Contact
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New interim head of Board of Regents visits GCC

The new interim president of the Connecticut Board of Regents of Higher Education visited GCC on Friday, Oct. 7, as part of his tour to visit all 17 campuses his board now oversees. And he was welcomed by standing-room-only crowds that had more comments and questions than time would allow at both the faculty/staff and student sessions.

Dr. Robert Kennedy was joined in the meeting by GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick, Michael P. Meotti, executive vice president of the Board of Regents, and Louise Feroe, acting chancellor of the Connecticut State University System.

Kennedy, 64, told audiences about himself, discussed his view of the recent reorganization of administration of higher education in Connecticut, and answered their questions about how GCC and the community college system might be affected by the reorganization.

A Connecticut law that took effect July 1 eliminated the Department of Higher Education and merged management of the state's 12 community colleges, the online Charter Oak State College and the four regional state universities (Eastern, Western, Southern and Central Connecticut state universities) under the new Board of Regents.

Kennedy was announced Aug. 22 as Gov. Dannel P. Malloy’s nominee for president of Connecticut’s higher education system. He was interim president of the University of Maine from 2004 to 2005, and then was president until he resigned in June. His visit to GCC was the third stop on his 17-campus tour, having previously visited Housatonic Community College and Charter Oak.

Kennedy grew up on a farm in western Minnesota and was the first in his family to attend college. He described himself as an “anti-bureaucrat” and said he is particularly interested in enhancing and promoting the role that colleges and universities play with regard to workforce and economic development.

“Given the nature of the economy and the importance of jobs, I think … (community colleges) are the ones that will benefit significantly from this reorganization,” he said.

He said that higher education in general and here in Connecticut “has really operated with far greater and deeper silos than is good for the outcomes” and that is part of the reason behind the recent reorganization. “There is not a lot of cross purposes and collaboration,” he said, acknowledging that cost savings and increased efficiencies and effectiveness for students are other motivations behind the change. “I believe it will be good for the state. I believe it will be good for the region. And I believe it will be good for the students,” he said.
When asked about budget pressures and whether they could mean the end of the community college’s open door/open admission policies, Kennedy said those policies are “extremely important,” adding “it is very much on my mind to protect that.”

He also said he was “extremely impressed by the strong level of support for the community colleges here in Connecticut” and that “in all my years in higher education, I don’t think I’ve seen a college that is as responsive to student needs as this one is.”

For a more detailed look Kennedy’s Oct. 7 meeting with GCC students, click here to read the New Haven Register article on the event.

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GCC president honored by New Haven Latino group

Junta for Progressive Action Inc., the oldest Latino organization in New Haven, honored GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick last month with its Community Advocate Award for all she has done to help strengthen the greater New Haven community.

Founded in 1969, Junta for Progressive Action’s mission is to provide services, programs and advocacy that improve the social, political and economic conditions of the Latino community in greater New Haven, while nurturing and promoting its cultural traditions as it builds bridges with other communities. It selected Kendrick for the award “in honor of your passion, leadership and commitment to educational equality and access for our community.”

Kendrick was one of three individuals honored at its Sept. 23 It Takes a Village: Junta’s 42nd Anniversary Gala event at Anthony’s Ocean View in New Haven. State Sen. Martin M. Looney and Serg Demers, owner of McVac Environmental were also honored.

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Foundation Hall of Fame event slated for Nov. 16

The Gateway Community College Foundation will host its 14th annual Hall of Fame Induction & Reception on Wednesday, Nov. 16, at 5:30 p.m. the Shubert Theater in downtown New Haven.

Event co-chairs, Althea M. Brooks of Empower New Haven and Kelly W. Bettuchi of AT&T, are intent on exceeding last year’s scholarship goals and promise a memorable evening, complete with silent auction.

Since 1997, the Hall of Fame event has served as Gateway’s main source of scholarship revenue. This year’s event will honor two individuals and one corporation for their exceptional contributions to the college community. This year’s honorees will be announced in the next President’s Corner newsletter.

For ticket and sponsorship information, please contact Susan Swirsky at (203) 285-2617 or sswirsky@gwcc.commnet.edu.
‘Radius’ work begins on new downtown campus

Over the past two months, the interior of our new campus has really begun to take shape while work continues on finishing the exterior — and work began this month on the “radius,” the curved section with windows that faces North Frontage Road (photo).

Scott Eaton, project manager at Dimeo Construction Co., gave this summary of work on the site in August and September:

On the north building: Work continued on the main parts of the building exterior, including the brickwork, the exterior glass “curtain wall” and metal panels. Inside, the installation of wall framing and wall boarding increased significantly with an estimated 50 percent of the boarding installed by the end of September. Installation of ceiling panels also began.

On the south building: Work on the radius (photo) began at the beginning of October. This curved wall of windows is the part of the new campus most often featured in marketing materials and the new library sits right behind it. The rest of the work on this building mirrored that of the north building, but is about four weeks ahead as it was started sooner. In the upcoming months, both buildings will begin to see painting, millwork and other “finish” activities commence.

On the George Street bridge: This bridge that connects the north and south buildings is almost complete. Some exterior work remains, installing glass and metal finishes.

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 totaling 360,000 square feet.

Free drop-in math tutoring available this fall

GCC math instructors will be available for free drop-in tutoring throughout the fall semester for students needing assistance with pre-algebra and introductory to algebra courses.

Specifically, the courses available for tutoring are MAT 075, MAT 095 and MAT 097.

Drop-in tutoring is available for these courses on the Long Wharf in room 142 on:

- Mondays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 3:35 p.m. to 4:35 p.m.;
- Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 6 to 7 p.m.;
- Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 4:35 p.m.; and,
Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 6:15 to 6:50 p.m.

Drop-in tutoring is available on the North Haven campus in the Center for Educational Services/Library on:

- Mondays from 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.;
- Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.;
- Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.;
- Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.; and
- Fridays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Before coming to a drop-in math tutoring session, students are encouraged to call and confirm that there has been no change to these posted hours. To confirm the Long Wharf hours, please call 203-285-2217. To confirm the North Haven hours, call 203-285-2348.

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LEEDing the Way: Materials that emit low VOC levels

There are many materials used in building construction that also emit volatile organic compounds (VOCs), gases that may have short- or long-term adverse health effects.

Part of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) aspects of our new campus include using materials in four categories that emit VOC levels within healthful limits set by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC): adhesives and sealants, paints, carpet and composite wood. Limiting these levels at the outset is especially important because concentrations of many VOCs are consistently higher indoors, sometimes up to 10 times higher, than outdoors.

Adhesives and sealants include things like carpet glue and caulking. "All interior paints in the buildings have to meet USGBC VOC guidelines, which vary depending on whether you’re painting drywall, wood or metal," said Scott Eaton, project manager at Dimeo Construction Co.

All carpet and carpet backing used in the project are certified through The Carpet and Rug Institute’s Green Label Program, which tests carpet, cushions and adhesives to help users identify products with very low VOC emissions. And none of the composite wood used in the project, which includes most of the cabinetry, can contain urea-formaldehyde, a resin used in some indoor pressed wood products that could lead to health problems.

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.

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Program Spotlight: Music at Gateway

GCC offers a variety of music courses designed for students who want to pursue the possibility of a musical education and those who have a more general interest in exploring this genre of the fine arts.

This semester, there are 10 music courses offered, with the most popular being "Music History and Appreciation" and "Class Piano I." The latter is one of the most popular applied music courses at GCC and it is held in a piano lab fully equipped with multiple instruments.

Applied music courses give students the opportunity to participate in music themselves. These also include guitar, a violin program in partnership with the Neighborhood Music School in downtown New Haven and a chorus that affords students the opportunity to sing with the Nutmeg Symphonic Pops Orchestra.

The music program has made a lot of strides and includes quite a variety of courses and continues to grow each year," said Professor Chet Schnepf, who is chair of the Humanities Department.

Some of the newer offerings include special topics courses about popular culture and specific artists, like Elvis Presley, The Rolling Stones and The Beatles. “Students really identify with these courses,” Schnepf said. “They not only learn about the music, but also how these artists contributed to society in a cultural sense.”

For more information about GCC’s music program, contact the Humanities Department at (203) 285-2150.

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Faculty, Staff Highlights

Professor’s book of poetry nominated for Pulitzer

The latest book by GCC Humanities Professor Franz Douskey, "West of Midnight: New and Selected Poems," has been nominated by two publishers for a Pulitzer Prize.

The autobiographical book, released earlier this year, places new works alongside pieces previously published in Rolling Stone, the Nation, The New York Quarterly, The New Yorker and Las Vegas Life.

Two publishers nominated Douskey’s book for a Pulitzer Prize in poetry, including his publisher, New York Quarterly Foundation, which publishes about 40 books a year and is directed by Raymond Hammond. Publishers nominate works to the Pulitzer committee in a variety of categories, including poetry. About 1,000 books of poetry are published each year, and of those, less than 100 are generally nominated for
consideration. Winners will be announced in the spring.

During a decades-long career, Douskey, a New Haven native, has had readings and traveled with such notables as James Dickey, Allen Ginsberg, Ai, Charles Bukowski and F. D. Reeve. Some of his writing has been performed by Frederica Von Stade of the Metropolitan Opera Company, The Yale Glee Club and The Heath.

Douskey also coordinates artistic events at GCC through the Esther Haseltine Schiavone Endowment Fund, which was established in 2006 through the Gateway Community College Foundation by Schiavone’s daughter Jennifer Schiavone. Along with writing, Douskey also produces radio shows for WQUN 1220 AM and enjoys spending time with the horses at the Giant Valley Polo Club in Hamden (photo) where he is a member.

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**Professor directs project to restore, create quilts**

A two-year quilting project directed by Professor Cathy Mebane, a lifelong quilter, was recently completed and resulted in four finished quilts, including three that will be displayed at our new downtown campus.

The project began in 2009 when Mebane’s mother, who is active in a Fairfield County quilters’ group, told her about the number of finished and unfinished quilts donated to localquilting groups via estate sales and other sources, many of which required extensive restoration.

So, in 2010, Mebane (photo) developed a non-credit quilting course that met at our North Haven campus and resulted in three additional quilters dedicating themselves to the project. The group met every Friday and finished the four quilts by the end of last summer. The most challenging part of the project was securing donations of sometimes expensive supplies for quilting and restoring, which included hoops, scissors and needles. “I researched and drove to various parts of Connecticut to pick-up all of the donated materials,” Mebane said. “And now these generous individuals are friends and call me with donations.”

One of the quilts, a restoration, was donated to the GCC Foundation and sold at a silent auction to benefit GCC students. The other three included: a traditional sampler style Nine Patch Square quilt made by the group; an appliqué quilt restored by the group that features an original design by Mebane with a peace and love theme; and a third quilt designed and stitched by Mebane with an African mask theme.

“Quilting is an American art form,” Mebane said. “I was looking for individuals who were interested and who had some quilting skills to help change the lives of some students in our community and to add to the beauty of our new campus. It was a wonderful group and we are very proud of what we’ve been able to accomplish.”

In addition to Mebane, the quilting group included Sandra Eskridge in GCC’s career services, and volunteers Virginia Brown and Vivian Williams.

**Music lecturer performs classical guitar concert**
Daniel Corr, a music lecturer at GCC called “a guitarist for music lovers to catch” by the Hartford Courant, performed a free classical guitar concert Sept. 22 on our Long Wharf campus in room 160.

The evening event included works from Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Mauro Giuliani, Frederic Hand, Carlos Guastavino and Agustín Barrios.

Corr, who teaches a variety of music courses at GCC including guitar, has been recognized for his musicianship and artistry at several competitions, including earning first prize at the 12th Northwest Guitar Competition, a top prize at the SUNY-Potsdam Crane New Music Solo Performer Competition and Yale University’s prestigious Eliot Fisk Prize as the “outstanding graduate in guitar” in 2001.

Corr said there’s a little something for everyone in GCC’s music program. “All of our music classes fulfill the fine arts elective, but beyond that, they operate as a feeder for people interested in the various avenues of employment in music, from music education to performance to recording and engineering,” Corr said. “Whether you have an interest in popular music or an interest to go on and pursue a degree in music, we have the classes that will get you started.”

GCC team raises $2,200 to help cure diabetes

GCC’s “Gateway Cares” team beat its goal and raised more than $2,200 to help find a cure for diabetes at the Sept. 18 American Diabetes Association’s 2011 Greater New Haven Step Out Walk to Fight Diabetes in West Haven.

The team of 38 walkers, led by co-captains Lou D’Antonio, dean of administration, and Wilson Luna, dean of students, set a goal of raising $2,000. Our congratulations go out to everyone who participated!
55 student workers trained at Sept. 16 event

The Division of Student Services held a very successful comprehensive student employee training on Sept. 16 that was attended by 55 students.

The training was designed to streamline processes and to offer all our student employees a comprehensive, student development oriented on-campus employment experience.

“The feedback from both student employees and their supervisors has been very positive,” said Roberta Prior, director of student leadership programs and activities in the College Life Office. “Many thought it would be boring, but the various exercise and information was presented in an upbeat and thought-provoking manner. Students were very responsive, engaged and appeared to enjoy the community atmosphere.”

Some of the areas included in the training:

- Organizational structure of the College
- Customer Service and telephone etiquette
- How to handle a difficult customer
- On-the-job stress management
- Ethical and appropriate use of state property
- Effective Communication
- Discriminations/Sexual Harassment policies
- General expectations, such as to how to communicate with your supervisor, computer use, cell phones/texting on the job, work expectations, attire, timecards and confidentiality/FERPA.

3 students selected to present at national conference

Three GCC student leaders have been invited to present Educational Sessions at the National Association for campus Activities (NACA) National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., in February.

They are the only student leaders from a community college that were selected to present.

Taisha Castillo, Student Government Association (SGA) treasurer and New Student Orientation leader, will be presenting “Educational Programming for the Modern Student.”

Symphany Joseph, chair of the Campus Activities Board and New Student Orientation leader, will be presenting “The Bare Naked Truth About Series Programming.”

And Samantha Heltke, SGA president and New Student Orientation leader will present “Get a Better Bang for Your Buck.”

NACA advances campus activities in higher education through a business and learning partnership, creating educational and business opportunities for its school and professional members. NACA now has more than 950 college and university members and over 550 associate members who represent artists, lecturers and performers.
GCC’s Fitness Center now open five days a week

GCC’s Fitness Center, located on our North Haven campus, opened at the end of September and operates five days a week.

The center is located in room 132. Its hours are: Mondays, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Culinary students serve up dinner at Café Vincenzo

Once again this year, GCC’s culinary students will offer four-course gourmet dinners on Thursday evenings during the fall semester at Café Vincenzo on our Long Wharf campus.

The nine events, which will be in room 106, are all open to the public. Seating begins at 6:15 p.m. and service begins promptly at 6:30 p.m. Dinners are $18 each, payable at the Business Office in the main lobby the day of, and the day prior to, the date selected.

Reservations are required. To make a reservation, call (203) 285-2269 and leave your name, telephone number, the number in your party and the date(s) you would like to attend, and someone will return the call to confirm availability.

Café Vincenzo gives GCC culinary students first-hand experience in what to expect from a career in the hospitality industry. The remaining dinners this semester will be:

Oct. 13: Featuring seafood chowder, salad, roasted prime rib encrusted with fresh herbs and risotto rice pudding;

Oct. 27: Featuring chicken velouté soup, salad, roast pork with wild mushrooms and a red wine reduction and flourless chocolate torte;

Nov. 3: Cream of roasted tomato soup, salad, pan-seared salmon with citrus beurre blanc and fresh berries with champagne sabayon cream;

Nov. 10: Featuring lobster bisque, salad, roasted pork with apple brown bread stuffing and tiramisu;

Nov. 17: Featuring beef barley soup, salad, filet of sole stuffed with crab and fresh spinach and eggnog crème brulée;

Dec. 1: Featuring New England clam chowder, salad, homemade lasagna and blueberry carrot walnut cake; and,

Dec. 8: Featuring minestrone soup, salad, veal marsala and strawberry shortcake.

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Oct. 18: Helping Hand Luncheon fundraiser

Everyone in the GCC community, as well as family and friends, are invited to attend the Helping Hand Luncheon on Tuesday, Oct. 18, in the Long Wharf cafeteria to help raise funds for students needing food assistance.

The event, which will be from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., is organized by the GCC Foundation and sponsored by Theodora’s Catering for the foundation’s Helping Hand Fund. Cost is $10. Please RSVP by Friday, Oct. 14, to Amy DeFigueiredo at (203) 285-2212 or adefigueiredo@gwcc.commnet.edu.

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Oct. 25-26: VNA offering flu clinics on both campuses

The Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut will offer flu clinics on our North Haven campus on Tuesday, Oct. 25, and on our Long Wharf campus on Wednesday, Oct. 26.

The clinics are open to faculty, staff and students. They are free to those who bring insurance cards with them from Medicare B, Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield, Connecticare and Healthnet. They are $30 to all others. Cash or checks accepted. Vaccines will be available to those age 9 or older. Children under 18 must have parental or guardian consent.

The North Haven event will be in room 113A from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The New Haven event will be in the cafeteria from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Anne Williams at 203-285-2170 or awilliams@gwcc.commnet.edu.

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Through Oct. 29: Art faculty exhibition

The Gallery of Art at GCC is hosting The Gateway Studio Art/Graphic Design Art Faculty Exhibition through Oct. 29.

The gallery’s hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information on the exhibit, call (203) 285-2241.

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Nov. 4: Discussion of book banning scheduled

The public is invited to attend “The Democratization of Information: The Banning of Books,” an event sponsored by GCC’s Alpha Xi Theta chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society on Friday Nov. 4 that will explore banned books and the banning process.

The event will be held at 6 p.m. on our Long Wharf campus in room 160.
You may also participate by selecting and reading a book from the American Library Association list of banned books, many of which can be borrowed through our campus libraries. To see the list, click here.

For more information, contact PTK advisers at Rich Halkyard at rhalkyard@gwcc.commnet.edu or Susan Swirsky at sswirsky@gwcc.commnet.edu.

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**Nov. 17: Dr. Henry Lee to visit GCC**

Dr. Henry Lee, the legendary forensics investigator known for finding the tiniest clues, is scheduled to give a presentation at GCC’s Long Wharf campus on Thursday, Nov. 17.

The event, which is being arranged by GCC Professor Franz Douskey, will be held at 11 a.m. in room 160 and will be open to the public.

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