 **Glendale College**
New Laboratory / College Services Building



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New Lab/College Services Building is Almost Finished!



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Alumna Gives Back and Helps Reach Out to Fellow Alumni

Glendale Community College stands for opportunity. For many, it's a way to get a quality education at an affordable price. For others, it's a chance to explore, grow, and find their passion. Still others come seeking advancement in their careers, or even a starting point for a new career. Whatever their motivation for attending, most people would agree that their time at GCC has had a significant impact on their lives. But there are some people who continue to find opportunities at GCC, even decades after they finished their last class.

"I really can't put into words the extent to which the college has benefitted me," said Suzi Clover, a GCC alumna and Glendale College Foundation Board Member. "I've had the opportunity to benefit more than some of my classmates who haven't stayed quite so proximate. The college has been part of my life since I enrolled in 1972."

Suzi was the student body president at Glendale College and went on to attend USC. "I loved USC," she said, "but as a freshman and sophomore, I wouldn't have worked my way up through student government, and I certainly wouldn't have been the ASB president. I was the student liaison to the Glendale College board, and I even made lasting contacts there."

Among the individuals at the college who influenced Suzi's life, former GCC Superintendent/President Dr. John Davit was especially significant. "He became a kind of father figure to me," she said. "He followed my career and helped me all along." As an attorney and Superior Court Judge, Suzi has had a fulfilling career, and when her own mother passed away in the 1980s, Suzi and her husband established a scholarship at GCC in her honor. "Mom had attended the college in the 1930s, when the country was still in a depression. She was just 18—right out of Franklin High School—but she had to leave school during her second semester to help support her single mother and younger siblings. But years later, she went back to Glendale College and earned her AA degree because she really loved it."

Every year, Suzi and her husband interview students for the scholarship, and according to her, "It's been a real insight into the quality and promise of students who are at the college and what they are capable of achieving. We have by far been the beneficiaries of this. There are many scholarship recipients that we stay in touch with. We recently were able to attend the law school graduation of one gentleman, and to be able to help these individuals succeed is really a thrill!" The scholarship has been

a vehicle that connects Suzi and her husband with the students they help, and she thinks there are others who would enjoy having similar opportunities. "We just need to provide them more avenues to connect," she said.

Four-year universities tend to have very well organized alumni associations, but that's not typically the case at the two-year level. Considering the impact an active alumni community could have on its current students, the Glendale College Foundation has undertaken a campaign to help build one. "Our first step is to reach out to alumni and try to reengage them with the institution," explained Jennifer Aries of The Armistead Group, a consulting firm that has been contracted by the Foundation to assist in the effort.

Having had previous success in building alumni associations for other community colleges, Jennifer has seen firsthand how alumni can contribute. "As professionals—having gone on after college to work in the community—they have some incredible skills, and we have found that a lot of them have the time to potentially mentor students," she said. "They can bring such a rich history and store of knowledge back to the college."

With over 85 years of history to draw from, alumni of the 1960s through 1980s were chosen to receive the first contact. "We created a survey that was sent out to this group to ask them where they are, what they have been doing, and find out if they'd be willing to share their stories with us," said Jennifer. The response was quite good, and a number of the respondents mentioned specific professors that had played a significant role in their development—not only academically, but also as people. "That made us think that maybe we could bring some of these people together," said Jennifer, "so we're working on contacting some of the faculty who were identified, and we're soliciting their stories as well. We'll be putting these faculty, alumni and even some current students' stories together in a newsletter format, and through this type of sharing, we'll begin to build a community."

Ultimately, the goal is to bring alumni, former faculty and current students together in person, since that's the best way to transfer knowledge and provide inspiration. "The college already has a lot of events that alumni could be included in," said Suzi. "There are a lot of really interesting and thought-provoking things that the professors and students are doing, and if we can give alumni a way to participate, I think everyone will benefit."

Continued...

The Survey Says... GCC Vice President Makes an Impact



Paul Schlossman started at Glendale Community College (GCC) in 1993 as the associate dean of student activities. "I had worked at four-year colleges but I really found a home in the community college system," said Schlossman. "These are the students I decided I wanted to work with. I thought I could make an impact. I hope I've done that over the years."

Oh, he did. In a recent survey of Glendale Community College alumni, Schlossman's name was listed as someone who made an impact on an alum's journey through GCC.

Currently serving as the Vice President of Student Affairs, Schlossman works closely with student leaders and the student activities program. When asked how he felt about being mentioned in the survey Schlossman said "it feels great. We want to know that we've had a positive influence or impact on our students and contributed some way to their success. That's the reward. That's why I do what I do."

Schlossman says to students considering attending GCC, "It's a great place for students to come and learn. It's a great community."

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When it comes to inspiration, there is no shortage of need. Many students at the community college level are first-generation college students who don't have anyone to advise them. "There are a lot of people in the community who would love to help these student succeed," Suzi asserted. "You could be a lawyer, but have ideas that can help someone who wants to go into politics or medicine. Just having a general knowledge of what's out there, you can be incredibly beneficial."

To catch up on what's happening with GCC alumni, go to www.glendale.edu/alumni. If you are interested in donating to Glendale Community College, please contact Lisa Brooks at (818) 551-5196.

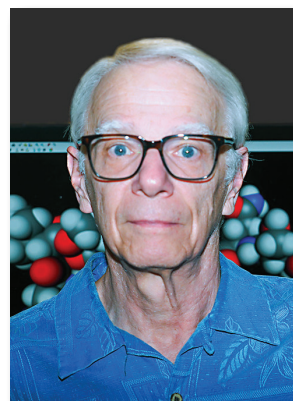
GCC Student Snapshot

In Fall 2014, more than 6,800 students attended GCC. Mirroring a general trend in higher education, GCC serves more female students than male students. The ratio was close to 60% female/40% male in the 1990s but has recently been closer to 55% female to 45% male. For students age 21 and younger, the ratio is closer to 50% female/50% male. When looking at older age groups, female students tend to outnumber male students.

Most of our students, 39%, are attending on a part-time basis, taking six to nine units. Many of them are juggling work, children and school at the same time. While 38% of our students are taking a full load of classes, 12 units or more.

About 6,000 students are the first in their families to attend college, and more than 5,900 are 20 years old or under.

Faculty Member's Love of Teaching Earns Praise



"Honestly, teaching for me was so much fun...it wasn't work." These are the words of Larry Byrd, a Glendale Community College faculty member.

An organic chemistry instructor, Byrd began teaching at GCC in 1975. "I remember how exhausted yet exhilarated I felt after that first day, wondering if I could keep up the pace for the long haul. Well, forty years later, here I am!" Byrd's passion for teaching and learning earned him praise in a recent survey of GCC alumni. His name was mentioned multiple times as someone who made a positive impact on alumni.

When asked why he thinks Glendale College has made an impact on so many alumni Byrd stated "Glendale College has a top notch instructional and support staff that truly care about the student. Unburdened by the threat of "Publish or Perish" and continual grant applications, we are able to bring to bear our full energies and attention on teaching and the students we teach. Students find the instructors quite approachable in comfortable, non-stressful settings. The alumni will remember their instructors...not their teaching assistants."

GCC Faculty Member Earns Praise in Alumni Survey



Richard Kamei began his GCC teaching career in 2001 full of excitement and committed to connecting with his students beyond a classroom lecture. “Some may feel that our main goal is to teach our students a particular subject, which is absolutely important. However, unless we connect with our students, it is very difficult to be truly effective in what we do,” said Kamei.

His ability to connect with his students earned Kamei a mention in a recent survey of GCC alumni. When asked to name people at GCC who made an impact on their lives, Kamei’s name was mentioned multiple times. “I am truly honored that some of my students mentioned that I had a positive impact on their lives.

It is especially meaningful to me because I have had the privilege of studying under remarkable professors who have positively impacted my life.”

“I believe that Glendale Community College has made such a profound impact on so many alumni because my colleagues and I are committed to a common vision for student success. Glendale Community College’s vision states, “Glendale Community College is the Greater Los Angeles Region’s premier learning community where all students achieve their informed educational goals through outstanding instructional and student services, a comprehensive community college curriculum, and educational opportunities found in few community colleges.”

“I am absolutely committed to dedicating my professional life to making this vision a reality for the students that I have the honor and privilege of teaching.”

Italian Instructor Opens Window to the World

Since 2001, Flavio Frontini has been teaching Italian at GCC. “As an instructor of a foreign language I’m opening a window for my students to another way of thinking and different way of behaving and living.” Opening a window to the world is what teaching is all about.

Frontini’s teaching philosophy is basic. “I believe in cooperation and helping each other. Those with similar learning styles, I put together and it makes a difference in my class. Many students tell me they like the class because they can interact. Glendale is blessed with cultural diversity. It makes me excited.” He strives to show, through language and culture, how different ethnic groups really are.” We are different yet similar. We have many Latino students and I like to build bridges among the culture and show how similar we are to Armenians and Latinos – family, food, beliefs. That for me is what teaching and learning is all about.”

He was honored to know that he has made an impact on his students. “I’m full of joy because I don’t think an instructor should just be an instructor. We should help find the student find their path in life. I’m very proud that I was able to touch

students because I too have been touched by professors. I had an important position working for the government in Italy but the satisfaction was 0. I knew English as “me Tarzan, you Jane.” I started English and came to the USA to improve my English. Some of the professors touched me enormously. I know very well, students who come to the USA, I know how they feel. I was ready to go back after 9 months. My luggage was packed. Then, one professor told me I could make it here.



When asked about teaching at GCC, Frontini said “The satisfaction I’m getting from teaching is a billion times larger than working in the private sector, because this is what I like to do. I love that my students will have a good life in the future so I try to give them the direction.”