When the Women’s Fund of Western Massachusetts put out the call for its “Standing on Her Shoulders” award, no one at GCC was surprised. GCC, as much of Franklin County has been standing on Risky’s shoulders for many years. Risky is one of 16 older women being honored in the Women’s Fund of Franklin County’s 9th anniversary celebration on March 14. The Women’s Fund is the Women’s Fund of Franklin County’s nonprofit women’s foundation, a community-based community resource for women of all ages in Franklin County.

Although Risky retired from GCC almost 2 years ago, the impact of her work continues. She helped create the Women’s Center’s Soup Kitchen program and continues to serve on the program’s Planning Committee. Workshops Risky developed in Continuing Education went on to become two-year associate-degree curriculums, including gay youth counselors, (http://web.gcc.mass.edu/financial-aid/faqs/). 

At GCC, Risky served as Professor of Behavioral Sciences and Director of the GCC’s Division of Continuing Education and Community Services from 1967-79. She was GCC’s first female Dean, serving as Dean of Continuing Education and Community Services in 1979 and 80 and as Dean of Students from 1980 to 1983. Those jobs only describe part of what Risky did at GCC. As one person said during Risky’s work at GCC, College President Lew Turner said to her, “So, what is it you do all day at GCC?” Risky’s response—“Whatever I want”—sum up Risky’s hold, can-do style. A woman who said her daughter took an evening course at GCC, described her as “modest and able to accept help.” Risky enjoys helping others, and is grateful to hear from people whose lives she has impacted, like the woman who came up in the grocery store and thanked her. The woman said her daughter took an evening course at GCC during her senior year of high school. She would drive her daughter to class and in the fall, would visit until it was time to drive her home. One evening, Risky walked by and asked her what she was doing. The woman explained she was working for her daughter Risky said, “Why aren’t you taking a course?” The woman signed up for a course at GCC and went on to get a Master’s degree in education. When the woman stopped at the grocery store, she’d been teaching for 12 years. She thanked Risky for getting her off that chair in the fall.

You can thank an older woman for everything on March 14. GCC’s annual “Standing on Her Shoulders” award celebration and reception will be held Thursday, March 14 from 4:30-6:45 p.m. at GCC’s Main Campus, 151 West Street, Greenfield.

With the advent of the online cata-
gal, the card catalog has become an office of library history. When the Library moved to its new home in 2011, we eliminated the last artifact of library history. When the Card Catalog moved to our renovated library space in 2011, we eliminated the last artifact of library history. When the Card Catalog moved to our renovated library space in 2011, we eliminated the last artifact of library history.

Thinking About College? Free Informational Workshops

In the spring of the year, GCC hosts free informational workshops to help students learn more about what they want to do after high school. These workshops are a great way for students to learn about the college application process and what GCC has to offer.

For more information about the Card Catalog, visit (http://web.gcc.mass.edu/financial-aid/faqs/).