



MVCC sets Web launch for mid-December

Following months of design work and content uploading, MVCC's new Web site is in the final stages of pre-launch preparation. The Marketing and Communications Office has established a launch timetable with a target date of December 13-17.

At this stage, most of the technical hurdles have been overcome and the remaining steps are mainly working with MVCC's content uploaders to populate their departments' pages with text and images.

The most recent milestones include creation and student testing of an enhanced course search that lets prospective students navigate MVCC's full range of academic offerings; and updates to the content uploaders' user manual, which will be posted inside the Content Management System (CMS) prior to launch so that uploaders have ready access to it.

The only remaining known technical issue is connecting the new site with some of the current forms, Intranet, and custom Web applications that will live on after site launch. This and other technical tasks will be accomplished by Designworks' staff who will visit the MVCC IT staff on site.

Over the short Thanksgiving week and the week that follows, Marketing and Communications staff will be ready to assist individual academic centers and administrative departments to complete their sites. This will include helping content uploaders take stock of their pages and make a plan for completing them, as well as refresher training on the CMS' functions, where necessary. Training will be offered on request, one-on-one or in small groups, to ensure that content uploaders can practice uploading with the real content they will use on their site.

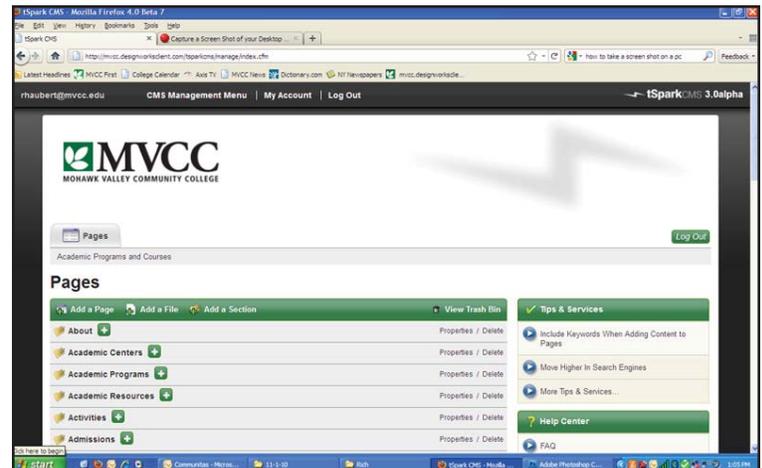
The week of Dec. 6-10 this process will shift toward finalizing each area's pages, testing their links, and fixing any bugs or broken links. Somewhere near the end of this week it is anticipated that Designworks staff will be on campus to redirect servers and preserve MVCC's current site in an accessible location for archival purposes.

The week of December 13 is the anticipated launch window. While there may be technical issues or content uploading delays that affect this timing, the site is now close enough to launch that such impacts can be predicted with better accuracy. Therefore, any changes in launch date will be communicated in specific terms as they arise.

Wilcox to present research at national forum

Assistant Professor Justin Wilcox, of Forestport, has authored an article on Service Quality Experiment of Leisure Cruises that will be included in the Association of Marketing Theory and Practice's (AMTP) annual publication "Proceedings". His study examined the determinates and gaps in service quality in the leisure cruising industry.

He has been invited to present his research findings on the topic



The site will be monitored carefully after it launches and Marketing and Communications staff will use the holiday break to provide support to post-launch issues that are typically encountered in a Web project of this scope.

As the new academic year begins, Marketing and Communications will deploy more support in the form of Chrono Ho, in his new role as Visual Media Coordinator; and a Media Content Coordinator whose search is currently underway. These two staff will pair up and work their way across the college one department and center at a time. Their goal will be to review each area's pages in collaboration with the area's content uploader(s) and leadership; and make suggestions on how the pages can be made easier to maintain and more useful. For example, they might proofread copy, suggest alternative images or page organization, coach uploaders on use of CMS tools, or ensure compatibility with technology used by people with disabilities.

Additional suggestions for refining the Web presence will be welcome. Marketing and Communications team members have already begun to catalog the requests for functions that may be added post-launch, such as the ability to post videos online. The best ideas have come from members of the MVCC community, and we invite users to keep them coming once the site launches.

at the AMTP's annual meeting in Panama City, Florida in March.

Wilcox holds an MBA in Technology Management with concentrations in marketing and e-commerce from the SUNY Institute of Technology Utica/Rome. He has been a faculty member at MVCC since 2004 and teaches international marketing, marketing management, principles of marketing, principles of management and small business management.

Honoring Employees for Years of Service

Carolyn Gawarecki was all smiles after being honored for 25 years of service to the College. Carolyn is a Senior Office Specialist for the Upward Bound Project. ▶



George Goerner was honored by MVCC President Randall VanWagoner for his 20 years of service at the College. George is an Associate Professor in the Center for Social Sciences, Business and Information Sciences where he teaches Principles of Management. ▼



Isabeth Cominsky recently celebrated 20 years of service to the College and was presented with a tasty treat, balloons and an award. Isabeth is an Assistant Professor in the Center for Social Sciences, Business and Information Sciences. ◀



Health insurance and benefits open enrollment - required notices

The due date for health insurance open enrollment at the College is approaching. For classified staff, the due date is no later than November 30. For professional and administrative employees, the due date is no later than December 15. In addition to health insurance enrollment changes, all other benefit coverage changes and enrollment forms need to be submitted to the Human Resources Office by the due dates above.

The 2010 Health Insurance Reform and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), requires the College to notify employees of the new reforms and how they may affect your benefit coverage. Notices have been provided through employees' college email addresses and have been directly mailed to employees' home addresses from your insurance providers. These changes include the following:

- PPACA (Patient Protection and Affordable Car Act) Notices
- CHIP - Children's Health Insurance Program
- Lifetime Limits Notice
- Age 26 Dependent Coverage Notice
- Grandfather Status Notification
- Flexible Spending Accounts – Over the Counter Reform Information

For questions and clarifications, contact Nancy in Human Resources at 792-5347 or by e-mail at ngerzonich@mvcc.edu. If you have not received this information as stated above, please contact Nancy Gerzonich in the Human Resources Office and she will send it directly to your college email address for review.

MVCC EVENTS

Monday, November 22

- 10:00 am - Psychology Club, ACC 212
- 1:00 pm - Spring 2011 Admission Placement Testing, PC 252
- 1:00 pm - Gettysburg Address, IT Lobby 2nd Floor/IT 225
- 3:00 pm - Chess Club, ACC 114
- 5:00 pm - Alcohol Education, ACC 212
- 5:30 pm - CCED/Tai Chi Beginners, ACC 116
- 6:30 pm - CCED/Tai Chi Advanced, ACC 116
- 8:00 pm - Monday Night Football: San Diego vs. Denver, ACC Snack Bar

Tuesday, November 23

- 10:00 am - Gay/Straight Alliance Club, AB Lobby/MV Commons
- 10:30 am - Kiddie Campus Thanksgiving, IT 225
- 11:00 am - Tech Tuesdays -PC 209(R), AB 261
- 1:00 pm - Tech Tuesdays -PC 209(R), AB 261
- 3:30 pm - Gay/Straight Alliance Club, IT 218
- 4:00 pm - Film Club, IT 220

- 6:00 pm - Women's Basketball vs. Fulton-Montgomery CC, Gym
- 7:00 pm - MV Café Live: Bill Dustin, Acoustic Pop-Rock, ACC 116
- 7:00 pm - Night Hawk Café, MV Commons
- 8:00 pm - Men's Basketball vs. Fulton-Montgomery CC, Gym

Wednesday, November 24

- 9:00 am - Web Wednesdays, PC 209, AB 261
- 2:00 pm - Web Wednesdays, PC 209, AB 261
- 7:00 pm - MV Café Live: Bill Dustin, Acoustic Pop-Rock, PC Aud

Thursday, November 25

THANKSGIVING BREAK - College Closed

Learning communities enable MVCC to reach students on another level

As evidenced by the intense discussion at this month's Senate meeting, there are many different approaches to teaching and no one method is ideal for all students. As part of an effort to reach all students, the College has launched a "learning communities" initiative.

Learning communities have proliferated across institutions of higher learning throughout the country in recent years due to the demonstrated positive effects of membership. Learning communities link two or more courses around an interdisciplinary theme and enroll a common cohort of students in the linked classes. Faculty who teach the linked sections collaborate to integrate assignments and projects, so that students may see how their learning in one class is related to the content in another. This interdisciplinary approach makes learning more meaningful and encourages development of critical thinking skills.

The learning community is also distinguished by active learning approaches which engage students in experiential activities. Collaborative projects and group work are a focus of learning communities, and these activities promote a sense of teamwork while providing opportunities for students to apply their learning in new contexts. Through engagement in group activities, a sense of teamwork and mutual purpose is fostered. Therefore, students form strong bonds and feel a sense of belonging to a community of learners who are all committed to a common purpose.

Learning communities are especially effective at the community college level since so many community college students are commuters whose lives are filled with myriad responsibilities and obligations that prevent their participation in extracurricular college activities. According to Jennifer Boulanger, Dean of the Center for Language and Learning Design, "Since the most that some of our students can do is attend class and then rush off to work or to care for their families, they may not have a chance to develop the relationships that make them feel connected to the college." Learning communities help students to work closely with a group of their peers, to share in multiple learning contexts, and to form a deeper commitment to the academic enterprise.



"It is the perfect type of transition that I needed to have between high school and college. I like the fact that in this class we can learn a subject but at the same time be laid back and have discussions and compare a lot of the subject related things to completely off-topic things."

- Dylan Countryman

Students in learning communities also become more committed to supporting one another. "The most impressive thing that has occurred is the bonding between students and their support for one another," says Dr. Sarah Coleman, who teaches Introduction to Sociology as a learning community faculty member. As true community members, students are no longer concerned only with their individual success, but begin to look out for others. "We have seen students get on their cell phones to call other students to find out why they are not in class. It is really a peer-support system," according to Lizabeth Doherty, an instructor of a fall learning community class. This view is echoed by Professor Bill Hysell, who also emphasizes the benefits of participation

to faculty. He comments, "The learning community promotes a sense of coherence and shared purpose among the students involved. As an instructor, it has given me additional insights into student thinking and studying in classes other than mine as well as strength and weaknesses of teaching techniques."

Learning communities are in their second year of implementation at MVCC and are being offered for students entering developmental and credit-bearing classes. Thus far, most of the learning communities have been designed for incoming freshmen to ease the transition to college. Instructor David Nackley sums it up well: "Teaching in a learning community has helped me cultivate ideas to become a better instructor and more conscious of the needs of my students. The learning community is successful and will help students to become successful in college. The students are experiencing firsthand how to take the knowledge they learn in one setting and use it across curriculums – that's education, that's real life learning."

The Learning Community Design Team at MVCC included Boulanger, Patricia Antanavice, Deborah Boyce, Larry Migliori, Lizabeth Doherty, Bill Perrotti, and was co-chaired by Mike Sorrentino and Jim Vitale. Faculty members who are interested in developing a learning community should contact the co-chairs for more information on completing a learning community proposal.

Hawks 2010-2011 Winter Schedule

Saturday, November 20

Men's Basketball at Adirondack CC, 1:00 pm
Ice Hockey at Hudson Valley CC, 1:00 pm
Women's Basketball at Adirondack CC, 3:00 pm

Sunday, November 21

Men's Basketball hosts North Country CC, 1:00 pm
Ice Hockey hosts Siena College, 2:00
Women's Basketball hosts North Country CC, 3:00 pm

Tuesday, November 23

Women's Basketball hosts Fulton Montgomery CC, 6:00 pm
Men's Basketball hosts Fulton Montgomery CC, 8:00 pm

Wednesday, December 1

Women's Basketball hosts Onondaga CC, 6:00 pm

Thursday, December 2

Men's Basketball hosts Columbia-Greene CC, 7:00 pm

Saturday, December 4

Indoor Track at Cornell, 10:00 am
Women's Basketball at Genesee CC, 1:00 pm
Men's Basketball at Genesee CC, 3:00 pm

Tuesday, December 7

Women's Basketball at Jefferson CC, 6:00 pm
Men's Basketball at Jefferson CC, 8:00 pm

Thursday, December 9

Women's Basketball hosts Hudson Valley CC, 6:00 pm
Men's Basketball hosts Hudson Valley CC, 8:00 pm

Saturday, January 8

Ice Hockey at RIT, 4:45 pm

Tuesday, January 11

Women's Basketball hosts Schenectady CCC, 5:00 pm
Men's Basketball hosts Schenectady CCC, 7:00 pm

Wednesday, January 12

Ice Hockey at Broome CC, 7:00 pm

Thursday, January 13

Men's Basketball hosts Adirondack CC, 7:00 pm

Saturday, January 15

Indoor Track at St. Lawrence, 10:00 am
Women's Basketball hosts Corning CC, 2:00 pm
Men's Basketball hosts Corning CC, 4:00 pm
Ice Hockey at Union College, 7:30 pm

Sunday, January 16

Men & Women Bowling hosts Hawk Invitational, 11:00 am

Wednesday, January 19

Men & Women Bowling at Columbia-Greene CC, 3:00 pm
Women's Basketball hosts SUNY Delhi, 5:00 pm
Men's Basketball hosts SUNY Delhi, 7:00 pm
Ice Hockey hosts Broome CC, 7:00 pm

Saturday, January 22

Indoor Track at St. Lawrence, 10:00 am
Men's Basketball at Columbia-Greene CC, 1:00 pm
Women's Basketball hosts Adirondack CC, 1:00 pm
Ice Hockey hosts Monroe CC, 2:00 pm

Wednesday, January 26

Men's Basketball at Herkimer CCC, 7:00 pm
Ice Hockey hosts Oswego State, 7:00 pm

Thursday, January 27

Men & Women Bowling at Hudson Valley CC, 3:00 pm

Saturday, January 29

Indoor Track at Colgate, 10:00 am
Women's Basketball hosts Clinton CC, 1:00 pm
Men's Basketball hosts Clinton CC, 3:00 pm

Sunday, January 30

Women's Basketball at North Country CC, 1:00 pm
Ice Hockey hosts Albany, 2:00 pm

Men's Basketball at North Country CC, 3:00 pm

Tuesday, February 1

Women's Basketball hosts Herkimer CCC, 7:00 pm

Wednesday, February 2

Men & Women Bowling at Adirondack CC, 3:00 pm

Friday, February 4

Men & Women Bowling hosts MVCC Invitational, 3:00 pm

Saturday, February 5

Indoor Track at Syracuse, 10:00 am
Men's Basketball at Hudson Valley CC, 1:00 pm
Women's Basketball at Hudson Valley CC, 3:00 pm
Ice Hockey at Erie CC, 3:15 pm

Tuesday, February 8

Women's Basketball at SUNY Delhi, 5:00 pm
Men's Basketball at SUNY Delhi, 7:00 pm

Thursday, February 10

Men & Women Bowling at Herkimer CCC, 3:00 pm
Men's Basketball at Schenectady CCC, 7:00 pm

Friday, February 11

Indoor Track at Cornell (Pentathlon), 2:00 pm

Saturday, February 12

Indoor Track at Cornell, 10:00 am
Women's Basketball at Clinton CC, 2:00 pm
Men's Basketball at Clinton CC, 4:00 pm

Sunday, February 13

Ice Hockey at RIT, 1:00 pm

Tuesday, February 15

Men's Basketball hosts Herkimer CCC, 7:00 pm

Wednesday, February 16

Men & Women Bowling at Schenectady CCC, 3:00 pm

Thursday, February 17

Women's Basketball at Herkimer CCC, 7:00 pm

Saturday, February 19

Indoor Track at RIT, 10:00 am
Women's Basketball at Fulton Montgomery CC, 1:00 pm
Men's Basketball at Fulton Montgomery CC, 3:00 pm

Wednesday, February 23

Ice Hockey hosts Hudson Valley CC, 7:00 pm

2010 United Way Campaign

From Sandy Cummings, Team MVCC Chairperson

As part of this year's appeal to faculty and staff, we ask that you consider a gift to the United Way. Our local United Way is actively helping individuals in our community realize their goals by investing in local programs that address the root causes of community issues. The United Way strives to make dreams a reality and to make a positive difference in the lives of those it serves. By giving, you are not only making a difference in the lives of families throughout the Mohawk Valley, but you are also supporting Team MVCC.

Team MVCC's participation in and impact on the community is truly making a difference for many organizations and people who are in need. As a way to honor and recognize the faculty and staff who have joined Team MVCC, the 4-Runners Club has been developed. The Team MVCC 4-Runners Club recognizes faculty, staff and retirees who actively participate in Team MVCC events and projects throughout the year, and who also donate annually to the United Way and the MVCC Foundation.

Any amount you are able to give will make a difference. Please take a moment and make your contribution. Once complete, you can send or deliver your pledge card to Sandy Cummings in Student Activities, ACC 208. Thank you.