

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NEXUS

Your College Connection



STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

SPOTLIGHT ON THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION: LEADERS FOR TODAY, LEADERS FOR TOMORROW



SGA members discussing updating the SGA Constitution. From left to right: Jaynes Guillaume, Sidney Alexandre, Candace Lopez, Andres Zaldivar, Blake Fruchtman, Brittany Passley

"Quite honestly, when I first came to NCC, I didn't even think about getting involved in student government," said Candace Lopez, "but I decided to look for ways to expand and enrich my college experience. What I found in NCC's Student Government Association is a way to do things that benefit our students and help out our community now, and it's also given me a sense of direction for my future." Senator Lopez, who is President of the SGA for the 2014/2015 academic year, was elected along with the other students on SGA's seven member Executive Board by the student body in April of 2014.

The Preamble of SGA's Constitution outlines its mission and role within the larger campus community as a forum "by which the student body may have a free voice in those matters which directly concern

it" and which affords "each and every student... the opportunity to partake in those activities" that provide for "expression on an elevated level" so as to foster "within the College a spirit of harmony responsibility and discipline." The SGA Executive

“What I found in NCC’s Student Government Association is a way to do things that benefit our students and help out our community now, and it’s also given me sense of direction for my future.”

Candace Lopez
President, NCC Student Government Association

Board and twenty other students who constitute the Student Senate have an integral role in the decision-making process affecting the one hundred-sixty-

three student clubs on campus as well as all student associated activities sponsored by the Faculty Student Association. These responsibilities include approving or disapproving all the budget requests made by the student clubs to fund their activities, which include participating in field trips and attending regional, national and international conferences and competitions that have ranged from Connecticut and Washington, D.C., to Florida, Texas, Montana and California, to France and Italy.

For members of SGA, there's a premium on problem solving and multi-tasking. According to Jaynes Guillaume, who is an SGA senator and its recording secretary, "The most challenging thing we have to do is fixing situations that we didn't expect to happen." Added SGA senator Sidney Alexandre, "When somebody comes into the SGA office and

continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

NCC Students Traveling to New Horizons
Page 3

NCC Football Team Victorious on a National Stage
Page 5

Roaring for NCC: An Interview with Leo the Lion
Pages 6-7

Ndaba Mandela Talks of His Grandfather's Legacy
Page 9

then you have to immediately switch over to solving their problem that you hadn't thought about five minutes before, that's the best thing." Noted senator Lopez, "Sure, we're here to talk to the students and help to deal with their concerns, but we are also a resource for the club presidents and club advisors and also for professors, administrators and staff in helping them to communicate with the students."

Another service that SGA provides to the students is arranging for and coordinating entertainment events on campus. "We survey the students to find out what kind of concerts they would like to have on campus," said SGA senator Andres Zaldivar, "then we determine which ones are affordable and available."

Members of SGA take particular pride in their involvement with very successful community orientated charitable events, such as fund raising through the American Heart Walk and initiatives to promote breast cancer awareness. Professor Calvin Andrew, faculty advisor to SGA, sees this sense of accomplishment as well justified. "I love working with these students," he said, "They're enthusiastic, they're smart and they want to take the lead in getting things done for their fellow students."

The SGA is also the general liaison between the student body and the College's internal constituency groups in addition to any external parties that can have impact on student life. In this regard,



Janet Dillon, former student rep on the NCC Board of Trustees in her fifth grade classroom at P.S. 132

SGA members make up 20% of the Academic Senate and have seats on each of its committees. A member of SGA's Executive Committee is also a voting member of the College's Board of Trustees, which is the ultimate policy making body at the College.

However, for SGA members, as important and satisfying as it is for them to be among the leaders of the College's shared governance process, they have also found the relationship building that is an essential part of their participation in SGA to be very rewarding as well. "By joining SGA," said SGA senator Alexandre, "I've gotten the most out of my college experience and I've formed new relationships with people from so many different backgrounds." In addition, many students note that assuming leadership positions through SGA has further developed their self-confidence as they are able to see their actions produce results and has raised their expectations of what they hope to accomplish after graduation.

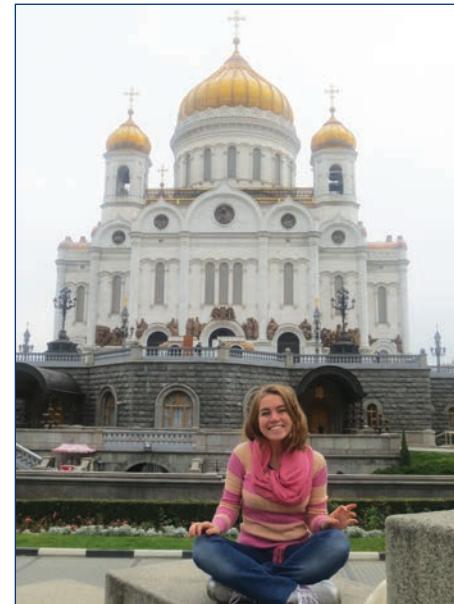
What completes the cycle in a way that gives real life examples to these aspirations are the experiences of recent NCC graduates who were members of SGA while at the College and who are already on the way to becoming leaders in their own career paths.

Janet Dillon was the student trustee during the 2009/2010 academic year. She went on to Long Island University, C.W. Post Campus, where she graduated with honors with a Bachelor's of Science degree in childhood education. Now a fifth grade teacher at P.S. 132 in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, Ms. Dillon has already seen how the lessons that she learned at NCC both as a student and as a leader in the SGA are making a difference for her own students. "What I was able to observe and accomplish at NCC," she said, "has made me sensitive to the role I can play in tutoring my students so that they can stretch their imaginations and ambitions and grow into the leaders of tomorrow." Reflecting on how what she did as a member of NCC's Board of Trustees has assisted in developing her own skill set and has shaped the outlines of where she sees herself going in the future, Ms. Dillon added, "Being the student representative on the NCC Board of Trustees helped me to gain a better understanding of the strategic vision that is necessary in an academic environment." Ms. Dillon will soon be pursuing her masters in school leadership.

During the same 2009/2010 academic year, Victoria Greening was the student representative on the Executive Board of the Academic Senate in addition to being involved in various extra-curricula activities. Ms. Greening noted that "with the help of the College's administrators, faculty and staff, I was able to hone my leadership skills and develop my self-confidence, which helped me to take on new challenges at the College and after graduation." While earning her Bachelor's of Arts at Queens College, graduating magna cum laude, Ms. Greening won a David L. Boren study abroad scholarship and spent two years studying and working in Russia. (David Boren was a United States Senator and is now the President of the University of Oklahoma.)

"I was able to hone my leadership skills and develop my self-confidence, which helped me to take on new challenges at the College and after graduation."

Victoria Greening
Former SGA Rep on the Executive Board of the Academic Senate



Victoria Greening, former SGA rep on the Executive Board of the Academic Senate, in Moscow in front of The Cathedral of Christ the Saviour

continued on page 3

NCC's Students Studying Abroad – Traveling to New Horizons as They Expand Their Own

Students taking NCC's Law 316, "The U.S. and International Legal Systems," were able to get "on-the-ground" experience -- and that ground was in Amsterdam, The Hague, Brussels, Paris and Strasbourg -- when they traveled to Europe from May 17 to May 28, 2014. This scholastic excursion was part of the College's extensive study abroad initiative, which promotes the learning process by going beyond textbooks, classrooms campuses and even continents. Law 316 explores the roots of the American legal system and its current role in international law. In the process, the students study both the commonality and differences between the American legal system and that of the European Union. They also learn about all of the international courts and forums that have been created since World War II in the hope of ending and/or punishing acts against humanity and the conflicts that sparked them.

"By being able to witness trials in these world forums of truly historic proportions," said Joan Alexander, Chair of NCC's Legal Studies Department, "these students have been able to see first hand how these courts function as well as to come home with a sense of their place and potential not only as American citizens, but also as citizens of an increasingly global society." Professor Alexander created Law 316 in 2011 and has led its study trips abroad four times since then.

On this study trip, students began their visit in Amsterdam, then proceeded to the capital of the Netherlands, The Hague, where they visited the International Courts of Justice, the International Criminal Court and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. From there, they traveled to Brussels, which is the seat of the European Union and were able to observe its legislative bodies, and then proceeded to Paris for a weekend. Finally, they went on to Strasbourg, where they visited the Court of Human Rights and the judicial arm of the European Union.

In noting how this travel abroad had enriched her education at NCC, Ruth Martinez said, "Being able to actually observe what we were studying about in the classroom was a unique experience. It was especially interesting meeting people from other parts of the world and learning about their cultures. And on top of that, the trip helped me in making my career choices."

One of the aspects of NCC that makes it attractive to students is its convenience to where they live on Long Island. But through its courses, like Law 316, and activities, such as the Speech and Debate Club, which has participated in national and international competitions, NCC students also have the opportunity to further gain self-confidence and to enhance their future marketability in the workforce by traveling to view new horizons as they expand their own.



Nassau Community College Students in Amsterdam taking Law 316

continued from page 2

Her experiences there included taking the lead one year in organizing a multinational student celebration of "An American Thanksgiving Dinner" in her apartment in Moscow. As for the future, Ms. Greening's plans include "becoming a leader among Russian translators and analysts in the federal government."

NCC's Student Government Association has, then, the components of a working laboratory where students' leadership potential, and the interpersonal skills that enhance it, are mixed, matched and solidified. It's a magnet for students seeking even more than the excellent classroom experience that NCC offers. It's also a forum where they can leverage their enthusiasm and intelligence into a force that recognizes the expectations and advances the goals of their fellow students. And it's a crucible in which, by working together, students can demonstrate that leadership is a process and a product, leaving an imprint for the good of today as it sets out a pathway for many glistening tomorrows.

NCC OPENS VETERANS RESOURCE FACILITY – Demonstrates “Respect, First Class” for NCC Student Veterans



NCC Student Veterans Club members ready the VRF for its opening day

On November 10, 2014, as a lead up to Veterans Day, Nassau Community College celebrated the opening of its Veterans Resource Facility (VRF), which is located on campus at 365 Rice Circle. In an event attended by more than 200 people, including members of the NCC Student Veterans Club, students, faculty, staff, elected officials, and members of the NCC Board of Trustees and of the NCC Foundation, the College was praised for its commitment to the education of our nation's veterans as well as for its extraordinary efforts to facilitate their transition into civilian life.

The VRF will follow through on that commitment in a variety of ways. It will provide a location for student veterans to meet in peer student groups and to allow for private counseling in a veteran friendly environment, in addition to providing a venue for hosting educational and community outreach events on matters of interest to veterans. At the same time, it will provide an opportunity to welcome non-veterans to Veterans Club meetings. Speaking as President of the NCC Student Veterans Club, Kristofer Goldsmith said, "We asked for a location that would serve to aid veterans in the transition from Combat - to College - to Careers...We were looking for a place that we could build the same level of camaraderie with our peers that we found in the military... We brought this battle plan to the school, and instead of resistance, we were met with understanding, optimism and excitement from NCC's administration."

Dr. Jorge Gardyn, Chair of the NCC Board of Trustees, reflected that excitement in his remarks at the VRF's opening. Noting his work on a daily basis with the County's first responders, Dr. Gardyn stated, "That's why I'm particularly sensitive to the debt that we owe to the members of our Armed Forces for their service as our national first responders." He added that NCC's response to the student veterans request for a VRF demonstrated "in bold CAPITAL letters that if Nassau Community College could confer a rank on its student veterans, it would be 'Respect, First Class.'"

Recognizing that the VRF is a "showcase of NCC's commitment to our student veterans," Dr. Saunders, Acting President of NCC, continued, "but this showcase is NOT just for show" as he highlighted how it will benefit the student veterans. In commenting on the VRF's location in the center of the campus, Dr. Saunders stated, "We did not just find 'a'

building. We chose from among 'the best' buildings on campus. And on a personal note, I've been looking forward to today to welcome my new neighbors on Rice Circle, who are only one house over from where my wife, our daughter and I live."

In 2014, NCC was, once again, listed by *G.I. Jobs Magazine*, as a "Military Friendly School." Goldsmith noted how the VRF will provide an extra dimension to that designation: "With the opening of the Veterans Resource Facility, Nassau Community College is going far beyond saying 'thanks for your service' in the way of the proverbial yellow ribbon sticker. Nassau Community College is offering real, tangible support to our returning veterans."

Legislative Update: Now It's A Law

The Summer, 2014 issue of *Nexus* reported that students from the NCC Veterans Club had been advocating on behalf of legislation that would improve the fairness of the process for veterans seeking to dispute their discharge classifications of less than "Honorable" when questions of a mental health diagnosis are at issue. At that time, the legislation was on the "cusp" of becoming law. *Nexus* is now pleased to update that information by reporting that on December 19, 2014, President Barak Obama signed Public Law, 113-291, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, which included the provision for which the students had been advocating.



NCC Football Team Victorious on a National Stage *Lions Roar in the Valley of the Sun Bowl...Again!!!*

NCC Student Elijah Bratcher (wide receiver) with the offensive catch

Capping an undefeated 9-0 season, where they were the National Junior College Athletic Association Northeast Conference champs, the NCC Lions football team went on to win the Valley of the Sun Bowl that was played in Scottsdale, Arizona on December 6, 2014. The Lions' 34-27 dramatic victory over the Scottsdale Community College Artichokes was marked by stand-out personal performances, a come-from-behind turn around and a most satisfying *déjà vu* for head coach Joe Osovets.

After a scoreless first quarter, the Artichokes jumped out to a 10-0 lead. A touchdown run by NCC's Freshman quarterback Anthony Cruz cut that lead to 10-7. With the Artichokes ahead 17-10, NCC running back Marcellus Pack returned a third quarter punt 63 yards for a touchdown. The Lions then took a 24-17 lead when Cruz made his second touchdown run with 5:50 left in the third quarter. The Lions stretched the lead to 31-17 when freshman running back Marcus Levy threw a six yard pass to freshman tight end Ian Thomas. A late surge by the Artichokes fell short, and NCC kicker Jake D'Amelio tacked on a final three points with a field goal for the Lions' 34-27 win. "It

was very exciting to watch," said Pat Chiodo, NCC's Facility Manager, who was among the members of the campus community who were able to follow the game via the internet. "Even though Scottsdale took an early lead, I never gave up hope on Nassau. I truly believed our team would come back," she added.

But the Lions' success in December in Arizona started with the hard work by the players and coaches on NCC's practice field in the center of the campus in August. Sophomore running back Yahkee Johnson and sophomore defensive back Rasul Douglas shared their experience with the newer players, and quarterback Ben Holmes also contributed to anchoring the team's offense. Throughout the pre-season, regular season and post-season at the Valley of the Sun Bowl, the team's coaches helped to hone the skills of these and other players, some of whom would like to go on to play in the NCAA and even the NFL. And the players' hard work on the football field was also matched with their hard work in the classroom.

As well earned as this triumph was for the Lions and as gratifying as it was for the whole campus community, it was particularly

satisfying and nostalgic for head coach Joe Osovets, who was a member of the Lions' team in 1991 that played in the Valley of the Sun Bowl against Glendale Community College. That year, on Thanksgiving night, the Lions brought home to NCC a 23-21 victory. "It's no secret to what we accomplished this season. Surround yourself with a great coaching staff and players that listen and pay attention to detail. That was the formula for our success," said coach Osovets. Coach Osovets was also named the 2014 Northeast Football Conference Coach of the Year and the 2014 USA Junior College Coach of the Year.

Being invited to play in an NJCAA bowl game is prestigious by itself. But by winning the game as they did, on top of the undefeated season, the Lions demonstrated the persistence that their hard work and training fostered. Of course, they will always be "our" Lions, but now they are nationally known and honored, too!

Contributed by Michael Fenrich



Leo the Lion

Nexus: Good afternoon, Leo. How are you today?

Leo: I'm roaring good. I've really been looking forward to talking with you.

Nexus: Well, let's get to it, then. We've seen you at various College events, mingling with the students and overall raising everyone's spirits. How does it feel to be one of the "front-men" for NCC?

Leo: "Front-Lion." As you can tell from my really nice mane, I'm a guy, but I think of myself more as a "Front-Lion."

Nexus: Ok, Front-Lion. How does it feel?

ROARING FOR NCC:

Leo: It's really, really good.

Nexus: How so?

Leo: Well, first it's because of the NCC students. It's not only that they give me a cheery "Hello" when I see them at things like Spring Fest and New Student Orientation. But it's also that being NCC's mascot gives me a chance to show school spirit to the students and wave for them the banner of NCC. And you know, with my job I also do a lot of standing around, and I get to hear them talk to each other. They come from nearby neighborhoods, but they also come from all over the country and even all over the world. And I've got to tell you, they sure do know a lot about a lot of things. [Roar]

Nexus: So, what are the kinds of things they talk about?

Leo: Well, let me give you an example. A lot of them are involved in the clubs and other activities at NCC. Take the Student Government Association. That's where they have the chance to work with each other and to come up with ideas and projects to make their time and the time of the other students at NCC even more worthwhile. And when they do this, these SGA students learn things like budgeting and planning for a big organization -- just the kind of things that they'll find really useful later on when they're leaders at their jobs or in the places where they live. I mean that's something I can really relate to because, you know, people look to lions as leaders, too.

Nexus: Any other activities come to mind?

Leo: Sure. Take the College's annual "Day of Service." That's when volunteers from across the campus -- students, faculty and staff -- come together as part of the College's First-Year Experience initiative to do a whole lot of good stuff to serve the community like collecting things for American troops stationed abroad and for food pantries here. And that's something else I can relate to because "community" is a big thing for lions, too.

Nexus: What is one thing that you really look forward to doing as NCC's mascot?

Leo: Well, I've got to say that I really like representing NCC's 24 sports teams. For instance, take football. First of all, watching from the sidelines how the team runs around an open field reminds me of how I used to scamper around when I was a cub. Here, there, everywhere. But what made it all the better was how well the NCC football team did in 2014. Not only was it undefeated, but it won the Valley of the Sun Bowl in Arizona. The men's basketball, lacrosse and tennis teams and the

An Interview with NCC's Mascot, Leo the Lion

women's soccer team all had championship seasons in 2014, and their coaches were all named coach of the year by the National Junior College Athletic Association. I mean "Wow" [Roar].

Nexus: Leo, THAT is quite a roar.

Leo: I've taken some roaring lessons on the side.

Nexus: Well, Leo, I can see you like your job and being at NCC.

Leo: Yup, I have a lot of pride in the job and in the College.

Nexus: Speaking of "pride," what else makes you proud to be part of the NCC family?

Leo: Well, you know, there are a lot of really good teachers here at NCC. That's something else I hear the students talking about. I hear them say that when they talk to their friends who go to other colleges, those friends say that sometimes they're in classrooms with a hundred other students or more and that it's harder to really get a feel for what they're supposed to be learning and that they don't feel like they connect with their professors. But here at NCC, our students benefit from smaller classes and more individualized instruction. And I also hear about how NCC students can take a lot of different courses so that they can get a better sense of what they want to focus on both in their schooling and in their career.

Nexus: Anything else?

Leo: [Roar] Absolutely! [Roar] Getting to feel that you're on top of things at college is not always easy. But that's why I hear students talk about how they've gotten help from the people on the campus who give them advice on what courses they can take or need to take and how to register for them, how to go about getting money from the government to pay their tuition, and how to figure out what other colleges they can transfer to after they graduate from NCC and how to go about doing it. I know that it makes them feel more confident. I can tell it on their faces, and one of the things they teach us at mascot school is how to read people's faces so we can do our jobs better. [Roar]

Nexus: Leo, you're so upbeat.

Leo: Well, that's part of my job. They teach that at mascot school, too. I also come from a very upbeat family.

Nexus: But do you hear the students talk about what worries them?

Leo: Yeah, I hear some of that, too. But even there, NCC comes out as a plus. Like a lot of folks, students worry about paying the bills, especially because some of them have families to look after. I mean, lions have families, too, and also have to think about that sort of thing. But what I hear students say is that if it weren't for NCC, then they might not be able to go to a college at all because other colleges cost too much. So, NCC gives them a chance for a really good education at a price they can afford.

Nexus: Leo, what are your hopes and plans for the future?

Leo: Well, as you can tell, I really like it here at NCC. So, in a sense, I'm not going anywhere. But in another way, if I could've helped to make the students' time here even just a little more fun and if I could've made them smile, then I know that a part of me will go with them as they study more and have really interesting and good jobs in the future. That way, I'll still be part of their success that started here...and will continue on. And in that way, I'll stay close...and go far.



Leo getting student input at the Student Activities Center

Dr. Donna Tuman Named to Nassau Community College Board of Trustees



Dr. Donna Tuman has been appointed to the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees by Nassau County.

"The experience in higher education that Dr. Tuman brings to the Board will serve it and the campus community well in our on-going effort to enhance the educational opportunities that NCC provides to its students," said Dr. Jorge Gardyn, Chair of the NCC Board of Trustees. Dr. Kenneth Saunders, Acting President of Nassau

Community College, in expressing his

enthusiasm for working with Dr. Tuman stated, "In the years ahead, I know that Dr. Tuman's contributions will be significant and valued."

Dr. Tuman is looking forward to working on the NCC Board. "It is an honor to serve on the Board of an institution that is striving to engage the college community to meet the challenges of change in higher education," said Dr. Tuman. She added, "In working with Dr. Saunders

and the other trustees on the Board, I hope to utilize my academic experience to inform decisions regarding long term student success and to facilitate stronger connections to four-year institutions."

Dr. Tuman is chairperson of the Art Department at Long Island University, C.W. Post Campus, where she is also the director of the Art Education Program. Previously, she was president of the University Council for Art Education. Her research interests include art teacher education, arts advocacy and gender differences in the artistic development of children, and she has published articles on these subjects in many scholarly journals.

Dr. Tuman received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Queens College. Her doctorate in Art Education was awarded by Teachers College, Columbia University.

Dr. Tuman, and her husband Eric, raised their three children in Glen Head, where the couple has resided for over 35 years.

NCC Awarded \$100,000 Grant To Expand Its Medical Laboratory Technician Program

The Medical Laboratory Technician program at NCC has been given a significant boost by way of a \$100,000 workforce development grant from the State University of New York's (SUNY) "High Needs Program," which is designed to support campus courses of study that will produce graduates who can be employed by those sectors of the economy in great need of an expanding workforce.

With this funding, the College will be able to expand the Medical-Tech program by up to 66 percent through upgrading the physical space in which the program is conducted and by providing it with state-of-the-art laboratory equipment, thereby enhancing the curriculum to better reflect the skill sets that employers are seeking. Additionally, through the grant funding, NCC will be able to offer several new "hybrid" courses, which will combine face-to-face classroom instruction with online learning, evenly divided between on-campus meetings and web-based activities. As a result, more courses will be accessible to students whose other work or family obligations require greater flexibility in scheduling. With this upgraded laboratory equipment and space and these more varied opportunities for instruction, the grant will allow students more access to hands-on training, which will lead to even better results in terms of students' completing the program and being successful on the licensure examinations.

"The purpose of this grant," said Dr. Kenneth Saunders, Acting President of Nassau Community College, "is to assist NCC in serving the Long Island community in general, and the Long Island health care industry in particular, by providing it with skilled, well-educated and trained technicians." He added, "As the population of Long Island ages and its health care industry relies on even more advanced technology for laboratory testing to diagnose illnesses, the number of lab tests being

requested will increase as will the related workforce needs. So this, in a very real sense, is a grant from which we all stand to benefit."

SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher also highlighted the importance of the High Needs Program. "It is," she said, "just one way in which SUNY honors its promises of economic and workforce development in New York State while educating and training our students in careers that will lead to their success after graduation."

In its application for the grant, NCC noted that this initiative will have a long-term impact for the College and the Long Island region by increasing the number of skilled workers who will have the opportunity for immediate employment positions that can reinforce both a middle class wage base and the potential for growth. As such, it will foster the economic health of Long Island at the same time that it is assisting in serving the health care needs of its residents.



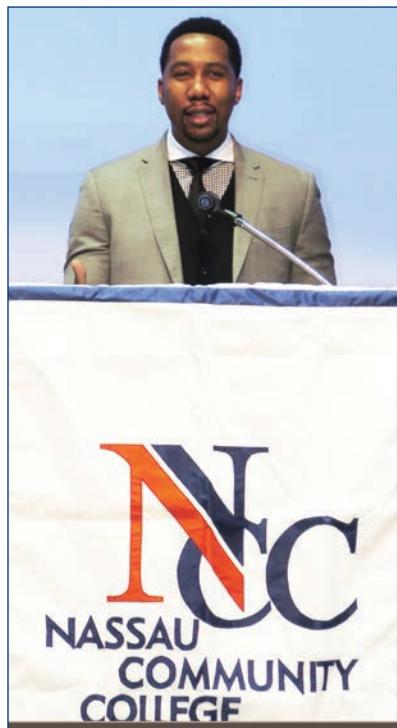
BRINGING THE WORLD STAGE TO NCC

Ndaba Mandela Talks of His Grandfather's Legacy and His Determination to Carry On

“DREAM BIG

and believe in your dreams; true leaders know that they have to sacrifice if they are to be true leaders; and always remain humble and always be proud of your roots.”

With these words, Ndaba Mandela summed up what his grandfather, South Africa’s icon of freedom and Nobel Prize Peace Prize winner, Nelson Mandela, would have said to the students attending one of Nassau Community College’s events celebrating Black History Month.



Ndaba Mandela speaking at NCC

everyone, regardless of their place in society, and by his extraordinary sense of humility.

The spirit of Nelson Mandela is very much alive in Ndaba as he seeks to build upon that legacy of leadership and take it beyond the borders of South Africa and outside the stereotypes that are associated with the continent. One of the several initiatives that he is in the forefront of is the Africa Rising Foundation, which is dedicated to promoting a positive image of Africa around the world and increasing its potential for growth in the areas of education, employment and international corporate alliances.

However, recognizing that “we all must do our part in creating a better world,” Ndaba is also one of the coordinators of “Mandela Day” on July 18, which is Nelson Mandela’s birthday. Mandela Day will be a touchstone to commemorate the sixty-seven years that Nelson Mandela dedicated to public service. Participants will be asked on that day to do sixty-seven minutes of community service and to consider extending

that commitment throughout the year. In doing so, they will be acting upon Ndaba’s challenge “that we all have an obligation to get involved or else nothing will change” and his grandfather’s admonition that “you have to earn freedom in every generation.”

The NCC students in the audience were impressed with what they heard. Said Joanie Thompson, “I was very motivated by his speech. I was particularly moved when he told us about today’s youth joining together in pride and confidence and in learning about their roots.” Crystal Garcia added, “His speech helped to give me more focus and direction towards my own personal leadership goals and my wish to continue to break down barriers among people.”

Throughout his discussion of transformation and transition, self-determination and self-discovery, Ndaba Mandela asked those who came and listened to find within themselves a passion out of which they could make both a life’s work and a livelihood. And with that passion, he said, will come the determination “to march ahead” in the spirit and in the footsteps of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, and his grandfather...Nelson Mandela.

NCC, YET AGAIN, IS TOPS IN SPEECH AND DEBATE

Nassau Community College’s Speech and Debate team has -- for the fourteenth year in a row -- been crowned the Top Community College in the Northeast and the Top Community College on the East Coast. NCC holds the record for consecutive wins.

The top position for NCC was clinched after its stellar performance at the Harper College Tournament that took place on the weekend of February 21-22 in Schaumburg, Illinois, which capped off the Speech and Debate team’s regular schedule.

Individual honors went to Siaori Stewart (Gold Medal in Poetry Performance and Silver Medal in Programmed Oral Performance); Jakkia Rico Daley (Silver Medal {tied} in Speech to Entertain and Bronze Medal in Prose Performance) Jillian Campion (Silver Medal {tied} in Speech to Entertain and Bronze Medal in Informative and Persuasive Speaking); Randy Perez (Silver Medal in Communication Analysis and Bronze Medal in Informative and Persuasive Speaking); Rocanne Regnier (Silver Medal in Informative and Persuasive Speaking); Thaicha Branch (Bronze Medals in Prose Performance and in Drama Performance); and Chantal Evans (Honorable Mention in Public Debate and in Poetry Performance.)

In complimenting the students on their performances, team coach, Professor Trent Webb, said, “I’m so proud of the way they represented the College. Now, we look forward to the National Championships in Cleveland, Ohio on April 6-11.”

NCC ON THE CUTTING-EDGE OF CAMPUS SECURITY

Nassau Community College has always sought to provide a safe environment for students, faculty, staff and visitors. In this era of unthinkable nationwide tragedies, NCC is now striving to improve and enhance even further campus security by teaming up with Project SAFeguard (PSG) to establish the safest possible campus setting.

Project SAFeguard works to assist in implementing Project S.A.V.E. (Schools Against Violence in Education Act) enacted in 2000. This effort is supported by Nassau County and the County's Office of Emergency Management in coordination with local first responders. Project SAFeguard was founded to create complete emergency management systems by some of the most experienced security professionals in

“NCC should be commended for its ongoing efforts to provide a safe and secure campus and for taking full advantage of the programs available to support them.”

Don Caetano, External Affairs Director for Region 2 - Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA)

the field. The PSG team includes expert analysts and specialists with distinguished backgrounds in the Armed Forces, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, law enforcement and engineering. PSG's leaders have played key roles in addressing major national incidents from the 9/11 Emergency Response to Post 9/11 Port Security Planning, and from TWA Flight 800 Search and Rescue to Hurricane Katrina Disaster Recovery, among others. Project SAFeguard is now helping Nassau Community College maximize institutional public safety for a heightened level of campus security.

For more than a year, personnel from Project SAFeguard have surveyed the security needs of NCC and have embarked upon bringing to the campus a cutting-edge program that involves intricate and detailed planning, emergency management and response solutions, specialized technology, access control and physical security systems. To accomplish this objective, PSG provided the College with detailed emergency procedures, communications and quick response protocols, enhancements to perimeter security and ongoing technical support. Digitized floor plans are a key component of this approach and are verified on a regular basis. This system is designed to identify and depict space configuration in and around campus buildings, the locations of security sensors and video access, as well as critical safety and emergency equipment. NCC's public safety team and off-campus first responders will, through these and other technologies, have the ability to simultaneously view real time events in order to maximize initial response activities and minimize response times that are critical to saving lives and reducing injuries. In the language of action-thrillers on TV or in the movies, this information will provide law enforcement officials with the "schematics" of a location so that they can respond to opportunities for

rescue and assess the potential areas of danger.

NCC's Vice President for Facilities, Dr. Joseph Muscarella, lauded the value of Project SAFeguard to the campus community. "By utilizing Project SAFeguard's extraordinary combination of technologies and expertise," he said, "NCC has become an example to be followed and a leader for educational institutions across the United States in the field of emergency preparedness. We are indeed grateful to Project SAFeguard and Nassau County for assisting us in this effort."

Peter J. Sammis, Director of Project SAFeguard echoing this sentiment added, "Project SAFeguard is proud to bring NCC's campus security to this higher level by providing a truly dynamic, interactive emergency preparedness program for constantly being aware of the situational status at the College in the event of the need for crisis management. Project SAFeguard's unique team of analysts, high-tech experts, and physical security professionals have coordinated with NCC's Department of Public Safety and local first responders to provide an approach and a mechanism that will create a safer and more secure school for all."

Speaking both from his perspective as a professor at NCC who is the coordinator of the College's Fire Science/Emergency Management Program and as a former Lieutenant in the New York City Fire Department who played a key part in bringing Project SAFeguard to NCC, Professor Paul Schmidt commented that "as a former first responder myself, I know how having vital information given to you prior to your arrival on the scene is very helpful in the success of the operation."

And viewing the College's work from a regional perspective, Don Caetano, External Affairs Director for Region 2 of the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), noted that "NCC should be commended for its ongoing efforts to provide a safe and secure campus and for taking full advantage of the programs available to support them."

“NCC has become an example to be followed and a leader for educational institutions across the United States in the field of emergency preparedness.”

Dr. Joseph Muscarella
Nassau Community College Vice President for Facilities

Through Project SAFeguard's facilitating the delivery of key information and data about NCC to the first responder community, the College is on the cutting-edge of campus security and a model whose value will only be enhanced as it is implemented countywide.

A Son's Determination, A Father's Courage



Private First Class Leonard Stern during his service in World War II

Dr. David Stern, Professor in the Department of Physical Sciences, has demonstrated in a civilian and researcher's sense the same kind of grit and determination that his father, Leonard Stern, exhibited in his heroic service during World War II. Upon learning that his father, due to the chaos of war and a subsequent fire at a records facility in Missouri, had never received a Purple Heart medal for wounds incurred during the brutal and climactic Battle of the Bulge, Dr. Stern went about setting the record straight and bringing to his father the recognition that his patriotism and courage so richly merited. Said Dr. Stern, "I didn't want this to be the case of 'honor delayed' meant 'honor denied.'" So, with the assistance of U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Dr. Stern was able to find an old hospital record that verified his father's having been wounded in combat. And in a storyline that seems almost too "Hollywood" but was minted in reality, as an added dose to aid Leonard's recuperation in England, his brother, Eugene, had already been stationed at the same base at the same time. The Purple Heart was awarded to Leonard at a ceremony on December 1, 2014 at American Legion Post 1273 in Wantagh by Senator Gillibrand, joined by Congresswoman Kathleen Rice and Assemblyman David McDonough. In commenting on Dr. Stern's work, Senator Gillibrand said, "The event would never have happened without your hard work, and you should be very proud of your role in the process." Completing the father-son connection perfectly were Leonard's own words: "I love this award. It's like I finished college with a Ph.D."

Faculty/Staff Highlights

Chuck Cutolo, General Counsel for Governmental & Media Relations, made two presentations at the Shelter Rock Library. The first, entitled, "The Ten Commandments of Lobbying" focused on techniques and strategies for effective advocacy. The second was a discussion of his second book of essays, *Parables...And Other Stuff From Life*. In his presentation, he described the writing/creative process and read from among the forty-seven essays in the book.

Prof. Anna Feuerbach, Sociology, participated in a conference in February in Ukraine about the history of antique arms. She was also a guest speaker at the Arms and Armor Club of New York and was a consultant for the PBS program *Nova* about the secrets of the Viking Sword. In addition, Prof. Feuerbach spoke about her research in Yataghan, Turkey.

Dr. Murray Fullman, Psychology, spoke about medical hypnosis at The Pines of Boca Lago in Boca Raton, Florida in February.

Robert Gersten, Emeritus Dean of Students, was honored this fall for being the oldest living basketball alumnus of North Carolina. Captain of the basketball team, he won several awards during his time there.

Prof. Mark Halfon, Philosophy, was the recipient of the 2014 Special Library Association Baseball Caucus Readers' Choice Award for his book *Tales From the Deadball Era: Ty Cobb, Homer Run Baker, Shoeless Joe Jackson and the Wildest Times in Baseball History*.

Prof. Amy King, English, has been selected as the 2015 winner of the Women's National Book Association (WNBA) Award. The WNBA award is presented every second year to "a living American woman who derives part or all of her income from books and allied arts and who has done meritorious work in the world of books beyond the duties and responsibilities of her profession or occupation." Prof. King is the author of several books of poetry.

Dr. Valerie Lagakis, Reading and Basic Education, is the coordinator of the Achilles Project. The project was part of an article entitled "Disabilities Research Improving Lives," which appeared in *Response* magazine, published by United Methodist Women.

Prof. Jack Mandel, Marketing, Retailing, Fashion Buying and Merchandise, Fashion Design and Interior Design, recently appeared on the WABC-TV program *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* He won a \$1,000 cash prize. In addition, Prof. Mandel's article "Students on Silent Mode – But Why?" appeared in the winter issue of *Aspire*, a regional college magazine.

Prof. Deirdre O'Connor, Communications, made a documentary film, *Back to Brooklyn With Jack and Jim*, that was an official selection for the NYC Chain Film Festival last summer; the Williamsburg International Film Festival in September; and The Hamptons Take Two Documentary Film Festival in December. For each festival, Prof. O'Connor was a panelist for discussions on documentary filmmaking.

Joe Osovet, coach of the NCC Lions football team, was named the 2014 Northeast Football Conference Coach of the Year, and the 2014 USA Junior College Coach of the Year. He was also the first-ever community college coach to coach in the USA College Football All-Star Game in Jackson, Mississippi.

Yvonne Powell-Watson, Public Safety, was recently promoted to sergeant. She is also teaching a continuing education course about holistic nutrition and wellness.

Prof. Christina Rau, Prof. of English and Coordinator of The Creative Writing Project, had a poetry chapbook entitled *For the Girls* published in late 2014.

Prof. Paul Schmidt, Fire Science/Emergency Management Coordinator and Wrestling Coach, will be inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in April.

Prof. Mario Susko, English, is the recipient of the 2015 Goran's Wreath Award, honoring a poet for his or her overall contribution to the art of poetry. The award is Croatia's highest poetry award.

NASSAU

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Have the ability to

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- Be reviewed for admission
- Register for classes
- Meet with Financial Aid

Monday, April 27th 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 28th 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 3rd 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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Summer Session III
August 3 - August 19

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May 30 - August 9

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