

# Newsday

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### Student slaps Molloy with bias suit

BY SID CASSESE

sid.cassese@newsday.com

A Queens woman, working on her master's degree in nursing at Molloy College in Rockville Centre, has filed a \$6-million federal lawsuit against the school, charging she was discriminated against and falsely accused of plagiarizing her final paper because she is black.

Edward Thompson, the school's vice president for advancement said he was familiar with the broad outlines of the case and added that "Molloy College believes it acted appropriately at all times in this matter and will address any claims in court."

Joyce Peters, a nurse for 21 years who said she had carried a 3.86 grade point average up to her last paper, said everything changed after she publicly supported the assistant dean of nursing, a black woman, who was demoted after four white students said she discriminated against them on a trip to Africa.

"The dean's demotion occurred in my next-to-last semester, and when I suggested to a fellow student that her comments against the dean were unlikely and unproven, it seemed that my work got extra scrutiny the following semester," said Peters.

Still, she said, in her final class — "Research Methods and Design" — she got 100 on three papers and 80 on another. The final assignment, a research proposal, counted as 40 percent of the course's grade.

She submitted that paper on Dec. 4, 2006. But on the day it was due to be returned, Dec. 11, her professor sent out an e-mail accusing Peters of "copying a completed study with data, results, analysis all



NEWSDAY PHOTO / PAUL J. BERESWILL

**Graduate nursing student Joyce Peters, of Queens, says she was accused of plagiarism and denied graduation by Molloy College officials because of her race.**

completed by someone else," said papers filed Monday by her Hempstead lawyer, Fred Brewington, who called the accusation "false and defamatory."

On Dec. 27, Peters was notified of a "possible" academic infraction and on Jan. 8 she received a notice that her graduation had been denied.

Brewington said Peters was

a "careful" student and has the documentation to support her claim. ... And throughout all of this, they refused to tell her what the basis of the plagiarism was," he said.