

NEXUS

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARTNERS WITH MOLLOY COLLEGE IN EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF NURSING EDUCATORS



Photo by William Baker

NCC Nursing Professor Madeline Hogan, R.N. (right) demonstrates a procedure to (from left): Debra Mendelson, Molloy graduate nursing education student; Cindy Walter, NCC Nursing Student; Chacko Bino, NCC nursing student; and Jeffrey Pick, NCC nursing student. The practice “patient” is NCC Nursing Student Thomas Rottino.

According to projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there will be more than one million vacant positions for registered nurses by the year 2010. This shortage is exacerbated by the growing shortage of nursing faculty resulting from faculty retirements. Nassau Community College is working with Molloy College to reverse the shortage of nursing faculty. Graduate nursing education students from Molloy complete their ‘practicum’—practical experience for teaching nursing students—at Nassau. This ongoing program benefits all, according to Carol Mottola, NCC Nursing Department Chair. “Our partnership with Molloy College is one way for our Nursing Department to help meet the national shortage of nursing faculty. We’re educating the next generation of faculty members who will educate future nurses.”

Bernadette Curry, Ph.D., R.N., Chairperson of the Department of Nursing at Molloy College, believes that it is the responsibility of today’s nurse educators to ensure that future generations of nurses have access to a high quality education, including the expanded

content inevitable in an ever-changing field. “Our responsibility is to educate the educators. Our nursing education master’s degree students engage in educational activities at Nassau Community College that will allow them to incorporate the principles learned into their teaching,” she said. Both Dr. Curry and Dr. Mottola are pleased with the success of the partnership between the two schools and hope to continue the relationship in the future.

Nursing educators come from a variety of backgrounds. Debra Mendelson, for example, has been working as a registered nurse at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset for over 25 years, most recently in Labor and Delivery. She is now a graduate student at Molloy studying nursing education and completing her practicum at Nassau. “One of the advantages of working with NCC is that I have the opportunity to see the expanded role of a nurse educator, which includes participating in departmental and college-wide meetings, assessing students and maintaining detailed records, in addition to teaching,” she said. Mendelson is especially pleased to be able to work with several members

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Nassau Students Go To Albany to Advocate For More State Aid



by Dr. Sean A. Fanelli

Each year, SUNY sponsors a day when all of the colleges within the University System are invited to visit our legislators in Albany to discuss issues important to students and the administration. On March 7, the College administration joined a group of 20 students who visited the Nassau delegation of our Albany legislators. This was the students' opportunity to share their concerns. They advocated four main points that affect them directly.

Firstly, in order to keep tuition affordable, they encouraged that in fiscal year 2006-2007 the legislature supplement the Executive Budget proposal's increase of \$100 in State Base Aid per full-time-equivalent (FTE) with an additional \$150 per FTE, which would bring the FTE Base Aid total to \$2,600. This increase would bring the state share of support for community colleges to the one-third of net operating expenses that was envisioned in the legislation that established the community college system. Since 2001, the State Base Aid per FTE has increased by only \$100, or 4.5 percent. During the same time, tuition at Nassau Community College has increased by almost \$1,000, or more than 45 percent, to \$3,100. It is vitally important to keep college tuition affordable.

Secondly, the students of NCC urged that an additional \$200 in FTE supplement aid be provided to reflect those students

enrolled in the Nursing and Allied Health Sciences programs. This additional FTE aid will allow the Nursing and Allied Health Sciences programs to provide the high quality health care education on which Long Island's residents rely. It is well known there is a huge shortage of nurses nationwide (See *Nassau Community College Partners with Molloy College in Educating the Next Generation of Nursing Educators*, p. 1). It will also help to ease the tuition burden that is being carried by those NCC students who are not participating in these programs.

Thirdly, technology plays a major role in the educational and administrative life of community colleges. For this reason, the students urged the State to contribute to updating the technology, equipment and networks available to the students and staffs of New York's community colleges.

Finally, the students advocated for the legislature to maintain the current guidelines for the maximum Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) eligibility at 12 credits.

I was very pleased with the way our students articulated these points and how well they represented the faculty, alumni and administration of the College. Their commitment and dedication makes NCC proud. A valuable lesson was passed on to our students as they effectively communicated with our elected officials.

Community colleges play a crucial role within the State University of New York (SUNY) System of Higher Education, the largest comprehensive system of higher education in the country. The SUNY System consists of 64 colleges and universities, enrolling 414,171 students. Over half of all SUNY students are enrolled in 30 community colleges across the state. Nassau, with more than 21,000 students, is the largest among the community colleges. Our College is dedicated to high quality, low-cost education and career preparation to meet the needs and interests of the community we serve. We are committed to academic excellence and the dignity and worth of the individual.

Mary Adams Elected Chair of NCC Board of Trustees

Mary A. Adams has been elected chair of the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees. Adams was appointed to the NCC Board in 1994 by then-New York State Governor Mario Cuomo and was reappointed by Nassau County Executive Thomas Suozzi. She has been active in the New York State Community College Trustees and currently serves on that Board as the chair of the Policy and Procedures committee.

"I have always been proud to serve on the NCC Board of Trustees," said Adams. "I believe that it is an honor to have been elected president of the Board." She sees her election as an opportunity to be an advocate for the College and to use her educational background to be of service to Nassau's students, staff and faculty.

Adams brings a wealth of experience to the Board. She received a B.S. in Mathematics from Tennessee State University and an M.S. in Educational Administration from Hofstra University. She also did further study at St. John's University and Queens College. Adams once held the position of statistical programmer at IBM, but the bulk of her career has been as an educator. She was Assistant to the Placement Director at Tennessee State University and then taught math for many years in the Bellmore-

Merrick Central school district. After serving over 30 years in education, she retired as Assistant Principal at Grand Avenue Middle School.

Adams is president emeritus of 100 Black Women of Long Island, Inc. and president of the organization's foundation. She continues her professional affiliations in Phi Delta Kappa Professional Honorary Fraternity and Delta Kappa Gamma Honor Society and is listed in *Who's Who in Education*. Adams has served as president of the Tennessee State University National Alumni Association and compiled and coordinated the publication of *An Historical Profile of the Tennessee State University National Alumni Association 1912-2002*. She has received many community service awards and was presented with an Outstanding Citizen citation from the New York State Assembly. Adams was also the recipient of a Governor's Award of Excellence, New York State Division of Women.



ALUMNI / PROFILE

FROM NASSAU TO HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Where Success Starts and Continues—

By Michael Fonteboa, Class of 2002

When most people think of a community college, certain preconceived ideas come to mind. One of those, certainly, is that a community college cannot give its students the same full and rewarding ‘college experience’ as a four-year university. When it comes to one school—Nassau Community College—that particular preconceived idea couldn’t be more wrong.

After graduating from high school, it became clear how important my education was to me. I briefly attended another college prior to coming to Nassau. That experience did leave something to be desired for me, namely, a well-rounded campus life. I have family who live on Long Island and one day when I was visiting them, I decided to come to the NCC campus and find out for myself what it was like. I was pleasantly surprised. The campus itself was beautiful, and, after speaking with people there, I found out that Nassau not only offered a large number of courses and majors, but also provided its students with every opportunity to become involved in the myriad of clubs, associations and student government posts at the school. I was sold.

My positive experiences continued once I actually started going to NCC. The

professors were unbelievable. They were very knowledgeable and they gave of their time and expertise selflessly. I became extensively involved in college life, eventually serving on the Executive Board of the Student Government Association, as well as its freshman Senator, Parliamentarian and Corresponding Secretary. I was also the Academic Senate Chair. I worked on campus as a student aide. I made what I hope to be lifelong friends at Nassau, too. I was a

I would recommend NCC to anyone who wants a high quality, affordable education and the chance to spread their wings and find their passion.

member of the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society for two-year colleges and a recipient of an NCC Student Activities Award. All in all, I believe strongly that Nassau Community College gave me the courage, confidence and motivation to succeed in higher education and to complete my undergraduate degree.

All of the different things I was exposed to at Nassau also helped prepare me for the challenges that I’m going to inevitably face in my academic and professional careers. When I graduated

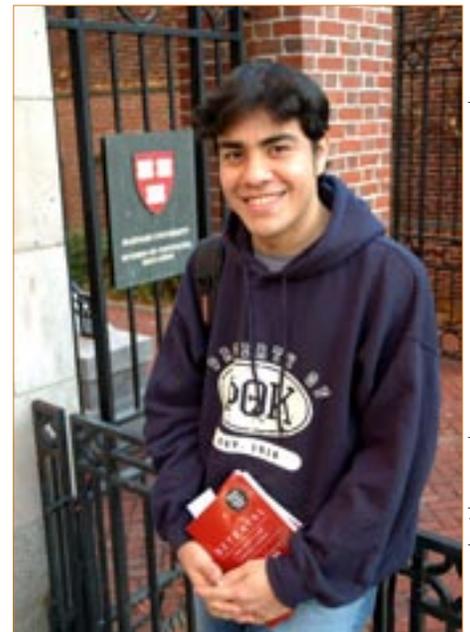


Photo Courtesy of The President and Fellows of Harvard University. Photo by Jeffrey Pike

with a degree in Liberal Arts in 2002, I was a different person. I am so grateful to all of the teachers, advisors, administrators and friends who provided me with help during my time at the College and I would recommend NCC to anyone who wants a high quality, affordable education and the chance to spread their wings and find their passion.

Editors Note: Michael Fonteboa will graduate from the Harvard University Extension School with a Bachelor’s degree in Government this spring. Nassau Community College is very proud of his accomplishments.

WHAT DOES ‘NEXUS’ MEAN?

by Alicia Steger

As editor of this newsletter, I am frequently asked what exactly does the word ‘nexus’ mean? Is it a Latin word with a secret meaning? Is it an acronym for a group of NCC departments? Well, I decided to go back to the very first issue of *Nexus*, which made its debut on February 6, 1968. The College was only about eight years old and the editor at the time explained that there was a need to find a vehicle to communicate within a college that was growing so rapidly. In that first issue, the editor said, “*Nexus*, according to Webster’s dictionary, is a connection, tie, or link between individuals of a group.”

It is interesting to see how our College has grown since that time. Some articles in the first edition of *Nexus* focused on issues like campus policies and student demonstrations on campus. One of my favorites was the article about the arrival of the new Heidelberg offset printing press for the Printing and Publications Department. Well, guess what? The Heidelberg did arrive, and it’s still here over 40 years later. I guess the manufacturer of the press didn’t think too much about planned obsolescence.

Since that first issue, *Nexus* has evolved and grown, like our College. The newsletter has adapted to the needs of the College. Now printed in color, *Nexus* is still our ‘link’ to our internal as well as external community. The original *Nexus* has a circulation of less than 1,000. Today, *Nexus* has a circulation of about 25,000. Originally, *Nexus* was only an internal newsletter. With the growth of the College, and the need to communicate with our community, the need for an external newsletter grew. *Nexus* strives to promote goodwill and cooperation with the community. One of its main goals is to build public confidence in NCC. Another is to recognize and honor excellence in our faculty, staff and students. Most importantly, *Nexus* strives to open the lines of communication between the College and our community. The continuing growth of *Nexus* is due to a team effort by the members of the NCC Office of College Relations, the faculty, staff and students we write about, and the rest of the campus community. We are proud of its continued growth.

FACULTY / STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Prof. Donna T. Bacon, Health, Physical Education and Recreation, was the keynote speaker for the 8th annual Black History Luncheon sponsored by the National Council of Negro Women. Prof. Bacon's address was entitled "The Spirit of Survival: Yesterday and Today." The luncheon celebrated the accomplishments of African American women who have persevered despite major obstacles.

Harold Bellinger, J.D., MPIA, Assistant to the President for Affirmative Action and Diversity and ADA/504 Officer, was the recipient of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Keep the Dream Alive, 2006 Humanitarian Award" in recognition for his community service work. Bellinger was also appointed to the New York State Amistad Commission by the Honorable Joseph Bruno of the New York State Senate. The commission will study the issue of slavery and its impact on the New York State Educational curriculum.

Prof. Jeff Cohen, Communications, was elected Member-at-Large of the New York State Communication Association (NYSCA) Executive Council at its annual convention. NYSCA is a professional organization of faculty, students and professionals in the field of communication.

Prof. Stella Fox, Reading and Basic Education, presented a paper entitled "The Role of Narrative in Developmental English," at a Community College Humanities Association National Conference called "The Humanities: Who Tells the Story?" in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Prof. Fox's presentation examined how the narrative form can build community, humanize faculty, empower students and lay the foundation for academic discourse in a developmental English class.

Robert Gersten, former Dean of Students, was honored by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for being a member of its 1941 basketball team—the first one to go to the NCAA tournament. He also received a Patterson award for leadership in athletics. In addition, the American Camp Association, New York Section, selected Gersten as a recipient of its "Legends in Camping" award, recognizing his work in his own camp as well as his commitment to the camping movement.

Prof. Grace Giner, Allied Health Sciences, was honored with the 2005 Distinguished Alumni award by the School of Health Technology and Management at SUNY Stony Brook. The award is presented to a graduate who illustrates scholarly achievements, community service and dedication to the school and to their chosen profession. Prof. Giner is a graduate of both the NCC Physical Therapist Assistant Program and the SUNY Stony Brook program in physical therapy.

Prof. Jack K. Mandel, Marketing/Retailing/Fashion, conducted a 16-hour sales training series for Arrow Exterminating, Inc. under the auspices of the NCC Special Programs for Business and Industry. Prof. Mandel has also been retained as a marketing consultant by Whole Foods Markets of Austin, Texas and SPAVA, LLC, Long Island area developers of the Au Bon Pain franchise to coordinate new market development and regional promotions.

Dr. Steven L. Rosenhaus, Music, recently presented a paper at a conference held at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. "An Introduction to George Perle and Twelve-Tone Tonality" was the lead presentation in a conference celebrating the 90th birthday of the composer and theorist. Also, the book *Writing Musical Theatre*,

cowritten by Dr. Rosenhaus and Allen Cohen, was recently released. It's written for anyone interested in how musicals work. Lastly, Dr. Rosenhaus has been commissioned to compose a work for the United States Naval Academy Band. This work will be premiered on May 5 at the Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, with Dr. Rosenhaus conducting.

Dr. Ines Shaw, English, Women's Studies and Latin American Studies, participated in a weeklong roundtable on women's rights, where she presented a paper on the representation and academic advancement of women faculty in U.S. colleges and universities at Oxford University in England. Dr. Shaw also conducted an ESL workshop for the English faculty of the Agricultural University of Kiev and presented a paper on gendered language in science at the "Women in Science and Education: Past, Present and Future" at the National Technical University of Ukraine. The conference was sponsored by Ukraine's Ministry of Education and Science.

Prof. Patti Tana and Mario Susko, English, have had their poems nominated for the Pushcart Prize by the editors of the 2005 *Nassau Review*. "Life Lessons" and "Open Mike" by Prof. Susko and "Buy or Lease?" and "Skin Knows Skin" by Prof. Tana are the nominated poems. Prof. Susko's poems are part of his current manuscript and Prof. Tana's will appear in her forthcoming book *This Is Why You Flew Ten Thousand Miles*.

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 SPEAKERS BUREAU BOOKLET AVAILABLE TO COMMUNITY GROUPS

The expertise of the faculty at Nassau Community College is available to professional, civic, business, nonprofit and fraternal organizations with the publication of the updated Nassau Community College Speakers Bureau booklet. The 2006-2008 edition contains more than 135 distinctive lecture programs offered by 65 professionals from the College.

Topics range from "Activism" to "Zoology." The wide variety of subjects includes: literature, history, ecology, business, domestic relations, economics, hypnosis, art, athletics, computers, mathematics, music and many others.

While most of the speakers require a modest honorarium, there are some—including those who speak about the College—whose lectures are free. The booklet includes telephone numbers for each speaker who may be contacted directly.

Copies of the booklet may be obtained by written request to the Nassau Community College Office of College Relations; by calling Alicia Steger, Associate Director of College/Community Relations, or Gail Mattimore, Information Specialist, College/Community Relations, at (516) 572-9634, or by e-mailing collegerelations@ncc.edu.



Nassau Community College To Honor Four Distinguished Alumni



Tuesday, May 16, 2006 – 6:30 p.m.
Cradle of Aviation Museum
Garden City, New York

Nassau Community College will honor four outstanding alumni at the First NCC Distinguished Alumni Awards and Dinner-Dance on May 16. Proceeds will go to enhancing our current scholarships, creating new student scholarships and providing financial awards and support for new academic projects not financed by public funds.

Pictured above are the honorees (from left to right): Dr. Dolores Fernandez, President of Hostos Community College (CUNY), Ben Mevorach, News Director of 1010 WINS Radio, Valerie A. Royal, Senior Director of Conferences and Meetings, National Association of International Educators, and Lou Miaritis, Executive Vice President, Lessings, Inc.

For more information contact

Ann Wolf, Director of Advancement – 516.572.8972 or e-mail advancement@ncc.edu

A portion of the dinner is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARTNERS WITH MOLLOY COLLEGE IN EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF NURSING EDUCATORS

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of Nassau's faculty, and to become familiar with their creative teaching methods.

Students studying nursing at NCC benefit from both the College's own faculty and the expertise of the graduate students who assist in their education. Undergraduate nursing student Jeffrey Pick, in his second year at Nassau, had a prior career as a stockbroker, but decided to go into nursing after his experience volunteering as an emergency medical technician. "I feel that Nassau Community College is giving me a great education," said Pick, who is also a patient care associate.

The NCC Nursing Department has been training Long Island nurses for over 40 years. In fact, the program has graduated over 5,000 beginning nurse practitioners. In addition to the graduate nursing education partnership with Molloy College, the Department has articulation programs with local baccalaureate programs. It also created a program with several area hospitals—including the North Shore/Long Island Jewish Health Care System—that takes NCC to the workplace of those hospital employees interested in becoming professional nurses.

There are many reasons for the success and the excellent reputation of the NCC nursing program. One is that its faculty members are highly qualified and actively involved in professional activities and continuing education programs. Nearly one-third of the full-time faculty members have doctoral degrees, a higher percentage than that of other associate degree nursing programs. Within the Department are experts in each area of nursing practice, as well as leaders of professional organizations, authors, consultants and preceptors. Faculty members work as a team to maintain the integrity of the curriculum. An extensive mentoring program is in place to ensure that new faculty members are socialized to the philosophy and objectives of the College's Nursing Department.

Dr. Mottola is extremely proud of all of the faculty, graduates, students and staff that have worked in the Nursing Department. She's also optimistic and excited about the future. "What's better than to be a part of a collaborative partnership to help alleviate the shortage of nurses and nursing faculty?" she said.

NCC CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

**OPEN HOUSE AT
NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SUNDAY, APRIL 30TH
10:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION BUILDING FIELD HOUSE**



Meet Faculty And Staff From Over 25 Academic Departments, as Well as Admissions, Financial Aid, Academic Support and Counseling Services, The Center For Students With Disabilities, And Others. Learn About Expanded Evening And Weekend Offerings. Attend Workshops On: Financial Aid And Services For Students With Disabilities
Tour the campus — Light refreshments provided
For more information call (516) 572-7501

THE NCC CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAM
PRESENTS

**Thieves of Baghdad: The
Journey to Recover the
World's Greatest Stolen
Treasures –
Matthew Bogdanos
May 1 —2:00 PM and 8:00 PM
College Center Building**

Marine Colonel Bogdanos led the investigation into the looting of Baghdad's Iraq Museum, resulting in the recovery of over 5,000 antiques. Prior to April 2003, he led multi-agency counter-terrorism task forces in Afghanistan and Iraq. In civilian life, he is a prosecutor in the New York County District Attorney's Office. For information, call (516) 572-7153.



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This newsletter is published by
The Office of
College/Community Relations
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Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
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Garden City, N.Y.
Permit No. 71

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