

NEXUS

COMMUNICATIONS CONNECTS ALL OF US AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AND MANY OTHER FORMS OF COMMUNICATION ARE TAUGHT BY THE NCC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



Photography by William Baker

Prof. Jill Burgreen of the Communications Department teaches an advanced American Sign Language class

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT AT NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE SERVES APPROXIMATELY 3,000 STUDENTS A SEMESTER? CAREERS IN COMMUNICATIONS abound, including: advertising or marketing specialist, media buyer, copywriter, industrial and labor relations representative, speech writer, corporate communications writer, government service, social service, sales and public relations. Moreover, as a whole, communications—in one form or another—touches literally everyone.

Through the study and application of communications processes, communications courses at Nassau guide students toward a better understanding of self and society and help develop more effective communication skills. The department offers Associate in Arts (A.A.) degrees in three areas: Communication Arts, Media, and American Sign Language. “Communication is about creating and managing relationships. We live and work in a changing, technologically savvy, multi-cultural society. The ability to effectively communicate is crucial in order to navigate our world” said Anissa Moore, chairperson of the Nassau Community

College Communications Department.

One of the more innovative Communications programs at Nassau is the Deaf Studies Program. Prof. Jill Burgreen teaches four levels of American Sign Language (ASL) as well as a course on communication and culture in the deaf community. All 12 sections of her courses are filled each semester, according to Prof. Burgreen, with a total of approximately 160 students. Students graduate with an associates degree in American Sign Language. Many students who graduate from NCC with a degree in American Sign Language continue on to a four-year program, eventually going into careers as interpreters, speech language pathologists, audiologists, or other related positions.

“American Sign Language is the third most used language in the United States (after English and Spanish), with 25 million users,” said Prof. Burgreen. She said that deaf students, as well as siblings and other family members, take ASL classes at the College. Prof. Burgreen utilizes the Communications lab extensively in her courses, employing CDs, DVDs and the internet to help students learn. The Communications Department offers many other

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Nassau Community College Plans for the Future

by Dr. Sean A. Fanelli

THE CORE OF NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S ADMINISTRATIVE PHILOSOPHY HAS BEEN THE

relentless quest to establish and maintain excellence in all that we do: the quality of education, our faculty; our student environment; health and safety issues; governance; and capital projects as they pertain to facility development and maintenance. It is with this underlying value of excellence that the College is presently engaged in a process that will establish a comprehensive strategic plan that will guide this institution for the next five to ten years. With the assistance of a professional education consulting firm, we are developing a plan that will incorporate the collaborative views and expertise of the Board of Trustees, the College Administration, the Academic Senate, faculty, students, community and government and business leaders. This strategic plan will produce a working road map connecting budgetary priorities with operational plans so as to maximize our resources when opportunities and challenges come.

In fact, this process will create opportunities by anticipating events ahead of time and having in place a predetermined plan of action that will allow the College to take advantage of new situations.

In response to the College's self-study, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education said, in part, "Finally, the Team wishes to stress...the need to 'institutionalize' the process of strategic planning and assessment...More consistent, institutionalized processes that make use of the excellent assessment approaches being developed will enable the institution to go forward with a focused agenda, around a series of focused needs."



Specifically mentioned in the strategic plan are the College's efforts to develop academic assessment as well as the planning effort to implement a new integrated computer system. A detailed Facilities Master Plan and the expansion of the College's Institutional Advancement

phase; measuring past performance and future potential; determining potential performance improvement obtainable from existing activities; developing a practical process for assessing accountability at all levels of the institution; and finally delivering a strategic plan that is generally

understood and accepted.

Someone said that it's not where one has been but where one is going that matters most. NCC's past has been lauded for its academic excellence and for being true to its mission. As

"We must not look at our past to define our future. We must plan for it and then act with all deliberate speed to make it happen. The future is bright and full of new possibilities, and we will get there without losing sight of our core value — excellence."

efforts are all part of these initiatives. Although planning is already occurring within administrative and academic areas, the strategic plan will link resources and responsibilities to anticipated challenges to the College's mission.

This process is monumental. It requires patience as different layers of the planning process are implemented; setting the plan objectives and expectations; identifying the various specific steps in the process; constant assessing of each

encouraging as that past may be, it is tempered by the reality of the need to be better in the future. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. We must not look at our past to define our future. We must plan for it and then act with all deliberate speed to make it happen. The future is bright and full of new possibilities, and we will get there without losing sight of our core value—excellence. It's where success starts...and continues.

ALUMNI PROFILE **BRIAN BALDINGER**

From Nassau, to Duke, to the NFL, to Fox Sports

GROWING UP IN MASSAPEQUA, BRIAN BALDINGER HAD DREAMS OF PLAYING IN the NFL. Aside from that, he wasn't sure what he wanted. Enter Nassau Community College. "Nassau was the perfect place for me. I feel I learned so much," he says. Baldinger took his love of sports to the College and became a lifeguard as well as a member of the football and basketball teams. This scholar-athlete also developed a fondness for many other subjects at NCC. He took courses in chemistry, calculus and philosophy, to name a few, but the one he remembers most fondly was art history. Baldinger was on the Dean's List when he graduated from NCC in 1978. He also was NCC's Student Athlete of the Year.

Baldinger remembers that he never missed a day of class at Nassau. "NCC brought out the best in me. I fondly remember the great teachers I had and I still maintain contact with friends I met there," he states. After graduating from Nassau, Baldinger continued his education—and his athletic endeavors—at Duke University. He graduated from Duke with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology.

"Nassau was the perfect place for me"

Undrafted upon graduating from Duke in 1982, Baldinger was offered a free agent contract by one of the Dallas Cowboys equipment managers. He was the only free agent among 107 rookies who earned a roster spot. Baldinger remained a mainstay on the Dallas offensive line for years before continuing on to Indianapolis, where he was named the Colts Most Valuable Lineman in 1991. After leaving the Colts, Baldinger finished his 13-year NFL career with the Philadelphia Eagles.

Baldinger first broke into broadcasting calling NFL Europe League contests for the Fox network. The following season he joined the *NFL on Fox* as a game analyst. Baldinger currently calls games with Kenny Albert.

Last year, Baldinger also hosted *Sports Talk* on the cable channel CN8 in New Jersey. He also conducts communications seminars for Nadia Communications and recently co-authored his first book, *The Map to Clear Messages*. Last season he joined the NFL Network as an analyst for *Playbook*. Baldinger is also the senior NFL analyst for *The Sporting News Radio* and a contributing columnist



Photo courtesy of Fox Sports

for *The Sporting News*. Brian Baldinger has indeed gone far and wide after the start he got at Nassau Community College. But he remembers where he got his start: "The work that I began at Nassau prepared me for Duke and beyond. I had it all there."

— Michael Fenrich, Sports Research Assistant, contributed to this article

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES



In front of Australia's Sydney Opera House and Bridge, (L to R), Sean Hennessey, John Paul Alvarez, Prof. Steven C. Urso, Philip Yacino and Mark Slattery.

Every day, students go into their classrooms at Nassau Community College and new worlds are opened up to them. Sometimes, though, they go a much further distance to open up their world.

Through the International Study Abroad Program, NCC students have gone with their classes to Australia and Italy to study hospitality; England to study criminal justice; Costa Rica and Ethiopia to learn about biology; Italy, Spain and France to explore marketing and retailing; Thailand to study psychology; and Poland to study economics. These study abroad courses enable students to see the world—as well as the United States—through different eyes.

On the past winter break, for example, 16 students from Nassau journeyed a total of 36,000 miles back and forth to Australia on an epicurean adventure with Hospitality Business professor Steven Urso to see how that country trains its hospitality professionals. Prof. Urso and his students visited a cooking school in Sydney, a winery in the Adel Wine Valley, the Sydney Opera House, a national park and other sites in order to provide the students with a more global perspective on travel and tourism, marketing, restaurant management and resort management.

For more information about the International Study Abroad Program at Nassau Community College, call Maria Conzatti at (516) 572-7213.

FACULTY / STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Kate Beckman, Communications, participated in the 30th anniversary reunion performances of the *Bicentennial Wagon Train Show* weekend at Penn State University. She was also chosen as one of 12 vocalists nationwide to attend The Art of Cabaret workshop in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Prof. Philip Cheifetz, Paula Kreinbihl, Greg Spengler and Joan Tomaszeski, all of Math, Statistics and Computers, have published an article entitled “Success With Assessment: Responding to a System Mandate” that appeared in *Assessment of Student Learning in College Mathematics: Towards Improved Programs*, published by the prestigious Association for Institutional Research in the fall. The book contains descriptive samples of assessment activity across the U.S.

Prof. Wesley Doody and Jacqueline Lee, both of Biology, co-presented demonstrations and descriptions of WebCT, Automated Response Systems and podcasting at the SUNY Teaching, Learning and Technology meeting in Syracuse, New York in the fall. The focus of their presentation was to show how technology is used to enhance the teaching and learning experience for students in introductory biology courses at NCC.

Dr. Murray Fullman, Psychology, recently presented a talk at the Shelter Rock Library entitled “Hypnosis—Fact or Fiction.” He has also been invited to speak at the International Medical and Dental Association Conference, to be held in Miami in May. Dr. Fullman will also conduct a workshop on “Understanding Client Behavior and Psychopathology” at the conference and present the lecture “You Are Who You Are—Be It!”.

Dr. Beverly Harrison, Associate Vice President for Human Resources and Labor Relations, was elected first vice president of the Labor Employment Relations Association of Long Island. Dr. Harrison is also a member of the Education & Assistance Corporation of New York, which is a non-profit organization that has 17 different locations in the metropolitan area.

Prof. Jennifer Michael Hecht, English, published a book this fall entitled *The Happiness Myth: Why Smarter, Healthier, and Faster Doesn't Work*.

Prof. Barbara Horn, English, has been invited by the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) to be a member of its recently established Research Scholars' Advisory Board. NWSA is the leading national organization dedicated to advancing feminist scholarship,

education, service and community activism, with more than 2,000 members worldwide.

Dr. Bernie Katz, Psychology, has published the book *Actually, it Is Your Parents Fault: Why Your Romantic Relationship Isn't Working and How to Fix It*. The book is co-authored by Philip van Munching.

Prof. Victor LoGiudice, Mortuary Science, has completed all requirements for certification in the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice. To be a Certified Funeral Service Practitioner, Prof. LoGiudice had to prove to the academy that he had accomplished numerous things, including attendance at conferences and seminars, membership in local, regional and national associations and completion of related courses offered by associations and accredited institutions of higher learning.

Prof. Jack Mandel, Marketing, Retailing, Fashion, has been appointed Business Editor of *Shop Long Island* magazine. He writes a monthly business column for the North Shore publication. Prof. Mandel also writes a monthly column for *Long Island Pulse* magazine entitled “Dating on Long Island—the 2nd Time Around.” Finally, he spoke about “How to Begin Your Own Business in 2007...and Succeed” at the Freeport Memorial Library.

Prof. Marcia McNair, English, and Prof. Anissa Moore, Communications, were featured in a performance of *Diary of a Mad Black Feminist* in February at the African American Museum of Nassau County in Hempstead. Prof. McNair also wrote and directed the show. In addition, Prof. McNair was named a grant recipient of this year's Long Island Arts Council at Freeport's *Nassau Grants for the Arts 2007* for her show, and received related Certificates of Recognition from the Town of Hempstead and Nassau County.

Prof. Ann Marie Pagnotta, Math, Statistics and Computers, was named the 2006 College Level Mathematics Teacher of the Year by the Nassau County Mathematics Teachers Association.

Dr. Kumkum Prabhakar, Biology, has been included in *Marquis Who's Who 2007* (61st edition) for her professional achievements.

Dr. Steven Rosenhaus, Music, conducted commissioning groups in the premieres of two works: *The Brave and the Bold*, for the U.S. Army 108th Reserve Band; and *Bang!* for percussion and band for the U.S. Naval Academy Band. In addition, the New York University Harp Ensemble will premiere a commissioned work, *For the Gipsy in My Soul*,

at NYU's Frederick Loewe Theatre in New York City in April. Dr. Rosenhaus is currently writing *The Etude Project*, a series of graded performance etudes for various chamber ensembles, for the U.S. Navy School of Music. The first volume will be published in August.

Dr. Neela Saxena, English, published an essay in *Evam: Forum on Indian Presentations*, a journal published in New Delhi. In January, she gave a series of invited lectures entitled “The Divine Feminine in World Religions” at the All Soul's Unitarian Church in Manhattan. Dr. Saxena gave another talk entitled “Thinking the Thought: Greek and Indic Paths to Knowledge” as part of the Hutton House lecture series at C.W. Post in March.

Aurora Workman, Human Resources, has joined the Long Island Parent Center Advisory Board. The role of the Advisory Board is to advise and assist with the accomplishment of the goals established for the Long Island Parent Center by the New York State Education Department, Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities. As an Advisory Board member, she will provide staff with suggestions for the Parent Center, including steps that can be taken to increase services in and promote parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities. In addition, Workman accepted a recognition award on behalf of the College from the Bristol Assisted Living facility for NCC's participation in the Senior Advocacy For Employees Initiative (SAFE). SAFE is an employee educational and support program for employees who take care of their elderly parents or siblings.

Dr. Clive Wynter, Chemistry, presented a paper at the 10th Latin American Conference on Applications of the Mossbauer Effect (LACAME) of europium compounds. These compounds act as catalysts in many important reactions and also as materials in magnetic and electronic technology. The LACAME was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in November. Dr. Wynter was also selected to be included in the forthcoming edition of *America's Registry of Outstanding Professionals*.

Note: All members of the College community are invited to send articles pertaining to their professional and community activities to *Nexus* for inclusion on a space availability basis. For more information, call Gail Mattimore or Alicia Steger, Editor, in the College Relations Office at 516-572-9634 or 516-572-7249.



Gloria Steinem, Feminist Activist and Writer, Appears at NCC

RENOWNED FEMINIST ACTIVIST AND WRITER GLORIA STEINEM APPEARED AT NASSAU ON March 26. Her presentation was called “The Progression of Feminism: Where are We Going?”. Over 700 people attended the two sessions of Steinem’s talk in the College Center Building. The framework of Steinem’s presentation was her contention that the women’s rights movement, the civil rights movement, the gay and lesbian rights movement—and, in fact, all social justice movements—are interconnected. She cited the fact that these movements tend to rise and progress at roughly the same times as evidence

of their connection. “The restrictions on women and racist structure are intermeshed,” she said. “I don’t think it’s possible to fight them separately.” Another demonstration of the relation between the civil rights and women’s rights movements, according to Steinem, are the concurrent presidential campaigns of Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama. She described the shared “adversaries” or opponents of social justice, using what she saw as the media’s efforts to pit these candidates against one another as proof. “When people ask me whether I support Clinton or Obama in the race, I just say yes,” Steinem stated. In 1972, Steinem co-founded *Ms. Magazine*, a magazine she edited for 15 years. In 1968, she helped to found *New York Magazine*, where she was a political columnist and wrote feature articles. As a freelance writer, Steinem has been published in *Esquire*, *The New York Times Magazine* and a wide range of other publications. She has received

many awards for her writing. Steinem is currently at work on *Road to the Heart: America As if Everyone Mattered*, a book about her more than 30 years on the road as a feminist organizer. In addition to her journalistic work, Steinem helped to found the Women’s Action Alliance, a national information center that specializes in nonsexist, multiracial children’s education, and the National Women’s Political Caucus, a group that works to advance the numbers of pro-equality women in elected and appointed office at a national and state level. She was also president and cofounder of Voters for Choice, as well as of the Ms. Foundation for Women. Steinem has been involved in numerous other empowerment and educational projects. The Nassau Community College Sexual Harassment Education Subcommittee, the Cultural Committee and the Women’s History Month Committee sponsored Gloria Steinem’s appearance at the College.

COMMUNICATIONS CONNECTS ALL OF US

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courses too, including public speaking, persuasion, interpersonal communications, intercultural communications, listening, communications for business and the professions, nonverbal communication, phonetics, voice and diction, speech & hearing therapy, oral interpretation, communications & language and argumentation and debate. Some of the most popular courses are in the media program, and teach the production of film, television and documentary media. In addition, film appreciation has proven to be an especially well-liked course over the years, by communications majors and non-majors alike.

COMMUNICATING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Nassau also produces a news show that is broadcast once each month on Cablevision (PATV), located in Lake Success. Students participate in the program as reporters, videographers and editors. The NCC Speech & Debate Team, under the direction of Prof. Trent Webb, competes on a local, regional and national level. Team

members participate in approximately 14 different events and travel to five or six local tournaments a year. Each April, they compete in the Phi Rho Pi Junior College National Championship. The team placed second overall in its most recent event, the Sunset Cliffs Debate Tournament held in San Diego.

Each spring, the Communications Department faculty holds a colloquium for student achievement. Since students are recommended by their professors and present projects they’ve completed as part of their regular studies, the colloquium is a way for department faculty to highlight students who have done exceptional work. Of the large number of students considered for the honor of presenting, generally six to eight student projects are chosen. Chosen students are then coached by their professors to ensure that



Communications students at work in the NCC Television Control Room

their presentations are smooth. Students who participate receive a certificate of achievement from the College and the Communications Department. It has been said that information and the access to it is one of the most important commodities in the world today. The Communications Department at NCC makes understanding that information easier and using it more efficient.

IMPORTANT REGISTRATION & APPLICATION INFORMATION

It's not too late to register for summer classes or apply for the fall semester at NCC

Summer Sessions 2007

Session I: May 29 - June 28

Session II: July 2 - August 2

Session III: August 6 - August 24

Registration & Applications for Fall 2007

New applications are being accepted

Call the Admissions Office at 516.572.7347 for more information

Current students may register directly at the Registrar

Call the Registrar's Office at 516.572.7131 for more information

Academic Advisement

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

Open House at Nassau Community College Sunday, April 29

10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Phys Ed Building Field House

Meet Faculty and Staff from Academic Departments, Admissions, Financial Aid, Academic Support and Counseling Services, The Center for Students with Disabilities, and others.

- Apply for Admissions
- Attend Workshops
- Talk with Advisors
- Tour the Campus

**For more information, call 516-572-7345
or visit our website at www.ncc.edu**



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