‘President’s Corner’ goes green with new format

“President’s Corner,” GCC’s campus newsletter, debuts today in its new e-mail format, the latest in a series of moves toward a paperless campus and yet another way to demonstrate Gateway’s commitment to going green and supporting sustainable efforts wherever possible.

“We’re excited about all the possibilities afforded by this new format,” said Evelyn Gard, director of public relations and marketing at GCC. “It will not only allow us to conserve paper and reduce expenses, but it is tune with today’s online society and allows us to give our readers the option to easily learn more about certain topics by inserting links to web sites or lengthier documents.”

Plans also call for distributing the newsletter on a monthly basis. “Previously it was a quarterly publication, but we have so much going on here on campus that we felt more frequent communication is in order,” Gard said.

Funding for new campus approved, work begins

Construction has begun on the new consolidated GCC campus in the heart of downtown New Haven, following the Oct. 30 approval by the state of $182.7 million for the construction contract.

The four-story structure is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2012 school year. It will be located on Church Street at the sites of the former Macy’s and Malley’s department stores. The project will encompass 360,000 square feet and will include a 600-car parking garage. In addition, the state has completed an agreement to lease 700 spaces in New Haven’s Temple Street garage adjacent to the site.

The new campus will be the state’s first public building gold-certified Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). It will utilize renewable and alternative energy technologies while maximizing the use of energy efficient systems and equipment and reducing the demand on the existing energy utilities.

“This project represents a gateway to academic excellence and future job growth in Connecticut,” said Gov. M. Jodi Rell. She visited the campus Oct. 20 for a press conference with GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick (photo) to announce the state bonding commission would vote on the bonding measure Oct. 30.

“This college will have a prime role in the educational, economic and workforce development initiatives that will serve the students of the greater New Haven region for generations to come,” Rell said. “It will be a centerpiece for the city which will provide
affordable, quality education for young people and readily accessible, employment-oriented retraining for people looking for new skills or new careers.”

Dr. Kendrick selected to receive 2 prestigious awards

GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick was selected to receive two prestigious awards this fall, one from the Connecticut Women’s Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF) and the other from the Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches.

On Oct. 6, she was one of five women to receive the Maria Stewart Award from the CWEALF at its “One Woman Makes a Difference” Dinner at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell. The award is given to women who are courageous, inspiring and talented leaders, as well as role models for their efforts to advance the cause of equality in Connecticut.

Raised in Jackson, Tenn., Kendrick was one of three students in 1967 to integrate Union University, where she later earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration. A New Haven resident, Kendrick has served as GCC president since 1999. In that time, enrollment has leaped from fewer than 3,000 students to more than 6,000. The college also has developed programs with the two major hospitals, among others, to steer students toward jobs in nursing and health care, programs where the majority of students are women.

Margaret Bauer, emeritus dean of research and development, introduced Kendrick at the CWEALF event (see photo, right to left with Bauer, Kendrick and Alice Pritchard CWEALF executive director). In her remarks, Kendrick told the audience about The Daffodil Principle, the story of a woman who planted more than 50,000 daffodil bulbs over 40 years on her farm as a tribute to the beauty of nature. Its lessons, she said, include learning to move toward goals one step at a time, learning to appreciate the process and learning that it is possible to change the world.

On Nov. 6, Kendrick will be honored as one of the “100 Most Influential Blacks in Connecticut” by the Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches. The organization will honor the award recipients at its annual convention at the MGM Grand at Foxwoods in Ledyard, an event that will also celebrate the organization’s 100th birthday. The award honors individuals whose efforts transcend their profession or position and command national or statewide influence that affects African Americans.

Foundation Hall of Fame event to be held Nov. 19

The Gateway Community College Foundation will host its 12th Annual Hall of Fame Induction & Reception on Thursday, Nov. 19, where it will honor six individuals for their exceptional contributions to the college community.

This year’s event will spotlight the contributions made by:

- Corporate Honorees Diane L. Wishnafski, executive vice president, NewAlliance Bank, and Scott D. Flora, president of the surgical devices unit of Covidien;
- Community Honorees Benedict W. Cozzi, business manager and president of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 478, and John E. Padilla
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.

8 more years’ accreditation recommended for Nursing

A site team with the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) recently visited GCC as part of its accreditation process and recommended continuing accreditation of the nursing program for another eight years.

NLNAC is nationally recognized as a specialized accrediting agency for both post-secondary and higher degree programs in nursing education.

GCC was first accredited by the NLNAC in October 2004 and is one of 617 associate degree programs that are currently NLNAC-accredited.

The next step in the accreditation process is a review by the Evaluation Review Panel in January and then the Board of Commissioners in February. The final notice of accreditation status should be received by the college in April 2010.

GCC Foundation adds 5 members to its board

The Gateway Community College Foundation has added five new members to its board of directors, individuals who were selected for their valuable community and business experience and dedication to improving higher education in the region. The new members are:

- Paul A. McCraven, senior vice president and director of community development banking at NewAlliance Bank, who becomes chair of the foundation board’s nominating committee;
- Carolyn N. Stanworth, chief operating officer and chief financial officer at BL Companies, who becomes chair of the foundation board’s finance committee;
- John Emra, regional vice president of external and legislative affairs for AT&T. Emra manages AT&T’s external affairs directors, oversees the company’s relationships with local, state and national officials and manages its charitable giving in Connecticut through the AT&T Foundation;
- Thomas S. Griggs, a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Coast & Country. Prior to joining Coldwell Banker, Griggs was with People’s United Bank for 20 years,
most recently as a vice president; and,
- Mary Pepe, vice president of operations at the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority.

“We are very pleased to welcome our new members aboard,” said Kathleen M. Shanley, chair of the foundation’s board. “All of them have long-term ties to the greater New Haven area and bring with them important insights and knowledge that will help the foundation achieve its goals.”

Solernou honored as New Haven ‘Healthcare Hero’

Sheila Solernou, MSN, RN, division director, nursing, has been honored as one of New Haven’s “Healthcare Heroes” by Business New Haven for her role in adding nearly 300 nurses to the professional ranks locally.

GCC started it two-year nursing degree program to educate registered nurses in 2002 after officials with Yale-New Haven Hospital (YNHH) and the Hospital of Saint Raphael (HSR) asked the college to fill a gap in the area’s educational offerings. Solernou was appointed to head up the effort.

The program began with 27 students in laboratory space on Howard Avenue donated by YNHH, and today has 191 students taking all their classes at the college’s North Haven campus. About 90 percent will eventually go to work in greater New Haven.

“It’s been a great journey, and it’s amazing how much the program has grown,” Solernou said in the article. “Watching the growth of the students and how it has affected the community is a great feeling. We have touched many students in the area who have been able to realize a dream they may not have been able to achieve before.”

To read Business New Haven’s article on Solernou, click here and turn to page 29.

First GCC graduates to use new Guaranteed Admissions Program head to UConn this fall

The first three GCC students to successfully complete the new Guaranteed Admissions (GA) Program with the University of Connecticut started classes at UConn in Storrs this fall.

The students praised the GA Program for not only saving them money, but also time by streamlining the transfer process and ensuring they completed two years of guaranteed transferable credits while at GCC. The graduates include an international student from Turkey, a Branford man who dropped out of high school at 16, and a Columbia, S.C. native who came to Gateway after six years in the Air Force.

Merve Gok (photo), 21, who lived in Ansonia while attending GCC and spends the summers with her family in Istanbul, is studying chemistry at UConn. Bryan
Goodman, 23, who went to work after leaving high school at 16 and then earned his G.E.D at the age of 20, is studying English.

Both say that after they earn their bachelor’s degrees, they want to go on to earn master’s degrees, PhDs and become college professors. The third student, Jeff Reid Branham, 29, plans to earn a double major at UConn in history and journalism and perhaps go on to law school.

“I never really thought it would be possible for me to attend a great school like UConn with only a G.E.D., but within my first semester at Gateway I was accepted into the GA Program,” said Goodman (photo). “It opened up an entire new world of encouragement and helped me to persevere all the way to graduation and to the beginning of the next chapter in my life.”

To read more about these graduates and the GA Program, click here.

GCC joins national student ‘engagement’ study

During the first five weeks of this fall semester, GCC participated in the Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE), a national survey research project that focuses on institutional practices and student behaviors in the earliest weeks of college.

Research shows that student engagement is strongly related to student success in community colleges. An engaged student is fully involved in, and enthusiastic about, his or her work.

The survey was administered randomly in classes selected by SENSE to ensure a representative sample and preserve the integrity of the survey results. It is part of The Center for Community College Student Engagement and the Community College Leadership Program at The University of Texas at Austin.

The survey data will be collected, analyzed and reported back to the college in an effort to understand students’ earliest experiences and help enhance student learning, retention and success.

GCC President Dr. Dorsey Kendrick said the college is intent on being a leader in higher education. “This survey can assist us in improving course completion rates, as well as the rate of student persistence to the completion of their educational goals,” she said in a memo to the college community.

New course lays groundwork for new certificate

This semester GCC began offering a new introduction to alternative fuels technology course that will lay the groundwork for launching a new standalone alternative fuels certificate in 2010.

The new course offers a broad overview of sustainable energy, green technologies and advanced technologies for the automobile, including current issues in renewable fuels such as biodiesel, ethanol and clean fuels like natural gas.

GCC already has an alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) certificate, which is certified by the National Automotive Technicians Educational Foundation, but in order to earn it, students must participate in one of the college’s existing automotive technology
The new standalone AFV certificate could be earned without a majority of GCC’s general automotive courses and would provide students with the entry-level skills necessary to compete in the new “green-collar” workforce that services electric, hybrid and other renewable fuel-powered vehicles. College officials hope the new certificate, which is being created with help from a grant by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Sustainable Operations: alternative and Renewable (SOAR) Energy Initiative, will be launched this spring.

GCC hosts spill-over crowd for mayoral debate

GCC hosted New Haven’s only mayoral debate on Oct. 13 when a standing-room-only crowd came to listen to New Haven’s four mayoral candidates discuss issues important to city residents.

A panel of reporters asked questions of incumbent Democrat John DeStefano, Jr. (photo) and independent candidates Angela Watley, Ralph Ferrucci, and Henri Sumner.

The event was being co-sponsored by the New Haven Independent (which provided this photo) and La Voz Hispana. It was organized by the New Haven Democracy Fund, a public election financing program for the mayoral election.

New Haven is the only city in Connecticut to have established such a program. To read an article about the debate from the New Haven Independent, click here.

Yale-trained classical guitarist gives free concert

On Oct. 28, GCC hosted classical, Yale-trained guitarist Yuri Liberzon for an evening of Baroque, Romantic and Russian guitar music. The free concert was sponsored by GCC’s Humanities Department.

Liberzon is an extraordinary young talent gaining recognition by professionals, critics and audiences around the world. His career has taken him to many prestigious venues in the Middle East, Europe and the United States with recent concerts in New York, Philadelphia, Jerusalem, Köln and Tel Aviv. Liberzon (center) poses after the event with concert organizers Daniel Corr (left), adjunct music lecturer, and Victoria Morse (right), assistant professor of French, Italian and Spanish.

The Humanities Department is hosting Australian classical guitarist Rupert Boyd for a concert at the college on Dec. 9.
Faculty & Staff Highlights

New coordinator for Center for Working Students

Dr. James M. Boger, a retired educator with more than 40 years of experience in the New Haven area, is running GCC’s new Center for Working Students (CWS) as its new coordinator.

The CWS was created earlier this year through a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation to provide students with a comprehensive set of services and support designed to help them complete a college degree, earn more money, and ultimately provide better futures for their families and children.

The center acts as a concierge resource, connecting students to academic support services, career planning services, income and work support services, and financial literacy services.

Boger has a doctorate in educational administration from Columbia University. He retired from the New Haven public schools system in 2004 after spending 34 years in a variety of positions, including principal at various secondary schools and director of adult education, the position from which he retired.

While director of adult education, Boger created a transition program with GCC to help students get a head start with their college studies.

In the nine years ending in 1992, Boger was also director of program implementation at Dr. James Comer’s School Development Program, which is part of Yale University’s Child Studies Center. Additionally, he has been an adjunct professor at Columbia University’s Teachers College.

Weiner among those honored for earning credential

Marjorie Weiner, director of GCC’s Early Learning Center, was recently honored as a recipient of the Connecticut Director Credential from Charter Oak State College.

Weiner was honored, along with other early childhood education directors statewide, at an awards ceremony on Oct. 23 at the Holiday Inn in Waterbury. She received the certification at the master’s level in March.

The voluntary credential, which has three levels of proficiency, is designed for administrators in early child care. Those who earn it must prove they have the knowledge and competencies important for leadership roles for directors in early care and education.

The credential also ensures that program leaders meet candidacy requirements for National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation. GCC’s Early Learning Center was re-accredited by NAEYC January 2008 under new rigorous standards.
Prof. Douskey discusses Kennedy with Senator Dodd

GCC Professor Franz Douskey talked with Sen. Chris Dodd about the late Sen. Ted Kennedy and other personal issues at a political fundraiser held Oct. 16 at the homestead of Hamden Mayor Craig Henrioci.

“The senator and I spoke several times during the evening, but the best time was when I showed up and we were eye to eye for 10 minutes or so,” Douskey said. “We talked, about the huge loss of mutual friend Ted Kennedy, about how tough times test real friends and that tough times test us all, as well,” he said. “I mentioned that when Ted passed away I felt that he, Chris, didn’t inherit Ted’s mantle because he shared the mantle all along. What was passed on to him was the baton so he could continue the race.”

Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal also attended the event, as did numerous state senators and representatives.

Student Highlights

4 attend Yale’s prestigious English Language Institute

Four GCC students, including a recent refugee from Iraqi, received scholarships to attend last summer’s program at Yale University’s prestigious English Language Institute (ELI).

The scholarships were made possible by a partnership between ELI and the Gateway Community College Foundation.

The students participated in the intensive six-week course on Yale’s campus. It is designed to expand the reading and writing skills of students whose first language is not English. The scholarship recipients, who all participate in GCC’s English as a Second Language (ESL) Program, are (from left to right in photo):

- Guilford resident Sandra Betancur from Colombia, a pre-nursing student from Colombia;
- New Haven resident Geovanny Rivera, a pre-nursing student from Puerto Rico;
- Hamden resident Sada Mobarak, a pre-dental hygiene student from Iraq; and,
- New Haven resident Sahony Ramirez-Feliz, a psychology student from the Dominican Republic.

To learn more about the scholarship program and its recipients, click here.
Phi Theta Kappa ‘Shred-It’ fundraiser raises $300

GCC’s chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society held a “Shred-It” fundraiser Oct. 3 on the Long Wharf campus that not only raised $300, but also helped shine a spotlight on the importance of recycling and protecting individuals against identity theft.

Students, faculty, staff, their families and members of the public could buy one paper bag for $3 or two bags for $5 and bring it filled with confidential or personal documents for shredding to the event from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Chapter President Chuck Passaro, along with the rest of the Phi Theta Kappa chapter, send their special thanks to Eastern Bag & Paper for donating the paper bags and Shred-It for bringing their truck and shredder to the event.

2 receive scholarships from Community Foundation

Two GCC students — Orange resident Paul Indorf and West Haven resident Sharese Rowland — recently received scholarships from The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven.

Indorf (photo), 35, received a $1,000 scholarship from the Imperato Family Scholarship. The fund was established at the foundation in 2003 through a bequest by Eugene “Gene” Imperato to provide scholarships for graduates of Derby High School who are pursuing a master degree in business or, if no such candidates apply, a candidate completing their undergraduate work.

Rowland (photo), 39, received a $500 scholarship from The Foundation of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce’s Non-traditional Scholarship Fund. The fund was established at The Community Foundation of Greater New Haven in 2003 by the Greater New Haven Leadership Center’s Class of 2003 to provide scholarships to individuals who demonstrate financial need, are at least 25 years old, reside in the chamber's 15-town region, possess a GED or equivalent and be enrolled in a degree or certificate program.

The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven is the region’s permanent charitable endowment. It is among the largest and oldest community foundations in the nation and the region’s largest grant maker, distributing approximately $14 million in 2008 within the nonprofit sector.

Student chosen for Standing Advisory Committee

Christopher “C.J.” Magut (center in photo), a GCC environmental science and toxicology student, was recently elected by the CCC Student Electoral Assembly to serve as the student technical representative to the Standing Advisory Committee of the Board of Governors.

The Standing Advisory Committee is a 22-
member group of trustees, administrators, faculty members and students charged by state statute to meet at least twice annually with the Board of Governors to discuss a mutually agreed upon agenda.

Four additional students (left to right in photo) also represented GCC at the Assembly: Ashley Bellus, Thomas Nelson III, Rehema Daniels and Shakaya Kitchens.

Student leaders spend day honing leadership skills

Forty student leaders representing both GCC campuses came together Oct. 24 to participate in the College’s second annual Student Organization Training and Orientation.

Students participated in a two-hour business etiquette luncheon facilitated by Karen Hinds, CEO of Workplace Success Group, Inc. and also learned how to build effective teams, be better communicators (see photo of communication exercise), be inclusive and focused on the value-centered leadership model.

By the end of the day, these leaders defined values about which they are most passionate and methods to incorporate those values into how they lead their peers.

The club that brought the most participants was the Organization of Latin American Students followed by the Computer and Gaming Club and the Student Nurses’ Association.

Calendar

GCC hosts 1st Elm City Cocktail Competition Nov. 8

GCC, along with the Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale and the Greater New Haven Convention & Visitors Bureau, will host the first annual Elm City Cocktail Competition on Sunday, Nov. 8.

Bartenders from New Haven’s top restaurants will compete for the title and bragging rights. Participating restaurants include 116 Crown, Bar 19, Bar, Bentara, Bespoke, Dolci, Heirloom, Ibiza and Leon’s & Miya’s.

Mike Lapitino from WPLR will be the celebrity emcee and celebrity judges will include Desiree Fontaine of WTNH-TV, Pat Ferrucci of the New Haven Register, T.J. Gallagher of the Wine Thief, as well as Mark Scarbrough and Bruce Weinstein of The Ultimate Cookbook.

The event will take place from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale, 155 Temple Street, New Haven.

Tickets are $30 and a portion of the proceeds will go towards a Hospitality Management scholarship through the Gateway Community College Foundation. For reservations, call (203) 777-8550 or e-mail amyh@visitnewhaven.com.
Alzheimer’s Awareness Event on Nov. 9

The Women's Center of GCC and Georgette Wood's Psychology 111 class are co-sponsoring "Alzheimer’s Disease & Related Dementias: Reducing the Risks, Warning Signs, Treatment, Healing & Hope" lecture on Monday, Nov. 9.

Maria Tomasetti, regional director of the Connecticut Alzheimer's Association, will be the keynote speaker at the 7:30 p.m. event, which will be held in Room 160 at Long Wharf. Faculty, staff and students are invited to attend. For planning purposes, RSVPs are requested by contacting Wood at gwood@ntplx.net or (203) 481-3757.

Nov. 11 seminar on effects of Israel/Palestine conflict

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

The event is free and open to the public. It will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. in the cafeteria on GCC’s Long Wharf campus. Gateway students and staff are being encouraged to participate as a learning and training opportunity. Like GCC’s new "Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies" course this fall, the seminar is designed to shine a spotlight on how the universal issues of war and peace affect us all.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Andrea Blanch (photo), is president of the Center for Religious Tolerance in Sarasota, Fla. The center supports local and global peacemakers and works to build a connection between peacemaking efforts domestically and abroad. It also tries to bring people together across divides of religion, culture and nationality.

For more information, contact Susan Chenard, assistant humanities professor.

Thanksgiving Food Drive runs Oct. 28 to Nov. 19

The GCC Core Committee is holding a Thanksgiving Food Drive from Oct. 28 to Nov. 19 to benefit the Christian Community Action Food Bank in New Haven.

Non-perishable food donations are being collected at Long Wharf in Room 122 and in North Haven in Room 101. For more information, contact Kim Shea at ext. 2011 or Teresa Russo DeMars at ext. 2286.

‘Holiday Dinner for the Less Fortunate’ on Dec. 18; Drives collect donations, clothes, hygiene items

GCC will hold its annually Holiday Dinner for the Less Fortunate on Friday, Dec. 18, and is asking students, faculty and staff to consider doing what they can to help with related drives to collect child/family sponsorships, winter wear and personal care items.

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

There is also a drive through mid-December to collect winter wear in clean and good condition for the Holiday Dinner guests, including coats, hats, scarves, and gloves for men, women and children. Donation boxes for winter wear have been set up in both libraries.

And those who wish to help Holiday Dinner guests by donating personal care items can do so at two locations through Dec. 4. The personal care item drive hopes to collect 400 combs, 400 bottles of shampoo, 100 deodorants, 250 hair brushes and 250 bottles of lotion. Collection boxes have been set up at Long Wharf at the Front Entrance and in Room 229, and in the lobby of the North Haven campus.