$1M in donations kick off building campaign

The GCC Foundation last month launched the public phase of its $6 million “Your College. Your Future” building campaign for our new downtown campus with the announcement of two $500,000 donations from Yale-New Haven Hospital (YNHH) and First Niagara Financial Group, as well as a separate campaign kick-off event.

The gifts from YNHH and First Niagara were announced during an Oct. 20 news conference in what will be the new campus library. As a result, the campaign has already raised more than $2 million to provide state-of-the-art equipment and program-related materials for the new building. The state of Connecticut is funding the $198 million construction of the campus, which opens in August 2012, but not all of the expenses necessary to equip it.

The foundation will acknowledge YNHH’s and First Niagara’s campaign gifts by naming two major areas on the new campus after these generous donors. The Nursing Suite ultimately will bear YNHH’s name, and the library, First Niagara’s.

“These impressive pledges by Yale-New Haven Hospital and First Niagara demonstrate their commitment to the economic well-being of our region,” said GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick. “Collaboration and partnership of this magnitude between businesses and individuals within our community make all the difference in the quality of education and training we can offer. This generous investment allows the College to develop a qualified workforce and make Greater New Haven a better place to live, work and raise a family.”

Paul McCraven, First Niagara senior vice president, community development, said the bank’s donation represents its approach to community involvement in every market it serves. “By partnering with the school and others in the development of this downtown campus, we are helping students make a difference in their professional lives,” McCraven said. “That bodes well for the strength of our workforce, the health of local businesses and the future of greater New Haven.”

Marna P. Borgstrom, YNHH president and CEO, said the hospital has been a proud supporter of GCC for nearly a decade, providing resources for the development of the College’s “exceptional” nursing program. “This additional commitment to Gateway’s capital campaign builds upon our partnership,” Borgstrom said. “The proceeds will be used to ensure that the next generation of nursing professionals will have the opportunity to learn their profession in a state-of-the-art building.” To see coverage of the Oct. 20 event in the New Haven Register, click here.
The GCC Foundation also held an Oct. 27 event to officially kick off the public phase of the building campaign, which will raise the additional funds needed for equipment and programming and to underwrite long-term student support services like scholarships and help for students to overcome temporary financial barriers. The event was held at 45 Church St., across from the new campus construction site.

It was attended by almost 100 people, including donors, foundation board members and college faculty and staff. Significant donations by Carlton Highsmith, Yale University, the NewAlliance Foundation, and the Atluru Family Foundation also were announced there. Additionally, it was announced there that GCC employees have donated more than $78,000 to the campaign to date. In top photo at the event, from left to right: Kim Healey, executive director of the NewAlliance Foundation and Carlton Highsmith of Specialized Packaging Group, retired. In bottom photo, from left to right: Kathleen M. Shanley, chair of the GCC Foundation Board of Directors, and Lindy Gold, vice chair of the board.

Back to top

Foundation to honor Hall of Fame inductees Nov. 16

On Wednesday, Nov. 16, the GCC Foundation will honor three individuals and a corporation for their exceptional contributions to the college community by inducting them into the foundation’s Hall of Fame.

The 14th annual Hall of Fame Induction & Reception will begin at 5 p.m. with a reception and silent auction at the Shubert Theater in downtown New Haven. The induction ceremony begins at 7:30 p.m. This year, the foundation will honor the following inductees:

- Corporate: John Emra, AT&T;
- Community: Bishop Theodore Brooks, Beulah Heights First Pentecostal Church
- Alumni: Edwin Martinez Jr., Space-Craft Manufacturing, and Matthew Potochney, The Lighting Quotient

Althea Marshall Brooks of Empower New Haven and Kelly Wade Bettuchi of AT&T are co-chairing the event. Since 1997, the Hall of Fame has served as GCC’s main source of scholarship revenue. For ticket and sponsorship information, please contact Susan Swirsky at (203) 285-2617 or e.swirsky@gwcc.commnet.edu.

Back to top

Save the Date: Nov. 17 solar lab ribbon-cutting

Everyone in the GCC community is invited to join GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick at a ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception on our North Haven campus for our new solar energy laboratory.
The event will be held at 11:30 a.m. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by Nov. 15 to Wanda Edwards at 203-285-2426 or wedwards@gwcc.commnet.edu.

Get involved: Help make Holiday Dinner a success

On Friday, Dec. 9, GCC will host its annual Holiday Dinner, a tradition sponsored and run by faculty, staff and student that serves more than a dozen shelters and programs for the disadvantaged across greater New Haven.

Last year’s event (photo) served a record-breaking 760 adults and children who were bused to our Long Wharf campus to enjoy it. The event includes a full buffet, toys for the children, as well as holiday festivities. Every adult leaves with a bag of personal care items and all participants leave with a winter coat, hat, gloves and scarf.

Last year’s dinner was a great success due to the hard work and collaborative spirit of everyone involved. This event would not be possible without the generous donations of items, time and funds from individuals across the GCC community. The Holiday Dinner Committee needs your help. Please participate, if you can, by contacting any of the following committee chairs:

- **Buses** — Alice Pandolfi at ext. 2391 or apandolfi@gwcc.commnet.edu;
- **Candy** — Kristine DeForge at ext. 2279 or kdeforge@gwcc.commnet.edu. This committee is collecting candy for candy bags and to give away at fundraisers it will hold at local Stop & Shop supermarkets on Nov. 19 and Nov. 27. Anyone wishing to donate bags of candy — including leftover Halloween candy — can drop them off in room 116 on the Long Wharf campus or the faculty support office on the North Haven campus.
- **Coats** — Martha Lipowski at ext. 2053 or mlipowski@gwcc.commnet.edu, or Marge Weiner at ext. 2132 or mweiner@gwcc.commnet.edu, or Barbara Rudolph at ext. 2346 or brudolph@gwcc.commnet.edu;
- **Decorations** — Susan Chenard at ext. 2045 or schenard@gwcc.commnet.edu, or Louise Petroka at ext. 2145 or lpetroka@gwcc.commnet.edu.
- **Donations** — Kristine DeForge at ext. 2279 or kdeforge@gwcc.commnet.edu. This committee is organizing fundraisers in the campus lobbies and at local supermarkets.
- **Event volunteers** — Susan Swishy at ext. 2617 or sswirsky@gwcc.commnet.edu. Please note that if you wish to volunteer at the event itself, you must sign up with Susan Swishy in advance to ensure coordination and staffing where it’s needed. The event will begin at 4:30 p.m.
- **Food** — Andrew Randi at ext. 2154 or arandi@gwcc.commnet.edu;
- **Shelters** — Alice Pandolfi at ext. 2391 or apandolfi@gwcc.commnet.edu;
- **Personal care items/health bags** — Marcia Doran at ext. 2390 or mdoran@gwcc.commnet.edu or Matt Wisniewski3@comcast.net;
- **Toys for Tots** — Rick Palinko at ext. 2146 or rpalinko@gwcc.commnet.edu;
- **Wrapping** — Nancy Robinson at ext. 2034 or nrobinson@gwcc.commnet.edu or Lavand Bryant at ext. 2031 or lbryant@gwcc.commnet.edu.
Luncheon raises $1,000 for student support fund

The annual Helping Hand Luncheon, which raises money for the Helping Hands Fund at the GCC Foundation, was held Oct. 18 and raised $1,035 for the student support fund.

In all, 120 people participated in the event. It was sponsored by Theodora’s Catering, which runs GCC’s Long Wharf cafeteria.

The Helping Hands Fund helps students who are experiencing a short-term financial hardship or crisis for which they could not have been prepared, or for which no resources are available. Assistance is typically provided to cover a family’s basic needs when there has been a loss of income through no fault of the student. Funds are intended for, but not limited to, helping with housing, utilities, food, child care, costly medical expenses or expensive repairs to items like water heaters, cars or heating systems. Assistance is provided on a case-by-case basis.

Back to top

‘W’ being phased out of college website address

As part of an upcoming re-branding and simplification for marketing purposes, the “W” in GCC’s website address is being phased out.

As a result, the website is now available at www.GCC.commnet.edu. Visitors will still be able to reach the site at the old addresses — www.GWCC.commnet.edu and www.GWCTC.commnet.edu — during a lengthy transition period.

Please be aware that this change does not impact college e-mail addresses, which remain @gwcc.commnet.edu.

Back to top

Fall edition of Gateway Gazette now available

The fall edition of the Gateway Gazette, a student publication, is now available across both our Long Wharf and North Haven campuses and online on the homepage of the college’s website.

This issue includes articles about the recent faculty/staff tours of our new campus, the August earthquake, an interview with retired Professor Dan Coursey and other topics. To e-mail the Gateway Gazette a story idea or comment, send it to gwgazette@gmail.com.

Back to top

Alternative fuel training for high school teachers

GCC hosted on Oct. 18 a professional development seminar for 40 state technical high school educators that gave an overview of the five currently viable alternative fuels for vehicles.
The seminar covered information about alcohol-based fuels (ethanol and methanol), biodiesel, electric, propane and natural gas fuels. Its primary focus was on the theory and operation of natural gas vehicles and the integration of natural gas fuel systems into existing gasoline or diesel platforms.

The seminar was designed to provide introductory information and background to automotive engineers, instructors and technicians with an emphasis is placed on safety concerns and the environmental impact of switching to an alternative fuel.

The day ended with participants touring the GCC automotive lab, which displays a variety of alternative fuel vehicles on the market today.

**Back to top**

**LEEDing the Way: Brownfield, density, site issues**

When the U.S. Green Building Council developed its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, it built in several goals regarding the construction site itself that would demonstrate the characteristics of the site make it a good choice from an environmental standpoint.

One is “brownfield” development. A brownfield is property where the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of it may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. The site of our new campus, which is made up of two adjacent parcels on 3.7 acres at 2-20 Church St., was a brownfield. If a construction site redevelops a brownfield, as part of the process, it must remediate contamination on site, thereby reducing the number of brownfields that exist. Dimeo Construction Co., the construction manager for our new campus, managed the brownfield remediation with the state Department of Construction Services in November and December 2009 after the former buildings on the site were torn down.

A second site issue that is part of the LEED certification process involves density development and community connectivity. By building new construction on a previously developed site that is within a half-mile of certain basic services, as our new campus is, the construction will not only have a lower impact on the density of an area, but it will also contribute to keeping the area connected.

And a third LEED site issue is site selection. This goal ensures that the site is not inhabited by threatened or endangered animals, not used as farmland, not on previously undeveloped land within 50 feet of a source of water that could adversely affect wildlife or fishing activities, and other issues that could hurt the surrounding natural environment. Our new campus accomplishes this goal, as well. Photo shows the construction site of our new campus in March 2010.

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

**Back to top**
Retirees celebrated at Oct. 21 event in North Haven

GCC gave a fond farewell Oct. 21 to a dozen retirees who together provided the state with 293 years of dedicated service.

The celebration luncheon was held at the Fantasia Wedding and Banquet Facility in North Haven. The following retirees were honored: Thomas Adams, Irene Beauchemin, Ann Cohen, Daniel Courcey, Jesse Davis, Lawrence Laukhuf (posthumously), Carl Marinuzzi, Tina McHugh, Toni Page, David Pettigrew, John Scippa and David Swirsky.

Additionally, seven of the retirees were honored as emeriti for having more than 15 years of service and making significant contributions to the college community. They were: Thomas Adams, Daniel Courcey, Jesse Davis, Tina McHugh, David Pettigrew, John Scippa and David Swirsky.

College team raises $2,800 to help fight breast cancer

A team of about 20 members of GCC faculty, staff, students and friends raised $2,800 to help fight breast cancer by participating in the 2011 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk on Oct. 22 at Lighthouse Park in New Haven.

Team captain Barbara Rudolph sends out her sincerest thanks to everyone who participated, with a special thank you to Linda Nevins’ husband who graciously donated the “Gateways Dream” team T-shirts.

Professor, daughter share family Civil War history

At a special symposium presented by the Department of Academic Affairs on Oct. 20, Professor Chet Schnepf, chair of GCC’s Humanities Department, and his daughter, history instructor Patricia Schnepf, shared their discoveries about their ancestor’s life during the Civil War and his untimely death at the Confederate prison camp Salisbury.

As a child, Chet Schnepf said he always knew that his great, great grandfather
Gottlieb Schnepf, was a Union soldier, but no one ever knew what happened to him. They only knew he never came home after the Civil War.

When he was a young man, Schnepf did research through a GCC journalism class and discovered through original letters obtained through the Pentagon that his great, great grandfather had been held at the Andersonville and Libby Confederate prisons and that he died in the Confederate Salisbury prison as a Union prisoner of war. His daughter, who is now a history teacher, filled in more details of his life as part of the research for her master's at Southern Connecticut State University.

"The story we told is not unique. We still live in hard times now with a lot of families struggling as loved ones are away serving our country," said Chet Schnepf. "There are hundreds of thousands of Americans who have sacrificed their lives for our country and we don't always find out the particulars. In this case, it took over 140 years, but it brought closure to my family."

Student Highlights

GCC team helps Habitat finish 2 New Haven homes

A team of GCC students, faculty and staff helped to put the finishing touches on two homes on Orchard Street in New Haven on Oct. 4 with Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven.

The team accomplished a variety of tasks, including installing cabinets, moving a picket fence, digging up a driveway, laying tile. The homes will be turned over to low-income working families as part of Habitat's mission to create affordable housing.

The volunteer day was coordinated by the Student Community Outreach Program in the Office of College Life. The program is planning another volunteer opportunity with Habitat in the spring.

PTK chapter: Event on banned books, book collection

GCC’s chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the honors society of two-year colleges, recently held an academic forum to discuss the banning of books and the importance of literature to the democratization of information.

The Nov. 4 event on our Long Wharf campus included chapter members, GCC faculty and others speaking about the importance of intellectual and artistic freedom and the value of individual liberty. Each chapter member gave a formal presentation on a specific book that has been banned or challenged.

Every two years, PTK choose an honors study topic, an academic subject vital to the human experience, on which its chapters can direct their intellectual interest, extracurricular academic activity and formulate an Honors in Action Project. The 2011-12 honors study topic, “The Democratization of Information: Power, Peril and
Promise," gave rise to the Nov. 4 event.

The PTK chapter also held a collection in October for Better World Books, which collects and sells books online to fund literacy initiatives worldwide. In all, 98 books were accepted, including 35 college-level books that were in good enough condition to donate to the Books for Africa program. An additional 413 books that were either not college-level or in poor condition were recycled, eliminating more than 560 pounds of paper from the refuse stream.

Student’s Rwanda trip leads to class presentation

GCC student Vera Barroso will be leaving this week with the young adults program at her church to spend three weeks in Rwanda as part of an annual trek where they work with teenage orphans, people living with AIDS and to promote AIDS awareness and entrepreneurs.

The trip led to her group’s leader giving presentations about it on Oct. 26 to two of Professor Susan Chenard’s “Fundamentals of Human Communications” classes as an example of an informational speech.

“I talked about what we do in Rwanda and how our yearly trip helps promote the programs we run,” said Josh Feay, who leads the Sanctuary young adult program at Black Rock Congregational Church in Fairfield. “I talked about how we can learn a lot from the people in Rwanda about being more community minded, and also about how we can do a lot to help them.”

This is the fifth trip Feay will make to Rwanda since the church’s partnership began. He and Barroso are two of the 11 people traveling from the Sanctuary group who will be visiting and promoting the AIDS awareness and economic development programs the church runs.

Student veteran completes ‘recovery’ certification

GCC student James Hanton, a combat veteran who served in Beirut and Lebanon in the 1980s and as a result suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder, recently completed certification through Advocacy Unlimited and hopes to use his new skills to help those who suffer from mental health or substance abuse issues.

Hanton earned his certification in September as a recovery support specialist through Advocacy Unlimited’s Recovery University, a 60-hour advanced training and certification program.

“I have learned to live with PTSD through therapy,” Hanton said. “I can identify with a lot of people who are living with similar issues and I know I will be a great asset this field. I truly believe until you walk in similar shoes you will never fully be able to understand and provide services to those who need them. It wasn’t until I started working with someone that had similar issues then I was able to heal and move on.”

2 alumni awarded UConn Partnership Scholarships
Two recent GCC graduates are among the 12 Connecticut community college transfer students this year who have been awarded University of Connecticut Partnership Scholarships.

Shane Feyers, 26, graduated in May with an associate degree in liberal arts and sciences with high honors. He is working toward his bachelor’s degree in natural resources with a concentration in environmental conservation and hopes to complete his master’s and doctorate degrees in the same area and eventually teach or work to help shape environmental policy.

John Boak also graduated from GCC in May with an associate degree in liberal arts and sciences. He is studying neurobiology at UConn.

Calendar Highlights

Through Nov. 15: Core Committee Food Drive

The GCC Core Committee’s Thanksgiving Food Drive will collect non-perishable food and monetary donations through Tuesday, Nov. 15, to benefit the Christian Community Action Food Bank in New Haven.

Donations may be made in room 122 on our Long Wharf campus or in room 101 on our North Haven campus. For more information, contact Kim Shea at 203-285-2011 or kshea@gwcc.commnet.edu or Teresa Russo DeMars at 203-285-2286 or tdemars@gwcc.commnet.edu.

Nov. 8: ‘Combat to Classroom’ faculty, staff training

GCC’s Veterans’ Office will be hosting “Combat to Classroom” on Tuesday, Nov. 8, a professional development training opportunity and discussion panel designed to prepare college staff and faculty to better understand and support issues unique to student veterans.

The event will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. in room 160 on our Long Wharf campus. The discussion panel will include VA transition counselors, psychiatrists, faculty members and student veterans. Light refreshments will be provided.

Nov. 11: Veterans Day ceremony at Long Wharf

On Friday, Nov. 11, the GCC Veterans’ Office will be hosting its annual Veterans Day ceremony from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in room 160 on our Long Wharf campus. Everyone in the GCC community is invited to attend this event that will honor those men and women who have fought or died defending our freedom. Light refreshments will be served.

It is one of several veteran events that the college is hosting in November. On Nov. 3,
GCC hosted its 2nd annual Veterans Resource Fair in response to the continued influx of veteran students on campus (photo). It was open to the public and brought together a variety of internal and external resources to assist in helping meet the needs of current and prospective veteran students.

Back to top

Nov. 15: College Fair with more than 25 universities

GCC will host a College Fair on Tuesday, Nov. 15, that will feature representatives from more than 25 public and private universities.

The event, which is open to all students, will be held on our Long Wharf campus in the cafeteria from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, contact the GCC Counseling Office at 203-285-2090.

Back to top

Nov. 17: Dr. Henry Lee gives presentation at GCC

Dr. Henry Lee, the legendary forensics investigator known for finding the tiniest clues, will speak on GCC’s Long Wharf campus on Thursday, Nov. 17.

The event, which will be held at 11 a.m. in room 160, will be open to the public. It was organized by GCC Professor Franz Douskey and is sponsored by the Esther Haseltine Schiavone Endowment Fund for the Arts at GCC.

Over the past 40 years, Lee has assisted in the investigations of more than 6,000 cases, including many high profile cases like war crimes in Bosnia and Croatia, the suicide of President Clinton’s former White House attorney Vince Foster, a review of the John F. Kennedy assassination and the death of JonBenet Ramsey. He is also founder and professor of the Forensic Science Program at the University of New Haven.

Back to top

Nov. 30: Transfer seminar with four-year institutions

GCC will host a transfer seminar on Wednesday, Nov. 30, that will feature representatives from Southern, Central, Eastern and Western Connecticut State Universities, the University of New Haven and Charter Oak State College.

The event will be held on our Long Wharf campus in room 160 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The first hour is open to all students interested in learning more about how to transfer to the participating four-year institutions. The remaining time, from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. is by appointment only. To make an appointment, visit the GCC Counseling Office in room 113 on our Long Wharf campus or call the office at 203-285-2090.

Back to top

Dec. 15: Celebration of Community College System

Everyone in the GCC community is invited to save the date for “A Celebration of the
Connecticut Community College System” on Thursday, Dec. 15, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville. Tickets are $50. Stay tuned for more information in the weeks ahead.

Back to top