

# Alumni News

WINTER 2019



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Angie Dickinson, actress and GCC alum.



## Unique Student Research at GCC

At Glendale Community College, science faculty has created opportunities for students to participate in hands-on scientific research. Ever since the program has been established, there is an incredible body of evidence showing its benefits for our students include enhancement of logical, analytical, and technical skills.



In Organic Chemistry Research, students leave the program knowing how to responsibly build a compound and characterize it, and its properties. The goal is for each student to become a molecular architect and engineer. Since the start of the Organic Chemistry Research program the following results have been noted:

- More than 90 students have been trained through the program.
- Four of the alums are currently enrolled in Ph.D. programs in chemistry and biochemistry.
- Five of the alums are completing their M.S. in chemistry and biochemistry.
- 35 of the alums chose chemistry or biochemistry as their major field of study, and are currently completing their B.S. in reputable four-year universities.

The program is led by Dr. Asmik Oganessian, Chemistry professor.

Students use microbiology and molecular techniques in addition to bioinformatics to search and identify genes that govern motility and attachment in a bacterium that promotes plant growth and has agricultural importance. Students work collaboratively and independently on all aspects of research, from making growth media to cleaning the glassware to isolating genomic DNA. Since its inception, over 95 students have participated in the research project, and together, they have isolated over 100 genes, some novel with unknown functions. They have attended and presented their work at several regional, state, and national conferences. One student won the Outstanding Research Award at the Southern California American Society for Microbiology, two won the national microbial agar contest sponsored by the American

Society for Microbiology. Recently, three students have their work published in the Proceedings from the Bay Honors Research Symposium.

This program is led by Dr. Shelley Thai, Biology professor.

In the Natural History Research Internship, GCC offers a paid research internship in partnership with the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles, one of the largest natural history museums in North America. GCC students engage directly with museum researchers under the supervision of GCC faculty mentors. The students learn some of the modern techniques used in collection-based research and management, including electron microscopy, clearing and staining techniques, DNA extraction and sequence analysis, energy dispersive X ray spectroscopy, fossil preparation, and X-ray photography and analysis. Since 2015 more than 50 students have participated in this research program. Significantly, two students have published scientific papers as co-authors in peer-reviewed journals, and others are waiting for manuscripts to be submitted for publication. More than 90% of these GCC students are completing their bachelors in STEM and 68% have already transferred to prestigious 4-year universities. Many are now starting Ph.D. or M.S. programs in the biological sciences, while others have begun programs in medicine and other health sciences.

This internship program is led by Dr. Javier Gago, Biology professor.



Dr. Asmik Oganessian



Students Involved in Research

## Hungry and Homeless

### Finding Solutions for Our Students

Some things may have changed since you were a student at Glendale Community College. For example, housing and food insecurity are very real for today's students.

According to the 2018 study of community college students "Struggling to Survive" by the Assembly Office of Research, 56% of community college students cut the size of their meals or skipped meals and were hungry because they didn't have enough money for food. The survey also found that 35% of community college students were experiencing housing insecurity, and 14% were homeless.

Housing and food insecurity is due to many reasons but most students say they are working multiple jobs, caring for children or relatives, and the overall increase in living costs are causing these alarming issues.

GCC is working with community partners to combat food insecurity for our students. The GCC Food Pantry Task Force was created in July 2016 to understand food insecurity among GCC students, to increase awareness of hunger and poverty issues among the GCC community, and to provide food, hygiene supplies, and poverty alleviation-related information to students in need.

The Food Pantry Task Force has since merged with the existing Food For Thought Program, becoming the GCC Food For Thought Pantry. Glendale College President David Viar convened a Student Basic Needs ad hoc task force to identify all issues and GCC's resources to support our students.

Thanks to our community partners:

- Oakmont League
- Keller Williams Realty
- Glendale Association of Realtors
- Kiwanis Club of Glendale
- Soroptimist International of Glendale
- Trader Joe's – Montrose
- Sunrise Rotary



GCC Campus

If you are interested in supporting our students facing issues, you may **donate to the GCC Alumni Care fund**. While we may not be able to solve these issues completely, we can help our students continue on their educational path to success and a greater life for themselves and their family.

Our campus partners include the Glendale College Foundation, Associated Students of Glendale Community College (ASGCC), El Vaquero student newspaper and the GCC Scholars. In fact, Glendale College Foundation has revised its Articles of Incorporation to become an official part of the Regional Food Bank. Now, in addition to weekly deliveries to our Food Pantry, they have helped bring a mobile unit to campus every month.

*When you were a student at GCC, what were some of the barriers you faced? Who at GCC helped you navigate around them? Share your story with us and we will use your words of wisdom to help your fellow Vaqueros navigate these tremendous issues they are facing. Share with us at <https://www.facebook.com/gccalumniassociation/>.*

## Foundation Board Awards Record Number of Grants

[Donate Now](#)



GCC Foundation

Thanks to the generous support of many donors and the Foundation's President's Circle, the Glendale College Foundation approved a record number of diverse program grants this year. In total, they awarded 24 grants totaling over \$207,830.

- Food for Thought Pantry
- Equipment for Organic Chemistry Research
- Physics Lab Revision

- Cap & Gowns for EOPS Students
- Promoting Diversity in Engineering
- Student fees for the EMT training
- The Los Angeles Writers Series
- Garfield Campus Art Exhibition
- Student Success Center
- Athletic Department including: digital camera & photography & other support

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- Martin Luther King Breakfast
- Study Abroad Scholarships
- 2 Steinway pianos and a Steinway concert series
- Tuition reimbursement for Jump Start Students

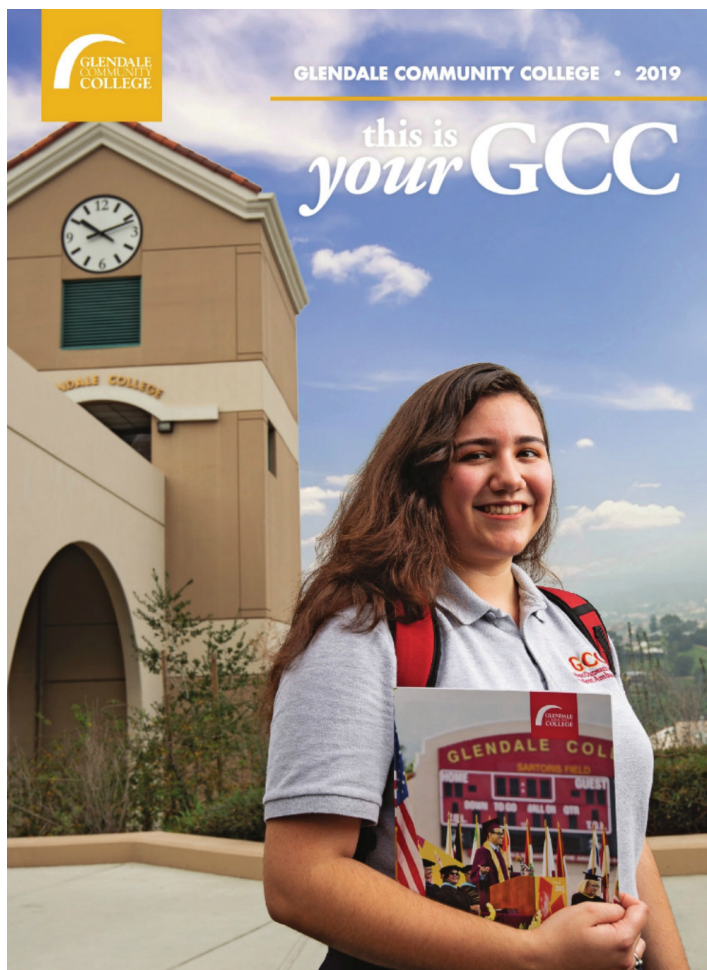
- Plants for the Library
- Multicultural & Community Engagement Center
- Career Service Center
- Sustainable Earth Project

- Industry Training Career Open House
- Latina Power in STEM Conference
- Field trip for disabled students

For information about the Glendale College Foundation, please contact **Lisa Brooks** at [lbrooks@glendale.edu](mailto:lbrooks@glendale.edu).

## Catch up with GCC

[Click here to view the latest edition.](#)



The college has released its latest edition of *this is your GCC*. Follow the link below to catch up with all things new and exciting at GCC.

## Legacy Society Is Launched

Many of your fellow alumni have sought out ways to support the college. Through the work of many volunteers, the Foundation has created a Legacy Society. Hear what your fellow Vaqueros have to say about it in a brand new video.

[Click here to watch the video.](#)



## Starbucks Arrives

Recent changes in the college's food service program have opened up new dining options, including a Starbucks coffee kiosk in the Learning Commons in Sierra Vista. Students are enjoying this addition to our food and beverage options.

When you attended GCC, where was your favorite place to grab coffee on campus? [Click here to share on our alumni Facebook page.](#)

