Communitas

MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

March 29th 2004



Frank P.
Tobiasz,
Professor
in the
Engineering
Tech and
the Trades
Department



Department Retired in December 2003

Frank began his teaching career at Mohawk Valley Community College in 1966. He earned his Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from Renssalaer Polytechnic Institute in 1957 and his Masters of Engineering Degree from Pennsylvania State University in 1968. In the Fall of 1987, Frank was on sabbatical leave to work at Allied Bendix (TRW) in Utica in their Fluid Power Division.

Frank has been active with the Mohawk Valley Section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Mohawk Valley Engineers Executive Council and the Oneida County Solid Waste Agency.

At MVCC, Frank worked in the Mechanical Engineering Department and with several college reorganizations, he worked in the Mechanical-Civil Engineering Technology Department and most recently the Engineering Technology and the Trades Department. Frank served as Department Head of the Mechanical Engineering Technology. Department for three years. He played an important role of maintaining accreditation through the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) for the Mechanical program, helping develop Computer-Aided Drafting curricucontinued on page 2 MVCC's Student Service Center: Teaming Up to Serve Students Better

When the Student Service Center in Payne Hall on the College's Utica Campus



was established three years ago, its primary objective was to serve students better by streamlining their administrative interaction with the College. By all accounts, it is accomplishing this objective. But perhaps of equal importance are the benefits the Center has had for College employees in those service offices and departments that work directly with students outside the classroom. They include Academic Advisement, Access & Retention, Admissions, Counseling, Financial Aid, Registrar and the Business Office.

Improving Student Service Operations Through Collaboration

By locating each of these offices and departments in close proximity to each other, the Center makes it easier for students to access all of them. It also makes it easier for College employees in those departments and offices to collaborate in solving student problems, and to understand more about each other procedures.

Linda Matthews wears two hats as Director of Academic Advisement & Student Service Center Operations, and indirectly reports to all three of the College's Vice Presidents. She is aided by Assistant Director Dawson McDermott.

Matthews says that much of the inter-departmental collaboration, and resulting procedural improvements, have come through the Student Service Center Advisory Council, which includes the director and assistant director of each constituent office or department. Through the Council, each department or office is able to update others on important changes. It becomes much easier to see how changes in one area impact other parts of the Center and those who work in the offices and departments which make up the Center are equipped to serve students better.

The Council is a driving force behind an ongoing process review to identify procedural challenges encountered by students at any point in the MVCC experience, from acceptance and enrollment through graduation, and continued on page 2

Student Service Center, cont.

to recommend ways to modify or streamline procedures to reduce or eliminate those challenges. Some of the challenges have been identified through the periodic Student Opinion Surveys. Others have been identified as the result of regular interaction with students in one or more of the offices and departments affiliated with the Center. Several departments outside of the Center have contributed to the improvement process, including Information Technology and representatives of student service areas at the Rome Campus.

Innovations in Serving Students

Some prominent innovations which have been introduced at the College as a result of the process review:

- Web scheduling, developed in close collaboration with Information Technology and the Registrar's Office
- Development of the PIN system to facilitate student on-line transactions
- Changing the College's student billing process, so that students can now get a schedule and copy of their bill from Registrar or Help Desk.
- Modifying and streamlining the drop/add procedure, eliminating the need for an advisor signature in many instances where the student is complying with the Plan of Study, thus putting more responsibility on students for their own educational progress
- Developing an electronic Change of Major form, allowing the Academic Department, Registrar's Office and Counseling Center to process the change electronically
- Improving the College's ability to track on a semester-by-semester basis those students who enroll at the College without a high school diploma or GED, and making sure the College complies with State regulations concerning the awarding of degrees to students who have neither the diploma nor a GED -Still on the drawing board are proposed changes in the matriculation process and procedures for credit by exam and credit for life experience.

One of the challenges faced by the Student Service Center is the well-known disinclination on the part of many students to read information that is important to their collegiate success. To help deal with this, more information about College procedures, including new capabilities such as those described above, is being introduced into College Seminar classes.

These days the centerpiece of the Center, the Help Desk, is not so much of an all-purpose problem solver for students, but more of an information center. Staff at the desk handle general questions/information, making sure students go to the correct office or department when more specific action/assistance is needed. Those staffing the desk, a duty shared by all in the Center, will also occasionally bring together experts from several offices or departments to collaborate on an issue or in solving a specific problem.

Changes in Advisement as Well

Wearing their other -- Academic Advisement -- hats, Matthews and McDermott have a number of other accomplishments, and serve as liaison between the Center and the College's Academic Departments. In this role, they oversee cluster advisement during breaks in instruction when faculty are not on campus, assist students and departments (academic and SSC offices) in pre-scheduling and Final Registration. Collaborating with the departments, they developed the Plan of Study which displays the courses needed by the student to complete his or her program providing students with a "controlled" freedom to web-schedule and provide faculty and staff with training in the use of this tool in academic advisement and scheduling. They also coordinate the academic advisement/scheduling component of the now annual Freshmen Scheduling and Orientation program held each summer for 800+ incoming students. They have updated and catalogued transfer and articulation agree-

Exhibit by Two New MVCC Art Department Faculty Members Opens April 14th

MVCC will host an exhibit of work by the two newest faculty members in the Department of Art beginning April 14th.

On display in the Small Works Gallery will be work by Instructors Jedediah Kimball and Scot Connor.

Kimball, an instructor in painting, holds a B.F.A. degree in painting and drawing from the University of Utah, and an M.F.A. degree in painting from the New York Academy of Art.

Connor works in a variety of media, and teaches courses in drawing, animation and Web design. He holds an A.A.S. degree from MVCC in advertising design and production, and a B.F.A. degree in illustration from Syracuse University. He is also owner of the Glory Art Studio in Rome. NY.

The Small Works Gallery is located on the second floor of the Information Technology/Performing Arts/Conference Center Building, and is open from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday.

Tobiasz, cont.

lums, and maintaining a state-of-thearts Manufacturing curriculum. Frank also served on the MVCC Senate and Academic Program Review Committee. Frank taught at MVCC for 37 years and thus served under every President in MVCC's existence.

Student Service Center, cont.

ments, creating a database and placing the information on the College's Intranet. Eventually the information will be available on the Website as well. McDermott also oversees College Seminar.

The Center as a Unique MVCC Asset

Matthews says that MVCC has a unique asset in the Student Service Center, an innovation which has attracted the interest of other institutions, who may seek to replicate or adapt it to their own campus and student needs. It continues to evolve and spark a variety of innovations. The bottom line is, and will continue to be, serving students better through a centralized location and continuous interdepartmental collaboration.

Four Local Pianists Team Up for April 4th Performance - Part of MVCC's "Isn't It Grand?" Concert Series

Four local pianists will take turns at the keyboard of the College's new Steinway Model D concert grand piano during a performance on Sunday, April 4th at 3:00 p.m. in the Theater.

They include Charles Schneider, music director of the Utica Symphony Orchestra, Carleton Boone, W. Anthony Mandour, M.D., and Vivian Harvey Slater.

Schneider's musical experience spans the musical spectrum including Broadway musical theater, opera, pops, and symphonic music. He studied piano at the Juillard School of Music. In addition to his work with the Utica Symphony Orchestra, he has conducted the Catskill Symphony Orchestra and the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra. He was founding music director of the Glimmerglass Operate and co-founder of the Catskill Conservatory of Music in Oneonta.

He has also worked with the Kansas City Philharmonic, the National Orchestra of Monte Carlo, and the San Francisco Symphony.

Carleton Boone is a well-known local jazz and pop pianist and vocalist. A Rome native, he is assistant music supervisor at the Mohawk Valley Psychiatric center. In addition to performing throughout the area, he serves as organist at Sacred Heart Church.

Dr. W. Anthony Mandour, a Utica native, has been playing piano since childhood. He wrote a musical revue entitled "A Love That's Here to Stay," performing in and directing a production of the revue with the Players of Utica.

Vivian Harvey Slater has been a pianist since the age of three. She has performed professionally with the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra, and the Colgate Concert Orchestra.

The final concert in the series, on May 2nd, will feature Father Jim Tormey, a Rome native who is now pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Binghamton.

SUNY Chancellor to Address MVCC May Graduates

State University of New York (SUNY) Chancellor Robert L. King will deliver the Commencement Address at Mohawk Valley Community College's May 2004 graduation ceremonies. Sponsored locally by Oneida County, and governed by its own Board of Trustees, MVCC is one of 30 community colleges included in the State University of New York, and is the oldest community college in SUNY.

MVCC's graduation is scheduled for 4:00 p.m., Friday, May 21st, at the Utica Memorial Auditorium.

Chancellor King was appointed by the State University Board of Trustees in December 1999. President George W. Bush appointed Chancellor King to the U.S. Commission on Presidential Scholars in 2001, a panel on which he still serves. In 2000, President-elect Bush named King to his advisory panel on education for the presidential transition.

Prior to his University appointment, Chancellor King served as Budget Director of New York State, a post to which he was appointed in February 1998. As Budget Director, he was the Governor's chief policy advisor on State fiscal matters and all areas pertaining to the New York State Budget.

The Chancellor also served as Director of the Governor's Office of Regulatory Reform, where he designed state policies that promoted private-sector job growth in New York. He developed the most comprehensive program for the elimination of unnecessary government regulations of any state in the country. Through these efforts, regulatory costs in New York State were reduced by nearly \$3 billion during King's tenure in that post.



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Chancellor King, cont.

Prior to joining the Pataki administration, Chancellor King was the Monroe County Executive, where he served a population of approximately 750,000 people. He was a statewide leader in the movement to eliminate unfunded mandates on local governments. King also spearheaded significant welfare reform and developed an award-winning abstinence-based program to reduce teen pregnancy.

From 1987 through 1991, Chancellor King served as a New York State Assemblyman for the Rochester area. As a state legislator. he was an advocate of lower taxes and less government regulation.

Chancellor King holds a law degree from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee and a bachelor's degree from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut.

He spent much of his law career as a prosecutor in California and New York, serving with the Monroe County District Attorney's office.

While there, he was lead attorney for the Organized Crime Strike Force, a U.S. Justice Department effort that put local organized crime leaders in prison.

Chancellor King is committed to bringing the State University of New York (SUNY) to the front ranks of American public higher education.

He believes that academic excellence is essential if New York is to have the highly-educated leaders, workers and citizens needed to promote the state's social and economic well-being. Chancellor King is committed to building strategic partnerships with other educators, business, and community leaders to advance the interests of SUNY's students and the State of New York.

Chancellor King considers the infusion of new resources essential to attracting the top faculty, researchers and students the University will need to lead New York State throughout the new century.

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Monday, 3/29

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

Mohawk Valley Council on Alcoholism Drinking Driver Program, 6:00pm-9:00pm, AB302, Rome Campus.

Tuesday, 3/30

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

Wednesday, 3/31

"Not Just a Pretty Face," photography exhibit opening, 3:00pm-5:00pm, PH Lobby.

Brown Bag Lunch Series, theme: "Preventing Plagiarism, " Noon and 1:00pm, ACC 116.

Hospitality Dinner, theme- "Happy Birthday, Rene Descartes" Seating begins at 5:45pm in AB 108, Rome Campus. Price is \$18. Call 334-7702 for reservations. Thursday, 4/1

Women's Softball vs. SUNY Cobleskill, 3:00pm.

Lacrosse vs. Herkimer CCC, 4:00pm.

Friday, 4/2

Cultural Series Event: CONCERT: "Charlie Hunter Trio," 8:00pm, IT Theater. Admission is \$4 with MVCC ID; \$8 without.

Saturday, 4/3

Men's Baseball vs. Schenectady CC, 1:00pm, Murnane Field.

Sunday, 4/4

"Isn't It Grand?" Local Musicians, Maestro Charles Schneider, Carleton Boone, W. Anthony Mandour, M.DD., and Vivian Harvey Slater, 3:00pm, IT Theater. Suggested Donation is \$10.

Women's Softball vs. Hudson Valley CC, 1:00pm.

Men's Baseball vs. Columbia Greene CC, 1:00pm, Murnane Field.

Monday, 4/5

Men's Lacrosse vs. Finger Lakes CC, 4:00pm.

Mohawk Valley Council on Alcoholism Drinking Driver Program, 6:00pm-9:00pm, RA 302. Rome Campus.

Tuesday, 4/6

Women's Softball vs. Broome CC, 3:00pm.

Men's Tennis vs. SUNY Cobleskill, 4:00pm.

Wednesday, 4/7

Brown Bag Lunch Series, theme: "Study Skills & Techniques, " Noon and 1:00pm, ACC 116.

Hospitality Dinner, theme- "Nuevo Latino" Seating begins at 5:45pm in AB 108, Rome Campus. Price is \$18. Call 334-7702 for reservations.

Men's Lacrosse vs. Cayuga CC, 4:00pm.

Friday, 4/9

Open Mic Night, 7:00pm, ACC 116.

"Not Just a Pretty Face"



Photography Exhibit In Honor of Women's History Month

Opening Reception Wednesday, March 31 3:00pm -5:00pm, Payne Hall Lobby

Photo by Jill Atkinson Photographs by MVCC Photography Students

Chancellor King, cont.

To help achieve these goals, the Chancellor is spearheading a five-year campaign to raise \$5 billion in new funding - \$4 billion through University initiatives strengthening key areas such as research and \$1 billion through fund raising on the campus level. These revenues will be in addition to annual State operating aid.

Chancellor King has championed the establishment of three Centers of Excellence: Bioinformatics at the University at Buffalo, Nanoelectronics at the University at Albany, and Information Technology at Stony Brook. Together, these Centers of Excellence constitute a \$1.6 billion program, \$283 million of which is funded by New York State.

Chancellor King has worked collaboratively with campus presidents to devise new programs that reward campus success and improve performance at every level.

Since King became Chancellor, enhanced admission criteria have been implemented throughout SUNY. Consequently, the average SAT score for incoming freshmen in 2002-2003 was 1,179 at university centers - an all-time high - and 1,077 at university colleges.

SUNY also continues to break enrollment records. Preliminary data indicates 410,725 students registered for the fall 2003 semester, the largest system-wide total in State University history. Full-time enrollment for the semester stands at 278,225 - a SUNY record, as well.

Chancellor King has also shepherded the growth of the SUNY Learning Network (SLN), the State University's award-winning distance learning program. When it was launched in 1995, the SLN had 120 students taking eight courses. Last year, 40,000 students took 2,500 courses online.

A strong proponent of partnerships and of leveraging the University's resources in support of the entire state, Chancellor King created a new office to be the primary point of contact for business and industry. It is viewed as the first step in making the University more responsive to the state's economic development needs, one of the Chancellor's key objectives for the University.

Chancellor King is also pursuing other avenues through which the University can be moved to greater prominence. Among these is a placing a stronger emphasis on international education, demonstrating his belief that today's students must be educated to become productive citizens of the world community. The Chancellor is actively working to expand foreign study opportunities for students and faculty, and developing new joint degree programs with leading Universities in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Romania, Russia and Turkey.



Eugene L. Horst, Jr., a
Mechanical Engineering
Technology, 1997 grad, is
now Manager of
Manufacturing at Riverhawk
Corporation. He also holds a
B.S. in Industrial Engineering
Technology from SUNY IT.
Before joining Riverhawk, he
was Manager of Process
Engineering at Chicago
Pneumatic Tool Company.