Communitas

MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter December 8th, 2003

Business & Information Technology Department Continues to Change with the Times.

In some ways, the Business & Information Technology (BITS) Department is MVCC's oldest instructional department. The College's first program when our doors opened in 1946, was Retail Business Management.

But this 50+-year-old department continues to evolve. Beyond the recent name change to Business & Information Technology, the Department is actively updating programs and introducing new courses to meet the needs of students, employers, and transfer institutions.

During the past two years, the Department has been revamping curricula in Computer Information Systems, Website Design & Management, Business Management, and Banking & Insurance - which may soon be known as Banking & Financial Management Services.

Some of the overhaul has been triggered by enrollment concerns as well as issues of relevancy. In the case of Banking & Insurance, some potential students misinterpreted the program's potential, mistakenly believing that it prepared graduates for employment as bank tellers or insurance file clerks.

Instructor Barbara Scantlebury

The first step in overcoming this misunderstanding is the proposed program name change. The next step will be to meet with the area's many banking and insurance employers to seek their input on program content and to clarify the types of positions for which MVCC graduates might reasonably expect to compete. Part of this discussion will be to clarify the current operational definitions of these two types of financial organizations, as

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Part-Time College Study Hotline in Operation December 9th, 16th and January 6th

The College will operate a special telephone hotline on three Tuesday evenings -- December 9th and 16th and on January 6th -- for persons who are considering part-time college study and have questions about courses, costs enrollment procedures or other issues. The hotline, 792-5456, will operate from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. each evening, and will be staffed by college administrators and staff members equipped to answer a variety of questions about part-time study.

A wide range of classes on both campuses are open to part-time students, including those who may only wish to take a single course for personal enrichment. Courses in that category may include music, art or film appreciation, language instruction in German, Italian or Spanish, or courses in theater, poetry, literature or fine art. More than 50 courses are also being offered on-line, via the World Wide Web.

Submissions for the last Communitas for the fall semester should be emailed to Sharon Zohne (szohne@mvcc.edu), by Wednesday, Dec. 17th

BITS Department, cont.

clear differences between them continue to disappear. Professor Arthur Friedberg (pictured above),is leading the effort to update this program.

Concerns about enrollment are also causing the Department to pay close attention to the Office Technologies and Office Practice programs. Over the long term, it may be necessary to consider replacing those programs with related concentrations within the Business Management program. Assistant Professor Barbara Echtermann and Associate Professor Mary Ellen Evans have identified a list of courses to be included in such concentrations. Despite some misconceptions among the general public that computerization has reduced the importance of specific office skills education, there continues to be an instructional need that the Department is committed to meet.

The Department's Small Business Certificate will receive renewed marketing attention in the months ahead. The goal of the marketing effort will be to grow the program. In order for that to happen, the Department will need to educate small business owners about the potential benefits of our comprehensive certificate program.

The Department hopes to add a new multimedia course in both the Computer Information Systems and Website Design & Management programs as soon as next fall, pending action on a proposal that will soon come before the Curriculum Committee. The proposed course, developed by Instructor Bill McGowan and Assistant Professor Doreen Nichols, reflects the fact that both career fields are more frequently utilizing various graphics, images and videos in their work.

Consideration is also being given by the Department to further changes to the Accounting program. Last year the Department approved a new A.S. degree, which should offer our students a better transfer option than the current A.A.S. degree. In developing articulation agreements with several four-year institutions, it has become clear that the upper level courses we currently teach will not transfer for program credit. We are committed to accommodating the needs of students planning to transfer into Bachelor's degree programs as well as those planning to enter the workforce immediately after their MVCC graduation. In part, this examination of the program is driven by more stringent requirements placed by The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) on four-year colleges who are either currently certified or are in candidacy for certification. Professor John Snyder and Instructor Deborah Boyce have worked closely with potential transfer institutions on this for the past three years. We anticipate resolving the outstanding issues by the end of the academic year.

This fall, two new faculty members, Instructor Jeff Gauer and Assistant Professor David Morrill joined the Department. Both bring a new level of energy to the Department, according to Instructor Bill Lewis, Department Head, as well as strong academic backgrounds and excellent real-world experience. Gauer was product manager for Gardner Denver Machinery/Lamson Corporation in Syracuse from 1997 to 1999, and manager of strategic consulting services for Funkton 3 Advertising in Detroit from 1999 to 2003. He holds a

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MVCC A Partner In Statewide Addiction Workforce Training Program

The College is one of five academic partners in a statewide effort to increase the number of credentialed counselors working in the chemical dependency treatment field. MVCC has partnered with the Institute for Professional Development in the Addictions (IPDA), an Albany-based not-for-profit organization that recently received a $316,166 grant from the New York State Department of Health to retrain health care workers.

"The shortage of credentialed counselors and other addiction professionals has reached a crisis stage in New York State," reports Angela Warner, executive director of IPDA. She adds, "The Addictions Workforce Training Program provides entry-level staff with the education required to become credentialed and impacts the delivery of treatment service to individuals and their families suffering from addiction."

Staff members currently employed at chemical dependency treatment programs and other health care agencies in the Utica and surrounding areas can take advantage of this opportunity to receive support while attending classes at MVCC, including tuition assistance, textbook reimbursement, and mentoring sessions with a personal coach. After completing the coursework and required internship, staff members are eligible to apply for their counselor-in-training status from the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services.

BITS Department, cont.

B.A. in English from Virginia Tech, and an M.B.A. from the University of North Carolina. Morrill was an assistant professor of business at SUNY Canton from 1997 to 2003. He holds three degrees from Bryant College in Rhode Island; an A.S. and B.A. in Business Administration, and an M.B.A.

In recent years, the Department has adopted an inclusive decision making process centered on faculty empowerment in matters ranging from semester-to-semester routine to planning for future needs and goals. The process of building the class schedule relies heavily on a faculty committee, which examines the needs of the Department and its students to create teaching schedules. The Department is also developing a program for the systematic classroom observations of adjunct faculty members by volunteers from among the full-time faculty.

Partly as a result of much publicized national and international business ethics issues at firms such as Enron, Tyco and Arthur Anderson, the Department is looking at ways to increase the already existing ethics content in its courses. One approach may be development of a specific business ethics course. Another might be to embed discipline specific ethics instruction in existing courses in Accounting and Business Management, perhaps utilizing a case study approach.

A number of Departmental and individual achievements deserve recognition. MVCC Business & Information Technology graduates are highly regarded and welcomed as transfer students at Utica College, SUNYIT and SUNY Oswego. In fact, with Utica College we have jointly established a unique opportunity for our Business Management students to continue their education with Bachelor's degree classes at the Rome Campus.

Associate Professor George Goerner, working with Dick Suhr and others in the Center for Community & Economic Development, has created a unique online educational program for transportation managers in New York State's secondary education systems. The program was developed at the specific request of the New York Association for Pupil Transportation, which represents 600 public school districts and 30 BOCES districts.

The Department is an active participant in the Millennium Project, with Instructors William McGowan and Jeff Gauer spearheading that effort. With Delores Caruso, they are working with Proctor faculty on defining the role of the Department in the project, as well as curriculum development of online instruction.

This fall, Associate Professor Cathy Glod returned to the Business & Information Technology Department, and has picked up her responsibilities without missing a beat. Cathy is the Department representative to the College-Wide Curriculum Committee.

Instructor Barbara Scantlebury recently completed a special course in Windows, preparing to upgrade her MCSE network certification from Windows NT to Windows 2000. Barbara is also the Department point person for determining the role of the Department in incorporating cyber security and information assurance components into various courses.

There are others in the Department who do very important work for students, the Department, and for the College and deserve to be mentioned here. They include Assistant Professor Paul Bowkun (the point person for SUNY Assessment issues), Instructor Victor Lafrenz, Associate Professor William Smith (the Department representative on the APR Committee), Tutor/Mentor Patricia Cummings, who has helped many of our students survive accounting and other courses for the past 2 1/2 years, and especially Senior Typist Cathy Myers.

The hard work and educational creativity of all the people in Business & Information Technology have established and continue to refine one of the most comprehensive business education programs of any community college in this part of New York State, something in which all of us can take considerable pride.

Utica Symphony to Perform in Theater on January 17th

On Saturday, January 17th at 2:00 & 8:00 p.m., the Utica Symphony Orchestra will present *The Beauty of Baroque*, with soloists Michael Emery [violin], Cathy McGowan [flute], Charles Schneider [harpsichord] and narrator Rayna Schneider.

Charles Schneider will conduct the Symphony's performance of Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* in its entirety and *Bach's Brandenburg Concerti Nos. 3 and 5*.

A pre-concert lecture will begin 45 minutes before the curtain.

The 8:00 p.m. concert is sold out; but tickets for the 2 p.m. show are available for $18.50-$40.00, with $10 student "rush" one hour before curtain.

Call the Stanley Ticket Office at [315] 724-4000 to order. Group sales/discounts are available through Utica Symphony [315]-732-5146.

From the Desk of Gary Cohen Substance Abuse Coordinator.

In a faculty survey given August 18, 2003, 69.2 % surveyed said they did not know if disciplinary actions were taken when students violated alcohol and other drug policies.

For the 69.2% who answered the question "they did not know…"; the College does not allow violations to go unattended. There are policies and a set of procedures that are followed. Disciplinary action is taken, as we are a 'no tolerance' campus.

Upcoming Events

Monday, 12/8
Rome Student Activities Association Christmas Get-together, 2:00pm-5:00pm, PC Atrium, Rome Campus.

Tuesday, 12/9
Cultural Series Event: MOVIE: "Wittgenstein," 2:00pm, IT Theater. Admission is $4 or $2 with MV ID.

Rome Adult Student Association Meeting, 2:00pm, PC 210, Rome Campus.

SUNY IT Information Table, 10:00am-1:30pm; 6:00pm-8:00pm, PC Atrium, Rome Campus.

Men's Basketball vs. Morrisville, 7:00pm.

Wednesday, 12/10
Cultural Series Event: MOVIE: "Wittgenstein," 7:00pm, IT Theater. Admission is $4 or $2 with MV ID.

Hospitality Programs Luncheon, theme: "Thai Constitution Day." Seating begins at 11:45am. RA 108, Rome Campus. $9.50.

Thursday, 12/11
ASSET testing, 6:00pm, PCA10, Rome Campus.

Men's Basketball vs. Schenectady CCC, 7:00pm.

Women's Basketball vs. Schenectady CCC, 5:00pm.

Rome Adult Student Association Meeting, 2:00pm, PC 210, Rome Campus.

Friday, 12/12
Hockey vs. Mass. College, 7:00pm, Utica Aud.

Saturday, 12/13
Oneida County Dept. of Traffic Safety Defensive Driving Course, 9:00am-4:00pm, PC 207, Rome Campus.

Sunday, 12/14
Hockey vs. North Country, 7:30pm, Utica Aud.

Wednesday, 12/17
Rome Adult Student Association Meeting, 2:00pm, PC 210, Rome Campus.

MVCC First

Brenda Bowen, a 1986 grad of the nursing program, is a charge nurse in the trauma unit at Faxton-St. Lukes' Healthcare.