

Professor receives Princeton Fellowship, releases new book

By DIANA TUORTO

NEWTON — A fellowship and a new book are highlights of 2007 for Dr. Francesco Ancona, a full professor at Sussex County Community College (SCCC).

Ancona is a Mid-Career Princeton University Fellow designated by the McGraw Center for Teaching & Learning. One of only two SCCC professors to receive this honor, he is participating in a program of studies and seminars on teaching and learning at Princeton University.

"I am honored to have been chosen as one of 13 fellows in this year's program," Ancona stated. "As part of the fellowship, I am researching a project and will be publishing an article in a collection with other participants. My project centers around the current decline in males enrolled in higher learning programs and what this means for our future generations."

Ancona holds a Doctorate of Arts from St. John's University in Queens, NY. At SCCC, he has coordinated the English program, advised the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, directed the honors program, served as the college's first faculty president of the senate, and was an initial member of the college's Foundation Board.

His new book is *He Says/She Says Shakespeare*, co-authored with Dr. Mary Ives Thompson scheduled for release in February 2008. Advance copies are available at the SCCC bookstore. When asked what inspired the book, Dr. Ancona said, "I was in my office with Dr. Thompson, and we started arguing over our views on Shakespeare. We thought it would make a great idea for a book and course. We cover six plays: *MacBeth*, *Othello*, *Hamlet*, *As You Like It*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*. The book shows our two completely different perspec-

tives and lets the readers choose for themselves."

This is Ancona's fifth book. He has had numerous articles published in the U.S., the U.K. and India. He also co-authored a screenplay and a children's book (with his wife, artist Janet Ancona). Ancona commented, "One of the works that I'm most proud of is my book, *Femina Sapiens: Were Women the First Truly Thinking Human Beings?* It traces primitive art and artifacts to discover that *Homo sapiens*, 'thinking man,' should actually be *Femina sapiens*, 'thinking woman.'"

In addition, Ancona was assistant editor of the *Journal of Evolutionary Psychology*. He is a member of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities' Horizon ("Distinguished Scholars") Speakers Bureau. He has been cited for teaching excellence by the New Jersey Council of Community Colleges and is a NISOD national teaching award winner. His professional memberships include the Institute of Evolutionary Psychology, the International Association for the Study of Dreams, UNICO, and MENSA.

When asked what his greatest accomplishment at SCCC has been, Ancona said, "After 16 years of teaching at SCCC, I have come to realize that working with the students has made my time here exceptional. The years have flown by so quickly. I am very happy and feel that I've achieved a lot because of what I've gotten from the successes of my students."

After a long and accomplished career, Dr. Ancona continues his quest for knowledge. "I'm constantly looking for new programs and courses to take," he added. "I always need to keep learning, for my own benefit, and for my students. I hope to continue writing and teaching for years to come."