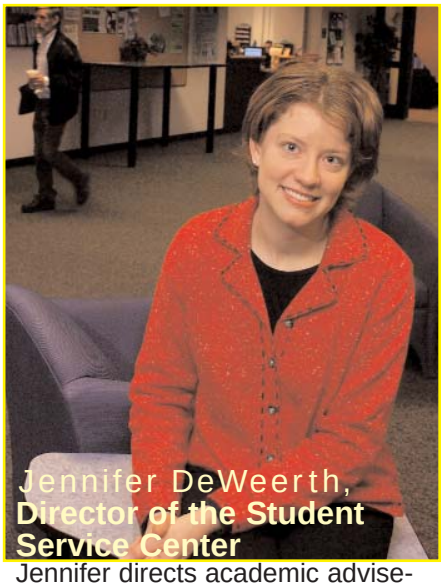
Communitas

MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter December 6th, 2004

MVCCFaces



Jennifer DeWeerth, **Director of the Student Service Center**

Jennifer directs academic advisement and coordinates services with the admissions, registrar, business, financial aid, and counseling offices. Her first day at MVCC was November 18th.

She moved to Clinton in July with her husband, Steve Ellingson, who joined the Sociology Dept. at Hamilton College; and son, Zachary, age 2 ½.

Jennifer worked for five years in the San Francisco Bay Area at Pacific School of Religion, a graduate theological school in Berkeley. She served four years as Asst. Dean and Registrar, and before that, one year as Director of Recruitment and Admissions.

She holds a B.A. from Swarthmore College and an M.Div. (Master of Divinity), from the University of Chicago Divinity School.

She is also an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, and enjoys cooking and swimming. She plans to return to her Minnesota roots by relearning the great winter sports of snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

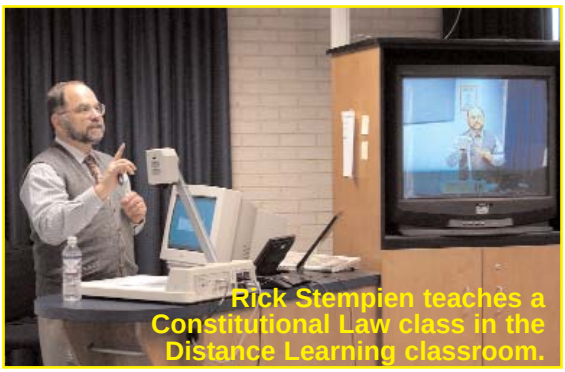
MVCC's Rome Campus: Substantial Growth, Productive Partnerships

Mohawk Valley Community College's Rome Campus might be called a "diamond in the rough," or an "undiscovered gem." It already has great value, and current infusions of creative vision and hard work are yielding exciting improvements.

Dr. Ronald Cantor, dean of the campus since July, likes to refer to MVCC as one college with two campuses. "Whether our courses and services are delivered in Utica, in Rome, or online, we're one multi-faceted family." And it's clear that the Rome Campus is on the move.

Meeting Diverse Educational Needs in an Extended Geographic Region

The Rome Campus is uniquely positioned to provide credit-and non-credit courses to a wide range of students, businesses and non-profit organizations in Rome and Western Oneida County. From liberal arts and general education courses to workforce training partnerships, the Rome Campus invests in individuals and their communities. Connections are being forged with Griffiss Business & Technology Park as well as numerous high schools and local/regional institutions. About 1,000 students currently attend MVCC classes in Rome, and the numbers are growing.



Rick Stempien teaches a Constitutional Law class in the Distance Learning classroom.

A Broader Curriculum Than Generally Recognized

"The Rome Campus has long been known for our outstanding Hospitality Programs, including Culinary Arts Management, Chef Training, Restaurant Management, and Hotel Technology, and many people know that Rome is where students master Carpentry & Masonry," observes Dean Cantor.

"But," adds the Dean, "many people don't realize that hundreds of students on the Rome Campus are studying accounting, business management, marketing, English, history, human services, computer science, mathematics, medical records, nursing, physical education, political science,

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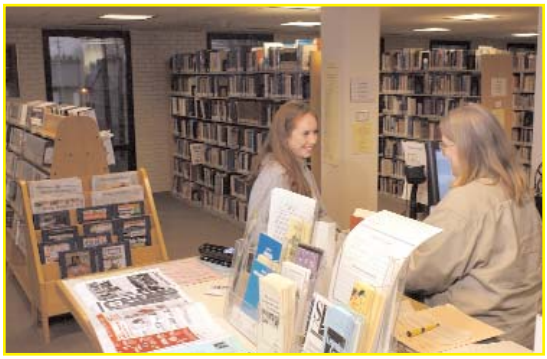
MVCC's Rome Campus, cont.

photography, psychology, sociology and Spanish. We also have lab courses in biology, chemistry, physics and geology - and we have computer labs and a fitness center."



Helen Adsit chats with a student in the Library on the Rome Campus.

Current plans call for strengthening many of these programs by increasing the numbers of course sections available on the Rome Campus. "The demand is here, so we're going to meet it, says the Dean." Faculty, department heads, and Vice President Larson are involved with plans to develop 4-8 "signature programs" in Rome. Likely candidates for Rome's signature programs include Cybersecurity, Nursing and Allied Health programs along with Hospitality. An innovative partnership with Empire Aero and the F.A.A. is leading to an airframe and power plant program to train airplane mechanics.

"The overall goal is to build a strong identity for the Rome Campus-an identity characterized by educational programs and services of the highest quality. We're being selective for we'll never be as big or comprehensive as the Utica Campus. But Rome will meet key needs and our growth will complement the Utica Campus. I promised department heads and directors that the Rome Campus would not grow at the expense of Utica. I like to remind folks that we're one college with two campuses. And space is limited in Utica, so we're doing much to improve our facilities in Rome."

Expansion of Non-Credit Programs & Community Events

Dean Cantor says the Rome Campus also plans to increase its non-credit educational offerings. The campus is home to the successful tractor trailer driving program, operated by the Center for Community & Economic Development. Potential exists for much more, as evidenced by the nearly 100 area residents who came to the Rome Campus for the recent Fahrenheit 451 teleconference with writer Ray Bradbury.

"We're working closely with CCED to expand non-credit opportunities in Rome, ranging from personal enrichment and cultural exploration to corporate training. There's an untapped market in our region for workshops and seminars on such topics as "Aging & What to Expect," "Wine Appreciation," "Creative Dramatics," "Ceramics," and "Greek Mythology, along with computer workshops and other skill-building programs." Discussions are underway concerning the possibility of a motorcycle license preparation course. "We have a very nice auditorium that's perfect for certain types of cultural presentations and community programs."

Good Communities, Good People.

"As I make more and more contacts in the Rome area," the Dean says, "I am impressed by the energy, optimism, excitement and sense of community I'm finding. There is clear support for expanding MVCC's presence in Rome. This makes sense for all of MVCC- we and our communities will prosper. As we move forward, two principles will consistently guide us: academic integrity and organizational excellence."

"The faculty and staff of the Rome Campus are key to everything we do," says Dean Cantor. A monthly gathering of Rome faculty and staff, dubbed "The Roman Forum," gives faculty and staff opportunities to share ideas and talk openly about growing and improving the campus they work so hard to serve so well.

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MVCC Students Receive SUNY Empire State Minority Scholarships

Nine local students have been selected to receive SUNY Empire State Minority Scholarships. Also selected was one student each from Syracuse and Oneida.

The scholarships are valued at approximately $690 each. SUNY Empire State Minority Scholarships are designated for students of African, Hispanic or Native American heritage. Selection is based on academic achievement and need. Local recipients include:

-- Thou Apar, Utica, a student in Liberal Arts & Sciences: General Studies

-- Christina Difo, Utica, enrolled in Liberal Arts & Sciences: General Studies

-- Craig Grant, Utica, majoring in Computer Information Systems

-- Samuel Lilly, Rome, a student in Liberal Arts & Sciences: General Studies

-- Genyne Lytle, Utica, enrolled in Liberal Arts & Sciences: Public Policy

-- Kendall Murray, Utica, majoring in Chemical Dependency Practitioner

-- Anabel Peralta, Utica, a Human Services major

-- Aleshia Warner, Rome, a student in Business Management

-- Willie White, Utica, majoring in Human Services.

Also receiving scholarships are Candice Gregory of Syracuse, a student in Liberal Arts & Sciences: General Studies, and Tracy Lynn Myers of Oneida, majoring in Health Studies: Radiologic Technology.

Rome Campus, cont.

People in Utica are generally aware that Rome is home to a handful of faculty and staff but many don't realize how many full-time faculty are assigned to Rome. We also staff a Library, a Student Services office, a Registrar/Business office, and a Facilities crew, as well as Security and Information Technology functions.

In addition to those who spend their entire work week in Rome, the number of faculty, administrators and staff members traveling between the two campuses daily or weekly might surprise you. So glance at the following list-and then make it a point to ask these folks about Rome. Better yet-- come by for a visit. We'd love to show you the many projects underway to improve our facilities and programs.

Faculty and Staff of the Rome Campus

Andrew Glidden
Ann Heines
Ann Nicholson
Barbara Evans
Barbara Seaton
Bernie Raynor
Bonnie Seigers
Catherine DonDiego
Catherine Dougherty
Cathy Glod
Cheryl Plescia
Chris Darby
Colleen Bolton
Dan Yoxall
David Hoffman
Dawson McDermott
Dennis Rahn
Doug Houghton
Eileen Dutcher
Elaine Spado
Elizabeth Henry
George Goerner
George Searles
Gideon Donato
Guy Snedeker
Helen Adsit
Henry Bryant
James Sheaffer
Jean Wagner
Jeff Gauer
Jeff Procopio
Joann DeTraglia
Joe Occhipinti
John Mehl
John Snyder
John Swistak
John Zegarelli
Joseph Fontana
Katharine Snider
Kathy Kotary
Kelly Cornmire
Kimberly Carroll
Leslie Goerner
Margaret Owens
Maria Ramos
Mark Waldrop
Matthew Andrews
Morris Pearson
Nancy Carollo
Nancy Gerzonich
Nick Gioppo
Pat Cummings
Pat Zawko
Patricia Harris
Paul Scanlon
Pete Peterson
Ricardo Rosero
Richard Stempien
Richard Thomas
Robert Fitsik
Robert Musante
Ron Cantor
Ron Medici
Sara Landau
Stephanie Verostek
Steve Getchell
Steve Rosati
Tara Cook
Tim Messick
Tim Schram
Tina Fahringer
Tom Salva
Trisha Rivers
Vic LaFrenz
Wes Sweeney
William Newman
William Smith
William Zogby

Dean Cantor speaks with students during last week's "Donuts with the Dean."

Kim Carroll of the Student Activities Office worked with the Rome Campus's student organizations to arrange an informal "Donuts with the Dean" gathering on Wednesday, December 1st. It was an opportunity for Dean Cantor to talk with students and gather their input about the many improvements planned for the Rome Campus. Approximately 40 students attended the lively discussion.

More informal meetings are being planned that will offer the same opportunity for students, faculty, and staff on both campuses to discuss improvements to the Rome Campus.

Win a 46" Samsung Television

A great gift for the holidays

A Project of the Employee Campaign Committee
Proceeds to Benefit ECC Equipment Fund

Raffle tickets may be purchased from Fritz Barns, Kate Barefoot, Gary Broadhurst, Chuck Burkhart, Sarah Coleman, Nancy Carollo, Debbie Geer, Paul Halko, Anne Stepanick, Dick Suhr
Drawing will be held on December 17th.

Ticket Prices are 1 for $5.00; 3 for $10.00; 7 for $20.00; 20 for $50.00

MVCC First

Jeremy Alexander, a 1999 Criminal Justice grad, recently passed the New York State Bar Exam, and is employed with the Clifford Chance Law Firm in New York City.

Hospitality Programs student Greg Hamilton participates in production of tv commercial at the College's Rome Campus recently for spring registration, along with Assistant Professor Andrew Glidden. Greg, of Frankfort, is a returning adult student (48 years of age) who says "I don't just want a job – I want a career." You may also spot him at Price Chopper in New Hartford, where he is involved in food demonstrations. Greg's daughter is also an MVCC student, majoring in Criminal Justice. The production, arranged by the Public Information Office staff, also involved a marketing class taught by Associate Professor George Goerner, Business & Information Technology, and a psychology class taught by Professor Maria Ramos, both on the Rome Campus. The commercial will be seen on local television beginning January 1st.

Upcoming Events

Monday, 12/6
~ Placement Testing with accommodations for learning disabled students, 5:00pm, PCA 10, Rome Campus.
Tuesday, 12/7
~ Women's Basketball vs. Morrisville State College, 5:00pm, Gym.
~ Men's Basketball vs. Morrisville State College, 7:00pm, Gym.
~ Placement Testing, 6:00pm, IT Theater.
~ Honors Project Presentations, 3:30pm, ACC 114- Interlude.
Wednesday, 12/8
~ Cultural Series Event: PERFORMANCE:"Jim Karol, Psychic Madman" 8:00pm, ACC Commons.
~ Hospitality Programs Luncheon, theme: "Traditions of Chanukkah." Seating begins at 11:45am in RA 108, Rome Campus.
~ Hockey vs. Morrisville State College, 7:00pm, Utica Aud.
Thursday, 12/9
~ FIT "The Twelve Steps to Technology," 1:00pm, PH 300.
Sunday, 12/12
~ Hockey vs. North Country CC, 3:00pm, Utica Aud.

Honors Projects Presentation

On Tuesday, December 7th, three MVCC students will present their Honors Projects in the Interlude (ACC 114) at 3:30 p.m.

The presenters are:
Jayda Bowden – "Islam, Judaism, Hindu, and Christianity – Death, Burial, Afterlife and Grief"
Mentor: Patty Hirsch
Course: PY208 Death Dying and Bereavement

Candise Sheldon – "Parent & Child Sexuality Views on Today's Society"
Mentor: Patty Hirsch
Course: PY213 Human Sexuality

Laura Wood – "Hair's Everything You Need to Know!"
Mentor: Tom Capraro
Course: BI206 Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology

Refreshments will be served and all are welcome.

Melissa Femia, Employment Specialist, OSSD, and Jeff Kolb were married August 21st. They are expecting their first child in mid June.