NCC Celebrates 700 Sundays with Alum Billy Crystal

On Tuesday, February 15 over 140 members of the Nassau Community College community attended the performance of NCC alum Billy Crystal in 700 Sundays at the Broadhurst Theater in New York City. Included in this group were students, faculty and administrators, along with outside supporters of the College. After the performance—a one-man show in which he plays numerous characters, family members and others, that have influenced who he is today—Crystal graciously spent time with his Nassau Community College guests in a question and answer session reminiscent of television’s Inside the Actor’s Studio.

As he answered questions, Crystal, a graduate of the class of 1968, talked about his positive experiences at Nassau. He said that being in the NCC Theatre department helped lay the foundation for much of the approach he takes towards performing. Crystal also voiced his appreciation for the overall influence the professors at the College had on him and gave advice to the current students present to be disciplined and work hard. NCC President Dr. Sean Fanelli went backstage at the conclusion of Crystal’s performance to congratulate him on his very successful Broadway run. “Seeing one of our graduates succeed of course always makes us proud,” said Dr. Fanelli. “It also serves as an inspiration to current Nassau Community College students.”

Through ticket sale proceeds, the event raised $12,000 for the benefit of Nassau Community College. The faculty, staff, students and administration of the school are most appreciative of the kindness shown by Billy Crystal and those who work with him. It was a very special night.

Weekend College at Nassau Continues to Grow at Nassau

Weekends are now a prime time for learning at Nassau Community College. As community colleges across the nation are seeing a rise in adult students returning to school—for new job skills or second careers, as well as a first college degree—Nassau has responded to this trend with Weekend College. Weekend College is a new opportunity to earn a degree or a certificate by taking classes exclusively on Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays.

For the past several semesters, Nassau has continued to expand the number and variety of the weekend classes it offers. Enrollments have been growing apace—from some 1,500 students in Spring 2002 to over 2,500 in Fall 2004. In Fall 2004, the College also received approval from SUNY and the State Education Department to offer associates degrees in Liberal Arts, Business Administration, and Accounting as well as a Paralegal Certificate in a new all-weekend format. Students may

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Evening Classes: A Great Opportunity

By Dr. Sean A. Fanelli

Prospective students evaluate colleges and universities by many criteria: curriculum and program choice, quality of facilities, reputation of faculty, success of graduates, affordable tuition and convenience.

Time and again, Nassau Community College has been acknowledged for the high quality of its faculty. More than one-third of our faculty have doctoral degrees, more than any other community college in the State University of New York system. Our facilities are first rate and we have opened a new classroom building and the College Center Building within the past eight years. Our computer, instructional technology and other lab equipment is state-of-the-art. During 2006 a new science and health sciences building will be under construction. Because of our constant quest for quality, this year the Middle States Accreditation Association of Colleges and Schools commended Nassau Community College as an institution with outstanding staff and programs.

Nearly 6,000 full- and part-time students attend the College in the evenings and/or on weekends. While these students elect to come to Nassau for its programs, faculty, facilities and the success of our graduates, they also recognize the enormous opportunity to pursue a college education in the most convenient way possible. Weekend and evening classes are available at NCC between 5:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9:00 a.m. to 4:10 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. This is especially beneficial since most evening and weekend students are older and work full-time and/or are raising families during the day. In addition, some evening students already have degrees but have decided to change careers or be certified in another field of study.

In an environment as competitive as Long Island’s and with the rapid pace of change in technology, it is essential that employees and employers keep up with current models of efficient production in the workplace. A Nassau degree provides the tools needed for career advancement. Our evening and weekend students have determined that getting a college education at Nassau Community College is an excellent choice for both quality of education and convenience.

Nearly all degree and certificate programs we offer in the daytime are also available in the evenings. In addition, students may now pursue our liberal arts and business degrees as well as a certificate in paralegal studies solely through weekend study. The services of Counseling, Student Advisement, Student Personnel Services and Financial Aid are available in the evening too, just as they are for daytime students. Because of the convenience offered by NCC, evening students have the ability to take full advantage of all of the exceptional range of services we provide. From such business related programs as accounting, marketing and business management to the sciences of chemistry and biology, from liberal arts to engineering, one can become a successful college student while taking courses exclusively in the evenings or on weekends at Nassau Community College, “Where Success Starts… and Continues.”

Weekend College at Nassau

Weekend College at Nassau enables students to advance their studies and reach their educational and career goals in a timely and convenient fashion. Weekend College students can enjoy the opportunities Nassau provides to all students to earn credits for ‘life-long learning,’ take on-line courses, or select courses from among Nassau’s unique “College of the Air” courses as well. With an enhanced capacity to provide students advisement, registration, financial aid and counseling services on the weekends, Weekend College is a major highlight of Nassau’s continued educational outreach and service to the community.

For more information about the Weekend College at NCC, contact Dean Ann Muth, Weekend College, NCC, by phone at (516) 572-7832, by fax at (516) 572-7503, or by e-mail at mutha@ncc.edu.

“A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Weekend College at Nassau Continued from page 1

now pursue and complete each of these programs solely through weekend classes. Courses in other popular degree programs, such as Interior Design and Computer Repair Technology, are also available to Weekend College students.

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Twenty-five years ago, the Nassau Community College Student Faculty Association noticed a need. Many of the students, faculty and staff at NCC were having a difficult time finding convenient, quality childcare. So, using the expertise available at the College, they set aside the proper space and gathered together the resources necessary to begin a childcare center on campus. The Children’s Greenhouse, the result of that effort, celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. The Children’s Greenhouse, which started with thirty children in 1979, has approximately 160 today. That makes it one of the largest childcare facilities in the State University of New York System as well as one of the largest on-site childcare facilities on Long Island licensed by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

According to Janet Walsh, the Center’s Director, as many as 160 children may be enrolled in the Greenhouse in any given semester, the majority of whom belong to student parents. There are five age-related groups of children: infants (8 weeks to 14 months), ‘waddlers’ (14 months to 22 months), toddlers (22 months to two-and-a-half-years), preschool one (two-and-a-half-years to three-and-a-half-years) and preschool two (three-and-a-half-years to five years). Each semester, the staff plans an educational and fun curriculum of teacher-centered and child-selected activities. The children learn about themselves, their friends and the world around them by taking part in activities with such themes as: music, cultural diversity, books and favorite authors, Families and Seasons. Each month, a center-wide theme is chosen (the farm, for example) and caregivers coordinate special activities to help the children learn about it at their own level.

Funding for the Children’s Greenhouse comes from a number of sources, including parent fees (which are charged on a sliding scale based on ability to pay), financial contributions from the College and from the Faculty Student Association and fund raising events conducted by the NCC Board of Directors. The College also provides the building, maintenance and utilities for the daycare center.

The Children’s Greenhouse, which is located on campus between the former Brick Cafeteria and Building H, is open from 7:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, whenever the College is open. Children may be enrolled for a minimum of 10 hours per week, with flexible scheduling. The maximum number of daycare hours available is based on the number of credit hours taken by a student or the number of hours of employment at Nassau Community College. Families are accepted from a waiting list based on date of application. Fifty people are on the staff of the Greenhouse, including full time, part-time and student employees. Caregiver/child ratios are always maintained and are determined by age group. Each year, the Center holds a ‘moving up’ ceremony for those children who will not be returning. The Board of Directors and the staff of the Children’s Greenhouse are hoping for a big turnout of alumni and current families for the 25th anniversary celebration of the Center, scheduled for June 2005.
Susan Bello, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, gave a presentation on the SUNY current status activities in the General Education Assessment Review at the Association of Institutional Researchers and Planning Officers (AIRPO) winter conference in Saratoga Springs, New York. Topics included the addition of strengthened campus-based assessment, progress made in this area by colleges and recent Freedom of Information Act requests.

April Cofield Essix, Human Resources, was the recipient of the Woman of the Year Award for 2004 from Women of Substance Ministries of Lindenhurst. April runs the prison ministry at Memorial Presbyterian Church in Roosevelt, New York. She goes into the prison each week to work with and counsel incarcerated women. She is very active in her church and her community.

Prof. Emeritus John Fink, Art, is actively creating and exhibiting his pottery and sculpture. He was in an exhibition of pottery called “Strictly Fundamental” at Hofstra University’s Rosenberg Gallery. He also exhibited his sculpture at the Long Island Craft Guild exhibition “Out of Hand” at the Art League of Long Island.

Prof. Mark Halfon, Chair of the Philosophy Department, has written a book entitled Can a Dead Man Strike Out?, published by Santa Monica Press. The book is about offbeat baseball questions and their improbably philosophical answers. Dr. Halfon has had two other books published.

Dr. Beverly Harrison, Associate Vice President for Human Resources and Labor Relations, received an award from The Cathedral Church of St. Thomas the Apostle and the New Brighton Local Community Development Corporation in honor of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The award was given to Dr. Harrison in recognition of her professional achievements and charitable acts.

Prof. Jack Mandel, Marketing and Retailing, received an honorable mention in the Best of the Great Ideas in Teaching Marketing Contest, held in conjunction with the publication of the book Marketing, Eighth Edition. A panel of 35 professors from around the country reviewed over 1,000 entries on every conceivable marketing topic. Prof. Mandel’s honorable mention was for “putting students in the line of fire to learn crisis management techniques.” Prof. Mandel also coordinated a “Start Your Own Business” workshop hosted by the Continuing Education and Professional Studies Department at the C.W. Post campus of Long Island University in March.

Prof. Richard Newman, English, has just published his translation of a Persian literature classic, entitled Selections from Saadi’s Gulistan. The book is published by Global Society Publications. The first of five books of classical Persian literature that Prof. Newman has contracted to translate, Selections from Saadi’s Gulistan is the first new literary translation of the original book in more than 100 years.

Prof. Louis Panacciulli, Music, has been chosen to conduct the Nassau Community College Orchestra for the Spring 2005 semester. Prof. Panacciulli has been the College Band Director since 1991 and is also the Conductor and Music Director of the Nassau Pops Symphony Orchestra.

Prof. Richard Randall, Accounting and Business Administration, spoke about entrepreneurship to students in the business curriculum and DECA club at John F. Kennedy High School in Plainview.

Prof. Emerita Stella Russell, Art, spoke on a panel presentation discussing the Art of Today’s Women for the National Association of Women Artists in Virginia. Dr. Russell also served as a judge of art with Fashion Designer Oleg Cassini and Historical Painter Mort Kunstler for an open juried competition.

Dr. Joseph Varacalli, Director of the Center for Catholic Studies, was the recipient of the Pope Pius XI Award for “contributions to the building of a true Catholic social science.” The award is the highest honor that the Society of Catholic Social Scientists can grant a catholic scholar. Dr. Varacalli received his award at a ceremony at Ave Maria Law School in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Dr. Paula Wheeler Carlo, History, Political Science and Geography, presented the paper “Huguenot Masters and Slaves in the Hudson Valley” at the conference “From Nieuw Nederlandt to New York” held at SUNY New Paltz.

Aurora Workman, Human Resources, participated in the Early Intervention Partners Training Project, a parent leadership development-training program cosponsored by the New York State Department of Health Early Intervention Program and the Family Initiative Coordination Services Project at Just Kids.

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.
In the fall of 1999, at age 27, I made a decision that changed my life forever. I decided I wanted to go to college and become a social worker. Even though I lived ten minutes from colleges in both Queens and Brooklyn, I commuted 45 minutes in traffic to Nassau Community College, because NCC was the most diverse school, it catered best to non-traditional students and it had the best transferable credits.

Upon entering NCC, though, I felt discouraged and out of my element. I met with a former administrator who suggested that I get involved with the school by working on campus at the Information Services Center. She knew what a “people” person I was and said that this would be a great way for me to meet people. I took her advice and got a job as a student aide at Information Services. This became my home away from home. I was able to interact with students, faculty, staff and parents, as well as many other people. I responded to over 20,000 phone inquiries per month, as well as over 5,000 walk-in inquiries and I disseminated appropriate information to College and community populations in a timely fashion using a variety of communication venues. I had worked in offices before, but what working in Information Services did for me was prepare me to deal with a variety of people, both in person and on the phone, as well as to handle a variety of tasks at the same time. It was almost like a brush-up course in business. Looking back now, who would have thought that a little student aide job and the toughness of my supervisor at the time would be just the training I needed to work in the business world?

Working in Information Services shaped my business skills, but taking a public speaking class taught me how to organize my thoughts and present myself in front of people, a lesson that I still follow on a daily basis. Also, I was delighted that when I graduated from NCC, all of my credits transferred to Elms College, in Chicopee, Mass., where I obtained a bachelor’s degree in social work in under two years.

I did my social work field placement in Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton’s Washington, DC office. It was there that I realized how much politics has to do with the social work profession. After graduating from Elms College with a B.S.W., I decided this is where I want to be, doing political social work on a macro level. I am currently helping out in Senator Clinton’s office. She supports issues pertaining to the social work profession. Senator Clinton is a lifelong advocate for children and women. She serves on the Health, Education, Labor and Pension committee, the sub-committee on Aging and Children and Families, and the Armed Forces Committee, all of which make our lives in New York safer and more secure. Because New York State is the third most populous state in the U.S., many people make inquiries to Senator Clinton’s office. Working for her, I often do many tasks at the same time—a skill I learned at NCC. I cannot think of a better person to work for. I finally have some direction in my life—a path that started the day I set foot at Nassau Community College. To all of the lifelong friends I made at NCC: Thank you.
Thinking In Pictures and Other Reports from My Life With Autism: Temple Grandin

Monday, April 4 at 12:30 p.m., College Center Building

Temple Grandin, Ph.D., is a gifted animal scientist who has designed one-third of all the livestock handling facilities in the U.S. She also lectures widely on autism. An autistic herself, Dr. Grandin believes that she thinks, feels and experiences the world in ways that are incomprehensible to the rest of us. She will explain how she managed to breach the boundaries of autism to function in the outside world, and of the connection between her visual mind and the animal temperament.

Hotel Rwanda: Paul Rusesabagina

Wednesday, April 27 at 2:00 p.m., College Center Building

In 1994, Paul Rusesabagina held insanity at bay as he watched his country descend into genocide. A Hutu manager of a luxury hotel in Rwanda, he sheltered over 1,200 Tutsis while extremists massacred over 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus. His wrenching story is chronicled in the 2005 film Hotel Rwanda, a riveting account of a man finding courage within himself to save others in the midst of his country’s darkest moment.

For more information about these programs, please contact Phyllis Kurland at (516) 572-7153.