

VANGUARD

Official Newsletter of the Adjunct Faculty Association at Nassau Community College
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*WE CARE
About Our Students,
Our Members,
Our College!*



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From the President's Desk



Stefan Krompier

First and foremost, I wish you all the best for this Spring 2023 Semester and beyond.

I had just finished reading a written communication from Nassau Community College on college letterhead and was about to close the document when the slogan WHERE SUCCESS STARTS...AND CONTINUES caught my eye. My thoughts flashed back 63 years to a happy time in my life, my senior year in high school.

As a high school senior of Long Beach High School's class of 1960, one of my top priorities was basketball. That year, I spent most of my time at Long Beach's Central School Basketball Courts, the Magnolia Avenue Recreation Center, and, during the summer months, sneaking into the beach clubs that lined Lido Boulevard between Long Beach and Point Lookout.

As a "student," I did what I had to do to pass, which was not much. I did well in my business courses because they interested me and my teacher Mr. Fisher was great. My hardworking parents who lived paycheck to paycheck were happy that I stayed out of trouble and was on the road to achieving my high school diploma.

At the midpoint of my senior year, Long Beach teacher and soon-to-be basketball coach at the just-opened NCC, Robert Gersten, asked me what I was going to do after graduation. My answer: "go to work." He suggested that I apply to NCC, inferring that I had a good chance to make the basketball team. The understanding that I could continue playing basketball moved me to apply that day.

My priorities changed as NCC changed me. Succeeding as a student and putting myself on the pathway to a career teaching high school business courses and coaching high school basketball became my new top priorities. SUCCESS STARTED FOR ME AT NCC...AND CONTINUED. I earned my Bachelors Degree in Business/Marketing/Industrial Relations from Saint

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From the President's Desk



Stefan Krompier

John's University, and a Masters Degree in Education from Hofstra University. I then began teaching and coaching basketball at Holy Trinity HS. Subsequently, I also began teaching Marketing at Hauppauge High School. Then I came to this great college of ours, at first as a TA in the Biology Department and then as an adjunct in the Marketing/Retailing/Fashion/Interior Design Department. In 2015, I was honored to become the President of NCC's Adjunct Faculty Association at Nassau Community College.

I write this knowing that my start at Nassau was not unique and the successes I achieved have been achieved by so many others who got their start at NCC. As I sat and reflected on my time at Nassau, I remembered the teachers, coaches, staff, and administrators who taught me, encouraged me, and cared about me as a person. These days I am very thankful to serve as your Adjunct Faculty Association President and to support your efforts to encourage and care for the students who cross your paths each day as they seek success now and in the future.

Stefan Krompier
President
Adjunct Faculty Association

Message from the Vice-President



Scott Stark

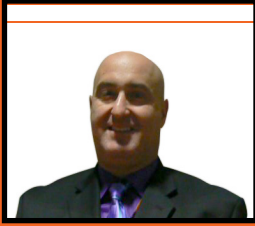
Welcome back for the 2023 spring semester. It is no secret that enrollment continues to decline. Where we once had over 26,000 students, we now have less than half of that number. It is important that we do what we can to turn the tide. Each and every one of us can, and should, serve as an ambassador of the college. Every chance we get we should be extolling the virtues of a Nassau Community College education because it truly is a jewel of the county. If not for that reason, then for the basic fact that ***more students equal more jobs for us.*** I am sure you are aware of these facts, but it doesn't hurt

to state that Nassau Community College delivers:

- **A HIGH QUALITY – LOW COST EDUCATION** – Tuition is less than \$3,300 per semester. On average, two years at Nassau will save the average student approximately \$40,000 over residing at a SUNY college or university.
- **DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS** – Nassau offers more than 70 degree and certificate programs; many of which are not available to students at many four-year institutions.
- **TRANSFERABILITY** – Many times when students transfer from Nassau they find themselves accepted at colleges that would not have accepted them immediately after high school.
- **AWARD WINNING FACULTY** – We are first among the community colleges in New York State for the number of faculty members who receive the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching. We hold doctorates at twice the national average for community colleges.
- **FLEXIBLE DAY, NIGHT AND WEEKEND COURSE SCHEDULES**
- **ONLINE, HYBRID AND REMOTE COURSES**
- **HONORS PROGRAM** – For excelling students we should highly recommend the Honors Program that offers:
 - » Superb preparation for transferring to a four-year institution
 - » Reasonable costs for the first two years of college
 - » Personal attention through individualized counseling in planning an appropriate academic course of study and through small classes with Nassau's finest professors
 - » Extra activities designed to enrich the entire educational experience and sense of belonging to a community of scholars
 - » Recognition at Awards Night ceremony for all participants

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Message from the Vice-President



Scott Stark

- » Personal satisfaction derived from participating in a special quality curriculum
- » Access to the Honors Student study space which includes a comfortable seating area to study or relax, tea, coffee, a mini-fridge, computers, and printers.
- » All courses are denoted as Honors courses on your official transcript. You also have the ability to earn the official Honors designation when you graduate.

Many of us also have personal stories about our experiences here as faculty, and many as students. Any time Stefan speaks of why he is so pro-Nassau Community College, we hear him say he would be “living in a box under a bridge if not for Nassau.” While my experience is not as drastic, if not for Nassau, I would have been unable to change careers 30 years ago to become an educator. I am sure many of you have similar experiences. Please, make it a point to extol the virtues of Nassau Community College. As the surrounding colleges can attest, the students are coming. When I first began here in 2005, our enrollment was approximately 15,000 students more than it is today. AFA members promoting the college won’t get us back to those numbers, but it can help.

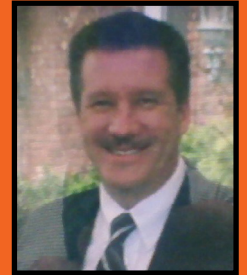
As I said in the past, it is the AFA membership, individually and collectively, who are the true leaders of our association. It is your brilliance and the collective brilliance of all adjuncts who are taking the AFA to new heights. I look forward to meeting more of you and hearing from you. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any issues or questions. You can call me at 516-859-0250 or email me at ScottStark27@gmail.com, or at Scott.Stark@NCC.edu.

Thanks, once again, for the honor and privilege of serving as your Vice President.

Scott Stark
Vice President
Adjunct Faculty Association

The Inside Scoop

AFA members have access to the entire leadership team, that includes your officers and Department Representatives. We are here to answer questions, address concerns, and ensure that your contractual rights are not being violated. There is also another resource at your disposal that can provide you with a wealth of information 24/7/365, and that is our website at <http://myafaonline.org>. I encourage you to visit the website and peruse it to see all that it contains. Because this is a resource for our members, much of the information is password protected. When you encounter a page that requires a password, the members' password is *unitedpower* (all lowercase, no spaces.) Because there is so much information within the website, I will list only some of the highlights of what you will find:



Richard D. Erben

1. The current Vanguard and Vanguard archives of every issue dating back to Jan. 2015.
2. Our labor contract, constitution and bylaws, adjunct handbook and more.
3. Exclusive benefits for our members (Group Dental, Vision and Prescriptions).
4. Minutes from meetings dating back to 2015.
5. Job postings page.
6. Adjunct Spotlight directory.
7. Officer, Executive Board and Department Representative contact information and so much more!

While on the website, you can click our Facebook link button to take you to our Facebook page, which contains relevant union and adjunct postings from around the nation.

Richard D. Erben
Chief Information Officer
Adjunct Faculty Association

Adjunct Spotlight

Norman Rubin



By Ruth Silverman

The following Spotlight continues our focus on the awardees of the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching. Each of the awardees is an example of the amazing achievements of our adjunct faculty. After being nominated anonymously for the award, Dr. Norman Rubin, like all awardees, completed a one-hundred-page portfolio documenting his achievements.

Dr. Rubin was an awardee for the 2018-2019 academic year. Dr. Rubin teaches in the Biology De-

partment. He is the first member of his family to go to college. He says that he went from kindergarten through a Ph.D. in the New York public school system where he says he received the most fantastic education. Dr. Rubin earned his bachelor’s degree at the City College of New York and his doctorate at CUNY in the Biology program. He continued his studies as a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at Yale University School of Medicine through a fellowship from the National Eye Institute-National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Rubin studied under some famous and accomplished professors who sparked his interest in biology. At City College, he studied botany with Dr. George Copeland, who eventually became the President of CCNY. At CUNY, while working towards his Ph.D., he studied with Professor Arthur Kornberg from Stanford, who won a Nobel Prize for his discovery of DNA polymerase. They were both not only excellent scientists but they were two of the best teachers he ever experienced and who he worked to emulate in his own teaching.

After his postdoctoral fellowship at Yale, he obtained a teaching position at Brooklyn College. When that did not become permanent, he became licensed in biology and chemistry in order to teach in

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Adjunct Spotlight

Norman Rubin

high school. He obtained a teaching position at Uniondale High School, where he continued to teach until his retirement in 2012. He first started teaching adjunct at NCC in 1991. After a ten-year gap, in which he taught anatomy to nursing students at Molloy College, he returned to Nassau. He teaches biology both for majors and non-majors. He has tried to emulate the best teaching practices of his mentors. These include the following:

1. Make everyone feel comfortable starting at the first day. He starts with a friendly greeting to which the students must reply.
2. Students must learn each other's names. Dr. Rubin knows the names of all his students and calls on them by name.
3. He includes a good deal of group work in which no one student is in charge.
4. Student volunteers are given the opportunity to teach part of a lesson to the class. He incorporates student teaching with the motto "see it, try it, teach it."
5. He insists on participation but does not embarrass a student. He has students help each other if one of them does not know an answer.
6. He provides printed notes for students to supplement the oral lecture in which students must fill in key spaces in the notes. After a topic is completed, notes with the blanks filled in are

made available on Blackboard.

It is difficult to include all of Professor Rubin's achievements from a 100 page portfolio, but I will highlight a few of them that give a glimpse as to why he won the award. He founded a Saturday tutoring program at Uniondale High School which gives free assistance to students at the Uniondale public library. The program is called SMART (Saturday Morning Assistance Research and Tutorial). He received the

Ken Jenkins Memorial Award from the PTA and holds an honorary lifetime membership in the New York State Parent Teachers Association. There is a tree planted at Uniondale High School with a plaque with his name on it. He was a wrestling coach for the

Lynbrook Titans Youth Association for ten years and received Coach of the Year from the Lynbrook Village Council for his service to the youth of Lynbrook. He continues to be a tour guide, fossil explainer, and teaching volunteer at the Museum of Natural History in New York City.

Nassau Community College is fortunate to have Dr. Rubin as part of the faculty.

Norman Rubin was an awardee for the 2018-2019 academic year. Dr. Rubin teaches in the Biology Department. He is the first member of his family to go to college.