GCC to Offer Summer STEM STARTER Academy

By Mary McIntosh, ’82

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Please Join Us:

Young@Heart Chorus
Saturday March 28 - 12:00 PM
Main Campus - Community House

Young@Heart Chorus is a not-for-profit musical outlet for the elderly of Western Massachusetts in the form of vocal concerts and/or stage presentations.

Cheryl Rogers on Domestic Violence
Wednesday April 1 - 11:00 AM
Main Campus - Core - Library

Cheryl Rogers, JD, Executive Director of NELCWIT (New England Law Center for Women in Transition), and Ilana Geraci who works closely with LEPF survivors, will address the causes and consequences of domestic violence in MA, including intimate partner violence (straight and gay), and adult/child violence.

Poetry Reading: Juliette Lee
Wednesday April 1 - 12:00 PM
Main Campus - Main Building - North Wing

A Korean-American poet, Sueyeun Juliette Lee’s work illustrates complexities of contemporary identity and addresses the need for the stories we often use to define ourselves. Juliette will also hold a Spring Forward! Reading “Moving Forward: Poems from the Future” from 2:30-4 pm in the Humanities Studio.

Spring Concert Series

Wednesdays, April 1, 8, and 15 - 3:00 PM
Main Campus

RSVP at gmc.glendale@gcc.mass.edu to reserve a spot.

Faces of Homelessness

Monday April 6 - 12:00 PM
Main Campus - Core - CR210

GCC welcomes the Faces of Homelessness Speakers’ Bureau which is comprised of currently and formerly homeless individuals who are passionate about sharing their own stories and educating the public about homelessness and its solutions.

Career & Job Fair

Thursday April 9 - 11:00 AM
Main Campus - Core - Dining Commons
Career and Job Fair is co-sponsored by the Parental Early College Center

GCC alumni are our top priority. For disability accommodation, please contact the Office of Coordinator of Disability Services (413) 775-1812.

Thank you to two Massachusetts Departments of Higher Education grants, Greenfield Community College is proud to encourage students to consider careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. Last summer, GCC hosted a very successful STEM STARTER Academy for high school students and partnered with Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) on the 413-STEM Academy. The STEM STARTER Academy at GCC was geared towards recent high school graduates and rising seniors. Eighteen students from ten area high schools took summer math and science classes at GCC for free, received intensive advising, tutoring, and career support, and participated in special STEM-focused activities. For the 413-STEM Academy at MCLA, nine GCC students from Berkshire Community College and Holyoke Community College in an intensive STEM-focused week at MCLA. They attended classes and labs focused on different areas of science, stayed on campus, and went on science-related field trips. Along with supporting the STEM STARTER Academy, the grant helped purchase furnished-labatory equipment in the physical and compound microscopes, technology for the engineering college and Horticulture greenhouse equipment. It also funded additional staffing hours for the Math and for the development of a new course titled “Cosmic Life Becomes You.” Grants to study and explore a general science credit and taught by John Johnson of GCC. Funding for the faculty the course explores the Big Bang, evolution, chemistry, cosmology, and physics. It introduces how the basic areas of science are interconnected and how they relate to big picture problems such as the environment and health.

Students who participated in the STEM STARTER Academy were from ten high schools in Franklin and Hampden Counties: Amherst Regional, Four Rivers Charter, Franklin County Technical School, Frontier Regional School, Holyoke Academy, Mohawk Trail Regional, Greenfield, Purple Valley Regional School, Northampton, and one homeschooled student. The students took one of three math classes (Introductory Algebra, Intermediate Algebra, and Pre-Calculus) or one of two science classes (Introductory Biology or Introductory Chemistry) and received college-level credit for the class. The program also included career workshops and college success workshops. Since a large number of students have a fear of college math, the GCC Math Studios provided additional support for all of the STEM STARTER students. They became more confident in their math skills and recognized that math is possible for everyone.

Annie Flandro, biology faculty in GCC’s Science Department and Coordinator of the STEM STARTER Academy, said, “The STEM STARTER Academy provided a unique opportunity for students who may not have had a college experience without this program. Some of the students were homeschooled, high school and needing a challenge. Others are already strong students who said they couldn’t afford to be in the dual-enrollment program. Now, they have been introduced to college and the STEM field. Several of the students are now taking classes at GCC or are dual-enrolled.”

Now, I can consider math and science fields as a major, a career, and I realize that they’re attainable.

Judith Montomori, a 37-year-old high school teacher who lives in Amherst and is being homeschooled, attended the STEM STARTER Academy. She said, “I didn’t know what I didn’t know until I took Math 95. I felt really good on math skills taking that class and studying in the Math Studio with my colleagues and it helped me realize that math and science are interconnected career paths. I had worked on science and math as a student in college and now I consider math and science fields as options or a career and I realize that they’re attainable.”

Jennifer Stone, a 30-year-old teacher at Amherst High and is being homeschooled, attended the STEM STARTER Academy. She said, “I didn’t know what I didn’t know until I took Math 95. I felt really good on math skills taking that class and studying in the Math Studio with my colleagues and it helped me realize that math and science are interconnected career paths. I had worked on science and math as a student in college and now I consider math and science fields as options or a career and I realize that they’re attainable.”

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