Andrew M. Curran Honored as One of 29 Who Shine
By Mary McCorriston, ’82

Andrew M. Curran won the 29 Who Shine award. He is the winner Andrew M. Curran, and GCC President Bob Pura.

Left to right: Assistant Professor of English Trevor Kearns, 29 Who Shine award winner Andrew M. Curran, and GCC President Bob Pura.

Andrew, a non-matriculated Community Ed student, has won $400 for turning a love of high school shop woodworking into a quality kitchen supply business, “Claybrook’s Woodworking,” creating cutting boards, coasters, and cutting boards. Erynn Hazlett, an Entrepreneurship student, won $400 for creating a “MyOpus,” a private business consulting operation that is working to create strategic alliances and opportunities for businesses to work together in the Vermont-Massachusetts northern tier border area. Erynn has already been tapped to organize some joint CSA operations together in the Vermont-Massachusetts northern tier border area.

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Spring Student Success Stories

Andrew M. Curran Honored as One of 29 Who Shine

By Mary McCorriston, ’82

Andrew M. Curran, one of “29 Who Shine,” is a group of outstanding Massachusetts public college and university graduates honored by the Department of Higher Education at a State House ceremony. Every year, one graduate from each of the 29 Massachusetts public colleges and universities is selected based on their academic achievements and records of student leadership and community service. Andrew, nominated for the award by GCC, President Bob Pura, graduated from GCC in December and now studies film at Amherst College.

Commenting on Andrew, President Pura said, “Andrew’s intelligence and passionate commitment to social justice are just two of the qualities that make him a shining example of the GCC student body. His long and winding journey brought him to GCC when he found clear purpose and meaning. Andrew faculty say he potential sooner than he had expected, and together they worked to achieve it. His focused hard work at GCC opened the door to Amherst College where he is again a beacon for academic success and social change.”

Andrew, 26, of Greenfield, brought to GCC classes his experience of working for years and an astute social class analysis based on theoretical and practical knowledge. Andrew’s passion for film and social justice began as a teenager when he got stuck at a video store in his hometown of Concord, MA and was introduced to the active intellectual community of film employees and film scholars. He was invited to a wide range of perspectives, including international films and films that look critically at American politics, society, and culture. The GCC community gave Andrew the confidence and incentive to succeed academically. "At GCC," Andrew said, "the educational environment is very engaging and accommodating. In my GCC classes, the focus was on real discussion where the faculty treated students as peers and helped us work through a subject."

Assistant Professor of English Trevor Kearns, Andrew’s mentor, said, "Andrew is one of the most impressive students I’ve ever come through GCC. He’s able to make immediate and insightful connections between new ideas and his already formidable knowledge of history, society, and films. His dedication and hard work have brought him to Amherst College. Andrew continuously translates his passion into action. And, Andrew’s warmth and wit make him a pleasure to work with, teach, and learn alongside." Andrew participated in a GCC sociology class (Crime and Punishment in the U.S.) based on the international Inside-Out program, which brings college students inside jails to study alongside incarcerated youth. He worked with several GCC community members, including the Citizens Action Network, the Massachusetts State Education Action Network, the Student Action Alliance and helped facilitate a film series on environmental justice issues. He was involved and a leader of the GCC Film Society, a student club that hosts weekly screenings and discussions.

Looking ahead, Andrew said, "I would like to see if film is something that he is both entertaining and a strong, positive message. Media has such a wide reach, both in the number of people who see films and in how persuasive it can be." Andrew, President Pura and Assistant Professor Kearns participated in the 29 Who Shine Student Recognition Ceremony at the Grand Staircase of the Massachusetts State House on May 2. For information about 29 Who Shine, visit www.mass.edu/29whoshine.asp.

Diversity in Motion Dance Concert

Join us Friday May 10 at 7:30 p.m. at Greenfield High School for our annual spring dance concert, featuring GCC dance students & faculty along with community performers KDS Dance Company, Chaolafae Hip Hop, Crew/Bowd-Wave Belly Dance, The UnitedARC with Josh Falk, Vermonica, and Chaos Theory Dance. Tickets available at the door. Admission $3 general, $4 students/teachers. Contact Arlene@gcc.mass.edu or 413-775-1262.

Join the GCC Alumni Association now at gcc.mass.edu/alumni
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Four Students Receive Grinspoon Foundation 2013 Entrepreneurial Spirit Awards

Final four (l-r) GCC Grinspoon Award winners: Noreen Woodruff, Dan Tyrell, Marcy Gate and Andrew. GCC Business faculty Thom Simmons. Second row: Harold Grinspoon.

The Harold Grinspoon Foundation has announced four GCC students as recipients of the 2013 Entrepreneurial Spirit Awards for their business endeavors undertaken while working with GCC faculty and/or staff. These students were honored at the Grinspoon Entrepreneurship Banquet held at the Log Cabin in Easthampton. This year brings GCC’s record to 32 students winning more than $33,000 since we began participation in 2009 and continues to mean that 100% of GCC applicants have been chosen as winners.

Noreen Woodruff, an Entrepreneurship student, was our “big winner” this year. She has been granted $1,000 for expanding her greenhouse products (Brews and Baub) and grass-fed beef operations at South Farms Farm in Grafton, Vermont.

Kevin Gates, a BASH student, has won $400 for turning a love of high school shop woodworking into a quality kitchen supply business, Claybrook’s Woodworking, creating cutting boards, coasters, and other products.

Erynn Hazlett, Entrepreneurship, won $400 for creating “MyOpus,” a private business consulting operation that is working to create strategic alliances and opportunities for businesses to work together in the Vermont-Massachusetts northern tier border area. Erynn has already been tapped to organize some joint CSA operations together in the Vermont-Massachusetts northern tier border area.

Dan Tyrell, a non-matriculated Community Ed student, also won $400 for launching Seat Rear, a socially conscious crate made completely out of used and reclaimed materials.

Four Students Receive Grinspoon Foundation 2013 Entrepreneurial Spirit Awards

Student Performances

May 6, 7 and 9

Collage Concert #1 and #2

Monday, May 6 and Thursday, May 9, 7 p.m. Sloan Theater, Main Campus Student performance representing a variety of genres of music. Contact chippeem@gcc.mass.edu.

Student Recital Concert

Tuesday, May 7, 7 p.m. Sloan Theater, Main Campus Student performance representing a variety of music. Contact chippeem@gcc.mass.edu.

Entrepreneurial Spirit Awards

Grinspoon Foundation 2013