A New Year’s Message from President Kendrick

2011 has been a remarkable year for Gateway. We were faced with many unforeseen challenges, including a year of unprecedented budget restrictions, unusual weather patterns and a reorganization of higher education; we also saw remarkable progress on many fronts and, as a result of these events, we are a stronger, more resilient college.

The year started with the official “Topping Out” celebration at our new campus in downtown New Haven. The celebration marked a turning point, with the official placement of the last steel beam on the stop of the building’s frame. By late summer, the exterior began to take shape and I am pleased to report that this project is currently on time and within budget. We are planning on a grand re-opening this fall, and the college community has been hard at work preparing for the transition. Excitement is building as we get closer to moving day!

While budgetary limitations continue to concern all of us, the GCC Foundation has been hard at work raising funds to support the college and the new campus. The “Your College. Your Future” building campaign was launched in October with the announcement of two major gifts from First Niagara Bank and Yale-New Haven Hospital, totaling $1 million. As I write this, the campaign is about one-third of the way to its $6 million goal. This is in addition to record fundraising for student scholarships. We are so grateful to those who are investing in the college and future of our region through the foundation’s very important work.

The faculty and staff spearheaded several innovative initiatives in 2011, including: the New Student Advising and Registration (NSAR) program that streamlines the orientation process; the Male Symposium initiative to encourage retention and graduation; a new solar lab in our Center for a Sustainable Future; Veterans’ Resource Fairs; and the expansion of our Middle College initiative with the New Haven Public Schools in partnership with the Wells Fargo Foundation and the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven. Also, our Technical and Business areas were rated No. 1 in the New Haven Advocate’s Best of Readers’ Poll.

Our students continued to shine during a very busy year. GCC’s Phil Theta Kappa Honor Society inducted 191 students, 5 percent more than last year, and the new Student Community Outreach Program initiated by College Life organized participation with Habitat for Humanity. Several of our student clubs raised funds for charity, participated in national events and hosted discussions and presentations and concerts that were open to the public.

Guided by our five-year Strategic Plan: 2010-2015, we continue to plan for the future. While 2012 will see the realization of many long-held goals, the challenges continue. A recent master plan compiled by Rickes Associates Inc. predicts that GCC will serve about 9,900 students a semester by 2014. This reflects an increase of about 40 percent over the original estimate of 7,000 students projected for 2014 when the size of our new campus was determined back in 2005. Conservative projections estimate that GCC will serve about 15,000 students by 2022, 10 years after the new campus opens. This means we expect the student body to more than double in the next 10 years.
The year we’ve all been waiting for is finally here! 2012 will be a milestone year for Gateway Community College, but a beautiful new building is nothing without the wonderful college community of faculty, staff and students and dedicated partners who enrich the lives of thousands of people each year. Together we believe in Gateway's mission to provide open access to higher education.

Thank you to all who have invested in this region’s most important asset, our students. And best wishes for a prosperous and successful new year.

- GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick

Foundation transfers $500,000 for new campus

The Gateway Community College Foundation (GCCF) has transferred $500,000 to the college as the first installment from the foundation’s “Your College. Your Future” building campaign.

“This is an important milestone in our campaign and I want to thank all our generous donors, large and small, who have made this possible,” said GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick. “This effort, and everyone associated with it, will help us deliver on our commitment to our students by creating a world-class community college in downtown New Haven.”

Paul McCraven, a GCCF board member and chair of the building campaign’s Leadership Committee, said the campaign will help provide state-of-the-art equipment and programming for GCC’s new downtown campus and underwrite long-term student support services, like scholarships. McCraven is also senior vice president of community development for First Niagara Financial Group.

The state of Connecticut is funding the construction of our $198 million downtown campus, but not all of its necessary equipment. The GCCF has already raised more than $2 million toward its goal of $6 million for the building campaign, which launched its public phase in October.

According to Mary Ellen Cody, who has served as GCC’s dean of development and community partnerships since 2008, the foundation’s impact has grown considerably with the “Your College. Your Future” campaign. That impact has been further widened by the foundation’s efforts to raise significant funds for scholarships and the addition of new board members representing various business sectors, including finance, banking, communications, law, technology, health care and education.

In photo, Dr. Kendrick (left) accepts the check from, left to right: Tom Griggs, GCCF board member and chair of the ‘Your College. Your Future’ building campaign; new GCCF board chair Lindy Lee Gold; and Paul McCraven, GCCF board member and chair of the building campaign’s Leadership Committee.

Calendar Highlights

- Jan. 12-26: Registration extended hours until 7 p.m.
- Jan. 18-20: More employee tours of new campus
- Jan. 18-April 14: Free student income tax prep help available
- Jan. 29: College Goal Sunday event planned
President’s Corner

President’s Corner is Gateway Community College’s campus newsletter. It is published by the college’s Public Relations and Marketing Department.

Gateway’s Mission

Gateway Community College offers high-quality instruction and comprehensive services in an environment conducive to learning. We respond to the changing academic, occupational, technological, and cultural needs of a diverse population.

GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick will be honored Saturday, Jan. 28, by the New Haven County Bar Association with its 2012 Liberty Bell Award at its annual Liberty Bell Winter Gala at Woodwinds of Branford.

The award honors “a non-lawyer or community organization that has encouraged respect for the law, stimulated a sense of civic responsibility, and contributed to good government in the community.”

The event will be from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Tickets are $75. For more information, contact the New Haven County Bar Association at 203-562-9652 or foundation@newhavenbar.org.

Shanley ends successful tenure as foundation chair

Kathleen M. Shanley has stepped down as chair of the Gateway Community College Foundation, ending a successful three-year tenure during which the foundation achieved many noteworthy accomplishments.

Shanley, an environmental compliance manager with Burns & McDonnell who joined the board in 2000, will continue to serve on the foundation board.

During Shanley’s term as board chair, the foundation raised more than $2 million as part of its “Your College. Your Future” building campaign for our new downtown campus. She led the charge to ensure 100 percent participation among all board members. The foundation also continued its successful Hall of Fame events, including the 2011 recognition, which raised a record $85,600.

Last year alone, the foundation awarded more than $84,000 in scholarships. In 2011, it also launched its inaugural “Kitchen Tours” event that raised funds, public awareness and goodwill for the college’s culinary program.

“Since Kate joined the board 11 years ago, she has been a strong advocate for Gateway students and the college,” said Mary Ellen Cody, GCC’s dean of development and community partnerships. “We have been lucky to have her in so many capacities on the foundation. One of the primary responsibilities of board members — especially those in leadership positions — is to promote relationships with key leaders and decision-makers. Kate has been very successful in helping us network within the greater New Haven business community.”

Lindy Lee Gold, who was elected to replace Shanley, agreed. “Kate’s contributions have been many and her enthusiastic and heartfelt support of Gateway has been a big part of our success,” Gold said.

Gold elected board chair of GCC Foundation

New Haven resident Lindy Lee Gold has been elected chairperson of the board of directors at the Gateway Community College Foundation.

A member of the foundation’s board since 2007, Gold is senior development specialist with the state Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). In that role, she serves as the DECD commissioner’s representative to all the state’s
Workforce Investment Boards, the Adult Literacy Commission, the Commission on Education and Training, Connecticut's P-20 Council, the Green Job Consortium, the Workforce Coordinating Committee, the STEM Council, the SMART Advisory Committee, the Child Poverty and Prevention Council and the State Leadership Innovation Initiative.

Gold has worked throughout greater New Haven as both an elected official and a tireless volunteer, receiving several awards for her contributions to the region. She currently serves on the state board of the Anti-Defamation League, as an associate fellow at Yale's Pierson College, and on the boards of the Arts Council, the United Way of Greater New Haven and the Jewish Foundation. In the past, she has served on: the Shubert Performing Arts Center's Executive Board; the New Haven Board of Education, where her volunteer work included being vice chair of the Intergroup Relations Taskforce; and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, where she was president and chair of community relations. She also was founder and president of Fellowship Inc. and Cornerstone Inc., and is past president of the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven.

"I have accepted major leadership positions on many community boards, but no initiative has the capacity to change lives the way Gateway Community College does," Gold said. "It can help break the cycle of poverty and enrich lives for generations to come. The fact that Gateway encourages systemic and sustainable change should inspire the entire community.

"The work of Gateway and its foundation is essential to the economic and overall well-being of greater New Haven and the state," she said. "The foundation's board of directors reflects the esteem in which community leaders hold the college and its foundation. And the strength of the board can be gauged by the high regard in which its members are held."

Back to top

**Answers to FAQs about new campus move**

The team responsible for communications regarding the transition to our new campus has launched a series of answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) that is available to all employees through Outlook.

To see the team’s postings, click on the Public Folders tab in Outlook, then expand the Gateway tab and click on the Move FAQs folder. In it, you’ll find the team’s first posting, its Series One FAQ, which was posted Dec. 2. Series Two is due out soon.

If you have questions that haven’t been answered yet, that you’d like to see answered in future postings, there are three ways you can submit them:

- Send an e-mail to GW-MoveFAQPublishers@gwcc.commnet.edu;
- Going to the Move FAQs public folder in Outlook and selecting the “New Post” option and posting your question there; or
- Submitting a written question in the FAQ box in the Long Wharf library. A box will soon be coming to the North Haven library as well.

The Communications Transition Team is responsible for the FAQ process. It is co-chaired by Mary Ellen Cody, Lucille Brown and Evelyn Gard.
“So far the response has been very positive from both sides of the issue,” said GCC Professor Anne Williams, who is also on the committee. “Those with responsibility for providing the answers have been very thorough in their responses, making sure that they provide full information. They have often gone beyond immediate questions. And faculty and staff receiving the FAQs have across the board said thank you for getting the information out and for asking for questions back.”

New campus parking, security questions answered

As we get closer to moving into our new downtown campus, questions have arisen regarding parking and security on the new campus. GCC Dean of Administration Lou D’Antonio gave the following information to help answer these FAQ:

**Parking:** Currently, we have 1,050 striped parking spaces combined among the Long Wharf, North Haven campuses and the New Haven Register parking lot. The new campus will have 1,300 spaces — 600 in the new parking garage and 700 in the adjacent Temple Street Garage. And there will be more available to us if we need it.

**Security Cameras:** Currently, we have 75 security cameras between our Long Wharf and North Haven campuses. The new campus will have 190 security cameras combined between the north and south buildings, including some outside around their perimeters.

**Blue Light Emergency Phones:** Currently, we do not have any blue light emergency phones on our campuses. The new campus will have 67 blue light emergency phones, including 21 located in the parking garage, the Early Learning Center playground and areas outside like the courtyard. All told, 46 will be located inside, spread out between both buildings, with most of them located in the corridors. The phones will ring into the main Security Office where assistance can be obtained.

Payment plans launched for 3 programs

GCC’s Dean of Continuing Education and Workforce Development Vicki Bozzuto recently announced the initiation of a new Continuing Education Course Installment Plan for students who enroll in the phlebotomy technician, EMT or Railroad Electronics Technician programs this spring.

The plan allows the total costs of the courses to be spread out over the length of the course with a certain amount due each month. For more information, contact our Continuing Education and Workforce Development Division at 203-285-2426.

North Haven hosts manufacturing careers expo

GCC, for the first time, hosted the Pathways to Manufacturing Technology Careers Expo on Jan. 11-12, bringing high school students and their parents to our North Haven campus in an effort to show them the many opportunities that lie within this field of study.
The expo began Jan. 11 with an evening event that was open to parents and the public and was designed to educate them about rewarding careers in next-generation manufacturing and Connecticut’s vibrant and growing manufacturing sector.

The Jan. 12 expo hosted students from 10 area high schools who were sent through a series of classrooms set up with presentations to educate them about the various parts of the manufacturing process.

“The goal is to expose high school students to manufacturing degrees and careers and let them know that there is a lot of technology associated with it, that manufacturing is not just grease and grime,” said Paul Silberquit, director of GCC’s Engineering and Applied Technologies Division.

The expo was offered by the Connecticut Community Colleges’ College of Technology’s Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing (RCMGM), a National Science Foundation funded Center of Excellence, with support from the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA), the New Haven Manufacturers’ Association and other industry partners.

“Manufacturing companies are looking to fill open positions,” said RCNGM Executive Director Dr. Karen Wosczyna-Birch. “According to the 2011 CBIA Manufacturing Workforce Survey commissioned by RCNGM, nearly 20 percent of responding manufacturing companies plan to hire full-time employees over the next five years, but there is concern about finding and attracting skilled employees. People either don’t know about the various careers in advanced manufacturing or they don’t know how to obtain the education needed to become a skilled technologist or engineer in the field.”

Back to top

Significant progress made on interior of new campus

Faculty and staff who sign up to take tours of our new campus later this month will see totally different buildings than the ones they saw in the August/September tours.

During the last three months of 2011, workers made significant progress on the interiors of both the north and south buildings on our new downtown campus, installed the permanent roofs on both buildings and began finalizing many of the exterior elements including metal panels, glass and brick.

Scott Eaton, project manager at Dimeo Construction Co., gave this summary of the work on the site during the fourth quarter of last year:

Workers continued drywall installation and painting, while commencing floor installation. They have been doing tile work and fixture installation in the bathrooms and started installing millwork — including cabinets and doors — in both buildings. They also installed the high ceiling in the south building’s atrium and ceiling suspension systems elsewhere. Work has also begun installing the message phrasing on the atrium wall.

The site received permanent power recently and workers are laying the groundwork to start up the mechanical and electrical systems. Also, prep work has been done for the
campus sidewalks and other site improvements outside that will be completed when the weather warms up.

The construction site is made up of two parcels, one located north of the other, on 3.7 acres at 2-20 Church Street. The state Department of Construction Services is administering the $198 million project, which will include two four-story buildings totally 360,000 square feet.

LEEDing the Way: Offsetting ‘heat island’ effect

As cities are developed, buildings, roads and other infrastructure replaces open land and plant life, making areas impermeable and dry and forming an “island” of higher temperatures. This “heat island” effect causes both the atmosphere and surfaces to be noticeably warmer than nearby rural counterparts.

As a result, new urban construction can add to peak summertime energy demand, related air conditioning costs, air pollution and greenhouse gas emission. So the parameters for LEED buildings offer credits for offsetting this effect in two ways: on the roof and off the roof.

Our new campus will help reduce the heat island effect in New Haven because its main roof is made of material that is designed to reflect the sun’s rays rather than absorb them as a typical black roof would. Also, the roof will feature a roof garden with grass, trees and other plants, further assisting in the reflection of heat. The roof garden will be located on top of the fourth floor in the south building, located at the corner of Church and North Frontage Road on the top of the atrium near the “radius” that will be our library.

It will also feature non-roof related features that will combat the heat island effect. The majority of the campus’ parking spaces will be in a garage, and therefore sheltered from the sun. Also, keeping the temperatures in the buildings in a certain range will contribute positively to the effort.

This “LEEDing the Way” feature spotlights the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) aspects of our new campus, which is designed to be gold-certified in LEED. The LEED Green Building Rating System™ is a voluntary, consensus-based standard to support and certify successful green building design, construction and operations.

Program Spotlight: 3 new Continuing Ed offerings

GCC’s Continuing Education and Workforce Development Division has begun offering three new programs designed to boost individuals’ employability in the marketplace.

Better Business for a Better World is a “green-centric,” focused, short duration, high-impact customer service program geared toward a wide variety of employees, supervisors and managers. Areas covered include direct sales, dealing with difficult people, delivering quality service in a challenging economy, telephone skills, team efforts for success, closing the deal, online social networking and social marketing, cultural differences and cultural awareness, as well as others. Of particular note: a
portion of the course directly focuses on success in the emerging “green” marketplace for earth-friendly products and services.

Certified Nurse Aide pairs GCC and the South Central Visiting Nurses Association for a four-week certified nurse aide class. A high school diploma or GED is required and students in this program must be at least 18 years old with valid identification. This $1,200 program includes text, state of Connecticut certification exam fee and Connecticut Nurse Aide Registry application fee.

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Advantage program is for individuals with aspirations to join the Armed Forces. This unique 28-hour hybrid course uses both computerized training and in-person math and English skills coaches to help participants refresh their skills and maximize their scores in the four most critical areas of the ASVAB, the subtests that comprise the Armed Forces Qualification Test score.

For more information, contact the Continuing Education and Workforce Development Division at 203-285-2426.

Faculty, Staff Highlights

Boy Scouts honor hospitality management professor

GCC Professor Stephen Fries, coordinator of GCC’s hospitality management program and a food columnist with the New Haven Register, was honored last month by the Connecticut Yankee Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Fries was honored for his leadership in the greater New Haven community and for being an inspiration to future generations of young people.

In her introduction for Fries, Mary Ellen Cody, GCC’s dean of development and community partnerships (left in photo with Fries), called him a dedicated teacher, adviser and mentor. “He creates in all of his classes an environment for enlarging student learning and understanding,” she said. “Professor Fries challenges his students and sets the bar high, but he is also always available to provide support to those students who need a few minutes of one-on-one attention.”

Joining Fries and Cody at GCC’s table at the event were GCC’s Dean of Academic Affairs Mark Kosinski, Carol Marinacchio and Angela Schutz from the GCC Foundation and GCC alumnus and Hall of Fame honoree Chris Bartlett, owner of Skater’s Landing.

GCC professor, Pulitzer nominee honored Feb. 29

GCC Humanities Professor Franz Douskey, whose autobiographical book of poetry published last year has been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, will be one of those honored Feb. 29 by LEAP, an academic and social enrichment program for children and youth in New Haven.
Each year, LEAP hosts an evening of food, conversation and culture to raise money to support its nationally recognized after-school and summer mentoring programs. The event brings together corporate and community leaders for an evening of intimate dinner parties at prominent homes around greater New Haven.

Douskey, who will also participate in the book signing portion of the event from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Hopkins School in New Haven, will discuss growing up in New Haven and his experiences with the New Haven public schools. For more information about the event, click here.


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**Longtime professor spotlighted in Register article**

Longtime GCC Professor Dr. Kerin Lee, who has been with the college since it was South Central Community College and classes were held at Wilbur Cross High School, was the subject of a recent feature article in the New Haven Register.

In it, Lee discusses changes at the college, her work with the GCC Women’s Center and the GCC senior citizen group The Sages. To read the article, click here.

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**Organizational appointments made in three areas**

The following organizational appointments have been made in in the Registrar’s Office, Counseling, Admissions, Records and Financial Aid:

- Kim Shea, formerly director of admissions, has been named director of enrollment management and now assumes supervisory responsibility for the offices of Admissions, Records and Financial Aid;

- Dr. Matthew Long, director of student development and student services, will assume supervisory responsibilities in the Counseling area. Original plans to conduct an internal search for a director of counseling and career service have been changed and a decision was made to conduct an open search for a director of counseling and student success; and,

- Maribel Lopez has been appointed acting registrar as an open search is conducted to fill the registrar's position.

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**Professor’s article included in upcoming NAIS book**

An article about diversity and international relations by GCC Professor Susan Chenard published in 1999 will be included in a book due out next month from the National Association of Independent Schools. The book will be a collection of articles like "Bridging the Culture Gap: Diversity and International Relations” by Chenard that
appeared over the past decade in *Independent School* magazine.

**Student Services holds workshop on homelessness**

GCC’s Student Services Office hosted a professional development workshop Jan. 6 for its employees aimed at enhancing the college’s service to its students who are homeless.

The workshop, “Responding to Student Homelessness and Related Hardships,” was held on the college’s Long Wharf campus and designed as a starting point for an ongoing discussion about how to better serve this population of students and build relationships with community agencies that might also be of assistance.

The workshop included training on community resources, referral procedures and general guidance in how to respond to students experiencing homelessness and hardship. It included presentations by two representatives from Columbus House, the New Haven non-profit organization that delivers services to the area’s homes. Employment Specialist Carl Reynolds and Chris Evans, rehabilitation manager for Columbus House’s Pathways to Independence program (photo), both spoke at the event.

The workshop coordinators also want to thank Cher Shannon, program coordinator for GCC’s Drug and Alcohol Recovery Counselor Program, and Dr. James Boger, coordinator of GCC’s Center for Working Students, for their advice in planning the event.

**In Remembrance: Retired Professor Richard Fiore**

The New Haven Register eulogized retired GCC Professor Richard Fiore last week as a teacher and fisherman who “basically loved people.” Fiore, professor and program coordinator of chemistry, math and physics, passed away Nov. 27.

In 2009, he was granted emeritus status, an honor given to faculty and administrators who have retired from state service with at least 15 years of service and who have distinguished themselves by providing meritorious service while employed in the community college system. To read the New Haven Register article, [click here](#).

**CNN veteran teaches spring voice-over courses**

A CNN veteran will be teaching GCC’s selection of voice-over classes this spring at our North Haven campus.

Orange resident Paula Lin began her career as an anchor/reporter for major-market
radio stations in the Connecticut/New York area and moved on to work at CNN in Atlanta before moving into the voice-over marketplace. Lin has since put her vocal skills to work in television commercials, voicemail systems and online projects, including the website tour of Grantham University and Reuters Health Video Online in Washington, D.C.

Lin taught GCC’s inaugural voice-over course, Intensive Introduction to Voice-Over, in the fall semester. This spring, she will teach two “Intensive Introduction to Voice-Over” classes and two “Intensive Intermediate Voice-Over” classes. All the voice-over classes are held on two consecutive Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The introductory classes will begin Jan. 21 and April 14. The intermediate classes will begin Feb. 11 and March 10.

**Special thanks to Holiday Dinner chair people**

Given the GCC holiday dinner for the disadvantaged on Dec. 9 served an estimated 600 people with a full buffet dinner, presents for the children, as well as winter wear and personal care items for everyone who attended, it may come as no surprise that it takes 14 subcommittees to make the event a reality.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all the generous GCC staffers and faculty who volunteered to lead those 14 subcommittees as chair people. The committees were in charge of things like food, candy, wrapping, entertainment, decorations, winter wear, and coordination of volunteers, shelters and transportation.

In alphabetical order, the chairs of the holiday dinner subcommittees were: Norm Abell, Robbin Airlait, James Boger, Vicki Bozzuto, Lavanda Bryan, Kristine DeForge, Marcia Doran, Rich Halkyard, Vanessa Hall, Marilyn Jacobi, Janet Klinck, Kevin Lai, Martha Lipowski, Maribel Lopez, Clara Mean, Luis Melendez, Rick Palinko, Alice Pandolfi, Louise Petroka, Andrew Randi, Nancy Robinson, Barbara Rudolph, Susan Swirsky, Marge Weiner and Matt Wisniewski.

“Our event is the only one of its kind in greater New Haven and it’s often the only holiday celebration in which those who attend will participate,” said Andrew Randi, who also coordinated the event with Kristine DeForge. “And none of it would be possible without the dozens of volunteers who helped that night and the dedicated and selfless committee chairs who somehow made it all look easy. My thanks to everyone who helped make the 2011 event a success.”

**Student Highlights**

**Gateway men’s basketball team ranked 10th in nation**

GCC’s men’s basketball team was ranked 10th in the nation Jan. 11 by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NCJAA).
The Gateway Lions’ 11-2 record contributed to the ranking, along with accomplishments of individual players, including two players, Jerome Parkins and Nathaniel Campbell, who rank among the top 25 nationwide in scoring and rebounding. Team member Mario Darden is among the top 25 players nationally for assists. The team has also been ranked 16th nationally for defense.

Parkins was also named NCJAA’s Division III Player of the Week Nov. 30 for his performance in the Suffolk and Nassau Classics that the team played on Long Island. Other members of the team include: Kenneth Gilmore, Damion Gay, Tyshan Smith, Sheldon Clarke, Montre Holmes, Richard Passard, Davon Pratt, Terrell Walden, Daniel Litevich, Michael Davis, Curtis Baldwin and Quincy Johnson. The team is led by Coach John Stewart and Assistant Coach Carrie Cole.

In their game Tuesday against Northern Essex, the Lions won 93 to 66. Pratt scored 27 points. Campbell scored 18 points with nine rebounds. And Jerome Parkins scored 17 points with 8 rebounds. Dan Litevich scored 14 points and Tyshan Smith had 13 rebounds.

Go Lions!

**Step Forward Program’s fall newsletter available**

GCC’s Step Forward Program recently distributed its fall 2011 Stepping Forward newsletter, which includes biographies for the seven members of the 2011-12 class.

Step Forward began nearly seven years ago at GCC. It is a non-credit transition program for young adults with learning challenges and barriers to employment and education. The program is designed to prepare students for the work force and life after high school, which may include community college and other vocational training.

The curriculum includes character education and current events. The program recently added a second year that includes students taking credit courses at GCC and engaging in non-credit seminars focusing on college success strategies and interpersonal skills. And students receive case management services to ensure they are taking advantage of all relevant support services on campus.

To read the new Stepping Forward newsletter, click here. For more information about Step Forward, contact Director Jaime French at 203-285-2505.

**36 nursing students pinned at Dec. 16 ceremony**

Thirty-six nursing students who graduate this month participated in a pinning ceremony on our North Haven campus Dec. 16 to mark the transition from student to professional.

A time-honored tradition, pinning ceremonies trace their origins to nursing pioneer Florence Nightingale, who received the Cross of St. George from Britain’s Queen Victoria in 1855 for her service in caring for injured British soldiers. When special nursing schools were later founded using Nightingale’s principles and practices, the awarding of pins and medals to outstanding graduates became increasingly common.
until it was eventually established as a right of passage from student to practitioner.

The 36 students who participated in the Dec. 16 pinning were: New Haven resident Igochukwu Amadi, Hamden resident Nyiesha Brathwaite-Bowens, East Haven resident Andrea Brown-Whittingham, Naugatuck resident Danielle Colantuono, East Haven resident Katherine Collins, Stratford resident Jasper Conn, Northford resident Cynthia Coppola, South Meriden resident Sharon Coutier-Hernandez, Cheshire resident Maria Cuda, West Haven resident Fatma Demir, West Haven resident Pashion Edmundson, New Milford resident Caitlin Fitzsimmons, Killingworth resident Rosemary Fox, West Haven resident Annette Gil (formerly Salagar), West Haven resident Mary Gilberti, Cheshire resident Laurel Glenn, Branford resident Mabel Goessinger, New Haven resident Anna Gorczynska, Hamden resident Mykell Horner, New Britian resident Joan Kozak, North Haven resident Jennifer Lanzoni, East Haven resident Xiaoxue Amanda Liu, Torrington resident Rosemary Lovallo, Naugatuck resident Amanda Maxwell, Bridgeport resident Sonia Morais, Wolcott resident Erica Onofreo, Madison resident Jeimy Rodriguez, Whitneyville resident Lindsey Roome, Meriden resident Amanda Smith, West Hartford resident Viktoriya Stork, Hamden resident Linda Taylor, New Haven resident Shawn Thomas, West Hartford resident Daisy Tran, Wallingford resident Linda Walters, Marlborough resident Katherine Woerle and West Haven resident Tracy Wrightington.

Pizzeria gives business students first-hand lesson

Last month, GCC Adjunct Professor Stanley Kapinos took his Introduction to Business class on a field trip to the East Haven pizzeria run by the father of one of his students to give the whole class an inside look at what it really means to be a small business person.

GCC student Kirby Capotorto arranged for the visit to Capotorto’s Apizza Center, which is owned and run by her father Ralph Capotorto. The students got the opportunity to ask the owner questions about what it’s like to be an entrepreneur and get a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to run a restaurant.

“We all asked him questions like, ‘How is the business marketed?’ ‘What challenges did you face when you first started?’ ‘How do you handle difficult employees’ and other questions that gave us a sense of what is behind starting and running a business,” said student Alexandria O’Neill. “He answered all our questions and gave us great advice. For example, he said always be nice to everyone. That way people will be willing to help you out when you need it. This opportunity was great for our class.”

December edition of Gateway Gazette now available

Copies of the December 2011 edition of the student publication the Gateway Gazette is available across both our Long Wharf and North Haven campuses and online on the homepage of the college’s website.

This issue includes articles about the November appearances on Long Wharf of Sen. Richard Blumenthal and renowned forensic scientist Dr. Henry Lee, as well as feature
stories about the senior citizen campus group The Sages and a GCC ESL student who works as a cafeteria cashier on campus. To e-mail the Gateway Gazette a story idea or comment, send it to gwgazette@gmail.com.

Back to top

BSA fundraiser for student’s daughter with lupus

GCC’s Black Student Association held an open mic/poetry fundraiser Dec. 1 that raised more than $800 to help pay medical expenses for a student’s adult daughter who is suffering from lupus, an autoimmune disease.

Performers at the event in room 160 on our Long Wharf campus included GCC students and several members of the community. “Donations poured in from Gateway’s faculty, staff and students alike,” said Kellie Byrd Danso with GCC’s Counseling Office. “It was truly a great time for such a worthy cause.”

GCC nursing student Carlyn Warner’s daughter Lauren Warner, 28, received a double-lung transplant the day before the fundraiser. “It continues to be an up and down battle,” Danso said. “She is still in the hospital and the doctors anticipate that she will be there for a while.”

Back to top

Calendar Highlights

Jan. 12-26: Registration extended hours until 7 p.m.

Several days between Jan. 12 and Jan. 26 offer extended hours for spring semester registration from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on both our Long Wharf and North Haven campuses. Extended hours are offered Jan. 12, Jan. 17 and Jan. 23-26. For a complete list of hours, click here.

Back to top

Jan. 18-20: More employee tours of new campus

Faculty and staff are invited to participate in a second round of tours of our new downtown campus Jan. 18-20.

Each tour will take approximately 40 minutes and a shuttle bus will be provided to and from the new campus sit downtown. To sign up, contact Brenda Haase at bhaase@gwcc.commnet.edu to reserve a seat on the shuttle bus.

All participants will have to complete a waiver form and have it with them the day of the tour to give directly to Dimeo Construction Co., which will provide participants with required safety vests, goggles and hard hats. Those
who participated in tours in August and September are invited to go again, but they must complete the forms again also. The forms also are available through Brenda Haase.

**Jan. 18-April 14: Free student income tax prep help**

GCC will be hosting free income tax preparation workshops for GCC students on Wednesdays and Saturdays from Jan. 18 through April 14.

The Wednesday workshops will be held from 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. and the Saturday workshops will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. They all will be held in the Long Wharf cafeteria. Workshops will not be offered March 21, March 24 or April 7 because the college will be closed on those dates.

The workshops are open only to GCC students with an annual income under $50,000. Workshop volunteers can assist with 2011 federal and Connecticut income tax preparation and e-filing.

Workshop participants must bring the following with them to the workshop of their choice: a government-issued photo ID; original social security card or individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers for everyone being claimed; all income forms including W-2s, 1099s and other pertinent income information; last year’s tax return if available; list of deductions, including medical expenses, donations, taxes, interest and miscellaneous expenses; and bank account information for refund direct deposit by IRS.

The workshops are being offered by GCC in partnership with the IRS Stakeholder Relationship Division’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program and the New Life Corporation of New Haven.

**Jan. 29: College Goal Sunday event planned**

On Sunday, Jan. 29, GCC’s Long Wharf campus will be a host site for College Goal Sunday, a statewide college planning event for would-be students.

Participants 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.

GCC is one of 12 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.

The event is designed to give students and their families an opportunity to complete the FAFSA with the help of industry professionals and give them a chance to ask questions in a comfortable and relaxed setting.

Walk-ins are welcome, but due to the expected demand for assistance in completing the FAFSA, pre-registration is encouraged. Participants are asked to register for the event at [www.collegegoalsundayct.org](http://www.collegegoalsundayct.org). Volunteers are also needed for this important event in the form of interpreters, greeters, registration assistants, counselors and
other roles. If you would like to volunteer, please register online at www.collegegoalsundayct.org. For more information about GCC’s event, contact the GCC Financial Aid Office at 203-285-2030.

Back to top