



# TEACH, SERVE, AND LEARN

the newsletter for Service Learning  
at Nassau Community College

FALL 2011

## INTRODUCTION

When he came to Nassau in the fall of 2010, President Donald Astrab organized the Center for Service Learning as one of his first initiatives. President Astrab had witnessed the positive impact of service learning as the leader of Brevard Community College, where students and faculty had the opportunity to participate in Service Learning Projects that provided thousands of hours of service to the community. He was sure that if Brevard could do it, we could do it here at Nassau.

Service Learning is an important teaching and learning method because it helps build and strengthen communities while bringing the curriculum to life. It is a tool to help connect classroom theory with reality and link thought with action! Students are at the heart of service learning and they provide meaningful service to the community while benefiting civically, personally, occupationally, and academically. A national study conducted by Learn and Serve America suggests that students involved in service learning projects improve their grades, increase their class attendance, and develop their sense of personal and social responsibility.

### Goals of the Center for Service Learning

The Center for Service Learning is dedicated to the following goals:

- ☞ Engage as many students as possible in service learning and measure how many participate.
- ☞ Coordinate the various agencies that are involved in service learning activities and continue to develop partnerships with these and additional agencies through visits and collaboration.
- ☞ Provide engaging and productive opportunities for our students through referrals.
- ☞ Engage parents and other adults in supporting student learning.
- ☞ Inform the rest of the college community about the Center by inclusion in the website and other publications.
- ☞ Foster a sense of caring for others.
- ☞ Organize and sponsor events such as Community Service Days or Human Services Days that will allow service agencies in the area an opportunity to share who they are, what they do and what opportunities they have available within the college community.
- ☞ Expose students and faculty to the various service agencies in the community.
- ☞ Provide recognition for our students and faculty who participate in the Service Learning projects.

Our heartfelt thanks to *Professors Carol Farber, Patricia Halcrow, Patricia Lupino, and Diane Martin* for their time and energy in authoring "How to Introduce Service Learning into Your Curriculum," a helpful guide that most of you have utilized in planning and executing Service Learning in your classrooms.

TEACH LEARN AND SERVE Newsletter is an effort to create a vehicle every semester where faculty, administrators, and staff can share their various Service Learning Projects and to learn from each other about the successful uses of Service Learning that can be replicated by your colleagues. I encourage you to send us your articles and experiences.



**Evangeline B. Manjares, Ed.D., Dean**  
Centers for Service Learning and Veterans Affairs, Plaza Level, Tower Building, (516) 572-9775.

## WHPC 90.3 FM "YOUR FAMILY'S HEALTH"

### Professor Joan Buckley, Nursing Department

The radio show "Your Family's Health" has been on the air at Nassau Community College for three decades with faculty from the Nursing Department acting as hosts to a variety of formats. Over the years, the Nursing faculty have brought experts from around the country to the air to discuss health care issues of interest to the residents of Nassau County and surrounding areas. With the future of nursing in flux and the importance of field to world health, the changes here at NCC continued.

During the Spring semester of 2011, student nurses were invited to co-host "Your Family's Health" along with the present faculty member. Five students volunteered and the eye-opening experience began. Faculty approved the topics and the students fit interviews at the WHPC Radio Station into their already demanding schedules.

An orientation to the world of radio was given with the assistance of WHPC's station manager, Jim Green. They began to experience, first hand, what health care providers everywhere

are attempting to do – reach as many people as they can with information about staying healthy. Using the radio station as the perfect platform, they began to make a change, not only in the show, but also in the way that they practice nursing as students. The ultimate goal would be to change the way nurses are seen and for nurses to see their influence on the changes occurring in health care.

The health care system's many challenges have brought an awareness of both the ability and need for nurses to utilize other means of communication to plan the health of the family and community. The power of the media to inform people with information that could ultimately change their lives is at our fingertips here at Nassau Community College. The Nursing Department is excited to continue to explore this avenue of health care teaching as an adjunct to the education of any interested nursing student. The future of nursing depends on the creativity and enthusiasm of nurses as members of their communities



and the partnerships that they establish with the populations that they serve.

## A DAY AT THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

### Meteorology Club – August 2011 Professor Lisa Bastiaan, Physical Sciences Department

Prof. Lisa Bastiaan of the Physical Sciences Department attended an American Meteorological Society meeting with Justin Kim, President of the Meteorology Club, and Ramea Balachanthiran, Club Vice President. The meeting, held at the National Weather Service office on Sunday, August 7, 2011 from 9-10 AM, featured a presentation by Ward Hindman, professor emeritus from CUNY, who spoke about soaring. An amazing fact we learned is that some gliders have soared over 900 miles in a single trip!

After this meeting, Lisa, Justin and Ramea were volunteers for the National Weather Service Open House which ran from 10AM – 3:30 PM. The rainy weather outside had little impact on attendance as over 800 people came for a tour of the NWS office. The theme for this year's open house was "Hurricanes."

Lisa prepared a game called "Are you prepared for a hurricane?" She put pictures of household items on 3x5 cards and laid the pictures on the table. The children who attended were asked to select which items they should have in their house in case a hurricane hit Long Island (how fortuitous)! As the children picked the correct pictures (like bottled water, peanut butter, flashlight, batteries, etc.) we showed them the real items and put them in a hurricane preparedness box. We explained why each item was a necessity for hurricane preparedness.

Lisa also prepared an experiment for the children called "A cloud in a bottle". Lisa and the club members helped students use compression and expansion of air to create adiabatic temperature changes inside the bottle which produced condensation. Both of our exhibits were very well attended. The day ended with a special radiosonde launch at 3:30 PM. Over 300 people stayed for this event! As Hurricane Irene was approaching Long Island on Aug. 27-28, we hoped that our hurricane preparedness activity increased the number of Long Islanders who were better prepared for this event.



## BENEFITS OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

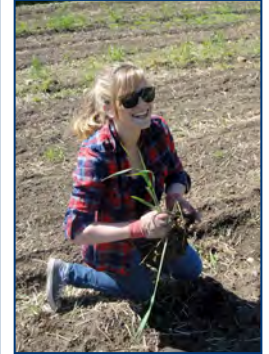
### Service Learning Assignment - Spring 2011 Bio 101 and Bio 109 Dr. Birgit Woelker, Biology Department

Learning in the classroom often seems disconnected to what matters to students in their everyday lives. In an attempt to have them make the connection, I offered this Service Learning Project to my Biology students this past Spring. During the semester, our topics include biochemistry, molecular biology, enzymes, photosynthesis, genetic engineering and the human body. For this project, students had to work for two hours at the Queens County Farm and write a two-page essay about the benefits of sustainable agriculture.



The essay had to contain material from the semester (e.g., minerals in organic soil, composting, greenhouse gases, recycling, vitamin content in organic produce, pesticides/herbicides and their effects on human enzymes). On the farm, a farmer with a Biology background was available for questions related to the essay. Surprisingly, a large number of students from both classes participated in the project.

### *Queens County Farm*



In their reports, students indicated what a deep impression this project had made on them. They learned what sustainability means by experiencing how everything on this farm is recycled. Each student discovered how important food is for their health and the health of the planet. They realized how fragile our ecosystem is and how valuable it is to maintain it. Many students indicated that they want to go back to the farm and in addition grow some vegetables at home.

## READING 001 VISITS THE GREENHOUSE

### Service Learning Assignment – Spring 2011 *Kerry Golde,* Department of Reading and Basic Education

When asked to participate in a service learning experience, I immediately thought of ways to immerse my remedial students in an environment that would be beneficial to both them and the recipients of their service. What could be memorable and satisfying? Reading to a child seemed to be an idea that was workable.

It was important to me that my students participate in something on campus. I wanted them to be empowered by a skill that they were learning in the classroom and also to be given a sense of belonging to their college. Once getting approval from Janet Walsh at the Greenhouse, my students and I decided to pick children's books based on the current theme about which the Greenhouse was learning. My students then developed a lesson plan that included strategies they were currently learning in the classroom.

They read stories to the children using strategies such as previewing, predicting, recognizing the main idea and making inferences.



They then followed up the reading experience with a drawing/writing exercise. My students determined the success of the lesson based on the preschoolers responses to the post-reading questions and their overall interest in the reading activity.

This is my third semester working with the Greenhouse. This Fall, my Reading101 students will be visiting the preschoolers to read fiction and nonfiction materials. We hope to build connections to the content learned by building on the preschooler's schema.

animation projects from computer graphics classes. The purpose of the video was to let prospective students know about the Commercial Art: Digital Technologies Degree Program at NCC. Several students then published the video on YouTube.com and it has collectively been viewed about three hundred times. The video can be viewed at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDCPqxx\\_A6w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDCPqxx_A6w).

## ART 237 DIGITAL VIDEO & SPECIAL EFFECTS

### Computer Graphics - Spring 2011 *Professor Jason Gorman, Art Department*

Students of NCC filmed on location in the Art Department's Computer Graphics Area, producing a video that showcases the Art Department facilities and includes interviews with students and faculty. The video also features the students' artwork, consisting of examples from desktop publishing, 3D modeling and

*Article review & commentary  
Patricia A. Halcrow, PhD, LCSW-R, HSBCD  
Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work Department  
Coordinator, Human Services AA Program*

## CELEBRATING SERVICE LEARNING TECHNIQUES

Berkey, Lisa; Emeagwali, N. S., and Guempel, M. (2010, April).

This fairly recent article was very compelling to me, since its title included the word 'celebrate' along with service learning. The authors remind us that the service learning is over half a century old, and as a 'middle aged' modality, we should look at what is working well and honor the best practices.

They remind us that service learning is, of course, tied to the curriculum. If we only have students complete a community service project, they may be gaining something, but unless we guide their experiences and assess the outcome goals, we have no idea what may be happening for them. So how do we make service learning meaningful for students after we have constructed our syllabus in a way that will reflect how the service will tie in to course material?

The authors suggest that we begin by finding out what the students are passionate about, and use that enthusiasm as a jumping off point. These are the connections, to the material and to the students' lives, which can result in a life-altering impact. The students' own problems come into a better perspective when this occurs, and groups or even "categories" of people previously viewed as foreign or suspect can transform into real human beings, a leap which could likely not be accomplished through a classroom experience alone.

One teacher mentioned in the article put it this way, when

reporting on students' experiences with the elderly: "They have changed from being uncertain about the older adults to actively participating in discussions with them."

I just want to add a few words about similar experiences in my human services courses. Students engage in service learning at a local homeless shelter for families, and from the first day there, begin to see themselves in a helping role. They experience first-hand the dissatisfaction of children who have been moved out of their home, school, and neighborhood, and whose parents struggle daily for dignity. Oftentimes anger appears in the family relationships, and parents' frustration with social systems can leave little room for insight and patience with their offspring. What they bring back to the class is insight, emotion, and even greater passion.

The experience is tied to our classroom material in a variety of ways: the core values of social work (service, competence, social justice, the importance of human relationships, integrity and dignity and worth of the individual), human diversity and cultural competence, programs for combating poverty and working with families and children are some. Students maintain a journal of their experiences, and classroom discussions are held in order to offer support for the students and to mine their experiences for the sake of their fellow students as well. Truly, my students' views of the world are altered by their work with these families.

I want to wish a happy birthday to service learning, and welcome to Nassau Community College. Now let's celebrate.



### ENVIRONMENTAL SPOOKWALK

SCI 109H and SCI 110

*Professor Frances Viscovich, Department of Physical Science*

Students from SCI 109H and SCI 110 participated in the environmental spook walk held at the Garden City Bird Sanctuary on October 15, 2011. During the weeks prior the students made candles during club hour using paper towel rolls they collected, glue guns, and battery tea lights. These were hung in the trees with fishing wire to give the appearance of floating candles and to light the way along the trail. We also spent weeks making props and setting up for the event.

During the walk, we covered topics that included the global drinking water crisis, toxic waste, global warming, leaking landfills and we even had sightings of the plastic bag monster (which my students made out of a rain suit and plastic bags they collected). The walk was a great success ending with a nice cup of hot cider and homemade cupcakes served by the students and myself.

I have set up a display of the event in my department's display cabinet across from C210 & C212. Please stop by and view! It was a wonderful opportunity for the students to share information they had learned from class and bring awareness to the local community.

Editorial Staff

Prof. Kerry Golde  
Prof. Patricia Halcrow  
Prof. Izolda Maksym





## PROM BOUTIQUE

### *Professor Pat Lupino* Marketing/Retailing/Fashion

Each Spring, Nassau Community College hosts the “Prom Boutique,” a program in which individuals and businesses donate new or gently used prom and bridesmaid dresses for distribution to deserving young women.

Prom Boutique is a major, college-wide initiative that provides students with service learning opportunities in the areas of retailing, visual merchandising, fashion buying, event planning & marketing, and public relations. The event also teaches students the importance of social responsibility in marketing. Students, faculty and staff from all disciplines of the College come to help setup and run the boutique. It’s an event that people look forward to participating in year after year.

Young women in need are recommended by high school counselors, at-risk youth programs, group homes and church outreach programs. Nearly 1,000 young women from different schools and organizations across Long Island benefit from this program each year. (Approximately 40 hours of preparation/meetings in advance of each event and 10-12 hours per event. 50+ students/year)



## MOMMA’S HOUSE

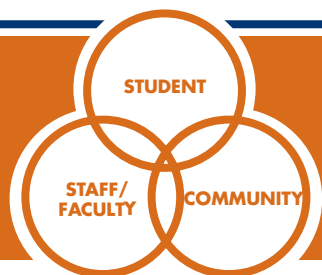


The President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, launched in 2006, annually highlights the role colleges and universities play in solving community problems and placing more students on a lifelong path of civic engagement by recognizing institutions that achieve meaningful, measurable outcomes in the communities they serve. Momma’s House Service Learning Project won the 2008 Honor Roll with Distinction by the President’s Higher Education Community Service. Our belated congratulations to the faculty, staff, and students who were involved in the project.

A group of Interior Design students in a capstone course worked with Momma’s House, a non-profit home located in Glen Cove. The home supports young, unwed women by providing shelter, as well as training and support.

The students, along with faculty in the program, renovated the first floor of the home. They worked with local merchants and vendors to obtain thousands of dollars in donated furniture, paint, and tile. They reupholstered pieces of furniture, ripped out carpet, refinished furniture, hung curtains, painted, removed tile, and wallpapered rooms.

The students had the opportunity to apply concepts learned in the design lab to a “live” project, which benefited the young women and children living in the home.



# FACULTY MEMBERS ACKNOWLEDGED ON MAY 11, 2011 FOR INVOLVEMENT IN SERVICE LEARNING

President Donald Astrab, Vice President Maria Conzatti and Dean Evangeline Manjares awarded Certificates of Recognition to the following faculty members who were involved in Service Learning during 2010/2011 academic year. It is our hope that more faculty members will get involved in this form of experiential learning because we believe that SL dramatically connects classroom theory with real world issues. As a pedagogical

practice, it promotes greater student engagement by connecting curricula to meaningful service and advocacy, benefiting the college student personally, professionally, and academically. For faculty members whose names are not listed below but are doing SL as a modality, please e-mail the secretary of the Center, Joan. Iovane@ncc.edu. We would like to acknowledge you in Spring 2012. MANY THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!

<b>Prof. Alonge, Patricia</b>	Allied Health Sciences
<b>Prof. Alvarez-Ortiz, Genette</b>	SPS
<b>Prof. Bloom, Nancy</b>	Marketing/Retailing/Fashion
<b>Prof. Bruno, Shani</b>	African Studies
<b>Prof. Buckley, Joan</b>	Nursing
<b>Prof. Cook-Gerard, Jeanine</b>	Nursing
<b>Prof. Distefano, Dawn</b>	Office Technology
<b>Prof. Gallagher, Debra</b>	Accounting Business
<b>Prof. Gallagher, Eileen</b>	Nursing
<b>Prof. Gilkes, Laura</b>	Physical therapy
<b>Prof. Golde, Kerry</b>	Reading
<b>Prof. Gorman, Jason</b>	Art
<b>Prof. Halcrow, Patricia</b>	Social Work
<b>Prof. Joseph, Laurie</b>	SPS
<b>Prof. King, Amy</b>	English
<b>Prof. LaSala, Mary Ellen</b>	Nursing
<b>Prof. Lecci, Joanne</b>	Criminal Justice
<b>Prof. Lupino, Pat</b>	Marketing/Retailing/Fashion
<b>Prof. Maksym, Izolda</b>	Art
<b>Prof. Marchese, Christine</b>	Accounting Business
<b>Prof. Martin, Diane</b>	Psychology/Teacher Ed
<b>Prof. McBride, Cheryl</b>	Art
<b>Prof. O'Connell, Heidi</b>	Marketing/Retailing/Fashion
<b>Prof. Pescatore, Joseph</b>	Marketing/Retailing/Fashion
<b>Prof. Rau, Christina</b>	English
<b>Prof. Romano, Mena</b>	Art
<b>Prof. Scarpelli, Rosanne</b>	Marketing/Retailing/Fashion
<b>Prof. Teubner, Marguerite</b>	Accounting Business
<b>Prof. Thissen, Joann</b>	Physical Science
<b>Prof. Viscovich, Frances</b>	Physical Science
<b>Prof. Weinstein, Catherine</b>	Biology
<b>Prof. Birgit Woelker</b>	Biology



Award Ceremony



Friends of Hempstead Plains