Call for Nominations: Abigail Adams Eliot Awards

When Scott Macpherson started at Boston University in 1969, studying online was about as science fiction novel as everyday life. This past summer, Scott completed his BU bachelor’s degree by taking an online course at GCC.

How did a GCC online course conclude Scott’s long journey to a bachelor’s degree?

Scott studied political science and economics at BU from 1969 to 1979, but was 16 credits short of a bachelor’s degree. Scott has worked in automotive parts management for many years and has lived in Sunderland since 2006. In 2008, Scott started taking evening accounting courses at GCC.

Last spring, Scott became unemployed and decided to finish his bachelor’s degree. He asked BU if it could transfer GCC accounting credits toward his degree. BU agreed, but said Scott still needed two credits to complete the degree.

In May, having just started work as an accounts payable/bookkeeper for a meat wholesale, Scott considered GCC’s summer course offerings. Business and Economics Professor Tom Simmons’s online Microeconomics course caught his eye. Scott thought “a bigger picture” course would balance out his very detailed accounting work. BU said it would not successfully complete the Microeconomics course, they would not grant his bachelor’s degree. At 62 years of age, Scott started on his third online course. Just as he had enjoyed and learned from other online courses, Scott appreciated the online work, “The class was very lively and productive. It helped me stay fresh with what’s happening now in the business world. Watching them in the video, he can really move above and beyond. I was very engaged. Like such professors, I’ve had at GCC. Thom was responsive, supportive, and truly outstanding. Taking an online course while trying to complete a bachelor’s degree was not easy, but it gave me the full value for my time and money.”

Scott is just one of many GCC students for whom studying online made the difference in completing their education. They said, “there were students in the National Guard deployed to other countries continue their education through online classes. In the past year, I’ve delivered classes to GCC students stationed in Iraq, Afghanistan, Qatar, Jordan, Iran, Turkey, and Morocco who did not want to interrupt their education because of their military service.”

Online courses are more than just convenient. Thom said, “Online courses are great for any subject, but particularly important for students studying business. Doing business and conducting work online is the way the world operates. The skills used in taking online courses are important for life-skills for people entering the workforces. As the world continues in this direction, higher education must be there, especially those of us teaching private business. I’m proud that GCC is right there with it.”

Commenting on GCC’s recognition of the importance of online courses, Sher Hruska, GCC’s Chief Academic and Student Affairs Officer, said, “GCC is engaged in a commitment to continuous improvement, higher education must be responsive, supportive, and truly outstanding. Taking an online course while trying to complete a bachelor’s degree was not easy, but it gave me the full value for my time and money.”

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Outstanding, Abigail Adams Eliot Award

The Franklin County Collaborative for Children and Greenfield Community College are seeking nominations for the Abigail Adams Eliot Awards for Spring 2013. These awards seek to recognize individuals working with children ages birth to five, who have made exemplary contributions to the lives of young children and their families in Franklin County. Nominations may be submitted by parents, early childhood practitioners, supervisors or other community members. Qualifications for each nominee:

1. NEW: Being in Child Care Education: To highlight the significance of nominating a new teacher or mentor.
2. Youngest Abigail Adams Eliot Educator: Who is relatively new to the field and/or hasn’t been working long enough to sufficiently affect the field.
3. Early Childhood Educator: To recognize the outstanding contributions of an Early Childhood Educator.
4. Family Child Care Provider: Who has significantly affected the lives of children, families, and the early childhood community in Franklin County.

Nominations are due March 28. Two awards will be presented on Thursday, April 11 at the 2013 Annual Early Education Conference Celebration at GCC. Additional information is available at: http://www.sandri.com/2013/gccdistilledaward.html.

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Thinking About College? Free Informational Workshops

Understanding College Admission and Enrollment Process

Thursday March 7, 7:30 p.m. & Thursday March 14, 7:30 p.m.

Main Campus

If you are thinking about or are overwhelmed about completing your FAFSA, you need not worry. Join us for a parent workshop on March 7 and an online webinar on March 14. A panel of local citizens and early childhood professionals will be available to help you complete it on the spot or answer any questions you might have.

Looking for help with completing your FAFSA? Join our helpful admission staff and walk you step by step through the process.

Contemplating a career change? Come visit! Tours are offered to prospective students and their families.

Main Campus

To order tickets: Please call our helpful admission staff at (413) 775-1426.

Campus Tours on Thursdays

February 28, March 7, 14, 21 from 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Main Campus

Contact Info: Tours are offered to prospective students and their families. Let us know you’re coming! Call Main Campus at (413) 775-1426 or email mburgos@gcc.mass.edu

2013 Distinguished Alumni Award

Each spring one Greenfield Community College Alum is honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award. “No one will ever forget how GCC changed the lives of its students forever,” says Regina E. Curtis, ’86, President of the GCC Alumni Association. “But what we also know is that GCC alums go on to change the lives of their communities, and we’re looking to find those alumni right now to recognize their achievements.”

Please consider nominating an alum who has:
- Earned 15 credit hours at Greenfield Community College or earned a degree or certificate
- Earned the respect and trust of his/her associates in his/her chosen field, and/or
- Made substantial contributions to the good of his/her fellow human beings or be recognized as an outstanding practitioner of his/her profession.

Nominate an alum by March 15. Forms can be found online at www.gcc.mass.edu/alumaward. For more information, contact Regina Curtis at (413) 775-1426.

Upcoming Events

Roots of Peace Speaker Series: Marian Kalner

Thursday, Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m.

Main Campus, Sloan Theater

The Imperial Court of Peace and Justice is collaborating with the environmental justice class of Greenfield Community College and Greening Goodness to present this night of/site, “Roots of Peace.” Kalner will discuss how addressing and eliminating the accepted and institutionalized patriarchy and bringing peace to the Earth.

Contact Afia Jenkins, 413-775-1127 or email afia@gcc.mass.edu

TEDx Simpatico

February 27, 2013, 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Main Campus, Sloan Theater

“Guy Kawasaki, the godfather of social media, and futurist, is on his way to founder TEDx Simpatico. Guy Kawasaki, the godfather of social media, and futurist, is on his way to founder TEDx Simpatico. Guy Kawasaki, the godfather of social media, and futurist, is on his way to founder TEDx Simpatico. Guy Kawasaki, the godfather of social media, and futurist, is on his way to founder TEDx Simpatico.

From Local Action to Global Justice: Women’s Organizing

March 7, 2013, 12:30 PM-1:45 PM

Location TBD

Jisc confined is to promote local action to global justice: Women Organizing Across Time, Geography and Culture. This presentation will celebrate the work across time, geography and culture, context have a foundational tradition of engaging concerns about family and community to confront social issues, even if not always in the same way. Whether the University of Virginia or the New York City Council Women’s Task Force, thousands of people have taken part in this movement. For more information, contact Karen Cunn, GCC, member, at 625-4907.

Join the GCC Alumni Association now at gcc.mass.edu/alumni.

Stay connected. Membership is free!