

Inside the NEW Courier
Graduation
Poetry Contest
Education Club



New building will hit a home run with athletes

By Nicole Mauro
Staff Writer

It's been a work in progress since 2012, and it's about to come to life.

The Community Event Center is just one of two new additions coming to the Genesee Community College Batavia campus.

The development is seen as roughly a 20 million dollar project for both new additions with funding coming from three different areas: SUNY Construction Foundation, Genesee County, and the GCC Foundation. According to William Emm, the executive vice president of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness, getting funding for the project was one of their greatest accomplishments so far.

The event center will be located in front of the turf stadium. What's inside is sure to have future students, athletes, staff, and community members bursting with excitement. This L-shaped modern facility will be accented with shades of our recognizable school colors and still contain bricks that compliment the main building's theme.

The building will be built allowing an abundance of natural light to shine in. "It will light up the campus," said Rick Ensman, the director of Development and External Affairs.

The 2,500 square foot multi-purpose arena will have a durable rubberized floor, retractable bleachers, dividing curtains, batting cages, basketball hoops, an area big enough to play four half-court basketball games, or even indoor lacrosse, soccer, and track. All may not be regulation size, but they would be perfect for practice or intramural games.

"It will bring our athletic department to the next level," said Kristen Schuth, director of Athletics.

Not only does this arena appeal to athletes, but it is designed to hold events, whether it be for the community, the College, or other outside organizations. The entrance of the arena will have a ticket box and a concession area.

That is only the half of it. If you follow the sunlit hallway through the main entrance to the other side of the building, you will find that this side consists of two floors. The first floor will contain male and female locker rooms for both home and visiting teams and one for the public. There will be a uniform laundry room, physical education



classroom, and a concession area accessible from the turf field and also looking out onto the field. It will be run by American Dining Creations who runs the café in the main building.

The second floor will contain a press box overlooking the turf, a conference room, some athletic staff offices, a human performance lab, and a classroom. There will be a fitness center two times the size of the one we have now with all new equipment. The performance lab, classroom, and fitness center will all be connected, making it easier for physical education classes to utilize all of them when needed.

"This facility will strengthen coaches' ability to recruit using the building as a sell point," Schuth said. Everything is not yet set in stone, but this is the basic layout of what is expected.

Ensman and Emm have been working closely with the project, as well as the rest of the Board of Trustees and Physical Education and Athletic Department. Both Ensman and Emm expect everything to run smoothly and stay on track, as other additions to the College have in the past. The new facilities are expected to be finished the summer of 2017.

Ensman said, "It will be beautiful, functioning, and modern. It's going to give students a true 21st century athletic and gathering facility and give the College an opportunity to reach out to regional and state wide organizations."

Scan the QR Code with the camera on your mobile device to connect with all of GCC's social media accounts. To download a code reader, open your mobile browser and visit scan.mobi.



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Newspaper Since 1966

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Letter from the Editor

Your college degree is probably worthless.

Your college degree is probably worthless. Why? Because you did not do the work to earn that degree. You did not do the readings; you did not complete the assignments; and you did not do the original thinking that makes that degree worthy. You graduate now knowing less than your predecessors. And this does not pertain just to community college students. University students are likely to do the same.

I would say about ninety percent of you do not complete the readings I assign in my composition classes (sometimes that is an admitted one hundred percent). I've had former students tell other students that they never used the book in my class when I've assigned chapter after chapter, essay after essay, to be read for class discussion.

My teaching methods have changed drastically because of the lack of preparation by students. There is little to no discussion in many of my classes anymore. I loved using the Socratic model of teaching; your minds work differently from mine and from each other, and it was great to hear what you thought about political and social ideas and about literature and science. This exchange of ideas is what education is all about; it is what I loved about my time as a student in higher education. Now I don't know if you're hearing anything I say because you are looking at your cell phones, and most of all, you have not done any preparation to answer my questions.

I know from teaching for eighteen years from the late nineties until today that the way students approach education has changed drastically. When I speak to my colleagues, they agree. The Internet, especially the search engine Google, has

created problems along with its benefits. I noticed as early as 2002, in my literature classes, that students weren't reading the great pieces of literature. They were looking works up on SparkNotes.com. The students who did the reading (about the majority of the class back then) didn't understand what they were reading, so they used Google and Sparknotes to tell them what to think regarding the readings. No original thought at all. I begged them to not touch the Internet, to think on their own, even if their ideas were crazy or wrong. Attending class discussions would help them figure things out. Plus, I wanted their original ideas because sometimes they thought of things I hadn't before, which not just benefits other students, it benefits my teaching. I still beg all of you today to think on your own first. Develop critical thought!

Part of this isn't your fault. You have been sold a false promise that a college degree will get you a job. You see anything that you assume won't be used in that job as useless information, a waste of time and energy. And that is very sad and very scary. The first reason you should go to college is to become educated, to become a critical thinker, writer, and reader. Sadly, I think many of educators are futilely shouting this idea essential to an intellectual and functioning society into the void.

It's up to you to make your degree count. You know deep down if you really earned that degree or if you received it by doing the bare minimum (if even that). If you skim by, you not only short your future employers and your community, but you short yourself.



"Learning is not attained by chance; it must be sought for with ardor and diligence."

--Abigail Adams



"You are always a student, never a master. You have to keep moving forward."

--Conrad Hall

Roz Steiner Gallery important to student artists

The Roz Steiner Gallery at Genesee Community College is believed to be very important for the learning and education of Fine Arts. The Gallery gives artists a platform to show off their work in an open environment.

The Roz Steiner Gallery earned its name from one of the most active members of the school board Rosalie Steiner. After her sudden death in 2008, her husband then GCC President Stuart Steiner coordinated the build of a new art gallery named in her honor. "Through the College's history, we have taught the fine arts and exhibited artistic works as best we could," he said. "But our exhibit space had been very limited. A professionally-designed gallery, with modern and secure exhibit space would be a wonderful recount for our students, our region's art community, and residents of our region."

Mary Jo Whitman, Roz Steiner Art Gallery director, started working at GCC in August of 2014 and has been in charge of directing the art shows ever since. Before being hired, she was a student at Genesee Community College in the fine arts department. As a dedicated artist, she understood the importance of the art gallery, and it had a forever lasting impact on her life.

When Whitman started working at the Gallery, she had the privilege of putting her own art work into the first Alumni Exhibition. As a photographer and sculpture, she owns both an art and photography studio

Another person who understands the importance of the Art Gallery hasn't just used it for displaying his own work but to assist in his students learning and understanding of fine arts. Instructor of Photography and Art Joe Ziolkowski said, "When I interviewed for the job in the summer of 2012 I was really impressed with the gallery space. The space had an influence on whether or not I wanted to be a part of this community because if an instructor doesn't have a good place to bring in art work to show the students and faculty, that influences my decision."

As a photographer, Ziolkowski has used the gallery to exhibit his own photography. He has used this for opportunities for his students and other faculty to learn about photography and exhibitions. "For me, as an instructor, I want to be influenced by live art."

He also displays students' works in Gallery openings. He said, "For me as an artist it's always good to have a show out there somewhere."



Think you can't afford college? Think again.

Eighty-five percent of the students at GCC receive some sort of financial aid, said Rebecca Michalak, representative in the Financial Aid Office at Genesee Community College.

Many students worry that they will not be able to attend college because they can't afford it. One question nobody should have to answer is what if the cure to cancer is in the mind of someone who can't afford college? Michalak said, "In some cases, financial aid is the only thing that allows students to attend."

With the support of the federal and state governments, plus the wide range of scholarship and public grant providers, there are several different types of financial aid. Basic types include Federal Pell, NY State TAP, student loans, work study, and scholarships, as well as VA benefits to qualifying veterans or veteran beneficiaries.

When done properly, the process of applying for financial aid is anything but difficult. Michalak said that the most difficult step of the financial aid process is "remembering your passwords." You can fill out the FAFSA application online, at school, at home or at any computer with Internet access.

Many students worry about being in debt if they take out student loans. "Most of the concern leaves the students who understand their responsibilities of taking out a student loan," Michalak said.

The most important thing to know about financial aid is that students have to be educated about it. Too many students make simple mistakes that delay the process of getting their financial aid. She said that students need to be aware that they have to read wisely and answer each and every one of the questions as honestly as possible, and that financial aid is for college expenses only and to use it wisely.

Students should understand what type of aid is paid back. Scholarships, which are usually based on scholastic merit, and grants, do not need to be paid back. Loans do need to be paid back, and work study allows you to earn money while attending school.

"I feel a lot of students would not be able to attend college if it weren't for the assistance of financial aid," Michalak said.

If you have any questions, contact the Financial Aid Office at 585-345-6900, at financialaid@genesee.edu, or at <http://www.genesee.edu/offices/finaid/>.

Food service renovations are complete

Three years in the making, renovations for the kitchen and food services were finished for the Fall 2015 semester. Some more of the significant changes include reconstruction of the kitchen and food service area, of the food preparation facilities, and of the hot/prepared food service area, creating more efficient storage and improved traffic flow.

"The food service area and cafeteria were originally constructed in the early 1970s for a much smaller college," said Richard Ensman, director of Development and External Affairs. "Over the decades, the size of the student body at the Batavia Campus has significantly increased, and the College now hosts many business training, professional, and community events requiring food service. The result has been cramped food prep facilities, slow traffic, inefficiency, and limited space for new food options."



One of the newest additions to the cafeteria is the expanded space to the Cougar Café. On top of being more alluring, the café provides added dining options for students while also making it more efficient.

"If you look at the area, you'll notice several different hot food serving areas, a salad serving area, space for selling packaged items, and space for drinks," Ensman said. "If you remember what it looked like last year, it was far more cramped and had far fewer serving options."

General Manager and Executive Chef Brian Mattice

said, "Everyone likes it a lot better than last year. All these different stations give everybody a little something of what they might be looking for, and every day you can get something different so you don't have to eat the same thing every day."

Catering Director and Subway Manager Jodie Coffia agrees. "It's awesome; it changed a lot and it's much more user friendly. I think everybody gets through a lot quicker too," Coffia said. "From what I've heard, everybody seems to love it, especially when we opened; it was like 'wow' because it hasn't been changed in well over 25 years, so everyone was pretty impressed with the renovation."

GCC community celebrates 48th graduation

The end of the 2016 spring semester is approaching quickly, making it a very exciting time of year for sophomores at Genesee Community College. Whether heading into the work force, transferring to a new school, or traveling abroad, graduation is a time of transition.

The 48th Annual Commencement Ceremony will take place in the gymnasium at the Batavia campus on May 22nd at 1:00 p.m. Line up begins at 12:15 in the Cafeteria. The deadline to apply for graduation is May 6th. "It is your day to celebrate and be recognized," said Cliff Scutella, the director of Student Activities.

GCC graduates will be dressed in all black, with an exception for Phi Theta Kappa members, who have gold accents. It is encouraged for graduates to take the opportunity to express their individuality and creativity by personalizing their caps. Students are asked to keep caps appropriate and to refrain from bringing spray string. Student Sharaia White, who is planning to graduate this year, said, "GCC is a great place to academically better yourself, and graduation is taking you a step closer to achieving your dreams."

Each graduate is allowed four guest tickets. People are welcome to watch the live stream in the theater or at a variety of different streaming locations in the school. The theater holds 300 and does not require a ticket for entry. The gym holds a capacity of 1500, including on average 250 graduates. Flowers and stuffed animals will be available for purchase as well.

The commencement speaker for this year's graduation is Joshua Fredenburg. He is a nationally acclaimed speaker well known for his inspirational messages. In 2014, Fredenburg released his second leadership book entitled, *Are You the World's Next Top Leader? 40 Questions Every Leader Should Consider Before You Begin To Lead in the 21st Century*. He will be available to meet at the reception following the ceremony. The reception will also have a photo booth, and students are also encouraged to post photos from the ceremony and use GCC's tag.

When walking the stage, graduates will receive their diploma cover from our Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees, Diane Torcello, and then they will shake hands with President James Sunser. The actual diploma will be mailed to the recipient about six weeks later after processing.

This is the day to celebrate with family, friends, and faculty for all of your accomplishments. It is a step closer to reaching your goals. "Graduation is a fresh start," said GCC Student Jake Miller. "I'm excited to transfer and take the next step in my journey."

Student Activities Director Scutella said that each graduation is special. He said, "It is important to remember that commencement is a new beginning, not just an end."

{ By Michael Nunz
Staff Writer }



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POETRY CORNER

Interested in having your poetry published in the GCC student newspaper? Send your poems to the editor at kdassinger@genesee.edu. (Poems checked for mechanics and plagiarism.)

Twisted Sickness

By Jared Silva

I brought you into my life at a fairly young age.
I took your essence. I even took your innocence.
With that first glance and that first touch;
I gave you pleasure and I gave you pain.
It seemed all you wanted was more.
With doing all of this to you;
I gave you back a new sense of it all.
All the things I did to you. For you!
You never complained. All you did was enhyoy it..
I never expected things to go that far or that way.
They did!
I have!
We've come to see each other differently now.
We've become friends and a part of each other.
Now, all I want to say to you is this;
Thank you and I am sorry for being you....

Reality of Lies

By Jared Silva

I've been running so long, I forgot how to walk.
Things pass by in such a blur, I need to slow down.
You can never out run your past.
You can never run into your future.
The present is where I should be.
I'm not sure what's real or a fantasy,
Things are never as they seem.
I stopped running the day before last and got caught in my own trap.
I never got free. My mind did; it went on.
It's not running anymore.
It's slowing down, to look around.
To see if this is where I should be.
But things are never as they seem.
My imagination and dreams take me places I could never be.
My nightmares and fantasies keep me where I ought to be.
I try not to sleep, for fear of what my mind is capable of.
Is it dreams or nightmares for me tonight?
I want to know but not.
Then again things are never as they seem.
The lights come on and I get out of bed.
I look around the room. It's not mine. None of it is.
The walls are white like snow.
The rest black like night.
Looking like my mind, no gray to level things out.
But things are never as they seem.
I wake to find myself in a dreams, dream.
I've never known reality, I've lost track through the lies I speak.
Then again. Bits and pieces stick out, because of my faith.
Even those bits and pieces seem fake.
But then again things are never as they seem.
Then again that's just me.

GCC celebrates 50 years

{ By Lee Johnson
Staff Writer }

Rome wasn't built in a day and neither was Genesee Community College.

GCC's 50th anniversary is on the horizon, but it is unlike many anniversaries one might be accustomed to. GCC's 50th anniversary is not a celebration of one specific date. "We're really celebrating the 10 year process of all of the efforts back in the day to make [GCC] happen," said Donna Rae Sutherland, associate director of Marketing Communications at GCC and a member of the Anniversary Steering Committee.

GCC's history is rather unique amongst other colleges in New York. While most colleges are established privately, GCC's origin deviates from that trend. In 1963, a Study Committee was fashioned in order to determine whether a community college in Genesee County was necessary and viable. By 1964 the committee had gathered sufficient evidence for a desire and a need for a community college that would be economically feasible.

The committee's findings initiated a community-wide debate, with some advocating for a vocational school as opposed to a community college. In 1965, the public voted on whether GCC would become a reality, and the rest is history. "It is one of two community colleges in New York State established through a public referendum," said Sutherland. "I think the final vote was around 1400-600."

There hasn't been much in terms of promotion concerning GCC's upcoming golden jubilee, but this will soon cease to be the case. "There'll soon be a groundswell of growing interest," said Sutherland. Students and faculty can expect to see some aesthetic changes to GCC's website, with a new 50th Anniversary themed homepage banner. Additionally located on the homepage will be press releases pertaining to 50th anniversary news and happenings. Students will be receiving direct mail on their GCC email accounts detailing when upcoming events will be held to commemorate and celebrate GCC's 50 years of existence.

Let GCC connect you to a mentor in your field

{ By Thad Whittier
Staff Writer }

College is a confusing time for everyone, and when it comes to the job market and our futures, many students at Genesee Community College can feel lost or unsure of what their futures hold in store.

That's where Cougar Connect comes in. As a mentor-mentee program Cougar Connect allows current students to contact professionals in their desired field of study.

According to the Cougar Connect page on the GCC website, the goal of the program is "To create a mutually beneficial relationship for all parties involved in Cougar Connect in order to further our institution's goal of educating the community."

Jamie Edwards, the Career Services specialist at GCC, and Jackie Christenson, the Alumni Affairs coordinator, are the College's contacts for the program, which was approved for funding in the fall of 2015 and began spring of 2016.

Cougar Connect held an event on February 18th with eight students and eight mentors, resulting in four students walking away with a new one-on-one mentor who can impart professional and/or alumni knowledge, experience, and expertise to the students. While the event was a successful dinner between the mentors and students, Edwards said "We would like to do something by the end of the semester that is more fun and has less of a seriousness about the conversation."

The Career Service and Alumni Offices plan to promote the program more in

The 18-month period of festivities was inaugurated by GCC's Founding Day on Friday, April 15th, commemorating the exact day 50 years ago when the Board of Trustees of State University of New York unanimously authorized the establishment and sponsorship of a community college in Genesee County. Students were able to enjoy a slice of cake from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the William W. Stuart Forum.

Following Founding Day, GCC's Groundbreaking Ceremony took place on Thursday, April 28th in the Conable Technology Building, where the two latest architectural additions to campus were highlighted: the Student Success Center and the Event Center. Students will be treated to first-rate educational, financial, and career advising within the Student Success Center and will have access to a building capable of housing large-scale community events and athletic competitions thanks to the Event Center. "[The Event Center] has the largest floor plan in all of Genesee, Livingston, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties," said Sutherland.

While the erections of the two buildings will be a part of the 50th anniversary fête, they have been in the planning stages for many years. "Only by happenstance do the buildings coincide with the 50th Anniversary," said Sutherland.

Further events will occur over the next 18 months, and students will be notified of any 50th anniversary happenings via their GCC email account. Many of these events will occur during annual events, such as the Cougar Weekend Fall Fest and the Athletic Hall of Fame.

In addition to the events, there will be an online scrapbook on GCC's website where students, past and present, will be able to upload photos of their time spent at GCC. "If they would like to share a memory, they will be able to put it online," said Sutherland.

The first 50 years of GCC seem to only be the beginning for the College and the future looks promising. Sutherland said, "Our trustees have done a good job, not just planning for tomorrow, but for the next 50 years."

the future while they move forward with their alumni mentors, allowing the mentors to increase or maintain their engagements with GCC and its students.

The hope is that Cougar Connect will allow access to greater professional resources and reduce social distance while providing exposure to different communities and workplace cultures, as well as increase student retention by developing a student's motivation to achieve.

"We hope to digitalize it in our system, Purple Briefcase, so students can connect directly," Edwards said. Purple Briefcase is the system students can use to search for internships as well as networks where students can share information and services with individuals and/or groups important when planning for career success.

Currently an interested student can contact Edwards at Career Services located on the second floor of the main GCC campus center on the parking lot side of building B. Mentors can, if they so desire, sign up online under Cougar Connect's main page on the GCC website.

The future can be a scary place for a college student; it can be like playing chess while blindfolded and the board is on fire, but Cougar Connect can smother that anxiety and connect students to mentors, exposing students to a new sense of development and help them achieve the goals they set for themselves.

Learning hands-on: The importance of field and lab experience in science education

You might want to think twice before using the paper towel dispenser after you wash your hands.

{ By Lee Johnson
Staff Writer }

This is according to the findings made by the students enrolled in Katherine Bailey's BIO 100 class. Bailey, an adjunct professor of biology at GCC and a research assistant at the College at Brockport, tasked her students with collecting samples of bacteria from various areas around campus. The students carefully swabbed the specific areas they were assigned and cultivated their living samples in a Petri dish under conditions that stimulated bacterial growth. The samples with the most growth indicated high quantities of bacteria residing in the location from which the sample was obtained.

"The paper towel dispensers had more growth than the toilet handles," said Bailey. "The Library was another source of good growth, particularly the button that automatically opens the door."

This is not the only out-of-the-classroom experiment Bailey has planned for her class this semester. She intends to get her students outside of the building and onto the GCC Nature Trail when the weather becomes more suitable. There, her students will be learning about both the native and invasive plant species by establishing sampling plots throughout the trail. Bailey said she would also like to take her students to Godfrey's Pond.

The importance of students conducting field experiments like these is well known to Bailey. "If you don't apply what you learn in class, it gets shuffled to the back of your brain," she said. "Field experiments involve use of the scientific method: being able to form a hypothesis and testing it. And field experiments are more memorable than lecture."

Describing her own exploits, she said, "Some of my best experiences have been out in the field. When a piece of equipment breaks, and you have to work with others to come up with a solution, it's valuable experience."

It is a lack of emphasis on this type of experience that may be hurting the United States' international position in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields and in grades K-12, which are well-known to be substantially behind numerous other industrialized nations. Bailey argues there is too much importance placed on testing in the United States' existing academic climate. "There's too much stress on younger kids' education. Kids are spread very thin these days with school and extracurricular activities," she said. Conversely, Bailey is certainly no apologist for America's lackluster rankings. "Not to make excuses, but our numbers should be much higher," she said.

Bailey thinks placing more significance on young people partaking in field labs and science experiments would improve the current status of science education in the United States. "I think having young people participate in outdoor labs and general science lab experiments would really enhance the learning and comprehension of fundamental topics in not only biology, but physics and chemistry as well," she said.

Bailey invites any students with an undeclared major to take her class or any science course. "Get your feet wet," she said. "The scientific method way of thinking can be applied to much more than science. People often use it without even knowing it. There's value in all knowledge."

Tara Donohue: Ten Years of Language Success

For almost a decade, Tara Donohue, language lab coordinator and part-time professor of both Spanish and French, has been helping, encouraging, and inspiring Genesee Community College students to succeed in their foreign language studies, and supporting her fellow language professors in teaching them.

{ By Elijah Buck
Staff Writer }

Originally from Thousand Islands, New York, Donohue was first introduced to foreign language when she took a French class as a requirement in high school. She says that she really enjoyed it and ended up deciding to major in French when she started college. She began her studies in undergrad at New Paltz, a state university in downstate New York. While there, an advisor recommended that she also learn Spanish due to the fact that many institutions are looking for individuals who can teach both languages. After earning her bachelor's degree, she transferred to the University at Buffalo for her master's.

After graduation, she got a job teaching French and Spanish at a private school in Conesus, New York, where she taught for twelve years before her position was eliminated. When she began looking for a new place to work, she was offered the position of Language Lab Coordinator at Genesee Community College. She now lives in Canandaigua, New York and commutes "an hour each way" to get to GCC on a daily basis.

"I wear many hats," said Donohue. In addition to coordinating the language lab schedule, she holds tutoring sessions, oversees open lab times, and works as a part-time professor of Spanish 101 and French 101 in the spring and fall semesters.

"The lab runs smoothly," said Kathleen Kimber, full-time professor of Spanish at GCC. Kimber said she has worked with Donohue for almost ten years and said that Donohue does well in handling the many pieces of her job. "She's very helpful and willing to support both faculty and students," Kimber said.

Donohue believes that studying foreign language is an important part of every student's education, and she encourages prospective students to more seriously consider taking language classes. "I think that when you take a foreign language, you not only learn the language, but you also learn about the culture," she said. She believes foreign languages really give students a more "global prospective" and "widens their horizons."

Donohue said that she loves working at the College. She says that GCC offers a great atmosphere and a supportive environment. "I like working here," she said. "There's a good spirit, and everyone is focused on the students."



Late Night LIBRARY Hours

Monday - Thursday, May 9-12
7:30 am - 11:00 pm

Friday, May 13
7:30 am - 9:30 pm

**Reference Librarians Available
All Night Long!**



Hop, hop, hop. The Daycare Center children performed the Bunny Hop on March 31st in the GCC Forum.

Student poets demonstrate poetic skill

{ By Thad Whittier
Staff Writer }

Poetry is an expression of one's experiences through emotion written onto a page. The Fifteenth Annual Student Poetry Contest allows students to express their life experiences

In the past there have been genres or categories in which students could submit their pieces, such as the 2006 Math category; however, this year, students are not confined to categories and may write as they please. Cindy Hagelberger, a reference service librarian at GCC, said "I would encourage any and all who have written a poem not to be shy. If you didn't enter the poetry contest this year, do it next year."

Past third place winner, Cheyenne Zaremba, submitted her poem "Wanted: One Mind, Lost" in the 2015 contest. She said, I've always been a writer and have dabbled in many forms of writing, and while I won't say I'm an amazing poet, I do enjoy writing poetry. I am always looking for events that nurture and encourage creative endeavors, and so it just seemed natural for me to submit a piece to the contest." She said, "I will say that I really enjoyed the awards ceremony because everybody who had placed came with their families and read their pieces, and it was really nice to hear the voices behind the works."

This year between forty to fifty participants sent in poetry to compete in the contest, with the winning poets announced on April 14th in a ceremony. The winners were chosen by judges who used a rubric that consisted of multiple guidelines such as grammar, creativity, originality, and emotion etc. Each section of the rubric counted for five points, and the maximum a poem could receive was twenty points. The poems were stripped of names to keep the contest anonymous. The judges this year consisted of three librarians, one off campus representative, one retiree, and one current instructor for a total of six judges.

Winners received prizes such as gift certificates, pens, blank journals, a poetry anthology, and chocolate.

Hagelberger said, "The goal of the contest is to give students an opportunity to write something creative, to explore their creativity. Poetry is a way for students to explore who they are and put a part of themselves out there for the world to see. When a student writes poetry they are no longer confined to the walls around them."

WINNERS

1st Place for Body of Work
Clovelly Beach
Clementine
Night
by Catherine McCabe-Strong

2nd Place
Fly
by Amanda Sterzick

3rd Place
Delayed Ambition
by Maureen Moriarty

Honorable Mentions
Open Road
by Jennifer Hanson



Night

By Catherine McCabe-Strong
First Prize winner for Body of Work

*Night is the screen-door creak
of leopard frogs, and the hot
barkmulch smell of woodstoves.*

*It waddles like a skunk,
swaggering around the edges
of front doors and porches.
And when the sun breaches
the horizon, it hunkers
down, burrowing beneath
barns and boulders, patiently
waiting out the day.*

Clementine

By Catherine McCabe-Strong
1st Place Winner for Body of Work

*My fingernails mangle
the mottled wax
shell. Citrine sap
caresses each bulge
as I lick away
mattress-foam veins.
My teeth pop polyps
and shred cellophane skin.*

*If only everything
could be this sweet.*

Fly

By Amanda Sterzick
Second Prize Winner

*Meetings, appointments, deadlines come
Projects, artwork left undone
Time speeds up-flies away
Done by tomorrow, late by today
Never seems like I've yet won
Summers long nights-ten hour sun
Back I jump into the fray
Mundane life all work, no play
I try harder, get it done
If I'm to fly, I must first run
Escape this brutal lack of fun.*

Open Road

By Jennifer Hanson
Honorable Mention

*Two hands on a wheel-
This is where I start.
A journey just beginning,
A key, inserted, twisted.*

*The sound of four tires on an
Open road, an open sky.
The solace of traveling alone,
Of being alone, of leaving alone.*

*It's a five-hour climb
To the top of a mountain.
It's a five-hour climb
To touch the sky.*

*There's a three-day drive back home,
Nothing but the world to see.
There's a three-day drive back home,
Nothing but two hands to get me there.*

Delayed Ambition

By Maureen Moriarty
Third Prize Winner

*Musings of ambitions emerge on a canvas.
a man's smock painted with the grease of his job
grey-black pavement of the grill a back-drop
mornings glow, a sunny-side-up dawn shines down
illuminating a hash brown balcony in Paris.*

*A giggling in the wind of the laughter of a child,
A water-color portrait of blonde pigtails and smiling eyes
pours into his mind like the Mikey Mouse pancakes his girl loves.
Nourishing the lass shelves dreams behind pickled peppers.*

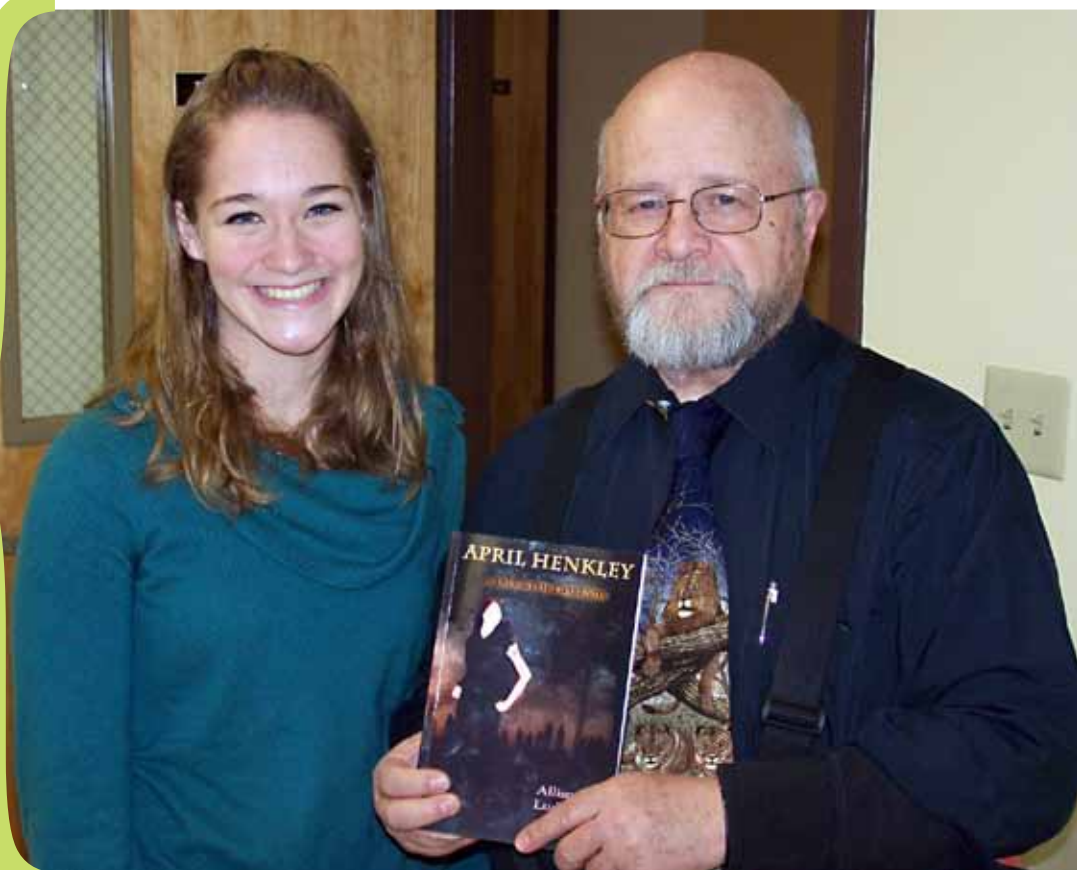
*Shaving the bacon with a pallet knife, a yellow tube this week,
he can now begin basting the snow white with hues of blueberry.
covering blankets of deep red apples with delicious golden tints.*

*Precious sugary dreams spread this quiet night.
Destiny's peach a brushstroke away.*

Enduring gallery, garnished gradually with gradients of love.



Poetry Winners. Pictured left to right are Jennifer Hanson, Maureen Moriarty, Catherine McCabe-Strong, and Amanda Sterzick.
Photo by Leigh Swartzfager



Black River author visits GCC

{ By Marie Matsunaga
Staff Writer }

If you were to write a novel, how would you start working? It would differ for each person. If you were to create the protagonist first, how would you start making the character? The easiest way would be to craft a character similar to you in gender, age, personality.

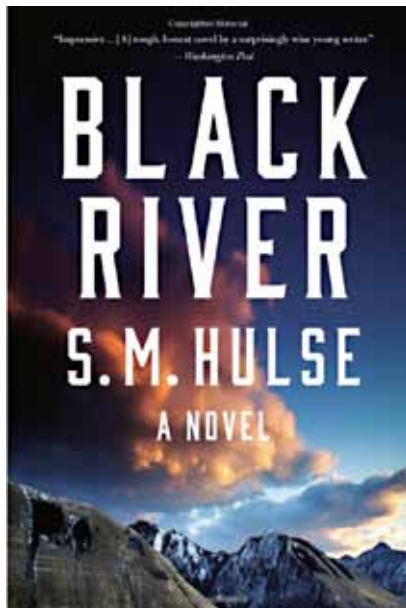
Some authors make it more difficult for the reader. They create characters that are nothing like them. For instance, in *A Tale for Three Counties* book choice for 2016, *Black River*, by S. M. Hulse, a reader might think she's an elderly man who plays the fiddle. Hulse keeps her readers on their toes.

Hulse visited GCC on March 10th; she was brought here with the help of *A Tale for Three Counties*. According to the GCC Library website, *A Tale for Three Counties* is an area-wide "one book" community reading project for Genesee, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties in Western New York. Annual programming is presented by the 19 public libraries in these counties, Genesee Community College, Batavia's *The Daily News*, and Genesee Valley Educational Partnerships School Library System. Community college involvement in a community-wide reading program is a feature unique to *A Tale for Three Counties*, and 2016 marked the 14th successful year of "The Tale," and GCC's 12th year of participation in the program.

The Washington Post described the novel as "[A] tough, honest novel by a surprisingly wise young writer."

When Sarah Marie Hulse was in kindergarten, she wrote her very first story. "I don't quite remember that I wrote it, but my mother still keeps it," Hulse said. "My first story was about Eskimos and snow country, which I had never seen. And, it was not quite hard for me to imagine Wes's feelings and thoughts," Hulse said. "I really enjoy thinking about being a person completely different from myself since then."

She even enjoyed imagining the character of Wes, a 60-year-old man. "Wes was a good fiddler,



and he loved his wife so much; I wanted to get everything away from him and see how he would be."

Hulse was born in the coastal side of California and has spent time in Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. "When I was in Montana, I read about the riot that took place at the state prison in 1950s. Then I was passing by the old prison in a vast empty land." The harsh landscape of that place had stuck in her head and never let her go.

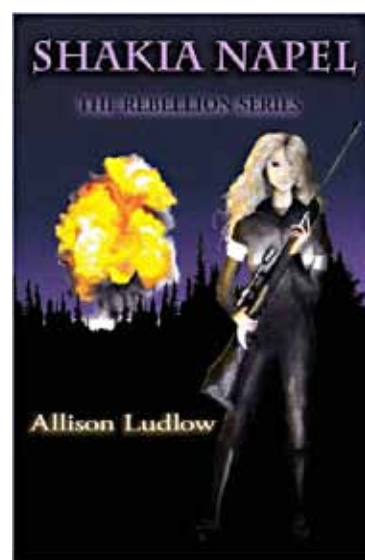
That was the moment she recognizes as the very first moment or the start point of *Black River*.

Because she set the story in a fictional town, she could feel more free to write the story. However, it does not mean that she did not do any researching. "I have read a lot both online and offline. To start writing with research is a very good start for me."

For her, the first draft has to be written and read only by her every time. "I am a secret person," she said. "I prefer to write over midnight rather than in the day time or afternoon. I love the darkness and silence during the night.

I just want to hide my first plot and concentrate on the world I am creating."

continued on page 10.



Shakla Napel. Pictured are Speech Instructor John Molyneux (right) and GCC Student Allison Ludlow, who is a homeschooled student now attending classes at the Lima Campus Center. Molyneux was her ENG and SPE Instructor. Ludlow has written two books, which are available on amazon.com and is working on her third. She said, "My favorite class, by far, has been Public Speaking 108 with John R. Molyneux. At the beginning of the semester, I was terrified, but by the second class it felt like we'd all known each other for years--truly Molyneux has a gift."

Photo by Deborah Erion

Teddy bear and doll clinic helps children and nursing students

{ By Marie Matsunaga
Staff Writer }

Syringes. Needles. Medicine.

The places that we call clinics and hospitals are usually filled with trauma. A few people might have experiences of being terrified in those places. Yes, we sometimes have a scary time in hospitals, and usually we're scared because we're not informed. We don't know what doctors are doing, and we don't know what kind of medicines we are taking, especially when we were children. We have almost no knowledge of medical equipment and treatments. To help educate children about these situations, GCC held an activity called "Teddy Bear and Doll Clinic" on March 1st.

Teddy Bear and Doll Clinic is an activity for pre-school children in the Head-Start program. GCC Nursing major students showed them the basic treatments in seven sections: Admissions, X-ray, Lab, Operating Room, Hospital Room Nurse, Physical Therapy, and Healthy Snack Station. Each section took approximately three minutes. In a half hour, pre-school children were introduced to different medical equipment and treatments.

"Nursing students acted as nurses during the event," GCC Instructor of Nursing Michele L. McKay said. "There aren't many activities or events for pre-school children to have medical experiences. I was not a founder of this activity, but I was doing the same activity in the previous campus center. I wanted children to have opportunities to get used to the medical equipment."

In one example, in Admissions, the participant child brought her doll to the nurse and explained the "patient's" injury. Then, the child took the doll to X-ray. GCC borrowed a real X-ray machine from the local hospital. After the nurse finished explaining how an x-ray works with simple terms appropriate for the child's age, the doll received an x-ray of the "injury." In this section, the student nurses used the real machine and showed the child the real x-rayed doll. Through this section, most of the children's nervousness calmed.

Jessica Cahill, a nursing student who worked in the X-ray section, described how the children enjoyed the activity. "I liked to ask them questions. For example, I asked them whether it hurts to have an X-ray, and some of them said 'Yes.' No, it doesn't hurt. I said 'It's like your mom and dad taking your picture of you.'"

Then the child brought the doll to Lab for blood tests. Of course, real needles were not used, which comforted the children there. After the blood test, the child moved her doll to the OR Nurse section, and the nurse and the child put gauze, tape, and bandages on the doll.

"I remember doing the Teddy Bear Clinic when I was in the preschool," Kelly Goodheart, a nursing student who was in the OR section said. "And that is something that always stuck with me; I'll remember the event forever."

After that, the child moved to Hospital Room Nurse section. The child listened to the heart-rate, blood pressure, and the Oxygen level was measured and an IV administered.

continued on page 10.

GCC's 6th annual trip to Ireland runs this summer

{ By Elijah Buck
Staff Writer }



Rich in culture, filled with history, and possessing an undeniably beautiful landscape, the country of Ireland has much to offer. Genesee Community College is inviting students to join Charley Boyd, professor of English, and his wife Connie Boyd, retired director of Human Services on their 6th annual study abroad trip to Ireland.

During this two-week long adventure, students will have the chance to experience Ireland at its best. Charley said that they do a variety of touring to both historical and mythical sites, which include a dinner in Bunnraty Castle, touring through the site where the Titanic was built, walking "over a rope bridge with the sea 90 feet below," and listening to (even singing with) Irish musicians. "Every trip is magical," said Connie. "We visit incredible sites, some that have been in existence since Neolithic times."

"I love the people, the castles, the coastlines," Connie said, "even seeing sheep everywhere!" The Ireland trip was something that that Boyds created after their family had traveled there several times. "My family had been in Ireland twice; it was an idea that we thought of the second

time," Charley said.

According to the "Study Abroad: Ireland" page on GCC's website, the trip costs approximately \$3,500, covering all airfare, lodging, transportation, and entry fees for the entire trip. "It is possible for a student who has paid in advance to not need any additional money," Charley said, but "students usually want to bring money so they can buy souvenirs."

The number of participants in the program has varied from eight people to the maximum of 18 over the years. The group stays in Nenagh, a town in Southern Ireland for nine days. They do things during the day and come back there at night. Every student gets his or her own personal suite for the duration of the stay. Charley also said that the trip is offered to students from various other colleges across Western New York, so there is also the possibility that participants will get to meet people from colleges other than GCC.

The trip is a great way for students to diversify their knowledge of the Irish culture and form some very close friendships. Charley said that he thinks students "learn a lot and have a very positive reaction" to the trip. "It does change lives," he said. "Many students form lasting friendships."



Bunnraty Castle

If you are interested in participating in the program or would like more information feel free to email Charley Boyd at CBoyd@genesec.edu.

13TH ANNUAL ORLEANS COUNTY GO ART STUDENT ART SHOW

(GRADES 7-12) opens on May 3RD THROUGH June 2ND WITH a FREE COMMUNITY RECEPTION on May 18TH, at 5 P.M. UNTIL 6:30 P.M. at THE GCC Medina GALLERY.

LIBRARY REMINDER

STUDENTS, remember to RETURN YOUR LIBRARY BOOK, music CD, and AUDIOBOOK LOANS BY THE LAST DAY OF CLASSES on FRIDAY, May 13TH.



Electronic Bills are coming to GCC!

The Business Office at Genesee Community College is pleased to introduce their new electronic billing statements (eBills). This service will provide students with "24/7" access to view their electronic bill. GCC will transition to paperless billing effective Fall 2016. Students will only receive electronic bills. Paper bills will no longer be mailed. The implementation of eBills allows the College to utilize an environmentally-friendly billing process while meeting our students growing demand for a convenient, secure and confidential online billing system.

Students will receive a notification via their GCC e-mail address when a bill has been produced and available for viewing online. Students simply click on the link provided in the e-mail and enter their Genesis NetID and Password to view their latest bill. The electronic bill displays the same information as the traditional paper bill.

Students can view (and print) their bill by logging into their Genesis account and following these easy steps:

- Click on "Banner Self Service"
 - Click on "Pay My Bill"
 - Select the appropriate term and click on "submit"
 - Click on "Statement History"
- Note: the most current bill is displayed at the top of the list.*

Remember, effective Fall 2016, paper bills will no longer be produced or mailed. Electronic bills will be the exclusive billing method for all Genesee Community College student account balances.

Education Club members provide vital service to the community

The Education Club may just be the most inaccurately named club at GCC.

“Perhaps we should call the Club Kids R’ Us,” said Christine Belongia, a professor of education and psychology at GCC as well as the advisor and founder of the Education Club.

Originally named “Get Psyched,” the Club was initiated in 2002 and has since developed into one of the most visible organizations on campus. “It’s grown dramatically,” said Belongia. “We’re involved in at least ten significant service projects in any given year.”

The variety of activities the Education Club tasks itself with is immense. Renaming the Club Kids R’ Us would be an appropriate action, as many of its endeavors are aimed at entertaining children and providing assistance for those in need.

The most humanitarian of these activities are the ones done in cooperation with the Genesee CASA (“Court Appointed Special Advocates” for children who have been abused and/or neglected) organization. “The children served by CASA are some of the neediest children in our communities, and the generosity of the students, staff, and faculty at Genesee Community College is tangible evidence to them that people really do care,” said Belongia.

Programs administered cooperatively with Genesee CASA include the School Supply Program, in which school supplies are gathered and given to children in the CASA program in preparation for the upcoming school year, the Holiday Gift Program, in which presents are collected and distributed to abused and neglected children, and a new initiative that will hopefully commence this Spring called the “If the Shoe Fits” Program. “In collaboration with other clubs, we are asking interested clubs and individuals to purchase a new pair of shoes for one of the children served by the CASA program,” said Belongia. “Nothing expensive. A pair of Wal-Mart shoes will be just fine.”

The Weekend Backpack Program is yet another Education Club project designed with the welfare of underprivileged children in mind. “Many kids are only able to get full meals from the breakfast and lunches served at their school, meaning they are unable to get these meals during the weekend. This program will help get kids food for the weekend,” said Belongia. In the same vein as the Weekend Backpack Program, the Education Club members are currently in the planning stages of a food drive for area families called “Buy One Give One Hope” (BOGO). The logo for BOGO will be designed by Digital Arts students enrolled at GCC.

In addition to providing for children, the Education Club also organizes events to entertain and educate them. Activity Day, where members of the Club will host and play with children from GCC’s daycare center, and Art Week, in which several art projects for preschool age children and an activity sponsored by the Art Club will be offered, are two of the upcoming activities put together by the Education Club. “Breakfast with Santa” events are organized by the Club annually, with Club members preparing and overseeing Christmas-themed arts and crafts activities for children to participate in.

This not only provides the children with amusement, it also serves as a valuable learning experience for the GCC students involved, who must structure the activity with the children in mind as to not make it too complicated as well as procure all of the supplies, Belongia said. This provides college students with an allusion of what organizing classroom activities will be like should they be pursuing a career in childhood education. While facilitating the happiness of the children they work with, the students are acquiring skills that may prove to be transferrable to their future careers, she said.

Contrary to its name, the Education Club is not only open to those who major in education, but to any interested individual. While the Club, in addition to everything else it does, holds workshops specifically aimed at students who wish to become future educators, anybody is free and encouraged to join. The Club participates in the Fall/Spring Info Fairs, where interested students are able to acquire a thorough understanding of the Club’s objectives and traditions (and enjoy a new flavor of cotton candy created by the Education Club called Werther’s Original). “Bring your friends! We don’t care who they are or where they’re from. Just bring them!” said Belongia.

How does the Education Club achieve all its objectives? Certainly not by working alone. “Collaboration is one of the most important aspects of our Club,” Belongia said. “We collaborate with many of the other clubs on campus.” Some of the clubs that the

{ *Black River* continued from page 8. }

Although she has made many changes in the story from her first draft to the final draft, according to her own experience of learning and playing the viola and her love for bluegrass music, Wes was playing the fiddle from the very first draft. “I wanted him to play bluegrass.” While she is working on her stories, music always helps her writing. To write this story, she had been learning the violin again. “When I want to write about an activity, especially about playing the instruments, to know the specific terms and the feelings of the instruments, it was great to learn it again.” Also, for her next novel, she was learning painting. “Researching is learning.”

“For me, the drafts I write are like clay. Reviewing is cutting the clay into a sculpture,” Hulse said. When she brought her draft to the publisher, she had to cut over 20,000 words. It took her three years to finish the draft and four years to finish the entire process.

“I don’t think that I will be out of stories in the future,” she laughed. “Wes listened.” Like the last part of *Black River*, she will continue listening to the world around her.



THE APPLE DOESN'T FALL FAR FROM GCC. Pictured are Education Club members Emily George and Mary Grace Gabalski at the Info Fair at GCC.

Photo by Christine Belongia

Education Club collaborates with include the DECA/Business Forum, the Art Club, the Criminal Justice Club, and the student newspaper.

Recognizing that the GCC community is one large ecosystem with each component being an indispensable asset to the College, the Education Club annually sends every department a bouquet of flowers. The flowers are gifts for members of the community whose hard work goes largely unnoticed or is underappreciated. From the cafeteria and custodial staff, to the workers in the computer lab, to even the president of the College himself, everybody receives a bouquet of gratitude. “It is important for students (particularly ones who want to become teachers) to realize you’re not in it alone,” said Belongia. “When you’re nice to other people, they will be more likely to help you out in the future.”

On top of collaborating with other GCC clubs in order to accomplish its initiatives, the Education Club relies on monetary donations. “We’ve had people donate thousands of dollars,” said Belongia. “Even the president of the College made a donation!”

The success of the Education Club, much like GCC’s community, has many indispensable components: Belongia herself, its members, the other clubs and organizations it partners with, and individuals who donate money to the Club. There is one more facet to the Club that has yet to be mentioned: Belongia’s husband. “He has been the most steadfast supporter of the Club since its inception,” Belongia said. She keeps him busy, having him haul and deliver items the Club uses, amongst other work, all of which she is grateful for. “He would do anything for the Club,” she said.

The future of the Education Club is a promising one, with many new projects on the horizon. Belongia wishes to see the Club continue its collaborative efforts with other clubs and branch out to more organizations. Belongia welcomes new ideas and new members, regardless of who their background. She said, “We have a lot of diversity, but I would like to see even more.”

{ Teddy Bear Clinic continued from page 8. }

After that, in the Physical Therapy section, the nurse explained the importance of exercise to become and stay healthy, and the child and doll exercised with music, enjoying jumping jacks, hopping, and arm exercises. At last, in the Healthy Snack Station, the child received a healthy snack, such as raisins and animal crackers, and a list or chart of healthy foods.

“This is not only an event for children,” McKay said. “Through this activity, the students who are teaching the children will also learn a lot.” Nurses do not only have to care for adults; they are required to communicate with children. “To communicate with them, a nurse must have an ability to explain a difficult, complicated, and scary medical treatments in an easy, simple, and friendly way,” she said. “If a nurse were nervous, children would notice it immediately, and they would become nervous, too.”

McKay said that if children learn early in their lives that medicine isn’t so scary, as adults they would be less hesitant to go to the clinic or hospital for help. “My goal is to hold this activity in every campus center,” she said.

Pencils, books, and insults: Ford inspires students

From Shakespeare and Hamlet Lego figures to World War Two patches, Tracy Ford’s office is a reflection of his interests and who he is, not only as person but as an associate professor of English at Genesee Community College.

Ford has been a professor at GCC since the fall of 1999; however GCC wasn’t where Ford first stepped onto the path of becoming an English professor. Originally from Mendocino County, California, located about two hours north of San Francisco, Ford began as a biology major but quickly decided to switch to an English major. Studying at Humboldt State University, then becoming an adjunct for Umpqua Community College in Oregon, Ford taught his first college level class in 1993 and has been teaching ever since.

During his time at GCC, Ford has become the faculty advisor to Geeks-R-Us, previously known as the Anime Club. In the past, he has been the co-advisor for the Native American Student Group, Off the Edge, The Literary Club, and was an instructor and advisor for the Fencing Club.

Ford said his favorite class to teach is “Whatever class I’m currently in front of” and to encourage students to take those classes, Ford said, “I don’t take myself seriously, and I’m not mean.”

Jessica Skehan, a first year student at GCC, said, “I took English 105 with him, and he always made the class so interesting. I always looked forward to it. He always had open discussions about the literature we were

studying, which really helped us understand the more difficult novels we had to read.” She said, “His class allowed you to write about topics that really interest you, which made it so much more enjoyable to do the work. He combined harder literature with fun discussions, and he taught us how to compare and contrast different works of literature, cinema, and art.”

Ford loves motivating students. “I like to teach works that present a challenge for student understanding,” he said. Ford also enjoys making knowledge go from “opaque to clear” for students.

Cheyenne Zarembo, a student with the ACE program, said, “Professor Ford is probably my favorite professor here at GCC. He’s so passionate and high energy; he makes class really enjoyable and is incredibly engaging with students. I took LIT 203 and ENG 105 with him, and they were both marvelous. Professor Ford is always available to answer questions and give feedback, and he honestly wants you to do the best you can in his courses and will offer insight as to how you can improve.”

On test days, Ford wears an army helmet to protect against, as he said, “Pencils, books, and insults.” And on Fridays, Ford even wears a Kilt to shake up gender norms.

If interested in taking Ford’s classes in the future, remember, as Ford said, “It’s a lot of work, but at least you can make fun of me.”

Leadership Certificate Piskorowski attended that is changing GCC daycare and students’ lives GCC classes, now is an instructor

Genesee Community College’s Leadership Certificate helps to prepare students for leadership roles and responsibilities not only in school, but in their future careers and jobs as well.

The purpose of the program is to help students improve the skills they have to become a better leader. It will prepare the students for opportunities to develop and enhance their personal philosophy of leadership, develop the ability to relate to others, and embrace the responsibilities that come with active citizenship and leadership. Students complete a series of courses, seminars, workshops, and volunteer work in five different areas. Although this is a non-credit program, upon successful completion the students will receive recognition on their transcripts.

Even students who have graduated years ago have come back to tell how much it helped them. Hannah Ikeler is one of them. Ikeler happened to be the first student to be able to participate in the program after a decision by the Leadership Wyoming application selection committee to allow one student each year to be a part of the program free of charge. “Joining the Leadership Certificate program opened so many doors for me,” she said. “I had the opportunity to work in the Dean of Students office as a work study, join the GCCA board, and become an orientation leader and so much more. That is when I realized GCC stopped feeling like school to me and more like a home.”

GCC Student Erica Soutwood learned a lot about how leadership affects her life. “Leadership is the ability to influence the behavior of others, and that’s exactly what I had learned,” she said. “Honestly, I wouldn’t be where I am to this day if I hadn’t had the help that I got with the Leadership Certificate. I knew directly after completing the course that I had the skills in order to become an effective leader in the business world. People think that just because it doesn’t count for credit it won’t help them later in life, but they’re wrong.”

Soutwood believes what she learned in the program helps her in the business world. “I had the skills, so all I had to do was use them. And as you know, that’s exactly what I did. I applied for a management position that I never thought I would have qualified for before. I got it, and now I am recognized as I climb the steps in the ladder of my agency,” she said. “I started off as a single mother, with a part time job, and now I am being considered for a corporate position in my job. When I entered the program, I had no clue it would have such a big impact on my life.”

Dean of Students, Jennifer Newell, said that learning the skills taught in the program are essential for succeeding in today’s workplace. “Leadership is key to the future of individuals, organizations, communities, and nations,” she said. “Organizations in the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors are moving away from traditional management functions and toward models of employee empowerment based on various leadership models. We want to prepare students not only to be dynamic in their future workplaces, but effectively serve in their communities as well.”

{ By Thad Whittier Staff Writer }



Tracy Ford Photo by Kris Dassinger

{ By Andrew Ohlson Staff Writer }

Imagine yourself growing up in a daycare and then, years later, attending the same school where that daycare is located. Fast forward a couple of years, and now you are teaching at this college.

This is the full circle story of Marygrace Piskorowski (née Snyder) who is an instructor of nursing at Genesee Community College (GCC). The former child care attendee and student now finds herself a full-time instructor.

For Piskorowski GCC was and is a great experience. “GCC is such a unique place. It’s in a small town with lots of former GCC students. You don’t have to go far to meet someone who either has gone to GCC or teaches here,” she said.

Starting in 2004 as a liberal arts student, this Batavian native eventually went on to graduate from the nursing program in 2009 with two other degrees under her belt in between. She also was a part of the radio station, 90.7FM WGCC, and had a program called *Two Girls and a Radio*. Piskorowski wrote for *The New Courier* and worked as a work-study student in the humanities, records, and maintenance departments.

“The professors here are so easy to work with and like to have open dialogue with their students,” Piskorowski said. “Community colleges allow students to develop relationships with professors as well as other community members.”

As a child of a single parent household, her mother worked as a nurse with mothers and childbirth, and Piskorowski saw the opportunities that the job presented.

“People are my passion, especially human rights and wellness for mothers and their children,” said Piskorowski. “My prior degree in the humanities is helpful for my job. I am bilingual which helps connect to my patients, and my degree from GCC really broadened my horizons.”

She explained that the hardest part of her schooling and her job is time management. Between raising her two children and working, it is difficult to pursue outside interests. “As a nurse, you don’t really have time for other hobbies, but don’t get discouraged,” Piskorowski said. “It is definitely worth it.”

She has quite a few goals not only for her students, but also for herself. “A goal that I have is to create a bridge from students to the community. Students here at GCC have hands-on opportunities at local businesses that students at a four-year institution do not always have,” she said. “Obviously, I want my students to succeed which is the ultimate goal of a professor. On a personal level, I promote the health benefits of breast feeding and getting rid of the negative stigmatism that lactation seems to carry.”

As a GCC alumnus Piskorowski displays noticeable passion for her work and those involved. She said, “Working as a nurse definitely has its benefits. All of the work involved in the field is worth it.”

PEOPLE

2016 Scholars' Symposium

Awards Winners



Pictured left to right are American Historian and DeWitt Clinton Professor of History at Columbia University Eric Foner, GCC International Student from Mozambique Lorette Mathe, and Senior Editor and Vice President of W.W. Norton and Company Steve Forman. Mathe won the top award, the W.W. Norton Award, during the Scholars' Symposium on March 29th, 2016 at GCC. She presented a paper titled "Rethinking our Approach to the Fight Against Poverty in Africa." Below is a list of all Symposium winners.

Photo by Joe Ziolkowski

W.W. Norton Award

Lorette Mathe

Excellence in Science Award

Laura Kauppi

Most Global in Perspective Award

My Pinhole Photography

Abby G Blendowski
Kristin Falcone
Nicole K. Franclemont
Esther L. Frank-Doyl
Gerard A. Geuss
Joshua A. Gillett
Kaci A. Hint
Kayla Ladue
Andrew J. Larotonda
Valerie R. Mullen
Mitchell W. Muskopf
Kenichi Nakagawa
Veselin Ocic
Nicholas R. Paratore
Nicole M. Rulli
Amanda T. Sterzick

Best Oral Presentation

Timothy Almeter

Best Poster

Physical Therapy Treatment of Low Back Pain

Cristina Gomez
Karis Perry
Beth Symes
Mary Jo Strassell

Excellence in Sustainability Award

Emily Shaw

Most Creative Presentation

Jennifer Smith

Excellence in Artistic Achievement

Jered Baker

Excellence in Entrepreneurship & Innovation

Jessica Rush

Award for Excellence

Mitchell Wright

Award for Excellence

Aquatic Physical Therapy for Knee Osteoarthritis

Megan DeMarco
Stephany Olsheski
Rachel Sardisco
Rachel Servicki

John Gardner Literary Award

Stella Bianco

Faculty & Staff Choice Award

Kayla Bianchi

Award for Excellence in Criminal Justice

None Awarded