

The Official Newsletter of

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

nexus

YOUR
COLLEGE
CONNECTION

www.ncc.edu

Where Success Starts...and Continues

Summer 2010

BREAKING NEW GROUND



Artist's rendering of NCC's new Life Sciences Building.

NEW \$40
MILLION LIFE
SCIENCES
BUILDING
WILL PROVIDE
STUDENTS WITH
THE LATEST IN
INSTRUCTIONAL
TECHNOLOGY

A GROUNDBREAKING FOR THE COLLEGE'S NEW \$40 MILLION LIFE SCIENCES BUILDING WAS HELD ON JUNE 11. OFFICIALS ON THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL ATTENDED THE CEREMONY. NCC'S NURSING AND CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENTS WILL BE HOUSED IN the new building. "The Life Sciences Building will have a direct and tangible positive impact on the students of NCC and the residents of Long Island," said NCC President Dr. Donald Astrab during the event. "NCC's graduates play an integral role in our health care delivery system. In fact, someone would be hard pressed to go to a major health care facility on Long Island that does not have some of our nursing graduates working in it."

The 74,000 square-foot building will be located adjacent to the cluster buildings on the north end of campus. Construction—which began this spring—is expected to take approximately two years. The new building will benefit more than 1,300 students annually.

The life sciences are among the most active areas of study at Nassau. For example, the Nursing department currently has about ten times the number of applicants as it has space available. At

the same time, there is a severe nursing shortage on Long Island. Dr. Astrab is excited about the possibility of helping to meet both these needs. "The Life Sciences Building will better enable NCC to meet the increasing interest among students in health- and science-related courses," he stated. "Moreover, it will enhance the College's ability to meet the projected demographic increase in need among Long Islanders for health care related services in the future."

(continued on page 6)



Breaking ground for NCC's new Life Sciences Building: (L-R) Dr. Donald P. Astrab, NCC President; Edward P. Mangano, Nassau County Executive; Dr. Joseph Muscarella, NCC Vice President of Administration and Planning.

NCC
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NCC STUDENT CHANDEERAH DAVIS WINS PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL JACK KENT COOKE SCHOLARSHIP

Chandeerah Davis is a determined young woman. Determined to get an education. Determined to succeed. Determined to give back to her community. Over the course of her life, Chandeerah's determination has gotten her through school, into college and onto the path of her life's work. It stood her in good stead when an accident and other obstacles could possibly have led her astray. And now, Chandeerah's determination has gotten her a prestigious scholarship—the \$30,000 Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, awarded to only 40 students nationally—which will take her to the Ivy League and beyond.

At 14, Chandeerah began volunteering at her local community center and library, reading to children and being a tutor and mentor. Two years later, she worked as a camp counselor and in numerous other outreach programs and found her life's calling: helping children.

Chandeerah arrived at NCC in 2006. She worked full-time at various private preschools and had a two-and-a-half hour commute to school. At first, she went part-time. Then she made the commitment to go to NCC full-time during the day. "The professors at the College helped provide me with focus and direction," Chandeerah noted. It was at Nassau that she refined her

goal of helping children into one of being a clinical psychologist. As a psychology major, she was an honors student at NCC while being an active participant in the Honors Psychology club and the Make a Difference club.

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship honors excellence by supporting outstanding community college students with financial need to transfer to and complete their bachelor's degrees. "The men and women who receive these scholarships have demonstrated their potential in ways that go well beyond their academic performance. They are future leaders. We're proud to play a role in supporting them," said Lawrence Kutner, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation.

"Getting this award is everything I've ever dreamed about," Chandeerah noted, who will be attending Cornell University in the fall.

NCC RADIO STATION WHPC WINS FAIR MEDIA COUNCIL AWARD FOR REPORTING

Students and staff from the College radio station, WHPC-90.3-FM, were delighted this spring to win a Folio award from the Fair Media Council. The station won an award in Healthcare Trends: Feature Reporting for a piece it did called "Destruction of the Suburban Dream: The Truth About Heroin." According to Jim Green, WHPC's Program Director, NCC Alums News Director Nicole Bastardi and Administrative Assistant David Ferraro and current student Digital Editor Chad DePasquale all worked very hard on the story.

This award is WHPC's first from the Fair Media Council. The Council advocates on behalf of the public for quality local news in the New York metro market.



(L-R) Chad DePasquale, Nicole Bastardi and David Ferraro of NCC's radio station, WHPC.



VALEDICTORIAN FOR THE CLASS OF 2010: ILIANA HABIB

Iliana Habib, Nassau Community College's valedictorian for the class of 2010, knows that all kinds of issues might affect a person's ability to go to college. "I have come to realize that an education is a gift that one must struggle to earn," she said. But she also knows that with perseverance, a determined person who makes the effort can succeed. Not only did Iliana achieve her dream of going to college, she maintained a perfect 4.0 average at Nassau while working and finding time to pursue her dream of becoming a professional artist.

The 20-year-old resident of Farmingdale graduated from high school and then started classes at an art school in Manhattan. However, family issues necessitated that she leave school, and she was unsure of when or how she'd be able to return. Eight months later, Iliana's determination and family members' support prompted her to return to school and attend Nassau. "I was pleasantly surprised when I came to NCC," said Iliana, who was accepted to NCC as a photography major on a full scholarship. "While I was pleased with my personal academic success, I was even more happy that my professors were so knowledgeable and nurturing," she said. Working hard at college and two part-time jobs, Iliana kept her grades up. In the fall, she will be heading to SUNY New Paltz to continue her education. "My experience at Nassau has prepared me as a college student," noted Iliana, adding that she formed friendships at NCC that she hopes to keep for the rest of her life.

ALUMNI PROFILE

JAMES D'ADDARIO

CLASS OF '69

THE MAN BEHIND THE MUSIC



JAMES D'ADDARIO IS CHAIRMAN AND CEO OF D'ADDARIO & COMPANY, INC., ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING DESIGNERS, MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF INNOVATIVE MUSICAL INSTRUMENT ACCESSORIES. HE OVERSEES production, research and development, marketing and design for all five D'Addario brand name product lines: D'Addario, Planet Waves, Evans Drumheads, HQ Percussion and Rico Reeds. D'Addario & Company had sales of \$125 million in 2009 and employs over 1,000 people around the world. Bruce Springsteen, Pat Metheny and Dave Matthews are among the renowned musicians who use its products.

D'Addario's family were string makers dating back to 1680 in Italy and the early 1900s in America. James and his brother John Jr. began working in the company in the late 60s, while James was still in school. Between then and now, D'Addario & Company has grown exponentially through innovation, acquisition and a quest for self-sufficiency, resulting in cost savings.

As a young man, D'Addario was very focused about his desire to have a career

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in music. However, he said, "I might not be sitting at this desk today if it wasn't for Nassau Community College." The West Hempstead native feels that going to college at Nassau gave him opportunity to explore his existing interests and exposed him to the wider world. College faculty motivated D'Addario, he remembers, and his experience at NCC helped him to develop skills that he uses to this day.

**"I MIGHT NOT BE SITTING AT THIS
DESK TODAY IF IT WASN'T FOR
NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE"**

—James D'Addario

"Community colleges play an important role in providing people with direction and helping them find out what they want to do," he said.

In his high school and college days, D'Addario played guitar in a band. After graduating from NCC, he continued on to Hofstra, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in music. Although D'Addario continued to work at the family company, for a while he toyed with the idea of becoming a professional musician and

music teacher. Instead he chose to work in D'Addario & Company. There he was able to combine his love of string making with a talent for engineering, resulting in many innovations and U.S. and international patents for the business.

A total of eleven family members, including D'Addario's wife Janet—also a graduate of Nassau Community College—his son and his son in law also work at the company, which is based at a 190,000 square-foot headquarters in Farmingdale. D'Addario & Company has locations in California, Argentina, England, France and Canada as well as sales representatives worldwide. Its products are marketed in approximately 120 countries. The company has been honored with the New York State Environmental Excellence award and the Certificate of Congressional Recognition.

James D'Addario says he's still the same person he was when he was younger: he still loves music, he still enjoys challenges, and he would still recommend Nassau Community College to young people looking for an excellent education and, perhaps, the path of their professional lives.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2010!

Close to 10,000 people attended Nassau Community College's 50th annual graduation ceremony at Nassau Coliseum on Tuesday, May 25. The class of 2010 included a total of 2,942 graduates and graduate candidates, making it one of the largest community college classes in the state of New York. Six hundred twenty seven students graduated with honors.

Dr. Astrab, the commencement's keynote speaker, was touched by the ceremony. "This evening we celebrate your success as graduates," he said in his remarks. "Today you are going forth as talented young men and women with the privilege of a fine education. It's not



Dr. Donald P. Astrab, President of Nassau Community College, addresses the Class of 2010.

"IT'S NOT ABOUT WHEN AND WHERE YOU PARTICIPATE: IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU DO IT, DO IT WELL, AND LEAVE A LASTING AND POSITIVE EFFECT."

—Dr. Donald P. Astrab, President, NCC

about when and where you participate: it's important that you do it, do it well and leave a lasting and positive effect."

He also reminded the class of 2010 that Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm." Dr. Astrab expanded upon

Emmerson's quote, saying; "Take ownership of what you are engaging in. Your efforts need to have an impact that is meaningful, yet you need to be open to feedback in order to bring about improvements."

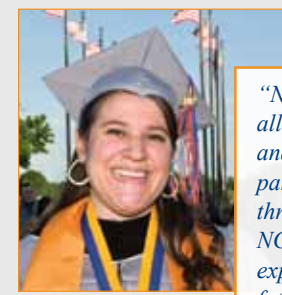
In her speech, this year's student trustee, Janet Dillon, compared herself and her fellow graduates to redwood trees. These trees grow in clusters and their strength lies not in their great size, but in their roots, which are intertwined and "hold hands" under the ground, thus providing support that no one tree would have on its own. "Your family, friends, professors, neighbors and colleagues are your roots. When the strong winds of life blow, these people serve as reinforcement to support you and hold you up," stated Janet.

GRADUATE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CLASS OF 2010



ANDREA ROSARIO

"I had a wonderful experience at Nassau. NCC is the key that will open the doors to my future." Andrea will be attending Adelphi School of Social Work this fall.



REBECCA MEDINA

"Nassau Community College has allowed me to grow academically and personally. I have enjoyed participating in leadership roles throughout my two years at NCC and I'm confident that my experiences there will help me in my future endeavors." Rebecca will be attending Cornell University this fall.

ST. JERMAINE ENDELEY



"President Astrab and the College administration, faculty and staff managed to take the college experience, which can be intimidating, and make the students feel like one big family." St. Jermaine will be transferring to NYU in the fall.

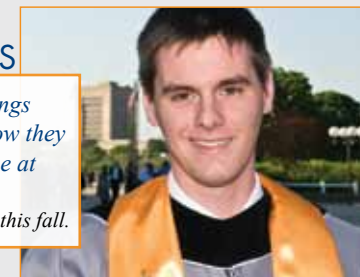
MICHAEL BYRD

"I was out of school for 24 years. I'm living proof that it's never too late to go back to school – especially a great college like Nassau." Michael will continue on to Farmingdale in the fall.

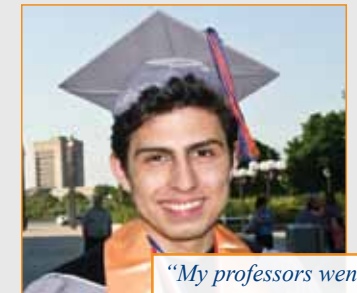


PATRICK DOUGLAS

"I always heard great things about Nassau. Now I know they were true. I loved my time at NCC." Patrick will attend CW Post this fall.



WAQAR KHAN



"My professors went out of their way to help me. My experience at the College couldn't have been better." Waqar will continue on to Baruch to study business this fall.

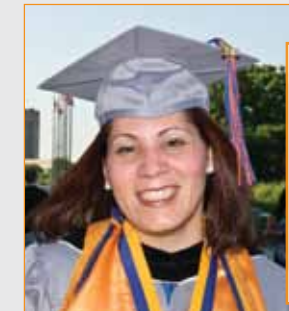
BINTA CHRISTOPHER



"Nassau Community College provided me with a good foundation. It really prepared me for my four-year school." Binta will be attending CW Post for Health Information Technology in the fall.

JANET DILLON

"As a parent, I found Nassau to be very affordable. Actually, it was the best investment I ever made, especially considering the caliber of the education." Janet is going to CW Post in the fall.



LAURA MENOCA, NCC'S NEW STUDENT TRUSTEE



Laura Menocal is excited about being elected the 2010-2011 student trustee. "I get to see what a trustee does. It's very interesting to me," she said. "I met with Dr. Astrab, president of Nassau Community College, and look forward to working with him and the other trustees." The West Hempstead resident became a freshman senator after she met a fellow NCC student who was already in student government. Laura was also a freshman orientation leader after being recommended by her high school. As a trustee, Laura intends to be an advocate for her fellow students. She wants to focus on developing a greener campus, facilitating registration and maintaining campus safety. A biology major, Laura has maintained a 3.9 grade point average at Nassau and is an active member of the honors club, the biology club, the environmental club and the Muslim Students' Organization. "It's vital to be involved. You get to know so many people and it's helpful for your future," she noted. At 19 years of age, Laura is very clear about what she hopes for her professional future. After graduating from NCC, she plans on going to a four-year school. Eventually she wants to get her Ph.D. in biology, teach at the university level and work in a research program. Towards that end, for the past five years she has been working with a research mentor and participating in science fairs.

LORENZO SIMPSON, NEW PRESIDENT OF NCC'S STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



When you're in college, according to Lorenzo Simpson, the newly elected president of NCC's Student Government Association (SGA), it makes sense to take advantage of the whole college experience. Part of that experience takes place outside the classroom. "Getting involved in student government has given me direction and helped me develop my leadership skills," said Lorenzo, who served as the SGA's corresponding secretary this year. Simpson expects that his term as president of the organization will deepen those skills. After graduating from high school in New York City, the Cambria Heights, Queens resident briefly attended an aerospace engineering school in Florida. When he returned to New York, his mother, who was a part-time student at the College, suggested he enroll at Nassau. "My mother said that Nassau was a good school that was affordable," Lorenzo noted. A political science course piqued his interest and led to his becoming involved in the political science club and ultimately student government.

Among the issues Simpson plans to work on during his term as SGA president are the communication between the College and students, the communication between student government and College clubs and student participation in campus life. "My experience at NCC has been great and I'd like to make it great for other students as well," he said. Simpson, a 19 year-old liberal arts major, intends to continue on to a four-year college once he graduates from NCC next year. He hopes to subsequently get his law degree and then possibly work in public service. "Barack Obama has been an inspiration to me. I think he's a trailblazer in every way," said Lorenzo who has hopes of blazing a few trails of his own one day.

Construction Begins on New Life Sciences Building

(continued from page 1)



Artist's rendering of the courtyard which will be enclosed by the Life Sciences Building.

NCC's First "Green" Building

Laboratories, classrooms, faculty offices, conference spaces, computer labs and group study spaces will be included in the new building. It will be "U" shaped with glass walls lining the inside of the "U," providing interior offices with a view of a green, open-air courtyard. This unique design will offer outdoor gathering spaces as well as sunlit interior corridors. The state-

of-the-art building—designed by Cannon Design, with construction manager Jacobs Engineering and Long Island-based Aurora Contractors as construction contractor—will also incorporate smart boards and wireless technology throughout.

"THE LIFE SCIENCES BUILDING WILL HAVE A DIRECT AND TANGIBLE POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE STUDENTS OF NCC AND THE RESIDENTS OF LONG ISLAND."

—Dr. Donald P. Astrab, President, NCC

The design of the Life Sciences building will bring a sleek, contemporary look to the campus, while its use of natural light and landscaping will contribute to the greening of NCC. Another part of that greening will be the use of recycled copper panels on the building's exterior. In fact, all involved in the construction of the Life Sciences building hope that it will attain an LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) "gold" certification by the U.S. Green Building Council, a non-profit organization that ranks performance in five key areas of environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

"The new Life Sciences Building will be NCC's first LEED-certified project and will set the standard for all future new construction and renovation on campus," said Dr. Joseph Muscarella, Vice President of Administration and Planning.

Funding the Life Sciences building was a joint effort. The Nassau County legislature authorized \$20 million for the project, matching the \$20 million allocated for it in the New York State Capital Budget. The support of the County Executive and the county legislature has put Nassau on the road to educating more nurses and other science professionals for the benefit of the residents of Nassau county.



PSYCHOLOGY PROF. BERNARD GORMAN APPOINTED TO RANK OF DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR BY SUNY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Bernard Gorman, a professor in NCC's psychology department, has been appointed to the rank of Distinguished Professor by the State University of New York (SUNY) Board of Trustees. Dr. Gorman has had an outstanding career as an educator, scholar, author and international expert in psychology, research design and statistical analysis. He is highly respected by his students and colleagues. Software he has written is used throughout the world, and he has achieved much success as a textbook editor and author of scholarly research papers, as well as a sought after lecturer.

"With lectures that are thought provoking and inspiring, Dr. Gorman imprints a lasting legacy on his students," said NCC President Dr. Donald Astrab. Dr. Gorman is one of 24 faculty SUNY-wide that have been appointed to the distinguished ranks: six to the Distinguished Professor rank, nine to the Distinguished Service Professor Rank and nine to the Distinguished Teaching Professor rank. "These honors recognize the professors' extraordinary achievements as teachers, scholars and mentors, which are a tremendous source of pride for the State University," said SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher.

THERE'S NO DEBATE ABOUT IT: NASSAU'S SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM IS TOPS NATIONWIDE



NCC's Speech and Debate Team (L-R) Benjamin Rosenthal, Alexandra Zajaczkowski, Henry Ferrufino, Prof. Trent Webb (advisor), Brian Byrne and Justin Dougherty.

The NCC Speech and Debate Team represents the College in intercollegiate speech and debate tournaments. It competes against other colleges and universities in a variety of public speaking, oral interpretation/acting and debating events. In total, there are 14 different events a student can compete in once they join the team, with most students choosing about two to four events to focus on for the year. Nassau's debate team travels to approximately six to nine tournaments during the school year, culminating with the Phi Rho Pi National Junior College Championship Tournament each April.

The Speech and Debate team meets Tuesdays during club hour. Each student must also practice with advisor Prof. Trent Webb weekly and practice at home. The students who join the team are motivated, creative and driven to success. The 2009-10 year was the team's most successful one yet, with it winning well over 80 awards in a single year, an NCC record. Once again, the team was recognized as the Top Community College in the Northeast, as well as on the entire east coast.

Prof. Webb attributes the team's success to the hard work and dedication of his students. "Most of them come in with little experience but lots of heart and raw talent. I try to build on that and make them competitive," he said. For information about joining the team, contact Prof. Webb at Trent.Webb@ncc.edu or 516.572.9614.

CHILDREN'S GREENHOUSE AT NCC CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF SUCCESS

Thousands of Children Benefit from On-Site Child Care



Thirty years ago, the Nassau Community College Faculty Student Association noticed a need. Many of the students, faculty and staff were having a difficult time finding convenient, quality childcare while at school. So, using the expertise available at the College, they set aside the proper space and gathered together the resources necessary to begin a child care center on Summer 2010

campus. The Children's Greenhouse, the result of that effort, celebrates its 30th anniversary this year.

According to Janet Walsh, the center's Director, as many as 175 children may be enrolled per semester, the majority of whom are children of student parents. There are six age-related groups of children: two groups of infants, "waddlers", toddlers, preschool one (ages three to four) and preschool two (ages four to five). The staff plans an educational and fun curriculum of teacher-centered and child-selected activities. The children learn about themselves, their friends and the world around them with such themes as Getting to Know Ourselves and Others, the Farm, the Ocean, Favorite Authors, Music, Travel and Families. Each month a center-wide theme is planned and caregivers coordinate special activities to help the children learn about it in ways that are appropriate for their developmental level.

Funding for the NCC Children's Nassau Community College - Nexus

Greenhouse comes from many sources, including parents, who pay sliding-scale fees based on income; the Faculty Student Association and the College, both of which provide subsidies that enable the center to keep fees affordable; and several fund-raising events sponsored by the center's Advisory Committee. The College also provides the building for the child care center and maintenance. The Children's Greenhouse is open from 7:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and children are enrolled for a minimum of 10 hours per week, with flexible scheduling.

The not-for-profit center is governed by an Advisory Committee made up of parents, faculty, staff and students, who are responsible for policy decisions and assist in plans for the center's future growth. The NCC Children's Greenhouse is licensed by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. For the past 30 years—and hopefully for another 30—it has been helping to grow happy, healthy children.

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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University of New York

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This newsletter is published by:
The Office of Marketing & Communications
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FALL 2010

REGISTRATION & APPLICATION INFORMATION

**DAY & EVENING CLASSES BEGIN ON WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 1**

**WEEKEND COLLEGE CLASSES BEGIN ON FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 10**

**NEW APPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED THROUGH
AUGUST 15**

Call the Admissions Office at 516.572.7345 or check us out
online: www.ncc.edu

**CURRENT STUDENTS CAN REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.
NCC.EDU/MYNCC** (some restrictions apply)
Avoid standing in line by registering online!

ACADEMIC ADVISEMENT

Academic Advisement is available through the Academic
Advisement Center (Building U).
Please visit www.ncc.edu/advisementschedule
for the schedule of advisor availability for your major.

**CURRENT AND ADMITTED STUDENTS MUST
REGISTER FOR FALL 2010
NO LATER THAN MONDAY, AUGUST 23**

IT ALL BEGINS AT ORIENTATION!



**New Student Orientation
at Nassau Community College**

DATE

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
August 23rd, 24th & 25th

TIME

9:00 AM, 1:00 PM & 5:30 PM

For more information see your
invitation letter that will arrive in
August.

WWW.NCC.EDU/ORIENTATION