



NEWSLETTER

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Alumni Notes



Katrina Hill, GCC Class of 2021, shares her thoughts and experiences on having transferred to CSUN as a Psychology major.

This [Fall 2021] semester has been pretty good at CSUN. I'm enjoying my courses, the challenge to take on more, and I've applied and been accepted to study abroad in Germany this coming Spring semester. It's a lot of work to manage but being in the University and this much closer to my career goals seems to have given me a boost in motivation to take on more (within reason).

I'm still needing to do my training for the Crisis Text Line, which I applied for in summer and was accepted. I'm also on the board of a new Womxn United club in CSUN. I'm still looking for a mentor within CSUN. I will admit that it's been harder to connect with professors and potential mentors with these virtual classes. That's been slightly disappointing but I'm not giving up. I've been in many sessions for graduate schools and learning about the GRE, applications, resumes, CVs, and all of that good stuff that comes with applying for graduate school. It's a lot to plan but I've had some support and finally got most of my big ticket items on a white board for overview.

On a fun note, CSUN has a great gym on campus and they offer some exciting outdoor adventure classes for 2 units each that I have taken and plan to continue as electives. This fall I took Flatwater Boating and we were at Castaic Lake playing in the water on kayaks, canoes, and standup paddle boards. It was a great stress reliever.

Thank you so much [Ellen Oppenberg] for all the support you provided while I was at GCC. You and a few other staff definitely helped me get a boost before going to university.

HELLOS



Hello to Maryam Hassani Golyakh, Learning Disability Specialist

I received my M.A. and PhD in Education from Panjab University in India. I have published 22 papers and presented at conferences. I also obtained a B.A. in ESL from Iran. I am a self-motivated, enthusiastic learner. In the US, I earned certification as a Learning Disability Specialist, and am working toward certification in rehabilitation counseling. I taught ESL at an English Learning School in Iran for five years and then worked as an Import Expert and English translator/interpreter for an auto manufacturer for eight years. I've taught teaching credentials at three universities in India, Iran, and Canada, specializing in teacher education. I've always had a passion for advocating for marginalized people, whether it is through physical assistance, tutoring, or emotional and mental support. I have supported students with disabilities in many educational settings as an instructor, counselor, or specialist. As a learner, I am actively involved in various on-campus and off-campus activities to learn more about the college and the students to serve them better.

I enjoy anything from cozy times at home with my husband, walking, hiking, and video chatting with family and friends in my spare time. I also enjoy meeting new people, and I love to learn about new gadgets and experiment with them. I am looking forward to learning Tai Chi.

Hello to baby Ellie!

My name is Ellie Francis Villarreal. My mom is Jesse, the DSPS Counselor at the Garfield campus. I was born in Oct 2021.

I am doing well, and growing and learning everyday!



Hello to Janelle Delgado, interim Garfield DSPS counselor

Janelle is a proud alumna of the GCC DSPS program and is thrilled to experience this full circle moment. She hopes to inspire DSPS students to achieve their academic goals. She graduated from CSULA with a Master's degree in rehab counseling, and is finishing her Learning Disability Specialist studies. Janelle has dedicated her life to public service.

Previously, she was a healthcare and education congressional aide for the US House of Representatives. She also worked as an organizer for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and for the California Faculty Association, working at ten of the eleven Southern California CSU campuses as a campus service representative for faculty during contract negotiations.

When she is not working, Janelle is hiking the Verdugo and Santa Monica mountains and running at the Rose Bowl. She is also an amateur chef who loves to explore the exciting Los Angeles food scene and farmers markets. During the summer, you will find her out dancing and enjoying the Hollywood Bowl. She enjoys growing her own tomatoes and vegetables and traveling throughout Latin America and the tropics, especially visiting her family's native Costa Rica.

2021 Tokyo Summer Paralympics



For the first time ever, the Paralympics received significant airtime, 1200 hours, on major networks, NBC, NBCSN, and the Olympic Channel. In 2016, only 70 hours were aired by NBC. Team USA closed with 104 medals (37 gold, 36 silver, 31 bronze) with the majority of medals won by women.

Sources: <https://themighty.com/2021/02/2021-paralympics-prime-time-disability/> and <https://olympics.nbcsports.com/2021/09/05/united-states-medal-tracker-for-tokyo-paralympics/>

Disability Representation in TV & Film



1IN4 is an intersectional coalition of disabled creatives currently working in Hollywood focused on long-term institutional shifts to increase employment and authentic representation of disabled people. (The name refers to the statistic that 1 out of 4 individuals in the USA has a disability.) Per their website, individuals with disabilities are seen in only 1% of screen time. They are working to change that and to include accessibility in offices, crews, and sets.

Learn more at <https://www.1in4coalition.org/>

Netflix seems to be making an effort in making and airing shows, films, and documentaries about disabilities. Titles include *Audible*, *Crip Camp*, *Deaf U*, *Love on the Spectrum*, *Special*, *the reason i jump*, *The Speed Cubers*, *Zion*, *7 Yards*, and more. *Rising Phoenix* is about "elite athletes and insiders reflect on the Paralympic Games and examine how they impact of global understanding of disability, diversity, and excellence."



California School for the Deaf Breaks Record

The football team of this Riverside school broke its record with a 12-1 season. The only loss came in the Southern Section 8-man Division 2 championship game against Canoga Park Faith Baptist. Their performance gained national attention and they were interviewed/covered by CNN, ESPN, NBC, and CBS. "Hearing families with deaf family members were able to see our example, and that was probably the coolest thing, being able to really be a representative for the deaf community,' Trevin [the quarterback] said. 'I definitely feel like we have changed the perspective of realizing, like, 'Deaf can do it.'"

Source: <https://www.latimes.com/sports/highschool/story/2021-12-08/csdr-football-team-fell-short-of-title-but-made-history?fbclid=IwAR3tXbZFo2ytz81d2vtdqX3AfPj538fpvUPe6mCtrp0ryVOHHE2J4TL4JJQ>

GOODBYES



Tina Andersen-Wahlberg, DSPS Director, is retiring in February. Tina has been with GCC since June 1994. Her first position was as a High Tech Specialist (now ARC). She became interim director in 2011 and permanent director in 2014. We wish her all the best and will miss her greatly!

It been a pleasure working with you. Wishing you the best of luck in your retirement. Travel as much as you can and enjoy yourself. ~Diana C

Tina, I wish you the very best in your coming years. Congratulations! Hope you enjoy every minute of your retirement. ~Diana M

While reminiscing, memories that will never leave me are when we moved the HTC and IAC to the SG Bldg and became work neighbors; our shared appreciation for laughing; drinking Diet Coke, and loving our dogs. Congratulations not only on your retirement, but on all the incredible years of work you put into getting there. Wishing you the best of health, happiness, and success on your new journey in life. ~Ellen

Happy Retirement Tina! Wish you all the best in the new chapter of your life. Congratulations! ~Flora

What an incredible loss for DSPS! You have always been such a mentor to me and have been supportive of my work at Garfield campus since I began at GCC many years ago now. I will miss talking with you, and I will miss all of the guidance you provided over the years. You're a wonderful leader and there will be big shoes to fill in your absence. ~Jesse

Enjoy your retirement with good health, and filled with lots of fun. I will miss our book exchange and the stories we told each other about our pets. ~Karmen

Tina, I wish you the best in your retirement. ~Lee

Thank you so much for all your advice and support. I've enjoyed swapping stories about our little critters. All the best for a well-deserved retirement. I hope you enjoy every minute of it! ~Rita

I'll never forget how your checking on me and inquiring how I'm doing alleviated the anxieties that come with being a newbie. Thank you for spending every second with the team and me. It means a great deal to me. I will miss working with you every day. Wishing you all the happiness and joy retirement can bring for you.

~Maryam

I congratulate you for your permanent leave. May you be proud of the work you have done. Enjoy your permanent weekend. ~Rozik

They say all good things come to an end, but this is really a wonderful new beginning. I wish you all the best in your retirement; we'll miss you! ~Scott

It's always difficult to say goodbye to a friend whom you have known and worked with for many years! How many times did I wish you good-morning as I passed your office on my way to the IAC? Too many to count! But your smile always put me in the right mood. As I bid you adieu I want you to know that I will always treasure those years and our special friendship and mutual respect. You were always there for me to help with my technical problems, thank you for your patience. Best wishes Tina, I will miss you. ~Stela

Tina, we have worked together for so many years, and you've been a wonderful mentor and sounding board. I wish you all the best in your retirement, and hope we will stay in touch. ~Tracey

GOODBYES

A tribute to Adapted Physical Education Teaching Assistant, H. Mike Geiger, who passed in October 2021.

Our rugged hero Mike lost his long battle with throat and mouth cancer. He passed peacefully yet was aware he was surrounded by family and friends. Mike's appearance of being a tough biker dude with a gruff demeanor cloaked a wonderful, kind, insightful soul. For those of you who knew Mike, you know he would "have given the shirt off of his back" to support our students with disabilities.



Mike was a homegrown GCC DSPS / Adapted Physical Education alum. He enrolled at GCC and Adapted PE after being released from a rehab facility where he spent 20 months mending from a horrible accident on his Harley Davidson motorcycle. He enrolled in fitness, Tai Chi, and swimming classes and embraced exercise to gain the endurance he needed to continue on his quest to be a computer graphic artist. He became an integral part of the Adapted PE instruction team when he started to volunteer to help in all of the classes. He volunteered for nine years and was hired as an Adapted PE Teaching Assistant. His experiences in the Adapted PE program and also as a person with disabilities made him invaluable to the students and teachers.

His sense of humor, dedication to the Adapted PE program and allegiance to the students and professors will be greatly missed. We believe that Mike would want everyone to try to remember that a life well-lived is a beautiful life.

A scholarship fund honoring Mike has been established with the GCC Foundation office. This scholarship will be given yearly to a GCC student who has enrolled in and benefited from Adapted PE while at GCC. Donations to the H. Mike Geiger Memorial Adapted Physical Education Scholarship in memory of Mike Geiger may be made to GLENDALE COLLEGE FOUNDATION. (Please put in the memo line "Mike Geiger Memorial Fund.") Mail to Glendale College Foundation, 1500 N Verdugo Road, Glendale, CA 91208 or go online at www.glendale.edu/donation. Mention in the comment section: "In memory of Mike Geiger."



~Dr. Lee Parks and Coach Laura Matsumoto

CONTACT INFORMATION

Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD)

Diana C., Flora, Karmen, Rita, Tina, Tracey
csd@glendale.edu, ext. 5905

MON to FRI, 8:00AM to 4:30PM for the office.
Counselors' days and hours vary.

Accommodations Resource Center (ARC)

David, Diana M., Elena, Ellen, Laura,
Maryam, Mauricio, Rozik, and Stela
ARC@glendale.edu, ext. 5530

MON to FRI 8:00AM to 4:30PM for the office.
Specialists' and tutors' days and hours vary.

Alternate Media

Scott, sziegler@glendale.edu, ext. 3366
MON to FRI 8:00AM to 4:30PM

Interpreting Services

Kim, kweissman@glendale.edu
MON to FRI 9:00AM to 3:00PM

Garfield DSPS

Janelle, jdelgado@glendale.edu, ext. 5027
WEDS & THURS, 8:00AM to 7:00PM (through February 17)

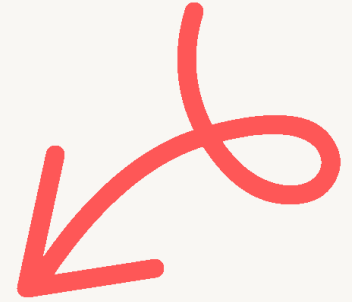
Adapted Physical Education (No winter APE classes)

Dr. Lee Parks: lparks@glendale.edu
Coach Laura Matsumoto: lauram@glendale.edu

Are you following our IG? We hope so!

If you are, then you know that you're up to date with what's happening with DSPS and more. Check it out to learn about workshop and scholarship announcements, employment opportunities, fundraisers, conferences, webinars, deadlines, and more.

Follow us at [dsps_gcc](https://www.instagram.com/dsps_gcc).



Check In

Have you made an appointment to meet with your counselor? If not, contact CSD or Garfield DSPS.

Need help with study strategies or Math/English tutoring? Contact ARC.

