Where Would We Be Without GCC
continued from inside

2) Gift from Class of 2010 graduates—led by students Brandy Slower and Megan Gion
3) Using social marketing, raising money by using Facebook—led by Michael Nelson '01 '03, 2010 Campaign Co-Chair
4) Expand Business Friends of GCC Campaign in Franklin County and Northampton—led by Tim Mitchell, Annie Thompson, and Barbara Wallace
This year’s $950,000 goal is ambitious. It’s ambitious because the GCC Foundation strongly supports President Pura’s leadership and has ambitious visions for the College. While other institutional leaders are scaling back plans for their organizations, President Pura continues to think creatively and practically about how the College can best support the community, continuing its almost 50 year history of access and excellence. We know that by supporting the College, we support everyone in the community. In the past ten years, the GCC Foundation has raised $5,358,593 and provided 1,800 scholarships to GCC students. The College’s overall economic impact on the community is $70 million dollars, not including construction.

We heard many important messages at the Campaign Kickoff in April. GCC student Todd Day said, “My answer to the question ‘Where would I be without GCC?’ is simple: I don’t know. What I do know is that at the age of 58, when I decided to make a major career change, Greenfield Community College was there for me. Just like it was twenty years earlier, when I didn’t care. Almost twenty years ago, Todd left GCC to start a plastics company. After 17 years in business, recognizing the downturn in the economy would make it hard for his business to compete, he closed his business and decided to go back to school. Day said, “Again, GCC was there for me. Now, my plan is to earn my master’s degree in education, with a specialty in history, and GCC is making that possible. So you ask, ‘Where would you be without GCC?’ and my answer is still, I don’t know. What I do know is that GCC is a beacon of light in Franklin County and beyond; the College’s availability combined with its affordability makes it a light at the end of the tunnel for those who don’t know what to do.”

Executive Director for Annual Giving Allen Davis, said, “This year we hope to increase the number of donors by 10%, from last year’s 1,339 to 1,500. While the overall amount of money raised is important, equally important is broad-based participation. We’re eager for new donors to join in supporting GCC. Often, people think that one has to be wealthy to donate to GCC. Actually, donors to the College come from all walks of life, and all levels of economic means. All gifts to the College are meaningful and every gift is a major gift.”

President Pura continued, “Beyond the Campaign’s theme, ‘Where Would We Be Without GCC?,’ the real question is ‘Where would GCC be without the community?’

We hope you’ll join us in making this year’s Campaign for the College and the community’s huge success by making a generous gift by May 31, 2010. To donate, or for more information about the 2010 Annual Fund Campaign, visit www.gcc.mass.edu or contact Allen Davis, Executive Director of Annual Giving, at 413-775-1600.

JOIN THE GCC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
• Find old friends from your GCC days
• Connect with GCC alumni in your new hometown
• Network to enhance your career
• Sign up for AlumNet, a social networking site for GCC alumni.
www.gcc.mass.edu/alumni
CHECK IT OUT!

It’s Easy to be GREEN
As part of our ongoing effort to help sustain the health of the planet, Greenfield Community College has been going green in terms of increasingly popular course offerings on sustainable and renewable energy and in helping to diminish the use of paper in favor of using email.

To this end, we are asking readers of The Catalyst to give us their opinion on how they would prefer to receive the newsletter — either in print by mail, or as an email.

It is worth noting that through email The Catalyst will be able to offer much more up-to-date information and useful links to readers.

Please let us know your preference by sending an email to Andrea Carlin at alumnet@gcc.mass.edu or writing to the GCC Foundation and Alumni Association, 270 Main Street, Greenfield, Mass. 01301.
There are so many wonderful things going on at Greenfield Community College right now. Thanks to your support and the support from many public and private funding sources, the GCC campus will soon have:

• $3.1 Million fully renovated core of its main building, including an 18,000 sq ft addition to expand learning and community space and a sustainable geothermal heating and cooling system.

• $500,000 new net energy greenhouse that will provide a teaching environment for science department classes and a demonstration model of the most current renewable energy systems.

• Investment of more than $100,000 for an updated, energy efficient East Building with a primary need for a pellet boiler system.

And as you may have heard, GCC is working to establish a new performing arts center in downtown Greenfield’s Garden Arts Complex. Our community is on the verge of a renaissance period and this project connects GCC’s mission to this socio-economic renaissance activity that will lift the entire region.

But as significant as these brick and mortar projects are to GCC and our students, it is critical to note that in the final analysis, colleges are about people. It is about the wonderful people who make GCC a great community college. It is the facility and staff of this college who teach the lives of our students, who contribute to their success and who have done so day in and day out for almost five decades. All too often, the good headlines about GCC do not highlight enough the day to day commitment of our people.

It is in the context that I am pleased to announce this year’s promotions, in changes and upgrades of employees of Greenfield Community College:

Professor Emeritus
GlenVones, Anthropology
Tanya Moen, Nursing
Theodore Johnson, Physics
Kathleen Minto, Transfer Office
Linda Sebastian, Social Work
Michael Sheppee, Music
Change in Rank from Assistant Professor to
From Instructor to Assistant Professor: Wendy Ramos, English
Ellen Larato, Nursing; Elizabeth Sayers,Outdoor Leadership
From Assistant Professor to Associate Professor: MaryEllen Burke, Nursing; Mary Dore, Nursing; Christine Monahan, English;John Tymark, Psychology
Kathleen Vouros, Business
From Associate Professor to Professor: Jennifer Burrill, Mathematics; Theodores Johnson, English; John Tierney, Psychology; Theodore Johnson, Mathematics; Theodore Johnson, Anthropology

 GCC Sees the Spark in Each of Us
Eileen Torchio, ’74

Eileen Torchio, ’74 knows it is a privilege to have a career she believes in, even when it’s hard to recognize your own potential. Eileen had a negative experience in high school and came to GCC in the fall of 1972 with no idea of what she expected from an education or vocation. Through the encouragement of her family and GCC, Eileen learned to love learning. She is now a full-time State Probation Officer, earned her Masters in Education with an emphasis in counseling from the University of Massachusetts, and is a weekend volunteer for the Franklin County Community Corrections Center. Her older brother, John, found a safe haven at GCC, graduating with an Associate’s Degree in Liberal Arts in 1974. Ellen transferred to the University of Massachusetts, graduating in 1976 with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and law. Ellen, who is the graduate of high school who came to GCC, graduated in 2007, transferred to the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and now works as an intern in the Art Teaching at Tufts University.

Helen told Eileen that Budge Hyde, and other GCC faculty, were more supportive educators compared to many of the public and private funding sources. John and Helen are both lifetime Alumni Association members. Eileen’s younger daughter, Alison, is a recent graduate Hampden Regional High School and looks forward to attending GCC. For the past eight years, Ellen has been a Probation Officer. She is a recent graduate Hampden Regional High School and looks forward to attending GCC. For the past eight years, Ellen has been a Probation Officer.

Eileen knows GCC not just from her own experience, but also from the experiences of her brother, daughter, and the clients she works with. Both John and Helen were with Franklin County Community Corrections Center. Helen is the grad of a 50-year class, and Helen is the 40-year class, and Helen is the 40-year class.

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Colleges are About People…

From the President

GCC President Robert L. Pura

"Where Would We Be Without GCC"

and mortar projects are to GCC and area businesses.

Brian Adams, GCC, Professor of Environmental Studies and Natural Resources and GCC Climate Commitment Co-Steward, said, "Many ambitious new projects are already funded and will be completed in the next eight to ten months, including conducting an energy audit of the East Building, installation of a wood-pellet boiler to provide 90% of the East Building’s heating needs, and installation of solar hot water systems on the Main Campus." The three projects are funded through a collaborative effort with a long-time local business, the Sandri Companies.

In March, 2010 Sandri received $3.2 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds from the state of Massachusetts to support the installation of high-efficiency wood pellet boilers and solar thermal technology at multiple institutional sites throughout Massachusetts, including Greenfield Community College.

"We value the strong relationship that’s developed between Sandri and GCC," said Sandri’s company president Timothy Van Eps. "This project is just one example of the level of commitment we have to one another."

Van Eps explained that “GCC is a great partner for us. They initiative is a win-win for everyone—students, faculty, staff, and the community. This is accomplished through the generous support of our donors.”

A new geo-thermal heating and cooling system for the Arts Center is currently being designed and constructed by the student crews.

A new green energy concept is changing the way we look at the campus - from the East Building to the Academic Buildings.

In addition to the ARRA-funded projects, GCC has directly received $804,000 from 1,359 donors. 68 of those donors were members of the community. last year’s Grace Mayers leadership Giving Campaign has three ambitious goals: supporting the College. This year’s "We value the strong relationship that’s developed between Sandri and GCC," said Sandri’s company president Timothy Van Eps. "This project is just one example of the level of commitment we have to one another.“

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The campaign theme resonates with those donors who were members of the community. last year’s Grace Mayers leadership Giving Campaign has three ambitious goals: supporting the College. This year’s "We value the strong relationship that’s developed between Sandri and GCC," said Sandri’s company president Timothy Van Eps. "This project is just one example of the level of commitment we have to one another."”

"Indeed, where would each of us as individuals be, or perhaps even the nation itself, without an institution of higher learning to help us achieve our goals?

GCC Sees the Spark in Each of Us

by Lee Wicks and Michael Nelson '71 '03, Co-Chairs of the 2010 GCC Annual Fund Campaign

Eileen Tocchio, '74

Eileen Tocchio, '74 knows it is to be a better person—she believes in you, even when it’s hard to recognize your own potential. Eileen had a negative experience in high school and came to GCC in the fall of 1972 with no idea of what she expected from an education or a vocation. Through the encouragement of her family and staff at GCC, Eileen learned to love learning, and to imagine a future working with others who could benefit from a caring supportive atmosphere.

Eileen is a natural leader. After receiving an Associate’s Degree in Liberal Arts from GCC in 1974, Eileen transferred to the University of Massachusetts, graduating in 1976 with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Law. Eileen's dedication to a career in the school system in which she had encountered difficulties, working with court involved youth of all ages. In 1993, during her fifth year as a full time Supervisor Court Probation Officer, Eileen earned her Master's in Education with an emphasis in counseling from the University of Massachusetts...

Eileen knows about GCC not just from her own experience, but also from what she has observed in the lives of her students, who contribute to their success and who have done so in spite of many personal challenges. All too often, the good headlines about GCC are not highlighted enough; as many have done so in spite of many personal challenges. All too often, the good headlines about GCC are not highlighted enough.

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