Faculty, staff take 1st tours of new downtown campus

More than 100 members of GCC’s faculty and staff recently took their first tours of our new downtown campus, donning hard hats and safety vests to get their first glimpses at what it might feel like to walk down its corridors next summer when they move in.

The most popular questions asked: “Where is my office?” and “When will we move in?” Unfortunately, because the campus is still a construction site, which limited the number of places the tours could go, not everyone was able to see exactly where they will be working. And as for moving in, Dimeo Construction Co. expects to turn the building over to Gateway in June – and then the college administration along with Diversified Project Management will determine the moving schedule for departments.

But the tours did give participants a first-hand look at many common areas in both buildings. Tours started out on the third floor of the south building, giving participants an opportunity to see what the Atrium (first photo) and Library will feel like. They continued over traffic, crossing the George Street Bridge (second photo) and explored part of the second floor in the north building where many administrative offices will be located.

To Omar Livingston, associate director of financial aid, the most indelible impression was how much natural light there is throughout both buildings, in contrast to the windowless Long Wharf campus, a feature that he predicts will energize students, faculty and staff.

“It’s farther along than I thought – and it’s nice how bright this building will be,” Livingston said. “It’s going to be really nice to have windows. And the new library is going to be wonderful. The whole campus is going to be a very big boost to New Haven.”

Calendar Highlights

- Sept. 16: Campus-wide student employee training
- Sept. 18: GCC’s team participates in diabetes walk
- Sept. 20: Great Ideas Workshop for GCC faculty
- Sept. 21 to Nov. 5: Student...

GCC rides out Irene, uses Facebook for updates

GCC opened its fall semester just a few hours late on Aug. 29, the day after Tropical Storm Irene blew through New England, and was fortunate not to have experienced any serious issues related to it.
The only noteworthy damage, which all occurred while the college was closed, included three trees that fell on our Long Wharf campus. Two fell on our Early Learning Center playground, causing some damage to the fence and such severe damage to the frame that supports the tent used to cover the playground that it had to be removed. The other tree fell in the faculty parking lot without causing any damage. And there was no storm related damage at our North Haven campus.

Work on our new downtown campus was set back a few days, as crews shifted to preparing for the storm before it arrived and managed cleanup in its wake. Scott Eaton, project manager at Dimeo Construction Co., said he and a crew stayed on site throughout the storm and that there was no serious damage.

One upside to the storm: the college leveraged its Facebook page to keep students, faculty and staff up to date on changes and answer questions both before and after the storm. As a result, the week after the storm saw our Facebook page more than double its monthly active users to 2,376, and increase its visits over the prior week to 5,851 from 3,536.

“One everyone knows that social media can be an invaluable communications vehicle, and this was a perfect example of how the college can use it to create an instant dialogue and serve our students and community even more effectively,” said Evelyn Gard, director of public relations and marketing.

Gard encourages all faculty and staff to help get the message out: “Like” our Facebook page, “Gateway Community College, New Haven,” and get plugged in!

State commission OKs GCC affirmative action plan

A special celebration was held on our North Haven campus on Sept. 6 to celebrate the Aug. 10 approval by the state Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities of GCC’s affirmative action plan. Our congratulations go out to Dr. Vincent Tong (in photo with GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick) and the team that worked with him on the project!

New Student Orientation events assist more than 600

GCC’s New Student Orientation (NSO) program hosted more than 505 new students, 58 transfer students from other colleges and universities and 52 parents and spouses of new students during its five events in August.

The new NSO format has a shorter program and separate sessions for transfer students and parents/spouses.

“All of the evaluations reflected well on the college and those who were a part of the New Student Orientation Program,” said Roberta Prior, director of student leadership programs and activities in the College Life Office. “The collegiality, support and sense of teamwork was consistent throughout all of the planning, preparation and implementation of the program.”
Special thanks go out to the entire New Student Orientation team and everyone who contributed to the success of our New Student Orientation programs, including: Alfonzo Lewis and the Ed Tech Staff, Allen Gales and the GCC Duplicating Staff, Amy Deliguiredo, Amy Napierksi, Andrew Randi, Anne Williams, Brian Higney and the Security Staff, Brian McCarthy, Derek Fries, Hedwig Molka, James Pitts, Jamacia Lackey, Janet Klinck, Jim Buccini, John Desrosiers, John Scippa, John Scott III, John Stewart, Jonah Cohen, Julie Arbour, Kellie Danso, Lee Tripler, Lou D'Antonio, Lu Simone, Luis Diaz, Luis Melendez, Maria Nosel, Mark Kosinski, Martha Lipowski, Matthew Long, Michael Buccilli, Michael Cifferelli, Michael Martone, New Student Advising and Registration Staff, Omar Livingston, Ray Zeek, Records Office, Richard Palinko, Robert Lyons and the GCC Maintenance Staff, Robin DeJesus, Sandi Garde, Scott McFarland, Susan Swirsky, Tanya Robinson, Wilson Luna, as well as student volunteers Humara Ali, Chris Durso and Tiffany German.

The photo above features this year's NSO student leaders. Front row, left to right: Samantha Heltke, Taisha Castillo, Symphany Joseph. Middle row, left to right: Krista Repko, Jasmine Carson, Jade Seymour, Stacy-Ann Brown. Back row, left to right: Gabriel Muniz, Christopher Woods and Michael Billups.

**eTutoring available to GCC students through Dec. 16**

Starting this semester, all GCC students will have free access to an eTutoring service that will provide them with feedback, assistance within 48 hours in subjects like math, writing, accounting and sciences.

eTutoring.org is a collaborative online tutoring program sponsored by the Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium featuring tutors who can give expert advice and suggestions in the following areas:

- Math (Developmental through Calculus and Statistics);
- Writing (all subjects);
- Accounting;
- Biology, Chemistry, Anatomy and Physiology I; and,
- Information literacy and research methods.

Students may send in questions online anytime through Dec. 16 anywhere they have access to the Internet and eTutors will review it and respond in 24 to 48 hours, according to Kathleen Murphy, professor and faculty coordinator of distance learning at GCC. Students access the service using the following steps:

- Visit [www.eTutoring.org](http://www.eTutoring.org)
- Click on “Log In Now”
- Click on “Northeast eTutoring Consortium”
- Click on the arrow to the right of “Please Select”
- Click on “Gateway Community College”
- Read the instructions to learn how to log in, get technical support, etc

Faculty are encouraged to share this information with all their students. For more information, contact Kathleen Murphy at 203-285-2295 or kmurphy@gwcc.commnet.edu.
**New monthly events newsletter: ‘Mark Your Calendar’**

The Office of College Life has launched “Mark Your Calendar,” a new monthly events newsletter outlining programs and activities taking place at GCC. It includes programs, trips, socials and other student events.

To get your event listed, contact Roberta Prior, director of student leadership programs and activities in the College Life Office, at 203-285-2208 or rpiror@gwcc.commnet.edu.

**LEEDing the Way: Recycled material, certified wood**

Once our new campus is finished, at least 20 percent of the materials used to build it will have been recycled.

Almost every “finish” — interior items like tiles, drywall, ceiling panels and rubber flooring — along with most of the steel used in construction has been recycled.

There are two kinds of recycled content: post-consumer, like the items we put out on our curbs, and pre-consumer. The latter is anything that never reached its intended end user and usually originates from manufacturers who send unused material back to its producer.

The main post-consumer material used in construction was the steel. Today, when buildings are torn down, the steel is usually recovered and sent to a foundry for recycling. And drywall is the main pre-consumer item used on our campus.

Additionally, 50 percent of the wood products used in the project will be certified as forestry-friendly by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), meaning it comes from operations that use forestry practices that are environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable. Almost 100 percent of our new campus’ millwork, cabinets and case work, is FSC-certified, and about 80 percent of its wood doors are, too.

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.

**College Writing Centers: Free help by appointment**

GCC’s College Writing Centers have opened this week on both of our campuses,
making experts available for free by appointment to GCC students enrolled in college-level courses.

The College Writing Centers foster student success by conducting individual conferences, group tutorials, and classroom workshops that address the needs of academic readers, thinkers, and writers across the curriculum.

The centers’ master tutors provide substantive and substantial feedback on students’ reading and writing processes, no matter the stage or state, during 45-minute sessions held in room 139 on our Long Wharf campus and in room 200 D, in the Library, at our North Haven campus. In these welcoming and nurturing environments, tutors invite students enrolled in any college-level course to explore, examine, discuss, question, and critique ideas for and about their reading and writing, said center coordinator Doree Robinson.

The College Writing Center on our Long Wharf campus is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To make an appointment at the Long Wharf College Writing Center, call 203-285-2245.

The College Writing Center on our North Haven campus is open Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. To make an appointment at the North Haven College Writing Center, call 203-285-2414.

Please note, the Center for Educational Services continues to provide writing assistance for developmental and pre-college ESL students.

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**Center for a Sustainable Future’s fall courses**

GCC’s Center for a Sustainable Future (CSF) launches its fall classes this month, offering a variety of professional development programs to prepare students for the job and career skills required in a “green” workforce.

For more information on the fall class schedule, click here or contact CSF Director David Cooper at 203-285-2323.

The CSF is committed to playing an integral role in the sustainable economic development of Connecticut, facilitating the transition to renewable energy resources, sustainable building development, energy efficiency programs, alternative transportation technologies, water management, and numerous other sustainable initiatives.

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**Program Spotlight: Railroad Electronics Technician Certificate**

GCC’s new nine-course, credit-free Railroad Electronics Technician program, which launches on Oct. 4, promises to offer a fast path to possible employment.

That’s because the railway industry locally expects to create at least 50 new job openings over the next 18 months to help ensure that people and materials get safely from Point A to Point B. But new and more sophisticated equipment requires highly
skilled technicians to help with repair and maintenance of signals, train cars, subways and other equipment.

This rigorous program is designed to train those technicians, with up to 12 hours of classroom and laboratory training each week for almost six months featuring instructors who have both practical experience and professional connections in the industry.

The courses are offered during the evenings from 6:40 p.m. to 9:40 p.m., usually Monday through Thursday, in order to make them available to working students. After participants successfully pass the program’s final exam, they will have the opportunity to test into a paid 20-week intensive railroad program.

Students who come from backgrounds that include telephone and cable technicians, automotive technicians, HVAC technicians, communications experts from the military, or those whose interests are in the electronics fields, are the most likely to find success in this program. Candidates who have a mechanical aptitude and who are willing to work and study hard can expect to find a number of public transportation companies, both public and private, waiting to review their credentials upon successful completion of the program.

The program is designed to satisfy the requirements for the Connecticut Works Business System, Metro North, and the Railroad Engineering Technology credit program at GCC. Students who complete it successfully will also be prepared for testing in the railroad industry. The program is offered through GCC’s Business and Industry Services and Workforce Development areas within its Continuing Education division.

For more information, contact John A. Vincze, director of GCC’s Business and Industry Services area, at 203-285-2310 or jvincze@gwcc.commnet.edu.

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

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Calendar Highlights

Sept. 16: Campus-wide student employee training

The Division of Student Services will be holding a comprehensive student employee training on Friday, Sept. 16, on our Long Wharf campus in room 160. It is mandatory for all new and returning student work study and student labor.

All supervisors of student employees are asked to plan to send their student staff to the entire training day and include the five hours of training on their timecards. Some of the areas that have been identified for the training are the following:

- Organizational structure of the College
- Customer Service and telephone etiquette
- How to handle a difficult customer
- On-the-job stress management
- Emergency procedures and crisis 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 will also be addressed.

For more information, contact Roberta Prior in the Office of College Life at 203-285-2208 or rprior@gwcc.commnet.edu.

Sept. 18: GCC’s team participates in diabetes walk

The American Diabetes Association’s 2011 Greater New Haven Step Out Walk to Fight Diabetes will be held Sunday, Sept. 18, at Savin Rock in West Haven.

Interested GCC faculty and staff can join the college’s “Gateway Cares” team at the three-mile walk, which begins at 9 a.m., by clicking here and then clicking on “Join Team” next to the team name “Gateway Cares.” For more information, contact team co-captains Lou D’Antonio at (203) 285-2021 or Wilson Luna at (203) 285-2210.

Sept. 20: Great Ideas Workshop for GCC faculty

GCC’s Center for Teaching is hosting a Great Ideas Workshop on Tuesday, Sept. 20, where faculty are invited to come and share “great ideas” they have put to work successfully in their classrooms that may be put to use by their colleagues.

The workshop, which is open to all faculty members, will be held from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in room 263 on our Long Wharf campus.

Several ideas have already been sent in to be shared, according to Martha Hayes, a GCC English professor and teaching and learning consultant with the Center for Teaching. All ideas will also be posted on the “Teaching and Learning Connection,” the Center for Teaching’s Blackboard Vista site for those who are not able to attend.

If you are a GCC faculty member who would like to enroll with the “Teaching and Learning Connection” in order to participate, please contact Teresa DeMars at tdemars@gwcc.commnet.edu. The Center for Teaching is a system-wide organization that provides professional development workshops for faculty on each campus.

Sept. 21 through Nov. 5: Student organization trips

The following trips are planned by GCC student organizations through Nov. 5. For more information, contact the Office of College Life at 203-285-2208:

Sept. 21: The Big E
Departs from Long Wharf at 2 p.m. and Big E at 10 p.m.
Students $7, Non-students $20.

Sept. 23: 9/11 Memorial in New York City
Departs from Long Wharf at 8 a.m. and NYC at 8 p.m. Students
**Sept. 30: Ellis Island**
Departs from Long Wharf at 7:30 a.m. and NYC at 7 p.m. Students $5, Non-students $20.

**Oct. 29: Bewitching Trip to Salem, Mass.**
Departs from Long Wharf at 8 a.m. and Salem at 9 p.m. Students $10, Non-students $30.

**Nov. 5: Mary Poppins & Sister Act on Broadway**
Departs from Long Wharf at 9 a.m. and NYC after shows. Students $30 for Mary Poppins and $40 for Sister Act. Non-students $80 for Mary Poppins and $120 for Sister Act.

**Sept. 29: Art faculty exhibit opens at Long Wharf**
The Gallery of Art at GCC will host The Gateway Studio Art/Graphic Design Art Faculty Exhibition starting Thursday, Sept. 29, through Oct. 29.

A reception to open the exhibit will be held Sept. 29 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. It will be open to the public and refreshments will be served.

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.

**Oct. 21: Retirement celebration in North Haven**
GCC will hold a celebration to honor its recent retirees on Friday, Oct. 21, at the Fantasia Wedding and Banquet Facility, 404 Washington Ave., North Haven.

The following retirees will be 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.

Hors d’oeuvres at 12 p.m. will be followed by lunch at 12:30 p.m. Tickets are $35 per person. Please RSVP by Oct. 14 to Christina Rivera at 203-285-2062 or Sandra Garde at 203-285-2406.

Checks should be made payable to the GCC Foundation with “retirement celebration” in the memo line. Please note that no part of the ticket price is a charitable contribution or tax deductible.

**Oct. 20 to April 17: Student organization advisor meetings**
The following is the schedule of student organization advisor meetings from October through April:
Oct. 20, 2011: 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., in room 160 at Long Wharf featuring special guest Michael Miller
Nov. 8, 2011: 12 to 1 p.m., Brown Bag in Long Wharf Café
Dec. 6, 2011: 12 to 2 p.m., Advisor Luncheon in room 160 at Long Wharf
Feb. 16, 2012: 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in room 160 at Long Wharf
March 1, 2012: 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in room 160 at Long Wharf
April 17, 2012: 12 to 1 p.m., Brown Bag in room 160 at Long Wharf

Five copies of “Advising Student Groups and Organizations” have been placed on reserve in the libraries on both campuses for student organization advisors to take out at their leisure. This book provides resources and tips on how to deal with the ever-changing needs of student organizations. For more information, contact the Office of College Life at 203-285-2208.

Oct. 23: GCC’s team walks to cure breast cancer

The American Cancer Society will be holding its 2011 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk on Sunday, Oct. 23, at Lighthouse Point Park in New Haven.

Interested GCC faculty and staff can join the college’s "Gateways Dream" team at the three-mile walk, which begins at 1 p.m., or donate to support the team by clicking here. For more information, contact team captain Barbara Rudolph at 203-285-2346 or brudolph@gwcc.commnet.edu.

Nov. 17: Save the date for Dr. Henry Lee appearance

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, according to GCC Professor Franz Douskey, who is arranging the visit.

The event will be open to the public. Stay tuned for more information as the date approaches.

Faculty, Staff Highlights

Cohen appointed general studies coordinator

Jonah Cohen was appointed GCC’s general studies program coordinator effective Aug. 25, and will maintain his status as a faculty member of our Social Sciences department.

“As many of you know, Jonah brings extensive experience to this position,” said Mark Kosinski, GCC’s dean of academic affairs. “In the past, he served in our Counseling
Department, and more recently acted as program coordinator for the Human Services Program. I know you’ll join me in welcoming him to this new opportunity.”

GCC Psychology Professor Dr. Lauren Doninger, who had been coordinator of the Liberal Arts & Sciences (LAS) and General Studies programs at GCC, will continue to serve as GCC’s program coordinator of the LAS Program. Both Cohen and Doninger will report to Kosinski in their program coordinator roles.

GCC instructor partners in piece on display at MoMA

Johanna Bresnick, a part-time member of the GCC art faculty, partnered with Michael Cloud Hirschfeld to create “From Mouth to Mouth,” a piece that is part of the “Talk to Me: Design and Communication between People and Objects” exhibit now on display at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City through Nov. 7.

“From Mouth to Mouth” was originally part of the collaborative Creative Science Project work from the Mamzer Loshen series. It is located in the Special Exhibitions Gallery on the museum’s third floor.

Science professor attends NSF fellows institute

GCC Science Professor Wesley L. Winterbottom was one of 14 high school teachers and community college professors selected in a national competition to attend a 10-day National Science Foundation Fellows Institute in June at the University of Minnesota, Lake Itasca Biological Research Station.

The northern Minnesota research facility, located on the headwaters of the Mississippi River, is used by both undergraduate and graduate students as well as faculty for field and laboratory research.

The institute focused on the topic of bioremediation — the use of bacteria to breakdown toxic materials — and the recent Gulf of Mexico oil spill. In addition to performing field research work and biological laboratory experiments, new educational materials were created for distribution to high schools and colleges internationally. Additionally, field trips were taken to Bemidji, Minn., site of a long-term United States Geological Survey study of an Alberta crude oil pipeline spill, as well as to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency research laboratory in Duluth, Minn.

Faculty, staff attend Kroc Institute at Notre Dame
In June, Clara Ogbaa, director of GCC’s Library, and three members of the GCC faculty — Professor Carol Brutza, coordinator of GCC’s ELS program, Humanities Professor Jonah Cohen, and English Professor Martha Hayes — attended the Kroc Institute’s “Teaching Peace in the 21st Century” weeklong program at the University of Notre Dame.

The Kroc Institute is the leading center for the interdisciplinary study of the causes of violent conflict and strategies for a sustainable peace. This intense program focused on the special challenge of teaching and learning Peace Studies in order to develop a stellar program at institutions.

Attendees were educators and administrators from 17 colleges and universities in the United States and abroad. Funds for the program were provided through the professional development grants from the Gateway Community College Foundation.

Gaines appointed liaison to Humanities Association

Humanities Professor Renee A. Gaines has been appointed by GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick to be GCC’s liaison officer to the Community College Humanities Association (CCHA).

The CCHA is a national organization that serves to strengthen the humanities in the nation’s community colleges. As liaison officer, it will be Gaines’ responsibility to inform the Humanities Department and the college about the various opportunities for faculty and personal growth offered by the CCHA. Her appointment ends June 2013.

Student Highlights

GCC students receive Grainger scholarships, toolkits

GCC students John Leone and Nicholas Cundy received Grainger Tools for Tomorrow scholarships and toolkits in a ceremony held earlier this month at our Long Wharf campus.

Since 2006, the Grainger Tools for Tomorrow® scholarship program has helped technical education students across the country realize their educational goals. The scholarship recognizes outstanding students with a $2,000 scholarship and a customized Westward toolkit upon successful completion of the student’s technical education program.

Candidates for the program must be entering their final year at select community
colleges and be studying electronic systems, heating/air conditioning, plumbing, pneumatics, welding, automotive, construction, facilities maintenance or other industrial trade. Grainger’s program aims to help alleviate the severe shortage of skilled laborers in the United States in the manufacturing, welding and other trades. This shortage, due to retiring Baby Boomers and a decline in technical education enrollment, could critically impact the health and vitality of our local economies and national infrastructure.

In addition to Leone and Cundy, the following individuals attended the Sept. 1 ceremony: Darryl Turner, branch manager of Grainger in North Haven; GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick, GCC’s Dean of Academic Affairs Mark Kosinski, GCC’s Dean of Development and Community Partnerships Mary Ellen Cody, Paul Silberquit, director of GCC’s division of Engineering and Applied Technologies, and Scott McFarland with GCC’s automotive programs. In photo, from left to right: Darryl Turner, John Leone, Mark Kosinski and Dr. Kendrick.

GCC students to run workshops at fall NACA event

GCC Students Samantha Heltke and Symphany Joseph will be facilitating workshops for their peers in November at the Northeast Regional Conference of the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA).

Heltke and Joseph, along with Taisha Castillo, were the only community college students to submit program proposals to NACA this year. Heltke’s proposal was entitled "Attention Programmers: Get a Bigger Bang for Your Buck!" And Joseph’s proposal was "Get Naked! The Bare Truth About Series Programming!"