



## Yawn proudly

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YOUR HEALTH, PAGE D1

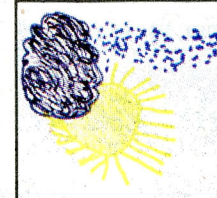


## Deerfield

Monday's annual town meeting passes new zoning bylaws.

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WEATHER



52/31

SHOWERS/CLOUDS

Cameron Lococo

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# THE RECORDER

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Serving the people of Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region

ESTABLISHED  
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GREENFIELD, MASS

TUESDAY

APRIL 27, 2010

75¢

## GCC names annual distinguished alum

### Photographer Terri Cappucci to be honored

#### Recorder Staff

GREENFIELD — Terri Cappucci thought that someone was playing a joke on her when she was told that

she is the recipient of this year's Greenfield Community College Distinguished Alumni Award.

"They told me on April Fool's Day," she said. "When I realized it

was real ... I was very honored and I was pretty moved."

Cappucci, of Turners Falls, was given the award in recognition of her professional accomplishments and community service. She will be presented with the award at the Scholarship Awards Ceremony on

Sunday. She has worked as a photojournalist, photography instructor, and, from 2006-2008, as the executive director of the Greenfield cablevision studio.

Cappucci graduated from GCC in 1993 with an associate's degree in liberal arts.

"I don't know if I would have gone as far as I have without GCC because it really helped me see the bigger picture as far as my place in the world and what I am capable of with knowledge," said Cappucci. "I

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## ■ Distinguished: Contributions to community

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received an outstanding education at GCC, had three great instructors that I admired, respected, and learned so much from," she said. "When I look back at my time at GCC and my studies and work since then, what has become most important to me is to be true to myself, always stay teachable, and never miss an opportunity to learn."

As a freelance photographer, she has won an Associated Press Photo of the

Month award and an Honorable Mention for the Gordon Parks Award in 1996, and been the subject of a number of solo exhibits, including an exhibit at the Statehouse in Boston. Her work has been published in national and international newspapers and publications including the Boston Globe, New York Times, South Coast Herald (in South Africa), The World Health Organization and Random House.

"Choosing the right person

for the award is always difficult as we have so many excellent nominations each year," said Sandra Lively, chair of the Distinguished Alumni Award Committee. "Like past recipients, Terri has many qualities that made her stand out from the other candidates. She is incredibly devoted to giving and sharing her photography selflessly. She is well-known for giving to the less fortunate both locally and in South Africa. She believes in education and continues to grow in her field of work and enjoys drawing people in to her world to share her gift with them."

Cappucci grew up in Bernardston, graduating from Pioneer Valley Regional School in 1984. As a child, Cappucci told her father that she planned to go to Africa and become a photojournalist, Cappucci began her study of photography in Bob Coy's art class at Pioneer Valley Regional School and in 1987 fulfilled her dream to live in Africa. She spent three years in South Africa, traveling around the country on a music team while exploring her spiritual life.

After returning to the U.S. from South Africa in 1989, Cappucci married and had a son. Missing South Africa, and knowing she wanted to work outside the home, Cappucci enrolled in an English writing class at GCC taught by Joanne Hayes. Hayes exposed her to new perspectives on the world and encouraged her to take more classes. Cappucci studied toward admission into

GCC's nursing program, but ultimately ended up in the art department, studying photography, first with Budge Hyde, then with Tom Young.

"In my teens, textbook learning was very difficult for me. I thought I was limited in the academic world," said Cappucci. "I barely graduated from high school and that made me think I wasn't the college type, so to speak."

She said, while at GCC, she discovered she had Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. After developing alternative learning styles, she said she realized her potential.

"I was a visual learner and the ADHD so-called disability, turned out to be my greatest ability," she said.

After graduating from GCC in 1993, Cappucci worked at The Recorder as an intern and then the Springfield Union-News. In 1998, she became a steady freelance photojournalist for the Boston Globe and the Boston Globe Magazine and accepted assignments for other national and international publications. She also returned to South Africa in 1994, covering the country's first all-race elections. She has traveled to South Africa 18 times since 1987, documenting the shift from apartheid to the post-apartheid era. Through her work, she met President Nelson Mandela, President Thabo Mbeki and many other prominent South African leaders.

Between trips to South Africa, Cappucci continued



submitted photo

Terri Cappucci poses with a camera. She is this year's recipient of GCC's Distinguished Alumni Award.

her formal education at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 2000 receiving a bachelor's degree in photojournalism and social documentary from the University Without Walls program, and, in 2003, a master's degree in fine arts focusing on photography and digital video production.

While a graduate student

at UMass, Cappucci began teaching photography. When her former photography instructor, Bob Coy, was retiring from Pioneer Valley Regional School, she spent a year teaching at Pioneer and helped set up the school's photography and digital art programs. She also taught at the Hallmark Institute of Photography.