

The

# News from the Center

A publication of the Center for Student Involvement

## Coming This Fall

Pack a Backpack: 9/11 Remembrance and School on Wheels begins **August 6<sup>th</sup> thru September 20<sup>th</sup>**

Agency Orientations **August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

SPARK Kick-Off Day **August 31<sup>st</sup>**

CSI Open House **September 20<sup>th</sup>**

SPARK Picnic **September 21<sup>st</sup>**

STAR Training **September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Fall Volunteer Faire **September 25<sup>th</sup>**

CSI Placement Form (white) due **October 1<sup>st</sup>**



## Spring 2012: Programs, Events, Achievements, and Fun!

By: Cristal Montes

The Center for Student Involvement is known on campus as the office where you find a place to volunteer. Not only do we track all volunteer hours and agency-campus interactions we also coordinate with faculty and staff to offer as many opportunities as possible to students. What many don't realize, is that the center also coordinates and supports other programs and events on the GCC campus. From programs like STAR and MATHE to SPARK and 9/11 remembrance, the center tries to stay involved in all aspects of campus life. As a center that provides assistance to students, we realize that we must stay informed and aware of everything happening on campus. We accomplish that goal by being involved and dedicated to the GCC community.

The Center for Student Involvement (CSI) conducted their bi-annual **Cont. Pg.6**

### Look for:

Agency Profile:  
The "Place" you  
Should Volunteer  
At

Page 3

Student Profile:  
Volunteering at  
GCC

Page 4

A Helping Hand:  
Resource Directory

Page 6

## Through the eyes of a Student Ambassador

Finishing up working at the Center for Student Involvement, or as it is commonly known, CSI, for my first and final year, I must admit that this spring semester has brought along a new event. During the fall semester, we had the STAR program, which we have every year, but for the spring semester, a new event was introduced, the Get On The Bus donation drive in association with GCC's SPARK program. I, personally feel, that everyone should join this cause, which benefits children with a visit to see their parents who are currently incarcerated, because it brings happiness to a child's life even if it's only for one day of the year. Coming from a single parent home, and even though my father was not incarcerated, if I had the opportunity to see and know him I would have taken it because at least then I know I tried to have a relationship with him, that is why I feel so strongly about what this organization promotes and how these donations help. So, I recommend taking part in anything that goes on in the Center for Student Involvement; it is for a good cause.

*By: Jackie Gonzalez*



One of the exciting events that happened during the 2012 year within CSI would be the SPARK Mentor Training. Last school year, I was a mentee, fresh out of high school willing to

face the new obstacles of college. Since I am the first person in my family to attend college, I didn't have someone close to show me the path. For instance, I didn't know how to drop my classes, or pick the right teachers and so on. These are tricks to the trade of going to college that your teachers in high school didn't warn you about. Yet, after my first year of college I have learned so much that I am confident to show someone else some tips on Glendale College. That is why I decided to become a SPARK mentor.

Day one of training was on Friday, June 22 and I wasn't sure what to expect. It started with an introduction to SPARK and what we hoped to accomplish. Afterwards, there was an activity called the RIVER of Life, where we had to create some sort of timeline to point out when there was someone in our life that has been a mentor to us. Only a few of us shared our stories but from those who did, did so in a way that allowed us to be open about what we have faced in our past.

Then we did an active listening activity where we learned how to effectively listen to our peers. For example, don't play with objects while the other person is talking or not being intrigued by not asking questions. We also learned how to continue a conversation after thinking that was all we had to say. Throughout the day, I thought these were definitely skills we needed in order to be able to connect with our mentee. We are meeting a brand new person and we have to set a boundary on what is okay to talk about and what is not along with the responsibilities that being a mentor entails. Overall, I thought it was essential to brush up and learn new skills to connect with our mentees when we meet them in August.

*By: Karla Salazar*



The Center for Student Involvement, CSI, offers many non-profit organizations and agencies to which students can go volunteer. The agency database varies from many types of organization such as nursing, law, pet care and youth organizations and the list goes on. On one hand, the community is receiving help from students and on the other hand, the students themselves develop and gain experiences that can be useful for later on for their major and their lives. This resource is very useful for both the student and the community.

The organization that interests me the most and that I enjoyed observing is: Students Talk About Race (STAR). The main agent of socialization that is shaping the adolescents in this generation is the media. Many adolescents forget how to be themselves with out the media. This organization sends volunteers to middle schools and high schools to talk about racism, stereotypes, sexism, homophobia, prejudice and more. Make peace and not war.

The dedication these volunteers showed in the training for STAR was very intense. They were also very committed to the topics that were presented. What made the room intense was the way volunteers were relating the topics to their personal lives and experiences. I enjoy working in that type of environment that allows everything said to be considered. Although, I wasn't able to join STAR for Spring 2012, I was inspired from attending the training and I am looking forward to participating in the next up coming session.

*By: Elisa Oros*

## The “Place” you Should Volunteer At

*By: Karla Salazar*

My Friend’s Place is a youth homeless shelter that provides emergency resources such as food and clothing, along with health, educational, and therapeutic services. The shelter was founded by Steve Lepore and Craig Scholz in 1988, first as a mobile meal program to provide free lunches to the homeless youth, it is now a drop-in facility for teens without a home. A place where they can take advantage of the free help and services. The biggest challenge My Friend’s Place faces is getting the youth to accept the help. These young people have been either driven to the streets by abuse, abandonment, or neglect by families and caregivers. Therefore it is difficult for them to accept and trust the help that places like these offer.

The organization is 99% privately funded by individuals, foundations, and corporations. Volunteers are very important to the success of the “Place” because

everything is led by volunteers. People can get involved by donating, giving tribute gifts, or organizing different kinds of drives -- such as a shoe, or canned food -- that will go towards the homeless youth. Donations and volunteers are essential to the organization. The greatest accomplishments of the Place are building a safe haven, transformative education, and a health and wellbeing program.

The safe haven program provides day shelter, hot meals, showers, clothing, hygiene supplies, and transportation. The transformative education program offers services such as academic achievement, employment, creative arts, and social & life skills. The health and wellbeing program provides clinically and culturally appropriate medical, health, and mental health services. To see past events My Friend’s Place has organized, visit their website





myfriendsplace.org where they also have a monthly newsletter

In my opinion, I would find the “Place” an interesting organization to volunteer at because it is unique compared to all the other agencies in the CSI volunteer database. My Friend’s Place helps these teens with self-sustaining needs but also prepares them to develop skills for the future. These skills can help them with school or work habits. Helping the youth whom are our future is essential to any community.



## Student Profile: Volunteering at GCC

By: Elisa Oros & Cristal Montes

One of our dedicated student ambassadors interviewed a service-learning student this semester in order to get better insight as to the experience students gain volunteering. It is our goal to continuously improve our programs and methodology within the Center for Student Involvement and in order to do that it is essential to communicate with students. This newsletter allows us to personally connect with students beyond the student outcome surveys. Although this student preferred to remain anonymous, they still offered some commentary on one of the on-campus opportunities for service learning: Supplemental Instruction. The Glendale Community College Supplemental

Instruction Program “offers collaborative learning workshops for participating classes. The workshops focus on critical thinking and problem solving exercises centered on the course material. They are scheduled outside of class time and they are led by trained student leaders. All the workshops are free to students.” These workshops offer an essential opportunity for students to gain tutoring and an insight into their class. While the volunteer students who lead them, commit their time and knowledge to helping these students succeed and learn. One of the volunteers this past semester offered us this insight into her experience as an S.I. leader.

**See Interview on next page.**



### End of the school year Lunch

Our office has a tradition of celebrating the end of the school year at our director’s favorite little place in Glendale, Hot Wings Café!! This Year we did just that. Thank you to all our student ambassadors for their dedication and work ethic. Thank you for a great year we could of never done it without you, have a wonderful summer. For those of you coming back in the fall, Karla Salazar and Elisa Oros, and for the new faces joining us, Asad Imam and Gor Sargsyan, We look forward to the new year and continued success. Have a Great Summer from CSI!!

*The following student profile was conducted by CSI Student Ambassador Elisa Oros. The student requested to remain anonymous so her responses are marked as "student".*

**Elisa: What High School did you attend?**

**Student:** I attended Herbert Hoover High School

**Elisa: What year are you at GCC?**

**Student:** This is my second year here at Glendale Community College

**Elisa: What is your major?**

**Student:** I'm still undecided but I am aiming towards instruction and nursing.

**Elisa: What are your future goals?**

**Student:** Some of my future goals will be to keep instructing and helping out students in anything I can. I enjoyed my experience at SI and looking forward for the following year.

**Elisa: Where did you volunteer?**

**Student:** I volunteered at the Supplemental Instruction SI office here in Glendale Community College.

**Elisa: What were your duties?**

**Student:** My duties in the Supplemental Instruction are to help students after their class. I help them with any questions they had during class that they weren't able to ask for any given reason. I also help them with class lecture and help them prepare for quizzes and exams.

**Elisa: What was your biggest challenge?**

**Student:** One of my main conflicts was time. Time will always go flying and sometimes answering every bodies question was a struggle.

**Elisa: How was your overall experience? What did you gain?**

**Student:** My overall experience was great. I enjoyed helping out students with their questions. I was able to gain control of everybody. I enjoyed interacting with the students and listening was one of my accomplishments.

## A Helping Hand: Resource Directory



The Student Resource Directory has been a work in progress for over two semesters.

After much work and constant updating of the directory, it was finally published in May of 2012 with the help of the Center for Student Involvement Student Ambassadors and staff. Every attempt was made to ensure that the information provided in the directory was up to date and correct. Students searched the internet as well as printed guides, identified local resources, input data, made phone calls to check information for accuracy, and finalized the handbook with the assistance of CSI staff.

The purpose of the directory is to help the campus community guide students to much requested services that GCC cannot provide for them. With the economic downturn, many staff and faculty noted an increase of these types of questions.

All services in the directory are based in the community and range from medical to legal to housing and shelter as well as food and clothing. Many services are free for low-income

individuals and some services are offered at very low/minimal cost. In the future, we hope to expand the categories to address any needs that we may have neglected.

Please download the directory or refer your students to the directory as they approach you with their needs. Currently, the resource directory can be found at [www.glendale.edu/crd](http://www.glendale.edu/crd)

If you know of an organization in the local area that should be listed in the directory, please contact us with the basic agency information and we will add it to the next update. Email information to [csi@glendale.edu](mailto:csi@glendale.edu)

### Continued Spring 2012

semester class presentations from February 21<sup>st</sup> through March 12<sup>th</sup>. CSI ambassadors along with staff gave class presentations on the different service learning opportunities available both on and off-campus. A total of 33 classrooms requested presentations which allowed us to reach over 400 students. Semester presentations allow us to reach out to students that may not be aware of the many opportunities the campus provides them to expand their resume and become well-rounded students and members of their communities. It is our goal to reach out to as many students as possible. For those faculty members that participate and request these presentations we thank you for encouraging your students to get involved and embrace the volunteering experience.

An essential part of the Center are the faculty members that participate hand in hand with us to make service-learning part of their curriculum. We thank those faculty members that integrate such an important aspect into their lessons, knowing very well the impact that service learning has not only on the community but on the individual students as well. We encourage more faculty members to incorporate service learning into their classrooms whether it is as a requirement or extra credit.







Students Providing Assistance Resources and Knowledge (SPARK) is a peer-mentoring program with the primary objective of contributing to the advancement of first-year students by aiding in their academic, emotional, and social adjustments to college.

This semester saw the end of the first year of SPARK. With 50 mentors and 93 mentees we celebrate our one-year anniversary. Having received the Most Outstanding Club Award (MOCA) in the fall, SPARK can only strive to continue its efforts in aiding GCC students and the community.

The spring semester began with a bang by appointing a new advisory board for the upcoming school year and focusing more on helping the new incoming freshmen, beginning with their last semester in high school.

Fundraising is crucial to any program and club. Therefore SPARK kicked off their fundraising this spring with an array of events all to benefit mentor-mentee activities and supplementation for mentor and mentee scholarships. From participating in on-campus festivals and sales to bowling and Shakey's night, SPARK continues to fundraise in order to be able to provide its members with bonding activities and scholarships to as many students as possible.

Incorporating Service Learning into the SPARK program as a means of bonding and giving back has proven to be very successful. The program has volunteered at Ascencia, a shelter for displaced/ homeless people, collaborated in the FOLAR Los Angeles River Clean Up, and in a campus wide collection of

donations for the Get on the Bus organization. SPARK will continue to incorporate service learning in the future and hopefully will turn some of this semester's events into on-going projects.

With the end of the semester come some of the most important events for the program. The summer is when all training and mentor/mentee matching occurs. This year there will be three very important sessions, the advisory board leadership training, the mentor training and the mentor/mentee kick-off day. With new lessons and a semi-revamped curriculum for the summer, we hope to learn from our first year and focus on further improving the program. Make sure to keep up with all SPARK activities and opportunities, and if you want to be a mentor come see us or visit us at [www.glendale.edu/spark](http://www.glendale.edu/spark) and we will be glad to make you part of our team!



Students Talk About Race (STAR) is a unique diversity program designed to connect GCC students to local middle and high schools. Students are trained as facilitators and placed at a local middle or high school in teams of two to three facilitators. For one hour per week for eight weeks, they facilitate a discussion about the topics covered in the STAR program, including: Stereotyping, prejudice, racism, homophobia, sexism, and more.

This semester the program trained 40 facilitators and placed them in four local schools; Irving Middle School, Hoover High School, Marshall High School and Burbank High School. The facilitators were able to connect with and educate over 390 students in 14 different classrooms. This program offers a learning opportunity for all involved. In a society so in need of

tolerance and acceptance a program like STAR opens dialogue in a safe and comfortable environment for youths to communicate and learn from each other. STAR will continue to teach tolerance and allow an open forum for students to discuss and educate each other.

The STAR Program will be back this fall semester with training in September and another 8 weeks of tolerance and knowledge. If you wish to experience being a facilitator come in and see us at the CSI office SM 267.



This semester we once again had the Mentoring And Tutoring for Higher Education Project (MATHE). This collaborate effort between GCC math professors, local high schools, and the CSI office has allowed us to place tutors in high school math classes. MATHE consist of advanced GCC math students being required by their class to participate in classrooms as volunteer tutors/aids. The students are required to go to orientation and then are placed and tracked by Nane Kakosian to ensure they complete a certain amount of hours by semesters end. Any GCC Math professor can sign up to be part of this great opportunity for both their students and the local high school students.

This Spring semester Nane held six MATHE project orientations over three days for 64 students. Students were placed in seven different schools, Burbank HS, Burroughs HS, Clark Magnet, Crescenta

Valley HS, Franklin HS, Glendale HS, and Hoover HS, reaching over 30 classrooms. GCC professors Newberry and Massion participated in the program. In the end 75 students were placed in the math collaborative classes and completed their service work all through out the spring semester. The great efforts of the students, professors, and high school classrooms resulted in a total of 887 hours of service learning by semesters end. Making this an extremely successful semester for the MATHE project.

The continued efforts of Nane Kakosian will hopefully allow us to offer this great opportunity to our GCC students in the future.

As we bid farewell to the spring semester we look with anticipation to the upcoming school year. As we move forward we focus on evolving and creating more opportunities for GCC students. It is our goal to make service learning a part of as many lives as possible. The impact of integrating volunteer work into anything we do has a chain reaction beyond anything we can anticipate or measure. We want to thank all those that have already began the path and lifestyle of volunteering and for those of you still unsure we encourage you to come to our office and get informed. There is a world of opportunities and we have the knowledge and resources to help you explore them. We look forward to seeing you all in our office in the upcoming school year. Contact us Monday through Thursday from 8am to 5pm in SM267, call (818) 240-1000 x.5580 and x.5789, or email at [csi@glendale.edu](mailto:csi@glendale.edu).



# Letter from the Director

This past year has been a challenging one as far as the college budget situation and staffing at GCC. Even with these challenges, we were able to initiate two new projects which we hope will continue and become new traditions at the Center for Student Involvement.

Our first project that was implemented in 2011-2012 was the SPARK Peer Mentoring Program. SPARK stands for Students Providing Assistance Resources and Knowledge. This was our main hope for the program when it started over 2 years ago. The first year of SPARK was simply planning how the program would work with a group of 9 Student Advisory Board members. The program officially began in August of 2011 with a kick off mentor/mentee day in August. Approximately 93 mentees were matched with 50 mentors for the first year. We had some amazing successes as well as learned some valuable lessons. The second year of the program promises to be even better!

The other new project undertaken by CSI was the MATHE program. MATHE stands for Math Assistance and Tutoring for Higher Education. The MATHE project involved local high schools, mainly those participating in the GCC Math Collaborative, and involved our students in upper level math courses tutoring and providing in-class support to the high school 12<sup>th</sup> graders. This project involved 75 GCC tutors who provided 887 hours of math tutoring to the high school students.

As the new academic year begins, we are already developing our programs and will be looking forward to another year of service, learning, and building a sense of community for our campus and students.

*Hoover Zariani*

## CSI Staff and Student Ambassadors

Hoover Zariani	<i>Director</i>
Nane Kakosian	<i>Tutor Coordinator</i>
Cristal Montes	<i>Program Assistant</i>

Lucy Agazaryan  
Artin Anderiasian  
Jackie Gonzalez  
Jasmine Gramajo  
Elisa Oros  
Karla Salazar

Special Farewell to:

*Artin Anderiasian, UC Santa Barbara,  
Jackie Gonzalez, USC, and  
Lucy Agazaryan, CSUN.*

We would like to congratulate our transferring student ambassadors and wish them success in all their future endeavors. Thank you for being part of the CSI family, for your time, commitment, and love in helping others. You have made us all proud and you will all be missed. Keep moving forward, and always remember you have a home at CSI. Keep creating change in the world and impacting lives!!