Hall of Fame Induction & Reception a success

The Gateway Community College Foundation hosted its 12th Annual Hall of Fame Induction & Reception on Nov. 19. Final totals for the fundraising event are still being calculated, but organizers say the event was a rousing success that will aid a variety of foundation scholarship funds.

The event honored six individuals for their exceptional contributions to the college community:

- **Corporate Honorees** Diane L. Wishnafski, executive vice president, NewAlliance Bank, and Scott D. Flora, president of the surgical devices unit of Covidien;

- **Community Honorees** Benedict W. Cozzi, business manager and president of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 478, and John E. Padilla with the Annie E. Casey Foundation; and,

- **Distinguished Alumni Honorees** Christopher Bartlett, owner of Skater’s Landing, and Sam Osei, a nurse with Gaylord Hospital.

In photo, back row, left to right: Wishnafski, Cozzi and Bartlett. In front row, left to right: Osei, Padilla, Kate Shanley, chair of the foundation, GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick, and Flora.

Keith Kountz, anchor for News Channel 8, was master of ceremonies. Sponsors included: NewAlliance Bank, Covidien, the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 487, Xerox, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, AT&T, the New Haven Clinical Research Unit of Pfizer and Yale-New Haven Hospital.

The event included a silent auction with more than 40 packages to bid on. Packages featured a variety of items, including restaurant and hotel gift certificates, UConn men’s and women’s basketball tickets, a 46-inch flat-screen TV and a three-night stay in Antigua with airline tickets.
NAACP names GCC President Dr. Kendrick one of the ‘100 Most Influential Blacks in Connecticut’

GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick was honored Nov. 6 as one of the 100 Most Influential Blacks in Connecticut by the Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches.

The organization honored the award recipients at its annual convention at the MGM Grand at Foxwoods in Ledyard, Conn., an event also celebrated its 100th birthday. The awards honored individuals whose efforts transcend their profession or position and command national or statewide influence that affects African Americans.

Others who were honored at the event included other civil servants like the state treasurer, the commissioner of the state Department of Labor and the Hartford police chief, leaders in the business community including the president and chief operating officer at Yankee Gas and the chairman and CEO of Aetna Inc., as well as famous athletes and celebrities like Diana Ross and Robin Roberts, co-anchor of Good Morning America. To see the entire list of honorees, click here.

Raised in Jackson, Tenn., Kendrick was one of three students in 1967 to integrate Union University, where she later earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration. Kendrick was the first African-American woman to hold the position of associate dean and dean of the School of Business at Milwaukee Area Technical College. She went on to become the highest-ranking African-American woman in Wisconsin’s system of higher education as executive vice president of Milwaukee Area Technical College. A New Haven resident, Kendrick has served as GCC president since 1999. In that time, enrollment has leaped from fewer than 3,000 students to more than 6,000 and work has begun on a new $182.7 million consolidated campus in downtown New Haven that will be Connecticut’s first public building gold-certified in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

Blumenthal attracts standing-room-only crowd

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal visited GCC’s Long Wharf campus on Nov. 10 to discuss health care, veteran affairs and other legislative issues with a standing-room-only crowd of more than 150 people.

During his talk, Blumenthal called for universal health care. He chastised as dysfunctional the health-care system and insurance companies for not doing more to help those in need. He also said the United States “has broken promises to veterans all too often.”

First elected in 1990, Blumenthal is serving an unprecedented fifth term as the state attorney general. His aggressive law enforcement for consumer protection, environmental stewardship, labor rights and personal privacy has helped reshape the role of state attorneys general nationwide. Among other things, his advocacy has forced reforms in the health insurance industry to assure critical health care coverage and lower pharmaceutical drug prices.

The event was hosted by The Women’s Center at GCC. It featured performances by four members of Nutmeg Symphony Orchestra with singer Max Ivanov and the Adam’s Middle School choir from Guilford.
technological, and cultural needs of a diverse population.

New campus update: Pre-construction work, campus-wide celebration take place in November

Dimeo Construction Co., the construction manager for GCC’s new campus downtown, began a variety of pre-construction projects in November while awaiting the final construction contract to be approved.

That work involved putting up jersey barriers on George Street, Crown Street and Church Street and putting seismographs in nearby the Temple Medical building that will monitor vibrations related to pile driving and other work on the site. Also a construction fence has been placed around both sites.

“Once the final contract is in place, which we expect to happen any day now, construction will begin in earnest,” said Lou D’Antonio, dean of administration. D’Antonio and GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick meet weekly with representatives from Dimeo, the construction administrator Gillbane Inc., the architect Perkins + Will, the state Department of Public Works and the facilities director for the Chancellor’s Office.

Once the contract is signed, the first order of business will be the demolition and reconstruction of the service tunnel, which is part of a grid that serves the Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale and businesses along Church Street. It is also where the new campus’ loading dock will be located. Then over the course of the winter, Dimeo will be pouring the foundation slabs and walls. Plans call for structural steel to begin to be erected in the spring.

D’Antonio said he hopes to have Dimeo make a “virtual reality” presentation about how the new campus will be constructed at the college’s next Professional Day on Jan. 20. Plans are also in the works to install a webcam near the construction site to be a live record of the project’s progress.

The $182.7 million, four-story campus is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2012 school year. It will be located on Church Street at the sites of the former Macy’s and Malley’s department stores. The project will encompass 360,000 square feet and will include a 600-car parking garage.

Funding for the campus was approved by the state Bonding Commission on Oct. 30. On Nov. 3, the college held a campus-wide celebration for that approval in the Long Wharf cafeteria (see photo with, left to right, GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick and Evelyn Gard, director of Public Relations and Marketing at GCC). The date for an official groundbreaking ceremony has yet to be scheduled.
GCC celebrates Global Entrepreneurship Week 2009

GCC celebrated Global Entrepreneurship Week 2009 on Nov. 19 at its Long Wharf campus with CT-YES (Connecticut Youth Entrepreneur Seminar), which included a series of workshops and panel discussions with business leaders.

More than 80 people attended, including GCC students and students from Hillhouse, Sound, Metropolitan, Wilbur Cross and Foran high schools who expressed interest in becoming entrepreneurs and their entrepreneurship teachers. GCC was one of thousands of groups across the world that organized events to commemorate the week.

The kick-off speaker was Andrew Morrison, president of Small Business Camp and host of "The 16-Week Challenge" TV show. The keynote speaker was GCC graduate Chris Bartlett, owner of Skater’s Landing and Global Entertainment Media. Bartlett was inducted earlier this month into the GCC Foundation Hall of Fame and is also the SBA 2009 Small Business Person of the Year.

Workshops were offered in business planning, marketing and success skills by Morrison, Dennis Brown, vice president, business counseling at the Connecticut Community Investment Corp. and Dr. Pat Sanders, chairman of SCORE Counselors to America’s Small Businesses.

A highlight of the event was a panel of young entrepreneurs who are also students at GCC and Yale University, sharing their stories of challenges and success. Panelists included GCC students Matt Hyatt, owner of Precision Remodeling & Construction, Margaret Ruggiero of Paradise Hills Vineyard & Winery in Wallingford, Francesca Simeone of Romeo and Ceasers Gourmet in New Haven and Yale student Andrew Rubin of Blue State Coffee in New Haven. (See photo, left to right: Rubin, Simeone, Ruggiero and Hyatt.)

The college also held a panel discussion about public policy and legal issues that was open to the public and attended by a Business Law class taught by Professor John Scott and an Introduction to Business class taught by Adjunct Professor Stan Kapinos. Attorney Jane Griffin and East Haven Mayor April Capone Almon were the panelists for the event, which was hosted by Tim Dixon, a team leader from GCC’s Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) group.

The public policy and legal issues panel discussion was sponsored by SIFE and the GCC Business Department. The CT-YES event was sponsored by SIFE in collaboration with its Entrepreneurial Studies Program, the Business Department, the GCC Small Business Center and SCORE.
New Exercise Science and Wellness Degree approved

This spring GCC will begin offering a new Exercise Science and Wellness Associate Degree for students interested in pursuing a variety of health and fitness career options.

The program, which will be part of GCC’s Allied Health Division, was approved last month by the state Department of Higher Education.

It will provide students with the classroom knowledge and hands-on experience to build an all-encompassing approach to health and wellness. It will utilize a three-pronged approach incorporating exercise science, nutrition and business, putting students in the best possible position to successfully pursue career options after graduation.

Graduates may enter the work force directly, choosing from careers that include personal training, group exercise leaders, health club sales or management professionals, community health leaders and corporate wellness programs. Others may continue their education for careers in exercise science, physical therapy, strength and conditioning, or athletic training.

“With the current spotlight on the obesity epidemic and related diseases, along with America’s aging population, the need for fitness specialists is at an all-time high,” said Todd Degree, program director. “This program will prepare students for employment in the health and fitness industry and provides a basis for professional advancement.”

Plans are in the works with four-year universities that have similar programs to formalize a seamless transfer process that would allow GCC students who graduate with the associate degree to complete a bachelor’s degree in two more years. For more information, contact Todd Degree at (203) 285-2446 or tdegree@gwcc.commnet.edu.

GCC observes Veterans Day 2009 with events

GCC observed Veterans Day on Nov. 11 with a variety of events, including a ceremony at the Long Wharf campus that featured a minute of silence at 11:11 a.m. and an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to sign cards to send to local reservists serving in Iraq.

“Our goal was to honor all veterans that are part of the Gateway community, including students, staff and faculty,” said Robert A. Miles, NCC, LPC, director of GCC’s Career Services and VA Benefits. “In addition to observing the minute of silence in our official Veterans Day ceremony, we encouraged faculty to pause for that minute during classes and to recognize veterans all day in their classes.”

During the ceremony, the names of all Connecticut residents who have died in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were shared. In addition, an armored Humvee was on display in the parking lot (see photo with student veterans, left to right, Bob Cromer and Dave Delancey) and photos, military gear and uniforms and other personal items from Gateway veterans were on display in Room 160 beginning at 10 a.m. The Veterans' Services Office asks that anyone who took a card to sign for the local reservists, but forgot to bring it back to please return it immediately to Room 107 on the Long Wharf campus.

The day’s events were sponsored by the GCC Veterans Club and its Veterans Benefits Office. “Our special thanks go out to Rick Palinko, educational assistant in my office, Jim Brakewood, president of the Gateway Veterans Club and Rich Rees, the Veterans Club advisor, for organizing the day’s events,” Miles said.
GCC sponsors KC 101.3 Stuff-A-Bus food drive

GCC sponsored the 19th annual KC 101.3 Stuff-A-Bus food drive on Nov. 20-21 to benefit the Connecticut Food Bank.

GCC students, faculty and staff also were encouraged to participate in the event, which aimed to fill one or more buses with donated food items.

The event was held in the Hamden Plaza, 2100, Dixwell Ave., Hamden from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 20, and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday Nov. 21.

Preventing school violence discussed in seminar

“Preventing the Unimaginable,” a seminar on preventing school violence, was held on GCC’s Long Wharf campus on Nov. 12.

It was part of an ongoing effort by GCC to highlight the prevention of violence on campus and the first in a new series of events on the topic.

The seminar was presented by Jo Ann Freiberg, Ph.D., a consultant for the state Department of Education who specializes in school climate, bullying and character education. It was sponsored by college’s Counseling Department and the CORE Committee, GCC’s Student Assistance Program.

Freiberg discussed the importance of creating a climate of respect on campus and a connection to the campus community. She said school connectedness is a central remedy to school violence and to supporting positive student outcomes with regard to academics, health and behavior. The workshop also provided and overview of the research surrounding the range of school violence and illustrated the implications of that violence.

Israel/Palestine event draws large audience

On Nov. 11, GCC hosted “Israel/Palestine: Impacts of Conflict on Mental Health, Child Health and Prospects for Peace,” a seminar conducted by the president of a Florida non-profit organization that promotes peace and religious tolerance worldwide.

The free event on the Long Wharf campus drew more than 50 people. The speaker, Dr. Andrea Blanch, is president of the Center for Religious Tolerance in Sarasota, Fla. The center supports local and global peacemakers and works to build a connection between peacemaking efforts domestically and abroad.

Blanch has worked for more than 30 years as an agent of social change. A former state mental health commissioner, she works locally and internationally to promote women in leadership roles and to help groups and organizations resolve conflict and create conditions for sustainable peace. She is a 2009 Women Living Religion Fellow in the Yale University program on Women, Religion, and Globalization.
GCC’s Affirmative Action Plan is approved

The state Commission of Human Rights and Opportunities approved GCC’s Affirmative Action Plan at its Aug. 12 meeting.

A copy of the plan is available in the libraries at both the Long Wharf and North Haven campuses. Those with comments or suggestions about the plan can contact Vincent Tong, GCC’s affirmative action officer, at vtong@gwcc.commnet.edu.

Friendly Reminders

Animals on campus policy

GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick reminds students, faculty and staff that, as per college and state policy, animals other than service dogs for the disabled are not allowed on campus for the safety of both the animals and college community. Also, for the health of your pets, please be reminded not to bring them to campus and leave them in your car.

Inclement weather delays and cancellations

With winter weather on the horizon, GCC reminds the college community that, in the event of inclement weather, students, faculty and staff will be notified about the delay or cancellation of classes in a variety of ways.

Announcements will be made on the following radio and TV stations: WELI, WKCI, WKSS, WPLR, STAR, WICC, WEBE, WTIC/AM and FM, WRCH, WZMX, Channel 3, Channel 8, Channel 30 and Channel 61. An announcement also will be placed on the faculty/staff weather hotline at (203) 285-2222.

Should a delayed opening be announced, all college faculty and staff will be expected to report to work at the designated time to resume scheduled classes or office assignments.

Faculty & Staff Highlights

Humanities chairman featured in radio documentary

GCC Humanities Professor Chester Schnepf has been featured as a commentator in, “Poe: A Celebration,” an original radio documentary that pays tribute to the bicentennial this year of the birth of legendary American author Edgar Allan Poe.

The documentary was broadcast in October on WFDU-FM, the radio station for Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison, N.J. It was written and narrated by James Rana, a Teaneck, N.J. resident and WFDU host. In addition to Schnepf, who is also chairman of GCC’s Humanities Department, special commentary for the documentary was provided by Joy Blakeslee, a tour guide at the Poe Cottage in the Bronx, New York theater director Dan Bianchi, artistic director of Radiotheatre, and Howard Rose, proprietor of Briar Rose Books in Teaneck.

Schnepf was a student of the late Trinity College Professor Richard Benton, a noted Poe scholar. He also published a book titled, “The Protagonist’s Dilemma In Poe and Lefanu,” which explores the Gothic tradition and the emergence of the existential anti-hero in the supernatural realm.
Cocktail Competition raises funds for scholarship

A bartender from the New Haven restaurant Bespoke won the first annual Elm City Cocktail Competition Nov. 8, an event that GCC Professor Stephen Fries helped to organize and helped raise money for a Hospitality Management scholarship through the Gateway Community College Foundation.

Nine bartenders from New Haven’s top restaurants competed for the title and bragging rights, but Bespoke bartender Steve Bayusik won over the judges with his creation, which he named "The Intermezzo." Leviena Vasquez, bartender at Bar 19 at the Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale, was honored with a People's Choice Award for her "Rocher® Inspired Hot Chocolate."

The seven other contestants were: 116 Crown owner and bartender John Ginnetti, Bar bartender Matt Lender, Bentara bartender Nicolai Hebert, Dolci bartender Amanda Platt, Heirloom bartender Sean D'Addio, Ibiza bartender Daniel González and Leon's bartender Shawn Ruggerio.

Celebrity judges included: Pat Ferrucci, the New Haven Register's entertainment editor; Desiree Fontaine, co-host of "CT Style" on WTNH-8; T.J. Gallagher of The Wine Thief; and Bruce Weinstein and Mark Scarbrough, authors of 23 cookbooks, including "The Ultimate Cocktail."

Mike Lapitino of WPLR emceed the event, which was sponsored by GCC, the Greater New Haven Convention & Visitors Bureau, Global Entertainment and Media and the Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale, where it was held.

The winning recipes are posted on Fries’ web site. Click here to read them.

Bespoke also won the second annual Elm City Iron Chef competition in April. Fries, coordinator of GCC’s Hospitality Management program and a New Haven Register columnist, also helped to organize that event.

GCC’s Thanksgiving Food Drive helps feed 1,700

GCC’s Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit the Christian Community Action Food Bank in New Haven helped the food bank give turkeys and food bags to more than 1,700 hungry families, senior citizens and people with disabilities, an increase from the 1,565 individuals the organization helped in 2008.

The college collected donations between Oct. 28 and Nov. 19 on both the Long Wharf and North Haven campuses. It is sponsored by the CORE Committee, GCC’s Student Assistance Program.

GCC’s Director of Admissions Kim Shea, who coordinated the event with Assistant Professor of Psychology Teresa DeMars, said the event collected more than was expected. “People were very generous,” Shea said. “A lot of individuals donated non-perishable food items, but we also received many monetary donations. We want to sincerely thank everyone who participated for helping make sure that no one in the New Haven area went hungry this Thanksgiving.”

GCC has participated for years in the Christian Community Action Food Bank’s Thanksgiving and spring food drives. Details about the 2010 spring food drive will be announced shortly before it begins.
Student Highlights

43 students inducted into Phi Theta Kappa chapter

Forty-three academically outstanding students were inducted into GCC’s Alpha Xi Theta chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society in a ceremony held Nov. 20 at GCC’s North Haven campus.

The mission of the Phi Theta Kappa is to recognize and encourage the academic success of students attending two-year colleges. Members have the opportunity to participate in honors and leadership programs, community service and fellowship programming. Students who are inducted have completed 12 hours of course work while achieving a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.


Calendar Highlights

College Goal Sunday slated for Jan. 31

GCC will once again be a host site for College Goal Sunday, a statewide college planning event for would-be students and their parents, on Sunday, Jan. 31 at its Long Wharf campus.

Students and their parents can visit with financial aid counselors and college staff from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and receive one-on-one, expert advice about financial aid and planning for college. The snow date is Feb. 14. GCC is one of 13 campuses across Connecticut hosting the event. In a single afternoon, participants can become familiar with college entrance requirements, learn about planning for college, and obtain on-site assistance in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA.

“Many students who are the first in their family to attend college find the process of applying for financial aid complicated and cumbersome,” said Associate Director of Financial Aid Steven J. McDowell. “Participating in College Goal Sunday not only gives students and their families an opportunity to complete the FAFSA with the help of industry professionals, but also gives them a chance to ask questions in a comfortable and relaxed setting.”

Participants are asked to register for the event at www.collegegoalsundayct.org. For more information about GCC’s event, contact McDowell at smcdowell@gwcc.commnet.edu or (203) 285-2129 or call toll-free at 1-888-512-3382. Those interested in volunteering for the event are also encouraged to register on the web site. College Goal Sunday is funded and sponsored by the Lumina Foundation for Education, the Connecticut Association of Professional Financial Aid Administrators, the Connecticut Association of Educational Opportunity Programs and the YMCA.
GCC hosts 2nd free classical guitar concert Dec. 9

GCC is hosting its second free classical guitar concert in as many months on Dec. 9 with Australian-born classical guitarist Rupert Boyd.

The event, which is sponsored by GCC’s Humanities Department, begins at 7 p.m. in room 160 at GCC’s Long Wharf campus. On Oct. 28, GCC hosted classical, Yale-trained guitarist Yuri Liberzon for an evening of Baroque, Romantic and Russian guitar music.

The Dec. 9 concert will feature a variety of Spanish and Baroque music, including Valses Poeticos by Enrique Granados, El Noi de la Mare by Miguel Llobet and Bach’s Suite in A minor, BWV 997. Boyd will also perform new music by young Australian composers.

One of the most talented guitarists of his generation, Boyd has performed throughout the United States, Spain, Italy, France and Australia, and among numerous prizes is the recipient of the Andrés Segovia Award from the Manhattan School of Music.

A New York City resident, he holds a bachelor of music with first class honors from the Australian National University School of Music, a master of music degree from the Manhattan School of Music and an artist diploma degree from the Yale University School of Music where he was taught by Ben Verdery, coordinator of the guitar program.

For more information, contact Victoria Morse at (203) 285-2160 or vmorse@gwcc.commnet.edu.

Donations still needed for ‘Holiday Dinner for the Less Fortunate’ at Long Wharf campus on Dec. 18

Donations are still needed for the annual GCC Holiday Dinner for the Less Fortunate, which will be held at the Long Wharf campus on Friday, Dec. 18.

The event brings holiday cheer and much needed winter wear and personal care items to more than 500 men, women and children who are living in shelters across New Haven County. Buses pick up the individuals at the shelters and bring them to campus where the children receive wrapped toys, visits with Santa and everyone enjoys a full holiday buffet, a holiday party and leaves with a coat, hat, scarf and gloves, as well as a bag full of personal care items.

The following drives still need donations:

- **Sponsor a child or family** - Individuals interested in sponsoring a child can do so for a $10 donation, or give $50 to sponsor an entire family. Those who sponsor a child or family will be recognized on the “Santa’s Helpers’ Stocking” in the foyer of each campus. Sponsorship donations should be delivered to Janet Klinck in Long Wharf Room 138 or Sandi Gard in the North Haven Lobby. Checks should be made out to “GCC Foundation” with “Holiday Dinner” in the memo line;

- **Winter Wear Drive** - Organizers are collecting winter wear in good condition through mid-December, including coats, hats, scarves, and gloves for men, women and children. Donation boxes have been set up in libraries on both
• **Toys for Tots** – Bring in new, unwrapped toys for the Toys for Tots toy drive, which has collection boxes in Long Wharf Room 107 and North Haven Room 101. Two hundred of the toys collected will be donated to give out to children who attend the dinner;

• **Personal Care Items Drive** – Personal care items are being collected at Long Wharf at the Front Entrance and in Room 229, and in the lobby of the North Haven campus. Organizers hope to collect 400 combs, 400 bottles of shampoo, 100 deodorants, 250 hair brushes and 250 bottles of lotion. Participants are also encouraged to bring in sample size cosmetics to donate.

**President’s Holiday Gathering for faculty, staff slated**

GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick invites all GCC faculty and staff to join her for a Holiday Gathering on Thursday, Dec. 10 on the Long Wharf campus.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in room 213. Refreshments, including beverages, holiday treats and hors d'oeuvres, will be served.