Enrollment record broken with nearly 7,000 students

GCC has broken another enrollment record with almost 7,000 students taking credit classes during its spring semester.

In all, 6,987 students are enrolled, a 10 percent increase over the spring semester in 2009. This semester includes a 22 percent increase in new students, up 108 to 592; an 11 percent increase in full-time students, up 227 to 2,229; and an 18 percent increase in students seeking a degree, up 837 to 5,439.

“We are at capacity, but everyone in the Gateway community has embraced the challenge and is committed to ensuring an exceptional experience for all of our students,” said GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick. “Our priority now lies in acquiring the resources to assure that all Gateway students continue to have access to the support services and technology they need to be successful in the classroom.”

In response to continued enrollment increases, the college has instituted several non-traditional scheduling options, including a Friday/Saturday weekend college, learning cohorts and a growing number of online courses.

Black History Month celebrated with series of events

GCC celebrated Black History Month with a series of events in February sponsored by the Black Student Association.

On Tuesday, Feb. 9, the event “Black Love” was an open discussion about love and relationships that even included a mini “Dating Game.” Then on Thursday, Feb. 18, Professor John Scott III presented “Food for the Soul,” a workshop on soul food that included serving traditional dishes. And on Wednesday, Feb. 24, the “Sounds of Blackness” was an open mic poetry slam.

GCC participates in Entrepreneurship Week USA

GCC participated in the fourth annual Entrepreneurship Week USA, which encourages support for the growth of entrepreneurship education as a lifelong process, with a week-long series of events at its Long Wharf campus that began Feb. 22.

“Entrepreneurship education is vital to the growth of our economy in Connecticut because it is potential entrepreneurs who have the ability to create new jobs,” said Rose Bednarz-Luglio, professor of business and program coordinator of entrepreneurial studies at GCC.
The events, which were sponsored by GCC’s Business Department and its chapter of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), were free and open to the public. They included two panel discussions and three workshops, each focusing on an important entrepreneurial issue:

On Monday, Feb. 22, there was a morning workshop on “Business Ethics” with presenters that included attorney William J. Kilgallen of Wiggin & Dana LLP, Cara Baruzzi, business editor at the New Haven Register and Ericka Latimore from the Connecticut Community Investment Corp. Later that evening, there was a panel discussion on “Effective and Ethical Advertising” with panelists that included Richard Catanese, business development representative at the New Haven Register, Torrance Flowers, account manager at CBS Radio, and Joe Pelliccio, president of Share Gain Marketing and Promotion.

On Tuesday, Feb. 23, there was another morning workshop, “Creating an Effective Elevator Speech” run by Michael Roer, president of The Entrepreneurship Foundation Inc. and executive director of Connecticut Venture Group.

On Wednesday, Feb. 24, there was an evening interactive presentation about “Conflict Resolution” run by Brenda Cavanaugh, associate director of Community Mediation.

And on Thursday, Feb. 25, there was a morning panel discussion (see photo), presented in conjunction with the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, called “Lessons in Excellence” that included Ben Berkowitz, CEO of SeeClickFix LLC, Nate Berger, founder of KnockMedia and Carlton Highsmith, vice chairman of SPG PaperWorks.

And, on Saturday, Feb. 28, the GCC Entrepreneurial Studies Program and SIFE assisted The Elmseed Enterprise Fund, a New Haven-based microcredit organization, in putting on the Small Entrepreneur and Enterprise Development (SEED) Conference, a daylong skills-building and professional development conference for local entrepreneurs at Linsly-Chittenden Hall on the Yale campus.

The SEED Conference featured a keynote address by Gateway graduate Christopher Bartlett, owner of Skater’s Landing and the SBA 2009 Connecticut Small Business Person of the Year. Several workshops, including marketing, technology, accounting, legal strategies, and how to expand a business, as well as a resource fair with many local business support organizations were offered. Rose Bednarz-Luglio led the marketing workshop. All workshops and activities were conducted in both English and Spanish to bring together an increasingly diverse group of small entrepreneurs in the New Haven area.

“Through the efforts of many, we were able to share exciting stories of entrepreneurial successes in today’s challenging world,” said Stanley Kapinos, a GCC adjunct business professor and Sam M. Walton Free Enterprise Fellow who helped coordinate activities. “Our message about the opportunities available to entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs reached New Haven high school students, Gateway students and many members of the community. It was a very successful week.”
Cooper speaks at Green Jobs Lobby Day in Hartford

Dr. David N. Cooper, GCC’s dean of Corporate and Continuing Education, spoke at Green Jobs Lobby Day on Wednesday, March 3, at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.

Cooper joined state legislators, environmental groups, solar installers, and other representatives from area colleges to promote the development of “green” jobs. His comments explained how GCC is responding to the demands of the new “green” economy.

House Speaker Chris Donovan gave the keynote address at the event, which was organized by the new Connecticut Green Jobs Coalition.

The coalition, which aims to promote new policies that would reduce energy consumption and employ more people, includes more than a dozen environmental groups, including the Connecticut Fund for the Environment and Transit for Connecticut. The group is backing policies that would build long-term stability in the state’s solar energy program, create stronger bus and train-based transit systems, and stimulate sustainable agriculture and forestry.

Through its Center for a Sustainable Future, GCC is a leader in green initiatives among state institutions of higher education. Our new campus in downtown New Haven will be the state’s first public building that will be gold-certified in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

Mar. 19 deadline to apply for Foundation scholarships

Students who will be continuing at GCC this fall have until Friday, March 19, to apply for one or more of the 140 scholarships being offered by the Gateway Community College Foundation.

Altogether, the scholarships are valued at more than $84,000. They range in value from $200 to $1,600, although most of them are valued between $300 and $500.

Many of the scholarships’ qualifications are general in nature. Some of them are program specific in business, engineering, health care and other programs. There is also a Netbook Computer Scholarship that will provide 14 students with netbook computers.

Completed application packets must be received by the foundation no later than March 19. Packets must include two letters of recommendation and an unofficial copy of a transcript through the fall 2009 semester that shows a student’s cumulative GPA.

A brochure outlining all of the available scholarships is available at several locations on both the Long Wharf and North Haven campuses. In addition to being available in the foundation office, room 130 on the Long Wharf campus, the brochure is also 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.
A committee made up of donors, faculty and staff will meet in early April to make award decisions. Students will be notified of the committee’s decisions in early May and those who receive scholarships will be invited to attend a donor/student luncheon later in May.

“We are so thankful to our generous donors who have given us the most money ever for student scholarships and for the work of the Foundation Board members,” said Angela Schutz, chair of the foundation’s scholarship committee and founder of Driven to Succeed Consulting in Orange. “We are especially appreciative of the tireless work to streamline our new scholarship process that was done throughout the year by a blended committee made up of donors, foundation board members, faculty and staff.”

Campus construction on schedule despite weather

Despite the difficult weather conditions in February, construction at the new campus downtown is still on schedule.

Last month, workers demolished the college’s section of the service tunnel within the northern portion of the site, where the new campus’s loading dock will be located. This area will now be transformed to re-establish the service entry street as part of and below the footprint of the new precast concrete parking garage, which is scheduled to be erected in late summer.

Temporary de-watering systems have been completed, bulk excavation work continues and sub-grade preparations have commenced allowing concrete mud slabs, which are a thin layer of concrete poured on the ground prior to placing the rebar and footing formwork, reinforcing steel installation and concrete foundation activities to start and complement the parallel installation of the temporary earth retention systems.

The building concrete foundation installations will continue through the summer in preparation for the erection of the precast garage and the buildings’ structural steel.

“We’ve lost a few days due to weather, but we are still on schedule,” said Lou D’Antonio, GCC’s dean of administration. “It’s important to remember that this is an urban construction site, so it has a lot more safeguards, precautions and restrictions than it would be if it were in a rural setting. As a result, the schedule calls for steel to go up this fall.”

The state Department of Public Works is administering the project. The $198 million campus is one of the largest construction projects the state has ever undertaken and its first public building designed to be gold-certified in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. Dimeo Construction Co. is the project’s construction manager.

1st marrow donor drive a success; others scheduled

On Monday, March 1, GCC hosted the first of three bone marrow donor registration events this month and 50 turned out to do their part to help patients suffering from leukemia and other life-threatening diseases who are in need of a bone marrow
transplant. The event was hosted by GCC’s Student Nurses’ Association.

“Ordinarily about 10 to 15 bone marrow donors sign up during an average blood drive and we hoped to get 30 donors, but we got 50 and another six people left with applications to send in later, so we were very pleased,” said Sharon McCullough, SNA member and coordinator of its bone marrow donor events.

If you missed the March 1 event and would still like to participate, representatives from the “Be the Match Registry,” which is operated by the National Marrow Donor Program, will also be at:

**Tuesday, March 9,** from 11:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. in room 160 on the Long Wharf campus as part of a Red Cross blood drive and bake sale sponsored by the GCC chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. If you are interested in giving blood at this drive, please contact Rich Halkyard at r halkyard@gwcc.comment.edu to schedule an appointment.

**Saturday, March 20,** from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the cafeteria at the North Haven campus, as part of the SNA’s Kids’ Safety and Health Fair. The event is open to the public and students, faculty, staff and their families are encouraged to participate. In addition to the bone marrow donor registration, the Kids’ Safety and Health Fair will also feature several service organizations such as local police and fire departments, health facilities and several vendors of child services.

Participants who join the “Be the Match Registry” fill out paperwork at the registration event and give cheek swab samples that day. Participants who are found to be a potential match for anyone on the registry would later be asked for a blood sample for further testing. If they are found to be a match, 80 percent of transplants involve donated stem cells, which are derived from a donor’s blood. The other 20 percent involve a surgical bone marrow transplant procedure under anesthesia.

All three events were planned in an effort to help the National Bone Marrow Registry and the sister of a GCC employee whose life depended on finding a bone marrow match.

Organizers are following through with the drives despite learning last week that Jennifer Jones Austin, sister of Elsa Jones, an adjunct instructor in GCC’s Early Learning Center, found a match through an umbilical cord blood registry and had a transplant on Feb. 24.

“Our prayers were answered for Jennifer’s match and transplant,” McCullough said. “Now we pray for ‘engraftment’ of her transplant and we hope our drives may bring together many matches for others.”

Elsa Jones said her family intends to continue to help set up marrow donor drives because of the tremendous need to find matches. “We also plan to start efforts to try to educate more women about the value of donating their child’s umbilical cord blood,” she said. “It’s just amazing to me that somewhere out there is a baby who gave such an incredible gift to my sister.”

In photo, left to right: Bob Dagesse, National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) volunteer; SNA President April McGrath; Elsa Jones, adjunct instructor in GCC’s Early Learning Center; Sharon McCullough, SNA member and drive coordinator; and, Eric St. Peter, NMDP drive coordinator.
GCC Lions are No. 1 seed in tournament tonight

The Gateway men’s basketball team is the No. 1 seed in the west and will play at 8 p.m. tonight at Springfield Tech Community College in Massachusetts in the Region XXI Championship tournament.

A bus will be leaving campus at 6 p.m. tonight to take fans to the game with space limited to 53 seats on a first-come, first-served basis. Anyone interested can contact the Office of College Life at (203) 285-2208 for further information or driving directions.

The Lions team, with coach John Stewart, has an overall record of 17-5, with a division record of 11-2 and a Region XXI record of 14-3.

Chazz McCarter, Kwamaine McCarter and DeArie Allick have been among the top 15 scorers, with Chazz McCarter averaging 22 points per game, Kwamaine McCarter averaging 19 points per game and Allick averaging 16 points per game. Chazz McCarter and Allick are also in the top 15 in assists and Chazz McCarter and Jamar Benton are in the top 15 in rebounds.

Chazz McCarter and Kwamaine McCarter were both named to the First Team All Region XXI Men’s Basketball Team and Allick was named to the Second Team All Region XXI Men’s Basketball Team.

16 volunteers needed for Scrabble literacy event

GCC is looking for up to 16 volunteers for teams to represent the college at the 2010 New Haven Scrabble® Challenge on Wednesday, April 21, at the Knights of Columbus in New Haven.

GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick will co-chair the fundraising event for the Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven, which will be from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Ginny Woolums, who is coordinating GCC’s Scrabble Challenge Teams, said the college can send up to four teams of four to this year’s event. The deadline to submit the names of team players is early April.

“One option would be to recruit teams from among the bargaining units for a little friendly competition,” Woolums said. “It’s a great evening of fun for a good cause and anyone who enjoys Scrabble or any kind of word play is encouraged to sign up.

If you’re interested please contact Woolums at (203) 285-2162 or vwoolums@gwcc.commnet.edu.

Last year, 53 teams, including one from GCC, participated and helped to raise $25,000 to support literacy programs in the greater New Haven community.
Faculty & Staff Highlights

Faculty, staff participate in Wear Red Day Feb. 5

On Friday, Feb. 5, faculty and staff showed their support for women’s heart health by participating in National Wear Red Day®.

Across the country people wore red to encourage women’s heart disease awareness as part of the American Heart Association (AHA) observance. The AHA’s goal is to change the perception that heart disease is a “man’s disease” given that it is the No. 1 killer of women in the United States.

“I became aware of the issue of women and heart disease in 2002 when it became an issue for me personally,” said Kim Shea, GCC’s Director of Admissions, who organized GCC’s participation.

“Gateway has participated in National Wear Red Day for many years now,” she said. “Last year, faculty, staff and students participated in the American Heart Association Heart Walk and our team raised more than $2,100 dollars. This year’s walk is set for May 22 at Savin Rock in West Haven and the Gateway Team will once again be represented.”

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Prof. Douskey writes about J.D. Salinger in ‘Yankee’

GCC Professor Franz Douskey authored an article in the January/February edition of Yankee magazine about his neighbor, the reclusive author J.D. Salinger, who passed away Jan. 27.

Both Salinger and Douskey have homes in Cornish, N.H. To read the article, click here.

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Prof. Chenard participates in Philadelphia event

Susan Chenard, assistant professor of English, participated in a panel discussion Feb. 26 at a Strategies for Success workshop on technology in the classroom in Philadelphia attended by more than 70 English professors from around the Northeast.

Chenard was on a panel that discussed “Changing Times, Changing Students: Using Technology to Engage Students and Improve Results” with Professor Krista Jackman from The University of New Hampshire and Meri Weiss from The College of New Rochelle.

She is slated to speak again April 8 at “The Many Faces of Arab Women” conference at Henry Ford Community College in Detroit. As the afternoon speaker, she will give a
talk titled, "A Saudi-born Woman's Pursuit of Democracy."

Student Highlights

Student named to All-Connecticut Academic Team

GCC student Samantha Fancher has been named to the All-Connecticut Academic Team and will be honored with the rest of the team at a ceremony in the State Capitol on April 30.

This year, 15 students from Connecticut community and two-year colleges were selected to represent the state of Connecticut in All-USA Academic Team and the Coca-Cola Scholarship competitions. Students are selected for the team based on their scholarship, leadership and community service accomplishments.

Fancher, 21, a Wallingford resident, is a member of GCC's Alpha Xi Theta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society for two-year colleges. She is taking general studies classes and hopes to move on to a four-year college and study environmental science.

All-USA Academic Team and the Coca-Cola Scholarship winners will be announced in early April.

2 students in the running to ‘Take America to College’

Two GCC students are in the running to participate in the Take America to College project, which aims to showcase the experiences of nontraditional students who are struggling to complete college on a major news platform in May.

GCC student Ivelisse Maldonado (photo) is one of them. A Bridgeport resident, she quit college to have a baby and lives with her son in a housing project so she can afford school without a full-time job. To see the video submission, which includes her son, click here and then scroll down to her name.

GCC student Britton Bragg, a New Haven resident, is also in the running.

Take America to College is a project by Purple States, a New Haven-based media company that distills and dramatizes what ordinary citizens nationwide think is at stake in policy decisions.

Purple States plans to select the five nontraditional students who will participate in the project next week. One of them will be selected from the 10 finalists who submitted videos online, including Maldonado, based on the results of online voting. The other four students will be selected by the project's producers to represent a cross-section of the nontraditional student experience, and Bragg is up for one of those spots.

The five final team members who are chosen will receive $500, a video camera and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. Three alternates will be awarded a video camera. The members of the team will film their own lives and document what's
being done to assist nontraditional students at their own campus — and will then assemble in Washington D.C. to share their stories and concerns with federal policymakers.

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Phi Theta Kappa Raises $300 to Aid Haitian Relief

Gateway Community College's Alpha Xi Theta chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society raised more than $300 to send to AmeriCares to assist survivors of the earthquake in Haiti.

Donations were collected on both campuses and during staff Professional Day in January.

“Our chapter officers reacted immediately, wanting to know what they could do to help,” said Halkyard, GCC’s Phi Theta Kappa co-advisor. "We worked quickly and processed the necessary paper work to collect donations. Specifically, I’d like to commend our co-presidents Marissa Butler and Ashley Blasczyk for their efforts.”

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Calendar Highlights

Author Wally Lamb to speak at GCC March 30

New York Times best-selling author Wally Lamb will be speak at GCC on Tuesday, March 30, in an event that is open to the public and being presented by The Esther Haseltine Schiavone Endowment Fund, which supports GCC events that focus on the Arts.

The event will be from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in room 160 on the Long Wharf campus.

A Connecticut native, Lamb’s first two novels, “She’s Come Undone” and “I Know This Much is True” were No. 1 on The New York Times’ best-seller list and featured titles of Oprah’s Book club. Between them, “She’s Come Undone” and “I Know This Much Is True” have been translated into at least 18 languages.

Lamb was in the ninth year of his 25-year career as a high school English teacher at his alma mater, the Norwich Free Academy, when he began to write fiction in 1981. He has also taught writing at the University of Connecticut, where he directed the English Department’s creative writing program.

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GCC gallery to feature Guilford artist in March

The Gallery of Art at GCC opened an exhibition March 4 by Connecticut artist Anne Culver called “Landscapes Serene and Volatile Oil Paintings.”
The exhibition of more than 20 works will be on display through March 31.

Culver is an adjunct member of the College of Arts and Sciences faculty at Quinnipiac University and an instructor at the Guilford Art Center. Based in Guilford, she works in a variety of media, including drawing, painting, sculpture, and installation.

Culver’s work can be found in private collections throughout the United States and she has exhibited regularly in solo and group exhibitions for more than 15 years throughout the Northeast. She is the recipient of several awards and her work has been reviewed in many publications, including The New York Times.

“While I work in a variety of media, and create pieces both representational and abstract, there are some constant questions and themes that inspire me. I am interested in images and forms that describe a process of evolving, and transformation,” Culver said.

The Gallery of Art at Gateway Community College is located in Room 161 on GCC’s Long Wharf campus. The gallery’s hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information on the exhibit, call (203) 285-2241.

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Friendly Reminders

Graduation applications due March 15

GCC students who intend to graduate in May 2010 are reminded that in order to participate, they must get a graduation application from the Records Office, fill it out and return it to the Records Office or Room 101 on the North Haven campus by no later than March 15.

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Best All-Around Student nominations due April 15

Nominations for the 2010 Best-All Around Student must be turned in by April 15.

Each year at commencement, GCC recognizes a Best All-Around Student, someone who does not meet the college’s criteria for highest academic achievement, but nonetheless make major contributions to the college and society. In addition to the award, the student also receives $200.

To be eligible, a student must be graduating and have demonstrated leadership and mentoring, personal achievements, career goals, a consistent commitment to service, participation in community and student activities, employment accomplishments and a minimum cumulative GPA of at least 2.5.
All nominations should be forwarded to Carol McHugh in the president’s office. If you have any questions about the award, contact McHugh at 203-285-2061 or cmchugh@gwcc.commnet.edu.

Free tax preparation 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.