

MVCC changes to grow and get better

With enrollment up 8 percent over last year and 7,000+ students preparing to start classes next week, MVCC has changed much in recent years. After growing 20% over three years, accommodating growth is becoming a familiar part of the routine—but now, with new challenges and opportunities all around us, there are several parts of the college's operations that will be different this fall.

Enrollment

Especially in uncertain budget times, robust enrollment is a tremendously important goal for all members of the MVCC community. Compared to this time last year, headcount is up 8.16 percent and credit hours are up 8.22 percent. The wait list has played a significant role. A total of 2,334 seats were filled from the waitlist for this fall, affecting 1,339 students.

At the moment there is an 81 percent fill rate for our classes, including approximately 85 additional sections over last fall's count. MVCC continues to add classes to address waitlist needs. Roughly 85 percent of enrollment gains, about 400 students, are from increases in the retention of students who were already with us.

Nearly 30 percent of graduating high school students in Oneida County have enrolled with us this fall, but as demographics shift and the number of available high schoolers begins to decline, MVCC is looking to the future. Institutional enrollment priorities for 2010-11 include continued improvement in student retention, and enrollment strategy bodies will be planning for future initiatives to add online and hybrid capacity.

Services for students

To accommodate enrollment demand there have been several steps to ease students' entry into our classrooms. Chief among these, SIRS accounts will stay open during the first week of classes for students to adjust schedules.

The AB Information Booth in Utica will be open for business Monday-Thursday from 7 a.m.-6 p.m., and hours at the Utica Student Service Center Help Desk and Registrar's Office have expanded: 7:45 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Thursday, with regular business hours on Friday. The Advisement Center in Utica will be open Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., with regular hours Friday. ID Cards will be issued in ACC 208 from 8 a.m.-7 p.m., with regular hours Friday. The Center for Career, Transfer, and Job Placement Services is prepared to serve as a nexus for students and offices seeking to arrange on-campus work-study and student assistant employment.

To build on the welcomes extended to students as they move in and attend Orientation, MVCC is offering Welcome Week—a weeklong series of entertainment and promotion for college services, starting Aug. 23. There will also be student BBQs in Utica and Rome.

Budget

The late New York State budget is difficult for many colleges, including MVCC. Base aid to community colleges was reduced



COLLEGE'S FIRST FACULTY MEMBER - Seymour R. "Steve" Eskow, Ph.D., is the first faculty member the College hired back in 1946 when it was known as The State University of Applied Arts and Sciences at Utica. Dr. Eskow returned to the Mohawk Valley from his current home in Sacramento, Calif., to take part in this year's Convocation.

by 15.5% (\$415/FTE) to a level of \$2,260, or back to levels of a decade ago. This cut is largely offset by enrollment gains, and the College has advanced a budget with total spending authority of 47.8 million. This was unanimously approved last week by the County Board of Legislators and awaits SUNY approval.

Also, the state made significant changes to the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). Academic standards were revamped and implemented retroactively, creating confusion for students. Financial Aid is working closely with students to assist them in this process.

Staffing

There are new faces everywhere as the College's budget provides spending authority for 6 new full-time faculty positions, 6 new full-time staff and numerous other upgrades, adjunct positions, and more.

Grounds and Facilities

Several projects have affected or will soon affect our campuses. In our classrooms, efforts continue to replace outdated tablet-arm desks with more comfortable, useful furniture. Eight more classrooms have been updated with flexible systems of tables and comfortable, mobile chairs.

Outside, sections of damaged walkways on the Utica quad have been replaced and the administrative parking lot was repaved and gated.

The Gymnasium's floor has been refinished and next door, Jorgensen Athletic Center construction is underway—this has

Continued on Page 2

College Update

MVCC joins Oneida County to train contractors on lead safety at downtown Education Center

As Oneida County implements new safety regulations for contractors working on older buildings which may contain dried lead paint, the College has assumed the lead in the safety training programs which are now required.

This is a joint venture between MVCC and the County Health Department's Lead Primary Prevention Program, where the College is taking significant steps to expand its educational support of the community. The lead safety training will take place on the Rome campus and



at MVCC's new, downtown Education Center which is shared with the Utica Municipal Housing Authority. It is located at 524 Elizabeth Street.

At the Elizabeth Street center, participants will gain hands-on experience working on properties in the community.

Since the announcement was made in July, MVCC's Center for Corporate and Community Education has been offering both the initial 8-hour Remodeling, Repair and Painting (RRP) instructional classes mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency, as well as a 4-hour refresher course, as part of their training curriculum for contractors.

"We are delighted to inaugurate the new Education Center at 524 Elizabeth Street with this effort to train local entrepreneurs in safe work practices," said MVCC President Randall VanWagoner. "Through the generous cooperation of the Utica Municipal Housing Authority, MVCC students and trainees have gained a great location in the city to learn from "hands-on" experience right in the neighborhoods where many of them work and live. I'm excited by the possibilities for future non-credit, for-credit, and community service initiatives at the Center."

The Lead Primary Prevention Program was developed and has offered contractors a nd property owners training in lead safe work practices for more than 2 years through its New York State Department of Health lead grant. The classes have been held in the past at the Keller Building on Mary Street in Utica through the cooperation of the Neighborhood Center. Under this new partnership, instruction will be provided in state-of-theart facilities with construction mock-ups at both the Utica and Rome campuses through Environmental Education Associates. "We're pleased to partner with the Oneida County Health



DOWNTOWN EDUCTION CENTER - As MVCC launches its new downtown Education Center, the College joined Oneida County in offering a lead safety program which began this past July. It is being run through the Center for Corporate and Community Education.

Department and Environmental Education Associates on a program that not only equips businesses with needed skills, but keeps our community's children safe from the dangers of

training to become a certified lead-safe contractor. The 4-hour

renovators who have had previous lead-safety training should

Lead Renovators Certification Refresher Course is required for

lead-based paints," added VanWagoner.

Under the terms of the new EPA regulations that went into effect April 22, 2010, contractors or rental property owners who perform work without renovator training in lead safe work practices and are not licensed by the EPA are subject to fines up to \$37,500 per day/per occurrence.

The 8-hour Initial Lead Renovators Certification course is required for any renovators without previous

take this instruction for recertification.

Training initiative will

Expand the number of RRP classes offered in Oneida County so that local contractors and property owners do not have to travel out of town to receive training.

Offer Lead Abatement Supervisor and Lead Abatement Worker Training, locally.

Serves the needs of the Workforce Investment Board's Disadvantaged Youth Program which provides lead safe work practice training through its construction program.

Learn to ballroom, social, or belly dance with a CCED class

Put on those dancing shoes and learn to do the Rhumba, the Fox Trot, or even a Waltz with a Center for Corporate and Community Education dance class.

Ballroom and Social Dancing: This class focuses on classic ballroom styles such as Fox Trot, Swing, Night Club Slow Dance, Rhumba, Waltz and Polka. Classes will be held Mondays, September 20-October 25, 7-9 p.m., on the Utica Campus; Saturdays, September 25-October 30, 10

a.m.-noon, on the Rome Campus. The registration cost is \$55 per person.

There's also lessons for intermediate dancers on Thursdays, September 23-October 28, 7-9 p.m., on the Utica Campus. The registration cost is \$55.

Belly Dancing: This captivating ancient art form has intrigued people for centuries from the common man to royalty. This class will present the basic movements needed to express this beau-

tiful, traditional dance form while having fun and getting in shape. Classes are Tuesdays, September 7-28, 7:30-8:30 p.m.; and Tuesdays, October 5-November 9, 7-8 p.m. The cost is \$40 for the 4-week September class and \$60 for the 6-week October class.

For information or to register, call 792-5300. Office hours are 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on Friday.

MVCC EVENTS

Monday, August 23

8:00 am - College Works Orientation, ACC 116

7:00 pm - CCED: Ballroom Dancing, IT Lob/1st Floor

8:00 pm - Concert: Tom Townsley and the Backsliders, Theater

Tuesday, August 24

1:30 pm - A&P Technician Graduation Ceremony, PC Aud

7:00 pm - MV Café Live: Open Mic Night, ACC 116

7:00 pm - Night Hawk Café, MV Commons

Wednesday, August 25

Noon - Brown Bag Lunch Series: "Learning Styles: It's All About You Creating a Successful College Experience," ACC 116

Noon - "Price It Right" Game Show, MV Commons

6:00 pm - Movie/Lecture (DGV): "Avatar" w/Dr. Ayers-Darling,

Theater

7:00 pm - MV Café Live: Open Mic Night, - PC Aud

7:00 pm - Night Hawk Café, MV Commons

Thursday, August 26

10:00 am - Corrections Officer Exam & Recruitment, PC Atrium

4:00 pm - CSTEP, IT 225

6:00 pm - Boilermaker Party, ACC 116

7:00 pm - CCED: Ballroom Dancing, IT Lob/1st Floor

8:00 pm - Concert: "An Evening with Shontelle," Theater

Friday, August 27

4:00 pm - CSTEP, IT 225

6:00 pm - Movie/Lecture (DGV): "Avatar" w/Dr. Ayers-Darling,

PC Auditorium

Sunday, August 29

7:00 pm - Comedy: TJ Miller, Actor & Stand-Up Comedian,

Theater

Official college holiday schedule

This list below is the official holiday schedule for the 2010 – 2011 academic year. If there are any questions regarding this list, contact the Office of Human Resources.

| HOLIDAY | DATE | COLLEGE |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| | | |
| Labor Day | September 6 | Closed |
| Columbus Day | October 11 | Open |
| Election Day | November 2 | Open |
| Veteran's Day | November 11 | Open |
| Thanksgiving | November 25, 26 | Closed |
| Christmas | December 24 | Closed |
| New Year's | December 31 | Closed |
| Martin Luther King, Jr. | January 17 | Open |
| Lincoln's Birthday | February 12 | Open |
| President's Day | February 21 | Open |
| Washington's Birthday | February 22 | Open |
| Good Friday | April 22 | Open |
| Memorial Day | May 30 | Closed |
| Independence Day | July 4 | Closed |

Most College offices will be closed December 24, 27, 28, 29 30 and 31, 2010.

Some of these holidays are not available to everyone because each union contract contains a different list of holidays. Employees required to work on a holiday for which they are eligible will be compensated or accrue time as provided in the appropriate union contract.

College Update

Continued from Page 1

resulted in closure of the Gymnasium lot.

Beginning next week a crane will arrive on site and steel will be set in place outlining the entrance, fitness center and field house floor. In October installation of masonry walls begins with the goal of enclosing the building before winter. In January Phase II of the project will begin, with the closing of the pool as it undergoes repairs and upgrades. The county will be issue a second bid package for modifications to the gym including the lobby and mechanical systems. All of the above work is being funded by Oneida County and the state and is expected to be completed by summer 2011.

All the bathrooms in the Utica Academic Building are being refurbished this fall; work began this week. On the Rome campus repairs to pavement are underway, along with the addition of benches and some landscaping. The auditorium is undergoing some upgrades to carpeting, sound, and lighting.

The Master Plan process continued through multiple rounds of Trustee review this summer; final priorities will be set by Trustees and the county this fall to plan our next 20 years of infrastructure investments.

The Dormitory Corporation has also engaged an outside consultant to review student demand for on campus housing. The process will include surveys of students, market analysis of local housing options and a review of existing facilities. A report and recommendations are expected in January 2011.

Office moves

In response to feedback from faculty and staff and to accommodate new employees, there have been changes in many offices' locations. The Learning and Academic Affairs team are grateful to all who so graciously agreed to move to help create more "centered-ness" and efficiency, with special kudos to Mike McHarris' team, along with Rich Pucine and Shay Luckina. All moves were on schedule to be completed today. A chart outlining the moves is attached to the e-mail with this issue of Communitas and will be posted online.

Web Site Rollout

The College's new Web site is now live on a remotely hosted server (you can see it under construction at

http://mvccdev.designworksclient.com/) and is scheduled for public launch the week of Sept. 6. Additional trainings and information sessions will be conducted in the days before launch as well as after the site goes public. Further development and improvement of the site will be a strategic priority of Marketing and Communications for this fiscal year.

IT Procedures

The Board of Trustees is preparing to implement a new IT policy. As a result there will be several new procedures, including changes in e-mail addresses, new password protocols, and new ways of using broadcast e-mail lists. Some of these have been announced already; others will be announced via Communitas and other means during the semester.

Campaign

The \$7 million "Challenge and Opportunity" campaign kicked off its lead gifts and internal phases this summer, with the internal campaign goal of 100 percent participation by faculty and staff over the next five weeks.

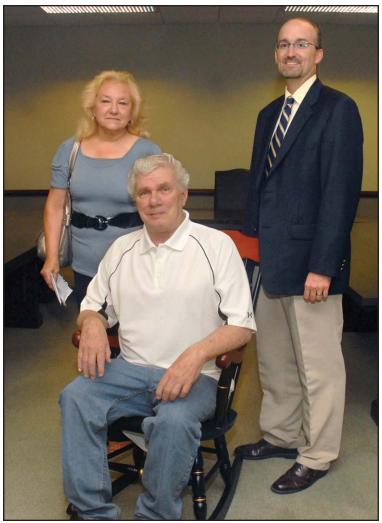
Submit information for Communitas to Rich Haubert at rhaubert@mvcc.edu

MVCC joins Rome Rotary Canal Fest

MVCC was a participant in the 8th Annual Rome Rotary Canal Fest with interactive exhibits, displays and demonstrations. This year's Rome Rotary Canal Fest was held Friday-Sunday, August 6-8, at Bellamy Harbor Park in Rome and consist of three fun-filled days on the historic Erie Canal with family-oriented events, exciting rides, music, and entertainment.

MVCC shared information on the College and programs such as Engineering Science Technology, Environmental Science Technology, Digital Animation, Computer Information Systems, Cyber Security, and Allied Health. There will be an interactive game, free MVCC balloons, and a Surgical Tech/CNA display with medical equipment and mannequin.

From MVCC's Hospitality Program, there was a special cooking demonstrations performed by Henry Bryant using the culinary program's "Mobile Kitchenette" to make a vegetarian stir fry. These 15-minute demonstrations were held on Saturday.



CELEBRATING RETIREES - A ceremony was held over the summer to celebrate employees who recently retired. Above is Fred and Cecilia Waters joined by President VanWagoner. Fred has worked for the college since January 19, 1998 in the Facilities Department. To the right is Bill Smith, who has been with MVCC since 1973. Bill has worked in the Business Information and Technology Department. Fred received an MVCC rocketing chair and Bill was presented an MVCC lamp.





HELPING THE YWCA: A check for \$1,000 was presented to the YWCA of the Mohawk Valley on Monday, July 12, 2010, at Mohawk Valley Community College. From left are: Randall VanWagoner, Ph.D., President of Mohawk Valley Community College; Natalie Brown, Executive Director of YWCA of the Mohawk Valley; Stephen Frisbee, Director of Library Services at MVCC and winner of the College's inaugural "Aeries Award"; Frank DuRoss, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement at MVCC.

Frisbee selects YWCA to receive 'Aeries Award'

Stephen Frisbee, the Director of College Library Services at Mohawk Valley Community College and winner of MVCC's inaugural "Aeries Award," presented the YWCA of the Mohawk Valley with a check for \$1,000 on Monday, July 12. The funds will be used to support Willow Commons, a YWCA initiative to help women and children who have been victims of domestic violence.

The \$1,000 grant was given to Frisbee to present to the local non-profit of his choice. Frisbee earned this privilege as the winner of MVCC's Aeries Award, which recognizes a faculty or staff member for dedication in giving back to the community through volunteer service activities. The award was presented to Frisbee at the conclusion of MVCC's 2009-2010 academic year during the "Hawks Who Soar" employee recognition program. Funding for the grant is provided by the MVCC Foundation. Inc.

The criteria for the Aeries Award call for nominees who are actively involved in the betterment of MVCC's campuses as well as the community at large. For his part, Frisbee has led several initiatives by MVCC Libraries and the College as a whole and advised the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society in several donation drives and community service projects. He attends nearly every Team MVCC community service event organized by the College and is an active volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America and other local organizations.

Frisbee, a New Hartford resident, chose to direct the \$1,000 grant to the YWCA to support efforts to end racism and empower women and children.

"I wanted the donation to go to an organization which provides valuable local resources and services to women and children who have been victims of domestic violence," said Frisbee. "The YWCA's Willow Commons program is wonderful for providing essential resources, including transitional housing and counseling, to people in need here in the Mohawk Valley."

Willow Commons is one of many programs offered through the YWCA. Others include direct service for people in sexual crisis, housing services, childcare centers, emergency shelters and violence prevention education.