GCC celebrates new campus groundbreaking

The state of Connecticut and GCC held a groundbreaking ceremony Jan. 26 for GCC’s new $198 million campus in downtown New Haven, the largest construction project the state has ever undertaken and its first public building designed to be gold-certified in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

Work began on the site in December and is slated to be completed in 2012. At its peak, it is estimated that up to 350 workers will be working on the project, which is being built on 3.7 acres that formerly were home to a Macy’s and Edw. Malley Co. department store at 2-20 Church Street.

The campus will include 90 general purpose classrooms, 22 computer labs, 10 meeting spaces, a library, cafeteria, bookstore, small business center, culinary arts center, health center, early learning center, administrative offices and a variety of other features.

More than 200 people attended the groundbreaking ceremony, which was held adjacent to the construction site. In addition to Gov. M. Jodi Rell, speakers included Chancellor of Connecticut Community Colleges Marc Herzog, Commissioner of the state Department of Public Works Raeanne Curtis and GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick. In attendance were many other state and local dignitaries, including state Comptroller Nancy Wyman, members of the community college system’s board of trustees and presidents of other state community colleges.

“The last two years have been economically challenging, to say the least,” Rell said. “The dreams and plans of many families, many businesses — and yes, many state and local governments, no matter how worthwhile — have had to be put on hold. Fortunately this project is not one of them, and for many good reasons.”

One of those reasons is that during difficult economic times, community colleges have been “real agents of change,” she said. “They became an oasis for thousands of adults looking for new careers and direction,” she said. “The emphasis is — as it should be — on ‘community.’ Those looking to advance in life are taking advantage of quality, affordable education right at their doorstep. The investment we make today is our investment in those people and will pay untold dividends in the future. Students will have state-of-the-art learning environment. Their skills and education will bolster our work force, one which is already one of the most productive in the nation. The entire Gateway community will add to the vibrancy of downtown New Haven.”
Kendrick thanked all those in attendance who played a role in helping the project stay on course.

“Thank you all for making this dream of building a new comprehensive community college in New Haven a reality,” Kendrick said. “The collaboration that has been formed among state government, city government, education and business is stupendous. The governor has shown extraordinary commitment to higher education and as a result of that commitment, all 12 of our community colleges have benefited. Thank you, Gov. Rell, thank you for your investment in our most valuable human capital, our community of learners.”

Herzog praised the “vision” that led to this project. “Everyone here shares a vision, a vision for the future, a vision for New Haven, a vision that recognizes that we are living in a knowledge economy, that we in Connecticut are going to participate fully in a knowledge economy, that education and training past high school is now a requirement,” Herzog said. “The opportunities afforded by Connecticut’s community colleges provide a pathway to success not only for our students, but for the state as well.”

### Agreement with Temple Street Garage for 700 spaces

At the groundbreaking for the new downtown campus, Commissioner of the state Department of Public Works Raeanne Curtis announced that that state recently completed an agreement with the New Haven Parking Authority to lease 700 spaces in the Temple Street Garage for use by the college.

The Temple Street Garage is located adjacent to the site of the new four-story, 358,000-square-foot campus, which itself includes a 600-car parking garage in the north building.

GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick said details about the downtown parking arrangements, including the question of how spots will be distributed among students, faculty and staff, are still being worked out and will be announced as soon as they are available.

### Center for Working Students participants receive ‘netbook’ computers for academic excellence

Thanks to a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 10 students participating with GCC’s Center for Working Students (CWS) received “netbook” computers last month for their academic excellence.

In order to receive a computer, each student earned at least a 3.0 grade point average. The recipients were: Alexis M. Cenotti, Andrew L. Cenotti, Darlene Joseph, Milena M. Liquori, Jose A. Miranda, Eldena Nuhbegovic, Rosemarie Reed, Martin Rosario, Corey E. Shannon, and Rebecca M. Scobie.
Launched last year, the CWS provides GCC students with a comprehensive set of services and support designed to help them complete a college degree, earn more money, and ultimately provide better futures for their families and children. It acts as a concierge resource, connecting students to academic support services, career planning services, income and work support services, and financial literacy services. The center is funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation in collaboration with Workforce Alliance in New Haven.

In the photo, from left to right in the front row are: Dean of Students Dr. Wilson Luna, CWS Coordinator Dr. James Boger, students Rebecca M. Scobie, Alexis Cenotti and Eldina Nuhbegovic, and Roslyn Williams with the Annie E. Casey Foundation. From left to right in the back row are: students Corey Shannon, Andrew Cenotti, Jose Miranda and Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Mark Kosinski.

**GCC Foundation offers 140 scholarships worth $84,000; Brochure will be available Feb. 12**

The Gateway Community College Foundation has 140 scholarships available with a total value of $84,436 — and a brochure explaining the scholarships will be available on campus beginning Feb. 12.

In addition to being available in the Foundation Office, room 130 on the Long Wharf campus, the brochure will also be available in the cafeterias, libraries, College Life Office, Financial Aid Office, Counseling Office, Admissions Office, Student Lounge and the Records Office at the North Haven campus.

**105 students attend ‘College Goal Sunday’ at GCC**

One hundred and five students and their families attended College Goal Sunday, a college planning event for would-be students and their parents, at GCC on Jan. 31.

Participants visited with 15 volunteers, including financial aid counselors and college staff, to receive one-on-one, expert advice about financial aid and planning for college.

GCC was one of 13 campuses across Connecticut hosting the event that day. 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.

All students who participated were put into a drawing, which will be held at a later date, for a $200 scholarship to be put toward college in the fall.
GCC men’s basketball heads to regional tournament

GCC’s men’s basketball team, which is ranked first in its division and fifth in the nation, will head to the NJCAA Region XXI Championships on Friday, March 5, at Springfield Technical Community College in Springfield, Mass.

GCC will be sending a fan bus for any students, faculty and staff who wish to go support our team. If they win their Friday game and play again Saturday, March 6, plans call for sending another bus on Saturday. For more information, contact the Office of College Life.

Special congratulations go out to Chazz McCarter, D’Arie Allick, Kwamaine McCarter and Jamar Benton, who have been consistently ranked among the nation’s top players throughout the whole season. Go Lions!

140 attend nursing’s ‘Family First Seminar’

More than 140 people participated in the GCC's nursing program’s third annual “Family First Seminar” in December.

The event, organized by nursing program counselor/advisor Barbara Rudolph, is designed to help lay the groundwork for student success by providing support to incoming nursing students and their families. It encourages both new and existing students to partner with one another and get to know each other’s families.

It included breaking out into small groups with Rudolph, Nursing Division Director Sheila Solernou, faculty and students facilitating a variety of sessions, such as success strategies for families, creative play sessions for the children, and small group Q&A sessions with current students. At the end of orientation, incoming students hosted a meal that was served by volunteers from the nursing program. Plans call for it to be an ongoing program each semester.

“It was a huge success,” Rudolph said. “Involving support systems throughout the nursing program helps our students focus on studying and accomplishing their dreams. The feedback from both students and their families was outstanding.”

Dr. Kendrick to co-chair New Haven Scrabble event; GCC hopes to send four teams to April 21 event

GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick will co-chair the Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven’s 2010 New Haven Scrabble Challenge, and the college is already beginning to assemble teams for the Wednesday, April 21 event.

Last year, 53 teams competed in the event, which is held at the Knights of Columbus in New Haven and raised $25,000 to support literacy programs in the greater New Haven community.
The college is a long-time sponsor and participant in the annual event and Kendrick also has long-time ties to Literacy Volunteers. In 2003 and 2007, she was a recipient of the organization’s Community Partnership Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions that further the cause of literacy in greater New Haven.

GCC is hoping to assemble four teams for this event, which will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. If you would like to be on a GCC team, please contact Ginny Woolums (203) 285-2162 or vwoolums@gwcc.commnet.edu.

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**Free income tax prep for students through April 10**

On Saturdays from now through April 10, GCC students will be offered free, personal income tax preparation and electronic filing assistance from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Long Wharf campus cafeteria.

The program is being offered for the first time ever thanks to a partnership that includes GCC, the IRS Stakeholder Relationship Division’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program and the New Life Corporation of New Haven.

Due to program guidelines, the service is available to students only; it is not open to faculty or staff. (See photo of January event taken by photographer Giuseppe Turco.)

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**Friendly Reminder**

**Long Wharf Library open later on Fridays**

Due to the high number of Friday afternoon and evening classes, particularly English 200 classes which require substantial research activities, the Long Wharf will now be open from 7:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Fridays, rather than closing at 4 p.m.

Monday through Thursday hours will remain the same, 7:45 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This change applies only to the Long Wharf Library.

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**Faculty & Staff Highlights**

**Faculty, staff turn out for Professional Day Jan. 20**

More than 160 members of GCC’s faculty and staff participated in the Spring
Semester Professional Day Jan. 20 in the auditorium of the North Haven campus.

Professional Day is held twice a year just prior to the start of the spring and fall semesters with the twin purposes of professional development and building and fostering a unified focus on achieving student success.

Gateway President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick welcomed the audience and began by recognizing 39 employees with full-time service awards ranging from 10 to 25 years of service.

Other topics covered included: an update of GCC’s student enrollment by Dean of Students Dr. Wilson Luna; a presentation on progress of our new downtown campus by a representative from Dimeo Construction; and an update of the College’s Strategic Planning initiative by Larry Salay and Anne Williams.

The day’s activities continued with Continuous Quality Program discussion panels and focus groups in support of our mid-point report to the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accrediting organization. The day ended with individual division and department planning meetings.

Welcome to new faculty and staff

At GCC Professional Day on Jan. 20, Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Mark Kosinski introduced two new Gateway employees.

Susan Spencer was hired Jan. 20 as a temporary lecturer for the Math Department. And Marianne Lippard was hired Jan. 15 part-time clerk typist in Allied Health.

Please join us in welcoming them to the Gateway Community.

Chenard’s short story to be published in journal

Assistant CAS and Humanities Professor Susan Chenard has had her short story, “Sword Dancing,” a story about making choices, accepted for publication in the spring issue of “Making Connections: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Cultural Diversity.”

Student Highlights

2 blood drives in March; March 1 event will also have information on becoming a bone marrow donor

There will be two blood drives held on campus in March and one of the events will also include an opportunity to learn more about becoming a bone marrow donor.

The first blood drive, hosted by the GCC Student Nurses’ Association in conjunction with the American Red Cross, will be held Monday, March 1, in the front lobby of the North Haven campus. Sign-up sheets — with the available times to donate — will be posted within the next week on the SNA bulletin board across the hall from room 221 on the North Haven campus. Interested blood donors may also sign up by e-mailing the SNA at gw-sna@gwcc.commnet.edu.

There will also be a representative on hand March 1 from the National Bone Marrow Registry. The representative will not be taking blood that day, but instead will be there to educate people about bone marrow donation and recruit potential bone marrow donors.

The SNA decided to add the bone marrow donor portion of the event after hearing about Jennifer Jones Austin (photo), the sister of Elsa Jones, an educational consultant in GCC’s Early Learning Center. Austin is a wife and mother of two children, ages 7 and 12, who is suffering from leukemia and is in an immediate need of a bone marrow transplant. Without a bone marrow transplant, doctors have indicated that her chances of survival are slim. A bone marrow transplant requires a 100 percent compatible match, but none of her siblings are a match, so she is hoping to find one through the Be The Match Marrow Registry. To learn more about Austin, visit www.savejenaustin.com.

The second blood drive will be hosted by Phi Theta Kappa on Tuesday, March 9, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Room 160 on the Long Wharf campus. A bake sale will be held then as well.

GCC hospitality student heads up Haiti fundraiser

Ron Howard, Jr., a GCC hospitality management student, is heading up a fundraiser for Haiti Relief at the Woodbridge Country Club on Sunday, February 21.

The event begins with cocktail hour and hors d’oeuvres from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and dinner, with a pasta station, carving station, roasted potatoes and green beans, will be from 7:45 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The club is located at 50 Woodfield Road, Woodbridge. Tickets are $25 per person and will benefit the American Red Cross Haiti Relief program. For tickets or more information, contact Howard at (203) 231-1670 or ronnstacy777@yahoo.com.
GCC’s Black Student Association holds MLK event

GCC’s Black Student Association hosted a panel discussion, “How Far We Have Come to Realizing the Dream,” on Jan. 26 at the Long Wharf campus in celebration of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Panelists included: Assistant Professor at Yale University Khalilah Brown-Dean, Ph.D.; Kermit Carolina, MS, assistant principal and head basketball Coach at James Hillhouse High School in New Haven; GCC faculty member and NAACP executive committee member Clifton Gaves, MS; and GCC student Matthew Smith.

The panelists spoke about their own achievements and what King’s legacy means to them. They also spoke to students about taking advantage of the opportunities created by King, including being active in their communities.

Step Forward students volunteer at CT Food Bank

Five students and two staff members from GCC’s Step Forward program volunteered Jan. 22 to help label donations of frozen meat at the Connecticut Food Bank warehouse in East Haven.

Step Forward is a non-credit transition program for young adults with learning challenges and barriers to employment and education. It is designed to prepare these students for the workforce and life after high school, which may include community college and other vocational training. The curriculum includes character education and current events.

“Students are required to identify a problem or issue in their community and do something to help remedy the problem,” said program director Jaime French. “The students opted to help the food bank help feed the hungry.”

The students who volunteered were Jackie Anderson, Michael Bregman, Kane Taber, Sequan Clemons and Sarah Campbell. French and her assistant, Jenn Abbott, joined them. In photo, left to right are: Abbott, Campbell, Anderson, Taber, Bregman and Clemons.

“The food bank was so pleased with our work, they’ve invited us back and we hope to visit again in February,” French said.

Calendar Highlights

Brass quintet to play instrument fundraiser Feb. 11

GCC’s Early Learning Center (ELC) is hosting a fundraising concert with the Atticus Brass Quintet on Thursday, Feb. 11.
The goal of the event, which will be held from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. in Room 160 at the Long Wharf campus, is to raise enough money to purchase a brass instrument for the John C. Daniels Elementary School Band. Donations will be gratefully accepted at the door or you may opt to send checks or money orders to Marge Weiner, Gateway Community College Early Learning Center, 60 Sargent Drive, New Haven, 06511. Please make them out to “John C. Daniels School” and write “musical instrument” in the memo line.

Founded in 2008 by a talented group of Yale School of Music students hailing from all over America and Europe, Atticus Brass is one of New Haven’s premiere brass ensembles. Adhering to only the highest standards of musical excellence, they perform a variety of works ranging from renaissance madrigals to newly commissioned works by up and coming composers.

Third in International Guitar Series to be held Feb. 10

GCC will host the third concert in its 2009-10 International Guitar Series on Feb. 10 with Seattle native Daniel Corr.

The event, which is sponsored by GCC’s Humanities Department, begins at 7 p.m. in room 160 at GCC’s Long Wharf campus. It will include solo guitar music ranging from the Baroque keyboard works of Bach and Buxtehude to 19th century salon music of Giuliani, Regondi and Tarrega and the jazz stylings of Fred Hand.

Hailed by the Hartford Courant as “a guitarist for music lovers to catch” and praised by the Tacoma News Tribune for “soaring, dramatic counterpoint,” Corr has appeared as concerto soloist and recorded with the Auburn Symphony, the American Classical Orchestra, and the Seattle Creative Orchestral. A graduate of the Yale School of Music, he was the first place winner of the 2002 Northwest Guitar Competition for classical guitar, is an adjunct professor of music at GCC and artist director of the guitar series itself.

For more information about the concert, contact Victoria Morse at (203) 285-2160 or vmorse@gwcc.commnet.edu. For more information about Corr, visit www.DanielCorr.com.