

# NEXUS

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Where Success Starts...And Continues

Summer 2007

## TEACHING THE NEXT GENERATION OF TEACHERS NCC'S TEACHER EDUCATION TRANSFER PROGRAM CONTINUES TO GROW



Photography by William Baker

NCC Student Maria D'Agostino (center) works with students at the Island Trees Michael Stokes Elementary School.

**M**ANY OF THOSE WHO STAND IN FRONT OF CLASSES THROUGHOUT THE METROPOLITAN AREA TEACHING INQUISITIVE MINDS WERE ONCE STUDENTS AT NASSAU Community College. Begun in 1999 as the Teacher Education Project, the program had a student enrollment of 200 in its first year. Over the years, it has seen tremendous growth. Currently, over 1,400 students are enrolled in what is now called the Teacher Education Transfer Program.

Experts agree that for decades there has been a teacher shortage in the United States, as older teachers retire and are not replaced with newer teachers and young teachers change professions. Various national, regional and local programs have been undertaken to deal with this shortage. Nassau Community College is addressing this need by helping its Teacher Education Transfer Program grow and making the ease of transfer to a four-year school as seamless as possible.

Students may register for one of six degrees in Teacher Education at Nassau. All are designed to support and encourage progress towards a bachelor's degree and New York State teacher

certification. They are put together in such ways as to facilitate transfer between the College and four-year institutions with teacher education programs. The goal is both to eliminate course incompatibilities that can hinder student progress and to simplify advisement at all campuses involved.

At NCC, one can obtain an Associate of Arts (AA) or an Associate of Science (AS) degree in Early Childhood Education, Childhood Education or Adolescent Education. These courses of study provide students with the opportunity to experience the basic fundamentals of teaching in the classroom while studying various integral aspects of the profession. Coursework is balanced with education classes, general education requirements and requirements within the students' selected academic major. At present, the Teacher Education Transfer Program covers coursework in seven majors/concentrations: biology, chemistry, earth science, English, history/social studies, mathematics and physics. Interested students can co-major in Special Education. Supervised field placements familiarize students with the specific grade levels they intend to teach.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### THE CLASS OF 2007 – Curiosity, Confidence, Courage and Constancy

*Excerpts from Dr. Fanelli's address to the Class of 2007:*

“... You achieved your goal of a degree or certificate amidst all of the challenging demands that have competed for your time and for your energy. And it is this same diligence that will embolden you and fortify you as you establish and set new goals for yourselves in the years ahead.

Walt Disney said it best: “Somehow I can't believe there are many heights that can't be scaled by a person who knows the secret of making dreams come true.” “This special secret, it seems to me,” he said, “can be summarized in four Cs. They are curiosity, confidence, courage and constancy, and the greatest of these is confidence. When you believe a thing, believe it all over, implicitly and unquestioningly.”

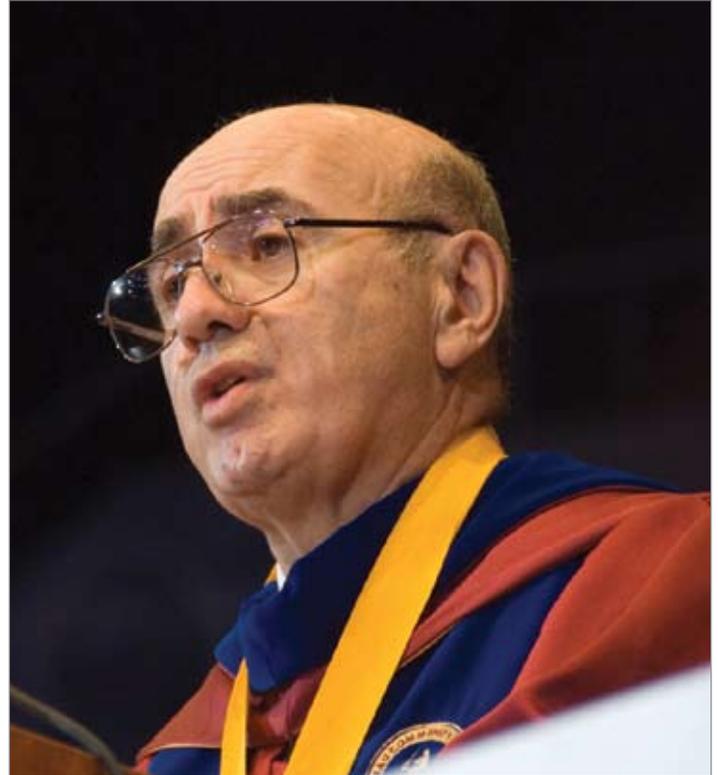
... Today you gather surrounded by those who helped you—family, friends, faculty, administrators, staff, trustees and governmental dignitaries. We gather with you to celebrate your achievement and to induct you into the company of our alumni.

Continue the pursuit of your dreams with the same curiosity, courage, constancy and confidence that you have demonstrated in arriving here today. Weave these four Cs into the fabric of all that you do in the future and all your dreams will come true. I am sure that fabric will be richly textured with many successes.

Nassau Community College is privileged to have played a role in the success that we celebrate today, but we also want you to understand the true meaning of success.

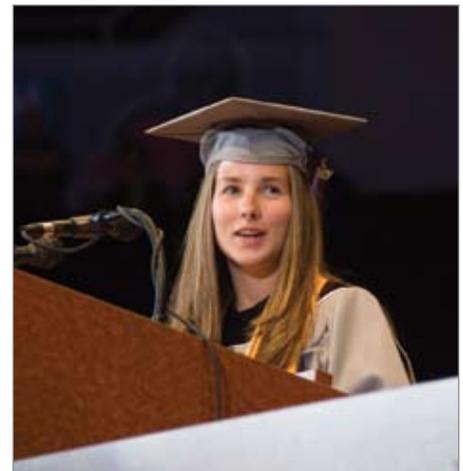
Robert Louis Stevenson described a successful person as one “who has lived well, laughed often and loved much; who has gained the respect of intelligent people, and the love of children. A person is a success who has filled a unique niche and accomplished his or her task, who leaves the world better than before, whether by a perfect poem or a rescued soul. It is a person who never lacked appreciation for the earth's beauty or failed to express it...who looked for the best in others and gave the best he or she had.”

We, all of us assembled, are very proud of you and your accomplishments.”



Dr. Sean A. Fanelli, President, Nassau Community College

“Continue the pursuit of your dreams with the same curiosity, courage, constancy and confidence that you have demonstrated in arriving here today.”



Highlights from Nassau Community College Graduation 2007 at Nassau Memorial Coliseum

## THE FANELLI YEARS: 25 Years of Making a Difference in People's Lives

**WHEN DR. SEAN A. FANELLI BECAME PRESIDENT OF NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE** in 1982, Ronald Reagan was president, *Chariots of Fire* won the Academy Award for Best Picture and it cost twenty cents to mail a first class letter. At the College, the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) first established a chapter on the campus, the College Pub was still open, and a young "post punk progressive pop band" from Ireland called U2 performed on campus.

Since Dr. Fanelli has been president, 503,919 students have enrolled at Nassau Community College. Today, the College has the largest single-campus enrollment in New York State, with a current enrollment of over 21,000 full- and part-time students, and close to 15,000 continuing and professional

student center, with 85,000 square feet of space, opened in 1997. The student center is used for cultural programs, conferences, meetings, student clubs and other campus activities. A new food court called Top Flight opened in the College Center Building in the fall of 2001. In addition, the College now boasts over 30 computer labs on campus.

The past twenty-five years have also seen Dr. Fanelli recognized and respected for his efforts on behalf of NCC and higher education. One of the most prestigious of these honors was the William J. Brennan, Jr. Award, which was given to him in Washington, D.C. in 2001. Presented by the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression, the William J. Brennan, Jr. Award honors the legacy of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Brennan's

at NCC has grown significantly, in part as a reflection of changing demographic trends on Long Island. And through his initiative, NCC stepped up its outreach to diverse students, who make up an ever-growing percentage of the student body.

Dr. Fanelli, the faculty, staff and administrators of Nassau are continually looking towards the future, including in part through focused strategic planning. One of the examples of this planning effort in service to NCC's students and the larger community is a new \$40 million life sciences building. Since life sciences are among the most active areas of study at Nassau—and science and health care workers are among the most needed workers on Long Island—the new building will greatly enhance the College's ability to train the next generation of health care workers for our community.

The Fanelli years have been years of expansion and innovation at the College on behalf of its students and the community it serves. Through his efforts, and those of the people he's entrusted to work with him, the past quarter century has certainly made a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of students.

*"Justice Brennan loved mercy and did justice for some 34 years on this Court. He retained throughout his full life a genuine fondness for people. He would have applauded Dr. Fanelli's caring, courageous endeavors to persevere and advance academic freedom."*

— U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg

education students. Through its 30 academic departments, NCC offers more than 65 degree and certificate programs to Nassau, Suffolk and New York area residents. It offers Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, and Associate in Applied Science degrees, as well as certificate and not-for-credit continuing education programs. Over 4,000 class sections are offered each semester. NCC employs more than 3,000 full- and part-time employees.

Physically, NCC—centrally located on 225 acres on the former air base, Mitchel Field—has also evolved during Dr. Fanelli's administration. There are currently 45 buildings on campus. They include a library, a physical education complex, and an administrative tower. A new social science and visual arts building, with 37 classrooms, two black and white darkrooms, one color darkroom and a modern kiln, and a new

devotion to the principles of free expression. Dr. Fanelli was the first college president ever to receive the award—all previous award recipients were lawyers. Speaking at the award ceremony, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said, "Justice Brennan loved mercy and did justice for some 34 years on this Court. He retained throughout his full life a genuine fondness for people. He would have applauded Dr. Fanelli's caring, courageous endeavors to persevere and advance academic freedom."

Two areas in which Dr. Fanelli believes strongly are working in partnership with the community and adapting to changing times. Through the Special Programs for Business Department, for instance, faculty from NCC instruct employees of several Long Island companies in technology and other business related subjects. In addition, under Dr. Fanelli's leadership, the Weekend College



Above, the College Center Building, constructed under Dr. Fanelli's tenure and completed in 1997.

## GALA HONORING DR. FANELLI RAISES \$235,000



Approximately 700 of Dr. Sean Fanelli's colleagues, members of the Long Island corporate community, and friends and relatives gathered at the Crest Hollow Country Club on May 16th to honor him upon his 25th anniversary as president of the College. Proceeds of the event will go to the Nassau Community College Foundation. The NCC Foundation helps support the mission of the College by providing student scholarships and supporting various academic projects.

## Jennifer Winters Appointed Student Trustee at Nassau Community College



Jennifer Winters, the new Student Trustee at Nassau Community College, is a strong advocate of students getting involved in campus life. In fact, it was one reason why she decided to run for student trustee. "I'm sure that I will learn skills in this position that will stay with me forever, no matter what field I go into," she states. Jennifer wants to help the student body as much as she can in her position as student trustee. Her job, as she sees it, is to be their representative on the board. She is very excited about assuming her new role. Back in 2006, however, Jennifer wasn't certain about what she wanted to do when she graduated from Massapequa High School. "I wasn't a hundred percent sure of where I wanted to go. I kind of wanted to feel things out," she remembers. The 18-year old felt she wasn't ready to leave home yet. Jennifer decided that Nassau Community College would be a good 'transition school,' combining college-level course work with the nurturing of still living at home. Jennifer, who is in the honors program and a member of the honors club at NCC, is also a member of the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society. She is currently majoring in liberal arts. After graduating from Nassau, Jennifer plans to go to a four-year school to study business and finance. She hopes to ultimately follow in the footsteps of her mother and grandmother, both of whom are businesswomen.

## Adam Kirschenbaum Elected Student Government President at Nassau Community College

Adam Kirschenbaum has been elected president of the Student Government Association (SGA) at NCC for the 2007-2008 academic year. Among the goals he has for the next year is to improve the quality of campus life for all students by encouraging them to get involved, respect each other and be ambassadors for the College to people from outside the school. Adam graduated from Jericho High School in 2002, and that September began classes at a university in Boston. Feeling that he was not yet ready to be away at school, Adam left and spent a few years working. He then decided the time was right to go back. "I came back thinking if I'm going to do this, I'm going to do it right," Adam said. Newly motivated, he took a full load of courses and became interested in student government. One of the courses he took was Speech and Debate, which led him to join the Speech and Debate Team. When the then-student government president talked to the team about getting involved, Adam ran for and was elected Freshman Senator. Buoyed by that experience, he made the choice to run for SGA president. "I'm looking forward to working with other students, as well as the faculty and administrators," said Adam. Upon his graduation from Nassau, he hopes to continue his education at a four-year college and then possibly go to law school.

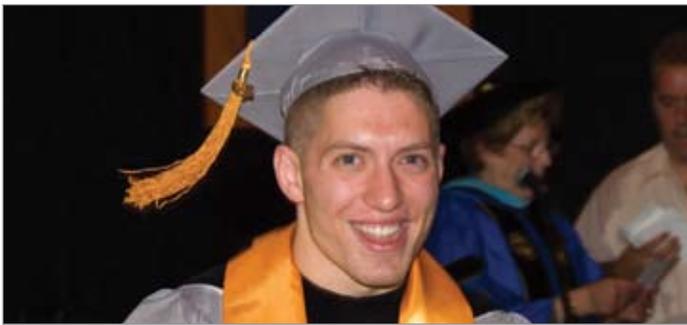


## Caitlin Uihlein Named Valedictorian of the Nassau Community College Class of 2007



As she was getting ready to graduate from North Shore High School in 2005, Nassau Community College Class of 2007 Valedictorian Caitlin Uihlein thought she might want to go away to college. For personal reasons, and the fact that some of her relatives had gone to Nassau over the years and subsequently thrived, Caitlin ultimately decided to attend NCC. She couldn't have been happier. "From the beginning, my professors were wonderful. They were all excellent teachers, and several of them also had many years of business experience in their chosen fields. I respected them all the more because of it," she said. Caitlin also feels that the fact that her class sizes were fairly small enhanced her education, because the professors could pay more individual attention to each student. When she graduated from high school, Caitlin initially wanted to pursue a career in the sciences. As she took classes at Nassau, however, she decided she wanted to teach. She's now hoping to combine the two by first obtaining a degree in geology, then working in the field for a while, and finally becoming a science teacher. The 20-year-old, who is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, majored in Liberal Arts at Nassau. What does Caitlin say to high school students who are currently contemplating their higher education? "I went back to my high school recently to talk to the students about Nassau. I would recommend it to anyone," she stated. Caitlin will be starting classes at SUNY Geneseo in September and says that she will take the lessons she learned at NCC with her.

# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2007



## DID YOU KNOW?

- Nassau Community College has the largest Honors Program in the State University System of New York (SUNY)
- Approximately 70 percent of Nassau Community College graduates continue their education at four-year institutions
- NCC awards the fourth largest number of associate degrees of all 1,800 two-year colleges in the United States
- There are over 100 different clubs and organizations available to interested students at Nassau Community College
- The College offers approximately 1,400 different courses during the academic year
- Nassau offers over 65 associate degree and certificate programs
- Approximately one out of every five college-bound high school graduates in Nassau County enrolls at NCC

## CONGRESSWOMAN McCARTHY VISITS NCC Views Medical Equipment Purchased with \$150,000 Grant

CONGRESSWOMAN CAROLYN McCARTHY VISITED NASSAU COMMUNITY

College this spring to view medical equipment, gained with her assistance, that was purchased with a grant of nearly \$150,000 from the federal government for the Allied Health Sciences Department. Congresswoman McCarthy led the effort in the House of Representatives to garner these funds for NCC. "I am pleased to have been successful in bringing this money to Nassau Community College. The students deserve it, and our Long Island community will benefit from it," she said.

Dr. Sean A. Fanelli, President of Nassau Community College, added, "The graduates of our Allied Health Sciences Department are vital to the quality health care delivery system of Long Island. The equipment that this funding makes available allows our students to enter the health care workforce with the most up-to-date, clinical-ready skills."

Among the items already in use or on order that were purchased with funds from the federal grant are a Drager Evita Mock anesthesia machine, an adult and pediatric lung simulator, and a Laparoscopic Simulation trainer set. "The use of surgical simulation in the classroom provides a virtual reality setting for our students to



NCC Prof. Caroline Kaufmann (far left) and NCC students with Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy (center) during her visit to the College this spring to view medical equipment, gained with her assistance, that was purchased with a grant of nearly \$150,000 from the federal government for the Allied Health Sciences Department.

practice in," said Prof. Caroline Kaufmann, RN, CNOR, NCC's Program Director and Clinical Coordinator, Surgical Technology. "Our students will now be able to balance

their practice from the classroom, to the lab, to the actual operating room setting."

## TEACHING THE NEXT GENERATION OF TEACHERS

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Prof. Diane Martin lectures students about autism and the exceptional child.

"The goal of the Teacher Education Transfer Program is to foster the development of teachers who are well prepared, academically strong and responsive to the needs of a diverse society," said Prof. Diane Martin, the program's coordinator. In fact, all of the students who graduate from Nassau's Teacher Education Transfer

Program go on to private colleges and universities or four-year public institutions. Upon completion of their associate degree, students are eligible to take the first of the required New York State teacher certification examinations, the Liberal Arts and Sciences Test (LAST), which is given at Nassau. Teacher Education Transfer Program students graduate from Nassau ready to continue their

education in teaching when they arrive at their university of choice. According to Esther Goodcuff, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs at Adelphi University, "Students from Nassau come with excellent skills. They can and do succeed with any education major they choose at Adelphi." As the need for teachers grows and the cost of college tuition continues to increase,

NCC's Teacher Education Program will become even more vital to the overall stability of the educational system in New

*"Students from Nassau come with excellent skills. They can and do succeed with any education major they choose at Adelphi."*

— Esther Goodcuff  
Assoc. V.P. of Enrollment Management  
and Student Affairs at Adelphi University

York State. The College is proud of its initiatives in responding to the nationwide need for the kind of well-prepared teachers who will help shape our future. For more information about the Teacher Education Transfer Program at Nassau Community College, contact Professor Diane Martin, Coordinator, at 516.572.9946.

The Firehouse Plaza Art Gallery at Nassau Community College is proud to present *Passing Through*, an exhibit of photographs by Jim Large. The photographs provide an up close and personal glimpse into very distant and exotic places, examining the occupants of those places. The exhibit carries the viewer on a compelling journey—intriguing, emotional and quite beautiful.

Taken around the world, the photographs by Large, former Acting Director of the Wildlife Conservation Society, have been shown at many exhibitions. One of his photographs recently won an award in *Nature's Best Photography Magazine*, 2006 Backyard International Photographic Contest.

For more information about this exhibit, call 516.572.0619.



Jim Large, Kenya 2006

## NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE FACULTY MEMBERS RECEIVE THE 2007 DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



(L to R) (Standing):  
Professors Clive Wynter, George Miller, Jerelyn Hanrahan, and Patricia Falk

The 2007 Faculty Distinguished Achievement Awards were presented to four members of the Nassau Community College faculty at a recent ceremony. 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: Prof. Patricia Falk, English; Prof. Jerelyn Hanrahan, Art; Prof. George Miller, Math, Statistics and Computers; and Dr. Clive Wynter, Math, Statistics and Computers. 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."

## FACULTY/STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

**Dr. Michael Anzelone, English**, gave a talk recently at the Hewlett-Woodmere Public Library about the book *The Color of Water*, by James McBride.

**Salvatore LaGumina, Prof. Emeritus, History, Political Science and Geography and Director of the Center for Italian American Studies**, was selected as the recipient of the Sons of Italy Grand Lodge of New York, Pietro Di Donato and John Fante Literary Award for 2007. LaGumina is author of *The Humble and the Heroic: Wartime Italian Americans*—told from a participant/observer point of view—among other books. He is considered to be one of the leading historians of the Italian-American experience, especially in New York.

**Prof. Bruce Jenkins, African American Studies**, directed the first East Coast performance of *The Guest at Central Park West*, by Levy Lee Simon at the H.A.D.L.E.Y. Players Theatre in Manhattan.

**Dr. Richard Renoff, Sociology**, has published an article entitled "The New 'Carpatho-Russian' Diocese and Other Conflicts in the Rusyn Community of Bridgeport" in a *Festschrift* entitled *Carpatho-Rusyns and Their Neighbors*.

**Dr. Steven Rosenhaus, Music**, had his string quartet *Strange Loops* featured in *Strings* magazine. He also often works as a "show doctor," helping to fix musicals on their way to Broadway or off-Broadway theaters.

**Dr. Joseph Varacalli, Director, Center for Catholic Studies**, was honored by the Long Island chapter of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights for his outstanding contribution to both the Catholic church on Long Island and the Long Island chapter of the Catholic League. In addition, Dr. Varacalli is a contributor to the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Catholic Social Thought, Social Science, and Social Policy*, which will be published in July.

*Note: All members of the College are invited to send articles pertaining to professional and community activities for inclusion. Call College Relations at 516.572.9634.*

## IMPORTANT REGISTRATION & APPLICATION INFORMATION



**It's not too late to register  
or apply for the fall semester  
at Nassau Community College**

### Registration & Applications for Fall 2007

**New applications are being accepted**

Call the Admissions Office at 516.572.7347

**Current students may register directly at the Registrar**

Call the Registrar's Office at 516.572.7131

### Academic Advisement

Academic Advisement is available through the Academic Advisement Center (Building U). Please call the center at 516.572.7118 for the schedule of advisor availability for your major

**Or check us out online:**

**[www.ncc.edu/admissions](http://www.ncc.edu/admissions)**

**Register by the following dates for Fall 2007:**

**Day session classes  
Friday, August 31**

**Evening session classes  
Thursday, September 6**

**Weekend College  
Sunday, September 9**

**NASSAU**  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE

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