Communitas

MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter September 22nd, 2003

MVCC Public Policy Program to Host Debate Between Utica Candidates for Mayor

Mohawk Valley Community College's new Public Policy program will host a debate between candidates for Mayor of Utica, incumbent Mayor Timothy Julian and challenger Anthony Garramone, on Tuesday, September 30th.

The debate is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. in the Theater in the Information Technology/Performing Arts/Conference Center Building on the College's Sherman Drive, Utica, campus.

Students enrolled in the MVCC Public Policy degree program will develop questions to be addressed by the candidates. The Public Policy program was introduced at MVCC this fall, and is designed to prepare individuals for employment in local, state or federal government agencies, and private sector and non-profit organizations. Students may specialize in criminal justice policy, including economic and computer crime issues, pre-law, social services, social welfare policy, urban policy, labor relations, environmental policy or public administration.

Moderator for the debate will be Assistant Professor David Katz of the Social Science & Criminal Justice Department.

Student Ayaka Nangumo performs during last week's Steinway Piano Debut Concert.

"Harvest of Health" Program on Healthy Food and Cooking

The MVCC Hospitality Programs are offering a special culinary delight on October 9th, at the College's Utica campus, demonstrating how to prepare foods from the seasonal harvest that are not only good for you but great tasting.

In partnership with Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, Utica Region, the American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association, and the Mohawk Regional Dietetic Association, the MVCC Hospitality Programs are sponsoring "Harvest of Health," a nutrition and healthy eating program. The event is scheduled from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., in Room 116 of the Alumni College Center, Utica Campus.

Guests will be treated to recipes and sampling stations where they can taste the foods as they watch the MVCC Hospitality students demonstrate how to prepare a wide range of low calorie, reduced fat and reduced sugar based recipes.

For reservations, please contact the American Cancer Society at 724-8125, option #3, extension 200. The cost of the program is $5 per guest or $9 per couple and all proceeds benefit the Hospitality Programs of MVCC, including Chef Training, Food Service, Restaurant Management, and Hotel Technology.

News from Instruction

Vice President Daniel Larson

This is an exciting time in Instruction, with new developments already taking place or now appearing the horizon.

Technology is Transforming Instruction at MVCC

The College move to a wireless technology environment, with laptop computers, has great potential impact on how the faculty delivers coursework to students. Several departments are involved in developing specific instructional approaches that take advantage of this new technology. They include Engineering Technologies & The Trades; Engineering, Computer & Physical Sciences; Business & Information Technology; and, Hospitality.

This is another example, along with on-line instruction and its various benefits for busy students, of how technology is transforming education. Our colleagues on the administrative side of the College already have experienced this transformation in their work. It will take flexibility and openness to innovation on all our parts. The technology many of us experienced as students included 16mm films, slide shows [no, not PowerPoint], mimeographed handouts, and overhead projectors. Our role as students was to listen carefully to lectures and to take good notes. But the transformation is both inevitable and worthwhile, and it is in our interest as contemporary educators to be as open to it as possible. The entire environment is changing, both for us and for our students. However, in my view, technology must continue to serve the greater needs of teaching and learning rather than vice-versa.

Exciting New Programs Being Developed, Implemented

The creative people in our academic departments continue to identify and develop new programs to meet the needs of students and the community we serve. New programs include those in Public Policy, in the Social Science & Criminal Justice Department, and in Theatre, in the Humanities Department. All are outstanding examples of this responsiveness and creativity. The Theatre program makes use of the outstanding theatre and "back-of-the-house" facilities in the Information Technology Building, which is now coming into its own as a college and community facility, and promises to add greatly to campus life.

The critical national emphasis on homeland security suggests many needs and opportunities for program development in areas such as cybersecurity, information assurance, and training for "first responders." We are looking at all of those possibilities. Related to them is a new federal grant-funded program at Onondaga Community College to train those involved in emergency response. That curriculum is being made available to all community colleges in SUNY. We are exploring how it might fit at MVCC and its possible value to responders in our service area.

The possibility of a major new federal biovaccine lab at Griffiss Business & Technology Park holds potential opportunities for the College, especially in training lab technicians. Of course, we continue our close relationship with the Air Force Research Lab there as well.

Through the Center for Community & Economic Development and a New York State Department of Labor grant, we are working with the New York, Susquehanna & Western Railroad to provide non-credit training for locomotive mechanics in the railroad facility on Water Street in Utica. Similarly, we are collaborating with the Workforce Investment Board and the Oneida County Office of Workforce Development to provide non-credit introduction to construction trades for income-eli-

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Respiratory Care Program Student SSG Philip Nelson Gives Medical Assistance to Rescued POWs in Kuwait

by Catherine Paul

SSG Philip Nelson graduated from our Respiratory Certificate Program in 1987 and was recently employed at Oneida Health Care in Oneida, New York. He returned to MVCC in the Fall 2001 semester and began the Respiratory Care program to earn his A.A.S. degree. Soon, all that would change. Philip was deployed and sent over to Kuwait where he was a Respiratory Therapist in the 865th Combat Support Hospital unit.

During his time served in Kuwait, he was able to experience history in the making. While on duty, his unit was informed of the plan to rescue the POWs who were held captive in Iraq, south of Tikrit (the hometown of Saddam Hussein). The United States Marines were successful in their rescue of seven of the Army soldiers from the 507th Maintenance Company, later known as the "Lost Patrol." Philip's assignment was with the "litter team" which was responsible for taking the soldiers from incoming helicopters and rushing them into the hospital to begin respiratory treatment. Although he did not treat each POW individually, he did operate on Spc. Shoshana Johnson, who suffered from bullet wounds in both ankles.

SSG Nelson was kept very busy during his time of service at Camp Doha (for further information see www.camp-doha.de/) providing respiratory therapy and procedures to Army soldiers from all territories. Many soldiers were sent to the hospital for respiratory illnesses ranging from breathing problems to bacterial infections due to the usual sand storms and extreme heat.

SSG Nelson is no stranger to this area and climate. He served in active

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gible students. The instruction provides an introduction to credit programs in carpentry and masonry, and helps residents prepare for potential new jobs related to the Hope VI community renewal project in the City of Utica. Contractors will benefit as well, by having an increased local pool of skilled labor. With all these programs, the College goal is to help people change their lives for the better.

The Board of Trustees recently has approved several program proposals, which also must receive approval from SUNY and be registered with the NYS Education Department. Among them: Certificate in Forensic Photography, Certificate in Transportation Management, to serve managers of student transportation systems in public schools state-wide -- an on-line offering, and the A.A. degree in Liberal Arts & Sciences: Psychology, to provide psychology students with enhanced transfer opportunities.

Millennium, Synergy Projects

This joint venture with the Utica City School District and Thomas R. Proctor High School continues to be a high priority and offers a range of opportunities for MVCC. Especially valuable to the community will be our joint efforts to make sure that the secondary students involved truly are prepared for college, for those who choose that direction after high school. As interaction and collaboration between MVCC faculty and their colleagues at Proctor continues and grows, teachers and students alike will benefit.

Our relationship with Rome Free Academy is likely to be enhanced through the collaborative Synergy Project. Because specific school district needs and goals vary, Synergy -- now in its early stages -- may develop in quite a different fashion from the Millennium Project. The ultimate shared goal, however, of helping students succeed will equally be well served. Of course, we remain open to partnerships with other area school districts as well.

The Role of Assessment

We all should be aware that assessment and student outcomes never have been more important, as accrediting agencies and the State and Federal governments all seek to improve accountability. We want to know if students are being impacted in positive ways, if they really are learning the things we say they are. The answer to that question will influence what we do in the future, not only in Instruction but also College wide.

On the academic side, departments are grappling with this issue. I believe that we are doing many of the right things already, but have not always been able to recognize and organize those efforts adequately. Much remains to be addressed with assessment and how to use it effectively.

A good example of assessment is how we respond to the portion of the MVCC mission statement that speaks to "diversity and a global view." Dr. Sandra Engel's experiences in Vietnam as a Fulbright Scholar are related to that, and will help to inform our efforts at enhancing the international aspect of our curriculum. The ESL Summer Institute, which brings international students to campus each year, plays an important role. A variety of courses already are incorporating diversity and global activities as part of student learning. We just need to organize and report better about how we are addressing this issue.

As we explore other projects, we are mindful that Utica and Rome have a tradition of welcoming immigrants and refugees. The most recent influx of residents from places like Bosnia, Russia, Vietnam, Somalia, and other nations is only the immediate expression of this trend. It is important for us systematically to look for opportunities to integrate "a global view' into our curriculum in effective, meaningful ways. This is especially important because the Middle States Association recommended it. There is much more to do with this issue.

Dr. Sandra Engel discusses her Fulbright experience last week in the IT Theater.

MVCC First

Joseph Libritz, Civil Engineering Technology, Class of 1972, is now a Civil Engineer with the New York State Department of Technology

Respiratory Care Grad, cont.

duty during the Gulf War (January 1991) for Operation Desert Storm. He found that serving during the current war "Operation Iraqi Freedom" easier in some respects - he had more time to prepare before deployment (less than two weeks vs. 1 day), he knew about the area and illnesses he would be exposed too, and he had gained more experience and knowledge in the respiratory field.

SSG Nelson thanks everyone who sent packages to the military overseas during the recent crisis. He was amazed at the generosity of Americans and the Red Cross. He stated that a large number of supplies arrived every day. His unit had so many packages they would send them up north to another base. The thoughts and gifts from their homeland kept his unit in good spirits despite the fact that a war was going on.

The adage "you never know when you're going to need it" certainly applies in Philip's case. He spoke of his thoughts during certain classes and labs that he would never need or use some techniques or skills that he was being taught. He was very wrong - he relied heavily on all his education, training and experiences that he received in MVCC's Respiratory Care Program. He gave nothing but accolades to all the Respiratory Care faculty for the excellent education, guidance, and training he received that helped him not only save soldier's lives but also complete his mission successfully.

The Army Reserve has been an important part of Nelson's life. He has been a member of the Reserve's for nineteen years where he started as a combat medic. He also plans to re-enlist soon. Since coming home in July, he is relaxing, adjusting to civilian life, and attempting to make plans for the future. He hopes to be returning to classes soon and plans to graduate with an A.A.S. degree in Respiratory Care in the near future. Philip states, "Lessons from the war, I have to increase my level of education, no matter which direction I go in." Starting a family is also something he hopes for.

Editors Note: This article was prepared for the Alumni Newletter and used with permission from Catherine Paul.

Upcoming Events

Monday, 9/22
- Women's Tennis vs. SUNY Delhi, 4:00pm.

Wednesday, 9/24
- Men's Soccer vs. Finger Lakes CC, 4:00pm.
- Hospitality Luncheons, theme: "The Fiery Cuisine." Seating begins at 11:45am in the Hospitality Dining Room, Rome Campus. Price is $9.50.

Thursday, 9/25
- Volleyball vs. Broome CC, 7:00pm.
- Women's Soccer vs.SUNY Delhi, 4:00pm.

Saturday, 9/27
- Volleyball vs. Adirondack CC, 1:00pm.
- Women's Soccer vs. Tompkins-Cortland CC, 1:00pm.
- Women's Tennis vs. Hudson Valley CC, Noon.
- Falling Leaves Golf Scramble, 9:00am, Valley View Golf & Country Club.

Monday, 9/29
- Men's Soccer vs. Cobleskill, 4:00pm.

Tuesday, 9/30
- Women's Tennis vs. Herkimer CCC, 4:00pm.
- Mayoral Debate hosted by Public Policy Program, 4:00pm, IT Theater.

Wednesday, 10/1
- Men's Soccer vs. Jefferson CC, 4:00pm.
- Hospitality Luncheons, theme: "World Vegetarian Day." Seating begins at 11:45am in the Hospitality Dining Room, Rome Campus. Price is $9.50.

Friday, 10/3
- Volleyball vs. SUNY Delhi, 7:00pm.

From the desk of Gary Cohen, Substance Abuse Coordinator in the Counseling Center

Survey says, 82.9% of the 475 students surveyed at MVCC have NEVER been in trouble with Police, Residence Hall Staff, or Security due to Alcohol.

Core Survey 2003, 475 students surveyed.