Associate Professor Sean Tvelia (Physical Sciences) and Professional Assistant Joan Horn (Physical Sciences) collaborated with Nassau Community College to convene the second annual Supporting and Advancing Geoscience Education in Two-Year Colleges (SAGE 2YC) and the National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT) workshops, in March.

Peter Eckstein, an adjunct professor of physics at the College, was elected as the 2016 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE-USA) president. He will serve as president-elect in 2015. IEEE-USA promotes the public policy interests of more than 200,000 engineering, computing and technology professionals. Eckstein is retired from Northrop Grumman Corp. He has taught at the College since 1981.

Adjunct Instructor Thaddeus Nelson (Anthropology) presented "From Fine Fabric to Rough Rags: Interpreting Textile Variation in the Iron Age II Levant from Functional Analysis of Loom Weights" at the annual conference of the American Schools of Oriental Research, held last November in San Diego.

Professor Albin Cofone (Sociology and Geography) presented a series of lectures on Modern American History and Geography to senior students at the Solihull School, located in the West Midlands just north of London, England. This is Professor Cofone's second time at Solihull, which was founded in 1560 and has been rated by *The Times* (London) as one of the top 100 independent schools in the United Kingdom.

Professor Steve Schrier (Political Science) was named "Person of the Year" by the *Times Beacon Record* for his work as Executive Director of the Suffolk Center on the Holocaust, Diversity and Human Understanding.

Scott Mandia, Professor of Physical Sciences and Assistant Chair is part of a prestigious international team of select science department researchers who contributed to a new course offered by The University of Queensland (Australia) that uncovers why the topic of climate change is so controversial. The free Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) includes renowned researchers from universities in Canada, the United States and United Kingdom. This course explains why there is such a huge gap between the scientific community and the public when it comes to the topic of climate change. Removing this gap is an important step in supporting policy development to ensure that decisions are made using peer reviewed science, leading to maximum benefit for communities, economies and the environment. The seven-week course began in April and was offered to anyone in the world through the not-for-profit online learning platform edX. Thousands of students from more than 130 countries enrolled. Professor Mandia also received the American Geophysical Union's Ambassador Award in recognition of "outstanding contributions to the following areas: societal impact, service to the Earth and space community, scientific leadership, and promotion of talent/career pool." During the year he later served as a guest speaker at the Environmental Science, Policy and Engineering Winter Seminar Series sponsored by Union College (Schenectady, NY). His presentation was titled, "Communicating Climate Change: Sometimes It's Not About the Science."

Dr. Rosa M. Gambier, the Ammerman Campus Biology Department Chair, was one of 350 international scientists, academics, educators and representatives from 65 countries who took part in a three-day event, *Botanists of the Twenty-first Century: Roles, Challenges and Opportunities* conference, organized at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Headquarters in

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Associate Professor Deborah Wolfson was a recipient of a 2015 Idahlynn Karre Exemplary Leadership Award



Among other citations, Scott Mandia was recognized for his contributions as a member of a prestigious international team studying climate change.