

Nassau Community College *Nexus*

www.ncc.edu

Where Success Starts...And Continues

Summer 2005

Congratulations Class of 2005



New graduates enjoy the day. From left: Ali Karz, Jong Lian, Uglir Selimoglu.

In one of the largest graduation ceremonies on Long Island, over 10,000 graduates, family members, faculty, staff and honored guests attended the 2005 Nassau Community College graduation ceremony at Nassau Coliseum on Sunday, May 22. In his commencement address to the class of 2005, NCC President Dr. Sean A. Fanelli lauded the courage and determination of the students, as well as the sacrifices made by their families

and the College faculty and staff. He told several exceptional individual stories that illustrated the spirit it takes to pursue higher education, sometimes in the face of many obstacles.

Dr. Fanelli also mentioned in his speech that obtaining a degree is certainly a sign of success, but that in life, continued success is not a destination, but a journey. It's the quality of that journey gives meaning and purpose to our lives.

A Message From the President

A Journey to Success

The following article is excerpted from Dr. Sean Fanelli's speech to the Nassau Community College graduating class of 2005:

"It has been said that life is a journey. If that is the case, then Nassau Community College is one of many signposts that you will pass on your journey. The NCC sign reads, "Where success starts and continues." Today marks another success in your life, another milestone reached. On this segment of your journey there were many who guided, helped and encouraged you to stay the course. Your family and loved ones played a key role in the success we celebrate today.

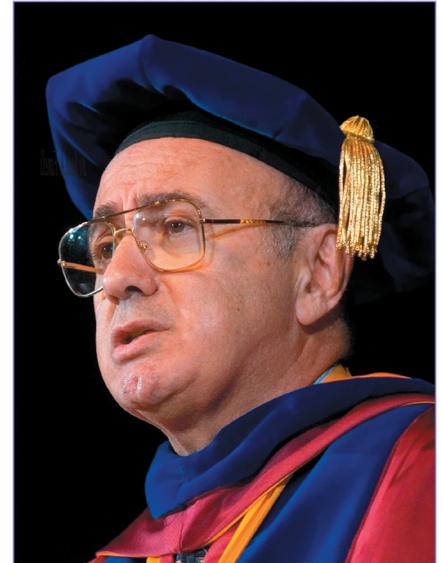
Colleges don't run by themselves. Nassau has a highly talented and committed administrative and support staff that does extraordinary work on behalf of the students of NCC. The success of our graduates is also testimony to the outstanding caliber of the faculty of Nassau Community College. The College takes special pride in the scholarly and creative accomplishments of our entire faculty, who often publish articles, scholarly studies and poetry and compose and perform music. What distinguishes NCC from large universities is that our faculty members see their scholarship,

creative and professional work as vital to their primary mission as classroom teachers.

We are proud of your many accomplishments. They are best exemplified by the stories of your journey to and through Nassau. You followed the advice of Ralph Waldo Emerson, who said, "Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail." You have left fantastic trails. In most instances, you had to traverse hills and valleys, but you did so with distinction.

Some of you arrived directly from high school, some after several years in the work force and some after meeting family responsibilities. Some of you studied full time while others balanced study with family and work responsibilities. Some of you completed your degree requirements in less than two years and others over a much longer period of time. Some of you went to other colleges before coming to Nassau and others came to Nassau, left, and returned.

But all your journeys had a commonality of purpose: to prepare for a career, to expand your knowledge, to broaden your horizons, to fulfill your dreams, to learn. Today is a day of



Dr. Sean Fanelli

dreams achieved. It has taken courage and determination to stay the course, however winding the road you were on became. Some of you have traveled a short distance while others have come a longer distance—from other states, other countries. Your individual roads have converged at this point. After today, you will go your separate ways.

As you continue your journey, remember what John Updike wrote. "You cannot help but learn more as you take the world into your hands. Take it up reverently, for it is an old piece of clay, with millions of thumbprints on it."

Don't forget to leave yours as well."

N C i C II S i r Observers Club Accepts cutive Tom Suozzi



The Nassau Community College Senior Observer Program—whereby Nassau County residents aged 60 and over may audit certain classes without charge—has long been a successful one. Now there is a Senior Observers Club to go along with it. Begun

the fall semester of the just concluded academic year, the club provides participating seniors with an opportunity to share similar educational interests and experiences, to attend informative programs and to take part in a forum for intellectual and social exchange. In early May, Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi attended a meeting and presented the club with a citation in honor of its efforts.

Begun in 1975, the Nassau Community College Senior Observer Program is the largest senior-oriented program in the State University of New York system. It is completely coordinated senior observer volunteers, who handle everything from processing applications to completing registration to maintaining extensive senior observer databank. In a typical fall semester, there might be as many as 1,000 senior citizens auditing classes within the overall population of approximately 21,000 full- and part-time students. For the most part senior observers are retired and thoroughly enjoy the vibrant interaction of college classes. Some are college graduates, while others are novices to higher education. The NCC Senior Observer Program continues to be one of Nassau's vital and valued outreach activities.

NCC Builds 3-D Visualization Theatre

—Partners with Brookhaven National Lab

This year, the Nassau Community College Biology Department is extremely proud to partner with Brookhaven National Lab in a grant from the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Advanced Technological Education Program for a 3-D visualization theatre and ten-week summer internships for selected qualified NCC students. The grant—a first for the College—is for two academic years. Biology Department Chair Stephen Beck is the project's director. This prestigious NSF program provides a hands-on learning experience in biological imaging and computer generated 3-D stereographic image formation and projection. Involved students will take part in a ten-week summer residential program at Brookhaven National Lab, working with the lab's 3-D Vis Team. Prof. Beck will oversee the students, and will visit them at the lab regularly.

In lay terms, the 3-D visualization theatre takes two-dimensional objects and makes them appear three dimensional. The objects can then be observed and researched

in that format. According to Professor Beck, it's of benefit to students across many disciplines in addition to science, including art, engineering, mathematics and computer graphics. Students working at Brookhaven will be able to come back to NCC and help teach other students and assist in maintaining the College's theatre when it is completed sometime later this year. In addition, at the end of the project, a collection of user-friendly techniques will be available that will allow college teachers to easily use the new 3-D visualization theatres to deliver lessons.

Brookhaven is in partnership with other area schools under the Advanced Technological Education Program. Among



Students at Alfred State College view an object at a 3-D Visualization Theatre similar to the one to be opened at NCC.

them are: Alfred State College, Suffolk Community College, Bergen Community College, Jamestown Community College and the Rochester Institute of Technology.

NCC Receives \$5 Million in Technology Aid

This spring the Nassau County legislature unanimously approved \$2.5 million in funding for Nassau Community College to upgrade its student and financial computer information system. That money will be matched by New York State, making for a total of \$5 million in funding for the College's information system improvements.

According to Dr. Sean Fanelli, President of Nassau Community College, "Thanks to the work of the leadership of the Nassau County legislature—Presiding Officer Judy Jacobs and Minority Leader Peter Schmitt—as well as to County Executive Tom Suozzi, we will be able to keep pace with the continual advancements in web-based technology." Dr. Fanelli continued, "Our students, faculty and administrators, and all who use NCC's services will be able to benefit from the efficiencies these advancements provide."

"I've always said that Nassau Community College is the jewel of the County. This project will only make that jewel shine more brightly," said Judy Jacobs, Presiding Officer of the Nassau County Legislature. Minority Leader Peter Schmidt remarked, "I'm pleased to have sponsored this important project for Nassau Community College. Maintaining and upgrading the information system at the College is of value to its students, administrators and the general public."

Nassau County Executive Thomas Suozzi is also pleased about the upgrades. "This project is an investment in our students and in the future of Nassau County. And on top of that, it will bring an additional \$2.5 million to Nassau County from the State," he said.

The upgrade, which is scheduled to begin later this year,

will ultimately have a far-reaching impact on the way Nassau Community College does business. Essentially, the existing "Legacy" computer system will be replaced with a more efficient, updated system which will provide for more self-service functions for students, faculty, administrators, alumni and the community as a whole to access College services. Among the enhanced services that will be phased in over the next five years are:

- On-line admission and registration and access to enhanced advisement tools for students
- 24-hour access to integrated student financial and academic records
- A state-of-the-art interface between the various financial systems currently in use
- A greater ability for our alumni and members of the community at large to stay connected with the College
- An incorporation of the registration for the Lifelong Learning, Weekend College, Senior Observer and ESL (English as a Second Language) Institute programs

Nassau's students are excited about the computer information system upgrades. "I think this will be great for the students who will use it. It will certainly make registering and other tasks much more convenient," said Melissa Raeffaele, a student from Massapequa. Andrew Mienkiewicz, a resident of Plainview, said, "This money will make Nassau's information systems more user-friendly, which is good news for students and for anyone else who wants to find out about what the College can offer them."

NCC Student Highlights

Ari Jahja Appointed Student Trustee at NCC



Although he is just 20, Ari Jahja, the NCC Student Trustee for 2005, is a young man who knows what he wants. Growing up in Jakarta, Indonesia, Ari knew he wanted to learn about business. In high school, he knew that he wanted to come to the United States for college. When Ari talked to his brother, who lives in Valley Stream, he knew that the best thing for him to do was to go to Nassau. Ari came to the United States at the end of 2003 and was attending Nassau by the beginning of 2004.

There's another thing Ari knew. "It's important to expand my perspective and be exposed to different things," he said. That was one reason why he decided to become a freshman senator for the 2004-2005 academic year. Ari's quest to get the full college experience continues still with his appointment as Student Trustee. He hopes to "act as a liaison between the students and the Board of Trustees." Ari feels that one of his roles is to help keep students updated about what's going on at the College. "It's a complex process, but it's very rewarding," he says about being involved in how decisions are made at the school.

A member of Phi Theta Kappa, Ari has maintained a 4.0 average at Nassau. After he graduates, he hopes to continue on for his bachelor's degree, possibly at Pace University.

Mary Eckstein Chosen as Valedictorian for the Class of 2005

In many ways, Mary Eckstein, the valedictorian of the class of 2005, was destined to be a nurse. At the age of 15, she took a job at a local nursing home as a hospitality aide. At 16, Mary cared for her grandmother, who was dying. She then became a nursing assistant at a local hospital. After high school, Mary received training as a Medical Services Specialist in the Air Force. She then returned home to Rhode Island, where she became a volunteer fire fighter and an EMT. As a Health System Technician for the Rhode Island Air National Guard, she was responsible for the medical readiness of Guard members deploying to Desert Storm.

Mary became a 'nurse extender' at St. Francis Hospital after moving to New York. This position provided the funds for her to enroll in the NCC nursing program. A Phi Theta Kappa member, Mary has nothing but kind words for her professors at the College. "I was an evening student on and off for four years. The professors I had were just great. If you were interested, they'd give you their time," she said. In addition to her formal education, Mary values the overall experience she had at Nassau. "The exposure to other people and situations will help me in my nursing career," remarked Mary, who graduated this year with a GPA of 3.96.

In June Mary began a job as a registered nurse in the cardiac telemetry unit at St. Francis Hospital. She hopes to stay in school as well, eventually earning a master's degree and becoming involved in teaching.



Jung Hun Kim Elected 2005 SGA President



Jung Hun Kim, the new president of the NCC Student Government Association (SGA), believes in taking advantage of every learning opportunity that presents itself to him. He was studying Korean literature in South Korea when he decided he wanted to go into business and learn English. So he left his family and came to the United States a little over a year ago to live with his aunt in Williston Park.

Jung enjoys the diversity of the students and faculty at Nassau and plans to do what he can as president to continue its progress. He also will work to make students more aware of what's available to them at the school. "I want students to be involved and take advantage of the opportunities here," he said. "That involves opening the lines of communication among students, faculty and staff." Jung hopes to create a cooperative atmosphere in which those in the SGA and their fellow students can work to find common goals.

Jung, an accounting major, practices what he preaches. In addition to being the SGA president, he's in the Honors Program and is a member of the Wall Street Club and the Japanese Club. Especially close to his heart is the Peace Work Club, which focuses on current affairs.

Jung was also a freshman senator last year.



NCC Receives \$846,000 Federal Grant for Nursing

The NCC Nursing Department has been awarded an \$846,000 three-year federal grant from the Department of Health and Human Services. Beginning this July, the grant will fund a variety of activities designed to retain minority and underserved students who have enrolled in the College's nursing program and to encourage younger students in these communities to pursue a career in nursing. Nassau's is one of only ten proposals nationwide funded through this grant. Nassau Nursing professor Carmelle Bellefl ur, RN, PhD, is the grant's project director.

According to the latest projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, over a million new and replacement nurses will be needed nationwide by the year 2010. As the population of Long Island ages and changes in other demographic ways, it's extremely important to not only attract individuals who may be interested in nursing, but to retain students and prepare them to enter a nursing workforce that will reflect our area's racial, ethnic and cultural diversity. Currently, only 13.4 percent of nurses nationwide identify themselves as coming from a minority background.

Called Preparation Retention

Education for Professional Success (PREPS), the project will enable the College to develop an orientation program to introduce incoming students to the NCC nursing curriculum and assist them in understanding the nursing department's philosophy, as well as its concepts of wellness and illness, stress and adaptation, basic human needs and commonalities and differences in human responses to disease processes. There will also be a concentrated basic skills enrichment program.

PREPS will link NCC's nursing program with those of four-year institutions and provide for internships in local hospitals for qualifying students. It is hoped that students participating in the project will not only enroll in Nassau's nursing program, but stay in it, graduate, get additional degrees in nursing and continue working in the profession.

Another part of the grant's purpose is outreach. Toward that end, PREPS will establish partnerships between the nursing department at Nassau and selected Long Island school districts and provide schools with such ongoing support as health career information, mentoring and academic and personal counseling for qualifying

students. Multimedia presentations will be conducted to impress upon the students and their families and educators that health career jobs are available and attainable. In addition, current NCC nursing students in uniform will conduct a yearly health fair and will serve as role models to increase awareness of the functions of the nurse and inspire youngsters to choose nursing as a career. It is estimated that at least 600 students in grades 5 through 12 will participate in career activities through the grant over the three years of the project.

The Nursing program at NCC was founded in 1962 in response to a growing community need for nurses. It is currently the largest nursing program in New York State and the primary provider of registered nurses to health care facilities in Nassau and Suffolk counties. As of May 2004, the NCC nursing program has graduated 5,240 nurses who are now in the work force. With the assistance of the PREPS grant, the College can continue to provide the health care workers so critically needed on Long Island.

The Nursing department worked in partnership with the College's Office of Sponsored Programs and Research to win the PREPS grant.

NYS Senator Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr. Secures Grants for Nassau Community College – Two Grants Total \$85,000



Sen. Fuschillo (center) speaks with NCC Foreign Languages Chair Maria Mann and student Ann McGee in the Foreign Languages lab.

Senator Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr. (8th Senate District – Merrick) was the College's sponsor in obtaining two New York State Senate grants for NCC—one of \$50,000 and a second of \$35,000. The

grants will be used to enhance Nassau's television studio and to upgrade its Foreign Language Lab, respectively. "This will expand the options available to the students of Nassau Community

College and will better prepare them for their future. The real mission of any institute of higher learning is to prepare its students for fulfilling careers and these improvements will better enable Nassau Community College to do just that," said Senator Fuschillo.

The television studio grant will help keep students abreast of state-of-the-art developments in the industry. "Our current editing and production facility has developed and changed with technological advances in this field. To offer our students the best learning environment, we plan to reorganize and modernize our video and sound editing rooms," said Dr. Sean Fanelli, President of Nassau Community College.

"The study of foreign languages is an increasingly important undertaking for our students," continued Dr. Fanelli. Monies obtained from the grant for the language lab will improve the audio, video and interactive CD technologies currently used at Nassau for language study. NCC offers ten different language options: Spanish, French, Russian, Italian, German, Arabic, Japanese, Hebrew, Latin and Portuguese.

Eight Nassau Community College Faculty Members Receive the 2005 Dean of Instruction's Distinguished Achievement Award

The 2005 Faculty Distinguished Achievement Awards were presented to eight members of the Nassau Community College faculty in a ceremony held on April 6 at Nassau Community College. These awards honor the highest caliber of scholarly pursuits, artistic endeavors and professional achievements of our faculty. The Faculty Distinguished Achievement Awards were instituted to recognize outstanding professional accomplishments among both full and part time members of the College faculty.

This year's Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award recipients were: Dr. Arthur Friedman, Library; Dr. Jeanne Katherine Golan, Music; Dr. Jennifer Hecht, History/Political Science/Geography; Prof. Amy King, English; Dr. Maria Mann, Foreign Languages; Dr. Hugh O'Rourke, Criminal Justice; Dr. Neela Saxena, English; and Dr. Ronald Skurnick, Mathematics/Statistics/Computer Processing.

The awards include recognition for original musical composition and poetry as well as research and publication in the fields of mathematics and foreign language studies.

According to Jack Ostling, Vice President of Academic Affairs, "The accomplishments of our faculty this year are as outstanding and diverse as the individuals whose achievements we celebrate. These individuals have taken their scholarship and talent beyond the classroom and as a result have both informed and enriched the teaching and learning mission of the College."



(L to R) (Standing): Dr. Sean A. Fanelli, President, Nassau Community College; Dr. Arthur Friedman, Library; Prof. Amy King, English; Dr. Hugh O'Rourke, Criminal Justice; Dr. Ronald Skurnick, Mathematics/Statistics/Computer Processing; Jack Ostling, Vice President of Academic Affairs. (Seated): Dr. Jeanne Golan, Music; Dr. Jennifer Hecht, History/Political Science/Geography; Dr. Neela Saxena, English; Dr. Maria Mann, Foreign Languages.

Faculty/Staff Highlights

Prof. Robert DiChiara, English, has published *Stukk in the Burbs: A Novel of Mystery and Mortgage Payments from Richard Stukk, Suburban P.I.*, about a community college professor who moonlights as a private eye. The book is a comedy of errors, both grammatical and criminal, in the land of dying lawns and stone dead literacy.

Dr. Sally Ann Drucker, English, spoke at several Nassau County libraries. She gave the talk "Women and Holy Fools in the Writings of Isaac Bashevis Singer" at the Hewlett branch, and "Emma Goldman and Freedom of Speech" at the Nassau County Library Association. Dr. Drucker also led monthly book discussions through the "Lets Talk About It" series on Jewish literature at the Port Washington library.

Dr. Ronna Feit, Foreign Languages, was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). She will be attending an NEH Institute entitled "A Literature of Their Own? Women Writing: Venice, London, Madrid, Paris, 1550-1700" this summer at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Prof. Melanie Hammer, Reading and Basic Education, recently won first prize in a contest by the El Dorado Writer's Guild. Her story "My Father's Commute" appeared in the spring issue of the Guild's literary journal *Acorn*.

Prof. Lois Lucca, Allied Health Sciences, was honored with a regional award from the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) for outstanding service to her profession. In addition to her commitment to teaching, Prof. Lucca has hosted at least one local program for ASCP each year since she has been a representative.

Prof. Ed Mack, Health, Physical Education and Recreation, participated in the Garden City Park "Community University" and spoke to parents on the topic of "Kids and Sports."

Prof. Jack Mandel, Marketing/Retailing/Fashion, was recently a dinner keynote speaker at the Oyster Bay Chamber of Commerce. His topic was "How to Advertise and Promote Your Business Without Going Broke." Prof. Mandel was also keynote speaker at the New York State Messenger/Courier Convention held at the Crowne Plaza/La Guardia Hotel. His lecture there was titled "Strictly Marketing Strategies."

Dr. Tom O'Brien, Biology, has been selected for inclusion in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers for 2005*. Dr. O'Brien was selected based on a recommendation of a former student who was named to the National Dean's List and thus invited to nominate one teacher from their academic experience for the directory.

Dr. Neela Saxena, English, presented a paper entitled "Claiming the Tantric Tradition for Women" at the South Asia Conference of the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She was also invited to give a talk on her recent book *In the Beginning IS Desire* by DANAM, an affiliate of the American Academy of Religion at its annual conference in San Antonio. Her paper was published in the conference proceedings, which is entitled *Contemporary Issues in Constructing Dharma* by Heritage Books.

Dr. Jane Segadelli, Student Personnel Services, appeared on television this spring on channel 25's *L.I. News Tonight*. She was interviewed about her community service work as a judge for the Long Island Science and Engineering Fair, the Long Island regional division of the Intel (formerly Westinghouse) Science Fair for high school students. Dr. Segadelli has been a fair judge for the past four years.

Prof. Mario Susko, English, just had his new book of poems, entitled *Eternity on Hold*, released by Turtle Point Press, a New York publishing house. Also, his new poem "Landless," published in the British Journal *The Interpreter's House*, has been nominated for the 2005 Michael Donaghy

Prize, managed by Forward (London), in the best single poem category.

Dr. Joseph Varacalli, Catholic Studies, and Dr. Salvatore LaGumina, Italian American Studies, were among the co-editors of book entitled *Models and Images of Catholicism in Italian Americana: Academy and Society*, published by Forum Italicum of the Center for Italian Studies at Stony Brook University. One of Dr. Varacalli's earlier books, *Bright Promise, Failed Community: Catholics and the American Public Order*, has recently gone into its third printing.

Professor Gerard Weber, History, has been given the "Anath Bandhu" (Friend of the Poor/Orphan) Award from the Prohini Foundation for his work in the organization's support of nine orphanages in Bangladesh and India. Prof. Weber is a longtime officer of the foundation and has served as its secretary-treasurer since the 1980s. The Prohini Foundation raises money to support the poor in the Ganges and Brahmaputra River deltas of South Asia.

Prof. Dorothy Winegar, Allied Health Sciences, has again been nominated to *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*, ninth edition. She was also listed in the book's eighth edition.

Dr. Paula Wheeler-Carlo, History, Political Science and Geography, recently published her book, *Huguenot Refugees in Colonial New York: Becoming American in the Hudson Valley* (Brighton and Portland: Sussex Academic Press, 2005). In honor of George Washington's birthday, Dr. Wheeler-Carlo gave a talk on "New York Huguenots and the American Revolution" at Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site in Newburgh, New York.

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.

NCC Sports Highlights



NCC Women's Softball Team Wins 3rd Consecutive Regional Title

Nassau's women's softball team won its third consecutive regional National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) title this May. Coached by Fred Ciampi, the Lions went undefeated for the regular season and bested 17 other teams for the NJCAA regional title.

Michael Pelliccia, Director of Athletics at Nassau, reports that many of NCC women's teams thrived during this school year. "We are very proud of our women's athletic teams. They are all competitive on a regional level and many have had the opportunity to compete in national tournaments as well," he said. In addition to the softball team, this year the NCC women's soccer and volleyball teams also won their respective regional titles.

Non-Profit Org.
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Garden City, N.Y.
Permit No. 71

Nexus

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE
One Education Drive
Garden City, New York 11530-6793
www.ncc.edu

A unit of the State University of New York

President	Sean A. Fanelli
Publisher	Reginald Tuggle
Editor	Alicia Steger
Production	Robert Lohne
	Thomas Conigliaro
Layout/ Design	Alicia Steger
Faculty/Staff Highlights	Gail Mattimore
Support Staff	Kathleen Johnson

This newsletter is published by
The Office of College/Community
Relations
TEL: (516) 572-9634
FAX: (516) 572-7497

E-mail: collegerelations@ncc.edu

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Where Success Starts...And Continues