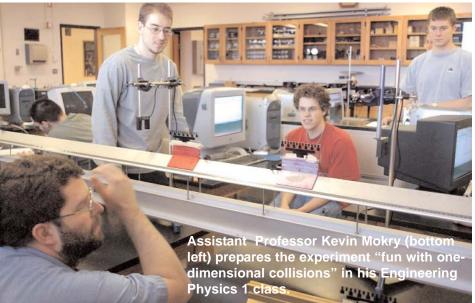
Communitas

MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

April 19th 2004



From Engineering and Computers to Environmental Issues: That's the World of the Engineering, Computer & Physical Sciences Department

Engineers. Computer Scientists. Chemists and physicists. Teachers. Through the years, many in these and related professions have gotten their start here at MVCC, in what today is known as the Engineering, Computer & Physical Sciences (ECPS) Department.

The Department, headed by Professor Celia A. Domser, has responsibility for MVCC's degree programs in Engineering Science - a flagship of engineering education in New York State - as well as Chemical Technology, Computer Science; Data Processing, Programming & Systems; and Environmental Analysis: Chemical Technology.

Graduates of the Engineering Science program routinely transfer into engineering programs at Clarkson, RIT, RPI, SUNY Buffalo, SUNY Binghamton and Western New England University. Through its active participation in the NYS Two-Year Engineering Schools Association, MVCC's instruction in engineering topics is well-known and highly regarded.

By specializing in their course selection, students may also be prepared to transfer into Bachelor's degree programs in chemistry or physics. The department also provides instruction in chemistry and physics for students in many programs College-wide, including Nursing, Health Information Technology/Medical Records, Respiratory Care, Liberal Arts & Sciences, and Criminal Justice among others.

While similar in some ways to the excellent engineering technology programs offered in the Engineering Technologies & The Trades Department, the Engineering Science program requires higher level mathematics preparation, and is specifically designed as a transfer program.

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MVCC Selected for Vietnamese Community College Project

MVCC is one of several U.S. colleges selected to help develop an information technology curriculum at Kien Giang Community College (KGCC) in Vietnam.

This follows a five-month stay at the Vietnamese institution last year by Professor Sandra Engel as a Fulbright Scholar. While there, she advised administrators and faculty members at the institution on community college develop-Kien Giang ment. Community College is the newest community college in Vietnam. In January, Mr. Do Quoc Trung, rector of the Vietnamese institution, visited MVCC for several days to study American community college operations.

The partnership with KGCC also includes two Texas institutions --Richland College and Texas Tech University, as well as MVCC and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS).

Through KCTCS, the partnership recently received a \$95,221 grant from the Association Liaison Office for University Cooperation in Development/ United States Agency for International Development to support the project. The project's focus will be to introduce computers and information technology systems into the workforce of Rach Gia, where the Vietnamese community college is located. Kien Giang Community College has been selected by the People's Committee of Kien Giang Province as a place to lay the groundwork for an information technology workforce training program. continued on page 3

ECPS Department, cont.

The newest member of the Department is Senior Typist Anita Marchio, now in her second year with



MVCC, who manages day-to-day activities in the Department office.

Technical assistants provide critical instructional support. Barb Wilson has responsibility for physics and engineering labs on the Utica Campus, and is also involved with several computer labs. Barb Seaton, well-known for her work with the College's Concert Band, works primarily at the Rome Campus for both the ECPS and Life Science Departments, making sure labs of both departments are ready to go. Randy Webster is based on the Utica campus, and works primarily in chemistry

labs, maintaining equipment and monitoring compliance with safety regulations involving use, storage and disposal of chemicals that can be hazardous if misused.

Assistant Professor Kevin Mokry teaches engineering science and physics courses, as does Dr. Fizuli Mamedov and Paul Lein, both instructors in the department.

Dr. Robert Dell teaches digital imaging and science of light courses. Professor Dell also teaching computer language courses and may, on occasion, handle courses in physics as well.

Assistant Professor Isabeth Cominsky specializes in data processing and programming courses while Assistant Professor Mark Kotary - soon to retire - teaches courses in computer languages.

On the chemistry side, Associate Professor William Newman focuses primarily on organic chemistry while his college, Dr. James Sheaffer specializes in analytical chemistry. Professor Sheaffer is also known for his entertaining "Magic of Chemistry" presentation. Assistant Professor Gemma Rodrigues teaches a variety of chemistry courses.

Professor Domser continues to teach several chemistry courses as well. She is also one of the initial developers of the SUNY Brownfields Project at Harbor Point in Utica, seeking ways to remediate a long-standing problem with industrial pollution. Through the grant-funded project, she worked with colleagues at SUNYIT last summer to provide field and laboratory experiences involving Harbor Point for a group of high school students exploring science and environmental careers. She works with Tech Prep, and participates in career fairs throughout the area to communicate the opportunities open to both boys and girls in the sciences and engineering. She is also called upon frequently for her popular "Science of Toys" presentation, which demonstrates the scientific principles behind many well-known children's toys.

Although Professor Domser says the ECPS Department's labs are well-equipped at present, staying current is an on-going challenge. This impacts computer hardware and software, as in many other departments throughout the College, but also more esoteric areas such as the infrared spectrophotometer used to scan and analyze molecules. Even basic items such as PH meters, used to measure chemical acid-base characteristics, have gone high-tech, she says. Grants, such as one received from the National Science Foundation in partnership with Athens College in Georgia, are important contributors to keeping lab equipment up to date.

Prof. Domser sees tremendous opportunities ahead for students served by the ECPS Department. With ongoing technological advancements continued on page 4

The State of Instruction at MVCC

Dr. Daniel Larson. Vice-President for Instruction



Recently, I was invited to make a presentation to the College Senate about the state of Instruction. I thank Sue Bice, Senate chair, and the other senators for their time and attention. and want to share some highlights with the College community.

The March 2002 publication "Thinking and Acting Strategically," which summarized the College strategic plan at that time, had a priority College-wide goal that dealt with Educational Programming.

In that connection, the Department Heads and the Office of Instruction held a retreat last August. Among other activities, we developed a vision statement for Instruction as well as the concept of a Teaching, Learning & Technology Center [TLTC], along with discussion of Partnerships/Collaboration opportunities. We also developed a series of 2003-04 goals and objectives for Instruction.

Vision Statement

This is the Instruction vision statement as adopted by the Department Heads at the August retreat:

The Division of Instruction at Mohawk Valley Community College will continue to enrich the lives of individuals and the community by offering quality educational and cultural opportunities in a global environment.

This vision statement should be the guiding point for everything that we do in Instruction.

Teaching, Learning & **Technology Center**

The TLTC is an outgrowth of the concept of a center for improvement of instruction based upon the work of a group chaired by Professor

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Vietnamese, cont.

It will serve as a model for community colleges and other institutions throughout Vietnam.

The first phase of the project will come in May when a delegation from the U.S. institutions will travel to Vietnam for orientation and initial training. Dr. Engel and Instructor William McGowan of the Business & Information Technology Department, will be MVCC's representatives in the delegation.

In July, a delegation from Vetnam will come to MVCC for three weeks of intensive information technology and workforce development training.

The third phase of the projects will take place in February 2005 with follow-up training conducted by the U.S. information technology and English language trainers at Kien Giang Community College. In

November 2005, the principal participants will meet at KCTCS headquarters in Lexington, Kentucky, to review the program and create a final report.



Public Policy
Program
Sponsors
Project
Vote Smart
Presentation



Last Monday, Robert Manning, a guest speaker from Project Vote Smart spoke to staff and students at 10:00 in PH102. After the presentation Public Policy majors set up a table in the lobby of Payne Hall for voter registration.

Project Vote Smart is a not-for-profit, rigorously non-partisan organization whose mission is collecting and making easily available to voters factual information about candidates for public office at the federal and state levels.

The event was sponsored by the MVCC Public Policy Program. The Alumni Association provided refreshments.

Kiddie Campus Celebrates the Week of the Young Child April 18th - 24th

The week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association, with over 100,000 members and a network of nearly 450 local, state, and regional affiliates.

The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

NAEYC first established the Week of the Young Child in 1971, recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life. The Week of the Young Child is a time to plan how we--as citizens of a community, of a state, and of a nation--will better meet the needs of all young children and their families.

The theme for the Week of the Young Child 2004 is Children's Opportunities-- Our Responsibilities.

The week of the Young Child is a time to recognize that children's opportunities are our responsibilities, and to recommit ourselves to ensuring that each and every child experiences the type of early environment-- at home, at child care, at school, and in the community-- that will promote their early learning.

During this week, Kiddie Campus will celebrate by providing parents and children with a pizza and ice cream social lunch, a safety program from the Utica Police Department, attend a special Read Aloud at the MVCC Library, and invite family members to come in and share their interest and hobbies with the children.

The main event which celebrates this special week is the Annual Creative Arts and Educational Fair which is scheduled for Saturday, April 24th from 10:00am - 2:00pm in the MVCC Alumni College Center Building. According to Karen Buono, Coordinator of Child Care Services, and the chairperson of this event for the past 18 years, this is a time for early childhood programs throughout Herkimer, Madison and Oneida Counties to come together and provide children and families with creative hands-on activities, while promoting the services they offer. In addition to the early childhood

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MVCC Announces Winners in Art Department Alumni Design & Illustration Competition

MVCC has announced winners in "A Show of Alumni Work '04 - Graphic Design and Illustration." The competition is sponsored by the College's Department of Art and the MVCC Alumni Association.

There were 94 entries in this year's show, including work in four categories: Graphic Design, Multi-Color; Graphic Design, Limited Color; Illustration, Published; and Illustration, Unpublished. Work was submitted by MVCC graduates working throughout the United States and in Japan as art directors, senior designers, freelance and staff illustrators, educators and by some who are continuing their studies at fouryear institutions. Scott Herron, senior graphic designer at the American Music Group in Syracuse served as judge for the show.

The top award winners in each category:

First Place -Graphic Design, Multi-Color: Brian Sullivan, Class of 1986, a principal in the Newton, Massachusetts design firm of Essinger/Sullivan Visual Communications. His entry was a pocket folder/brochure for Melrose-Wakefield Hospital in Boston.

Second Place in this category went to Instructor **Douglas Hyldelund** of MVCC's Department of Art, Class of 1986, who also works as a freelance graphic designer. His entry was a benefit poster for The Cove.

Honorable mentions went to Glenn Clark, Class of 1986, president of Clark Marketing Communications in Honeoye Falls, NY; Walter Kopec, Class of 1974, principal/graphic designer with Walter Kopec Visual Design in Boston; and Robert Jenkins, Class of 1986, senior art director with Trainor Associates, Inc., in Utica, for label

3rd Annual Cans for Cancer Bottle and Can Drive

To benefit the
American Cancer Society's
Relay for Life Team
"OWEN'S OUTBACK"

Sat. May 1st 8:00am-3:<u>00pm</u>

In the Parking lot of
Our Lady of the Rosary Church
at 1736 Burrstone Road,
New Hartford



In loving memory of Owen Riley Kimball

The State of Instruction, cont.

Don Willner a couple of years ago. It will follow a formative rather than a summative approach, and will help the faculty deal with such issues as learning styles, classroom management, and instructional technology. We hope to have this Center in place by the beginning of Fall 2004. It is part of a larger concept that would establish the training and development center for all College employees. Although details of that concept continue to be developed, we should be able to establish the TLTC as an initial step in the larger issues of professional development for the faculty.

Partnerships/Collaborations

We will continue to develop and enhance academic partnerships, with both high school articulation and college transfer agreements.

This approach includes nurturing high school partnerships such as the Millennium Project with Proctor High School and the different type of relationship with Rome Free Academy called the Synergy Project, which focuses mainly on on-site dual-credit offerings.

It also means updating existing transfer agreements and reaching new agreements with other colleges and universities. Linda Matthews and the Department Heads have been actively engaged in this regard, with a complete review of existing agreements for currency and the formulation of new ones. The intention is for all agreements to be accessible on the College webpage, initially for academic advisors and then for students.

We continue to work with the community, local government, and business and industry, to establish and grow new productive relationships, an activity in which the Center for Community & Economic Development plays a key role. My goal is that MVCC be positioned as the provider of first choice in all of these partnership and collaboration activities.

Goals & Objectives: Educational Programming

Our primary goal in educational programming, which comes from the March 2002 strategic plan document, is as follows:

Mohawk Valley Community College will continue to develop educationcontinued on page 5

State of Instruction, cont.

al programming for the current and future needs of its students and the larger community.

To do this, we need to identify educational needs and develop new programs to meet those needs. This includes potential program changes at the Rome Campus, pending approval and completion of a new master plan. It includes the development of more on-line programs along the lines of the certificate in Transportation Management created jointly by the Center for Community & Economic Development and the Business & Information Technology Department. We are fast approaching in late April an important review of our on-line capabilities by the State Education Department. A subgroup of Department Heads has been charged with development of an instructional plan for on-line programs.

New curriculum development is ongoing, with proposals in the development and approval process for new degree programs in areas such as teacher education, psychology, sociology, conflict resolution, surgical technology, and forensic photography. We just visited SUNY New Paltz to discuss teacher education based upon the state-wide template, with the result of a new relationship with a progressive 4-year SUNY campus and additional options for MVCC students.

We will continue to provide the remedial instruction that many students need in areas such as writing, reading, and mathematics, and to serve the needs of non-native English speakers.

Current instructional programs are being reviewed and evaluated on an on-going basis. The tool used for these program reviews was updated last Fall.

We are working closely with regional employers to understand their emerging needs and how MVCC might help address them. We will continue to work with SUNY on important general education requirements and continue to monitor the value-added assessment issue.

Student Service Center

We are collaborating with our colleagues in Student Services and Administrative Services to remove barriers that students may face in achieving full access to College programs and services.

Recent examples of shared progress in this area include the elimination of faculty signatures for students seeking to drop courses, revising forms to require student acknowledgment of their responsibilities, providing students access to information regarding registration holds, advisement procedures for non-high school graduates, and revised forms for Credit by Exam and Life Experience. The process of issuing student PINs continues to evolve, including their use by non-matriculated students.

Other issues have our attention, such as faculty use of the Web for grade reporting. We are examining how rosters, transcripts, transfer and credit evaluations, tuition appeals, and course/College withdrawals are handled. The role of academic advisors is being reviewed, redefined, and updated. Faculty involvement in the assessment of student learning is very important. Through assessment we can understand better just how well we are serving students, and how we know that they really are learning the things we say they are. Enhancing our assessment of learning outcomes is strongly encouraged by SUNY, Middle States, and specialized agencies such as the Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering & Technology (TAC-ABET). In the end, assessment is a journey, not a destination. We have been engaged in a variety of assessment activities for many years, perhaps without identifying them as such. Our challenge now is to build upon that existing assessment foundation, rather than invent new ways to determine student learning and effectiveness. continued on page 6

Father Jim Tormey Concert May 2nd -Closes MVCC's "Isn't It Grand?" Concert Series

Father Jim Torrney, a native of Rome, NY, will perform in concert at Mohawk Valley Community College's Utica Campus on Sunday, May 2nd. His performance is the final concert in a series entitled "Isn't It Grand?" designed to showcase MVCC's new Steinway Model D concert grand piano. The concert will take place at 3:00 p.m. in the Theater, in MVCC's Information Technology, Performing Arts/Conference Center Building. For more information, call 731-5722.

Father Tormey has been playing piano since the age of five, studying with teachers in the U.S. and in Moscow.

There is a suggested donation of \$10 at the door, to help defray the purchase cost of the Steinway piano.



John Hillman, a 1993 Math & Science and Fine Arts (double major) is currently setting up his own plant cell laboratory in Florida. He also holds a degree in Biological Sciences with a minor in Ethnobotany from Cornell University.

The State of Instruction, cont.

The Departments are working with Vice-President DiGiorgio and web designer Paul Graziadei on new and more effective user-friendly approaches to Department Web pages. The Psychology Department page already is up and running with others soon to follow.

In keeping with the College commitment to diversity and a global view, expressed in the Mission Statement, we continue to explore international programs. Dr. Engel's ongoing involvement with Kien Giang Community College is an example of this, and will include additional activities this Summer. The recent Senate open forum was a good example of our desire to get a handle on this issue.

Cultural programming and attendance continue to grow, making excellent use of the fine theater facility in the Information Technology Building. The leadership of the Cultural Committee, chaired by Professor Jim Gifford of the Humanities Department and with assistance from Events Coordinator Joe Basi, has been important in this process.

As governmental support for the operating budget faces continuing challenges, outside funding for important initiatives becomes critical. In line with this, several exciting proposals are being reviewed or underway by the National Science Foundation. We have a work group considering how we move forward with the laptop project, including which programs, students, and faculty members will be best served through the project, and the implications for the future.

An Exciting Future

There are more areas of activity, both continuing and new, that build upon the strong foundation that exists in Instruction. It is safe to say these are exciting, innovative times, with opportunities and challenges. We look forward to them with enthusiasm. I commend my colleagues in Instruction for their vision and energy, and thank my colleagues in Student Services, Administrative Services, and elsewhere in the College for their support and collaboration. We truly are, after all, colleagues in this academic enterprise, with students as our shared focus.

Alumni Art Awards, cont.

designs for the F.X. Matt Brewing Company.

First place in the Graphic Design, Limited Color category went to Rod Martinez, Class of 1987, an instructor of communication design at Syracuse University, and a freelance designer. His entry was a poster mailer for Syracuse University entitled "Year of the Song."

Second place in this category went to Glenn Clark. His entry was an event graphic for the Rochester, NY, War Memorial.

Honorable mentions in this category were awarded to J. J. Chrystal, Class of 1988, a graphic designer with Signal Communications in Catonsville, Maryland; Rod Martinez, Glenn Clark, and Dan Jones, Class of 1986, associate creative director for Catalyst Direct in Rochester, NY.

In the Illustration, Published category, First Place went to Karen Barnes, Class of 1983, president and illustrator with Green Heron Studio in Utica. The winning entry was a mixed media illustration entitled "The Chesapeake," done for the Workman Publishing Company in New York City. She also won second place for an untitled mixed media illustration, also done for Workman Publishing Company.

Honorable mentions went to **David Yahnke**, Class of 1987, a freelance illustrator from Utica and an adjunct faculty member at MVCC; Noel C. Bell, Class of 1991, owner of Wild Bird Studios in Palmer, Alaska; Christopher Short, Class of 1988, a free-lance illustrator based in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, as well as Karen Barnes.

The First Place award in the Illustration, Unpublished category went to Richard Harvey, Class of 1968, an independent digital graphic artist in Rochester, NY, for a mixed media collage illustration entitled "Street Code #3: Graffiti and Signs."

Second place went to Associate Professor **Bob Clarke** of the Department of Art, Class of 1974. Clarke, who also works as a freelance graphic designer, won recognized for an illustration entitled "Doc Talbots' Barn, West Winfield, NY."

Two honorable mentions in this category went to Kim Barnes, Class of 1983, a freelance illustrator in Washington, D.C. Another went to Allison Schneider, Class of 2001, currently a student at SUNY Institute of Technology, as well as to Professor Clarke.

Faculty and Staff News

Karen Buono, director of the Kiddie Campus Child Care Center at MVCC, and Donna Sawyer White, coordinator of learning services, have been reelected to their second terms as members of the board of directors of the Mid-York Child Care Coordinating Council.

Mark Your Calendar

The College community and the MVCC Dormitaory Corporation will hold ground-breaking ceremonies for a new residence hall on the Utica Campus at 10:00am, May 11th.

Additional information will be announced soon. All are welcome!

Upcoming Events

Monday, 4/19

Drinking Driver Program, 6:00pm-9:00pm, RA 302, Rome Campus. Tuesday, 4/20

Lacrosse vs. Hudson Valley CC, 4:00pm, Proctor Stadium.

Baseball vs. Jefferson CC, 4:00pm, Donovan Stadium.

Hospitality Programs "Dessert Extravaganza," 7:00pm-9:00pm, Hospitality Dining Room, Rome Campus.

Wednesday, 4/21

Hospitality Dinner, theme- "Roman Holiday." Seating begins at 5:45pm in AB 108, Rome Campus. Call 334-7702 for reservations.

Open Mic Night, 7:00pm, ACC 116. Thursday, 4/22

Bring Your Child To Work Day Cultural Series Event: PLAY: "Jarvis Legend's Borrowed Skin," 8:00pm, IT Theater.

Lacrosse vs. Jefferson CC, 7:00pm, Proctor Stadium.

Baseball vs. Monroe CC, 4:00pm, Donovan Stadium.

Open Mic Night, 7:00pm, ACC 116. Friday, 4/23

Cultural Series Event: PLAY: "Jarvis Legend's Borrowed Skin," 8:00pm, IT Theater.

Saturday, 4/24

Cultural Series Event: PLAY: "Jarvis Legend's Borrowed Skin," 8:00pm, IT Theater.

Town Justice Meeting, 8:00am-5:00pm, PC A10, Rome Campus. Baseball vs. SUNY Cobleskill, 1:00pm, Donovan Stadium. Children's Creative Arts & Education Fair, 10:00am-2:00pm, ACC.

Monday, 4/26

Cultural Series Event: MOVIE: "Bleed," 3:30pm, IT Theater.
Admission is \$2 with MVCC ID; \$4 without.

Drinking Driver Program, 6:00pm-9:00pm, RA 302, Rome Campus. Men's Tennis vs. Herkimer CCC, 4:00pm.

Tuesday, 4/27

Cultural Series Event: MOVIE: "Bleed," 7:00pm, IT Theater.
Admission is \$2 with MVCC ID; \$4 without.

Baseball vs. Ithaca JV, 3:0pm, Donovan Stadium.

Wednesday, 4/28

Cultural Series Event: CONCERT: MVCC and Utica College Band Concert, 7:00pm, IT Theater. Free.

Hospitality Dinner, theme- "Greek Contemporary" Seating begins at 5:45pm in AB 108, Rome Campus. Call 334-7702 for reservations.

ECPS and ETT dept. information night, 6:30pm-8:00pm, Utica Campus.

Teen Traffic Safety Event, 8:30am-1:00pm, Utica Campus.

Thursday, 4/29

Teen Traffic Safety Event, 8:30am-1:00pm, Utica Campus.

Softball vs. Monroe CC, 3:00pm. Baseball vs. Onondaga CC,

4:00pm, Donovan Stadium.

Friday, 4/30

Teen Traffic Safety Event, 8:30am-1:00pm, Utica Campus.

Sports Medicine Symposium, Utica Campus.

Saturday, 5/1

Ted Moore Run/Walk, 8:30am, Gym.

Softball vs. Genesee CC, 1:00pm. Baseball vs. Adirondack CC, 1:00pm, Donovan Stadium. Sunday, 5/2

"Isn't It Grand?" Concert Series with Father Jim Tormey, 3:00pm, IT Theater.

Baseball vs. Jamestown CC, Noon, Donovan Stadium.

Week of the Young Child, cont.

programs, over 20 community agencies will be on hand to provide educational and informational programs for children and parents ages 2-12 years. Some of the highlights this year include, the Utica Fire Department Smoke House and Fire Safety Program, Child Id and Fingerprinting, Scholastic Book Fair, Health and Nutrition programs and a car seat safety check conducted by the Utica Police Department. The MVCC Kiddie Campus is a co-sponsor along, with the Mid York Child Care Coordinating Council.