

HIGH SCHOOL CONNECTIONS

FROM HIGH SCHOOL to GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE and BEYOND

California has long been a center for trend-setting ideas in products, technology, entertainment and style. From automobiles to computers, movies to apparel—if it's hip or cool, chances are it has a California connection.

In this issue of *High School Connections*, we talk about breaking into two local industries that provide numerous and varied career opportunities: entertainment and fashion. While your statistical odds of becoming the next American Idol or America's Top Model are slim, you'll see how some former GCC students are getting in on the act by combining a good education with some creative ingenuity.

But where to start? When you walk down Hollywood Boulevard, the only stars you'll see are inlaid in the sidewalk; all the real action takes place behind studio gates and in nondescript warehouses. These are the sound stages, recording studios, editing houses and post-production facilities where each bit and piece of the final product is crafted and assembled by teams of skilled professionals. To become one of them, you'll have to possess an eagerness to constantly learn, and there's no better place to start your education than in college.

The fashion world is very much the same; it isn't all about runways, magazines and super models. Most of the real jobs are related to the business of buying, selling and manufacturing apparel, and you are more likely to qualify for one if you have earned a college degree.

It's intellectual power that drives these industries, and you'll increase your value as you increase your knowledge. Student Outreach Services (SOS) is here to help you get started. Call SOS: **(818) 240-1000 ext. 4767** or visit our web site: www.glendale.edu/sos

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**Play the
Starring Role in
Your Future!**



Diana Madison—
Hollyscoop Host



Karlo Gharabegian—
Television Editor



Tamara Baskin—
Fashion Industry Public Relations



Claudia Nuñez—
Buyer for BCBGeneration

Four rising stars in entertainment and fashion who used Glendale Community College as a launchpad to success.

DIANA

Hollywood was made for dreamers; it's a place where illusion is manufactured, packaged and sold by those who are shrewd enough to know what an audience wants. Not everyone who lands there aspires to walk on the red carpet, but if you recognize opportunities, take some risks and learn as you go, it is possible to turn such dreams into a vibrant career.

Diana Madison was one of those little girls who grew up with stars in her eyes. Equipped with nothing but her imagination and a hairbrush for her microphone, she loved putting on shows for her family and friends. She grew up on the edge of Hollywood, but the world she navigated was much smaller. She attended the same Armenian private school from her kindergarten days until graduating high school, and her senior class consisted of only about 30 students.

When it came time to step outside that familiar environment, Glendale College was the ideal destination. It was nearby, several of her friends were also going there, and Diana was especially impressed with the school's reputation of having a very "hands-on" faculty that spends a lot of personal time and attention on their students.

During her two years at GCC, Diana landed an internship at the television show *Entertainment Tonight*. Then, after earning her bachelor's degree in political science from UC Santa Barbara, she returned to Hollywood and was again hired by *Entertainment Tonight* where she helped launch a new show called *The Insider*.

"I'd been working there for about two years when I realized it was time to make a decision," Diana recalled. "I could either stay there and be content with being a producer, or I could go out on my own and pursue my bigger dreams." Diana left, but "I really didn't know what I was going to do," she recalled. "I tried doing auditions, but I was told I was too green—too inexperienced—so I started using the Internet as a tool to build my expertise in reporting and interviewing."

Teaming up with two friends from GCC, the trio launched Hollyscoop.com, an entertainment news web site as "sort of a science experiment." Through a lot of trial and error they were able to build a large audience and have since parlayed the success of the web site into a weekly television show.

"We cover every single red carpet event—every premiere—we're on it" Diana explained. "We have an editorial team, a video department and we've expanded our web presence to include fashion, music and sports themed sites."

Their science experiment has grown into a full-blown media company, but it didn't happen overnight and it is built on a strong foundation. "GCC was a great way for me to transition," said Diana. "I learned communication skills and prepared for the next big chapter in my life."

KARLO

For every person you see on your television screen there are usually dozens of others working behind the scenes, making sure everything looks and sounds just right. These are the real taste-makers of Hollywood—the writers, directors, and editors whose creative talents determine what goes on screen and what doesn't.

"I always wanted to work in some form of television or film," Karlo Gharabegian said. "My older brother is in business, and for a while I thought I'd follow his lead, but you know, you go to work every day and put all your time into it, so you might as well pick something you really love."

After graduating from Glendale High School, Karlo set his sights on USC in order to study broadcast journalism. "They have one of the best programs anywhere, but it costs a pretty penny, so I figured the smart thing to do would be to spend my first two years at GCC. It was a great decision."

Some of Karlo's friends had joined the honors program at GCC and had successfully transferred to top-tier schools, so he took advantage of it himself. "The honors program at GCC was great for me because they wanted you out!" he explained. "It was all about getting your grades and transferring to a good school. The classes were a little more difficult, but they were goal-oriented and the students all meant business—no one was looking to just hang out."

Glendale College wasn't just a good place for Karlo to save money, though. He also seized an opportunity to write for the school's newspaper, *El Vaquero*, where he gained valuable experience in the field he loves: sports journalism. "I covered a lot of GCC basketball and football games, interviewing the coaches afterward. It was a great starting point and it gave me a lot of confidence."

His college reporting led to some freelance jobs with the *Burbank Leader* and *Glendale News Press* and the grades he earned were impressive enough for USC to take notice. "I was admitted to the Annenberg School for Communication and immediately joined their TV station. I saw all the cool things that go on behind the scenes, and fell in love with directing and editing," he said.

By his second semester at USC he was the sports director, and through the experience and contacts he built, he was able to land a job at KCAL9 once he graduated. "I started as a production assistant, but I eventually got my shot at editing." Karlo worked for KCAL and CBS for eight years and won four regional Emmy Awards for his work. He's also worked for FOX Sports and the NFL Network and now spends his days at the CBS Studio Center editing *The Insider* television show.

"When I ask myself 'How did I get to this point?' I realize the foundation was set much earlier," Karlo reflected. "You might not know it when you're in the moment, but if you work your tail off at every opportunity, it will pay off."

TAMARA

Armed with a bachelor's degree in fashion marketing from Woodbury University, Tamara Baskin is growing her career in public relations and social media marketing for the local fashion industry. Although her mother had always raised her to be independent, according to Tamara, "She never expected me to take it this far."

She was born with what's commonly referred to as brittle bone disease, and the experts told Tamara's mother that she probably wouldn't live to see her first birthday. "By the time I was one, they said I wouldn't live to be five. When I was five, they said I'd probably never live a normal life—that I'd break so much I wouldn't be able to move," she recalled.

As she got older her bones got stronger, but growing up she did suffer fractures—over 200 of them. "I really thought that was the normal thing; that everyone goes to the doctor, everyone has surgery, everyone breaks bones and wears casts," she said. "Even now... I know I'm in a wheelchair, but in my mind I'm not. I feel I'm like everyone else. I mean, I'm not going to try to take the stairs, but if everyone was going to do a marathon, I'd just do it in my chair."

Her older sister was the first in her family to attend college, and Tamara was determined to follow suit. "I wasn't able to go away to school, but I wanted to feel like I was," she said. "So I chose to come to Glendale. Even though it may not have been that far from home, I didn't know anyone here, so I was able to have that experience. And looking back, it really helped to force me out of my shell."

Tamara got a job in the GCC Transfer Center, but she quickly fell into the same routine that a lot of community college students follow; go to class, go to work, go home.

"I used to pass the student center every day on my way home and I noticed all the flyers—sign up for this, sign up for that—and one day I just decided to go in and see what it was about," Tamara remembered. "I applied for a position with the student government, but I was really nervous and I didn't get it." Discouraged but not defeated, she tried again the next semester and became the Representative of Campus Relations.

Once she got rolling she didn't stop. She served as Vice President of Campus Relations, reported on campus issues for the school paper, and worked with middle school students for the Students Talk About Race (STAR) program. "I never saw myself as being good with kids," she confided. "They tend to think I'm a kid too, so I didn't think they'd listen to me. But I earned their respect and got them to open up, and I learned a lot in the process."

By the time she was ready to transfer, Tamara had won a handful of scholarships. "Being active on campus gave me a lot to put on my resumé, so that was helpful," she said. "I left GCC with a good chunk of money to use for my degree."

"I was really well prepared and able to play a leadership role at Woodbury," she continued. "But it was my experience at GCC that helped me establish the writing and public relations skills I use today."

CLAUDIA

She has a passion for fashion that started early in life while she was working as a child model, but designing and sewing clothes weren't really her thing. So when it came time to choose a major for college, Claudia Nuñez played it smart and went into business.

"Math was my weakness in high school," she said, "so I thought if I chose business, I could turn it into a strength. Since business is a pretty broad subject, I knew I could use it in just about any field and do something I really like."

As a buyer for BCBGeneration, Claudia chooses the merchandise that will be sold in their stores nation-wide, so she has to stay on top of all the latest fashion trends. "My job is also very business oriented," she explained. "We use a lot of formulas and spreadsheets and study sales reports and profit margins. Matching the business skills that I learned in school with the fashion trends that I love makes this the perfect job for me."

When she was preparing for college, Claudia was focused more on where she would go than on what she would study. She was raised to be a Trojan; her older brother had attended USC and she grew up wearing cardinal and gold at all their games. "When I graduated high school, I didn't even consider applying anywhere else," she said.

Her application was declined, so she began researching community colleges. "I looked at the schools with the top transfer rates and chose Glendale, even though it would mean I'd have to commute from Downey, where my family lived."

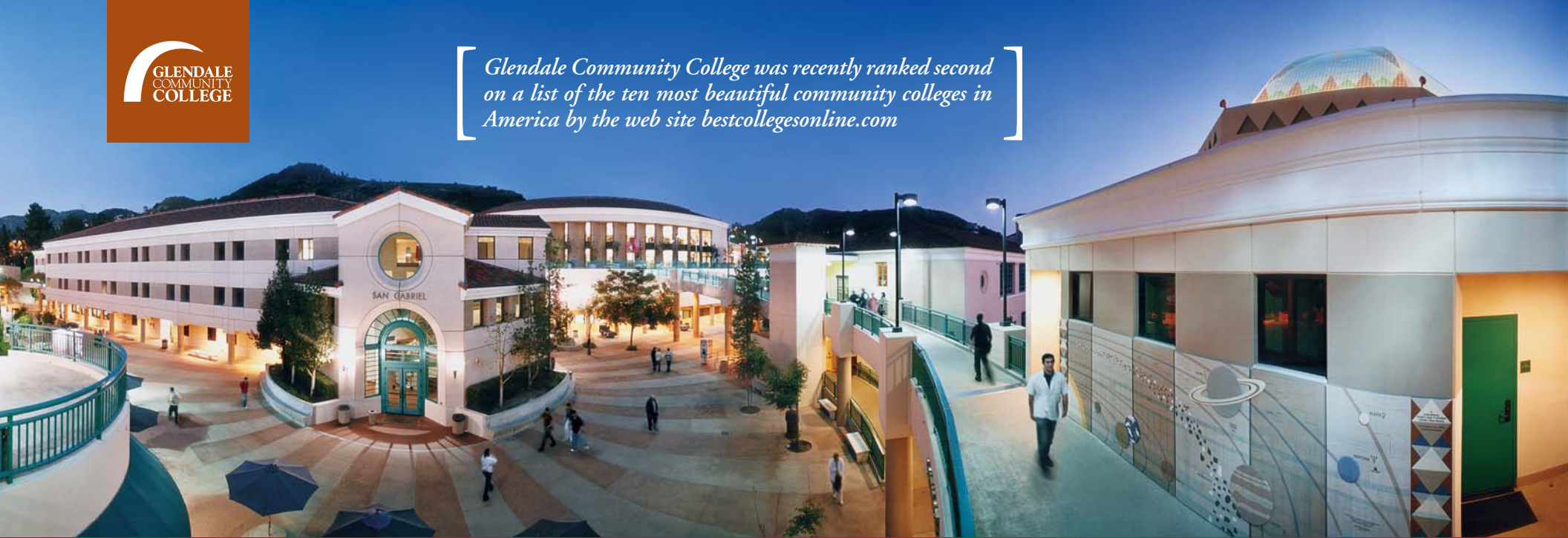
The counselors at GCC helped Claudia devise a plan to increase her chances of transferring successfully. "I wanted to build up my resumé, so I got involved in a lot of campus activities," she said. She served in the student government and joined clubs, like OLHE, the Organization of Latinos for Higher Education. "I also crammed as many classes as I could into my schedule, and after two years it worked—I was able to transfer."

At the USC Marshall School of Business, Claudia continued to maximize her odds of success by getting involved with campus groups and clubs. She immediately joined the Fashion Industry Association, and that ultimately led to an internship with BCBG—the fashion design house with over 20 brands and 500 retail outlets worldwide.

"I chose international business as my focus and spent a semester at the University of Manchester in England as part of a study abroad program," she said. "It was a great experience, and I think it helped me get hired full time after I graduated."

Claudia earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration, but these days, it takes more than a degree to get you noticed. According to Claudia, "You have to get involved and show them that you have some passion."

Glendale Community College was recently ranked second on a list of the ten most beautiful community colleges in America by the web site bestcollegesonline.com



Planning to Transfer to a Four-Year University? You Should Know:

- **Glendale Community College has the highest transfer rate in Region 7.**
 [Region 7 includes Santa Monica, Pasadena, Pierce, El Camino, LA Valley, East Los Angeles, Los Angeles, West Los Angeles, Harbor, Mission, Southwest, Trade-Tech, and Compton.]
- **Glendale Community College has the fourth-highest transfer rate in the state.**
 [Among similarly-sized community colleges.]
- **Glendale Community College is the fifth leading transfer school to UCLA.**
 [Among all schools in the state/country/world/universe!]

Data source: California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office for 2009–2010 school year.

Get in touch with these helpful Student Services. Our mission is your success!

Academic Counseling	(818) 240-1000 ext. 5918	www.glendale.edu/counseling
Admissions & Records	(818) 240-1000 ext. 5910	www.glendale.edu/AR
Athletics	(818) 240-1000 ext. 3193	www.glendale.edu/athletics
ASGCC (Student Government)/Clubs/Organizations	(818) 240-1000 ext. 3033	www.glendale.edu/as
Assessment Center	(818) 240-1000 ext. 5329	www.glendale.edu/AR/assessment
Bookstore	(818) 240-1000 ext. 3015	www.glendalebookstore.com
CalWORKS	(818) 240-1000 ext. 5508	www.glendale.edu/calworks
Career Center	(818) 240-1000 ext. 5407	www.glendale.edu/careercenter
Center for Students with Disabilities	(818) 240-1000 ext. 5905	www.glendale.edu/csd
Center for Student Involvement (CSI)	(818) 240-1000 ext. 5789	www.glendale.edu/csi
EOPS	(818) 240-1000 ext. 6900	www.glendale.edu/eops
Fees, Tuition & Refunds	(818) 240-1000 ext. 5930	
Financial Aid	(818) 240-1000 ext. 5916	www.glendale.edu/financialaid
Health Center	(818) 240-1000 ext. 5909	
Instructional Services	(818) 240-1000 ext. 5904	
Learning Center	(818) 240-1000 ext. 5333	www.glendale.edu/learningcenter
Library	(818) 240-1000 ext. 5586	www.glendale.edu/library
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Student Employment	(818) 240-1000 ext. 5194	www.glendale.edu/ses
Student Outreach Services	(818) 240-1000 ext. 4767	www.glendale.edu/sos
Tutoring Center	(818) 240-1000 ext. 5333	



Get to Know Student Outreach Services

Do you have any questions about Glendale Community College? Would you like us to mail you information about our programs? How about a campus tour? Please call Student Outreach Services: (818) 240-1000 ext. 3031. We will be happy to assist you.

www.glendale.edu/sos

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