What could a designer/computer programmer in Massachusetts and a magazine editor in Ohio possibly have in common? GCC, of course!

Craig Ballou, designer and CNC programmer of R & R Window Contractors in Easthampton and Shannon O’Connor, editor of College Planning & Management magazine in Dayton, Ohio, both graduated from GCC and contributed to the construction and promotion of the recently completed Core Renovation Project (located in the new Library Circulation Desk).

“Core Building Connections” continued inside

Jim Lawlor ’64 Reflects on GCC’s First Graduating Class

“I wish I could be there,” said Jim Lawlor GCC ’64, UMass ’67. “I took in the first graduating class at GCC. I was a member of the Student Council as Treasurer my first year and President my second year. I worked with Directors Taylor and Tomas. GCC was instrumental in getting me on the right track, opening my eyes to a future beyond my home town area and gave me the confidence to move ahead. I interviewed myself at GCC. “Have a great celebration.”

Those were the words Lawlor said when replying to the invitation from GCC to attend the Community Celebration for GCC 50th following Commencement activities on June 3rd. He has been a long way in time and distance since he joined the student group who attended GCC’s very first class in September, 1962, but his heart and memories are clearly anchored to his first college experience.

“The Federal St School wasn’t quite ready when classes began, so we had to meet in the hall at nearby St. James Church for a few weeks,” he recalled. He describes GCC as a “learning experience that was truly that” and noted how that set it apart from both his secondary education and subsequent post-secondary educational experiences. He recalls being able to interact with peers, faculty and administration in a very collegial atmosphere.

In looking back at the half century that has passed since his GCC days, Lawlor is confident that his successful career as a consultant to US Defense Department clients found its roots at GCC, where he learned to learn and compassed beyond the obvious. He is currently employed by Booz Allen Hamilton in Virginia and over the decades has worked in different parts of the country with national firms such as Wang, PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLC. At these, and during his time serving in the National Guard, Lawlor has been able to put to use his academic, communication and leadership strengths that GCC discovered hidden inside him and brought to forefront.

Jim Lawlor ’64 Reflects on GCC’s First Graduating Class

“Core Building Connections” continued inside

GCC is 50 Years Old!

Please help GCC continue to provide access to excellence in education by making a special tribute gift of $50 for 50 years.

Congratulations Class of 2012!

GCC graduates Sharon Santos and Justin LaFrenier received their diplomas June 3.

Core Building Connections

What could a designer/computer programmer in Massachusetts and a magazine editor in Ohio possibly have in common? GCC, of course!

Both Craig Ballou, designer and Cnc programmer of R & R Window Contractors in Easthampton and Shannon O’Connor, editor of College Planning & Management magazine in Dayton, Ohio, attended GCC. Craig received several degrees from GCC, including a Liberal Arts Associate degree in 1981, an Engineering Communications Certificate in 1983, a College Planning and Management Conference and a Commerce, Retailing and Entrepreneurial Studies. Shannon received a Liberal Arts Associate degree with a focus on Music in 1979.
From the President

Thank you

During this, GCC’s 50th anniversary year, more than ever, I would like to thank you for your support. It has been my privilege to serve as President of this college for the last 12 years and during that time I have seen the extraordinary level of support GCC receives from individuals and businesses, alumni and community members, faculty and staff.

I have been involved with the Massachusetts community college system since 1995, having worked at three community colleges. I can say without hesitation that I have not seen a college work so hard in support of its community and have not seen a college support its college town. Imagine the consequences of effecting more than 3,127 people making a gift to the GCC Annual Fund each spring. Imagine further the impact these gifts have had on the college’s ability to meet students where they are and bring together a new level of understanding of the possibilities that await them. Imagine that happening every year, for five decades. GCC alunos are now the leaders in our community and they are stepping up to meet the opportunity that is given to them.

In a recent interview with the MA Department of Higher Education, three community college leaders commented on the role GCC has played in their organization’s success. Rosette Franklin, Medical Center President, Chukwu Okafor, Michael and Joan Haley and Steven Associate Publisher of Student Life Inc.

GCC changes lives.

I can say without hesitation that I have not seen a college work so hard in support of its community and I have not seen a community support its college more.

Robert L. Paris

50 Years of Access and Excellence

Greenfield Community College

Fifty years ago Greenfield embarked upon a new educational venture, the founding of Greenfield Community College. Though the concept of the community college had enjoyed success in many parts of the country, this was a first in Franklin County. People, being primarily invested in the four year colleges and the two year business schools, had limited contact with community colleges. In the view of the general public, excluding the few, expectations and assumptions were mixed at best. Some did not see the need for a community college, others thought it a `second class' approach for those not quite making the standard college grade. But one thing was certain: education for everyone, in many parts of the country, this was a first in Franklin County.

Craig Fryer ’95 attended GCC when there were no controlled campus, just a fill and seal factory and factory buildings in the middle of the field. However, he and his peers accumulated an extensive education that promised the college.

“GCC was one of the first to truly understand the need of the non-traditional student,” said Fryer, “casserting that all had access to further their education and”

To harness the potential for new courses and new curricula, GCC has continually looked for ways to better utilize its buildings and its technology, to provide new learning opportunities. As a consequence, I am pleased to tell you that GCC’s main campus building now includes the Marcellus准 Family Dining Commons, the Robert Muger Acoustical Center, the Greenfield Savings Bank Math Studio, the Sandi Energy Companies Science Studio, the Mary Shumway Brown Women’s Resource Center, the Greenfield Cooperative Bank Passive Solar Rooms. These naming opportunities, named after those who have chosen to support the college, provide support for 50 years and as a result, families will continue to support the college. We should be proud of all that has been achieved and stand firm in our stewardship of this wonderful home to the GCC family.

Thank you.

50 Years of Access and Excellence

Greenfield Community College

Welcome to GCC...

All are welcome, all can learn, and all can succeed!

Core Connections

Graduating from GCC isn’t all about

Craig and Shannon have in common, they also both have a connection with GCC’s new Core Building. R & R did all the glass and planing work on the core addition at GCC, including several hundred aluminum composite panels that look around for the silver and dark bronze face on the addition. Craig, did 90 percent of the design and programming. And, GCC’s new Core Building is featured on the cover of and in an article in the April issue of College Planning & Management.

How did a kid from Orange get to be an architectural component designer and a kid from Hinsdale, NH get to be a magazine editor? For both, their start was at GCC.

After high school Craig changed schools to Greenfield Community College, a two year and a half. Craig realized Redfield, NH wasn’t the right place for him, when he started at GCC, he did not yet have GCC's math courses to give him the foundation he was looking for. After he graduated with his Engineering Communications Certificate from GCC, he got a job—shouting at Grayling. He then moved on to working in documentation design and control and design at a large manufacturing company. When Craig got a job at Winter Panel Corporation in Brattleboro, he transitioned into interior design and architectural design and design systems to the world he does now at R&B. For the GCC Core Building project, Craig worked with the Architect’s Firm to develop the panel design and then programmed the Core’s maneuverable panels.

Shannon graduated from GCC’s new Core Building. R & R did the extra work because it was easy to design. Craig said, “GCC’s new Core Building is a unique project because while the building in the April issue of her magazine. GCC’s new Core Building is featured on the cover of and in an article in the April issue of College Planning & Management. And, just to make even more connection between the kid from Orange and the kid from Hinsdale who both went to GCC; look at the photo on GCC’s Core Building featured on page 8 of Shannon’s magazine. Shannon told her magazine’s art director, “I’d love to feature GCC on the cover.” Shannon got the cover. A photo of GCC’s New Library is on the cover of the April issue of her magazine.

And, just to make even more connection between the kid from Orange and the kid from Hinsdale who both went to GCC; look at the photo of the GCC Community College logo. Shannon was featured on the cover of GCC’s magazine and you’ll see Shannon that Craig designed on GCC’s logo.

Shannon attended a conference of the College of University and Planned Planning in Washington, DC. At the conference’s opening reception, she met Ken Fawer, an architect who worked on the GCC Core Building.

Ken introduced Shannon to GCC’s President Bob Paris. When Shannon told Bob she was a GCC graduate and had worked with students with special needs, Ken was very surprised and pleased to meet the connection. Shannon’s connection with the building’s accessible entrance. Both in Ohio, where Shannon was working on an article focused on accessibility, the connection to Ken got to feature more about the building’s accessible features. When Shannon received photos of the new GCC building, she told her magazine’s editors, “I’d love to feature GCC on the cover.”

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