



GREENFIELD

Community College

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

GCC's Library Does What the "Wimpy Internet" Can't

By Mary McClintock



A scene from the GCC Library's new video "commercial" on YouTube (available on the Library website at www.gcc.mass.edu/library) starring a GCC student stressed by a class assignment and librarians "on a mission."

Think libraries are dark rooms with stern librarians guarding dusty books, where research is done by mad scientists, and Google's the place to find information? Check out the GCC Library's new video "commercial" on YouTube (available on the Library website at www.gcc.mass.edu/library). Starring a GCC student stressed by a class assignment and librarians "on a mission," the video will make you laugh out loud. Far from the stuffy stereotypes, GCC's librarians are friendly guides to the vast amount of information available through the GCC Library, including books available from libraries all over western Massachusetts, over 60 databases of newspaper, magazine and academic journal articles, and more.

Don't have time to go to the Library? No problem. You can call, email, visit the GCC Library website, or live chat with a GCC reference librarian. The Library's new ALEX (Ask a Librarian EXpert) live chat service can even be used by texting from a cell phone. Or, you can walk in the door of the Library on the fourth floor of the North Wing and talk in person to a librarian.

Can't make it to the Library to meet a librarian? The librarians are taking the Library's resources to the people. This year, librarians with laptops will hold "office hours" from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Café in the East Building on the Main Campus, and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays

at the GCC Downtown Center on Main Street. Students, faculty, and staff are welcome to stop by to get help finding information.

Need more than a quick answer? Students can sign up for half-hour individual consultations with a librarian to find resources they need to write papers or complete projects. Faculty and staff can request similar consultations for their own research, or for assistance linking Library resources to their Blackboard course website or designing assignments that help develop students' information literacy skills. Faculty can bring classes to Library instructional sessions customized to meet the classes' needs.

GCC librarians have been busy helping students since before the fall semester began. During new student orientation, GCC librarians presented a Library orientation workshop and met with students at the resource fair, handing out Library cards. They held "Library Boot Camp" sessions during the first two weeks of the semester to help students and faculty learn about the available resources.

As the video "commercial" says, GCC's Library can do what the "wimpy internet" can't. Google and other common online search engines won't find many of the resources available through GCC's Library, especially academic journal articles and books useful for student and faculty research. GCC librarians are eager to demystify the notion of research. Everyone conducts "research" everyday - looking up a

phone number, finding a recipe in a cookbook, or looking at a map to find a friend's new house. Finding information for a class paper is very similar, except instead of looking in a cookbook or phonebook, the researcher uses a database of journal articles. The process is similar, the tools are different.

Ellen Carey, Library Co-Coordinator, points out that "GCC librarians do more than help people find information, we help them evaluate the information they find." Is the information accurate and from a trustworthy source? How do you properly cite information sources when writing a college paper? Whatever subject someone is studying, learning how to find and evaluate information is a core part of a college education. Just like the stressed-out student star of the video "commercial," GCC students are fortunate to have a team of librarians and a wide array of resources to help them meet their specific educational goals.

Need information? Skip Google, use the GCC Library. Reach the librarians by: phone, 413-775-1830; IM: ASKALEXGCC (AIM or Meebo) Text: Text ASKALEXGCC with your question and send it to 265010; email, reference@gcc.mass.edu, or via the Library website, www.gcc.mass.edu/library. Fall semester Library hours are Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. - 8:30 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Video frame provided by Garry Lange, GCC Educational Technology Center



Samuel Hudnall, a recipient of the 2008 International Studies Language and Culture Travel Award, stands near the colonial mine ruins in Guanajuato, Mexico.

GCC Student Brings Home Language, Life-Saving Skills from Abroad

by Natalia Munoz

In an emergency, communication is the difference between life and death. For Samuel Hudnall, an EMT and firefighter, using charades is not an option. The Greenfield Community College student and 29-year-old father of two was moved to learn first responder skills when his children were born.

"I really felt I needed to learn solid first aid skills so I would never be in a situation of wishing that I had known them," he said.

Then, when the Leverett resident and on-call firefighter was hired as an EMT in Springfield, a city with some 40,000 Latinos, some of whom do not speak English, he had another wish.

Hudnall was among the recipients of the 2008 International Studies Language and Culture Travel Award granted by Greenfield Community College. He traveled to Guanajuato, Mexico, this summer for three weeks and took intensive Spanish classes.

Guanajuato is the capital of the same-named state located in the center of Mexico. A small city of about 80,000 residents, it was founded in 1554.

It was a short trip that turned his world around.

"It was really an amazing time," he said. "A totally different feeling. There are musicians playing everywhere on the streets. It's a college town. Guanajuato is much older than any place I've ever been to, so there's all this great architecture."

The Spanish Colonial style he had seen in New Orleans came to mind as he walked around the city, which, he said, "was the full flower of it."

He visited the Diego Rivera Museum, named after one of Mexico's renowned artists, a political muralist.

During class, he learned the fundamentals of work-related words such as "help," "right," "left" and phrases such as "second floor to the right" and "a lot of pain." While three weeks of an intensive language class cannot make someone a fluent speaker, it provided him with key language skills and a sense of the history and heritage of the people he helps.

"My work as an EMT is not always a 911 emergency. Sometimes it's a simple transport but now I can have a conversation with the person. I can tell them I've been to their country and that can help ease them," he said.

Charlotte Gifford, chair of GCC's World Languages Department, said Hudnall's transformative experience is common and the goal of the program.

Before his trip to Mexico, Hudnall had visited the English-speaking part of Canada. The time he spent in Mexico, he said, was enough for him to think of possibly moving there with his wife and kids one day.

"Just 1 percent of U.S. college students have a study-abroad experience," she said, "and we need to greatly increase that number in this globally connected world. The chance to put into practice the lessons in language and culture that were initially learned in a classroom is invaluable, as are the many encounters with people with different world views and life experiences."

Gifford noted that for the most part, financial, personal or professional constraints limit the opportunities for community college students to study abroad, even when they are studying another language and culture and would love nothing more.

"It is not always possible to take a year-long or even a semester-long program in another country," she said. "Thanks to the generous support of the GCC Student Senate and the GCC Foundation, each year two GCC students can have 3-4 weeks in an intensive immersion experience abroad."

Hudnall remembers once riding in an ambulance as a trainee and watching the EMTs make hand gestures and point out their instruments to the Spanish-speaking patient in an effort to communicate with him. Hudnall knew then that he could do more to help than check a patient's vitals or administer first responder skills.

"I wanted to open the lines of communication," he said.

Please Join Us...

Now through October 15 Faculty Art Exhibit.

For more information please contact Tom Young at 413-775-1239 or young@gcc.mass.edu

Monday, September 29

Noon. "Sustainable Food Systems: Energy & Local Agriculture" with Energy Consultant, Don Campbell. Don is a local expert who helps farmers, homeowners and businesses create strategies for energy efficiency, renewable energy, increased profitability and sustainability. He lives locally off the grid, using solar energy for electricity and hot water in an emerging farm in highland Northfield. Sloan Theater, Main Campus. Free and open to the public.

Thursday, October 2

GCC Foundation's 40th Annual Meeting—Keynote speaker: Alex Wilson, President, Building Green, LLC in Brattleboro, VT—"Passive Survivability: Adopting Buildings to a Changed Future". For reservations, call 413-775-1600 or email carlina@gcc.mass.edu by September 29. Meeting will be held at Famous Bill's Restaurant and dinner is \$22.

Tuesday, October 7

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. American International College on campus. Contact Kathy Maisto, 413-775-1207 or Maisto@gcc.mass.edu

Friday, October 10

10 a.m.-2 p.m. National Depression Screening Day. Meet with Mental Health professionals for referrals to treatment services. Free, anonymous screenings for depression, bipolar disorder, generalized anxiety disorder

and post-traumatic stress disorder. Main Building, 2nd Floor. Contact Health Services at 413-775-1432.

Tuesday, October 14

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. COLLEGE TRANSFER FAIR. East Building Representatives from over 25 colleges and universities will share transfer options, special programs and opportunities for transfer. Come find out where GCC can take you! Contact Kathy Maisto, 413-775-1207 or Maisto@gcc.mass.edu.

Wednesday, October 15

12:15 p.m. GCC Chorus Mid-Week Concert Series Preview Concert, Unitarian Church.
2 p.m. Smith College & Mt. Holyoke on campus. Contact Kathy Maisto, 413-775-1207 or Maisto@gcc.mass.edu

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