



MVCC beneficiary of \$3M cybersecurity funding

For the second time in six months, MVCC has been the recipient of a multi-million dollar grant to develop cybersecurity training programs in the Mohawk Valley. In conjunction with the Air Force's Rome Research Laboratory, PAR, ITT, Rome Conference Center, and Wetstone Technologies, MVCC will receive \$3 million for training and research on the development of new and better strategies to combat the growing threat of cybersecurity.

These funds were appropriated by U.S. Sens. Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand.

"This initiative will help create a key high-tech hub in the Mohawk Valley. It will attract and retain talent and prepare our workforce to meet head-on the challenges of a changing economy," says Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D., President of Mohawk Valley Community College. "The immediate and long-term benefits include job creation and increased intel-



Sen. Gillibrand



Sen. Schumer

lectual capital in this growing sector of our economy."

Back in June, U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri announced the College would receive a \$2,778,237 Community-Based Job Training Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to implement the Upstate New York Cybersecurity Training Initiative that will provide training for 2,090 people through a partnership of five colleges and local adult education providers.

Thirty employers in the health care, financial information technology and manufacturing sectors who need cybersecurity profes-

sionals are partners in this project.

This funding will develop a unique 'Center for Excellence' that will operate through a partnership between MVCC and the United States Air Force Research Laboratory. The center will act as a research and ideas hub for new methods in combating cybersecurity and preventing a major security breach of the country's technology. Additionally, the initiative will create an accredited training program that will prepare MVCC students for careers in cybersecurity.

"This project will make significant strides toward enhancing our country's cybersecurity, laying the groundwork for good-paying, high-tech job growth," said Schumer.

"Devoting more attention to exploring our technological vulnerabilities and mounting an aggressive defense against cyber attacks and cyber terrorism has become a national security imperative," said Gillibrand.

MVCC's Cabinet to host Campus Conversations

From Sept. 27-29, members of the President's Cabinet will be hosting open conversations around the Utica and Rome campuses. These sessions are designed for honest, frank discussions of the College's workplace climate and student satisfaction levels. The goal is to gather input from all areas on what we do well and what we can do better.

On the most recent SUNY Student Opinion Survey and MVCC Employee Climate Survey, the college's scores improved in some areas and declined in others. As a way of understanding this data and using it to improve the college, the Cabinet has had in-depth discussions of the surveys and will be working with the College Senate to better understand specific trends. The Cabinet conversations are designed to open this process to people at all levels of the organization.

Each conversation is open to all faculty and staff. No RSVP is required and participants may attend any Cabinet officer's session they prefer. Supervisors are encouraged to facilitate their employees' participation, and sessions are offered on multiple days at different times to fit as many people's schedules as possible.

Cabinet Conversation Schedule

- Monday, Sept. 27, 3-4 p.m.: Maryrose Eannace, Vice President for Learning and Academic Affairs, AB 157, Utica.
- Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2-3 p.m.: Denise DiGiorgio, Vice President for Student Services, Resident Dining Hall, Utica.
- Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2-3 p.m.: Matthew Snyder, Director of Marketing and Communications, RA 223, Rome.
- Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2-3 p.m.: Ron Cantor, Associate Vice President and Dean of the Rome Campus, AB121, Utica.
- Thursday, Sept. 30, 1-2 p.m.: Ralph Feola, Vice President for Administrative Services, IT 224, Utica.

Coming next week in Communitas



Salvatore (Sam) Drogo
July 4, 1948 - September 1, 2010

The MVCC community came together on Thursday to pay tribute to Salvatore (Sam) Drogo, filling the theater with tears, laughter and memories.

To give this tribute the justice it deserves, the article and photographs will appear in next week's issue of Communitas where there will be more space.

Trustees elect Falvo as Chair, Mathis as Vice Chair

With the beginning of the new academic year at the College, Elaine Falvo has been elected to become Chair of the College's Board of Trustees and David Mathis has been elected Vice Chair. Their first meeting in their new roles will be Sept. 20.

Falvo succeeds outgoing Chair William Calli Jr., who returns to the Board of Trustees. Falvo was previously Vice Chair, a position she also held in 1991-1992. This is the second time Falvo has been elected as Chair, the first being from 1993-1996.

Mathis was previously a member of the Board of Trustees. He served previously as Board of Trustees Chair from 1983-1987 and as Vice Chair 2002-2004. Falvo and Mathis were presented by the Board's Nominating Committee and elected unanimously by their colleagues at the Board's July 19 meeting.

Falvo has served on MVCC's Board since being appointed by New York State's governor in 1988. She is a native of Utica and graduate of Proctor High School. After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in biology in 1962 and a Master's degree in science education, both from Syracuse University, Falvo took a position in the Utica City School District as a general science teacher. In 1987, she became treasurer and chief financial officer of H.J. Brandeles Corp., a position she held for 15 years.

Along with being a member of the Board of Trustees, she is a member of MVCC's Foundation Board of Directors and has served on the New Hartford School Board of Education for 14 years. She is currently serving as Chair of the Oneida-Madison-Herkimer Counties Board of Educational Co-Operative Services, of which she has been a member for 23 years. She was a member of the Faxon-St. Lukes Healthcare/Mohawk Valley Health Network for more than 23 years, and served on the Board of Directors for Faxon-St. Lukes Healthcare, and as Chair of the Continuing Care Board for Faxon-St. Lukes. She is a past recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the Association of Community College Trustees.

Falvo is married to Louis A. Falvo Jr., a mechanical engineer,

who along with their sons, Richard and Lewis III, own and operate H.J. Brandeles Corp., mechanical contractors. The Falvos also have two daughters, Mary Louise and Francine, and 13 grandchildren.

Mathis has been a member of the MVCC Board of Trustees since 1977, initially appointed by former County Executive William Bryant. He has been reappointed by four succeeding County Executives in 1981, 1990, 1999 and 2008.

Mathis is a graduate of the MVCC Class of 1970 with a degree in Retail Business Management. Since 1997 he has presided over the MVCC Alumni Association, and is chair of its Board of Directors. He has also served as Chair of the MVCC Dormitory Corporation (1982-85, 1993-95 and 2000-2002). Mathis has served as vice-president of the MVCC Foundation and a member of the Foundation Board of Directors. He is also the president of the MVCC Alumni Association Board of Directors.

In 1990 Mathis received the MVCC Alumni of Merit Award, and he was among the first to be inducted into the MVCC Hall of Fame in 1996. He has also been extremely active in the statewide community college movement, serving as president of the New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT) from 1999-2001. He was honored in 2002 by the NYCCT with the Marvin Rapp Award for Distinguished Service.

On the national level, Mr. Mathis served many years on the board of directors of the Association of Community College Trustees, and as ACCT's New York State Chair, as well as many national committees. He received lifetime membership and recognition of service and leadership on behalf of community colleges in 2006.

Mathis, who is the director of the Oneida County Office of Workforce Development, earned a Bachelor of Science from Utica College in Business & Economics, and has done graduate work at SUNYIT and Utica College. He is a Utica resident.

Administrative Assistant students tour Turning Stone

Assistant Professor Rosemary Fuoco took the Administrative Assistant students on a tour of the Turning Stone Resort and Casino on Wednesday, September 15.

The students were greeted by Alana Schneider in the Conference Room where Helen Stockbridge, an Employment Specialist, gave them insight on what her job entails at the Turning Stone. She spoke about the job positions that are available and discussed the many benefits offered at the Turning Stone.

Tina Szczesniak, an administrative assistant who works in the sales department, also spoke to the group about her experiences at Turning Stone where she has worked for 16 years. She discussed how she did not start working as an administrative assistant at the resort, having worked at other positions and worked herself up the ladder. In the sales department, Szczesniak is one of three administrative assistants. Her work includes setting up conferences, meetings, bus groups, payroll, contracts, letters, email, mail, and reports. It is a very busy office and it is very demanding. She said you need to multi-task



and prioritize your work.

Schneider then gave the students a tour of the Turning Stone and took them to Season's Harvest for lunch.

MVCC hosts 35-Year Reunion at Hotel Utica

The MVCC Alumni Office will be hosting a 35-year reunion weekend for graduates who attended the College between the years 1974-76. This reunion will be held Friday-Saturday, October 8-10, at the 1912 historical Hotel Utica which has been refurbished to its original elegance.

Reservations are required by calling 1-877-906-1912. Re-

quest the MVCC Group Rate of \$89 for a double, \$99 for king, and \$129-\$149 for a suite.

Weekend activities planned for the reunion include a reception Friday, tours of the Utica Campus, and the Utica Club/Saranac Brewery. For complete details, visit www.mvcc.edu/clgnfo/marketing/pdf/reunion10.pdf

Monday, September 20

3:30 pm - Circle K, ACC 212

7:00 pm - Ballroom Dancing, IT 1st Floor Lobby

Tuesday, September 21

10:00 am - Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Candy Sale, AB Lobby

11:00 am - Tech Tuesdays Rome, PC 209

11:00 am - Tech Tuesdays Utica, AB 261

1:00 pm - Tech Tuesdays Rome, PC 209

1:00 pm - Tech Tuesdays Utica, AB 261

4:00 pm - Computing for Baby Boomers, IT 219

4:00 pm - Samaritan Counseling Center, PH 103

4:00 pm - MVCC Women's Tennis vs. Herkimer CCC, Tennis Court

5:30 pm - Tai Chi for Beginners, ACC 116

6:00 pm - Lecture (DGV) "Translating Your Compassion into Community Action," with Edith Buffalohead, PC Auditorium

6:00 pm - MVCC Women's Volleyball vs. Fulton Montgomery, Gym

6:30 pm - Tai Chi for Advanced, ACC 116

7:00 pm - MV Café Live: Matt Cross, Acoustic/Folk Rock, ACC 116

7:00 pm - Night Hawk Café, MV Commons

Wednesday, September 22

9:00 am - Web Wednesdays Rome, PC 209

9:00 am - Web Wednesdays Utica, AB 261

10:00 am - Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Candy Sale, AB Lobby

Noon - Comedian: Ronnie Jordan, ACC Snack Bar

2:00 pm - Web Wednesdays Rome, PC 209

2:00 pm - Web Wednesdays Utica, AB 261

3:00 pm - CSTEP, ACC 116

4:00 pm - Kids and Coaches Picnic, Front of Gym

7:00 pm - Night Hawk Café, MV Commons

7:30 pm - MVCC Concert Band Practice, ACC 116

Thursday, September 23

10:00 am - V-8 Thursdays Rome, PC 209

10:00 am - V-8 Thursdays Utica, AB 261

1:00 pm - V-8 Thursdays Rome, PC 209

1:00 pm - V-8 Thursdays Utica, AB 261

2:00 pm - Student Congress, ACC 212

3:00 pm - International Student Reception (DGV), IT225

3:00 pm - Program Board, ACC 212

4:00 pm - Computing for Baby Boomers, IT 219

4:00 pm - CSTEP, ACC 114

7:00 pm - Ballroom Dancing, IT 1st Floor Lobby

Friday, September 24

1:00 pm - CSTEP, IT 220

7:00 pm - MV Café Live: Matt Cross, Acoustic/Folk Rock, PC Auditorium

Saturday, September 25

8:00 am - Motorcycle Safety Course, RA 207

2:30 pm - MVCC Men's Soccer vs. North Country CC, Soccer Field

2:30 pm - MVCC Women's Soccer vs. North Country CC, Soccer Field

Job Listings at MVCC

Job Title: College Advisor

Salary: mid \$30's

Job Duties: To provide academic advising to new students and implement early warning systems for academic persistence and success. Interpret college, general education, and major requirements for students and assist with goal planning and achievement on both the Utica and Rome Campuses. May require some evening and Saturday hours.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree, three (3) to five (5) years of experience in higher education, demonstrated computer literacy, excellent oral and written communication skills required.

Application Deadline: September 27, 2010

Job Title: Multimedia Instructional Designer

Salary: mid \$30's

Job Duties: Supports the College faculty and staff with technology-based learning projects that facilitate the integration of a variety of technologies into the instructional process. Assesses requests for technology based learning projects and recommends appropriate technologies; designs and conducts instructional technology and distance education faculty development programs and online teaching workshops; and reviews developed online courses for implementation.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in education, communications, computer science, or closely related field and three (3) to five (5) years experience working in the instructional design/technology field required. Experience in higher education and college-level teaching/training and online teaching/training using Blackboard learning management system preferred.

Application Deadline: September 27, 2010

Job Title: Technical Assistant/Disability Services

Salary: low \$30's

Job Duties: To assist students, faculty and Academic Centers with coordination of services through the Disability Services Office. Responsible for scheduling, preparing and administering accommodative tests including converting tests to the necessary electronic or other alternate format; create, monitor and maintain online student files; and assist with special event planning.

Qualifications: Associate's degree in appropriate field, a broad-based knowledge of computer technologies, experience working with a diverse population, and effective communication skills required. Bachelor's degree preferred.

Application Deadline: September 27, 2010

Job Title: Senior Office Specialist I

Location: Student Service Center, Utica Campus

Qualifications: Either already hold Oneida County Civil Service Senior Office Specialist I title, OR eligible for appointment from Oneida County Civil Service List.

Application Deadline: September 22, 2010

Job Title: Senior Office Specialist I

Location: Hospitality Office, Rome Campus

Qualifications: Either already hold Oneida County Civil Service Senior Office Specialist I title, OR Eligible for appointment from Oneida County Civil Service List for Senior Office Specialist I; meet eligibility requirements for Oneida County Civil Service Provisional appointment: Associate degree in secretarial science, office management, office technologies, word processing, business administration, business management, communications or a related field; OR Graduation from High School and two (2) years of office and clerical experience which shall have involved typing/keyboarding

Application Deadline: September 24, 2010

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

NFI helps acclimate new faculty

For the new faculty members at MVCC, the “New Faculty Institute 2010-11” provides answers to the many questions as the Fall semester gets underway.

The “New Faculty Institute,” an extended orientation program and learning community for faculty who are transitioning into the teaching and learning culture of the college, is designed specifically to meet the needs and interests of new full-time faculty.

Participants meet monthly for 2½ hours to complete faculty development workshops, engage in dialogue on teaching and learning, and build essential working relationships with colleagues throughout the institution.

Through participation, new faculty develop an understanding of the mission, systems, and culture of MVCC, become familiar with the many MVCC support services available to faculty and students, identify and implement teaching techniques proven effective in creating a learning-centered environment, as well as examine and discuss general education competencies and assessment.

Professor David Katz kicked off the September meeting of the New Faculty Institute 2010-11 with an explanation of the “open classroom project” where by new faculty will be observing classrooms in session in which faculty have agreed to share their teaching expertise with their new colleagues. The new faculty will be visiting four classrooms throughout the year with an emphasis on stepping outside of their disciplines and picking up “best practices.”

Sara Coulhart from Mohawk Valley Consulting Associates gave an informative presentation on issues surrounding “Workplace Harassment & Sexual Harassment.” The focus was on prevention and awareness of these important areas of concern.

Professor Norayne Rosero ended the day with a workshop on “Encouraging Deep Lasting Student Learning.” Through discussion and exchanging a wide variety of techniques, assignments and assessments were discussed with the focus on student learning.

The NFI meets in IT 225 on designated Friday’s each month throughout the academic year from 2-4:30 p.m. This year’s Institute is 18 strong. There is also a cadre of dedicated adjunct faculty who choose to take part in various workshops throughout the year. The September session had six adjuncts in attendance.



NFI 2010-2011 - Jason Carpenter discusses some of the services available for new faculty at the September “New Faculty Institute” workshop.

Seeking nominations for Hawks That Soar

Have you caught a co-worker or colleague doing something great lately? Let them (and everyone else) know by nominating them for one of the **Hawks That Soar** awards.

Heart of the Hawk (teachers) and **Pride of the Hawk** (non-teachers) nominations may be submitted to the Employee Recognition Council any time through the College website (click administrative services; human resources; employee recognition [ignore the “deadlines” in red!]) to use the forms).

Any employee or student can nominate a co-worker or colleague, to recognize them for outstanding teaching; providing exceptional service to students; completing an important project; making a significant contribution to their office, department, center, or the campus; setting a great example; leading a new initiative; or anything else that makes MVCC a better place to study, grow, or work.

Selections for both **Heart** and **Pride** are made in October, January, and March each academic year. Every May, the College Board will select one winner to receive the “**Heart of Hearts**” (HOH) and one to receive the “**Pride of the Pride**” (POP) representing the most outstanding employees for the year in each category.

Each HOH and POP winner receives a one thousand dollar stipend to recognize the importance of his/her contribution to the College’s efforts to achieve and enhance a vibrant campus culture, through their personal demonstration of positive thinking, a “can do” attitude, and/or exemplary service leadership.

The Employee Enrichment Committee has already selected the first 2010-11 Heart and Pride winners.

They will be announced and recognized at the College Senate meeting on Tuesday, October 5th. Anyone nominated now through the end of the fall semester will be eligible for the January 2011 award cycle. Take time to find someone doing something great and nominate them for a **Heart or Pride** award.



TIME WITH THE KIDS - Several of the College’s baseball players took time out of their class schedules to teach and play baseball with the MVCC Kiddie Campus children on Tuesday, September 14. Pictured is Rocco DeBlasiis (MVCC Team Captain) playing catch with Bianca. The Hawks baseball team is in the process of collecting toys for its annual donation to the Holly Days program in early October. Contact Dave Warren at 792-5674 to make a toy donation.