

Award-winning artists help GCC celebrate its 50th anniversary

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An art exhibit, "Peterson & Peterson," honoring the 50th anniversary of GCC, is on display in the Palm Court Lounge (SU 104) through Feb. 25 at the college, 6000 W. Olive Ave.

The show features work by Willis ("Pete") Peterson and his daughter, Cynthia Peterson.

Pete is a renowned photographer whose long career has been marked by award-winning nature and wildlife photography. His work has been published numerous times in *Arizona Highways* and many other leading publications.

Cynthia Peterson is an award-winning painter. She has received awards from the National Watercolor Society and Watercolor USA, among other organizations, and her work has been published in many leading art publications.

Both Petersons have a history of teaching as well as creating their own work. Pete joined GCC in 1968 as one of the founding faculty members. He started in the art department and developed the photo area. He retired in 1986.

Cynthia began formal studies in art at GCC while her father was still teaching on the campus. After completing her studies at GCC, she went on to earn a bachelor's degree in fine art at Northern Arizona University, and later, a master of fine arts degree in painting and drawing.

Like her father, Cynthia has coupled her personal creative work with teaching at the community college level. She began teaching at GCC and now works at Mesa Community College.

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