Leaving a Legacy of Change...

We recognize and thank the following individuals and their families for gifts by bequest received in the past year that will play an important role in ensuring that lives will continue to change for the better at GCC:

- Sally Aholon passed away in March 2015 after a career in nursing that included 27 years at Baystate Franklin Medical Center. According to her husband, Howard, Sally knew the nurses who came from GCC were top-quality. Howard and Sally are helping future nursing students with a bequest of $60,000 for nursing scholarships. Although he never attended college, Arthur Neipp, who died in February 2015, believed deeply in the value of education and left a bequest of $115,000 to establish the Neipp Family Math & Nursing Scholarships in memory of his wife, Beverly, and in honor of his children Jeffrey ’77, Kathleen (O’Rourke) ’79 and Cynthia (Gwosch.).

- A scholarship was established in September 2014 in memory of Fred and Helen Renfrew, who left $100,000 in their will for GCC students "who are working to better themselves through education." Their daughters, Susan Renfrew and Debbie Gilbert ’74, said their parents "understood the many benefits of all forms of education, and appreciated the important role GCC plays in our community."

We hope you will consider support of future GCC students in your will or trust.

- Bob Pura, GCC President

- "GCC Night" at the Green River Festival

GCC President Bob Pura poses with Mary Phillips ’92, GCC alum/Nursing Department faculty member/Alumni Representative to the GCC Foundation Board of Directors at the Green River Festival this past July. This is the first year the festival hosted "GCC Night" with discounted tickets for GCC alumni on Friday night and it was well-received by the many alumni who came to enjoy the music lineup and stop by to visit the GCC tent. Look for us at Green River Festival 2016!

- Community Service

- The Catalyst

A Newsletter for Alumni, Parents, and Friends of Greenfield Community College and the GCC Foundation

Northampton Mayor Appoints two GCC Alumni as Top Public Safety Officials

Chief of Police Jody Kasper ’94

Northampton Police Chief Jody Kasper was in her words, "an OK student," She added that in high school she "figured it out" but was unsure about her confidence and ability. "I didn’t actually know if I could make it in college," she added. "My guidance counselor recommended I try GCC and pulled out their catalog with the instruction to pick something that sounded interesting. I picked Criminal Justice and it went from there. If GCC had not been an option, I would not have gone to college." Kasper credits the size of the school and quality of the professors for her success. She said that she was a "country kid" and GCC fit her comfort zone. She especially remembers retired English professor Faythe Turner, who taught her how to write an organized paper, how to research. "She was fantastic," Kasper mused, "I thought about her a lot over the years." She also recalled her Criminal Justice instructor, Stella Xanthiades, who brought her CJ students to the state prison in Gardner and to Mock Court at the Franklin County Courthouse in Greenfield - an experience that confirmed Kasper’s somewhat random selection of her career choice.

After graduating from GCC in ’94, Kasper transferred to Westfield State University, where she graduated with dual Bachelor’s degrees in psychology and criminal justice. She went on to receive two Master’s degrees from WSU – one in criminal justice and a second in Public Administration. "GCC really prepared me a lot for Westfield," she maintains. "From being able to write an incident report as an officer to a department annual report for the City as Chief, the ability to think critically and write in an organized, understandable way has been key."

Kasper was appointed the new Northampton Chief of Police by Mayor David Narkewicz in July. She is one of just nine female police chiefs in the state and has worked for the department for 17 years. Her position as Police Chief includes a $5.6 million operating budget and 68 sworn police officers.

Chad Kasper lives in Easthampton with her partner, Alisa Luke, a middle school guidance counselor and her 11-year-old son, Jackson.

Fire Chief Duane Nichols ’07

When Northampton Mayor David Narkewicz appointed Assistant Fire Chief Duane Nichols as fire chief this past July, he was not only unaware of his parents, Renfrew and Debbie Gilbert ’75T, said their parents, their will for GCC students "who are working to better themselves through education." Their daughters, Susan Renfrew and Debbie Gilbert ’74, said their parents "understood the many benefits of all forms of education, and appreciated the important role GCC plays in our community."

- Northampton Fire Chief Duane Nichols ’07, and Police Chief Jody Kasper are proud GCC alumni!

(continued on page 4)
From the President

Many from around the state and nation are asking "Should community colleges decouple their mission from one committed to both transfer and workforce?" "Wouldn’t you do a better job if you were to focus on either workforce or transfer?" To be perfectly clear, at GCC, we do both well. Moving away from the comprehensive mission at Greenfield Community College would do an injustice to students, families and the need for an educated workforce in our community.

Workforce? Who better understands the single mom, unemployed dad or returning Veteran eager to find a family sustainable job to feed their kids and pay the rent? Who better to work in collaboration with industry, Franklin County Tech and the REB to prepare students for jobs in manufacturing, health care and business?

Transfer? Fifty percent of our students transfer to four-year institutions. Who better understands the skills and knowledge for a better future. Thank you for all that you do to accept our transfer students.

At GCC, with your support, we respect and learn from the past, work with community partners to strengthen the present and empower students with the skills and knowledge for a better future. It is the education of the whole student that matters most at GCC.

Peterson named Board Member Emeritus

The GCC Foundation Board of Directors conferred the status of Board Member Emeritus to Lorna Peterson. Only four people have received this recognition in the 47 years of the Foundation’s history: Mort Slavin, Rob Yacubian, Rob Cohn and Bill Freeman. Lorna’s passion and commitment to the college and students has been exemplary. The Board recognizes and honors her dedication to changing lives for the better at GCC.

Milestones

Members of the GCC family, who touched and changed the lives of many students during their years at the college, are named here in recognition and appreciation of their service.

Recently retired...
- Jeri Moran, Evening and Weekend Librarian 10 years of service
- Andy Pearson, Custodial Area Supervisor 27 years of service
- Kate Finsegg, Education Professor 34 years of service
- Tim Shippee, Head of Ground Section 41 years of service
- Bob Barber, Director of Community and Workforce Education 15 years of service
- Bill Mayrose, Director of Public Safety 9 years of service

In memoriam...
- Ethel "Risky" Case, Age 93 Dean of Continuing Education January 25, 2015
- David C. Bartlett, Age 85 Engineering Professor March 10, 2015
- Edmund Sullivan, Age 87 Dean of Faculty July 5, 2015
- Hove Parente, Age 90 Physical Plant July 29, 2015
- June Pihlans, Age 79 Registrar’s Office July 31, 2015
- Joseph Gerard (Jerry) Richard, Age 82 Criminal Justice Professor August 10, 2015
- Daniel LaRose ’65, Age 71 Psychology Professor November 20, 2015
The Greenfield Community College Foundation asked the community to "invest in students and create a future," and the community did just that. Thanks to strong annual fund support by business and individual donors, and the addition of three unanticipated gifts by bequest over the year, the GCC Foundation annual campaign ending June 30th raised $1,106,727 from 1,016 donors.

The GCC Annual Fund Campaign involves many members of the community. More than 70 volunteers helped by individually soliciting funds from other community members, alumni, parents, current and retired faculty and staff, and businesses. Funds are also raised at events throughout the year, such as GCC Day at Mike’s Maze and the GCC Turkey Run.

GCC President Bob Pura expressed his appreciation, noting "There is much that our nation can learn from our community. Each life changing scholarship and gift from this campaign is evidence of a community that supports neighbors as if they were family. This campaign was truly this community’s campaign. On behalf of our students, faculty and staff I am so thankful and appreciative of every single gift."

Robyn Provost of Heath, President of the GCC Foundation Board of Directors and co-owner of Mowry & Schmidt General Contractors in Greenfield, said, "I am honored to be a part of an organization that provides critical support to GCC students. The confidence that our community demonstrates in GCC by their investments in the quality, affordable education GCC offers makes this job easy."

Honorary campaign co-chairs were the Cahillane family of Northampton, who were enthusiastic supporters throughout the campaign and hosted a gathering in Hampshire County in May. Sixteen Cahillane family members across three generations have obtained access to education at GCC.

The impact of your support can be measured on the faces of every student whose life is changed by GCC. Our students’ success is the direct result of their own hard work and the quality of teaching and learning at GCC that you help make possible with your generous donation. Please consider support of GCC students for your end-of-year giving!

Make a gift online now at www.gcc.mass.edu/give or send your donation to the GCC Foundation, 270 Main St., Greenfield MA 01301.
Chief Nichols (continued)

went more quickly and he obtained his Bachelor's degree in Fire Science Management from Anna Maria College in 2011, completed the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's chief officer management training and is credentialed to serve as a fire chief by the Massachusetts Fire Service Commission.

Nichols began his career as a city firefighter in 1983 before moving on to the post of shift captain, then acting deputy chief. He served as the department’s training officer and deputy chief of fire prevention and operations. Nichols was named assistant chief when the position was created in 2007.

He also teaches courses in Fire Administration and Fire Investigation at Greenfield Community College.

“GCC was very good for me,” Nichols stated. “As a student and an instructor, I’ve been impressed with the enthusiasm for learning that is demonstrated at every level.” He credits then-Department Chair Peter Rosnick as a positive influence, recalling that Rosnick advocated for the Fire Science Program in the late ’80s and helped create a collaboration with Berkshire Community College that helped both institutions maintain sustainable enrollment numbers. Twenty years later, Rosnick’s son, GCC alumnus now works with Nichols at an EMS for the Northampton Fire Department.

Nichols was born in Northampton and grew up in Williamsburg, graduating from Hampden Regional High School. He lives in Westhampton with his wife, Barbara, and their twins McKenzie and Andrew, 11.

Sandy Sayers is GCC 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

The GCC Distinguished Alumni Committee announced that Sandy Sayers ’85 of Greenfield has been selected as the 2015 Distinguished Alumnus. The award was presented at the GCC Foundation Annual Meeting November 12th.

On learning of the Committee’s decision, GCC President Bob Pura stated, “I am once again pleased with the decisions of the selection committee and thrilled for Sandy. Her passion for commitment to education, health care and the human needs of our community has been clear over time. Her compassion and intelligence are found in every step of her journey. Congratulations to Sandy Sayers, GCC distinguished alumnus!”

Sayers has lived and worked in Franklin County since 1979. She made the decision to attend college as a non-traditional student, beginning her studies at Greenfield Community College after a career as a singer and while raising her family. She graduated with her Associate’s degree in 1985, then transferred to Smith College as part of the highly respected Arts Comstock Program to complete her Bachelor’s degree in 1988.

Recollecting her time at GCC, Sayers said, “The atmosphere at the college was so supportive – it meant a lot to me to feel welcomed and to learn that I could achieve and accomplish things that I never believed I could do before.”

The 2015 GCC Distinguished Alumni Committee members are Norman Foster ’01, Jody Kasper ’94, Sharon Maysen ’77, Ira Mitchel ’78 and Jack Spanbauer.

For more information about the GCC Foundation, Annual Meeting on November 12th or the GCC Distinguished Alumni Award, please call 413-775-1600.

The Healing Touch...

Jill Ker Conway Attends Donovan Scholarship Award Ceremony at the GCC HSET Graduation

Respected author, historian and retired Smith College president Jill Ker Conway was on hand at the GCC HSET (formerly GED) Graduation in October for the Tricia Donovan Memorial Scholarships given to support continued studies at GCC.

The GCC Foundation Annual Meeting Held November 12 Celebrated and Thanked All Who Support GCC
Dr. Roy B. Kniskern '78
O.M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. R. B. Kniskern, O.M.D., Ph.D., graduated from Greenfield Community College in 1978 with an Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts degree. After GCC, he moved to California to continue his studies, eventually focusing on the field of Traditional Chinese Medicine and acupuncture. He is a graduate of SF College of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine, and studied Medicine at Stanford University. He holds a Medical Doctorate in Oriental Medicine, a Ph.D. in Nutrition & Immunology and a Ph.D. in Comparative Medicine. He is also a Professor of Nutrition & Physiology. Dr. Kniskern has taught at the Beijing Medical Hospital, University of Tianjin and Internationally.

GCC, where lives are changed every day, opened the doors for this alum who is now changing lives for the better every day with his healing touch.

Chief Nichols (continued)

went more quickly and he obtained his Bachelor’s degree in Fire Science Management from Anna Maria College in 2011, completed the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy’s chief officer management training and is credentialed to serve as a fire chief by the Massachusetts Fire Service Commission.

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He also teaches courses in Fire Administration and Fire Investigation at Greenfield Community College. Nichols stated, “As a student and an instructor, I’ve been impressed with the enthusiasm for learning that is demonstrated at every level.” He credits then-Department Chair Peter Rosnick as a positive influence, recalling that Rosnick advocated for the Fire Science Program in the late ’80s and helped create a collaboration with Berkshire Community College that helped both institutions maintain sustainable enrollment numbers. Twenty years later, Rosnick’s son, GCC alum Jesse, now works at the Firefighting Academy’s chief fire officer training officer and deputy chief of fire prevention and operations. Nichols was named assistant chief when the position was created in 2007.

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Nichols was born in Northampton and grew up in Williamburg, graduating from Hampden Regional High School. He lives in Westhampton with his wife, Barbara, and their twins McKenzie and Andrew, 11.

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Former faculty members

Patricia Ramsey, left, and Peter Rosnick were remembered by Chief Kanjer and Nichols for the influential roles they played in their career success.
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The 2015 annual campaign was led by returning co-chairs, Joe Ruggeri and Rich Fahey, both of Greenfield.

Last Annual Campaign Surpassed Goal

The impact of your support can be measured on the faces of every student whose life is changed by GCC. Our students’ success is the direct result of their own hard work and the quality of teaching and learning at GCC that you help make possible with your generous donation.

Please consider support of GCC students for your end-of-year giving! Make a gift online now at www.gcc.mass.edu/give or send your donation to the GCC Foundation, 270 Main St., Greenfield MA 01301.

The Gift of Education

A proud GCC student smiles as she waits with her daughter to receive her diploma at the GCC 2015 Commencement Ceremony on June 6.
From the President

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Workforce: Who better understands the single mom, unemployed dad or returning Veteran eager to find a family sustainable job to feed their kids and pay the rent? Who better to work in collaboration with industry, Franklin County Tech and the REB to prepare students for jobs in manufacturing, health care and business?

Transfer: Fifty percent of our students come to GCC looking for the affordability and quality of education to take the first step towards the Baccalaureate degree. GCC transfers more women to Smith College than any other college. At UMass, our largest transfer destination, GCC students are more successful than any other community college transfer. The best Art colleges in the nation come with scholarships in hand on Portfolio Day to review our students’ art making. Integration! It is the education of the whole student that matters most at GCC, to those who employ GCC graduates and those colleges and universities eager to accept our transfer students.

At GCC, with your support, we respect and learn from the past, work with community partners to strengthen the present and empower students with the skills and knowledge for a better future. Thank you for all that you do to make GCC the community’s college.

GCC at the Parade!
The rain that fell on the Franklin County Fair Parade in September did not dampen spirits in the GCC contingent!

Office of the GCC Foundation and Alumni Affairs

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- Hare Parent, Age 90
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Board of Directors

President
- Robyn Provost

Vice President
- Michael Davey

Secretary
- Martha Goldstein

Treasurer
- Nancy Fournier ’85

Directors
- Mitch Anthony
- Pat Collins ’95
- Katherine Cole
- Charles Crompt
- Rich Fahey
- Leigh Rae
- Michael Smith

Alumni Representative
- Carmen Bassett ’66

Faculty Representative
- Mary Phillips ’92

Honorary Directors
- Rob Cohn ’71
- Bill Freeman
- Lorna Peterson
- Robert Morgan Yacubian

GCC Alumni Association

Join the Alumni Association!
Membership is FREE.
Did you attend GCC? We value your connection to the college. As a member of the Alumni Association, you can participate in many ways and we welcome your involvement at all levels.

Join now at www.gcc.mass.edu/alumni
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