & Recreation Department, recently represented NCC at the American College Health Association Annual Health College in San Diego, CA, where she received her second HIV/AIDS Education grant. At the conference, Prof. Sears provided an overview of NCC's successful HIV/AIDS education programs.

Alicia Steger, Assistant Director, College/Community Relations, moderated a panel discussion entitled *Local Print* at the 14th Annual Connection Day in October at the Long Island Marriott in Uniondale. The event is sponsored by the Long Island Coalition for Fair Broadcasting. Over 500 print and electronic journalists and public relations professionals attended this conference.

Dr. Mario Susko, English Department, has recently released his latest collection of poetry, *Versus Exsul*. Dr. Susko is a prolific and respected Croatia poet from Bosnia whose inspiration lies in his experience as an exile and war survivor. He is the author of sixteen volumes of poetry, and several anthologies.

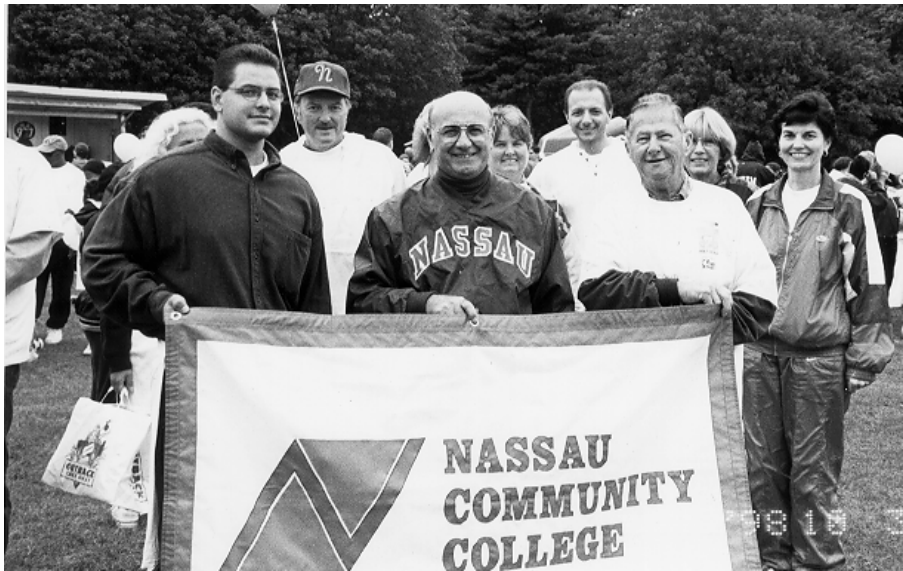
Reginald Tuggle, Director, College/Community Relations, made a presentation on *Community Relations Through Special Events* at the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations District One Conference in Portland, Maine in October. The NCMPR is a professional organization for individuals involved in marketing and public relations at two-year colleges.

Dr. Joseph A. Varacalli, Sociology Department, will have an essay entitled *Community and Identity in Italian-American Life*, co-authored with Salvatore Primeggia of Adelphi University and published in 1993 by JAI Press, reprinted in an anthology, *The Review of Italian-American Studies*, published by Lexington Books in spring, 1999.

Prof. Paula Wheeler, History, Geography & Political Science Department, recently co-authored *Reviewing American History: Coverage and Timeliness in American Historical Review, CHOICE, and Journal of American History* published in *Collection Building*.

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

Nassau Community College Has A Heart



Front Row (L-R): Mike Sloma, Public Safety Officer; Dr. Sean A. Fanelli, President; Joe Portela, Director of Public Safety. Back Row (L-R): Fred Downs, Director of Human Resources; Jacque Zarek, Secretary in Department of Foreign Languages; Joe DeCrescenzo, Public Safety Officer; Marion Fanelli; Eileen Cotter, Secretary in College/Community Relations.

On Sunday, October 4, members from the Nassau Community College family participated in the *Annual American Heart Walk 5 K* event held at SUNY Farmingdale. This year's college-wide fund raiser was co-chaired by Reginald Tuggle, Director of College Relations and Evelyn Comer, Special Projects Coordinator. The 1998 NCC honoree was Joseph Portela, Director of Public Safety. Thanks to the overwhelming response of our college community, this event was the most successful ever. Spirits were high and a good time was had by all.

NCC Announces New Exciting Summer Camp Program For Teenagers

This summer the Faculty/Student Association of Nassau Community College will be sponsoring a summer day camp for teenagers 11 1/2 to 17 1/2 who complete grades 6-11. The program will run from July 12-23, 1999. Two-week, one-week, and half day sessions are available during this time.

The program will consist of varied sports, swimming, fine arts, academic enrichment and tutoring. Each camper's program will be individualized to meet her/his needs. Activities will be taught by college faculty and teachers, and college students will assist. For more information please contact Professor Michael Corpuel at (516) 572-8145.



confronting issues of
sexuality and power

A Nassau Community College Symposium

DARING TO BE: CONFRONTING ISSUES OF SEXUALITY

November 9 — 12

Monday, November 9 - DECODING THE SEXUAL LABYRINTH

- 9:30 a.m. Analyzing Gender Identity
- 11:00 a.m. Coming of Age Tales
- 2:00 p.m. Men Talk About Sex

Tuesday, November 10 - DECONSTRUCTING MEDIA POWER

- 9:30 a.m. Jezebels and Bucks: Dispelling Myths About Black Sexuality
- 11:00 a.m. The Naked Truth: Advertising's Images of Women

Wednesday, November 11 - REFOCUSING THE CULTURAL GAZE

- 9:30 a.m. Questioning Queer Identity
- 11:00 a.m. Sex, Rock and Relationships
- 2:00 p.m. Larger Than Life: The American Sports Idol

Thursday, November 12 - SURPRISED BY VIOLENCE - 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m.

Nassau Community College is sponsoring a four-day symposium initiated by the NCC Women's Center and the Women Students Association. *Daring To Be: Confronting Issues of Sexuality* will take place in the College Center Building. All programs are free and open to the public. For more information about this symposium call Trudy Ruchman at 572 - 7696.

NCC Campus Calendar

Nassau Community College Cultural Program Presents

A Series On the Clinton-Lewinsky-Starr-Congressional Issue

Truth and Consequences in Washington

Elizabeth Holtzman

Tuesday, October 27 — 11:00 a.m.



Elizabeth Holtzman's distinguished career in public service includes four terms in Congress, during which she served on the House Judiciary Committee during the Nixon impeachment hearings in 1974, a stint as Brooklyn District Attorney, several years as New York City Comptroller, and several campaigns for statewide office.

Juan Williams

Monday, November 23 — 11:00 a.m.



Journalist Juan Williams' sixteen years at the "Washington Post" gives him direct access to the nation's top decision makers and spin doctors. Author of *Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years*, he is currently writing the biography of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. He has appeared on *Crossfire*, *Nightline*, and *The MacNeil-Lehrer NewsHour*, as well as in print in magazines embracing the entire spectrum of political thought.

Abigail Thernstrom

Wednesday, November 4 — 2:00 p.m.



Dr. Abigail Thernstrom participated with President Clinton in his first televised "town meeting" on race in Akron, Ohio, on Dec. 3, 1997. Her latest book, *American in Black and White: One Nation, Indivisible*, was named as one of the most notable books of 1997 by the "New York Times." She is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute in New York, and a member of the Massachusetts State Board of Education.

Dick Morris

Wednesday, December 2 — 12:30 p.m.



Dick Morris engineered the greatest comeback in modern politics as chief strategist for President Clinton's 1996 re-election campaign. Aside from Bill Clinton, he has worked for dozens of politicians, including Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott. Upon resigning from President Clinton's campaign (under unpleasant circumstances), he released his book *Behind the Oval Office: Winning the Presidency in the 90s*.

This program is sponsored by the Nassau Community College Cultural Program which will take place in the NCC College Center. Admission is free and the public is invited. For more information about the NCC Cultural Program, call Phyllis Kurland, 572-7153.

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THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED
BY THE OFFICE OF COLLEGE/
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Non-Profit Org.
Bulk Rate
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Garden City, N.Y.
Permit No. 71

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