

NEXUS

JUNE 2001

Nassau Community College
Where Success Starts . . . And Continues

Hats Off To The Class of 2001



Hats were flying and spirits were soaring as the Nassau Community College class of 2001 graduated in a ceremony held at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum on May 20. Over 11,000 graduates, family, friends, NCC board members, faculty, staff and honored guests attended the event. With close to 3,000 graduates, the graduation was one of the largest on Long Island. Included in that class were 575 graduates and graduate candidates with honors—287 cum laude, with a GPA of 3.5 to 3.69, 206 magna cum laude, averaging between 3.7 and 3.89, and 82 earning the highest honor, summa cum

laude, with a 3.9 or perfect 4.0 GPA. Graduates ranged in age from 18 to 71, with an average age of 27.

Class valedictorian Carlo Vigorito, who graduated with a 4.0 GPA, spoke to those assembled about his positive experience at NCC and his fellow students' bright future. "Never give up on your dreams and make the most of your abilities. Congratulations, class of 2001," said Carlo.

(Excerpts from Dr. Fanelli's commencement address are on page two.)

A Message From The President

Acres of Diamonds - The Class of 2001

by Dr. Sean A. Fanelli

Excerpts from Dr. Fanelli's commencement address to the class of 2001

“ . . . In the early 1900s, Russell H. Conwell wrote a book called *Acres of Diamonds*. The title of the book came from a tale he told of a farmer in South Africa who heard that diamonds were being found throughout his country. He sold his farm and traveled the length and breadth of South Africa to find the mother-lode of diamonds, only to return to his home town penniless and with not a diamond to show for his efforts. When he arrived, he was told that the largest and richest diamond mine had indeed been found—right on his farm.

The moral to be drawn from the story, Conwell explained, is that we frequently are sitting on acres of diamonds right within our local community.

I can think of no more apt a description of Nassau Community College than acres of diamonds just waiting to be discovered. You, the class of 2001, wisely stayed home and found those diamonds. Your diamonds were the myriad of learning opportunities available at the College. You not only discovered them, more importantly, you made good use of them. Your presence here today confirms this.

Today is your day and we are here to honor you, the class of 2001. You are a special class.

I expect great things of the class of '01, since you have already demonstrated your ability to succeed in many different ways, both

in the classroom and in various student activities.

. . . We have students in your class from 103 different countries. I have had the pleasure of reading their personal stories in the journal that they publish each year called *New Americans*. They are stories of courage and determination to succeed in their new land, despite language barriers. For some it has been a long struggle to learn English, but our faculty in the ESL program have made all the difference for them.

Bolin Wai came from mainland China in 1988 with her 12-year-old daughter and little else in the way of possessions. She learned English and, after raising her daughter, she attended Nassau Community College while working full-time. She was a student-aide in the History department. Now she is employed as a full-time employee in our Facilities Utilization office.

Pablo Martinez came to this country 2 1/2 years ago from Ecuador. He began in our ESL program, but also became active in Student Government. He has worked on the Cultural Board and served as Vice President of the Programming Board. He represented Nassau in the SUNY Latino Model Senate and was elected to a leadership role. Pablo never let his extracurricular activities get in the way of the reason he came to Nassau—to learn. And learn he did, with a 3.94 GPA. Any parent would be proud of such a son.

. . . Throughout my remarks, I acknowledge all who played a role in your being here



today. But I have yet to recognize the most important person who really made it possible for you to be here today—you. Each of you knows exactly what it has taken in personal courage, determination and effort to earn your diploma or certificate. I ask the audience to stand and give you, the class of 2001, the standing ovation you so richly deserve.

I told you that we are a college with acres of diamonds, and those diamonds were opportunities for learning—learning that will help you become all that you are capable of becoming. Our faculty has given you what you sought—knowledge. Hopefully, that knowledge has empowered you with the ability to think new thoughts, to dream new dreams, to create new visions for the future—that is the essence of higher education. But with higher education comes a responsibility to make our world a better place for all.

Only the future will reveal whether, by using what you have learned, you have accepted the challenge to craft a society that is better for all its members. From your record of success here at Nassau, we are confident that you will succeed in this endeavor.”

Governor Pataki Appoints Patricia Mulrooney to NCC Board of Trustees



New York State Governor George Pataki has appointed Patricia Mulrooney of East Williston to the Board of Trustees at Nassau Community College. Her term will end in June of 2008. Mrs. Mulrooney will fill the unexpired term of Richard Kessel, who resigned last year because of increased duties and responsibilities as Chairperson of the Long Island Power Authority.

A graduate of Nassau Community College class of 1977, Mrs. Mulrooney was the first student elected by her fellow

students to serve as trustee on the College Board. She is currently an account executive at The Long Island Catholic Newspaper for the

Diocese of Rockville Centre. Mrs. Mulrooney is also a member of the Executive Board of the Nassau County Conservative Party.

After graduating from NCC, Mrs. Mulrooney attended Hofstra University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in American Literature and a master's degree in English Literature.

Mrs. Mulrooney is married to John Mulrooney, retired vice-president of Merrill Lynch Hubbard. The couple has three grown sons, John, Stephen, and Kevin.

“I have always had a profound love for Nassau Community College. I regard it as one of the best institutions of higher learning anyone can attend,” said Mrs. Mulrooney. “I am very much looking forward to working with Dr. Fanelli and the other members of the Board of Trustees. President Fanelli has made major changes at NCC and it is through his professional efforts and dedication that we have attained the distinction of being the foremost community college in the United States. It is my pleasure and honor to be a contributing member of the Board of Trustees of Nassau Community College.”

New and Expanded Center for Students with Disabilities Opens at Nassau Community College

On Thursday, March 29, Nassau Community College held a grand opening to celebrate the new location of the expanded Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD). President Fanelli presided over a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Center, which is now located in Building U, while several hundred faculty, staff and students attended.

The new and enlarged facility was designed to meet the needs of the more than 700 students with disabilities who attend NCC. The CSD's goal is to help students achieve success while they are attending the College. Among the ways the staff assists students are teaching them to become their own advocates by talking with their professors about their disability and the accommodations they need for the course; increasing their independence and self-confidence; developing their study skills and organizational strategies; and making use of available resources.

The CSD is now housed completely on one level, with accommodations for students with various types of temporary or permanent physical, visual, learning, hearing and emotional disabilities. For example, there are workshop rooms which allow for on-site individual testing. Headed by Trio Project Director Professor Janis Schimsky, the diverse counseling and tutorial staff provide many services for students—from assistance in dealing with learning disabilities, to computer help, to test proctors for students who need special accommodations when taking exams.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the expanded CSD at Nassau Community College - Pictured (L-R): Nassau County Legislator Judy Jacobs (D-Woodbury); Don Dryer, Director, Nassau County Department of the Physically Challenged; Dr. Sean A. Fanelli, President of NCC; Janis Schimsky, Director, Center for Students with Disabilities.

According to Professor Schimsky, the staff is also pleased with the new location. "It is much more accessible and centrally located [than the Center's previous location]. Due to the close proximity of the Placement and Advisement Centers, we feel as though we are more a part of the mainstream. This is especially helpful for students who have been isolated in their high schools. We are now able to service students with the adequate space that we need to meet their needs."

The Center's reputation attracts stu-

dents not only from all over the metropolitan area but internationally as well, from such countries as Russia, Malaysia, India and Pakistan. For instance, Zulfakar (Zul) Ismail is a deaf student from Malaysia who currently lives in Palisades Park, New Jersey. He commutes to the College each day by public transportation. "I came to Nassau because I researched several colleges and found that the services here seemed to be the best fit for what I needed," said Zul. Also among the international deaf students who take advantage of the services of the CSD are Muhammed Khalid from Pakistan and Boris Sarpinskiyi from Russia. All three of these students are an inspiration because of their determination to master English as a third language, going from their native sign language to American Sign Language to English. Their success attests to the excellence and dedication of the staff at the Center.

Robert DeTrano, president of the Access Club, NCC's disabled students organization, is also delighted with the newly expanded CSD. "I think the facilities are great. They provide many services for the disabled. The staff at the Center and the students who use it are like a family. The staff, counselors and teachers are terrific. We can't thank them enough," he said. To contact the Center for Students with Disabilities, call 572-7241 (voice), 572-9874 (fax), or 572-7617 (TTY).



Professor Sharon Grossman, Student Personnel Services, advises her deaf students on their Fall class selections. Pictured (L-R): Muhammed Khalid, Vicki Trunack, Boris Sarpinskiyi, Professor Sharon Grossman.

Carlo Vigorito Named Valedictorian



Carlo Vigorito, Nassau Community College's valedictorian for the class of 2001, believes in the total college experience. The Lynbrook resident graduated with an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts, a GPA of 4.0, and a host of extracurricular experiences—from writing for the NCC student newspaper the *Vignette*, to working in the Student Government Association, to his on-campus employment as a student aide. He is also the recipient of a Student Activities Award, a Who's Who Award and the 2001 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence.

Carlo's personal challenges to himself when he entered the College were to do his best academically, while at the same time helping to ensure that NCC was positioned to provide the same high quality education to future generations of students. In the future, Carlo hopes to take the skills he learned pursuing those goals and apply them in other areas of his life. This Fall, he will attend Johns Hopkins University, where he plans to pursue a career in law.

The 19-year-old says that in addition to all he learned while at the College, he has also made many friends during his time at NCC. All in all, asserts Carlo, "I'm very happy that I went to Nassau. I would never have changed my decision for anything in the world."

Melani Corriero Elected SGA President

Melani Corriero has been elected president of the NCC Student Government Association (SGA). A resident of Massapequa, Melani is a graduate of Plainedge High School. As a returning student, Melani is very impressed with the expansion of the campus since she last attended ten years ago. She would like to see a corresponding increase in student involvement too.

A member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society for two-year colleges, Melani looks at the opportunity of being a student once again as a wonderful experience. She hopes her term as SGA president will allow her to meet new people and do new things, thus enriching her college experience. Melani feels that the more that students get involved and are active in campus life, the more they learn about themselves and their interests. This process of self-discovery will best prepare students to continue their education after Nassau, she believes.

One of the goals of the new 2001 SGA will be to increase student participation in campus life. "I would like to see the SGA reach out to those students currently not involved," Melani said. "One way to do this would be for the SGA to have a presence on the College web site." Another avenue to reach more students, she continued, would be to have various "student hubs," designated key locations around the campus—for example the registrar's office, or the College Center Building—where students can get information about College activities as well as publicize their own events.

Melani can't wait to get a chance to put her ideas about raising student participation in campus life into action. "This College has so much to offer. I am thrilled to serve students' interests and be their advocate."



Daniel Kahn Elected New Student Trustee



The 2001 Student Trustee will be Daniel Kahn of East Meadow, who will serve a one-year term. Daniel brings a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and determination to his new position. "It's an honor and a privilege to represent the students of Nassau Community College. I'm looking forward to the Fall," he said. The 2000 graduate of East Meadow High School is also applying the same eagerness to his studies. He is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

Daniel, who enjoys working with people, believes that getting involved in campus life is a wonderful way to enrich his college experience. He says he has already made many friends among the students and is extremely appreciative of the level of support that Nassau provides. "NCC has already been a great experience for me," he comments. "I'm so impressed by the warmth of the students and the dedication of the faculty."

Daniel likes challenging himself. As Student Trustee, he is challenging himself to be an advocate for his fellow students. Academically, he plans to continue his education after graduating from Nassau, possibly working towards a career in medicine or nutrition.

Radio Days at Nassau Community College

Where does a person who is interested in radio broadcasting get on-air experience while they are still learning? At Nassau Community College's WHPC-90.3 FM, that's where. For the past 28 years, students, professors and community members alike have been able to ply their trade while providing listeners with a lively mix of entertainment and information.

Program Director Jim Green and other NCC radio station personnel work with students on the production of various shows. Student volunteers participate in all areas of the station, which can be heard in all of Nassau and parts of Suffolk, Queens, Brooklyn and New York City. Student volunteer applicants are tested for their voice quality.

According to John McGovern, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and host of the WHPC Irish music and news show *Leitrim Ceili*, "WHPC affords our students the opportunity for hands-on experience at a professional radio studio while simultaneously providing a community service."

WHPC operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and maintains three studios (recording, news and "on the air"), broadcasting information of importance and interest to the community, including college courses for credit, news, interviews, music and educational programming. Its studios are equipped with state-of-the-art recording equipment, including the latest digital audio and 4-track recording equipment. The



Students Jamie Trovato and Josh Casper at the console of NCC radio station WHPC.

station also receives the Associated Press News Service via satellite.

One of the cornerstones of WHPC's music programming is the Soft Sounds format, featuring a light music mix from the 50s to today. In addition to this mainstay, many specialty music programs are broadcast, such as *The Country Show* (contemporary country music), *Rare Groove Session* (soul music from the 60s and 70s), and ethnic music from several different cultures, including Greek, Irish and Italian. On the talk side of things, WHPC serves as an outlet for discussion on

a variety of topics, including physical and mental health (*The Health Show*), the Long Island art community (*Art in the World*), and all types and levels of sports (*Sports Talk*).

Josh Casper, an NCC student who is host of *Sports Talk* and a play-by-play announcer for Nassau basketball and football games that air on WHPC, appreciates the experience that he has gained while working at the station. "It's been an opportunity for me to find my niche and explore my career path, and for that I am grateful," he explained.

NCC Students Receive SUNY Chancellor's Awards



NCC SUNY Chancellor's Award winners proudly accept their awards in Albany. L to R: Prof. Calvin Andrews, Advisor, Pablo Martinez, Jillian Flood, Brian Leiba, Natalilia Charles, Ken Saunders, Vice President for Academic Student Affairs. (Not pictured: Carlo Vigorito, Cheryl Sydor.)

Six students from Nassau Community College—Natalilia Charles, Jillian Flood, Pablo Martinez, Cheryl Sydor, Carlo Vigorito and Brian Leiba—were among the 178 students to receive a State University of New York (SUNY) Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence in May. This prestigious award is given to graduating students throughout the SUNY system for academic merit and a record of university service.

Overall, the recipients of this year's Chancellor's Awards had an average grade point average of 3.82, as well as records of significant contributions to their university communities. State University Chancellor Robert King also participated in the ceremony.

Chancellor King was very impressed with the quality of the student nominees he reviewed. "Each student has combined outstanding academic excellence with significant contributions to the university community," he said. "Collectively, we are all proud of the accomplishments of this group of students, for they will play a significant role in leading and shaping the future."

Nassau Community College congratulates winners of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence.

Ten NCC Faculty and Staff Members Receive SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence



The Chancellor's Award for Excellence - (L to R): Standing: Lucy Landesberg, Chair of the Reception Committee; Professor Andrina E. Veit, Health/Physical Education; Professor Mary VandeWater, Reading/Basic Education; Dianne Guarino, Admissions; Jack Ostling, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Edmond S. Butler, Physical Sciences; Nancy Williamson, Library. Seated: Carol Farber, Chair of the NCC Chancellor's Award Selection Committee; Jean Miller, Reading/Basic Education; Myrna Skidell, Reading/Basic Education; Dr. Wendy Eisner, Professor, Psychology.

The Chancellor's Award for Excellence was presented to ten Nassau Community College faculty and staff members at a ceremony held on May 4. This prestigious award provides statewide recognition for superlative performance and outstanding professional achievement. Chancellor's award recipients are professionals who have repeatedly sought improvement in themselves, their campus, and ultimately the State University. These individuals serve as professional role models for a university system in pursuit of excellence.

The Chancellor's Awards program was created 27 years ago to honor the distinguished performance of SUNY's teaching faculty, librarians and members of the professional service. "The committee is constantly amazed by the creative, innovative work our colleagues exhibit. We truly have an exceptional faculty and staff," said Professor Carol Farber, Chair of the NCC Chancellor's Award Selection Committee.

Eleven Nassau Community College Faculty Members Receive the 2001 Dean of Instruction's Distinguished Achievement Award

The 2001 Faculty Distinguished Achievement Awards were presented to eleven members of the Nassau Community College faculty in a ceremony held on March 14 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. Agyemang Attah-Poku, Instructor, African American Studies Department; Dilip Balamore, Professor, Engineering Department; Dr. Patricia Caro, Professor, History/Political Science/Department; Susan Gubernat, Assistant Professor, English Department; Dr. Bernice Kliman, Professor Emerita, English Department; Susan Kravitz, Associate Professor, Art Department; Anita Madden, Professor, Nursing Department; Dr. Philip Nicholson,



(L to R) (Standing): Dr. Sean A. Fanelli, Prof. Dilip Balamore, Dr. Bernice Kliman, Dr. Sidney Becker, Dr. Agyemang Attah-Poku, Dr. Patricia Caro and Dr. Jack Ostling. (Sitting): Dr. Philip Nicholson, Prof. Susan Kravitz, Dr. Jennifer Hecht and Prof. Susan Gubernat. (Missing from photo): Prof. Anita Madden and Dr. Michael Steinman.

Professor, History/Political Science Department; Dr. Jennifer Hecht, Assistant Professor, History/Political Science Department and Dr. Michael Steinman, Professor, English Department.

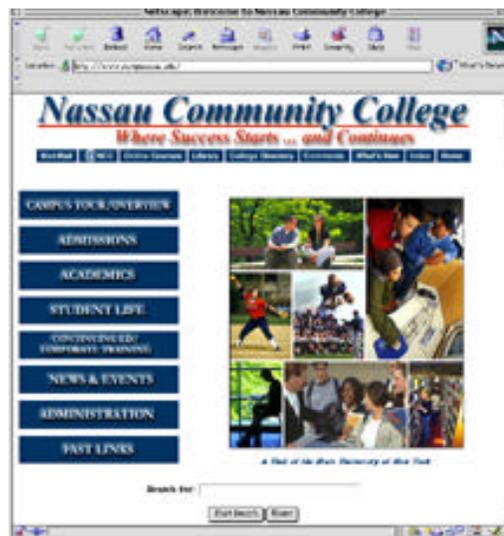
According to Dr. Sidney Becker, Dean of Instruction, "The accomplishments of our

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."

Visit Nassau Community College on the Web @NCC

Next time you're surfing the net, check out the Nassau Community College web site at www.ncc.edu. You will find it was well worth the visit. NCC's web site features an abundance of information about the College. Some of the web site's features are: a tour of the NCC campus, course offerings, the College catalog, information about student services, faculty homepages and a calendar of College events. It also includes an e-mail request form for more information. The web site serves as a wonderful vehicle to share information about the College as well as a network to bring the College community closer together.

NCC continues to update and research information for the College site. Once you take a look, feel free to drop the webmaster an e-mail message with suggestions at webmaster@ncc.edu.



FACULTY/STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Prof. Douglas Cody, CSP, CSHM, Chemistry, attended the SUNY Environmental Health & Safety Association Spring Conference held at Cornell University, where he was a presenter on Chemical Hygiene Plan SOPs. He also delivered the opening remarks for the Long Island Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers 2001 Professional Development Conference in Smithtown. The conference, entitled "Slip, Trip & Fall Accident Prevention: Management & Engineering," attracted attendees from the tri-state area. Prof. Cody also participated in a Hazardous Waste Workshop and a Chemical Hygiene Officer Training Program at Princeton University.

Prof. Bob Costello, Criminal Justice, had the articles "Fetal Endangerment: A Challenge for Criminal Law" published in *California Criminal Law Review* (UC Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law), and "Case Report: Campaign for Fiscal Equity v. New York State" accepted for publication by the *Journal of Juvenile Law & Policy* (UC Davis King Hall School of Law).

Dr. Sally Drucker, English, made presentations on Emma Goldman at the East Meadow Library and the L.I. Museum of Art, History and Carriages in Stony Brook.

Prof. Phyllis Kurland, Student Personnel Services, recently received the Town of North Hempstead's Women's Roll of Honor Award. This year, a total of 21 women received the award, which has been given since 1994. Prof. Kurland was selected for her contributions to the cultural life of Nassau County through such NCC functions as the Folk Festival, Classics for Kids and the Cultural Program.

Prof. Ed Mack, Health, Physical Education and Recreation, recently published an article entitled "Nassau Community College Off Season Conditioning Program" in a recent issue of *Juco Review*.

Prof. Jack Mandel, Marketing, was profiled by News 12 Long Island promoting the 2001 edition of *The Long Island Arts, Fine Crafts and Collectibles Directory*. In March, Professor Mandel was also invited to conduct a special seminar for Town of Oyster Bay citizens entitled "Turning Your Creative Talent Into a Profitable Business Venture."

Prof. Henri C. Raffalli, Criminal Justice, has written a book entitled *Crimes and Criminals—A Collection of Case Studies*, which was recently published by Prentice

Hall. Prof. Raffalli, a member of the New York State Bar Association, is retired Commissioner of the New York State Board of Parole and retired Administrative Law Judge, New York State Division of Parole.

Dr. Joseph Varacalli, Director of the Center for Catholic Studies (Sociology), and Dr. Salvatore La Gumina, Director of the Center for Italian-American Studies, were two of the co-editors of the book *The Saints in the Lives of Italian-Americans: An Interdisciplinary Investigation* (Forum Italicum). The book was one of the gifts offered to supporters of public television's WLIW21, which aired *Heaven Touches Brooklyn in July* in March.

Prof. Paula Wheeler Carlo, History, Political Science and Geography, has received the National Huguenot Society's 1999-2000 award for the best scholarly work on any aspect of the Huguenot movement for her recently completed doctoral dissertation, "The Huguenots of Colonial New Paltz and New Rochelle: A Social and Religious History." She has also been awarded a grant from the Huguenot Society of America to help fund her ongoing research into the French Protestant experience in colonial New York.

NCC Sports Highlights



National Champions Again! NCC Lacrosse Team Captures 19th Championship Title

Nassau Community College's lacrosse team, the Lions, won the 2001 National Junior College Athletic Association Lacrosse Championship by defeating Herkimer Community College by a score of 12 – 6, in the NJCAA championship game played in Catonsville, Maryland on May 13th. This is the team's 19th overall and 3^d consecutive national championship. With hard work and dedication, team members upheld the winning tradition of NCC's nationally-recognized lacrosse program.

Professor Richard Speckman has coached more national lacrosse championship teams and more

junior college championship teams than any other coach in the United States. Both the men's and women's teams at NCC are often ranked among the top teams nationally. The superior quality of the coaching, teaching and support personnel also instill values in the student athletes that will serve them well in life.

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