Television Dreams Come True for Class of 1983 Grads

Lynn Page and Keith Clark

By Mary McClintock ’82

In 1980, Lynn Page and Keith Clark were high school graduates who dreamed of working in television. Keith attended Turners Falls High School while Lynn was at Chicopee High School. Lynn and Keith both chose Greenfield Community College to prepare for their dream careers: Lynn because of GCC's great Communications program even though it was far from home and Keith because he knew he'd do better at a small, close-to-home school.

Sitting in Media Production classes together in the early 1980s, Keith and Lynn had no idea their career dreams would come true and they’d work together at WGBY-TV, public television for western New England for 28 years. Thirty-five years after they entered GCC, Lynn and Keith work side by side at WGBY, Lynn as Deputy General Manager and Keith as Director of Local Production and Production Services. GCC laid the foundations for their careers.

Hands-on learning is key to developing a career in television. Along with taking Bob Tracy’s classes in television production and communications courses taught by Tom Boisvert, Lynn and Keith assisted Garry Longe in what was then called the AV Center. They learned about all aspects of creating television productions. Music videos were a new phenomenon, and Keith worked with Garry to make music videos with bands. Garry had a huge influence on Keith, became his mentor and supporter, and they are still friends.

Lynn knew GCC’s cutting edge Communications program was the right place for her, even though it was a long drive to school. For class projects, they created a wide range of types of television, including corporate pieces to help market the company, and studio-based discussion. Lynn took advantage of the range of courses at GCC, including still photography, which is still her hobby today.

Continuing with her experiential learning after completing GCC in 1983,
From the President

Whether it is the perspective of the farmer or philosopher, framed by religion or the poet; spring is a time of renewal and new beginnings – so too at Greenfield Community College.

As our students, faculty and staff are deep into the sprint to the finish line of the semester and academic year, the GCC Foundation has once again kicked off its annual campaign, renewing its commitment to the College, our mission and especially, our students.

Just as the farmer seizes the moment, investing seeds and sweat, faithful and hopeful for a bountiful harvest, our Foundation and each volunteer invests its own time, energy and resources, also faithful and hopeful for a good return and bountiful harvest.

That investment and the harvest it produces will provide the scholarships and programs that open the doors to higher education and a better life for all who are willing to work hard to achieve it. We all know that one needs a good college education to get a good job at good wages. As a result, health and health care improve, housing and educational opportunities increase, as does the quality of one’s life. People then become more civically engaged and better able to think critically about the issues at hand. The data are clear about those outcomes. That social and economic mobility is what this community continues to care about. It is what we want for our children and for our neighbor’s children as well.

Lives change for the better every day at GCC. Families then grow stronger and so too our community. Now that’s an investment that lends credibility to the notion that “hope springs eternal.”

Thank you for all you do for GCC, our students, faculty, staff and our community!

Go Sox!

Senator Elizabeth Warren Visits GCC

United States Senator Elizabeth Warren visited the GCC campus to meet with students and members of the community on February 19 to discuss college affordability, student loans, and to answer questions raised by students.

Stan Rosenberg elected Senate President

Greenfield Community College offers congratulations to long-time supporter of GCC and public higher education, Senator Stan Rosenberg, (D-Amherst) who was sworn in as Senate President at a ceremony held at the State House in February.
By KATHLEEN McKIERNAN, Recorder Staff
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College had been a fairy tale where Guinevere Arthur Vanhorne grew up in Jamaica.

Though she was smart in school, college and education wasn’t what her family did.

Then, she came to Greenfield Community College.

“It was always a dream, but here at GCC it became a reality,” Vanhorne said.

“Here is a Cinderella story. I see this place as my Prince Charming.”

In 2010, Vanhorne started the certified nursing assistant program at Greenfield Community College.

That same year, she gave birth to her second daughter. Her marriage was falling apart and she was dealing with what seemed insurmountable court problems.

Despite these difficulties, she began working at Anchorage Nursing Home and later Charlene Manor as a certified nursing assistant.

“I got inspired to look more into health care. I spoke with my supervisor. She said the only thing that can stop you is you,” Vanhorne said. “She saw something in me I didn’t know existed.”

Vanhorne returned to GCC in the fall of 2010 to obtain her associate’s degree in liberal arts.

“My life outside of school was horrendous. I couldn’t provide for my family. Then, I met Rosemarie Freeland at the GCC’s Women’s Resource Center,” Vanhorne said.

The resource center allowed Vanhorne to continue with her studies and access resources to take care of her personal life.

In 2014, she became president of Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society for two-year colleges and began volunteering at the campus food pantry and Stone Soup Cafe which operates out of the All Souls Church Unitarian-Universalist, on the corner of Main and Hope streets downtown.

“I felt like I belonged. I felt this institution invested in me,” Vanhorne said.

“I wouldn’t be able to stand before you today and tell you my story of success.”

Her ultimate goal is to become a physician’s assistant.

She expects to graduate in June and is waiting to hear back from Smith College, where she has applied to study biological sciences.

Foundation campaign kickoff

Vanhorne spoke before the GCC Foundation campaign volunteers at its kick off to its annual campaign Thursday morning.


The goal this year is raise $800,000 in support of students and programs at Greenfield Community College, the same as last year.

The campaign raised $228,861 so far. Last year’s goal was exceeded by $47,000.

“More than the big ideas imbedded in our mission about education, democracy, more than the big data about our graduation rates and transfer rates, it is those stories that bring each of us here this morning,” said GCC President Bob Pura.

“It is about the lives that change every day at GCC, it is about the families that then grow stronger and it is about how our community is then stronger as a result. It is about the social and economic mobility that does exist here in our community at a time when it is at an all-time low across the nation.”

Leading the campaign are Rich Fahey, retired advertising director for The Recorder, and local business owner Joseph Ruggeri.

Ruggeri, owner of Ruggeri Real Estate in Greenfield since 2005, is serving as co-chair for the third year. “I feel like everyone has a busy life. I think ‘am I too busy to be coming to this type of thing?’” Ruggeri asked. “But when I hear these stories, I think I’m never too busy.”

Ruggeri said the campaign is about investing in students and creating a future. His goal this year is to connect with more students and alumni in Hampden and Hampshire counties.

“I realize how much of a resource the college is for Greenfield, for the region,” Ruggeri said. “The campus itself, the opportunity for people of all ages and abilities to affordably engage in both social and learning contexts really enhances our community in a significant way. The strength of the economy will ebb and flow, but GCC will always be a foundation of long-term sustainability.”

“My wife and daughter attended GCC. Many of my friends and my children’s friends attended GCC,” Fahey said in a statement. “And many more people from our community will attend far into the future. Being the co-chair is an opportunity for me to help get the word out that it is us, the people of Franklin, Hampshire and Windham Counties and beyond, through our generous support, who are vital to keeping GCC alive and well and essential to the community.”
Television Dreams (continued from front)

Lynn went directly from graduating with an Associate of Science in Communication into a programming internship at WGBY. The staff loved the skills and knowledge Lynn had developed at GCC and before her internship was over, Lynn got a job first as a receptionist at the studio and next as Production Administrative Assistant.

Keith took a different path after his GCC graduation, transferring to the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University where he earned a bachelor's degree in Telecommunications Management. Because Keith’s many GCC television course credits transferred to Syracuse, his coursework at Syracuse focused on the management end of television.

In 1986, Keith sought an internship for the summer before his last semester at Syracuse. Keith and Lynn had kept in touch and she was able to help him get an internship at WGBY where he was introduced to all facets of production, including floor managing, running studio cameras, character generator systems, selecting which camera to show and learning how to be a technical director.

In 1987, Keith started working part-time at WGBY as a production assistant, learning more about filming and editing, and he developed mentors among the supportive staff.

While Lynn and Keith started at GCC, went on to WGBY internships, and have worked for their whole careers at WGBY, their careers have followed different paths. Lynn’s work has been primarily in programming and Keith’s work has been in production. Starting with Lynn’s first job out of her internship, she has held increasingly responsible positions and is now Deputy General Manager, supervising about three-quarters of the station’s departments and overseeing all operations from content and delivery across multiple platforms including Local Production, On-Air Promotions, Engineering, Broadcast Operations, Production Services, Web, Education, and Marketing. She programs and manages four digital monthly program schedules and is responsible for a content and delivery operations budget of over $1 million annually.

Keith has also worn many hats in the station’s production departments, including Production Technician, Assistant Production Manager, Production Manager, Local Production Manager, and Director of Local Production & Production Services.

In 2006, Keith helped convert the production facilities at WGBY from analog technology to one of the area’s first High Definition broadcast entities. The station’s first HD local documentary, Defying Gravity, was Keith’s project where he and fellow staff member and videographer, Mark Langevin, followed world-renowned glass artist Josh Simpson’s quest to create a 100-lb paperweight for the Corning Museum of Glass.

This spring, Lynn and Keith are working side-by-side on WGBY’s “Together in Song” choral series. Lynn is the Executive Producer and they co-produce the shows. Lynn coordinates with all the groups coming in and together they create a rough layout of the show. The “Together In Song” finale and regional choral awards broadcast, which is a live show, has been nominated three years in a row for a New England Regional Emmy in the category of Special Event Coverage.

What’s it like to work with someone for 28 years? Both Lynn and Keith have immense respect for each other’s skills, knowledge, and experience. And both will tell you they’re opinionated people who haven’t always seen eye to eye. However, they share the same work ethic, have common goals, are always looking for the best quality work, and have been friends since college.

Lynn and Keith aren’t the only ones who have respect for their work. Garry Longe, now an Instructional Media Specialist in GCC’s Educational Technology Center said, “In this field, we learn from each other more than anything. Keith is the best video producer I know and I’ve learned from him and his programs. My skills are not my skills, I learned my skills from others and they learned them from other people. Keith and Lynn have taken the skills they learned from me, learned more, and continue to teach others.”

In February, WGBY was recognized by the Massachusetts Cultural Council at the Massachusetts statehouse with their biennial Commonwealth Award. In addition to several Boston New England Regional Emmy nominations, Keith’s work has been recognized with a Parent’s Choice Gold award, Silver Telly awards, Communicator Awards, a Videographer Award of Excellence and an Aurora Gold Award. Last November, Keith and his co-worker Mark Langevin received the prestigious Silver Circle Award from the Boston/New England Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. Commenting on the awards, Keith said, “As Garry Longe said, we all learn from one another. So, we achieve as one, as well. These awards recognize the collective skills and knowledge of the many people I’ve learned from and worked with.”

Lynn’s leadership in media in western Massachusetts was acknowledged by her selection in 2011 to participate in the year-long Leadership Pioneer Valley initiative sponsored by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, created for to develop leadership skills and strategies.

Lynn and Keith share more than long television careers at WGBY. They also share great appreciation for the start they got at GCC. Lynn said, “Don’t ever underestimate the education from a community college. Look where I started and look where I ended up. Community colleges are a great place to experiment, to figure out the next move. Access to community colleges is essential, everyone should have the opportunity to go to community college.”

Keith knows that GCC has had a great impact on the community. He said, “The reach of GCC alumni is huge. Whenever I mention GCC, people tell me that they attended GCC, or their kids did, or someone they work with did. There are many GCC alumni out in the community doing great things based on the opportunities they had at GCC. That impact on our community may not be a traceable thing, but it is definitely there.”
The Road from GCC to Albany…

Lou Hmieleski ‘84
Executive Editor
Civil Service Employees Association, Albany, NY

GCC wasn’t Lou Hmieleski’s first stop on his education journey, but it was the one that prepared him to go the distance. After graduating from Frontier Regional High School in 1981, he took the “family route” to Umass Amherst, as his parents and sisters had done. But it turned out to not be a great fit for Lou and after a year and a half his adviser gave him the excellent advice to “save yourself money, go to GCC to figure out what you want and come back.” Lucky for Lou and for GCC, he took that advice.

He recalls two faculty members in particular whose class “road trips” played a role in putting him on the road to where he is today.

Dr. Arthur Shaw brought his Journalism students to visit the Boston Globe where they were exposed to layout, composing and hardworking reporters. That trip made a big impression and Lou was inspired to study for a career in journalism - and he did do a stint at the Globe and the Quincy Patriot Ledger later as part of a Coop program through Northeastern University, where he actually ended up transferring for his Bachelor’s degree after completing his Associate’s at GCC.

Dr. Warren Johansson taught Geology, a course Lou took only to fulfill needed Science credits but that opened his eyes to the enjoyment of earth science. It was on another GCC class field trip led by Johanssen to visit the geologically unique Helderberg Escarpment in Albany that Lou became aware of the draw of New York’s Capital Region.

After completing his Bachelor’s, Lou worked at the Greenfield Recorder before signing on as a stringer for United Press International, which brought him to settle down in Albany, where he lives with his wife, Lynn. He eventually accepted his position with the Civil Service Employees Association, which represents 300,000 unionized public employees in New York. Lou keeps them connected and up to date with a monthly newspaper.

Lou did end up carrying the family banner for Umass Amherst after all, receiving his Master’s degree in Labor Studies in 2010, bringing his educational journey full circle.

GCC hosted the MA House Ways and Means Joint Budget Committee hearing on Education for the FY16 state budget in the Cohn Family Dining Commons on March 24.

Joint MA House Ways and Means Budget Committee members listen to testimony from state education leaders. Pictured left to right: Western MA legislative delegation members State Representative Ben Swan, House Ways and Means Vice-Chair Steve Kulik, and Senator Ben Downing were joined by House and Senate committee members from across the state.

Testimony on state Education Departments’ budgetary needs was provided by (left to right): Mitchell Chester, Commissioner, Elementary and Secondary Education; Jim Peyster, Massachusetts Secretary of Education; Christine Wilda, Sr VP for A&F, UMass system; GCC President Bob Pura; Richard Freeland, Commissioner, Higher Education; Tom Weber, Commissioner, Early Education and Care.

GCC’s 1st 5K Turkey Run a Success!

GCC students, faculty and staff were joined by over 100 community members participating in the first ever 5K road race to raise funds for GCC students. Held on Saturday, November 15th, the USATF sanctioned race raised almost $7,000, designated this time to support the GCC Food Pantry. For information about participating in or sponsoring the next 2015 Turkey Run, please visit www.gcc.mass.edu/foundation/turkey-run

2014 Race Sponsors
Late afternoon on the West Coast ends with the sky doing all its brilliant stuff.

–Joan Didion

PORTLAND, OREGON: Pamela Canaday ’94T
Flow Cytometry Specialist
Pamela is pictured on the left, with GCC Foundation board member Marina Goldman, who visited her while in Oregon for business in February. Pamela arrived in Portland via Seattle where she completed her Associate's degree and now works at Oregon Health and Sciences University.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON: Abby McGuigan ’06
University of Washington ’09
Abby originally came to GCC as a dual-enrolled high school student. She completed her Associate's degree at GCC, then transferred to the University of Washington in Seattle to obtain her Bachelor's degree in English. Both of Abby's parents and her brother have GCC ties (see below.)

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA: Carles Pi-Sunyer ’90
Senior Software Engineer
After graduating from GCC, Carles earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of California Santa Cruz and he has worked in the Silicon Valley ever since. Carles is now employed as a software engineer at Google, where his work touches the lives of millions of people every day.

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA: Michael Carruth ’77
Actor
At GCC, Michael “took advantage of everything the college had to offer!” GCC was Michael’s starting point for a career in entertainment, leading him to Boston, New York, Chicago and, finally, Los Angeles. Michael's career included a memorable stint as George Clooney's stand-in and stunt double.

GCC Faculty Member is Part of West Coast Story — After finishing his PhD, GCC Faculty Member Bob McGuigan joined the math department at UMass Amherst for six years, then moved to Westfield State where he taught for 29 years. After retiring from Westfield State he found he couldn’t entirely give up teaching and accepted gladly when asked to serve as adjunct math instructor at GCC. Bob says he “found a warm and welcoming academic community with a caring, dedicated faculty and staff and a diverse and stimulating student body.” He also appreciates the strong connection to the local community as he has broad interests in foreign languages, literature, art and classical music. Bob's wife, Julia Bady, is a concert pianist and piano teacher and has taught instrumental music at GCC. Their son Gabriel, and daughter Abigail, McGuigan both attended GCC as dual-enrolled students in high school. Abby continued on to graduate from GCC then transferred for her bachelor's degree from the University of Washington in Seattle (see above). They are a GCC family!
Please contact us at 413-775-1600 for information about Foundation events in the community, the annual campaign, planned giving opportunities and the alumni association. Send a message to larange@gcc.mass.edu if you are not on our email list.

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Give to the GCC Foundation 2015 Annual Campaign

Investing in Students, Creating a Future…
www.gcc.mass.edu/give

Robyn Provost, Vice President of Mowry & Schmidt, Inc., General Contractors, has been elected President of the Board of Directors of the GCC Foundation. Robyn has served on the board for five years and is a longtime volunteer fundraiser for the annual campaign. Her work with their family-operated construction business, based in Greenfield since 1947, has made her a familiar face to many companies and individuals across Franklin County. Robyn lives in Heath with her husband, Tom Carlson.

Rich Fahey
Joe Ruggerri

The GCC Foundation is very pleased that both co-chairs from last year have returned to the lead the 2015 annual campaign. Joe Ruggeri, who is on his third year as co-chair, is a local realtor who has been named one of the Business West 2015 “40 Under 40” awardees. Rich Fahey, back for his second year as co-chair, is recently retired from a distinguished career at the Greenfield Recorder. Both Joe and Rich have deep ties to our community, are very committed to GCC and work hard to support this community’s college.

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 @
www.gcc.mass.edu/alumni
Cheri Ducharme named Nursing Faculty Endowed Chair

GCC Nursing Professor Cheri Ducharme has been appointed to the Jean Simmons Nursing Faculty Endowed Chair, endowed as part of a $1 million fund donated in June, 2013. The endowed faculty chair is named in honor of long-time GCC nurse educator, Jean Simmons '65.

Ducharme has been a full-time faculty member in GCC's Associate Degree Nursing Program for seventeen years. She's worked in every role in the Program, twice serving as Program Coordinator.

"It is a tremendous honor to be appointed to a position named for Jean," Ducharme said. "Jean Simmons has been my mentor and role model. Jean IS the GCC Nursing Program. She made us who we are, a community-oriented program with very high standards and a strong commitment to supporting our students and providing well-trained nurses."

GCC Welcomes GSB President John Howland

GCC was pleased to welcome John Howland, pictured above, the new President & CEO of Greenfield Savings Bank, to his first visit on campus March 26th. He is pictured here in front of the entrance to the GCC Greenfield Savings Bank Math Studio - thank you, GSB, for all of your support of GCC students!