Guinevere Arthur Vanhorne Honored at MA State House Ceremony

By Mary McClintock, ’82

Guinevere Arthur Vanhorne is one of 29 Who Shine, a group of outstanding Massachusetts public college and university graduates honored by the Department of Higher Education at a Massachusetts State House ceremony earlier this month.

Every year, one graduate from each of the 15 Massachusetts public colleges and universities is named for academic achievements and contributions to community service. Vanhorne, 29, of Rowe, will graduate from GCC in June with an Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts. Nominated for the award by GCC President Bob Pura, Guinevere will transfer to Smith College to study toward a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and then continue on toward a master’s degree. She plans to pursue a career as a Physician Assistant, toward a master’s degree. She plans to continue on toward a master’s degree.

Guinevere grew up in Jamaica Plain and never imagined she’d be able to go to college. Guinevere has worked in western Massachusetts nursing homes while taking the CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) course at GCC in 2010. Her work experiences encouraged her to pursue her dream of college and enroll at GCC. While working and caring for her two young daughters, Guinevere has excelled as a student at GCC. She serves as President of GCC’s chapter of the national academic honor society, Pi Theta Kappa. Guinevere has taken an active role with community service projects, including creating a fundraising effort to help a local family get a wheelchair-accessible van they need, volunteering in a soup kitchen, helping with a monthly toy drive. GCC. Guinevere also serves as an Orientation Leader and a peer tutor assisting other students.

Commenting on Guinevere, President Pura said, “Guinevere Arthur Vanhorne has a bright light that shines from within. She makes all who meet her at GCC shine brighter. Her journey represents the courage, intelligence, and heart found throughout the classrooms, offices, and studios of our college. Gwen is one in a long line of people who believe that there are no limitations to what one can accomplish through hard work and dedication.”

Guinevere was so motivating while I was here,” said Jay Gump, Guinevere’s mentor, said, “Guinevere’s success at GCC is simply a result of her determination. She is certainly intelligent, but the energy Guinevere brings to school carries her beyond preconceived notions that limit application of knowledge. Guinevere radiates curiosity and a profound appreciation for education.”

Guinevere’s success at GCC is part of a statewide initiative to help the outstanding Massachusetts college and university graduates that day. He ignited my passion for the sciences and cemented in my mind that I’m on the right path. He did every assignment I turned in and now I’m making it a reality.”

“I want to congratulate Guinevere Arthur Vanhorne and all 29 of the outstanding Class of 2015 graduates for the two positions they have secured and thank them for their substantial contributions to their local communities,” said Governor Charlie Baker. "Each of the 29 Who Shine honorees, in addition to being an accomplished student, is critically engaged in ways that improve the quality of life in Massachusetts.”

“Each one of our 29 honorees is from Massachusetts and planning to remain in Massachusetts to continue their education,” noted Richard M. Freeland, Commissioner of Higher Education. “Through their dedicated scholarship and deep engagement in their local communities, the 29 Who Shine students have made a significant impact on the taxpayers’ investment in local education.”

For information about 29 Who Shine, visit www.mass.edu/29whoshine/.