Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant gets his start at GCC

“There’s nothing more satisfying than being that person people turn to in their hour of need,” said Major James E. Andrews II, A.A. GCC ’96, B.S. UMass ’00, M.S. Univ. of Nebraska ’06 and D.Sc. Baylor University ’11. And he credits GCC for putting him on the path to becoming that person.

Andrews is on active duty in the US Army, working as an Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital in Virginia. He has served in the Army for 14 years, and has worked as a PA for nine of those years, including two deployments to Iraq.

His is a true American story: He is a career military man whose concurrent career in medicine is very rewarding. He is married to fellow GCC alum Malisa (Little) Andrews, A.A. ‘03 and they live in Virginia with their three children, Collin, 9, Kailynn, 3, and Chloe, 8 months. But he did not start out with a presumption of such future success. Andrews arrived at GCC as so many of its students do – he is the first in his family to attend college, both of his parents dropped out of high school and the culture of poverty that defined his childhood was one he knew he did not want to live, or raise a family in when he became an adult.

“I really didn’t know what I wanted to do when I came to GCC,” he said, “I had been working full time in my grandfather’s business (Bostley Sanitary) after high school and an initial failed attempt at higher education at the University of Wyoming. My grandfather’s nickname for me was “Professor” and he really encouraged me to return to college.” In fact, Maurice Beausoleil’s very accurate assessment was that his grandson James was too smart not to go to college.

Andrews took an array of classes at GCC to test the waters and eventually landed in an Anatomy & Physiology course with

Professor Beth Erviti, which turned out to be a watershed moment in the trajectory of his career. He loved the class, he loved science and he did very well because he found himself “really wanting to impress

(continued on back)

“Music gives a soul to the universe.” — Plato

GCC Music Program Offers an Innovative Approach to Music Education

Over the past ten years, GCC has developed a unique capacity to provide music education for students seeking to acquire the skills and vision they need to fulfill their educational, professional and life goals.

Music Department Chair Matthew Shippee states, “We’re fortunate that GCC has fostered the growth of a Music Department intent on both access and innovative teaching strategies. Most colleges don’t provide the academic bridge that ours does, helping students realize their creative potential in music even though they may arrive at college with little or no formal music training.”

The Music Department does this by combining a complete degree program in Liberal Arts studies with a concentration in musical performance and theoretical

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From the President

We find the most hope for change at the local level

On January 8, 1964, in his first State of the Union Address as President, Lyndon B. Johnson, said “Unfortunately, many Americans live on the outskirts of hope.” He was talking of course about the large number of Americans living in poverty. He then declared “unconditional war on poverty.” Fifty years later poverty remains a national problem.

Poverty is the most violent force in our world today. It is the cause of more death, destruction and disease than any war or act of nature.

In that same State of the Union speech, LBJ went on to say “Our task is to help replace their despair with opportunity.” That is what we do every day at GCC by opening the doors to higher education for all who seek to create a better life for themselves and their families. Our faculty and staff replace despair with hope.

We do not do that alone. GCC’s ability to keep our doors open to all is made possible by each and every member of this community. GCC is but a fiber in the tapestry of this collaborative and caring community.

Over this past year, 3154 students enrolled in one of GCC’s credit programs and another 3363 students were enrolled in one of our community education/workforce programs; 405 students graduated with a degree or certificate; 359 transferred; and over 1700 incumbent workers received the training and education needed to get or keep good jobs at family sustainable wages. Of the 3154 students in our credit programs, over 53% receive financial aid and the GCC Foundation provided 298 scholarships totaling $281,978. Let there be no doubt that lives have changed for the better as a result, families have then grown stronger and so too our community. Not one of those outcomes would have been possible were it not for your support.

Nelson Mandela wrote that “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” You might not feel that we can do anything about the level of poverty in the world, nation or even in this state. But we can make a difference here in our community. It is in fact at the local level where we can find the most hope for change. Access to a quality education for all who seek a better life for themselves and their families will reverse that dark downward spiral of poverty to one of light, hope and that of a widening gyre. You have made, and can continue to make, a significant difference in the lives of many, right here in our community - at its college; Greenfield COMMUNITY College. Together, we are changing the world.

GCC Foundation 2014 Annual Campaign Leadership

The Greenfield Community College Foundation is pleased that the 2014 annual campaign, Inspiring Hope Through Education, will be led by honorary chairs Chia Collins & Michael Cohen at the helm, and managed by annual campaign co-chairs Rich Fahey and Joseph Ruggeri. The 2014 campaign has established the goal to raise $825,000 by May 31st in support of students and programs at Greenfield Community College.

Honorary Chairs Chia Collins and Michael Cohen of Northampton, are founders of Lightlife Foods, Inc. in Turners Falls. The couple gladly agreed to serve as honorary chairs, noting the impact the college has had on the lives of their employees and their families for decades. Their decision to serve as honorary chairs to help the success of the campaign was an easy one. “Greenfield Community College is an incredible resource in our community,” they said, “one of the finest community colleges in the Commonwealth, opening the door to a wide range of students who might not otherwise have access to higher education.

GCC President Bob Pura and the 2014 Annual Fund Campaign team are also pleased to welcome Rich Fahey, recently retired Advertising Director for the Greenfield Recorder, as co-chair this year, joining Joseph Ruggeri in the leadership role.

2014 Campaign Honorary Chairs Chia Collins and Michael Cohen

“I didn’t need convincing when I was asked to help out with this year’s GCC Foundation Annual Campaign,” said Fahey. He recalls when GCC opened its doors on Federal Street in 1962, becoming

(continued on page 3)
Campaign Leadership (continued)

this community’s college. “My wife and daughter attended GCC. Many of my friends and my children’s friends attended GCC. 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.”

GCC native Joseph Ruggeri is returning for his second year as Co-chair of the GCC Foundation Annual Fund Campaign. Ruggeri is a rising community leader, owner of Ruggeri Real Estate in Greenfield since 2005, who hopes to model an elevated level of civic engagement and support for GCC for other family member or friend, and made a gift to the GCC Foundation Annual Fund Campaign in appreciation, GCC could continue its good work indefinitely.”

For more information about the GCC Foundation and supporting the annual campaign, go to www.gcc.mass.edu/give or contact Regina Curtis, Executive Director of Resource Development & GCC Foundation, at 413-775-1600

2014 Annual Campaign
Inspiring Hope Through Education

The weather was the only thing that was cloudy the morning of the GCC Foundation Annual Campaign Kickoff Breakfast. Over 50 smiling faces could be seen bright and early to get the inspiration and information they need to begin their volunteer work to raise funds for students and programs at Greenfield Community College.

One of the faces in the crowd was Recorder staff reporter Kathleen McKiernan, who captured the heart of the remarks shared with the crowd by GCC student Stephen Zacek, alum Mareike Muszynski and President Robert Pura in the newspaper’s coverage the next day, excerpted here:

Growing up, Mareike Muszynski didn’t see herself as the academic type. No one in her mother’s family had gone to college and the Maine native didn’t think she could succeed. But eventually, Muszynski, 38, wanted an education, and she moved to western Massachusetts, where she had family and where she found Greenfield Community College.

With its supportive, engaging professors, GCC quickly propelled Muszynski forward, giving her confidence in herself as a student. Although the Greenfield woman did not want to leave the school that helped her become a leader, she enrolled in Wellesley College. Years later, she now works as a social worker, professor and consultant specializing in anti-racism initiatives.

“This would not be my life if not for GCC,” Muszynski said.

When Stephen Zacek, 20, came to GCC three years ago, he was looking for a place to feel comfortable. It didn’t take too long after meeting his teachers and becoming part of the business club and Phi Theta Kappa. During his time at GCC, he lived at home and began working in his chosen field — hospitality and marketing — ahead of all his peers at four-year schools. He began working at the Lord Jeffery Inn in Amherst. He is now the co-banquet manager there and has applied to the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts.

“I’ve heard a lot of people say they wish GCC was a four-year school,” Zacek said. “It’s so accommodating and it is really a community. I couldn’t be happier with where I am today.”

Referring to this year’s campaign theme, Inspiring Hope Through Education, GCC President Bob Pura told those gathered that “hope is real and sustaining when the doors of education are truly open.” Looking out at the gathered campaigners, he added that “here in this room, hope, which is at the heart of education, is realized. You make hope and education real and you make sure it is sustainable.”
GCC Art Program: Welcome to “FaceNook”

For the past 5 years, an anonymous donor has supplied a $100 award to a GCC painting student each semester to be used to purchase painting supplies. In return, the students have created a miniature self-portrait on a canvas supplied by the donor. Award recipients are art program majors, nominated by the painting faculty, who have demonstrated a commitment to the medium and are producing work of a high standard.

We are pleased to announce two exciting opportunities related to this initiative:

1. A collection of these mini portraits will now be offered for sale as part of a unique fundraising exhibit to benefit GCC’s Art Department, hosted by Nina’s Nook in Turners Falls in November 2014.

2. In addition to the existing collection, current and former painting students of the college are also invited to submit their work in this event using 6” square canvases. The exhibit, to be called “Face Nook,” will open November 14 and close December 6. All work must be delivered to Nina’s Nook by November 5, either in person to the gallery or shipped to: Nina Rossi, 21 Central St, Turners Falls MA 01376. For details contact Nina Rossi, naban@verizon.net.

GCC alumni share career journey with students during “Coffee & Conversation”

L-R, GCC alumni and panel members Noreen Woodruff ’13, Elda James ’75, and Chris Forgey ’78

The GCC Student Life “Coffee & Conversation” series continued this month with Alumni Journeys, featuring a panel of GCC alumni speaking with current students. The panelists spent the noon hour telling their story to students, and then holding a lively Q&A session.

The three alumni each brought a different perspective to both their time at GCC and to the career paths that followed, but the message was consistent: “I got my start at GCC.” And, “if it wasn’t for GCC, I would not have the life I am telling you about.”

Noreen Woodruff ’13 of Guilford, VT, told students about having to “learn to learn differently” to achieve academic success and of overcoming very difficult life challenges that finally brought her to GCC. Woodruff is the owner/operator a Southview Farm, a sustainable agricultural-focused business and is continuing her studies at GCC to increase her management skills.

Elda James ’75, a Boston-based Haitian born attorney, came to GCC as a young parent. She had a very good academic experience, and found the confidence to go on for her Bachelors and then Law degrees. James’ four decades of practice was first in public defense, then primarily in immigration law – with special focus on the rights of Haitian immigrants.

Chris Forgey ’78, told the students about her circuitous trip to becoming Greenfield’s first mayor. Forgey received her GCC degree while raising her family (two others of whom are GCC alumni) then continued to work. It wasn’t until the early 90s that she successfully applied to the Ada Comstock Program at Smith College and received her Bachelors. Another decade later, she was elected mayor under Greenfield’s then-brand new charter.

When asked during the question and answer period about what advice they would give current students to support their upcoming journeys, the answers came quickly and with certainty:

“Don’t ever, ever give up. You can do what you hope to do.” – Noreen Woodruff

“Enjoy learning while you are here – you will become a better student and a better teacher of life.” – Elda James

“Always trust in yourself. Go with what you know is right for you.” – Chris Forgey

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

Give to the GCC Foundation 2014 Annual Campaign

Inspiring Hope
Through Education

www.gcc.mass.edu/give
GCC Receives VIP Treatment from Springfield Armor

GCC President Bob Pura hosted a great evening of “GCC Night at the Springfield Armor” with a road trip on March 21st to a basketball game at the Mass Mutual Center. Members of our community joined GCC alumni and employees for a wonderful night of VIP treatment, including reserved courtside seating, dinner and great camaraderie while watching this area’s minor league basketball team play to win. This sold out game was the Springfield Armor’s final home game of the season.

Music Program at GCC (continued from front)

Music department faculty Matthew Shippee (Chair) and Geoffrey Cunningham

study. Shippee says, “Our department excels at teaching students how to be creative as musical artists within whatever technical limitations they may have on their instrument at the moment. We ask students to work hard to constantly expand technically, but we do that along with teaching what already is possible in the limitless realm of sonic and human expression.”

Students have expressed interest in learning and training in the use of Music Technology. Current curriculum in Music Technology focuses on the use of industry-standard technology and tools for use in the Audio Recording and Production course—applicable in sound production for music, film, video gaming, and live venue production. With plans to build on success in this area, the Music Department envisions providing students with a foundation in music production techniques that opens up a whole new world of possibilities for meaningful employment in the industry, as well as increased opportunities for competitive transfer to four-year institutions to further their music education.

Examples of student success that commend the department and its growth in recent years include:

- A student transferred to Evergreen State University (WA), completed a Bachelor’s in electronic music last year, completed a teaching internship in Beijing this year, and will pursue graduate work at Berklee in their new “Music Technology Innovation” program. He wrote recently, “I would like to thank GCC, from the bottom of my heart, for welcoming me as a student when I was at my most timid, and for giving me the push that I needed back out into the world. Without GCC’s influence in music classes and advising, I wouldn’t be where I am today, and I won’t ever forget it.”

- A Spring 2014 graduate who has been accepted and offered a scholarship to attend the University of Southern Maine School of Music. He will study bass performance and says, “When I came to GCC, I knew I loved music but didn’t think of myself as a good student, and I played guitar not bass. High school was rough and I didn’t know what to do about school. Now I’m totally psyched to be a student and to be able to study what I love at a highly regarded four-year school of music.”

- Two current music majors are interning at the popular recording studio, Northfire Recording, in Amherst.

One has also begun to engineer his own sessions, a significant mark of advancement in the audio internship world that leads to beginnings of professional stature.

- In addition, GCC Music students have transferred to institutions including Berklee College of Music, UMass, Hampshire, UMass Lowell, Northeastern, Westfield State, and Keene State College Music Programs;

- Music Department students are performing frequently this spring and enhancing campus life through concerts, jam sessions, and providing music for events such as the Art Department Exhibit’s opening night celebration and at the GCC Admissions Open House.

For more information about the GCC Music Department, call 413-775-1228 or visit www.gcc.mass.edu/music.

GCC alum Alex Meisner ’14 plays in the band, West County Jazz, at a wedding in Northampton in February.
GCC Foundation 45th Annual Meeting
Celebrated with community, elected officials

State Senator Stan Rosenberg was the keynote speaker at the GCC Foundation Annual Meeting in November. The event, described in a Recorder article by reporter Chris Shores, hosted 60 friends, students, faculty and staff at the dinner meeting.

The Senator congratulated the college on its first $1 million gift — an anonymous donation made in June that will provide 23 annual nursing scholarships and a career adviser. In addition, he commended the Foundation for the successful 2013 annual fund campaign.

Rosenberg also noted the college’s community support, its 2011 campus core expansion and a consistently strong academic performance. “You’ve really developed a jewel in the crown of higher education ... and you should feel extremely good about it,” said Rosenberg. “GCC is the number one community college in Massachusetts.”

GCC President Robert Pura said that the foundation meeting would not have met in the college’s dining commons — a key part of the core expansion — had it not been for Rosenberg’s support. “He was among that group that stood up for this college and this space,” said Pura. “This room is exactly as a result of what the senator has done.”
Office of the GCC Foundation and Alumni Affairs

Behind the scenes...

Regina Curtis '86
Executive Director of Resource Development & GCC Foundation curtisr@gcc.mass.edu

Andrea Carlin ’90T
Accounting & Database Coordinator acarlin@gcc.mass.edu

Shannon Larange '06
Staff Assistant larange@gcc.mass.edu

The GCC Foundation staff, all alumni of Greenfield Community College, work in partnership with our community to raise funds for GCC students and programs. The staff also help foster connections with GCC alumni, the community and the college.

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.

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...

- Anne Wiley, Psychology/Gender & Women’s Studies
  35 years of service
- Tom Boisvert, Art Faculty
  34 years of service
- Mary Ellen Kelly, Co-Coordinator Peer Tutoring/English Faculty
  30 years of service
- Sue McGowan, Senior Academic Counselor
  30 years of service
- John Murphy, Central Services Supervisor
  30 years of service
- Lindy Gougeon, Math Faculty
  23 years of service
- Jean Boucias, Testing Center Coordinator
  21 years of service
- Herb Hentsch, Director of Admissions
  20 years of service
- Beth Erviti, Science Faculty
  17 years of service
- Donna Larson, Coordinator of Health Services
  17 years of service
- Allen Davis, Executive Director of GCC Foundation
  16 years of service
- Marty Johnson, Bursar’s Office
  15 years of service
- Charlie Kleeberg, Information Technology Staff
  13 years of service
- Nancy Bair, Director of Workforce Development
  12 years of service
- Peter Talmage, Renewable Energy Faculty
  4 years of service

In memoriam...

- Bob Sweeney, 56
  Cafeteria Staff
  February 26, 2014
- Verne Richardson, 64
  Information Technology Staff
  February 25, 2014
- Eleanor Stebbins, 100
  Administration Staff
  January 26, 2014
- George Bluh, 81
  Humanities Faculty
  January 14, 2014
- John Callahan, 88
  Science Faculty
  December 12, 2013

If you would like to make a gift in honor or in memory of a former GCC employee, please visit www.gcc.mass.edu/give or call 413-775-1600. You may direct acknowledgement of your gift to the honoree or to a family member/friend of a memorial gift.
Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant gets his start at GCC
(continued from front)

Professor Faythe Turner. "She really stands out as an excellent teacher – she was strict, no nonsense, but with a deep sense of wit and humor, and just taught us how to write." A skill he notes served him very well while writing case studies and his dissertation in graduate school and now every day at work recording case histories or composing patient correspondence or scholarly documentation. "I see others in my office who are excellent practitioners, but struggle to write articles about their fields of study and I appreciate time and again that I had those semesters at GCC with Faythe Turner."

Although Andrews very much enjoys his work as a PA in Emergency Medicine, he is interested in taking his educational journey to the next level and is preparing to apply for medical school soon. A moonlighting job in civilian life, working with a medically underserved community in Fort Washington, MD, where issues of poverty, drug addiction and obesity, among others, present him with a different and challenging perspective on health care delivery has pushed the idea of becoming a physician with a specialty in emergency care to the forefront. "I really like emergency medicine. I never know what I am going to be faced with and I need to know a little bit about everything," he said.

But it is not all work for Andrews. In addition to spending time with his family, he is also training to run a marathon and is building a 1965 Shelby Cobra from a kit.

He appreciates all that he has been able to receive and to offer since those first days at GCC. "GCC is a great school that I have really fond memories of and I strongly recommend that people start there. Especially now that college is so expensive, it's a great way to dip your toes in the water without getting financially wrecked while you figure out what you want to do."

James Andrews definitely figured out what he wanted to do when he was at GCC and he has gone on to do it very well.