Casey Foundation exec to give graduation keynote

Raymond L. Torres, an executive with the Annie E. Casey Foundation, one of the nation’s top charities, will give the keynote address at GCC’s 19th commencement on Thursday, May 26.

More than 650 GCC students are expected to participate in commencement, which will begin at 6 p.m. at Woolsey Hall at Yale University, 500 College St., New Haven.

Torres (photo) is vice president of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and has also been executive director of its Casey Family Services arm since 1992. Both were established by Jim Casey, one of the founders of United Parcel Service (UPS).

Torres is an experienced philanthropic and child welfare leader who has championed the revitalization of downtown New Haven, first by rehabilitating one of the state’s oldest commercial buildings to become the Casey Family Services’ administrative offices and then by helping to launch the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s investment in family economic success programs both in New Haven and throughout Connecticut.

During his tenure at Casey Family Services, he transformed the agency that historically delivered quality, long-term foster care services into a leader in securing lifetime families for children and youth involved with the child welfare system. Today, the organization provides a comprehensive and innovative array of social services across the six New England states and Baltimore, Md.

BOT Award, honorary degree recipients announced

This year’s commencement event May 26 also will honor the recipients of the Board of Trustees (BOT) Merit Award and an honorary associate degree.

The BOT Merit Award from the Connecticut Community-Technical College System recognizes extraordinary service or lifetime commitment to GCC and the state’s community-technical college system. This year, it will be given to Dr. Cynthia Farrar, research fellow at the Institute for Social and Policy Studies at Yale, and founder of Purple States, a video production company that specializes in distilling the experience and concerns of ordinary people to supplement reporting on politics and policy by major news organizations.
A long-time friend of GCC, Farrar (photo left) was instrumental in involving the college community and its constituents in two major civic dialogues through MacNeil/Leher’s *By the People* project, connecting the college and the greater New Haven community to the national and local dialogue on major issues, including the achievement gap and immigration.

GCC will honor Dr. James Hogan, retired chief of environmental chemistry and biochemistry at the Connecticut State Laboratories, with an honorary associate degree for his service to the greater New Haven community and to the college.

An invaluable advisor and friend to the college, Hogan (photo right) was a member of the Gateway Community College Regional Advisory Council for more than a decade and served for several years as the chair. A pioneer in medical research, Hogan began an illustrious career as a postdoctoral fellow at Yale. He has held faculty positions at Howard University School of Medicine and the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, where he was also named the school’s first director of minority student affairs. In 1987, he joined the Connecticut Department of Health, where he was later named chief of clinical chemistry and chief of biochemistry, and then appointed chief of environmental chemistry and biochemistry at the Connecticut State Laboratories, making him the first African American to occupy the position.

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### Greater New Haven NAACP to honor GCC president

GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick will be honored as Educator of the Year by the Greater New Haven Branch of the NAACP at its annual Freedom Fund Dinner on Saturday, May 14.

The event takes place at 7 p.m. at Yale Commons, 168 Grove St. New Haven. This year’s theme is “One Nation, One Dream: The Politics and Challenges of Education Reform.”

Dr. James P. Comer, MD, professor at the Yale School of Medicine will also be honored with the organization’s Special Lifetime Achievement Award. Tickets are $100. For information or tickets, call 203-389-7275 or send an e-mail to info@naacpnewhaven.org.

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### GCC, AmeriCorps VISTA partner to fight poverty

GCC has been selected to participate in the AmeriCorps VISTA program, an initiative that will allow the college to survey, promote and institutionalize its community engagement efforts over the next three years.

AmeriCorps VISTA is the national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. VISTA members commit to serve full-time for a year at a nonprofit or local government agency, working to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, strengthen community groups and more.

As a result of the recent approval of GCC’s application to the 2011-2012
Connecticut Campus Compact (CTCC) AmeriCorps VISTA Community College Initiative, a VISTA member will be assigned to work with GCC to achieve the program’s goals.

“This VISTA partnership will help us successfully engage our students in service learning, community-based internships, civic outreach and volunteer activities,” said GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick. “It will help us enhance our career programs, broaden our community partnerships and expand student opportunities, while improving the quality of life in greater New Haven.”

During the first year, GCC’s VISTA member will survey, evaluate and create a database of the college’s current community-building activities, as well as develop a single-point access tool for student volunteers and community members. The second year will be devoted to “institutionalizing” community-based learning within the college, identifying community needs and creating opportunities for student volunteers to address those needs. By the end of the third year, community-based learning will be integrated into core course requirements in other academic areas.

“By providing a full-time professional at a fraction of the full-time cost equivalent, the AmeriCorps VISTA program enables colleges and universities to better respond to pressing issues facing low-income communities,” said CTCC Executive Director Saul Petersen, Ph.D. “By articulating a strong, long-range strategic plan, Gateway will join other dedicated, visionary colleges and universities in a comprehensive initiative that will bear fruit for years to come.”

Anne Williams, assistant professor of business at GCC, will serve as site supervisor for the VISTA member. “This program will help our students explore meaningful volunteer and internship opportunities rooted in Gateway’s mission, vision and strategic plan,” Williams said. “It will also make our community a better place in which to live, work and run a business.”

Event spotlights Wells Fargo Foundation grant

On April 26, GCC hosted a check presentation for the $30,000 grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation that has expanded the college’s successful Higher Education Express Middle College initiative to two additional New Haven high schools.

A growing national educational trend, middle colleges are collaborations between high schools and an institution of higher learning, in this case GCC, that allows at-risk or moderately at-risk high school students to strengthen their skills through rigorous intervention strategies, and, when appropriate, receive dual high school and college credit.

GCC’s Middle College initiative began in 2008 with a pilot program that targeted 25 freshmen at New Haven’s Cooperative High School for the Arts & Humanities. Last year, the foundation, known then by its pre-merger name the Wachovia Foundation, underwrote that effort with a $20,000 grant.
Environmental hazards removal courses offered

Beginning May 23, GCC will provide a series of short, focused training courses dedicated to the rapid-growth field of environmental hazard recognition and identification, removal, clean-up and remediation.

As Connecticut increasingly focuses on the re-use of brownfield areas, former industrial sites contaminated with various materials, there will be significant opportunities for individuals trained to plan, manage, supervise and execute this type of work.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, the occupational area of hazardous material workers and supervisors is expected to experience 15 percent job growth nationwide in the next five to seven years. Median wage for hazardous material workers is approximately $18 per hour, while licensed supervisors are earning more than $30 an hour.

The courses will be a blend of both classroom theoretical and hands-on practical lab work. Completion of comprehensive training will satisfy federal and state requirements. Graduates of the courses will be eligible for Connecticut State Department of Public Health licensing in the specific skills. Specifically, GCC will offer:

- A 40-hour Asbestos Supervisor Initial Training course;
- A 40-hour Lead Supervisor Initial Training course;
- A 40-hour Hazardous Work Operation & Emergency Response Training course;
- A 10-hour OSHA-required construction worker safety course; and,
- An 8-hour EPA-required Renovation, Repair and Painting course now mandated by federal statute 40 CFR Part 745.

For more information, contact GCC’s Continuing Education Division at 203-285-2426.

LEEDing the Way: Construction waste, pollution

Construction sites not only kick up a lot of dust and dirt, but they also produce a large amount of waste. In fact, some estimates suggest more than 20 percent of the United States’ total waste stream is attributable to construction and demolition (C&D) debris.

As a result, projects aiming for LEED certification are encouraged to prevent construction activity pollution and recycle between 50 and 75 percent of their construction waste. Dimeo Construction Co., the construction manager on our new downtown campus, is addressing both issues on site, according to Dimeo Project Manager Scott Eaton.

To earn the LEED “Construction Activity Pollution Prevention” credit, Dimeo dampens
dirt on the site during dry months to keep dust from accumulating nearby, installed fabric silt barriers under storm water grates around the perimeter of the site to ensure site materials stay out of run-off, and created “wheel wash stations” at all the gates to clean dirt off vehicles’ tires, Eaton said. The stations consist of “tracking pads” of stones that help break up dirt and mud before a vehicle leaves the site. LEED also requires regular maintenance of pollution prevention tools and photographs to provide documentation of that maintenance.

Dimeo is also diverting at least 75 percent of all the waste generated on the site for recycling to satisfy the LEED “Construction Waste Management” credit, Eaton said. That means all the construction debris (collected in Dumpsters like the one at the bottom of the black chute in the photo) is sent to Murphy Road Recycling on Wheeler Street in New Haven, a C&D debris transfer station where it is sorted into components that either can or cannot be recycled. All dry wall, metals, masonry debris, wood, paper and cardboard are removed and sent to several locations for recycling.

Diverting the waste not only helps extend the life of landfills, but it also helps address global warming by reducing the use of disposal facilities and their related environmental issues and offsetting the need to extract and consume virgin resources.

Our new “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.

Digital Printing and Production Certificate launched

This summer, GCC will launch a new Digital Printing and Production Certificate Program, developed in partnership with the Xerox Corp. that aims to provide hands-on training in graphic design and digital production with the latest printing technology.

The Digital Printing and Production Certificate will be the first of its kind in Connecticut. It will be available starting with the summer semester on June 1 and registration is currently open. The program will also be offered in the fall semester.

“The certificate is designed to cater to both newcomers to the printing, graphics, advertising and related industries and veterans wishing to enhance their skill set with the latest technical skills in the digital printing environment,” said Ann Cohen, director of GCC’s Workforce Development Institute. “Students who successfully complete the program will receive Xerox certification in digital press production that will qualify them to work in digital printing facilities in print shops, corporations, schools or businesses.”

Students who take the program full time can complete the certificate in one year, or its courses can be taken individually. The certificate consists of 133 computer training hours, in both the Mac and PC platforms, and 72 hours on
black-and-white and color digital printing machines.

“Xerox Corporation is honored to be in partnership with Gateway Community College in preparing students for a successful career in the growing graphic communication Industry,” said Valeria Nichols, Production Solutions Executive at Xerox. “We are also excited to be working with Gateway itself, an innovative institution that prides itself on a high quality education for all.”

For more information, contact Ann Cohen at (203) 285-2302 or acohen@gwcc.commnet.edu.

New CSF ‘deconstruction’ program launched

Nine unemployed individuals are ready to begin a new "green" job skills program called "Deconstruction and Materials Reuse," which is offered through GCC’s Center for a Sustainable Future (CSF) and will lead to jobs with the project’s partner, Urbanminers, LLC, in Hamden, which has emerged as a leading new local company in the field.

The 12-week course will start May 18. Applicants to the program must be currently unemployed. The program will take place at the M.L. Keefe Center in the Newhall/Highwood community in Hamden. Following the skills course, graduates will be employed by Urbanminers to deconstruct several homes in Hamden, under a contract with the Hamden Economic Development Corp. (HEDC).

The HEDC, Hamden Town Council Majority Leader Kath Schomaker, and the Workforce Alliance, were instrumental in developing and funding the program, which was first envisioned by HEDC’s Executive Director Dale Kroop.

The relatively new trade of deconstruction and materials reuse replaces demolition with careful dismantling of both the exterior and interior of buildings, said CSF Director Dr. David N, Cooper. “There is a great market for antique and old-style bathtubs and sinks, all kinds of plumbing, lighting, and other household fixtures, old window and door frames, flooring, and other building parts,” Cooper said. “Many construction materials, such as lumber and bricks, can be reclaimed and re-used.”

Federal grants through the Workforce Alliance for the deconstruction of several homes built on contaminated soil in the Newhall community in Hamden, which is part of the remediation of the former Olin-Winchester plant area, helped make this project possible.

"Unlike the field of construction, deconstruction uses its own specialized tools and techniques, requiring an understanding of toxins and remediation, workplace safety, regulations governing deconstruction, and business marketing skills on how to market and deploy recovered construction materials," said Urbanminers' owner Joseph DeRisi, who designed and will teach the new course. DeRisi holds a masters' degree in environmental science and has many years of experience working with local government and environmental groups in land and water reclamation.

This first class will concentrate on teaching basic deconstruction concepts and skills. Other areas of expertise needed by practitioners in the field include logistics, business management, warehousing, and manufacturing new products from the deconstruction process, DeRisi said.

Although the current participants will not be trained in the highly specialized field of brownfield remediation, they will need to gain a basic understanding of the topic and how to handle materials given that land under many homes and other buildings set for deconstruction may have been contaminated by toxins and require remediation.
“This is truly ‘green’ job training,” said Kroop, head of the HEDC, noting that at the same time, it promotes the growth of a new local "green" company.

Those interested in learning more about the program can contact Dale Kroop the HEDC at 203-287-7033.

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Exterior glass ‘curtain wall’ begun on new campus

Workers began installing the exterior glass “curtain wall” on parts of our new downtown campus and placed two of the large air conditioning units on the roof in April as the construction site begins its final year.

Scott Eaton, project manager at Dimeo Construction, gave this summary of work on the site:

On the south building: Last month, curtain wall construction began and Dimeo achieved important milestones with the placement of two air conditioning units on the roof that will push air through the building. Over the past two months, work continued on wall framing, mechanical and electrical "rough-in" on every floor and exterior façade elements.

On the north building: Workers finished placing all the slabs “on deck,” which means the levels above ground level supported by structural steel, and began masonry, wall framing, mechanical and electrical “rough-in,” and some exterior façade elements. This month, work will begin on this building’s curtain walls and metal panels. And two air conditioning units and the emergency generator are expected to be placed on the roof in May, as well.

On the George Street bridge: Workers completed the steel and concrete for the bridge in April. Some of the exterior façade work, mechanical work and spray fireproofing are expected to commence in May.

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 Public Works is administering the $198 million project, which will include two four-story buildings totaling 360,000 square feet.

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Program Spotlight: Radiography Associate Degree

GCC’s Radiography Associate Degree Program trains students in just under two years to become radiographers who use sophisticated imaging equipment to produce detailed images of internal structures within the body that help doctors diagnose disease and injury.

This highly competitive program offers a state-of-the-art radiography lab at GCC’s
North Haven campus where students receive supervised hands-on practice. And it boasts an average pass rate of 93 percent on the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (AART) exam over the past five years.

“This associate in science degree program offers an outstanding education and unique opportunity to train at various clinical sites including Yale-New Haven Hospital and Bridgeport Hospital, as well as other sites throughout south central Connecticut,” said Program Director Julie A. Austin, M.A., R.T. “It includes 66 credit hours and can be completed in about 20 months with summer and winter intersession internships. Upon successful completion, graduates are eligible to apply for the AART exam.”

The program is part of GCC’s Allied Health Department and one of four specialties in radiologic technology offered at GCC; the others are diagnostic medical sonography, nuclear medicine technology and radiation therapy. The field of radiologic technology includes some of the most rapidly advancing careers in modern medicine. Recent changes in technology, the ever-increasing use of highly sophisticated equipment, and the expansion of radiology departments throughout the nation have created a large demand for individuals educated in this field.

Originally established as the Yale School of Radiology in the late 1940s, the program was adopted in 1973 by GCC predecessor South Central Community College. Its courses are offered at GCC’s North Haven campus and it is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT), 20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 2850, Chicago, IL 60606-3182, (312) 704-5300.

Employment opportunities for registered radiographers include hospitals, clinics, independent radiology facilities, mobile radiology facilities, traveling radiology companies and doctor’s offices, Austin said.

Bridgeport resident Joseph Cornish, 31, who plans on graduating from the program later this month, hopes to find a job in a hospital.

“I chose the Radiography Program first and foremost because patient care is such a critical part of this career,” Cornish said. “But I also enjoy it because it requires working in a team-oriented environment and the technical and critical thinking aspects of it really interested me.”

Cornish said the program is time-consuming and demanding, but also very rewarding. “It absolutely prepared me for the clinical setting,” he said. “Its hands-on experience, coupled with the academics learned in the classroom, breeds confidence. And the instructors always go above and beyond.”

For more information about the Radiography Associate Degree Program, contact Program Director Julie Austin at 203-285-2382 or jaustin@gwcc.commnet.edu.

GCC program coordinators who are interested in having their program featured in a future Program Spotlight should contact Alison Skratt at askratt@gwcc.commnet.edu. Articles will be assigned on a first-come-first-served basis.
Calendar Highlights

May 17, 24: Nursing and allied health pinnings

GCC’s nursing and allied health programs will hold pinning ceremonies on May 17 and May 24, respectively, to mark the transition from student to professional for the programs’ graduates.

The nursing event will be held Tuesday, May 17, at 5:30 p.m. in the auditorium of our North Haven campus. A reception will be held prior to the pinning from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in room 113.

The allied health event will be held Tuesday, May 24, at 6 p.m. in the North Haven auditorium, with a reception prior to the event from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the auditorium.

GCC’s nursing Class of 2011 is expected to include 51 graduates. GCC’s allied health class of 2011 also is expected to include 51 graduates.

May 19: Awards Convocation at North Haven

GCC will distribute its 2011 Academic Achievement Awards during its Award Convocation event at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 19 in the auditorium of our North Haven campus.

All members of the GCC community are invited to attend. The Presenters’ Reception will be held prior to the event, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., in rooms 113B and 113C. The Awardees’ Reception will be held after the event in the same rooms.

May 21: GCC walks for American Heart Association

On Saturday, May 21, a GCC team of walkers will participate in the American Heart Association’s 2011 New Haven Start! Heart Walk at Savin Rock in West Haven.

Registration for the 5K walk opens at 10 a.m. and the walk begins at 11 a.m. If you’d like to join the “Gateway Walkers” or make a donation to the team, click here. If you have any questions, contact Kim Shea at 203-285-2011 or Sheila Solernou at 203-285-2393.

May 25 to June 28: Auto, rail, SOAR info sessions

GCC’s division of Engineering and Applied Technologies will be hosting a series of information sessions starting May 25 about its automotive programs, Railroad Engineering Technology Program and its SOAR certificate programs.

The sessions will be held:

- May 25 on the North Haven campus in room 14 at 3 p.m.
• May 31 on the North Haven campus in room 14 at 6 p.m.
• June 1 on the Long Wharf campus in the cafeteria at 6 p.m.
• June 8 on the North Haven campus in room 14 at 2 p.m.
• June 22 on the Long Wharf campus in the cafeteria at 3 p.m., and
• June 28 on the North Haven campus in room 14 at 4 p.m.

For more information, contact Division Director Paul Silberquit at 203-285-2450 or psilberquit@gwcc.commnet.edu.

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Through August: Students’ End of Semester Exhibit

The Gallery at Gateway Community College is now hosting The Gateway Art Students’ End of Semester Exhibition through the end of August.

More than 100 pieces are on display, including paintings, photos, sculpture, drawings and graphic design.

The gallery, which is open to the public, is located in room 161 on our Long Wharf campus. Its hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information on the exhibit, call (203) 285-2241.

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June 1: Summer sessions begin

GCC’s summer sessions begin on Wednesday, June 1. There are four sessions this year, offering more than 100 different courses.

The first session runs from June 1 to June 17. The second session runs from June 1 to June 30. The third session runs from July 5 to Aug. 3. And the fourth session, which consists of only online courses and allied health and nursing clinical courses, runs from June 1 through June 21. For more information, click here.

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Faculty, Staff Highlights

Professor’s new book of poetry now available


Also, on Sept. 11, excerpts of the new book will be read on the Nashville, Tenn., radio station 107.1 LPFM on the “Difficult Listening: The Poetry Show” from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., which can be listened to on the web at www.radiofreenashville.org.

GCC team raises more than $1,000 in food bank walk

GCC’s team of more than 15 walkers raised more than $1,000 to help fight hunger as part of the Connecticut Food Bank’s Walk Against Hunger on May 1 at East Rock Park in New Haven.

Team captains Kim Shea and Teresa DeMars were joined by Toni Page, Jodie DeMars, Allyson Kinney, Virginia Robey, Martha Hayes, Carol Brutza, Lou D'Antonio, Adrienne D'Antonio, Jean Incampo, Liz Vega and her family, Maribel Lopez, Marcia Doran and others.

Solernou to receive Nursing Professional Award

GCC’s Nursing Division Director Sheila Solernou, MSN, RN, will receive the Nursing Professional Award on May 22 at the Southern Connecticut Black Nurses’ Association (SCBNA) Annual Scholarship and Award Luncheon at Fantasia’s of North Haven.

The Nursing Professional Award was established to acknowledge registered nurses who, through strength of character, commitment and competence, contribute to the advancement of nursing practice and receive recognition from peers. Recipients also participate in community and organizational affairs, demonstrate an ability to work with others, and have an innovative outlook.

The event will be held at 2 p.m. Tickets are $50. Dr. Debra Toney, SCBNA president, will be the keynote speaker. For information or tickets, e-mail enawill58@yahoo.com.
Professor holds literature of poverty seminar

Humanities Professor Renee A. Gaines gave a presentation “The Theme of Poverty in Literature” to the GCC community on May 3.

The event, which was sponsored by The Center for Teaching, included a presentation and group discussion.

This summer, Gaines will be summer scholar for the National Endowment for the Humanities in July at the Fannie Lou Hamer National Institute on Citizenship and Democracy at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi. The initiative, called “We the People,” will give Gaines an opportunity to do research on the civil rights movement and civil rights studies.

Student Highlights

Student honored at Capitol for academics

GCC student Ashley Blasczyk, president of our Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society chapter and vice president of the Student Government Association, was among the students honored April 27 for their high academic achievement at the State Capitol in Hartford by state Rep. Richard Roy, D-Milford.

Blasczyk, who received a citation at the event, will be transferring to Smith College this fall and will be greatly missed by the Gateway community, said Roberta Prior, GCC’s director of student activities.

Nuclear medicine students present at symposium

GCC nuclear medicine technology students (from the left) Joanna K. Burkacka, Michael Riley, Sarah Lord, Rudolph Dominick, LaMeisha Sherman, Phillip Searcy, and Tasnuba Hoque-Ahmmmed participated in oral and poster presentations during the student program at the 42nd annual Spring Symposium of the Society of Nuclear Medicine New England Chapter, Technologist Section, which was held April 15-16 in Springfield, Mass.

Dominick, a Milford resident, presented “U.S. Healthcare Reform and its Effects on Nuclear Medicine.”

Hoque-Ahmmmed, resident of Meriden, presented “Evaluation of Sickle Cell Anemia using Radionuclide Procedures and other Imaging Modalities.”
Burkacka, a New Britain resident, presented “Long Term Effects of Chernobyl Accident on Young Children.”

Lord, a Cheshire resident, presented “Alzheimer’s Imaging: A Comparison of PET Agents.”

Riley, a Madison resident, presented “The Future of Nuclear Medicine: Advantage of MRI/PET in Comparison to PET/CT.”

Phillip Searcy, a Wallingford resident, presented “Radioimmunotherapy in the Treatment of B-cell NHL.”

LaMeisha Sherman, resident of Manchester, presented “Lung Scintigraphy in Diagnosing PE: Technegas vs. 99m Tc-DTPA Aerosol.”

Nuclear Medicine combines chemistry, physics, mathematics, computer technology, and medicine in using radioactivity to diagnose and treat disease. Students' poster presentations are on the display on North Haven campus outside the Allied Health Department.

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10 students inducted into engineering honor society

Ten GCC students were inducted April 29 into the Connecticut Delta Chapter of Tau Alpha Pi National Honor Society, the national honor society for engineering technology.

The students inducted were: Yapi Adouko, Sami Al-Hamzawi, Harold Becker, Lona Dansofo, Abdelkader El Idrisy, Nelson Grenier, Aboudou Ouro-Salim, Joshua Stratoudakis, Stephen Straub and Damion Thompson.

The Tau Alpha Pi National Honor Society is devoted to recognizing high standards of scholarship among students in two-year and four-year engineering technology programs throughout the country. Membership in this society is offered to students who have obtained academic excellence within their engineering technology programs.

Officers for 2010-11 are President Braden Mellin, Vice President Nana Ofosu Apea, Secretary Grant Frolich and Treasurer Ernest Ngbo. The chapter's advisors are Professor Don Lostritto and Professor Cyprian Ukah.

In the photo, from left to right, are: Braden Mellin, Nelson Grenier, Sami Al-Hamzawi, Joshua Stratoudakis, Nana Ofosu Apea, Ernest Ngbo, Aboudou Ouro-Salim, Damion Thompson, Lona Dansofo and Grant Frolich.

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2011-12 SGA officers sworn in on May 3

A swearing-in ceremony was held May 3 for the 2011-12 Student Government Association officers in room 160 on our Long Wharf campus.
The SGA president is Samantha Heltke. The SGA Vice President is Christopher Woods. And the SGA Treasurer is Taisha Castillio.

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GCC student wins ‘elevator pitch’ competition

GCC student Chinara Johnson won $500 for her 60-second “elevator pitch” on Atmosphere, a lounge planned for the New Haven area, at the April 8 Southern Tier 60-Second Community College Elevator Pitch Competition.

“Our students competed with students from Housatonic Community College,” said GCC Professor Rose Bednarz-Luglio, program coordinator for entrepreneurial studies. “The students were scored on clarity, competitive strength of their business concept and viability.”

An “elevator pitch” is a short summary used to quickly describe a business, product or idea to a possible investor in the length of time it takes to ride an elevator.

The event was sponsored by The Entrepreneurship Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization that provides on-going moral support to student companies and university spin-outs. It serves as a platform to match students with mentors and monitor process, and provide a forum for student entrepreneurs to network, and shares leads, customers, and experiences.

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Nursing student awarded Nightingale scholarship

Rosemarie Vaccaro, a Branford resident and GCC nursing student, was recently awarded the 2011 Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing Scholarship at a reception hosted by the Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut (VNASCC).

Vaccaro was one of five local nursing students who were honored with a $1,200 scholarship. Since 2006, $33,000 in scholarships have been awarded.

Vaccaro is pursuing her associate degree in nursing. Vaccaro, who previously worked in a medical billing department, had a life-long dream of becoming a nurse.

“It is such a rewarding feeling to know at the end of the day that you made a difference in someone’s life,” Vaccaro said. “After waiting all these years, I finally can say that I feel at home in this profession and look forward to continuing my nursing education.”

She plans to enroll in an RN to MSN program with a focus on nursing education so that she can return to GCC and teach.

Nursing Division Director Sheila Solernou, MSN, RN, said Vaccaro is an exceptional student who has consistently excelled academically and clinically during her time in
the nursing program at GCC. "She is not afraid of a challenge and looks for new experiences to enhance her clinical learning," Solernou said.

In photo, from left to right: John R. Quinn, president and CEO of VNASCC; Barbara Rudolph, GCC nursing counselor; Shelia Solernou, MSN, RN, GCC nursing division director; Branford resident and Nightingale Scholarship recipient Rosemarie Vaccaro; and Ellen Russell Beatty, chairperson of the board of directors of VNASCC.

Library Quiz winners show off their library know-how

Congratulations to Alma Hall (photo) and Michael Lang, the winners of GCC’s recent Library Knowledge Contest. Each answered the three questions correctly and received a new dictionary or thesaurus, donated by the Follett bookstore.

The questions, and answers to the quiz:
Which Classification System is used in Gateway Library? Answer: Library of Congress
What section of the library will you find *Time* magazine? Answer: Periodicals
Name two “general” databases. Answer: Academic Search Premier and Academic Onefile – and there are seven others