Communitas

MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter September 8th, 2003

A Look Inside MVCC's Bookstores

What MVCC-affiliated organization does more than $3 million in net sales every year? The MVCC Bookstore.

What organization sells 50,000 books a year, not to mention specialized school supplies, computer accessories, software, apparel, souvenir mugs and desk sets? In both Utica and Rome? The MVCC Bookstore.

What organization supplies hundreds of caps and gowns for graduation, along with tassels, honors stoles and announcements for students? The MVCC Bookstore. What organization, other than the College itself, is providing more services online every year? The MVCC Bookstore.

The Bookstore used to have only a few peak periods of activity - textbook sales to students at the beginning of the semester, book buyback periods at the end of the semester, and - of course - support for graduation. Today, those crunch periods remain, but the days in between are pretty busy as well.

Not everyone is eligible to purchase every item through the Bookstore. Discounted items, especially educational computer software, require proof that the buyer is a full-time student. Purchasers of textbooks must also document their student status to avoid paying sale tax.

Over time, there have been changes in what the Bookstore - actually part of the MVCC Auxiliary Services Corporation - has available to sell. The sculpted candles and greeting cards are gone. Computer accessories and some packaged food items have taken their place. Today students may reserve books (only - not other merchandise) on-line at the Bookstore's website, maintained by Follett: http://shop.efollett.com/htmlroot/storehome/mohawkvalleycommunitycollege70398.html.

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Sandra Engel Lectures On Vietnam on Sept. 11th

On Thursday, September 11th, MVCC presents the lecture, "Hitting the Right Tone: A Fulbrighter in Vietnam," by Dr. Sandra Engel, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the IT Theater on the Utica Campus.

After five previous trips to Vietnam, Dr. Sandra Engel, MVCC Humanities department head, was awarded a grant by the J. William Fulbright Program to spend over five months working with the newest community college in Vietnam, Kien Giang Community College in the Mikong Delta.

Dr. Engel will show slides, tell stories and introduce the audience to Vietnam. As a follow up to her "Postcards from the Delta" columns in the Observer-Dispatch, the visual tour will begin at Kien Giang Community College on the Bay of Thailand and then travel to Ho Chi Minh City, Danang, Hanoi, Haiphong, and Halong Bay. She will introduce the audience to students and faculty at Kien Giang, U.S. Ambassador Ray Burghardt, and many friendly Vietnamese with great faces, and take them along on scenic motorbike rides.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

Complete List of September 11th Remembrance Events on the Utica Campus on Page 2

MVCC Bookstore, cont.

Some students choose to have the books shipped directly to their home as early as three weeks before classes begin. Others have book packages waiting for them to pick up when they arrive on campus.

Occasionally these packages are incomplete because of uncertainty about which books are being used for specific classes. One benefit is that students -- and Bookstore employees - are able to avoid much of the start-of-semester book-buying crunch.

Even so, there is a crunch time, and during the first week of class the Bookstore needs to expand, on the Utica Campus, into the Interlude. It is at this time that Bookstore personnel most appreciate the cooperation and patience of students and colleagues throughout the College.

Changes in Bookstore inventory reflect changing student needs. Still, 80% of Bookstore sales is comprised of textbooks. And about 55% of payment for books is through financial aid.

At the end of the semester, the focus shifts to book buyback - for as much as 50% by the Bookstore if the book can be resold, or perhaps 30% by Follett if the book is not being used again on campus. For the fall semester, Bookstore managers try to obtain departmental book orders during the second half of April.

The Bookstore tends to hang on to full-time employees. Office Manager Sheila Zakala has been part of the Bookstore staff for 15 years; Floor Supervisor Joanne Marino approximately 10 years. Assistant Manager Earl Myatt started part-time in 1972, becoming full-time in 1974. Manager Gerry Pecorello started with the Bookstore in 1962. The new guy is Operations Manager Robert Seymour, who is going into his second year at the Bookstore, and recently took on additional responsibilities as head coach of MVCC's men's ice hockey team. The Bookstore also regular employs between three and 10 MVCC students on a part-time basis.

What's ahead for the Bookstore? Perhaps a new location on the Rome Campus at some time in the future, as the new Master Plan for that campus unfolds. Right now, space in the Rome facility is at a premium. And perhaps, at graduation, new "disposable" caps and gowns for students, eliminating the need to collect rented caps and gowns after graduation and permitting students to keep the regalia as souvenirs if they desire.

September 11th Observance Planned at MVCC

Several activities are planned at the Utica Campus of Mohawk Valley Community College to commemorate the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City, Washington, and Pennsylvania.

• At 10:45 a.m., in front of the Academic Building, there will be a brief flag-raising ceremony, featuring a U.S. flag which flew briefly at "Ground Zero" in New York City. The National Anthem will be played on the College's carillon, and MVCC President Michael I. Schafer will ask those assembled to observe a moment of silence. The flag-raising will be followed immediately by playing of "God Bless America."

• Chimes on the College's carillon will play "God Bless America," "The National Anthem," and "America the Beautiful" at 8:46 a.m. and 9:03 a.m., when airliners struck the World Trade Center towers in New York City, and again at 9:59 a.m. and 10:29 a.m., when the towers fell.

• A large poster reading "We will not forget" will be displayed in the Alumni College Center Snack Bar.

• A CD containing photographic images taken on September 11th and patriotic music will be shown from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Room 116 of the Alumni College Center.

• The College continues to accept donations for its 9/11 Excellence in Community Service Scholarship. The scholarship was awarded for the first time in May of this year to Patrick Dunn, an MVCC student who worked as a volunteer at Ground Zero in New York City. The scholarship will be awarded again in May 2004.

• The event is being coordinated by Rose Button. The CD with images and music was prepared by Linda Matthews.

Highlights of August 14th Trustees Meeting

During their regular monthly meeting on August 14th, the MVCC Trustees took the following actions:

- Approved an initial administrative appointment of Stanley K. Dickson as Director of Business & Finance. He comes to MVCC following a 20 year career at Herkimer County Trust, including service as executive vice president, chief financial officer, chief credit officer and director, and a number of years with the Bank of Commerce in New York, where among other titles, he was commercial services division head. He holds a B.A. degree in economics from Colgate University, and a J.D. degree from the Brooklyn Law School
- Approved probationary appointments for
- Dr. Diana Ayers-Daring, Instructor, Social Science/Criminal Justice Department. Dr. Ayers-Darling has been an adjunct instructor at both MVCC and SUNYIT. She holds an A.S. degree from HCCC, and M.A. and Ph.D. Degrees from the University of Colorado in anthropology.
- Scot Connor, Instructor, Art Department. He taught at MVCC during 2002-2003 on a term appointment. He holds two Associate degrees from MVCC, in advertising design and production and mechanical engineering technology, and a B.F.A. degree in illustration from Syracuse University.
- Michael Diederich, Technical Assistant, Theater. He holds a B.F.A. degree in production design from SUNY Fredonia, where he also served as a master electrician and carpenter, technical director and lighting designer.
- Jeff S. Gauer, Instructor, Business & Information Technology Department. He comes to MVCC from Detroit, where he was manager of strategic consulting services for Funkton 3 Advertising. He has also been an adjunct instructor at Baker College in Michigan, and an adjunct lecturer at the University of Michigan. He holds a B.A. degree in English from Virginia Tech, and an M.B.A. degree from the Kenan-Flagler Business School at the University of North Carolina.
- Stephen Getchell, Instructor, Life Science Department. He has held several term appointments at MVCC, and has served as a longtime adjunct faculty member as well. He holds two B.S. degrees from the SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry, in environmental studies and landscape architecture, as well as an M.S. degree from the same institution in environmental sciences/land planning. He also holds an MVCC certificate in respiratory therapy, and has served as a registered respiratory therapist at Faxton Hospital.
- Theresa Lisi, Financial Aid Assistant. She served previously as an HSBC Bank assistant branch manager, and as a customer service representative at SBU Bank and Marine Midland Bank. She holds an A.A.S. degree in criminal justice from MVCC.
- Dr. Fizuli Mamedov, Instructor, Engineering, Computer & Physical Sciences Department. He was previously a researcher at the Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan, and a researcher and teaching assistant at SUNY Buffalo. He holds a B.S. degree in English and physics from the Moscow Engineering Physics Institute, and a Ph.D. from SUNY Buffalo.
- David J. Morrill, Assistant Professor, Business & Information Technology Department. Professor Morrill holds three degrees from Bryant College in Rhode Island, A.S. and B.S. degrees in business administration, as well as an M.B.A.
- Robert J. Musante, III, Instructor, Humanities Department (English), who comes to MVCC from Jefferson Community College in Watertown, where he also taught English. He holds a B.A. degree in political science and an M.A. degree in English, both from Clemson University.
- Julie Wells-Tsiatos, Instructor, Health Services Department. She previously served as retention specialist in MVCC's Health Services Department, and as a registered nurse at both Little Falls Hospital and St. Luke's-Memorial Hospital Center. She holds an A.A.S. degree in nursing from the St. Elizabeth Hospital School of Nursing, and a B.S. degree in nursing from the SUNY Institute of technology.

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Upcoming Events

Tuesday, 9/9
- Women's Soccer vs. Cayuga CC, 4:00pm
- Women's Tennis vs.Onondaga CC, 4:00pm.
- Cultural Series Event: Movie: "The Pianist," 2:00pm, IT Theater. Admission $4; $2 with MV ID.

Wednesday, 9/10
- Cultural Series Event: Movie: "The Pianist," 7:00pm, IT Theater. Admission $4; $2 with MV ID.

Thursday, 9/11
- Cultural Series Event: Lecture: "Hitting the Right Tone: A Fulbrighter in Vietnam," 2:00pm, and 7:30pm, IT Theater.
- Volleyball vs. SUNY Canton, 6:00pm, gym.

Friday, 9/12
- Police Academy Graduation, 5:00pm, IT Theater.

Saturday, 9/13
- Women's Soccer vs. SUNY Canton, 2:00pm.

Monday, 9/15
- Men's Soccer vs. Fulton-Montgomery, 4:00pm.

Tuesday, 9/16
- Women's Tennis vs. SUNY Morrisville, 4;00pm.

Wednesday, 9/17
- Men's Soccer vs. Tompkins-Cortland, 4:00pm.

Thursday, 9/18
- Volleyball vs. SUNY Morrisville, 6:00pm.
- Cultural Series Event, Workshop: Stand Up Comedy with Jeni Aron.

Friday, 9/19
- Cultural Series Event: Concert: Kaissa, 8:00pm, IT Theater. Admission $4, ($2 with MVCC ID).

August Board of Trustees Meeting Highlights, cont.

- John D. Wittenmyer, Educational Applications Assistant, Information Technology-Educational Applications. He holds an A.A.S. degree in computer network technician from Herkimer County Community College.

• Approved a term appointment of David Kolb, Instructor, Mathematics Department. He held a similar term appointment during the spring 2003 semester, and served earlier as an adjunct instructor and tutor in the Mathematics Department. He holds a B.A. degree in mathematics and music from Hamilton College.

• Approved the grant-funded appointment of Susan Perry-Zasa, Health Services Department Retention Specialist. She comes to MVCC from Rome Memorial Hospital where she was a staff nurse. She holds an A.A.S. degree in nursing from MVCC, and is enrolled in the B.S./M.S. degree program in nursing at the SUNY Institute of Technology.

The Trustees also approved minutes of their June 16th meeting, approved warrants for College operations for June 2003, amended the College's 2002-2003 operating budget to include several Workforce Investment Act grants totaling just over $96,000, including office space rental, Career Occupation Program, Job Coach Youth Services program, School-to-Work Summer Academy, Ready-Set-College Education Program, and classroom rental, and an increase funding under the Sensors as Robots program at Rome Lab.

Trustees amended the College Staffing Plan to eliminate the position of Director of Marketing Strategies, and approved reversion of Catherine Glod to the faculty in the Business & Information Technology Department. They granted an unpaid leave of absence for the fall 2003 semester to Deborah Boyce of the Business & Information Technology Department.

The Trustees authorized the College to fill several positions vacant due to resignations. They include a counselor position formerly held by Stephen Woolf, an instructor (painting) position in the Art Department formerly held by Aaron Board, and a laboratory assistant position in the Health Services Department formerly held by Louann Harto.

They modified the College's policy on military leave to align it with a similar policy for Oneida County employees.

They ratified several adjunct faculty appointments for summer or fall 2003, including:

- Dr. Kevin Antshel, who will teach Introduction to Psychology in the Psychology, Human Services & Education Department. Since 2001 he has been an assistant professor psychiatry at SUNY Upstate Medical University. He has also taught on an adjunct basis at SUNY Institute of Technology, Utica College and SUNY Oswego. He holds a B.S. degree in psychology from the University of North Carolina, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in psychology from the University of Kentucky.

- Linda Nichols, who taught Language & Literacy in Childhood during the summer for the Psychology, Human Services & Education Department. She served previously as a pre-K-3rd teacher, Magnet coordinator, and director of Magnet Schools & Early Childhood for the Utica City School District and as director of Utica Head Start. She holds a B.S. degree in early childhood education from the University of Central Florida, an M.S. degree in elementary education-reading and certificate of advanced study in educational administration from SUNY Cortland.

- Robert Seymour, who will coach men's varsity ice hockey during the upcoming season. He has served in the past as an assistant coach with the Fort Stanwix Hockey Association and at Whitesboro High School. He is also operations manager at the MVCC Bookstore.

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MVCC First

Elizabeth Harrigan Calcara, a 1996 Nursing grad, is an RN case manager at CCH Home Care.

Res Hall Staff: Resident Assistants, Student Directors and Resident Directors.

Resident Assistants
Shain Emerson
diane Becwith
Yuki Ito
Laura Perry
Cristl Walker
Kevin Smith
Caitlin Mulcahey
Nicholas Hjort
Cody Snyder
Micheas Brockington
Nicholas Cassano

Student Directors
Anthony Perry
Jason Ganor
Daniel Roicki

Resident Directors
Ushona Mclean
Jamie Schwabenbauer

Board Highlights, cont.

Election of Officers

The Board re-elected its current slate of officers for the 2003-2004 academic year. John Stetson will continue as Board Chair, David Mathis as Board Vice Chair, Vice President Feola as Treasurer, and Toni Carbone as Secretary.

Statewide Recognition for Trustee Mary-Carmel Wolf

President Schafer announced that Trustee Mary-Carmel Wolf has been selected by the New York Community College Trustees to receive the Marvin A. Rapp Award for Distinguished Service. The Award will be presented at the NYCCT annual meeting in Albany October 24th. Trustee Wolf was appointed to the MVCC Board in 1992, by former Oneida County Executive Raymond A. Meier, and was reappointed in 2001 by former County Executive Ralph J. Eannace, Jr. She served as Vice Chair of the Board from 1998 to 2000, and as Chair from 2000 to 2002.

She has served as a member of the Rome Branch Campus Master Plan Steering Committee, the Residence Hall Master Plan Committee, the Athletic Advisory Committee, and the Master Plan Committee for Sports Facilities. She has also been a member of the Board's Compensation and Presidential Evaluation Committees and an alternate member of the Millennium Project Policy Coordinating Board. She was also a member of the Task Force to Rewrite By-Laws and Operating Procedures for the MVCC Foundation. She is active in both the New York Community College Trustees and, at the national level, the Association of Community College Trustees.

A Rome resident, she is employed as a language teacher at Camden Central High School.

Faculty and Staff in the News

Dr. George J. Searles (Professor, Humanities) attended the July 16-27 Writers Conference at Southampton College of Long Island University. He also attended the August 22-24 Woodstock Poetry Festival, where he performed a reading.

Student Trustee Named

Student Congress has elected Cristl Walker to the MVCC Board of Trustees as the Student Trustee, for the 2003-04 academic year. After joining Student Congress she became active on several committees. Cristl is mathematics major. Outside of class and beyond her involvement with Congress Cristl worked on campus in several positions. She is originally from Alabama and now lives in Syracuse. Her plans after graduation include transferring to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida where she plans to pursue a degree in aeronautical science. Cristl plans a career as a corporate pilot.

College Senate

The College Senate meeting for September 2nd has been cancelled. The next meeting of the College Senate will take place on October 7th. Please remember to send any agenda items to Sue Bice by September 24th.

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

Let us not forget that September is National Recovery month. Whether you are in recovery, or know someone who is, we must take into consideration that it affects more than the addicted. Many people became part of the recovery process because of family members, friends, or co-workers that have been stricken by the disease of addiction. Take time to recognize that person's achievements, no matter how small. That person may be in the process of the so-called first step, admitting he or she is powerless over his/her addiction. We must always reach out to those in need, never pointing a finger at what we can not explain.