Long-Time English Professors Library Named for

Phyllis Nahman and Gretchen Watson touched the lives of generations of GCC students, passing along their passion for the written word. Now, former colleagues at the College have honored their work by naming the College Library the Nahman-Watson Library. The GCC Board of Trustees, with the recommendation of President Bob Pura and others in the GCC community, unanimously voted to name the GCC Library in honor of Phyllis and Gretchen at the October 2012 Trustees meeting. The Dedication of the Nahman-Watson Library on Friday, April 26 at 4 p.m. will include brief remarks, a reception, and refreshments, and is open to the public.

Phyllis taught at GCC as Professor of English and Women’s Studies from 1971 until her retirement in 2006. Gretchen was Professor of English from 1960 until her sudden passing in 2006. Phyllis offered courses in literature, writing, and reading, and helped students to develop reading and writing skills needed to succeed at GCC. The Nahman-Watson Library reflects her strong belief in the power of the written word and its potential for transformative learning. Gretchen developed and taught a range of courses in women’s studies. Her students worked closely with her, both inside and beyond the classroom. Phyllis and Gretchen’s commitment to our local community and the potential of anyone who learns from Phyllis and Gretchen brings great joy to the GCC community, especially in teaching and learning experiences in Belarus and Britain, which stretched across her generous and respectful members of the world community.

Teaching and learning was not just a way to make a living for Phyllis Nahman and Gretchen Watson; it was the way in which they lived their lives. Naming GCC’s Library in honor of Phyllis and Gretchen embodies good fit for the College and involves the spirit of their teaching and their commitment to GCC and our community.

Bob Pura, President

Phyllis Nahman

Students who required their exploration and use of the library. Gretchen was known for her intellectual curiosity, passion for learning, and a sense of responsibility for the well-being of everyone for whom she was accountable and respected members of the world community. Their own need to find and use the social justice. Gretchen believed that everyone must become well informed and then act to improve the world. Travel in Latin America and Europe and teaching experiences in Belarus and Britain stretched her global awareness and strengthened her commitment to our local community. With characteristic zeal, good humor, and belief in the power of knowledge and the potential of her students, Gretchen developed and taught a range of courses including College Reading Strategies, Latin American Literature, Film and Literature, and Media and Popular Culture. One of the priorities in her teaching of GCC, Gretchen motivated and helped other faculty to integrate technology into their teaching. She worked closely with the GCC Library, especially in teaching her students how to conduct research.

Both Phyllis and Gretchen focused on educational values in the English Department with the goal of helping students strengthen their foundation in the reading and writing skills needed to succeed at GCC. The Nahman-Watson Library continues the legacy of Phyllis and Gretchen’s work, offering access to the richness and pleasure of exploring ideas and personal and academic growth.

To learn more about the naming of the Nahman-Watson Library, visit http://gcc.mcs.mass.edu/library/about-us/

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