

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NEXUS

Your College Connection

NCC'S "DAY OF SERVICE" Educating the Mind – Benefitting the Community Ê



NCC Student Justin Maharaj reads to children at the Children's Greenhouse at NCC during a Day of Service project.

Wednesday, April 2 was a memorable day at Nassau Community College. More than 500 members of the campus community—students, faculty, staff and administration—turned out for NCC's second annual Day of Service.

Volunteers took part in more than 35 campus service projects, part of the College's First-Year Experience (FYE) initiative. They made peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the Interfaith Nutritional Network; raised money for Habitat for Humanity; sold cookies and cakes for multiple sclerosis research and other charities; collected school supplies for students in Haiti and cell phones for American troops stationed abroad; gathered pet supplies for local animal shelters; and collected food and monetary donations for a proposed food pantry on campus.

In addition, members of the campus community took part in campus beautification projects, including planting spring flowers and tending to the campus's organic garden. Some volunteers spent the day off-campus, helping to

restore the nearby Hempstead Plains, an environmentally sensitive area.

"The Day of Service was a powerful illustration of what people can accomplish when they work together," said Prof. Stella Fox, a member of the Reading/Basic Education Department and FYE Committee. "Our projects and activities met pressing needs in the areas of hunger, homelessness, domestic violence, literacy, health care, the environment and so much more."

Prof. Fox acknowledged the efforts and contributions of many on campus, especially Prof. Lisa Korman (Psychology) and Prof. Theresa Vecchiarelli (Mathematics/Computer Science/Information Technology), who, along with Prof. Fox, were among the event's organizers.

Echoing these sentiments, Dr. Kenneth Saunders, Acting President of NCC, said, "The spirit of generosity was absolutely contagious. While the activities for the Day may have been distinct, their collective impact was mutually reinforcing and compounding."

He added, "The ripples of good will and good works from the NCC community did indeed spread out widely and caringly."

In addition to the FYE Committee, the Day of Service was sponsored by the College's Center for Service Learning, which strives to make campus and community service an integral part of students' educational experience at NCC, and the Long Island Volunteer Center, which supports a variety of volunteer activities in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Dr. Evangeline Manjares, Dean of the Centers for Service Learning and Veterans Affairs, said the Day of Service benefited participants and recipients alike.

"The Day of Service at NCC encourages everyone to be active citizens in their local, national and global communities," she said. "Research indicates that service learning activities, such as the Day of Service, strengthen academic achievement, school attendance and classroom participation."

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FULFILLING THE AMERICAN DREAM

By Arakel Krikor Torosian

An opportunity! A chance! That is what most of us are looking for as we seek ways to change our lives for the better forever. I was fortunate enough to have another shot when I needed it most. The fusion of feelings and experiences is, in a sense, just too large to be summed up or crystallized into just one adjective that can come close to describing the size or significance of the opportunity that was given to me by Nassau Community College. Instead, let me just tell you my story, and I'll let you decide what adjective, if any, would be appropriate.

As an Armenian Christian from Iraq and like thousands of other Iraqis, my family and I had to flee Iraq to simply live. We moved to Syria in 2006 and, fortunately, we were granted asylum to the U.S. in 2008. At that point, we had a minimal level of English and zero dollars in our pockets, but we started out with something much more powerful—"The American Dream." After asking around, I was referred to the Family and Children's Association, where I prepared for my GED test, which I passed in October of 2008.

Soon after, I found myself stuck slicing cold cuts making minimum wage. Even though my co-workers and the company I worked (and still work) for were supportive, I still needed an opportunity that would put me on the right path to success. That is, some place...where success starts and continues. NCC gave me the opportunity and exposed me to some of the most caring, intelligent and passionate people I have ever met in my life. Since English was not my first language, I had to take a placement test that placed me below college level.

As a result, I entered the Language Immersion at Nassau Community College (LINCC) program, which helped enhance and improve my reading, writing and speaking skills tremendously. After one semester in LINCC, I was taking normal college courses. The learning curve was steep, but with the help of the faculty and advisors, I was able to keep going while working two jobs at two different delis.

At this point, I could clearly articulate and express my thoughts in English, and I earned solid A grades in all my classes. I was pleased to be invited to take honors classes, which challenged me intellectually and provided an incredibly strong educational experience. In my third semester at NCC, the faculty stressed the importance of extracurricular activities on campus. Armed with that advice, along with my passion for community service and giving back, I joined the Make a Difference Club. After being a member for two semesters, I was elected the club's president. In this position, I was exposed to a completely different side of the College, one that offered me yet even more perspectives and experiences. It was gratifying to see how the College had provided me with all the tools I needed to plan and hold activities ranging from bake sales to community clean-ups and soup kitchen events. It was a real eye-opener to learn that the College had full-time staff members dedicated to support student plans and implement student activities, and I could see, first hand, how it benefited me and the recipients of our services, as well.

Today, I am one semester away from earning my bachelors degree in Financial Economics from Columbia University, where I served as the International Students Representative for three semesters, representing a constituency of roughly 400 students. Outside of the classroom, I am now the closing manager at the same store where I used to slice cold cuts. On top of that, I am going to intern with one of the most prestigious financial firms in the world, which is most likely going to turn into a full-time position. I am able to achieve all of this because of the opportunity and the chance that NCC gave to me. I am a million times better off and plan to continue to climb and give back as much as I possibly can.

By the way, did you find the adjective that I was looking for in my first paragraph? I haven't, either. But that does not bother me because I found so much more than that at Nassau Community College.

Arakel Torosian will be interning this summer at Goldman Sachs. He will graduate from Columbia University this year.

Thirteen NCC Students Win SUNY Student Chancellor's Awards for Excellence

Thirteen students from Nassau Community College are recipients of the 2013-2014 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. To qualify for the award, students are reviewed by a College committee for their academic excellence and record of service to NCC and the community. "By being recipients of these honors, the students of Nassau Community College have once again demonstrated that they are part of the proud tradition of SUNY, where educational excellence is achieved and where service to their school and their community is fostered and recognized," said Dr. Kenneth Saunders, Acting President of Nassau Community College.

This year's awardees are: Shanice Bailey, Kara Curtin, Ryan Elton, Michael Gallo, Joshua Lafazan, Daniel MacDonald, William Mahlan, Swathi

Marda, Emmanuel Ozuruonye, Justine Re, Kerry Sweeney, Leslie Trigoss and Elyse Zappia.

"Students honored with the Chancellor's Award for Excellence truly embody the power of SUNY," said State University of New York Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher. "As proven leaders and role models, scholar athletes, creative artists and civic volunteers, each student is recognized not just for academic achievement, but also for the profound impact they have on college campuses and local communities across New York State."

The Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence was created in 1997 to recognize students who have best demonstrated their ability to integrate academic excellence with accomplishments in the areas of leadership, athletics, community service,



NCC's 2014 Student Chancellor's Award Winners. Center: Dr. Kenneth Saunders, Acting President, NCC. Front row: Kara Curtin, Swathi Marda, Kerry Sweeney, Elyse Zappia, Leslie Trigoss. Back row: Joshua Lafazan, Daniel MacDonald, William Mahlan, Emmanuel Ozuruonye.

creative and performing arts, campus involvement or career achievement.

PUTTING WORDS INTO ACTION: NCC VETS GO TO WASHINGTON AND "STORM THE HILL"



Dan MacDonald, Nicholas Tetro and Kristofer Goldsmith speak with staff members in Senator Jon Tester's office in Washington, D.C.

"There oughtta be a law!" How many times have we heard someone say that out of anger, frustration or even resignation? But for members of Nassau Community College's Veterans Club concerned about what they saw as the unfair treatment of some of their fellow veterans seeking to dispute discharge classifications of less than "Honorable" when questions of a mental health diagnosis are at issue, it was not only a time for talk. For them, it was also a time for action.

That's what led the Club's President, Kris Goldsmith; Vice President, Dan MacDonald; and former Club President, Nick Tetro, to go to Washington in January. In a visit of four days, which they paid for out of their own pockets, they brought their message that reforming the process by which veterans could challenge their discharge classifications is a matter of simple fairness that can also substantially improve the VA services and other governmental benefits for which some veterans would be eligible. They met with key staffers of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, as well as of the prime sponsors of the relevant legislation and with influential national veterans groups based in Washington. In these meetings, Kris, Dan and Nick sought to make the case that thousands of servicemembers have been erroneously given less than "Honorable" discharges because they had not been appropriately diagnosed while in the military as having either "Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder" (PTSD) or "Traumatic Brain Injury" (TBI). They pointed out what they saw as the consequences of erroneous discharge classifications and the resulting lack of eligibility for needed medical and counseling support services as well as certain educational benefits. They, then, highlighted that this situation has meant that thousands of veterans have fallen victim to unemployment, homelessness and death, including by suicide.

These advocacy efforts by Kris, Dan and Nick went far beyond "courtesy visits." In fact, some of the meetings extended on for almost two hours in which the fine details of legislative alternatives were discussed with the staffers who, on behalf of members of the House and Senate, would draft the actual legislative proposals. In reflecting on their meeting, a representative of Senator Jon Tester of Montana wrote to Kris, "Our meeting was very impactful and we are interested in offering alternative legislation...We appreciate the dedication and personal sacrifices you are all making to see this through." Tim Bertocci, Legislative Director for Congressman Walz, added, "You've gotten more done in this week than most of us do in a whole year on the Hill." Another crucial meeting was with the military legislative aide, Katie Parker, for Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, whose membership on the Senate Armed Services Committee has put her in a key position to push for the enactment of legislative change in this area. In one of many follow-up email messages to Kris, Parker stated, "We're looking at ways to incorporate your suggestions into some new legislation..."

requiring a mental health professional to be on any review board where a service member's mental health is asserted as the reason for the review." In a subsequent email to Chuck Cutolo, NCC's General Counsel for Governmental & Media Relations who worked for 17 years on Capitol Hill and who offered on-going strategic advice to Kris on this advocacy effort, Kris wrote, "More good news. This is *exactly* the language I would like to see in the bill."



NCC Veterans Club Members Dan MacDonald, Nicholas Tetro and Kristofer Goldsmith in the halls of the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

In commenting on the commitment, passion and skills of Senators Gillibrand and Tester, their staffers and Kris, Dan and Nick, Cutolo added, "They were the 'boots on the ground' in Washington. They were the ones who worked this through the process. They are the ones who could make a difference in the lives of people, including veterans and their families." The results of this advocacy work became

apparent when, on April 16, Senator Gillibrand came to NCC to announce the introduction of the "Military Mental Health Review Board Improvement Act." Crediting the efforts of Kris, Dan and Nick, Senator Gillibrand stated that this legislation "would ensure these servicemembers' appeals are expertly reviewed—and that the records of servicemembers who were improperly discharged for an incorrect reason, or with a less than Honorable rating, can be corrected." Speaking at the same event, Kris said, "I believe that in the end this bill will not only improve the lives of many veterans, but it will also save lives. This bill will give veterans who are the most vulnerable a fighting chance, as Senator Gillibrand puts it, at getting a fair shake." In an editorial, *Newsday* echoed these sentiments when it endorsed the legislation by saying that it's what "we should do for people who have given so much."

In the final analysis, the Veterans Club at Nassau Community College took the initiative in this advocacy effort, and, through its hard work, legislation was drafted and introduced in Congress that is now on the cusp of becoming a law. Currently, this legislation has been approved by the House of Representatives as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2015. The Senate Armed Services Committee has approved its version of the NDAA for Fiscal Year 2015, and this legislation is included in that bill, as well.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Over 11,000 family members and friends joined 3,406 graduate candidates at Nassau Coliseum on May 21 at the 2014 Nassau Community College graduation. NCC's Acting President Dr. Kenneth Saunders was the keynote speaker at the event. Dr. Jorge Gardyn, Chair of the NCC Board of Trustees, Edward Mangano, Nassau County Executive and United States Senator Charles Schumer spoke, as well. Also speaking were Valedictorian for the class of 2014, Elyse Zappia, and President of the Student Government Association, Da'Quan Denard.

Drawing a connection between Nassau Community College's commencement exercises that take place at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum and the Long Island Marathon that begins nearby the Coliseum and demands hard work from the participants, Dr. Saunders urged the graduates to consider two questions: how were they able to navigate their own "marathon" at the College over the past several years, and what lessons did they learn during that process that they would be able to use "in the life marathons" that they were "just now commencing." He highlighted how it was the graduates' goals that helped to motivate them "to hit their stride."



Dr. Saunders added that the graduates were able to meet this objective by developing their own "formula for success." He concluded by saying, "For you, today is just one commencement of that long distance race... of that marathon...that, at the end, will have you smiling broadly from the heart, full in the knowledge that, just as we say of Nassau Community College itself, your success has most definitely started and your success will, most certainly and most assuredly, continue."

Dr. Kenneth Saunders, Acting President, Nassau Community College.



Dr. Jorge Gardyn, Chair of the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees.

Dr. Jorge Gardyn, Chair of the College's Board of Trustees, also addressed the graduates, noting that they "stand in the footprints of more than a half century" of their predecessors at NCC. He pointed out that as much as the course material and technology had changed over the years, the learning process at its core retains the traditional rewards of insight realized and knowledge expanded. "With that insight and knowledge," he advised the graduates, "you will be able to march into the future confidently guided by the simple truth that paths are made by walking." After

recounting the achievements of members of the student body and the faculty on a statewide, national and international level, Dr. Gardyn ended his remarks by complimenting the graduates as well as recognizing their continuing potential. "Members of the class of 2014," he said, "you have already done so much to make the good 'better,' and we are confident that in the future, you will do even more to make the better, 'best.'"

Valedictorian Elyse Zappia described her own personal educational development, which included nine years of speech therapy, and that of her mother, who was also graduating from NCC after having been away from college for 30 years. But she saw her achievements within the context of what her fellow classmates had done, as well. "Graduating today is something to be proud of," she said, "because Nassau Community College is a school to be proud of—in academics, athletics and sciences, it represents humanity at its best." In concluding, Zappia encouraged the class of 2014 "to embrace life's opportunities in our future endeavors. Do not fear this new chapter. As the great hockey player Wayne Gretzky once said, 'you miss 100 percent of the shots you *don't* take.'"

NCC'S "DAY OF SERVICE" Educating the Mind – Benefitting the Community Ê

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Many of the students who took part in the Day of Service participated through their classes. Nursing students collected eyeglasses for distribution in Haiti. Students in English classes read stories to youngsters at the Children's Greenhouse, the College's childcare center, and collected toiletries, books and snacks for soldiers in Afghanistan. Students from the College's Language Immersion at Nassau Community College (LINCC) program helped make sandwiches. Administrative Business Technology students offered senior citizens lessons in the basics of computer use and the Internet.

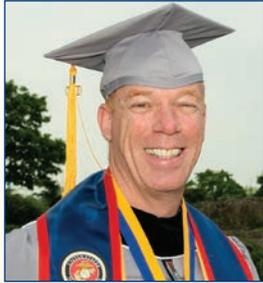
Student clubs also pitched in. Members of the Design Innovators Club sold handmade earrings to benefit St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Members of the Communications Club recorded short stories on CDs for seniors at a local rehabilitation facility. The Student Diplomats of NCC and the Jewish Student Organization sold baked goods to benefit Ronald McDonald House, while the Women Students' Association collected household goods for the Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, which supports victims of relationship violence.

"The Day of Service was a powerful illustration of what people can accomplish when they work together"

– Prof. Stella Fox, a member of the Reading/Basic Education Department and First-Year Experience (FYE) Committee

The Newman Club, the Gaelic Society, the Computer Graphics Club, the InterAct Club, the Achilles Club, the Future Teachers Club, the Sustainability Club, the Student Veterans Club, the Caribbean Students Organization, and the Intramurals program—among others—all lent a helping hand.

THE CLASS OF 2014!



Dan MacDonald

“I had a terrific experience at NCC. I feel that Nassau provided me with a strong academic foundation that I will be able to take with me as I continue my education.”

Dan, who served in the Marines before coming to the College and was active in the NCC Veterans Club, has been accepted into Columbia University. He looks forward to pursuing a career in international business affairs.



Natalia Vilela

“Nassau provided me with such great opportunity. I especially liked the Honors Program and the Astronomy Club.”

Natalia, who plans to work in the field of journalism, will

attend Hofstra University this September.



Sarah Wiesenhaus

“I was very active in the theatre program, both as a performer and in production. I’m so grateful to Nassau for helping me get to the next level of my chosen field.”

In the fall, Sarah

will be attending the conservatory at CAP21, a professional theatre company dedicated to creating new work, developing new talent and building new audiences for musical theatre.



Jawad Chaudhry

“Besides providing you with a good education, NCC is a great place to take different courses that interest you. You never know what you might end up pursuing.”

President of the

NCC Economics Club and a member of the Honor Society, Jawad was a liberal arts major at the College. He will be attending Stony Brook University in the fall and is working towards a career in medicine.



Da’Quan Denard

“I loved my classes at the College—the faculty was outstanding. But I’m also glad I was able to make such wonderful, life-long friends at Nassau.”

President of the Student Government

Association and active in the Academic Senate, Da’Quan is interested in Information Technology. Towards that end, this fall he will be studying in the IT program at Farmingdale State.



Cristina Roman

“NCC’s affordable tuition and flexible hours were why I came to the College at first. Once I got here, I was pleased to find a terrific faculty, too”

A mother with young children,

Cristina was glad to be able to fit her classes around her busy day. She hopes to pursue a business degree at St. John’s University.

Students who participated in Day of Service projects found the experience to be a memorable one. “The Day of Service was a wonderful opportunity for me to give back to an organization like the Ronald McDonald House that does so much for those in need,” said NCC Student William Novello. “I hope to do more projects like this in the future and will always look back on this experience knowing that everyone can make a difference.”

The Day of Service is one of several initiatives sponsored by NCC’s First-Year Experience Committee, which began its work in 2011. The Committee also sponsors a common reading, a book that’s read in many classes across campus and that serves as the basis for a year-long series of programs and discussions, including a campus visit by the author.

In addition, FYE hosts a series of programs and workshops, titled “Conversations About College,” devoted to important college transitional issues, including developing positive relationships with faculty, learning emotional intelligence and making responsible decisions about alcohol and sexuality. It also produces a blog—“What’s Up, NCC?” (www.whatsupncc.blogspot.com)—offering timely advice about college success.

“Assisting students in their transition to college has always been a mission of Nassau Community College,” said Richard Conway, a professor in the Department of Student Personnel Services and chair of the First-Year Experience Committee. “FYE programs, including the Day of Service, play an important role in that process. They teach important skills, build confidence, encourage participation in the life of the College, and foster a sense of belonging and community. They help students feel a part of Nassau, which is critical to their success in college.”

“The Day of Service was a wonderful opportunity for me to give back to an organization like the Ronald McDonald House that does so much for those in need...”

– NCC Student William Novello

The Performing Arts at Nassau Community College:



Current Nassau students during a performance of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.



Billy Crystal (second from left) at an NCC Alumni Performance of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* in 1971.

“Fifty years old and still going strong.” A description of the vibrancy of someone entering middle age? Perhaps. But it certainly puts the spotlight on the decades’ long successes of Nassau Community College’s Department of Music and Department of Theatre and Dance that continue up to the present. And, more than that, the stage is also being set for the Departments to be even better able to serve their students and the Long Island community in the years to come.

Both Departments were established in 1964, which itself was a quite a year for the performing arts: *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Hello, Dolly!* opened on

Currently, close to 800 students annually take courses offered by the Department, including those majoring in theatre and dance. More than 200 students participate in the Department’s theatre program of seven to eight campus productions each year, as well as those productions that take place off-campus. In doing so, the students take on the roles not only of actors and dancers, but also become the technicians on the set crews doing construction, painting or working the lighting apparatus. “Some of these students will go on to professional careers,” said Prof. Victor Abravaya, Chair of the Department, “but even for those who don’t, the experience of being part of one of these productions can be invaluable. In addition to the artistic elements, which are very real, working

on these performances fosters the qualities of creativity, resourcefulness, persistence and professionalism that are at the top of the ‘watch-for’ list of any perspective employers.” NCC Theatre Student Gabbie Ambrus agrees. “I am learning a lot as a theatre major at the College. The faculty are knowledgeable and encouraging, and the students really bond when we work together on productions,” she said. “The whole experience has greatly helped me to define my career path.”

Of course, the Department has had its share of students who participated in the productions and then gone to national and international fame. Demonstrating the continuity and magical irony associated with

the performing arts, the Department’s musical production for the spring 2014 semester was *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. In 1971, Billy Crystal was part of the NCC cast of that same show. Displaying pictures from the two productions side-by-side is a source of pride for the College and a resource of inspiration for the current cast, highlighting how a lot of hard work (seasoned with some good fortune) can lead to a successful and satisfying theatrical career.

The Music Department offers the almost 2,000 students who are currently music majors or who take classes in the Department a wide variety of options to pursue and enhance their course of study. Included among these performance alternatives that students can choose from are a concert band, orchestra, chorus,



A Nassau Community College Chamber Chorus performance, circa 1969.

Broadway; *Goldfinger* and *Mary Poppins* were “showing at a theater near you;” and the Beatles came to America, just to name a few of the major entertainment events of that year. At the same time, the Theatre and Dance Department began a run of approximately 375 live productions, including dramas, musicals and dance concerts. With the musicals, students have the opportunity to work with professional guest artists, including choreographers and musical directors. The audiences have included students, parents and members of the community at large, including children from area public schools, who are able to attend the Department’s annual Children’s Musical. It’s been estimated that approximately a quarter of a million people have viewed the Department’s productions over its life thus far.

“Putting On A Show”...And So Much More

jazz ensemble, Latin ensemble and a number of chamber groups. They perform upwards of 20 concerts annually, which are open to the public.

“The thing I like most about the Music Department is both the passionate faculty and the sense of community that they foster among the students whom they teach. I have found numerous excellent career opportunities through this department,” said music student Mikah Feldman-Stein.

The Music Department has three main objectives: to prepare students for careers in music; to provide courses in various aspects of music as humanities and general electives for students in other degree programs; and to serve as a cultural resource center for students and the larger community on Long Island.



A present day NCC Chorus and Orchestra performance.

“I am learning a lot as a theatre major at the College. The faculty are knowledgeable and encouraging.”

– Gabbie Ambrus,
NCC Theatre Student

NCC is particularly proud that there is the opportunity for members of the community to be part of many of these performances. “By performing shoulder to shoulder with members of the community who have professional standing, our students can have the benefit of supplementing what they learn in their rigorous NCC courses with the practical experience of musicians who have played in many settings before a variety of audiences,” said Garry Ouellette, faculty member of the Music Department. In fact, as a natural carry over from this academic- and experienced-based mentoring, many graduates of the Music Department have gone on to professional performing careers themselves. A vintage photo of one of NCC’s ensemble groups from the 1960s (pictured on page 6) provides an early backdrop for what has blossomed into a major outlet for NCC’s students, along with members of the community, to display and develop further their musical talents.

Yet as impressive as is the legacy of the performing arts at NCC, upcoming developments offer the very real prospect of its being elevated to an even higher stage. Several years ago, NY State allocated \$20.8 million for a performing arts building to be constructed on campus so long as matching funds are available

on the local level. In line with that requirement, the capital plan proposed by County Executive Mangano for Fiscal Years 2014 through 2017 calls for an additional \$5 million in construction funds for 2017 on top of the previous allocation of \$2 million for 2016. While additional local funding still needs to be secured for subsequent years, substantial progress has thus already been made in bringing to NCC the quality facility for theatre, dance and music that its past and its present successful commitment to the performing arts so richly merits.

So, from their inception in 1964 through the successful present and with the prospects of even a brighter future, the Department of Music and the Department of Theatre and Dance continue to bring to NCC’s students and the community a benefit that paraphrases the refrain from that iconic song of many years ago: “This was...and continues to be...‘the start of something BIG.’”

“The thing I like most about the Music Department is both the passionate faculty and the sense of community they foster among the students whom they teach.”

– Mikah Feldman-Stein,
NCC Music Student

Student Highlights



PATRICK DEEGAN NEW 2014-2015 STUDENT TRUSTEE

Board makes decisions about Nassau Community College. “I was a freshman senator in the Student Government Association, and I recognize how important it is to become involved in decisions that

Patrick Deegan looks forward to his role as the new Student Trustee on Nassau Community College’s Board of Trustees. The second-year student hopes to be an advocate for his fellow students and reflect their voice as the

affect us not only now, but will also affect students and the College in future years,” he said. Deegan also wants to continue to learn about how decisions are made at a large institution like NCC.

A 19 year-old graduate from Lynbrook High School, Deegan believes that Nassau is an affordable opportunity for students to attend a good school before they go to their four-year college. “To be honest, I originally had concerns that NCC might not be that challenging. I was pleasantly surprised. All of my classes have been interesting and academically rigorous,” he said. Deegan believes that Nassau is definitely preparing him to continue

and obtain his bachelor’s degree. In addition to his studies as an engineering science major, he has been active in the Honors Club and program and is a member of the Nassau Engineering Society. Deegan also noted that he has made many friends at the College and that NCC is a place where students can meet people of diverse backgrounds and interests.

A volunteer firefighter in Lynbrook, in his spare time Deegan likes to follow politics. After graduating from NCC, Deegan hopes to continue on to Texas A&M and pursue a career as a mechanical or petroleum engineer.



NEW STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT IS CANDACE LOPEZ

body. “NCC is such a wonderful college and has

Candace Lopez’s enthusiasm is infectious. As the Student Government Association’s (SGA) president, she is very excited about being an advocate for her fellow students and, then, having their voices join

so much to offer students that we really want to get the word out,” she said. She believes that with teamwork, the SGA and the rest of the students can realize significant accomplishments as they work towards common goals.

A liberal arts major, Lopez has been impressed by her professors at Nassau, especially with their current real-world experience. She also believes that NCC’s student services are extremely helpful, since some students come to the College not fully certain of their future plans. “I have already learned so much in my time here that I would love for other students to get involved in clubs, including student

government,” she said. A member of the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society, Lopez has also been involved in NYPIRG (New York Public Interest Research Group) as well as student government. The diversity of the NCC student body has also greatly enhanced her college experience, according to Lopez.

A graduate of Amityville High School, Lopez plans to go on to a four-year college after graduating from NCC. She then hopes to pursue a career in linguistics. In her spare time, she enjoys photography, music and playing soccer.



ELYSE ZAPPIA VALEDICTORIAN NCC CLASS OF 2014

will also be graduating from NCC this year.

Higher education—hand attending Nassau Community College—is a family affair for Elyse Zappia, the College’s valedictorian for the class of 2014. “The first time I heard the word ‘valedictorian’

While she didn’t know exactly when she came to NCC what field she wanted to enter after graduation, Zappia was sure of two goals: First, to focus on academics, and second, to take advantage of the many opportunities the College had to offer. She has made good on both promises to herself. In addition to maintaining a 4.0 average in the Honors Program, Zappia was a SUNY Chancellor’s Award-winner and was named to *Who’s Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges*. An academic senator in the Student Government Association, Zappia also became a new student orientation leader and a member of the programming board. On the athletic front, she took part in women’s cross country track and women’s basketball.

Recognizing the valuable experience that she has gained at NCC, Zappia encourages others to get involved in campus life. “As well as being a

great school, Nassau gives students like me the opportunity to take different classes, participate in different activities and find out about what areas we’d like to look into further,” she said. In fact, because of having had the benefit of being able to take a wide variety of courses at the College, Zappia discovered her interest in the health care field.

A resident of Malverne and a graduate of Valley Stream North High School, Zappia believes in being active in her community as well as at her school. She volunteers as an assistant Sunday school teacher, assistant basketball coach and church summer camp counselor.

A liberal arts major at NCC, Zappia is excited about attending Long Island University-Post on a full scholarship in the fall to study radiologic technology.

'LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION'

National Television Series Films on NCC Campus



Cameraman from *The Americans* films on the NCC campus.



NCC Students Sarah Spagnuolo, Stephanie Wilson and Chantele Sterling had "extras" roles.

Long Island is emerging as a hub of the entertainment industry, and NCC is excited about being part of that development. From March 7 through March 9, a production crew of close to 150 from the TV series, *The Americans* was on the campus filming segments for the final episode of Season Two, which aired on May 21. The program's producers found at NCC the locations that could simulate the 1980's locale in which the series takes place. Thus, a portion of Perimeter Road was set up as the entrance to a military base just outside of Pittsburgh, and a classroom in Cluster F became a room in the Pentagon.

Some NCC students were, literally, able to get into the act. Sarah Spagnuolo, Chantele Sterling and Stephanie Wilson, who were taking Drama courses at NCC during the spring semester, had the opportunity to work as "extras" outside the "Pittsburgh military base." The feedback from the show's staff was very positive. Michael Fucci, the Location Manager, said, "It was great working with Nassau Community College. The reps of the College were all very helpful." This is not the first time a film crew has worked on the campus, and it is certainly gratifying for NCC to be on the checklist of possible TV and movie locations in the future.

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM: AWARD WINNERS AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



NCC Debate Team Members
Gamal Moodie, Joshelle Wright,
Alicia Bagley and Karl Pillion.

NCC's 2014 Speech and Debate Team won several awards at the International Forensics Association World Championship that was held from March 16-21 in Paris, France. During the competition, two- and four-year institutions are represented and judged in various categories of speech and debate.

The College's award winners are as follows: The team won 2nd place overall in International Community Colleges; It won 4th place in International Overall Colleges (two- and four-year colleges); Alicia Bagley is the World Champion in After-Dinner Speaking; Karl Pillion received Honorable Mention in Communication Analysis; Gamal Moodie received Honorable Mention in After Dinner Speaking; and Joshelle Wright received Honorable Mention in Impromptu Speaking.

The Speech and Debate Team is coached by Prof. Trent Webb, who was also honored by being placed on the ballot for the International Speech/Debate Coach Hall of Fame. The voting takes place this summer.

Prof. Webb applauded the achievements of the NCC team: "I'm in awe of the students' hard work and determination in representing NCC on a global scale with professionalism, pride and excellence."

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEN'S TENNIS TEAM: NATIONAL CHAMPS

In May, Nassau Community College's Men's Tennis team won the 2014 NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association) Division III National Championship, held this year in Plano, Texas. Once again, the Lions were undefeated in match play this season. Nevertheless, it was not until the last doubles finals matches at the tournament that NCC clinched the national title. It was the first NJCAA Division III Men's Tennis Championship for NCC since 2001 and the first national title at NCC for Coach Cheryl Novins.

Speaking of the team members, Coach Novins said, "They are focused student-athletes on and off the tennis court, and it was truly a privilege working with them this season. I'm sure that winning a national championship will definitely be one of the great memories they will take with them from NCC."

Nassau's Roey Heymann was named the NJCAA Division III Coaches Association Player of the Year. While the entire team played extremely well and earned points throughout the tournament, the All-American First Team players from Nassau are: Mike Nelson (2nd singles); Jace Koretz (3rd singles); Roey Heymann and Mike Nelson (1st doubles); and Jace Koretz and Dan Baruch (2nd doubles).

Coach Novins' skills and inspiration in leading NCC's team to the national championship were recognized by her being named the Max Grubbs NJCAA Division III National Coach of the Year.



Raul Celleri, Coach Cheryl Novins, Assistant Coach Kristina Rossano, Stephen Cumberbatch. Back row: Donnell Slay, Mike Nelson, Andrew Neter, Jace Koretz, Keith Vargas, Roey Heymann, Dan Baruch.

Ten Nassau Community College Faculty & Staff Members Receive the State University Chancellor's Award for Excellence

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

The Chancellor's Awards program was created 40 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 Theresa Vecchiarelli, Chair of the NCC Chancellor's Award Selection Committee.



(Standing): Doreen Davis, Prof. Cheryl McBride, Prof. Nancy Rothbaum, Prof. Robert Costello, Prof. Linda Rohan, Prof. Alfredo Mellace. (Seated): Lisa Errico, Michael Fenrich, Prof. Stella Fox, Prof. Molly Ludmar.

This years awardees are: Doreen Davis, Financial Aid; Prof. Cheryl McBride, Art; Prof. Nancy Rothbaum, Academic Advisement; Prof. Robert Costello, Criminal Justice; Prof. Linda Rohan, Nursing; Prof. Alfredo Mellace, Chemistry; Lisa Errico, Library; Michael Fenrich, Mail Service; Prof. Stella Fox, Reading and Basic Education; Prof. Molly Ludmar, Transfer Counseling.



PROF. LISA BASTIAANS NAMED DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR BY THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Prof. Lisa Bastiaans of the Physical Sciences Department has been appointed to the rank of Distinguished Professor by the State University of New York (SUNY) Board of Trustees.

A professor of meteorology, Prof. Bastiaans has been described as "a force of nature." She is a dynamic instructor who makes difficult concepts understandable by relating them to everyday occurrences. "From the caring way in which

she interacts with her students to the meticulously high standards that she employs in fostering their interests in the subject matter of meteorology, the field of science and the vocation of scholarship, Prof. Bastiaans constantly demonstrates herself to be a whirlwind of energy and pedagogical creativity," said Dr. Saunders, Acting President of the College. An innovator in the area of distance education, Prof. Bastiaans has been a leader in the development and

implementation of new learning and management systems to advance it. For more than a decade, she has also participated in a program directed towards at-risk high school juniors and seniors.

Prof. Bastiaans is one of 19 faculty system-wide that have been appointed to the distinguished ranks. "SUNY's highest faculty honor, the distinguished ranking, is reserved for the best of the best," said SUNY Board Chairman H. Carl McCall. "Each professor to earn this distinction has advanced their field while teaching and mentoring their students, often collaborating and innovating with their colleagues, and serving society at large through their work."

In addition to the selection criteria for the Distinguished Teaching Professorship, to be nominated, a faculty member must have held the rank of full professor for five years, have three years of full-time service at the nominating institution, have completed at least ten years of full-time service for SUNY and have regularly carried a full-time teaching load as defined by the campus.

Faculty/Staff Highlights

Prof. Kate Beckman, Communications, joined the Port Washington Play Troupe in presenting a radio broadcast of *The Maltese Falcon* for radio station WCWP. The script, along with period commercials and musical numbers, were presented before a studio audience in addition to being broadcast on air and streamed online. Prof. Beckman also presented her cabaret of swing music for the Town of Oyster Bay's Distinguished Artists Concerts. Finally, as a member of the Arts Education Steering Committee of the

Long Island Arts Alliance, she worked on and attended "Getting to the Core: Looking at Your Institution's Programs Through the Common Core Lens" held at Hofstra University.

Prof. Susan Beganskas, Marketing/Retailing/Fashion Buying and Merchandising /Fashion Design/Interior Design, recently presented "Sustainable Interior Design" at a meeting of the Long Island Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Prof. Ruth Botwinik, Reading and Basic Education, presented a workshop on "How to Find a Job Teaching Abroad" at the Long Island ESOL conference in May. She has taught English in China, Mexico, Argentina, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

Prof. Victor Caliman, Psychology, was named Interim Educational Director of Great Neck Community School, an accredited, non-profit, non-sectarian, multicultural competitive nursery

school. The Community School is the oldest cooperative nursery school on Long Island and the only universal pre-kindergarten collaborative agency approved in Great Neck.

Dr. Janet Caruso, Assistant Vice President, Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning, co-authored a chapter in *Handbook of Research on Emerging Priorities and Trends in Distance Education, Pedagogy, and Technology*. The title of her chapter is “Methodological, Ethical, and Epistemological Challenges of Evaluating Academic Achievement and Course Completion in Distance Education.” It was co-authored by Dr. S. Marshall Perry of Dowling College.

Prof. Amy Cohen, Art, was appointed the Artist-in-Residence at the Heschel School on New York City’s Upper West Side. The community engagement consultancy gives her the opportunity to work with students and faculty to illuminate rituals and holidays by creating site-specific art installations.

Thomas Conigliaro, Printing and Publications, was featured in the February edition of the trade publication *In-Plant Graphics*. The article spoke about how certain pieces of new equipment have helped make the Department and, therefore, the College greener and more efficient.

Prof. Maura Conley, English, presented a paper at the Northeast Modern Language Association entitled “Speaking Up: Reclaiming Bloom’s Taxonomy as a Discussion Model for Students on a College Level” in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. She is also the curator for the Double Life reading series in Brooklyn.

Profs. Natalia de Cuba Romero and Ashley Fifer, LINCC, recently presented the workshop “(In)Civility U.S.A.: Academic Etiquette for College ELLs” at the TESOL international convention in Portland, Oregon. Prof. de Cuba was also awarded a TESOL Professional Development Travel Grant, one of 10 TESOL instructors worldwide to receive the honor.

Dr. Sally Ann Drucker, English, re-created Emma Goldman in a World War I Chautauqua during the first three weeks of June. In late 19th- and early 20th- century America, traveling and local Chautauquas educated and entertained the public through lectures, concerts and plays. Thematic 20th- and 21st-century Chautauquas recreate famous figures from American history and literature. Funded by the Oklahoma Humanities Council, the WWI Chautauqua travels to Tulsa, Enid and Lawton.

Prof. Eileen Engelke, R.N., Nursing, and her students worked on a “teen teaching table” at Westbury High School this spring. They provided

the informal style health information every Thursday during lunch periods.

April Essix, Information Services, spoke about “Living to Please God” at the Salvation Army Nassau County Women’s Division Annual Spring Luncheon at the Swan Club in Roslyn.

Profs. Elizabeth Fonseca and Cara Tuzzolino-Werben, LINCC, are working with SUNY COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning), in conjunction with **Asst. Dean Rosemary Ortlieb** and **Prof. Victoria Chai**, to pilot an online language exchange between LINCC students at NCC and students at ITK institute in Lebanon. The project is part of a SUNY global initiative using social media to communicate in English language classes across borders. In addition, they co-presented “Reading Across the IEP Curriculum: A Model Sustaining Student Interest” at the NYS TESOL conference. Prof. Fonseca recently joined the NYS TESOL publication *Idiom* as columns editor.

Dr. Arthur Friedman, Library, was a panelist on a program entitled “Privacy 2013—Events and Trends” presented at the 29th Annual LI Library Conference. He is also getting ready to publish the annual Directory of Long Island Libraries and Media Centers with the assistance of **Barbara Vollmer, Distance Education**. This publication provides access to information about more than 1,000 libraries.

Dr. Murray Fullman, Psychology, spoke about “Hypnosis for Relaxation and Personal Growth” at the Shelter Rock Library in April.

Prof. Natalie Harnett, Reading and Basic Education, has published her debut novel, *The Hollow Ground*. The novel has been reviewed by *Booklist* and *Library Journal* and was named by *San Diego Magazine* as one of the “Five Books to Read” for the month of May.

Prof. Ed Mack, Health, Physical Education and Recreation, volunteered at the Floral Park Recreation Center last summer. He instructed day campers on various offensive and defensive techniques and skills that were applicable for their two-week football program.

Prof. Jack Mandel, Marketing/Retailing/ Fashion Buying and Merchandising /Fashion Design/Interior Design, was interviewed on Cablevision’s News 12 Long Island for his expert commentary about “Black Friday” shopping trends. His article “Defining Success” appears in the Winter 2013 and Spring 2014 editions of *Aspire* magazine.

Dr. Julio Marzán’s, English, novel, *The Bonjour Gene*, was re-released in paperback and

e-book. In addition, two of his poems appear in the newest editions of *The Bedford Introduction to Literature* and *The Bedford Introduction to Poetry*. A selection of his poems also appears in the anthology *Looking Out, Looking In: An Anthology of Latino Poetry*. Finally, he was asked to contribute an essay to *The Oxford Companion to William Carlos Williams*.

Prof. Abe Mantell, Mathematics, Computer Science and Information Technology, was recently elected governor of the New York Metropolitan Section of the Mathematical Association of America for a three-year term. His primary responsibilities include representing the New York metropolitan area at the national meetings of the association as well as serving on various committees.

Prof. Nedra Neal, Music, was the chorus personnel manager and conductor for the live performance of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s signature piece “Revelations” in December at the New York City Center. Prof. Neal and Tami Petty prepared music student Frantz Jean to perform at the Classical Vocal Arts Competition for Emerging Young African American Artists for the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s Club, Inc. The performance took place in April at the African American Museum in Hempstead.

Prof. Emerita Florence Scarinci was selected to receive the Maxwell Medallion Award from the Dog Writers Association of America for an article she wrote on breeding, raising and training service dogs.

Helen Setteducate, Printing and Publications, recently celebrated her 50th anniversary as an employee of Nassau Community College. She began working in the department on February 3, 1964 on a mimeograph machine. Technology and procedures have changed drastically since then, but Setteducate has remained a valuable member of the team, always keeping current with the times.

Prof. Nathan Wasserbauer, Art, was commissioned to create the work “Corpus Planeta/Planeta Corpo,” for “Housewarming: Notions of Home from the Center of the Universe.” This exhibition was the inaugural exhibition presented in BRIC Arts/Media House in the Downtown Brooklyn Cultural District. Prof. Wasserbauer will again exhibit this summer in New York City with Dillon Gallery and the Leslie Heller Workspace.

Aurora Workman, Asst. Director, Office of Faculty Services and Labor Relations, was presented with the Content of Character Award at the African American Museum of Nassau County in Hempstead.

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FALL 2014 REGISTRATION & APPLICATION INFORMATION



**DAY & EVENING CLASSES BEGIN ON
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2**

**WEEKEND COLLEGE CLASSES BEGIN ON
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5**

**ADMISSIONS APPLICATIONS MUST BE
COMPLETED BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 15**
Call the Admissions Office at 516.572.7345
or check us out online: ncc.edu

ACADEMIC ADVISEMENT
Academic advisement is available through
the Academic Advisement Center (Building U).
Please visit ncc.edu/advisementschedule.

REGISTRATION
Current students can register online at ncc.edu
(some restrictions apply)

Current and admitted students may register in
person for fall 2014 no later than Friday, August 29.
Using the online system, students may register through
Monday, September 1.



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